



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Isobelle Campbell, Mannum Aboriginal Community Association, SA

Category: Rio Tinto Indigenous Land Management Award

Isobelle Campbell has demonstrated true leadership and resilience in caring for Country in her many roles in Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park (CP), the Riverine Recovery Project and in her Aboriginal Heritage Protection, and conservation land management work as custodian of Peramangk, Nunguraku and Ngaiwang nations, a role bestowed on her by her father the late Richard Hunter.

She has led conservations programs on Sugar Shack Wetland Complex near Swan Reach and Ngaut Ngaut CP covering revegetation projects, animal, bird and plant surveys, wetland restoration projects, natural resource management workshops, conservation and land management training, pest animal and plant management, as well as the monitoring of these programs.

With the Sugar Shack Wetland Management Plan, Isobelle was involved from the start as a long-time volunteer of the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated's (MACAI) involvement in wetland monitoring at Sugar Shack. Isobelle was instrumental in the development of the plan, design of the wetland regulator infrastructure, and construction of five regulators on the wetland complex, one of which has already been installed and is fully functional.

It was Isobelle's long-term commitment to caring for her Country that contributed significantly to the establishment of the Ngaut Ngaut CP co-management committee in 2005 and, more recently, in the co-management board committee in 2014. She has also led the board's recent work toward the Park becoming an Aboriginal-owned, Comanaged Park, which has included the development of a draft management plan and capacity building plan for MACAI. It has been a slow process but Isobelle's resolve and positive attitude have meant this work has continued to progress steadily from one stage to the next. Perhaps more than anything, Isobelle leads by example via her involvement and commitment to caring for Country and her ability to inspire, motivate and involve the broader community to embrace and respect cultural values.

She has also recently assisted Peramangk in reconnecting with Para Wirra Conservation Park in the Adelaide Hills and developing a cultural hub to help park visitors understand the on-going land management role the Peramangk nation has played in shaping and managing the landscape.

Isobelle works hard to create, find, and develop opportunities in which her community can contribute to the conservation land management of their country. She has been working hard for many years to build employment outcomes for her community in the land and water management of her country. Her determination and resilience in bringing these challenges to fruition highlights just how dedicated she is to building the economic, social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of Peramangk, Nunguraku and Ngaiwang nations.

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





2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

More recently, Isobelle applied for and was selected, as one of the first Aboriginal CP wardens in South Australia. In her role as warden, she is responsible for the management and protection of the CP under the legislative and regulatory frameworks that govern its operational functions. It is a role in which she takes great pride, as it is fulfilling the vision of her father, who worked tirelessly to see Ngaut Ngaut established as a Conservation Park to protect this important cultural space for future generations of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Isobelle shares stories and knowledge in education programs at local schools, encouraging students to see the part they can play in respecting and looking after Country. She also sits on the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Advisory Committee, provides advice for the Mid Murray Council, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. She has also worked closely with Flinders University academics and archaeological students to record cultural knowledge of the area and how that knowledge holds keys to understanding culturally sound land management practices. Isobelle builds positive and productive relationships with Government and the wider community to protect the Aboriginal heritage, history, and values of the lands that she calls home. She is a role model for her local community and for the broader South Australian community, demonstrating how positive relationships can be established to get things done.

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

Ends

For further information, photographs or interviews contact:

Naomi Straw
Landcare Australia
naomi.straw@landcareaustralia.com.au
02 8440 8823

Isobelle Campbell
Mannum Aboriginal Community Association
issobellee@gmail.com
0407 006 651

Web Summary

Isobelle Campbell has demonstrated true leadership and resilience in caring for Country in her many roles in Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park (CP), the Riverine Recovery Project, and conservation land management work as custodian of Peramangk, Nunguraku and Ngaiwang nations, a role bestowed on her by her father the late Richard Hunter. She is one of the first Aboriginal CP wardens in South Australia, a role where she is responsible for the management and protection of the CP under the legislative and regulatory frameworks that govern its management. It is a role in which she takes great pride as it is fulfilling the vision of her father, who worked tirelessly to see Ngaut Ngaut established as a Conservation Park to protect this important cultural space for future generation of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

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

