



Landcare Australia Local Government Award

Indigo Shire Council

Located in north-east Victoria, Indigo Shire Council prides itself on being an environmentally aware and proactive small rural shire. The Shire has 15,000 residents and covers a range of landscape types from sub-alpine foothills, to Box Ironbark woodlands and the River Red Gum floodplains of the Murray River.

The Council's Roadside Management Plan, completed in 1999, was the first of its type in north-east Victoria and has led the way for other councils. The plan includes annual environmental training for roadside contractors, a project improving roadside habitat for the endangered Grey-crowned Babbler, a weeds of national significance project on mapping and preventing the spread of Chilean Needle Grass, a stormwater management plan and the targeted spraying of noxious and environmental weeds.

The Council works with both Landcare groups and networks to create supportive links and facilitate greater co-ordination of projects. Labour support, in the form of Council's Green Corps teams, conservation volunteers and the Community Jobs Program is also made available to groups.

Weeds are a big issue in the area and Council has removed over 100 tonnes of noxious and environmental weeds from Lake Sambell and Isaac Park Reserves in the past year. A network of pathways and over 60,000 indigenous native plants have been established in these reserves. In partnership with the North East Catchment Management Authority, Indigo Shire Council has developed and constructed a nutrient-filtering wetland to improve stormwater flow into Lake Sambell. Over 20,000 aquatic and indigenous native plants have been established as part of this project.

The Indigo Shire Council has a commitment to preserving and managing its local environment and encouraging both a Landcare ethic and Landcare action in the local community.



Pictured L-R: Brian Scarsbrick, Chief Executive Landcare Australia Ltd, Karen Jones and Dennis Gallagher from Indigo Shire Council, winners of the Landcare Australia Local Government Award, John Thwaites, Minister for Environment and John Landy, Governor of Victoria.