



# **2021 NEW ENGLAND & NORTH WEST LANDCARE AWARDS**

**WITH GUEST PRESENTERS, COLIN SEIS AND GEOFF BASSETT**

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**4TH MARCH 2021 - INVERELL RSM CLUB**



*We acknowledge the First Nations people as the  
traditional owners of Gamilaraay land  
upon where we gather today*



*Angelina Nelson - Woodland overlooking our community*

# PROGRAM OF EVENTS

**9:40am** *Introductions and Housekeeping*

**9:50am** *Welcome to Country*

**10:00am** *Colin Seis – The benefits of multispecies pastures for weight gain*

**11:00am** *Break*

**11:30am** *Colin Seis Part 2*

**12:00pm** *Lunch Service*

**12:30pm** *Presentation of NENW Landcare Awards*

**1:30pm** *Geoff Bassett – Increasing dynamic soils and pastures for farm resilience*

**3:00pm** *Break*

**3:15pm** *Q&A with Colin and Geoff*



Local Land  
Services





# COLIN

# SEIS

*Colin Seis is a Gulgong based woolgrower and pasture cropping pioneer.*

The Seis family is one of the early pioneering families in the Gulgong district of NSW, and has been grazing merino sheep and growing cereal crops in the area since the 1860s.

Colin and his son Nicholas own the 2000 acre property 'Winona', which runs 4000 merino sheep, managed using holistic planned grazing. Cattle are also run on the property when seasons allow.

'Winona' is managed using methods that continually regenerate its grassland, soil, and farm ecosystem, dramatically reducing farm inputs, while producing up to 20,000 kg of wool and selling 1500 sheep and cereal grain annually.

Five hundred acres of oats, wheat and cereal rye are sown annually at 'Winona' using the pasture cropping technique that Colin developed over 25 years ago. Other enterprises on the place consist of a merino ram breeding operation and native grass seed, which is harvested from the property's native grassland. 'Winona' also runs one of the largest kelpie working dog studs in the world and sells dogs and pups to North and South America, Europe and Scandinavia, as well as across Australia.

The adoption of industrial agriculture methods from the 1930s destroyed the soil and grassland at 'Winona', and during the 1960s and 1970s the farm became increasingly dependant on pesticides and fertiliser for pasture growth and crop production. To solve these problems, in 1993, Colin adopted holistic planned grazing and developed a unique method of growing crops and restoring grassland and soil. The technique, termed 'Pasture Cropping', is a form of 'perennial cover cropping' where annual crops are zero-till, sown directly into perennial grassland after the grass has started its natural dormancy.

Pasture Cropping can produce high yielding crops and has been proven to restore landscape ecological health, restore native grasslands, improve pasture quality, improve soil nutrient cycling and sequester large amounts of soil carbon.

Colin believed that the original Pasture Cropping concept could be further improved, so he developed 'Multi-Species Pasture Cropping' in 2011. This is achieved by using a group of up to 10 annual plant species and includes legumes, cereals, flowering plants and species that add organic matter on the soil surface and in the soil. The multi-species mix produces excellent quality forage and high-quality grain, and can also include vegetables. The plant mix is sown into grassland or perennial pastures using the Pasture Cropping technique. It has been shown to restore pasture diversity, while enhancing ecological function, soil health, and soil carbon, reduce insect attack, while reducing pesticide and fertiliser use on farms around the world.

Colin's dedication to farmer education, support programs and enabling extensive scientific study of his practices have resulted in Pasture Cropping being adopted around the world. Today, there are well over 3000 farmers worldwide, managing an estimated one million acres, using the technique to grow crops and restore grasslands and soil.

## Get in contact with Colin

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# GEOFF BASSETT

*Geoff Bassett is a Dorrigo based organic farmer and biological consultant.*

Geoff has been a professional farmer for 40+ years. He has extensive experience in managing large numbers of sheep and cattle and growing a diversity of broadacre, dryland pastures and crops.

Geoff's wealth of practical farming experience has led to him consulting to his fellow farmers for 20 years through his business, Farm Mojo. Through decades of trialing different approaches (and extensive study) Geoff has created great, novel ways of building soil fertility, increasing soil water storage and reducing weeds without herbicide. Highly fertile soils are naturally highly productive.

Farm Mojo's unique agricultural practices strengthen natural systems and create long-term soil fertility.

If you've been looking for answers, or you just know that there must be another way, you need to hear what Geoff has to say. He can get you moving in another direction.



