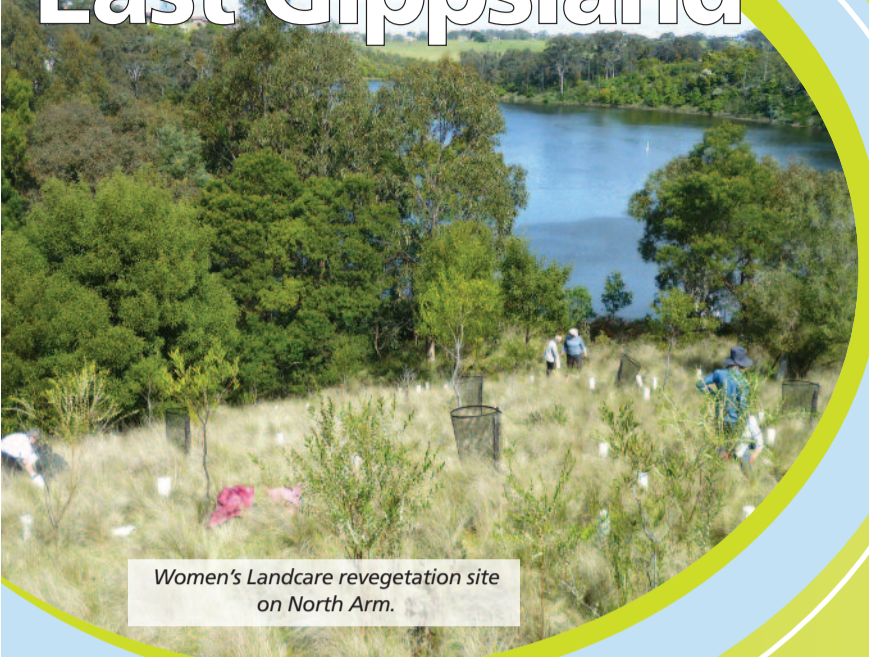


Landcare in East Gippsland



Women's Landcare revegetation site on North Arm.

State Landcare Awards – East Gippsland's great work recognised

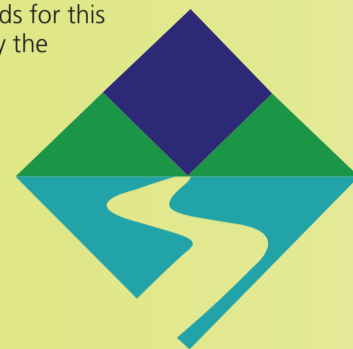
Landcare in East Gippsland has a long history of delivering on-ground environmental works in the region. As well as getting things done on the ground, Landcare also provides a network where people can get together to learn, share and have a good time doing it.

Every 2 years the work of Landcare groups is celebrated in regional awards. Outstanding regional projects are also nominated for Victorian Landcare Awards every other year. The Victorian awards for this year were held on 31 August at a ceremony hosted by the Governor of Victoria at Government House.



The Authority acknowledges the important works being undertaken by groups and networks in the management of natural resources in the region.

Brett Milligan,
Acting CEO



Glenaladale Landcare display

People's Choice Regional Landcare awards were made in the categories of Landcare Group, Landcare Project and Individual Landcare member.

For the State Landcare Awards, East Gippsland was admirably represented by:

- Glenaladale Landcare in the Landcare Community Group category
- The Far East Sustainable Agriculture group for Innovation in Sustainable Land Practices category, and
- Angelique Stefanatos in the Individual Landcarer Award category.

Brief descriptions of the projects undertaken by groups nominated in this year's State Landcare Awards are presented here.

Landcare Community Group

Glenaladale Landcare completed a diverse range of projects and community activities. On-ground works included rehabilitation of tunnel erosion sites, restoration of the Angus McMillan Memorial and picnic site on the Dargo Road, control of invasive weeds and pest animals, and stock exclusion fencing on habitat sites.

The group also ran a Junior Landcare program, supported property owners affected by bushfires and hosted visits from other Landcare groups.

Regional Innovation in Sustainable Land Practices

The Far East Sustainable Agriculture Group has been proactive in Whole Farm Planning, Low Stress Stockhandling, EverGraze, ProGraze, BeefCheque and became a pilot group for BetterBeef which continues today. The group has also undertaken trials including B12 and Clover Cheque and is the Producer Group that supports the current Orbost Pasture and Grazing Management Trial.

The Far East Sustainable Agriculture Group has also been recognised at state level, picking up an Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award for East Gippsland region at the 2015 Victorian Landcare Awards ceremony at Government House.

The East Gippsland CMA nominated this group for the award for its involvement in local research and for bringing guest speakers to members in the far east who would otherwise be isolated by distance.

The group is made up of primary producers within the Far East Victorian Landcare Network who are all active Landcarers and recognise the increasing need to develop local production based sustainable solutions to local issues.

Individual Landcarer Award - Angelique Stefanatos

Angelique is president of Lakes Entrance Community Landcare, a member of the East Gippsland Rainforest Conservation Management Network committee and the instigator and organiser of the successful Women's Landcare group.

Angie saw a way to connect more women with nature by doing something a bit different. Activities involve gentle exercise and relaxation, an information session and then a bit of hard work weeding or planting seedlings. As well as improving the health of the land, activities also celebrate life, collaboration, friendships, art and improving health and wellness, which are all activities at the centre of what Landcare is all about.

Join a Landcare group

To join any of the groups mentioned above, contact Glenaladale Landcare on 5157 6317, Lakes Entrance Community Landcare on 0400 972 868, or Far East Sustainable Agriculture Group in 5154 2843 or 0429 142 225.

For other Landcare enquiries, contact Amanda Bartkowski (EG Regional Landcare Coordinator), Mark Chaplin at Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee (02 6458 4003), Penny Gray at Far East Victoria Landcare (5154 2843) or Natalie Jenkins at East Gippsland Landcare Network (5152 0612).



Vanessa Ingram Daniel accepts the award at Government House, with the Hon Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria, and Mr Luke Wilson, Deputy Secretary, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.



Angelique Stefanatos with Vicki Vuat from Wildseed Nursery.

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