



LANDCARE NEWS



A newsletter for the Decade of Landcare - South Australia

No. 13 February, 1991

Grant deadlines drawing close

Landcare groups proposing new projects, have until April 15 to apply for national soil conservation project funds.

Those seeking 1991-92 finance for an on-going project have a cut-off date of March 15.

Normally a maximum of \$15,000 a year for up to three years applies to these community landcare programs with the group having to demonstrate that -

- Soil conservation is the main aim.
- Most group members have direct land management responsibilities.
- Other members of the community can join it and it has local support for the project.

Examples of funded projects include erosion and salinity control, mapping of degraded soils, public awareness campaigns, demonstrations of new soil conservation techniques, purchase of equipment to a maximum value of \$10,000 and farm planning training courses.

Grants are not given for earthworks, tree planting or fencing unless they are an essential part of a demonstration project, nor for travel or noxious weed control.

Groups are also encouraged to contribute to the projects themselves by cash or materials.

Application forms and instructions are available from Department of Agriculture offices or by contacting the Soil and Water Conservation Branch, Department of Agriculture, GPO Box 1671, Adelaide, 5001, phone (08) 226 0496.

Submissions are assessed by a State panel with the number funded dependent on the finance available.

The leader of soil conservation services, Mr Andrew Johnson, said there were now 32 community landcare group projects in SA funded by the NSCP.

"All cover a variety of soil related problems in pastoral, agricultural and horticultural regions," Mr Johnson said.

"Of these, 21 are continuing projects, nine started in 1990 and two are special projects with State-wide relevance."

Community landcare group grants are one of four programs funded by NSCP.

The other three are -

- State support for landcare group project grants. These provide money for regional facilitators and technical support.



During 1990, Glossop High School students were involved with six landcare projects.

They were rewarded recently when it was announced that the school had won the SA education section of the National Landcare Awards.

Pictured are students Sheridan Gladwell and Monica Haaja planting seedlings at the Berri evaporation basin.

More on the awards on Pages 4 and 8.

- Major program support which includes land assessment and mapping, policy and administration and major State or regional workshops or conferences.
- Public participation, education and training in landcare issues at the national, State and regional levels.

Deadlines for funding applications for these three programs are the same as for the community grants scheme.

Publishing dates

Bigger and better - that's Landcare News for 1991.

The Department of Agriculture has decided that we will publish bi-monthly and have eight pages per issue.

Circulation is also being extended to include more personnel on landcare groups.

Our newsletter will be distributed on the first Tuesday in February, April, June, August, October and December, with copy deadline being 10 working days prior.

News and views are welcome and should be sent to Mrs Cicely Bungey, Landcare News, Department of Adelaide, GPO Box 1671, Adelaide, SA 5001.

In 'off-months' when the newsletter is not published, important events on the landcare calendar will be publicised through the media - so keep Cicely informed of these regularly.

Land lines

Things are tough in the bush, but some of the pain can be eased by successful applications to a number of grant schemes. In this issue, we highlight the fact there are at least three sources of funds and for two of them, the deadlines are imminent.

There was a huge response to the pictorial query in the December issue, where dust was shown being blown into the air.

So many correct entries were received, we are unable to offer any one person the prize of a tour of an Adelaide car park.

Yes, the dust was caused by an explosive treatment of rabbits in the Mallee.

Department of Agriculture soils staff are on the move.

Peter Butler, who was stationed at Mt Barker, has been appointed senior soils officer at Murray Bridge, while David Heinjus is moving from Loxton to Clare, where he will be involved in the new property planning initiative.

US visitors are often perplexed by the amount of regulation which exists in Australia and the apparent willingness of us locals to accept this regimentation.

The acting head of the US Soil Conservation Service, Mack Gray, was no exception when he toured urban and rural SA in mid-January and became exposed to our plethora of do's and don'ts.

For example, the US psyche does not comprehend that permission has to be gained to chop down a tree.

A novel way of cooling water has been discovered in the Mallee.

We learned last week that a prominent soil conservationist (without the help or knowledge of his wife) fills his water container with acqua pura then, to bring the temperature down, adds a couple of chilled echoes.

Next time you are in the Mallee on a weekend, especially near a golf course, and you see a farm truck with a water container in the back, check to see if this unique refrigeration method is in widespread use.

Landcare now involves thousands

Establishment of over 100 landcare groups in SA had been one of the highlights in 1990, the chairperson of the State Management Committee for the Decade of Landcare, Mrs Barbara Hardy, said this week.

"There are now thousands of people, both country and city, involved in the movement," Mrs Hardy said.