**Get in contact with Geoff**

E: [connect@farmmojo.com](mailto:connect@farmmojo.com)

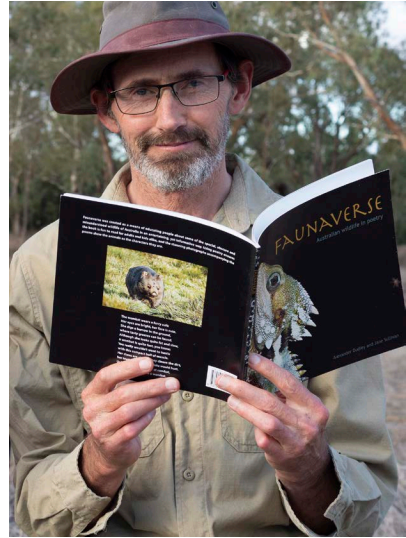
Farm Mojo website coming soon! - [www.farmmojo.com](http://www.farmmojo.com)



ERBANK

# ALEXANDER DUDLEY

## *Nomination – New England Individual Landcarer Award*



Alexander Dudley is an ecologist who lives and works on the north west Slopes of NSW. His professional life has involved a 50/50 split between fauna surveying as a zoologist and environmental education since 1990.

As a zoologist, Alex has worked as a consultant fauna surveyor across Australia and much of NSW, and has volunteered on numerous ecological surveys and conservation projects around Australia.

In his role as environmental educator he has worked as a Discovery Ranger for 23 summers in Tasmania, an Interpretation Ranger in Kakadu for seven seasons, as a Community Support Officer for a Landcare organisation and run educational field days with Local Land Services from Inverell, Moree and Narrabri.

He has run environmental education programs in primary schools on the north-west slopes and in Tasmania. Currently, he is involved in two local Landcare groups: Gwydir Ark and North West Koala ARKS, and is a volunteer educational manager of a conservation property in Nullamanna NSW called Five Corners.

Here, Alex runs environmental education programs for the local community for free.

Alex has committed his life both professionally and personally to the conservation of Australia's natural ecosystems, and shares his passion for wildlife and ecology through his various environmental education programs in NSW and in Tasmania.

He is a zoologist with decades of experience with field work, who works around Australia on conservation projects in his professional life and regularly volunteers his time for various conservation organisations including AWC, South Endeavour Trust, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Five Corners Conservation BCT and local Landcare organisations: Gwympac and Northern Slopes Landcare.

Alex is also an accomplished wildlife photographer whose photographs of fauna and written material have been used in field guides. He has also written two best selling poetry books with the motivation to educate and inspire young people to learn about and connect to nature.



# AMAROO LOCAL ABORIGINAL LANDS COUNCIL

## *Nomination – New England Indigenous Land Management Award*

Amaroo Local Aboriginal Lands Council (LALC) is situated in the Walcha region of NSW. They have been working with Northern Tablelands Local Lands Services for 7 years and are part of the Aboriginal Reference Advisory Group (ARAG) which consists of 7 LALCs within the NTLs boundaries.

Amaroo LALC undertook an on ground project on their 20 hectare property 'Summervale' on the Aspley River about 10km out of the township of Walcha. The project focused on restoring, protecting and enhancing Regent Honeyeater habitat (rare and endangered species), also stock exclusion from the Aspley River (which included 3km of fencing, installing a pump, trough and 22,500lt water tank), weed and feral animal control.

Amaroo LALC holds a Kids on Country project, which comprises of a series of four workshops designed to impart and preserve traditional Aboriginal knowledge, as well as introduce the children to natural resource management. The participants learn about methods of conserving the native flora and fauna on the site along with discussion of the history of the Aboriginal families who once occupied the property.

Included are workshops covering a broad range of topics and instruction, including Aboriginal astrology and the Elders yarn-up talking circle which outlines the history of the Aboriginal community of Walcha with an emphasis on the Aboriginal history of 'Ingleba'.



The Kids on Country project activities also include traditional tool making by Aboriginal craftsmen, Aboriginal cultural heritage discussions featuring lore and general knowledge, basket weaving, traditional dance instruction, Aboriginal art, boomerang making and throwing, Aboriginal war games, yarnning circle and a tour of property.

Amaroo LALC is powering ahead in preserving traditional Aboriginal knowledge, while introducing the community to natural resource management and more modern ways of farming.

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# DAVE WOODS

## *Nomination – North West Landcare Farming Award*



**Dave Woods is a committee member of the Waggamba Landcare group (now Macintyre Ag Alliance (MAA)), currently supporting the new President, having retired in September from his two year tenure as President.**

As President, Dave led a remarkable rebranding and rejuvenation of the MAA. In the past, Waggamba Landcare was a strong organisation, however when Dave joined the committee in 2018, the group was considering closing down as it was struggling financially and had lost both community support and internal direction. Dave's parents Mary and Geoff Woods were instrumental in the group's earlier success and Dave was reluctant to see it fold, so he volunteered to take on the position of President and revive the organisation. With committee support, Dave put countless hours into developing comprehensive business, marketing and financial plans, implementing new systems, and making the difficult decision to change the group's name to better reflect its intent and be more inclusive of producers in NSW in this border area.

