



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Glenorchy Reconciliation Group, TAS
Category: Rio Tinto Indigenous Land Management Award

Glenorchy Reconciliation Group (GRG) brings together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to build understanding and respect for cultural heritage. Its projects include weed removal in Berriedale, protection of aboriginal heritage, revegetation with local plants and community education.

The Group's current project involves the protection and rehabilitation of an important midden on the Derwent River foreshore at Little Frying Pan Island, near to where a number of elders have lived. They have also been installing commemorative and educational materials at the site. The Group was established by Aunty Ida West, an important elder from Flinders Island who is widely recognised for her pursuit of social change for Tasmania's Aboriginal people.

A well-known and well-respected Aboriginal identity and activist, Ida was born on the Cape Barren Island Reserve, moving to Flinders Island when she was very young, later moving to Hobart. Ida served as president of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre while living in Hobart and helped the Aboriginal Centre raise funds by selling homemade food, second hand clothing and books.

Apart from its recognition of Ida's work, the major impact of the project has been in building strong community networks, understanding and participation. The Little Frying Pan Island site is important due to its strong family connections, including to elders who have lived at the nearby nursing home Uniting Agewell Rosetta. The project is also generating work of Indigenous people through the use of Pakana Services, which provides work and training for Aboriginal people in natural resource management.

Uniting AgeWell Rosetta partnered with the GRG to apply for government funding to rehabilitate the island and was delighted in June when the project was awarded a \$12,200 grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund. The grant will help regenerate the island for community use, including the installation of a rabbit-proof fence, seating, and an interpretive sign. It also features a memorial for Ida, who loved feeding the ducks on the island and was responsible for spearheading the campaign to protect the site.

The key land management practices being applied at Little Frying Pan Island project are fencing to control access by rabbits, which strip vegetation and leave the midden prone to erosion. Weeds will also be removed to enhance the presentation and enjoyment of the site for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The Group are looking at applying the approach developed at Little Frying Pan Island to other sites around the Derwent, which is home to a number of significant Aboriginal sites and heritage.

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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The site at Little Frying Pan Island has presented a number of challenges for the Group. As it is located in the grounds of the Uniting Agewell Rosetta nursing home it has been necessary to establish a supportive relationship with the home's management. Furthermore, as GRG are dependent on the work of volunteers, securing a solid group of people has been a priority. The Group and volunteers are now able to hold a working bee on the third Sunday of each month.

There has been wide involvement of the community in the Group's work. GRG has been successful in securing funding for some of the installations at the site from the Tasmanian Community Fund. Additionally, Aboriginal land management organisation, Pakana Services, has been engaged in the protection and rehabilitation of the site. Volunteers helping with the project have come through Ida's family, while others have volunteered through the Landcare Tasmania website. The Karadi Aboriginal Corporation is also involved in the work, providing community care services, a resource centre and works for the promotion and empowerment of Aboriginal community and their families.

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

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Web Summary

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