

Natural Resource TALK...

NRM Communications

A challenge has been thrown out to all regions to sift through their cupboards and dig out old photographs and videos of past NRM activities. A case in point is Pam Robinson, who 20 years ago was involved in a landcare group in Victoria and filmed various activities. She tracked down the original vision so now we can create a "before and after" story for the region - complete with 1980s haircuts and fashion! If anyone has similar old videos (must be master copies to suit broadcast quality) or photos of activities that we could revisit send them through and we will duplicate the images and return them safely.

Regions will end up with a professionally produced promotional tool they can use to promote their achievements, free! Contact Kym Charlton on 02 6274 1454 or kym.charlton@deh.gov.au

The National Landcare Conference held recently in Melbourne attracted 1,000 delegates and NRM Communications had a strong presence at the event. Our display stand featured a gigantic nine-metre by two metre banner depicting Queensland's entire Herbert River from the mountains to the sea and a plasma television screened our latest documentary videos during the two-and-a-half day conference. The surprise hit was the NRM lip gloss giveaway, with 2,500 handed out!



Land & Water Australia's **Knowledge for Regional NRM Program** has been investigating ways to make it easier for Australia's 56 regional NRM bodies to make use of and share sources of knowledge and information, culminating in a Discussion Paper that will be available in late November from the Land & Water Australia website www.lwa.gov.au/regionalknowledge

The Natural Heritage Trust has provided funds to implement a selection of the solutions outlined in the Discussion Paper, including:

1. Practical Knowledge Management Guidelines and training for regional NRM bodies.
2. An NRM Toolbar internet tool to make finding and sharing digital resources easier.
3. Knowledge Brokering services to assist regions find existing knowledge that addresses knowledge gaps.

For more information contact Nerida Hart on (02) 6263 6000 or nerida.hart@lwa.gov.au

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Future of NRM

The Australian Government confirmed in October that it will continue its support beyond 2008 for the \$3b Natural Heritage Trust and \$1.4b National Action Plan. *The Keogh Review* showed overwhelming support for the partnership between governments, rural communities and the landcare movement. The review also highlighted that significant investments have been made to build links between communities, industry and government for the successful delivery of NRM.

The Australian Government has a central role in ensuring the maximum return on this significant investment. Ongoing success will depend on state and territory governments also making significant investments.

Library

The vast rangelands that cover much of Australia's mainland will be better managed with a new series of guides, *Managing for Biodiversity in the Rangelands*. Rangelands cover more than 75 per cent of Australia's landmass. The guides cover management of fire, weeds, total grazing pressure; tools for assessing financial and environmental impacts of management options; and industry guidelines for sustainability. Download the series at www.deh.gov.au/about/publications/index.html

Funding

Round 8 Envirofund has invested \$20 million in 1,126 projects. There is general information and a sample application for the next round at <http://nht.gov.au/envirofund> that proponents can use as a starter if they want to begin developing proposals now. The application form won't be available until after Christmas but potential applicants are urged to begin planning now. There will be a few changes to the Guide for Round 9 but nothing that will stop proponents preparing a draft now.



Calender

The first **National NRM Workshop** will be held on the Gold Coast **21 to 23 November**. The 56 NRM regions around Australia have made wonderful progress in their role as contributors to the sustainable management of Australia's natural resources. There is however so much more to do. The key is learning how to do it smarter.

The workshop will be the first attempt to bring together all 56 Regions to "Share the Experience". In the past four years Chairs have made a combined presentation to the Ministerial Council on matters of concern. However, there has been no attempt to bring the practitioners together to learn from each other. The Australian Government has also recognised this and is supporting the workshop. The program is designed for all Regional Bodies and their supporters. Your participation is crucial to the success of the NHT and NAP initiatives. "Better informed means better outcomes." For details visit: <http://astmanagement.com.au/nrm6/>

Practical Insights for Developing, Implementing & Evaluating Community Engagement Projects

is a comprehensive one-day seminar on **24th November 2006** at Rydges Lakeside, Canberra. It offers expert-driven, practically oriented modules, which will discuss key issues of "Developing, Implementing & Evaluating Community Engagement Projects". To register call 02 9585 2304 or email info@learningnetworks.com.au

National Recycling Week 6-12

November 2006. Australians recycle two billion aluminium cans and 75.4% of our newspapers every year plus three million printer cartridges. But we can do better so keep recycling. Visit: www.planetark.com/campaignspage.cfm/newsid/9/story.htm

Coastcare Week 4-10 December

2006. There are now more than 60,000 Coastcare volunteers working in more than 2,000 Coastcare groups around Australia. The valuable work of volunteers is acknowledged each year in the Coastcare Awards. For more information contact your local Coastcare facilitator: www.landcareonline.com/page.asp?pID=78

International Volunteer Day 5th

December 2006. More than 800,000 Australians, from primary school students and young families, to retirees and farmers, have been involved in hands-on environmental repair funded under the Natural Heritage Trust since 1996. Join in!