Dave's vision to integrate local networks, share knowledge and work collaboratively with the community to achieve progressive agricultural and environmental outcomes has struck a chord in the North West region. Dave's hard work has helped transform MAA into a viable organisation that industry and government are eager to work with.

The enthusiasm and interest in MAA is a reflection of Dave's infectious passion and outstanding leadership qualities.

Dave also demonstrates excellence and leadership in implementing sustainable and integrated land management practices on his farm property, achieving improved resource management and farm productivity outcomes.

His thirst for knowledge means he is always on the lookout for new regen-ag ideas, and eager to trial them on his own farm - his current trial of microbial soil inoculants for example - so that the outcomes can be quantified and shared through MAA's networks.

Other activities Dave is undertaking on his farm include rotational grazing or waterways, deep ripping of hard bare ground, landscape regeneration, bale grazing trials, multi-species cover crop trials, millet cropping and trichoderma trials.

[www.waggambalandcare.org](http://www.waggambalandcare.org)

Instagram:

[@macintyre.ag.alliance](https://www.instagram.com/macintyre.ag.alliance)

# DELUNGRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

## *Nomination – New England Junior Landcare Team Award*

Delungra Public School is a small school located on the edge of the Inverell Shire Council area. Students of the school became concerned about the loss of Koala habitat caused by the 2019 drought and bushfires, and instigated several programs to help.

Some of the Koala activities completed by Delungra Public School included: installing a koala waterer at the school for the resident and local koalas, propagating and growing Koala habitat trees to plant in the school grounds and also to distribute within the community, commissioning two murals on the school buildings to create awareness of Koala, Kingfisher and King Parrot habitat, setting up a fund raising page on Facebook (Delungra Public School Koala Rescue Appeal), and collecting goods such as formula, syringes, saline and general medical supplies which they then sent to the Koala Rescue project, an initiative that helps organisations such as the Port Macquarie Koala hospital to assist Koalas injured during the 2019/20 koalas.

The school has also received visits from research teams to collect data for research and training. In an exciting turn of events, Delungra Public also rescued an unwell koala found venturing through the grounds.

These efforts have been widely reported in the media, including a visit from Adam Marshall and a feature on ABC's Landline program in September 2020.

Delungra Public School is an outstanding example of how children can contribute to native koala habitat support and awareness - giving hope for the future.

[www.delungra-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://www.delungra-p.schools.nsw.gov.au)  
Search for Delungra Public School  
Koala Rescue Appeal on Facebook!



# EMMA KING

## *Nomination – North West Individual Landcarer Award*



Emma King is a current committee member of the Waggamba Landcare group (now known as Macintyre Ag Alliance (MAA)), having recently retired from her three year tenure as Treasurer.

During Emma's time as Treasurer, her role grew from executive responsibilities to also leading the direction and renewed strategy of the business to inspire a pioneering community group that is attracting members and impacting the local area more than ever before.

Emma, with President Dave Woods, led a remarkable rebranding and rejuvenation of the Waggamba Landcare Group. Over the years, Waggamba was a very strong group, winning both state and national Landcare awards. However, when Emma joined the committee in 2017, the group was considering closing down as it was struggling financially and had lost both community support and internal direction.

Emma's strong personal belief in the importance of Landcare meant that she was reluctant to see it fold, so she volunteered to revive the organisation. She put countless hours into developing comprehensive business, marketing and financial plans, implementing new systems, and making the difficult decision to change the group's name to better reflect their intentions.

Emma's hard work behind the scenes has transformed MAA into a viable organisation that industry and government are now eager to work with.

Emma is passionate about increasing community awareness and adoption of sustainable agriculture practices to support healthy, biodiverse landscapes and profitable farming businesses. Her natural leadership and passion for environmental stewardship has inspired many landholders in the community to take action on their properties. She has been integral in the decision by numerous local landholders to develop innovative project ideas and adopt regenerative farming systems, and has helped these landholders to access government funding for this purpose.

Emma helped transform the failing Waggamba Landcare group to a thriving organisation. Emma is a voice for change through her commitment to regenerative agriculture.

[www.waggambalandcare.org](http://www.waggambalandcare.org)  
Instagram:  
[@macintyre.ag.alliance](https://www.instagram.com/macintyre.ag.alliance)

# GEOFFREY ROBERTSON

## *Nomination – New England Individual Landcarer Award*

**Geoffrey Robertson is the current Treasurer of Granite Borders Landcare Committee Incorporated, and has been an active member of the Committee since the early nineties.**

For over thirty years Geoffrey has been a member of Wilsons Downfall Landcare Group, GBLC and Tenterfield Naturalists. He is not only a member of these groups but always signs up to be a committee member.