"Included in these are the dozens of schools where teachers and pupils are undertaking land reclamation and monitoring projects.

"Called Kids for Landcare, this program is encouraging many people and groups from the wider community to work with school children."

Mrs Hardy said she rejected the isolated suggestions that landcare would be a one year wonder.

There were now too many committed people involved and too much at stake, for this to occur.

As well, there was bipartisan political support for funding and other resources to continue through the decade.

Mrs Hardy said much had been accomplished in the last 12 months including -

- Organisation and presentation of the inaugural Landcare awards which had resulted in SA having more entries than any other State.
- The registration of many landcare projects by the State Management Committee.
- The work of the management committee's subgroups involving landcare initiatives in education, business, local government, government and promotion.
- Raising awareness of landcare issues with displays at many events, including the Cleve field days.
- A landcare concert staged by Ian McNamara of Australia All Over which attracted over 1,000 people.
- Thousands of seedlings raised by city people for growing on farms. This was



Chairperson of the State Management Committee for the Decade of Landcare, Mrs Barbara Hardy.

encouraging a closer relationship between city and country people.

"It will be important for country people to continue their landcare activities as much as possible despite the poor economic outlook due to low commodity prices," Mrs Hardy said.

"Such activities will gradually improve degraded land and result in greater productivity when better markets return."

TO THE EDITOR

I refer to your lead article in the December edition of 'Landcare News', which quotes Dr Roy Green:

"Can farmers be excused for foregoing investments in their resource base for a long-term return, when short-term survival dictates higher stocking rates or tighter crop rotations?"

Survival is a fundamental need; just ask the people of third world nations.

Those of us who are not yet fighting for survival, ask these people to take a more responsible approach to sustainable use of their resources.

How comfortable of us. Of course, farmers can be excused, but it is a short-sighted view nevertheless.

Why should we accept that short-term survival requires sacrificing long-term aims?

We have the knowledge, the technology and the wealth for development without degradation. Do we have the will?

We need to redistribute wealth to subsidise conservation, instead of sitting by while our future is eroding around us.

C.B. Schonfeldt
Millswood

S-E salinity problems are 'terrible'

Dryland salinity in the upper South-East was severe, increasing in area and undoubtedly causing economic losses to farmers, Mr Phil Cole said last week.

Mr Cole, the Department of Agriculture's principal officer (water conservation) heads a special working party investigating the problem.

"It's terrible, right from Keith to Cooke Plains," he said.

"As well as the land affected, there appear to be large areas at significant risk."

Mr Cole's group has just made a preliminary report to the Land Resources

Management Standing Committee which comprises heads of departments concerned with land and water issues.

A final report, which Mr Cole says will contain remedial options, has to be finished by June.

"There won't be any easy or single solution," he said.

"Saltland agronomy, revegetation and drainage are among those being investigated."

As revealed in the October 1990 issue of Landcare News, dryland salinity problems in the region have been increased as water tables have risen affecting thousands of hectares.

Clearance, damage to lucerne by aphids and roads blocking natural drainage lines have been pin-pointed as three of the causes for the rise in underground water levels.

Mr Cole said there had been tremendous support from government agencies and farmers in trying to "work this out".

Recently, South-East landowner Mr Kent Martin, who is a member of the Soil Conservation Council, was added to the working party which also includes E&WS, Mines and Energy, Environment and Planning and NPWS representatives.

Farm plans working in the US

A massive subsidy program for US farmers had "gone a long way in reducing erosion," the acting chief of the US soil conservation service, Mr Mack Gray, said in Adelaide recently.

Mr Gray, who met with Department of Agriculture and farmer representatives while in SA, said that 56.6m ha of highly erodible land had been identified in the US.

He said that to date, 13.7m ha had been taken out of agricultural production and put in conservation reserves by farmers.

Financial incentives were offered, based on what a farmer could rent the land for.

For example, if a farmer had 400 ha of erosion-prone land on a 4,000 ha farm, he was paid an average of \$20 a hectare a year to "put grass and trees" on that 400 ha.

People who had drained swamps were not eligible because of the wildlife connotations.

To qualify for payments, farmers had to agree to implement a farm plan and have the rehabilitation program completed by 1995.

"You might say to a farmer that he has to control water erosion and after harvest



US soil conservation expert, Mack Gray, saw at first hand the work being done by SA farmers to arrest soil degradation problems. He is shown here (third from left) examining a water erosion control project with members of the Bordertown and district landcare group and Department of Agriculture officials.

leave the stubble standing and practice minimum tillage," Mr Gray said.

"The farmer signs the plan and agrees to do a certain amount each year.

