



## DRAFT Media Release

13 September 2016

### Landcare celebrates 30 years



The successful grassroots organisation, Landcare in Victoria, is celebrating 30 years this month. Members from across East and Far East Gippsland regions gathered in Lakes Entrance at the weekend to mark the occasion with a celebration dinner and awards night.

The dinner was also the culmination of the Short Video Competition, hosted jointly by the East Gippsland Landcare Network, Far East Victoria Landcare Inc. and the Snowy Interstate Landcare Committee. Winners were awarded in each of the six topic categories and the schools' winners will receive their awards at special assemblies this week.

The Landcare Legends category was won by Cath Woods from the Raymond Island Landcare Group, with Philippa Ellerton receiving a highly commended award. Group Gossip category was won by Louise Avery from Nungurner Landcare Group, with Philippa Ellerton (highly commended). Other category winners were Farming Flair: Jo Trevaskis from Wairewa Landcare (winner), Allen Sheridan from Bengworden Landcare (highly commended); Innovation: Dawn Parker from Far East Victoria Landcare and Snowy West Landcare Group (winner), Snowy West Landcare Group (highly commended); Primary Schools: Lindenow Primary School (winner), Lindenow Primary School (highly commended); and Secondary Schools: Nagle College (winner), Bairnsdale Secondary College (highly commended).

Fiona Eagger, celebrated television and film producer, awarded the prizes and gave every winner a brief insight into what made their entry stand out for judges.

Almost 100 guests were treated to a two-course dinner featuring local produce. The MC for the evening was Craig Bush, who is also an active member of Tom's Creek Landcare.

Guests saw a DVD of 30 years of Landcare, produced with the support of Craig Bush and Jan Lucas, which featured excerpts from the 20-year video in 2006. The participants were re-interviewed to review their predictions for Landcare and asking them where Landcare could be in another 10 years. Their insight proved remarkably accurate, and there was great confidence in Landcare's future.

Those interviewed included: Rick and Jenny Robertson (Bengworden Landcare), Simon and Rowena Turner (Ensay/Swifts Creek Landcare), Barry Newcomen (Ensay/Swifts Creek Landcare), Michael Gibbs, Gillian and Robert Morpeth (Nungurner Landcare), Maurice Burns (Tambo Bluff Landcare), Rosemary Jennings (Lower Tambo Landcare), May Leatch (Snowy West Landcare), Emma Orgill (Marlo Landcare) and Matt Zagami (Wairewa Landcare).

Amanda Bartkowski, the Regional Landcare Coordinator for the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, said the evening's success pointed to a long future ahead for Landcare in the region. "Coming together at this event to celebrate the huge variety of work done and continuing to be done shows what a strong record this region has in community involvement," she said. "And the participation of school groups is an indication of Landcare's continuing value for many years to come," she said.

Links to the winning entries are available on [www.egcma.com.au](http://www.egcma.com.au) and copies of the free Landcare 30 Years celebration DVD are available through your local Landcare network or by contacting Carolyn Cameron at [ccameron@egcma.com.au](mailto:ccameron@egcma.com.au).