Geoffrey regularly submits applications to host pasture and soil field days, volunteering his time, knowledge and property to facilitate these events. He also volunteers to represent GBLC at the local agricultural shows, manning the stall and chatting with the public about all things Landcare.

As a member of the Tenterfield Naturalists, Geoffrey facilitates visits from a Brisbane based bird-watching group who visits properties around the Tenterfield Shire and enables them to see local species and their habitats.

He has been a participant in many projects over the years, including working with dung beetles, soils and grasses. More recently, Geoffrey has been experimenting with different pastures and grasses with connections to a few different seed banks local to the Tenterfield Shire.

Geoffrey's experiments and trials with grasses and pastures has been an ongoing personal project for over thirty years and one that he continues to work on with a passion. His success with pastures and grasses can be seen in the high quality of his Angus cattle.

His research work into grasses and trials took a big hit after the most recent drought and bushfires that affected the Tenterfield region, however, Geoffrey is resolved to begin again; this time he will keep the natural disaster events in mind when selecting species to trial.



[www.graniteborderslandcare.com.au](http://www.graniteborderslandcare.com.au)  
02 6736 3500

# GORDON WILLIAMS

## *Nomination – New England Individual Landcarer Award*



**Gordon Williams is the owner of 'Eastlake', near Enmore on the New England Tablelands. Over several decades, Gordon has undertaken significant revegetation work at 'Eastlake', and mentored many students of agriculture and environment.**

Gordon's revegetation works have been done as a part of his business and grazing operation (which he currently leases with strict guidelines for sustainable management).

He first became involved with Landcare out of concern for tree loss on the Tablelands. He was Treasurer of the Kentucky TreeFest Committee with Harnham Landcare in the early 1990s. Gordon was also involved in addressing New England Dieback in the very early days, and by the time of Kentucky TreeFest Gordon and his wife, Wendy had already begun substantial revegetation works on 'Eastlake' in response to tree dieback. Gordon was also on the organising committee for the Focus on Farm Trees conference in Armidale in the mid-80's.

Since the early days of revegetation, Gordon has steadfastly replanted and protected remnant vegetation on his property as a part of a long-term business and natural resource management plan. In doing this, he has successfully demonstrated the financial viability of a long-term revegetation project as an important component of a successful farming operation.

Gordon has mentored many university students of both agriculture and environment regarding his approach to farm revegetation and farm management.

For the past 6 years, Gordon has been a mentor for the Robb College (University of New England) Senior Common Room and run farm management workshops there to support students to gain a practical and theoretical understanding of sustainable land management. Gordon also provides opportunities for students to gain work experience at 'Eastlake'.

While not directly related to agriculture, Gordon inspires many agricultural students through his involvement as a respected Rugby coach in the region, and further afield. This allows him the opportunity to get to know, and influence, students with a range of perspectives on agriculture and environment.

Gordon has written articles for the revegetation and landcaring community, and presented at workshops and conferences to ensure his knowledge (including mistakes made along the way) are available for others.

# GREEN TRIANGLE FARMERS GROUP

## *Nomination – North West Landcare Farming Award*

The Green Triangle Farmer group was established in December 2018 in North Star, NSW, following suggestions from several NSLA members that a network for like minded producers interested in Regenerative Farming practices was needed.

The group meets every couple of months for a 'Cuppa Chat', taking it in turns to host the day on their individual properties. These meets provide the opportunity for growers to see first hand what their peers are achieving on the ground, and to then discuss their own trials and tribulations in a casual and supportive setting. Generally there is a paddock walk, followed by an informal cuppa and catchup on the veranda. The group have become close knit, and all look forward to their regular catchups.

The group members are a mix of croppers, graziers and mixed farming operations, and also includes a worm farmer who produces bulk vermicast for use as fertiliser. On farm, group members engage in multi-species farming practices, revegetation and/or protection of native habitat, development of alternative pasture plants e.g. salt bush, controlled grazing, chemical minimisation or zero chemical use, among many other regenerative agriculture principles.

In 2019, in partnership with NSLA, the group secured funding through the NW LLS and the National Landcare Program to embark on a benchmarking project with Integrity Soils. Kim and Angus Deans were contracted to visit each property to set up 2 monitoring points, and to provide recommendations tailored to each individual enterprise on ways to adapt to the changing climate, taking into account their individual circumstances and business plan.



Soil tests were also taken for analysis of not only nutrient levels but also soil microbial activity. The monitoring points will be checked regularly over the next four years to observe changes in soil health, with learnings from the project to be shared with the public at a number of open field days over the next three years.

The group will also host other training events, including Natural Sequence farming, which will be open to the public.