"Spot checks are made to make sure the plans are happening."

He said that the other soil conservation incentive system involved grain deficiency payments.

Under this program, land was taken out of grain production by offering farmers the difference between the market price for wheat (US\$2.10 a bushel) and the target price (US\$3.50 a bushel).

Payments on foregone production were based on the five-year average grain output on the farm.

Mr Gray said the soil conservation

linked subsidy program, cost about \$US2-3 billion a year.

"I'm happy with the program," he said.

Hills action

Two new soil conservation districts will soon be established in the Adelaide Hills.

The Northern Hills district will cover part of the Tea Tree Gully district council and the Mt Pleasant, Gumeracha, Barossa and Munno Para councils.

Councils in the Central Hills district will be Onkaparinga, East Torrens, Stirling, Mt Barker and portions of Mitcham and Happy Valley.

SA initiative goes national

Life. Be in it. and Landcare Australia have joined forces to promote landcare throughout urban Australia in 1991.

Publicity promotions officer for the Decade of Landcare, Lorraine Benson (right), said by the end of this year she hoped the name 'Landcare' would be as well known as 'Life. Be in it.'

"If we can achieve that in the first year, we'll have achieved a major step forward at a very low cost," she said.

Lorraine is the mastermind of this national joint venture, which she initiated last year.

She said she realised, after having worked with 'Life. Be in it.' on health issues that a social marketing approach was very appropriate for landcare.

"'Life. Be in it.' worked so well for health promotion, and I believe it will work just as well for landcare," she said.

The promotion will involve a joint advertising campaign to encourage urban people to participate in landcare and to help rural and urban Australians understand each other better.

"It's really important that it's not just city people having to understand farmers, but that we all understand each other's needs and acknowledge the inter-relationship of the two sectors. We should be working together," Lorraine said.

A 30-second television community service announcement to raise people's awareness will be launched early this year.

March is Landcare month on the 'Life. Be in it.' calendar, taking Landcare's message into 2.5m homes, offices and schools across Australia.

A 'Life. Be in it.' landcare poster for landcare groups and schools will be available early this year and a State-wide photographic competition will be run in May.

A 'Personal Action Guide' brochure will be prepared "giving urban people things to do in their own backyards to support landcare," Lorraine said.

A backyard planner to promote "whole yard planning" was also in the proposal.

This will be distributed through nursery outlets and will apply the principles of whole farm planning to the suburban block.

The organisers hope to supply home buyers with vouchers for "land loving natives" through major real estate agents and tag native plants in nurseries.

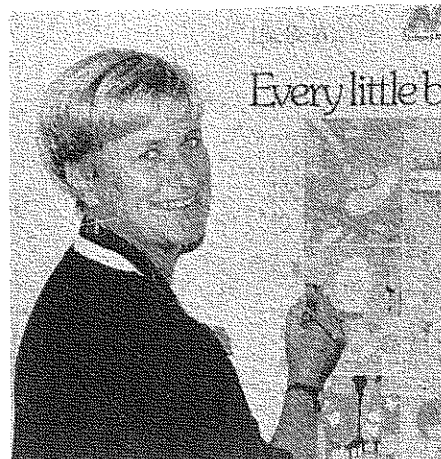
"I think the campaign will have a major impact," Lorraine said.

"We all have problems and we need to help each other.

"It's all about changing attitudes and behaviour and provides opportunities for action.

"I believe we should be focusing on educating urban people about landcare issues.

"Times are hard in the rural community and I'm more convinced that city people have to stand with the rural



community and help fight its political battles."

'Life. Be in it.' will be working with Landcare Australia to get sponsorship for 'Landcare for Life. Be in it.' programs.

Winners flying east

There were more entries from SA for the 1990 Landcare Awards than any other State, the executive officer of the Decade of Landcare, Mrs Cicely Bungey, said this week.

"We were very pleased with the response and for the seven categories judged we had 73 entries," she said.

"The SA winners are now being assessed against those from interstate.

"Our winners will travel to Canberra, where the national awards will be announced on March 20."

Following is the complete list of those chosen, with other finalists in brackets:-

Media - Michelle Daw, Advertiser (Ian Doyle, ABC; and Jim McCarter, Advertiser).

Local Government - Murray Bridge District Council for its Swanport soil conservation and revegetation project (Blyth-Snowtown District Council and City of Salisbury).

Research - Dr Brian Cook for rabbit research (Dr Albert Rovira, CSIRO; and John Stafford, West Torrens Council).

Landcare community group - Hummocks Soil Conservation Board (Central Flinders Soil Conservation Board and Prince Alfred College).

