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Registrations Open for Youth Agricultural Network

After an incredible first year the Western Landcare Youth Network is set to continue in 2018 with invitations open to young people between the ages of 14 – 20 years to apply for a place.

In 2017 Western Landcare NSW launched the program to provide a platform for Far West youth to explore a future in agriculture and land management while gaining valuable skills and training. Some of the training included 1080 training for pest management, chainsaw training and chemical certification. There were 13 young people involved in the first intake from 5 different high schools across Menindee, Wilcannia and Broken Hill. This year the Network will allow for 20 participants to join the one year program.

Program manager, Landcare Coordinator Martha Gouniai hopes that young people from diverse backgrounds will get involved. “The Youth Network is for anyone, whether you’ve had experience working on the land or not. I hope that it inspires people to explore what a future in agriculture could look like for them and ignite a passion for working on the land. It’s so important for our youth to recognise the value of our environment and take an interest in its care as they are the future caretakers of our world,” Ms. Gouniai said.

The Youth Network will meet monthly to undertake a variety of workshops under the guidance of industry mentors. These workshops will include native plant identification, the use of drones for land management and even Herman’s Brain training and mental health first aid. The workshops are aimed at developing a broad range of skills for the participants that will support them in developing their capacities as individuals as well as preparing them for future work in agriculture or environmental management. These workshops will be complemented by two intensive training weeks, one in each half of the year. The first training week is being run in partnership with Broken Hill City Council and will see the Youth Network participants complete fencing training while replacing damaged fencing along the Regeneration Reserves.

“It’s important that we support our youth to develop themselves while providing positive contributions to their community. Last year the participants practiced their use of chemicals while eradicating mesquite from a local station, this year they will work on fencing around the Regen. While they are training they are giving back to the community, that sense of service is really essential to this program and I hope it is empowering to all those involved,” said Ms Gouniai.

Young people interested in participating are encouraged to apply for a place by Friday 22 December. For a registration form or for more information contact Martha Gouniai at martha.gouniai@lls.nsw.gov.au or head to the LLS Office at 32 Sulphide St.

Media contact: Martha Gouniai P: 0449 956 819 E: martha.gouniai@lls.nsw.gov.au



Western Landcare
Youth Network
2018

Enabling the next generation
of Landcarers

**REGISTRATIONS
OPEN NOW!**

*Develop your skills and experience
working on the land*

**Learn, Develop,
Contribute**



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Image 1 – Western Landcare Youth Network Flyer

Media Release



Image 2 – Participants from the 2017 intake after their chainsaw training.
Saxon Luke, Ewan Tavian, Shanae Elliott, Kate Bright and Shae Lockett