The Green Triangle Farmers are an exceptional group of who are keen to share their passion for and knowledge of regenerative agriculture with farmers and others around the district, and are extremely supportive of anyone interested in learning more about regen ag principles.

# GWYDIR ARK

## *Nomination – North West Landcare Community Group Award*



The Gwydir Ark group was founded in 2015. The aim of the group was to raise awareness of, and to assist in, the plight of threatened species in the Gwydir Shire area.

Gwydir Ark has held many walks, led by ecologist Alex Dudley (fauna) and John Hodge (local flora). The walks are open to the public and aim to raise community awareness of the Gwydir Shire's native species and what we can do to help protect and enhance their habitats. Over the last 5 years, the group has hosted walks for many different habitats and species, with more walks planned for 2021.

The group has also held workshops on conducting surveys, as well as a Peacock spider workshop/field day. Along with the walks and field days, the group has successfully approached council to erect educational signs in the campsites along the Gwydir River to educate campers in regards to the preservation of native habitat. The group then designed several informative and attention grabbing signs which are now placed in popular camping spots along the river.

In 2019, the group secured funding through North West Local Land Services for the establishment of a Koala Food tree plantation at The Living Classroom, Bingara. The aim of the planting was to provide a reliable source of koala food for the local WIRES carers who sometimes struggled to find easily accessible leaves for the Koalas in their care.

Gwydir Ark researched the most suitable trees to plant in the local environment, including some from further west to allow for a changing climate. The drought hit at the beginning of the project and group members proved their dedication by carrying out regular watering throughout the months to ensure as many trees as possible survived. Additionally, further trees have been planted to replace some of those that didn't make it. The group continues to regularly water and maintain these plants to ensure the project's success.

Gwydir Ark has published several articles in the local paper regarding threatened species in the area, as well as reports on their walks and the outcomes or findings of these. In addition, the group has a Facebook page which now has nearly 200 followers. Events are promoted on this page, as well as the sharing of articles relating to threatened native species.

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# JOHN HODGE

## *Nomination – North West Individual Landcarer Award*

John Hodge is a local Warialda resident who is also a member of Northern Slopes Landcare Association, Gwydir Ark Threatened species group, GWYMAC Landcare, and co-founder and Chair of the North West Regional Koala Arks group.

John is passionate about Australian native fauna and flora, in particular, Koalas. Over the years, John has published a book on native fauna, conducted research on Brush Turkeys which he has shared with the Office of Environment and Heritage, and led groups on native bush walks to educate the public on native flora. Most recently, his work to support the Koala population has been inspirational.

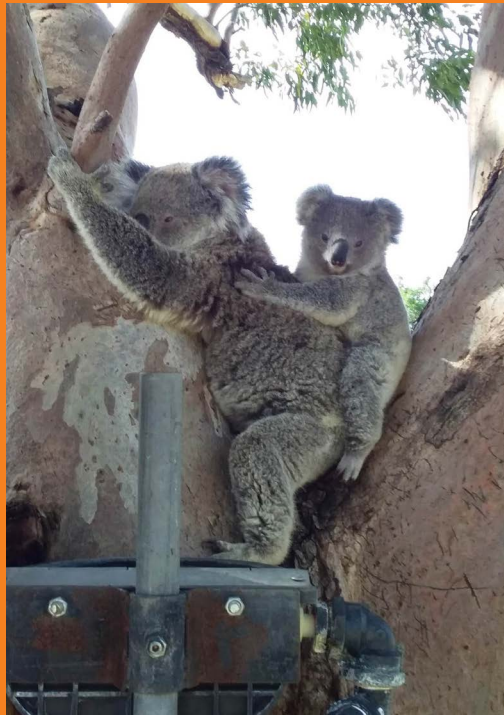
Over the last 3 years, John has sought and gained funding (through Gwydir Shire Council) to establish a Koala 'Park' at Warialda, where he has planted many Koala food trees. John continued to maintain the plantings throughout the drought, resulting in a very successful and healthy project. John has also included two Koala drinkers at the park, in order to prevent Koalas from crossing the Gwydir Highway in search of water.

The park has attracted a lot of attention, drawing visitors from up to 100km away to come and see a Koala. This has resulted in increased awareness of Koalas' need for food trees and water during hot and dry times.

John has also worked with local engineers to perfect a Koala drinker design which Koalas are happy to use, and has numerous photos to show the success of these drinkers.

John was also instrumental in the establishment of a drinker at Delungra Public school, which was featured on the ABC's Landline recently.

John is one of the founding members and Chair of the North West Regional Koala Arks group, which was formed in order to help the Koala populations in the Moree, Gwydir and Inverell Shires.



