



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: The Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group, SA

Category: Coastcare Award

The Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group (HILG) aims to protect and rehabilitate saltmarsh areas, with a focus on reconnecting waterways. The Murray Mouth Estuary Restoration Project has been the Group's major restoration project since 2001. Seventeen years later, 500,000 plants have been planted on over 100 sites.

The Group has also coordinated woody weed control and used roadside plantings to improve the development of corridors, particularly in areas adjacent to the Murray Mouth. This has reduced the spread of invasive weeds in the region.

HILG has its own nursery with the ability to grow over 50,000 plants annually, and the Group manages its own seed bank. Experienced in collecting seed and propagating saltmarsh plants, HILG carries out rehabilitation work across the island. Members of the Group have the capacity to see the revegetation process through from beginning to end: from planning to seed collection, propagation, final planting and site maintenance.

The inception of the Community Nurseries Network in 2009 through the Coorong, Lower Lakes, and Murray Mouth (CLMM) Recovery Project saw HILG play a key role in assisting other nurseries. Over the six years in which the project was run, HILG propagated and planted over 260,000 plants, averaging up to 50,000 plants per year.

Over the last two years, HILG has also planted 40,000 plants through its 20 Million Trees program. This project has seen the Group partner with 24 private properties, most of which are linked by remnant saltmarsh corridors. Revegetation sites below the Goolwa Barrage have provided the Group with access to what remains of the original estuary, improving knowledge of seasonal change and the impact of barrage openings and seawater.

HILG's revegetation work has also helped to reinstate the roosting habitat of the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot, while the Group's work on Ferryman's Reserve has focused on reinstating a diverse range of plant species on a site where historical vegetation can flourish.

The Group's revegetation experience has led to SA's Department for Environment and Water calling on the group to assist in the selection of plant species for commercial planting sites near the Murray Mouth. HILG helped to create a list of plant species able to survive the harsh, salt-laden conditions close to the river and the sea.

Four HILG committee members were on the community advisory panel engaged to formulate the long-term management plan for conservation park Wyndgate Farm. The property was purchased by the state government in 2001, and HILG has been revegetating the 1100-hectares property ever since, with over 250,000 plants added.

HILG's work in increasing habitat connectivity, propagating local species, and mitigating erosion via fencing and strategic plantings has achieved long-term benefits for local flora, fauna, native fish, and invertebrates.

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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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 2018 National Landcare finalists, visit www.landcareaustralia.org.au

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Web summary:

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