Landcare, primary producer - as the winner of the 1990 Commonwealth Development Bank's Ibis Award, Brian and Lesley Mason of Forest Range will

represent SA.

Landcare individual - Andy Sutherland, president of Trees For Life (Brendan Lay and Graham Simmons).

Business - ETSA, for work done at Leigh Creek (Santos and Western Mining Corporation).

Education - Glossop High School, for its landcare initiatives in the district (Birdwood High School and Parndana Area School).

Guide available

A consolidated guide to Australia's land, water and vegetation programs has been produced by the Federal Government.

Outlined are the components making up the Decade of Landcare including:- The national soil conservation program; one Billion Trees program; Save The Bush initiatives; and the management guidelines and community action planned for the Murray-Darling basin.

Detail is also provided on natural resource research.

Copies of "Landcare Information - Land, Water and Vegetation Program 1990-91" are available from the Landcare Unit of the Soil and Water Conservation Branch, 16th floor, Department of Agriculture, 25 Grenfell St, Adelaide 5000.

Stock control to stop erosion

An agreement among seven farmers to see a project through to its conclusion is expected to yield valuable information on stabilising sandhills.

The farmers are being assisted with funding from the Natural Resources Management Strategy for the Borrika Sandhill Permanent Stabilisation Project, which involves trial sites on the properties of Wayne Manley, Alec Viet, Peter Lush and Doug Parker.

Helping to co-ordinate the project are Sylvia Luks, community project officer with the Department of Agriculture, based at Loxton, and Karoonda farmer Colin Durdin, who chairs the project group.

None of those involved pretend they are doing anything revolutionary.

Participants, however, guarantee that they will keep stock off the sites for three years and then have only controlled and limited grazing.

Sylvia Luks said continued funding had been an important element in getting the guarantee.

So far there have been two grants, an initial \$11,000 to establish the sites and \$2000 in the current season for maintenance.

One of the participants, Doug Parker, bought his property between Borrika and Sandalwood in 1979. Included were about 100 ha of sandhill and blow-outs that looked as if they were going to be impossible to manage.

"Gradually we worked on these areas, starting by using a bulldozer on the very steep parts, and doing some fencing and planting of the sections that needed protection," Doug said.

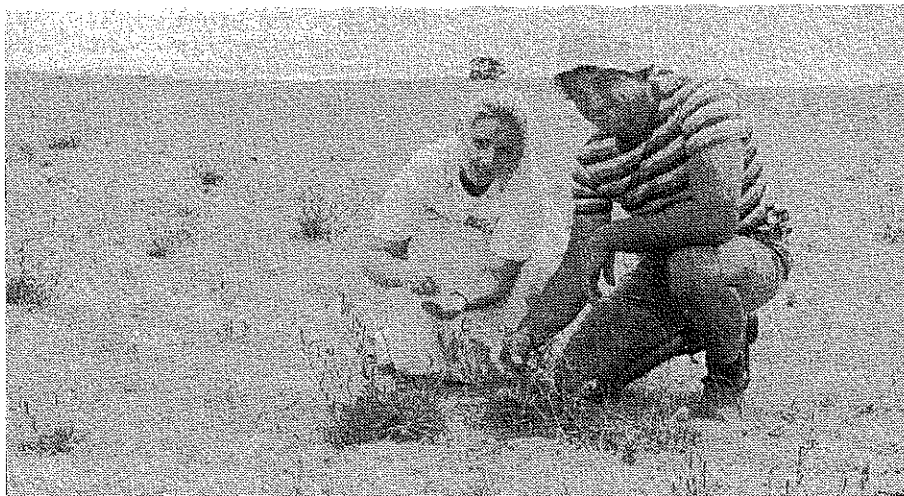
"In the 1983-84 season I participated in a Department of Agriculture scheme that covered half the cost of putting cereal rye into a selected site to look at the effect on stabilisation.

"The area wasn't stocked, yet it still drifted.

"I sowed the area again in 1989, however at my own cost and there was a reasonable hold due to a better season."

Last year, as a member of the Borrika group, he was able to take advantage of assistance through the current project.

It is hoped that there is a reasonable season on the way to promote the growth of medics, self-sown cereal rye and other species.



Sylvia Luks and Doug Parker examine the stabilising effects of evening primrose on sandy soils.

If the season is bad, Doug and other participants will not be tempted to let stock utilise the site, where the standing cereal rye and legume seeds on the ground will be quickly devoured.

Grazing is still some years off and when sheep are allowed in, it will be mainly for spring grazing and a limited time in the autumn.