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# MARK KESBY

## *Nomination – North West Individual Landcarer Award*



Mark Kesby's active involvement with Landcare in the Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains areas dates back to at least 1996; almost 25 years. Mark has a passion for Landcare with a special interest in native revegetation projects, conservation, biodiversity and native species.

Mark was a founding member of the Peel Namoi Junction Landcare Group; 1997-2005, and has been an active member of the Gunnedah Urban Landcare Group for 20 years; the last two as Chairperson. He has undertaken many roles over the years and has donated a vast number of voluntary hours to Landcare, working across the spectrum - from delivery of on-ground activities through to working strategically, and in partnership with, both Government and non-Government organisations in the local area.

Mark is a local landholder, managing his family cattle grazing and cropping operation. He has undertaken a largescale pasture improvement, paddock subdivision and water reticulation program on his property. The riverbank has been revegetated and a conservation area fenced and enlarged. Approximately 12,000 trees and shrubs have been planted on farm since 1996. Mark demonstrates a profound appreciation for biodiversity conservation and is an 'early adopter' of positive land management practices.

Mark is highly committed and dedicated to Landcare, and is a tireless advocate for the inclusion of green space into urban planning. Despite it being challenging to attract people to volunteer, Mark continually seeks ways to engage the local community.

Gunnedah has several culturally significant areas, such as Wallaby Trap and the Namoi River. Mark regularly interacts with the Red Chief Land Council to promote these areas and an Aboriginal elder is often invited to share their knowledge.

Mark has attended many regional, State and National Landcare Conferences. He and his wife Prue are keen travellers and often return to Gunnedah with new ideas for Landcare.



0428 429 244

# STEPHANIE CAMERON

## *Nomination – North West Individual Landcarer Award*



**Valuing the environment and the local rural area, and committed to giving back to the local community, Stephanie Cameron joined Landcare in 2008, and has become increasingly involved ever since.**

That year, Stephanie helped set up the Tamworth Urban Landcare Group (TULG) to facilitate riparian repair along the Peel River in Tamworth. This group, of which Stephanie has remained an active and executive member, has made significant differences to the river banks.

In 2008, Stephanie also joined the committee of the umbrella group for the region, the Tamworth Manilla Landcare Association (TMLA). Secretary in 2009, she then took on the role of Treasurer in 2010 and has maintained this role ever since (over 10 years). Also in 2010, Stephanie facilitated the changing of the name to Tamworth Regional Landcare Association (TRLA).

She has worked on many sub-committees and has been instrumental in developing the strategic direction of the organisation. Under her guidance, TRLA has moved from being a small group of volunteers to a successful umbrella organisation covering the Tamworth Regional Council Area and beyond. TRLA supports local Landcare groups with on ground works for biodiversity restoration and conservation, as well as promoting education, communication and sustainability.

In 2011, Stephanie began representing TRLA at the New England North West Chairs meetings and in 2012 was elected Treasurer. She held that position until she became the Chair in 2016. Meanwhile, in 2015, Stephanie assumed an executive role on the Landcare NSW committee, providing representation for our region at higher levels and carrying the regional Landcare message to a wider audience.

As an exemplary Landcare volunteer, Stephanie's commitment has been instrumental in initiating, facilitating and extending Landcare's message at local, regional and state levels.

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[www.trla.org.au](http://www.trla.org.au)

# TAMWORTH REGIONAL GALLERY

## *Nomination – North West Partnerships for Landcare Award*



**Tamworth Regional Gallery (TRG) has worked in partnership with Tamworth Regional Landcare Association (TRLA) in their delivery of public exhibitions that promote environmental education and public awareness of environmental issues.**

One of these exhibitions was the Box Gum Art Competition (BGAC), which was held successfully in both 2017 and 2018. These events were a valuable addition to the region's artistic calendar, and was fully supported by TRG.

The BGAC exhibitions were well supported by the local community, with good crowd attendance and a high quality and number of exhibition entries. Both events were officiated by local member of Parliament Hon. Kevin Anderson, and other dignitaries.

The BGAC exhibits in public art space managed by the gallery, in the Ray Walsh House Building of Tamworth Regional Council. During the exhibition opening, digital images of the exhibition were projected on the building in the forecourt of Ray Walsh House, while the artworks were displayed on the walls and plinths in the public gallery.

The partnership introduced new audiences to the Landcare movement through bringing art and environmental education together.

The BGAC competition program also included community events, such as a series of Plein Air painting days engaging leading regional artists and new community members on Landcare sites. The plein air events were a valuable awareness raising tool and served to engage new audiences, new Landcare members as well as bring new people into critically endangered ecological communities.

TRLA have continued to work with TRG on plein air painting events, hosting 2 separate and successful plein air events with leading regional artists in 2020 via zoom. One of which was featured on ABCs The Mix programme.

