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## Western Region Shines at State Landcare Awards

The Western Region has been recognised at the NSW State Landcare Awards with two local Landcare groups receiving awards. Western Landcare NSW (WLNSW) took out the Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award which recognised the accomplishments of WLNSW and their partnership with Western Local Land Services (Western LLS). Covering 40% of NSW, WLNSW provides representation for Landcare and rangecare groups from a variety of settings and with their own goals and challenges. Including fishing groups, revegetation groups, school groups, graziers and pest management groups among others, Western Landcare provides a voice for these groups at a regional, state and national level.

From humble beginnings the network has grown to represent more than 20 volunteer based groups across the Western Region. In August this year they hosted the highly successful Western Landcare Forum in Broken Hill with support from Western LLS, which saw 200 people gather together to discuss the relationship between healthy soils and the incredible produce that comes from the Western Region.

“We are really honoured to have been recognised with this award,” said Louise Turner, Executive Officer of Western Landcare NSW. “We owe a huge amount of thanks to Western Local Land Services for their partnership and of course to all of our member groups on the ground who have allowed us to achieve so much.”

WLNSW have been invited to attend a meeting with the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare at NSW Parliament House in Sydney in November. “It’s great to have the spotlight on the Western Region as we have so much to share, there is a lot of talent and capacity out here that is yet to be tapped” continued Louise.

The big winner of the night was the Bourke High School Yarra Landcare Group who was recognised as a champion for the Junior Landcare Award. The school runs weekly Landcare activities along the Darling River undertaking a range of projects that are specifically designed to rehabilitate sections of the River including water monitoring, carp and rubbish removal and cultural sight surveys. Eight Bourke High School students accompanied by four of their teachers made the 1600km round trip to Albury for the awards night. They were rewarded for their effort with not only their award but also with a new Engle fridge donated to the group by Matt Hansen of Inland Waterways Rejuvenation Association from Dubbo to assist the students with their future projects and the long drive back to Bourke.

Alice Jarrett, Local Landcare Coordinator with Western Landcare NSW has been working with the school to run their Landcare program and was there on the night to see their success. “It was fantastic to see they Yarra Landcare group rewarded for their efforts. The students, led by fantastic staff, undertake projects that not only aim to restore the Darling River but reconnect them to culture. Their program is a fine example of education outside of the classroom.”

Another highlight from the Western Region was Broken Hill’s Anika Molesworth who presented at the NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference which ran in conjunction with the

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awards night. Anika talked on the story of farming and the role we all have to play in telling the incredible story of what our local farmers are achieving in order to inspire our future farmers. With shining stars like the Bourke High School Yarra Landcare Group the future looks bright.

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Image 1: The Bourke High School Yarra Landcare Group with their award at the NSW Landcare Awards night in Albury, NSW.



Image 2: Western Landcare NSW Coordinators Alice Jarrett, Henry Gregory and Martha Gouniai with their award.