Awards

Nominations are now open for the Minister's Award for **Coastal Custodians 2006**. Entries close on Friday, 10 November 2006.. The national winner will be announced during Coastcare Week in early December 2006. The Award encourages community custodianship of Australia's coastal and marine environments For more information contact Miranda Carver on (03) 6221 5045 or visit www.deh.gov.au/coasts/coastalcustodians.html

Applications for the **National McKell Medal** close on 17th November 2006. The McKell Medal is a prestigious national award that publicly recognises excellence and achievement in natural resource management in Australia. For information visit www.daff.gov.au/mckellmedal

Mirboo North Primary School in Victoria and Huonville Primary School in Tasmania have won the national category of the **2006 Hands on for Habitat Awards**. Year Prep/1/2 from Mirboo won the National Lower Primary category with a display illustrating the Long-footed Potoroo and the Greater Bilby. Year 3/4 from Huonville won the National Upper Primary category with a study of the endangered Orange-bellied Parrot. For free posters and stickers visit www.deh.gov.au/habitat or freecall 1800 803 772.

At the **2006 National Landcare Awards**, WA's Ian Stanley won the Australian Government National Landcare Program **Individual Landcarer Award** for his work with mallees. Over a decade he's established more than a million trees on his property and set up an industry selling eucalyptus oil to China and Japan.

The WA based Wagin/Woodanilling Landcare Zone won the Alcoa Landcare **Community Group Award** for outstanding work in an area being hammered by dry land salinity. The group has formed a zone action plan which has seen over 200 farmers reclaim 500 hectares of salt-affected land.

The WA Geographe Catchment Council and The Cape To Cape Catchment Groups near Busselton won the Murray-Darling Basin Commission **Rivercare Award**.



Many of the waterways in the area have had toxic algal blooms and this project created 12 separate plans.

The NSW-based Manning Coastcare Group won the Australian Government **Coastcare Award**. The group and 1,000 volunteers have helped to remove weeds, repair the coastline and rehabilitate 40 kilometres of coastal corridor.”

The NSW South West Slopes Landcare and Local Government Project won the Australian Government Landcare **Regional Award**. The project engaged 241 landholders who undertook 280 projects that amounted to nearly 3,300ha of landuse change in just 14 months with the assistance of 5 Landcare Coordinators.

SA's Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve Project won the Australian Government Bushcare **Nature Conservation Award** for buying 54,000 hectares of reserve to help protect 18 threatened species of birds, 53 species of reptiles and 12 species of bats.

SA's Marie and Woford Parsons won the Rural Press Landcare **Primary Producer Award**. Their property was cleared and damaged by salinity. They drew up a whole farm plan and in six years to address these problems.

Queensland's Johnstone Shire Council in Innisfail won the SITA Local Government Landcare **Partnerships Award**. The Council is working on the wet tropics to highlight the plight of the Southern Cassowary.

The NT's Wagiman-Guwardagun Rangers won the Alcan Landcare **Indigenous Award**. The rangers carry out an annual fire management plan, feral pest control, weed management and aerial surveys.

Natural Resource Talk

Library

The Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee has produced a new book for small farms, *Look After Your Natural Assets: landcare for the bush block and small farm acreage in the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment*. To order a copy phone Jo Daly on 02 6207 2999 or jo.daly@act.gov.au

Cybersurf

The Australian Urban NRM Network provides a forum for the exchange and discussion of ideas, innovations, issues and solutions to assist in the conservation and management of the natural resources of Australia's urban and peri-urban areas.

The Australian Urban NRM Network (UrbNRM) includes regular newsletters and email updates plus useful links to a wide range of resources.

Visit <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/UrbNRM/>

For more information contact UrbNRM-owner@yahoogroups.com.au

Please keep us informed of your NRM news. Send an email to georgia.curry@deh.gov.au



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Department of the
Environment and Heritage

Feedback

Miya Isherwood, the Torres Strait Regional Authority's regional NRM Facilitator, based within the Land and Sea Management Unit, recently assisted two Hammond Island Rangers, Alice Garnier and Judith Thaiday, to attend the 2006 Women's Land and Sea Management Conference in North-East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

The newly established Land and Sea Management Unit (LSMU) supports Indigenous communities to learn, develop and implement their own community approved plans and projects, to maintain and preserve their natural resources.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's Walter Mackie said that on Hammond Island the LSMU was working with the community and the Kaiwalagal Traditional Owners to conduct a seagrass and marine debris monitoring project, as well as shoreline clean-up activities.

"The Unit's Landcare Officer, Marianne Helling, has also been working with the rangers to promote good practice and inform members on how to care for their land - this includes workshops and land management activities, like weed identification and removal, vegetation surveys, seed collecting and revegetation," he said.



"One of the six goals of the Torres Strait Regional Authority is to ensure protection of our environment and I would like to congratulate these women and other Rangers in the region for their important work, which is contributing towards achieving this goal and helping to preserve our beautiful natural assets for future generations to also enjoy."

Rangers Alice and Judith arrived at the Garma Campsite, in Yirrkala Country, to spend four days with other Indigenous women land and sea carers to learn and share their knowledge and experiences.

"This was an opportunity for us to meet other Indigenous women conducting similar work, and to celebrate the important role of women, who play a vital part in caring for our land and sea," Ms Garnier said. "We shared our stories, as well as attended presentations and learned of other bush foods and medicines used by our friends on the mainland.

Judith said that by participating at the conference, they were able to learn of new projects and challenges that other communities had been through and how they overcame them.

"It gave us more information and knowledge on how to improve existing projects and also helped us to learn of new activities that could be considered for our community, to ensure the preservation of our land and sea," she said.