[www.tamworthregionalgallery.com.au](http://www.tamworthregionalgallery.com.au)

02 6767 5248

# TAMWORTH URBAN LANDCARE GROUP

## *Nomination – North West Landcare Community Group Award*

Tamworth Urban Landcare Group have shown an outstanding commitment over twelve years in rejuvenating the banks of the Peel River with native provenance plant species.

Tamworth Urban Landcare Group (TULG) have adopted sound land management practices on public land, and are working towards re-vegetating the Peel River Riparian area between the Main and Jewry St Bridges.

TULG have undertaken the task of promoting and fostering protection and enhancement of a major artery, the river, through Tamworth on behalf of the community.

The Peel River Project was a concept developed in 2008 by many community organisations coming together to work on improving Tamworth's urban environment, including Tamworth Regional Council, Namoi Catchment Management Authority, Tamworth Regional Landcare Association and the Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee. This project has allowed interested members of the public a chance to meet and discuss the environmental issues in the Tamworth City area, and contribute a physical difference in their own community.

Tamworth Hillvue Scouts, Ozfish (Tamworth Chapter), The Pub Angling Club, Galala Landcare Group and many other community groups have partnered with TULG in conducting volunteer plantings to improve the River Riparian Health.



TULG have also participated in planned activities, including identifying bird habitats along the river, engaging with Stream Watch to monitor the river's water quality, and maintaining river health to promote fish life.

TULG has worked with many industry partners such as National Australia Bank, Northern Inland Credit Union and Inland Technology to undertake greening activities along the urban Peel River area. Activities have also engaged new members, community volunteers, business people and their families to assist with planting numerous trees and shrubs beside the river.

[www.trla.org.au](http://www.trla.org.au)  
[info@trla.org.au](mailto:info@trla.org.au)

# THOMAS MAILLER & STEPHANIE HOLTERHOFF

## *Nomination – New England Young Landcare Leadership Award*



**The duo of Thomas Mailler and Stephanie Holterhoff epitomise all the fundamental values of Landcare, being engaged in a process of environmental enrichment that goes beyond their lifetime, leaving a generational legacy.**

Thomas and Stephanie are both studying environmental engineering and are currently involved in a project to revegetate a 130 acre sheep property on the Gap Road, Uralla. They commenced this project in June 2019 and have so far planted 2600 seedlings, with at least another 5000 expected to be planned, prepared and planted during their university breaks.

Thomas and Stephanie became involved with this project after being approached with the idea of significantly improving the biodiversity, productivity and micro climate of the property. They jumped at the opportunity with enthusiasm, showing a strong degree of care and understanding of creating positive outcomes for soils, water, vegetation and biodiversity conservation.

When given the task of improving biodiversity and future productivity, and creating microclimates for livestock management, Thomas and Stephanie displayed enthusiasm and leadership in taking on the role as project managers. They selected tree and shrub species native to the area, used various software systems to map and plan the stages of planting and successfully communicating with others involved to plant 2600 seedlings.

They have engaged their university peers in what they are doing, with a number of them joining them in planting. They did much of this over a six week period, successfully completing the first stage of the project. A year on, the survival rate of the trees and shrubs they planted is at 98%, despite the fact that the seedlings were planted during the worst drought in living memory at the height of the Black Summer. The task they have undertaken creates a carbon sink as well as supporting flora and fauna diversity. Into the future, it is hoped that this project will result in a more favourable micro-climate and greater natural resource productivity.

In addition to these achievements, whilst studying in Newcastle, they have recently become joint coordinators of Fern Creek Gully Landcare.

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# TRELAWNEY STATION

## TAMWORTH ABORIGINAL LANDS COUNCIL

### *Nomination – North West Indigenous Land Management Award*

Trelawney Local Aboriginal Land Council (TLALC) gives Aboriginal people important access to traditional country and ensures ongoing ability to use the land to its full potential into the future.

TLALC was established in 1984. Their core business is to work for the benefit of Aboriginal people in NSW, in particular their member base and their families. Trelawney Station was officially divested to the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council on 28 February 2019. Trelawney Station, Somerton, is a 766 hectare mixed farming property which features irrigation and grazing paddocks with Peel River access suitable for sheep and cattle operations, as well as newly refurbished accommodation and conference facilities. The primary goal of the LALC's Community Land and Business Plan is the protection of cultural heritage. In the current plan (2020 – 2025) maximising the potential of Trelawney is the second objective for the 5 year period, and this includes protection of NRM values and pasture improvement.

