



# 2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

**Nominee: Youngtown Primary School, TAS**  
**Category: Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award**

Since 2010, the Youngtown Primary School Landcare Group has been involved in a partnership with Tamar Natural Resource Management (NRM) and the City of Launceston Council to revegetate their local reserve, Youngtown Regional Park. Over the last eight years, students have planted over 4000 local native trees, shrubs and grasses in the reserve, to increase habitat for wildlife, improve plant diversity, create a wildlife corridor between the reserve and others close by, and improve amenities for people using the reserve's walking trail.

Through their involvement with the revegetation project, students have gained an understanding of the importance of green spaces and the need to give back for future generations. By engaging with their local environment, students have learnt about the importance of local native species, in particular the need for diversity due to the significant role each plant and animal plays in the ecosystem. This awareness has increased the students' skills and capacity to be able to take positive action in caring for the environment.

Many students had never planted a tree before they joined the Group. Being out of the classroom and getting their hands dirty is a fun and new experience which teaches them about taking care of seedlings, planting techniques, the importance of doing things properly, and teamwork. The students love sharing what they have learnt with their peers, resulting in more students showing an interest in and signing up to join the Group.

Inspired by what they have achieved at the reserve, the Youngtown Primary School Landcare Group has implemented a number of other projects including planting a native garden in the school. They have also worked with the community to build a glasshouse out of recycled 1.25 litre PET bottles and connected to other schools and programs in the region, including Hagley Farm School where they visit to learn about caring for animals and animal husbandry.

The focus of the Youngtown Primary School Landcare Group is about teaching students the value of the natural environment and what they can do to improve their local community, and in particular the local natural reserve. An indirect way the group helps raise awareness is through the conversations students have with each other, their parents and those in their local communities. Also, signage around their plantings over the last eight years indicates who has planted the plants, helping the community using the reserve understand what the students are doing and why.

Youngtown Primary School has a strong focus on sustainability throughout the school curriculum. The school gardens, natives and vegetables, are used to engage students in learning about resource management and the environment. Throughout the year, students also participate in the school's Outdoor Classroom experience. Each week, class groups tend to the school's gardens: preparing the ground, planting, weeding, harvesting and cooking. The school also has a strong focus on waste management, with one class collecting food scraps to feed the school's chooks and build compost to be returned to the Outdoor Classroom's gardens, and another class collecting press seal plastic bags to be reused by local City Mission for the packaging of small items for sale in their shops.

This program is supported by Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.





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Through the work in Youngtown Regional Park, students and the school have formed a strong partnership with Tamar NRM, the Launceston City Council and Landcare Tasmania. This experience has given the students first-hand experience of what needs to be done to successfully regenerate an area, and what issues may need to be addressed, as well as insight into future career options in the environment and natural resource management field.

Landcare is a grassroots movement that harnesses individuals and groups to protect, restore and sustainably manage Australia's natural environment and its productivity. Groups that fall under the Landcare umbrella work on a diverse range of environmental projects and include farmers embracing sustainable farm management and any community group that partakes in volunteer environmental activities. To find out how you can become a Landcare volunteer and for full details on all 2016 National Landcare finalists, visit [www.landcareaustralia.org.au](http://www.landcareaustralia.org.au)

## Ends

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## Web Summary

Since 2010, Youngtown Primary School Landcare Group has been involved in a partnership with Tamar Natural Resource Management (NRM) and the City of Launceston Council to revegetate their local reserve, Youngtown Regional Park. Over the last seven years, students have planted over 4000 local native trees, shrubs and grasses in the reserve, to increase habitat for wildlife, improve plant diversity, create a wildlife corridor between the reserve and others close by, and improve amenities for people using the reserve's walking trail. Through their involvement with the revegetation project, students have gained an understanding of the importance of green spaces and the need to give back for future generations.

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