Over many years Trelawney has hosted shearing programs, cultural camps, fishing weekends, school holiday activities, education and youth-at-risk programs, and many local Aboriginal families have some connection to the property. The management of Trelawney is currently at its most stable. The family living in the house on the property has been there for over 6 years and are well known within the local community, and have great community relationships



The Tamworth LALC maintains many partnership relationships in its work at Trelawney, including local farmers and the Somerton community who are important stakeholders for TLALC. All of the farm's neighbours and the Somerton school community were invited to the celebration of the Divestment of Trelawney held in August 2019. The school worked with the Tamworth LALC's Opportunity Hub to learn an Aboriginal dance which was performed on the day.

[www.tamworthlalc.com.au](http://www.tamworthlalc.com.au)

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# UPPER MOOKI LANDCARE

## *Nomination – North West Landcare Community Group Award*



**Upper Mooki Landcare Inc (UMLC) evolved in 2009 from the melding of existing groups in the south east of the Liverpool Plains.**

The initial interests of UMLC included carbon trading, climate change, feral animal and bird control, provision of chemical management training and protection of the Cedar Brush Nature Reserve. Their previous projects have addressed soil erosion, revegetation, environmental weeds, roadside vegetation management, property planning, fencing of riparian zones, a sub catchment plan for Warrah Creek, carbon farming, habitat and water protection.

UMLC has provided many educational opportunities, with workshops and on farm days on soil science basics and practical low-cost solutions creating higher production from truly healthy, fertile soils. Many local, regional and interstate farmers have explored innovative solutions to build diversity and resilience in their soils and farming enterprises through these opportunities.

In 2019, at the height of the recent drought, the Upper Mooki Rehydration Project (2020) was funded by the Australian Government National Landcare Program and NSW Government NSW Government's Catchment Action NSW with matching contributions from participating landholders. This single project, supported by North West Local Land Services, involves 13 properties across the Upper Mooki catchment, across 9 creeks, covering 28429.2 hectares under member management, with a budget of \$664,212.

Activities include reducing erosion; increasing ground cover, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and landscape rehydration, enabling landholders to mitigate the impacts of climate change and market circumstances on their businesses, and developing resilience in the face of drought. Participants are developing a range of planning skills to assist to recover from drought, prepare and get through the next one. Strategies include earthworks, riparian repair, enhanced grazing management practices, tree planting and multi-species vegetation to increase ground cover and build drought resistance.

A documentary is being made by NVIRO Films, funded by North West LLS. Three workshops and an updated Strategic Plan are also required.

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# WILMOT CATTLE COMPANY

## *Nomination – New England Landcare Farming Award*

Wilmot Cattle Company (WCC) is the operating entity of three properties located in the New England North West region of New South Wales. They are an inspired management team who are committed to advancing sustainable agriculture through onfarm stewardship and sharing best practice with their peers.

The properties and their respective managers are: Wilmot at Ebor with Jimmy Kelly, Woodburn at Walcha with Grant Wickham and Morocco at Gunnedah with Brent Smyth.

The properties, 5889ha in area, operate cooperatively and are complementary to each other, with a mix of breeding and trading natural grass finished beef. The management team is headed up by the General Manager, Stuart Austin, and together with their collective experience, have created a vision to restore the ecological function of the landscape using a combination of Holistic Management and Regenerative Agriculture principles at a commercial scale.

WCC became a rural member of Southern New England Landcare Ltd in 2018, individually, however, the managers have been affiliated with the interstate Landcare community for many years. They became involved with local Landcare principally to connect with a broader regional network, one that has strong relations with the rural farming community and closely affiliated with Local Land Services, local councils and regional agencies. Furthermore, WCC recognised the benefits of joining a community that supports sustainable agricultural extension by hosting relevant, informative and skill building events and workshops, and opportunities for involvement in revegetation and restoration projects.



WCC have demonstrated excellence and leadership in implementing land management practices that are aligned with mimicking mother nature's methods of restoring and maintaining ecological health in the landscape. Their motto is "Soil is central to everything we do". The team at WCC are great advocates of best practice soil management, using a holistic grazing approach, they effectively utilise large mobs of cattle to intensively graze on biodiverse pastures with seasonally honoured restoration periods.

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# 2021 NE&NW REGIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS CATEGORIES

*Indigenous Land Management Award*

*Individual Landcarer Award*

*Junior Landcare Team Award*

*Landcare Community Group Award*

*Landcare Farming Award*

*New England Award generously sponsored by Geoff Bassett*

*North West Award generously sponsored by Colin Seis*

*Partnerships for Landcare Award*

*Young Landcare Leadership Award*

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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**COLIN SEIS**



**2NZ**  
1188

*A special mention to all of the 2021 NE&NW Awards organisers for making today possible, especially Craig Pullman (North West Regional Landcare Coordinator), Shelley McDouall (Northern Slopes Landcare), Lee Thompson (GWYMAC Landcare) and Lucy Munro (GLENRAC).*

# NOTES

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*Angelina Nelson - Woodland overlooking our community*