Colin Durdin says he can't recall any project of this kind where stock are

guaranteed to be kept out for three years.

"In the short term this action is a big cost to the farmer," Colin said.

"The value is really in knowing that we may get a permanent hold on sandhills that steadily encroach onto arable land and affect its productivity."

If this happens then the efforts of farmers and the investment of funds under the Natural Resources Management Strategy will be well worthwhile.

New revegetation grants available

The State Government has boosted funds for revegetation through a new grants scheme.

A total of \$100,000 will be allocated by a Rural Tree Planting Committee, formed by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Arnold, last November.

Grants are for community based non-government organisations.

Rural Tree Co-ordinator, Mr Paul Moran, said the committee wanted to deal with land degradation, sustaining land use and improving or extending remnant vegetation.

Preference for grants will be given to:

- low cost rural vegetation and tree planting projects which encourage rural tree planting
- rural demonstration plantings which educate and promote the benefits of trees and revegetation practices

- projects linking rural and urban communities.

Applicants will have to contribute to at least 50 pc of the project, either in cash or kind.

Funding will be for 12 months.

Applications are available from the State Tree Centre, GPO Box 1671, Adelaide, SA 5001, and Department of Agriculture district offices, and close on February 28.

Community groups are also reminded that Greening Australia grant applications close February 16.

Grants are available on a dollar-for-dollar contribution basis to groups who can contribute to increasing tree coverage in an area using proper tree planting techniques.

Application forms are available from regional government offices.

Around the State

NORTHERN PASTORAL

by landcare officer, Matthew Dowling.

The Central Flinders Soil Board was a finalist in the 1990 landcare awards with its survey training project and news of the board's success spread quickly.

In fact, it has sparked landholder interest in wanting to be part of the next school to be held in Quorn this month. Landholders will again be trained to survey their own contour banks.

Results from the Soil Conservation and Revegetation Seminar held at Pt Augusta in November have been circulated.

During February I will attend meetings of the Marla-Oodnadatta, Marree, Central Flinders and Kingoonya Soil Boards.

The Marree and Kingoonya boards recently held field days with the Rangeland Assessment Unit of the Lands Department.

At the Marla-Oodnadatta board meeting development of a district plan will be a major issue.

MURRAY MALLEE

by landcare officer, Anne Wigan

The Murray Mallee may have 13 new dryland "Communities of Common Concern" projects for 1991-92.

Add to these, the existing CCC projects, plus landcare and Billion Tree grants and we have the right ingredients for changes in attitudes and land management practices.

Two of the field tours to be held during the Inaugural Community Landcare Conference at Murray Bridge on February 26-27 will be in the Mallee.

The sand stabilisation and alternative land use tour will involve the Forster-Bandon and Borrika land management groups.

Featured are saltbush and acacia species established on sandhills and evening primrose and veldt grass seeding rate experiments on reclaimed sandhills.

During a tour to Cooke Plains-Cooman-



dook, people will see trials with salt tolerant pastures and high water use crops including trees.

UPPER NORTH

by landcare officer, Jean Turner

Yongala Agricultural Bureau members are impressed with the performance of direct drill operations on the local hard-setting red brown earths after the first year of their NSCP funded tillage trials landcare project.

Harvest results show that direct drill treatments generally yielded at least as well as conventional treatments with some promising results from the Amazone seeder.

Most trial sites will be cropped again in 1991.

With NSCP funds the Hundred of Hardy Soil Conservation Group is to investigate and demonstrate cost effective broad-acre establishment of saltbush and bluebush on degraded pastoral land.

Also in action is the West Broughton Soil Conservation Board with its erosion gully stabilisation project using native tree species in the Appila-Caltowie region.

Finally, an important seminar organised by the Goyder Soil Conservation Board will be held at the Orreroo football club from 10 am on March 26.

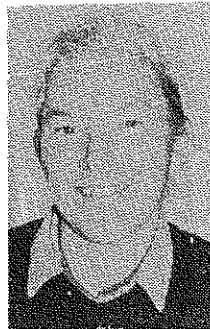
Focusing on soil structure management for sustainable cropping, topics will include yield potential, soil structure and tillage, land type versus land management and root diseases.

SOUTH-EAST

by landcare officer, Jo Murphy

A stubble handling field day being organised by the Bordertown and Districts Landcare Group will be held on March 19.

It will involve demonstration of local machinery modified to sow into stubble;



information on local soil types and a display of the rainfall simulator.

The Kids for Landcare program started well in the latter part of 1990 with two field days organised by the "Save The Bush" team.

Teachers spent a day in the scrub getting facts and finding out how useful it can be as an outdoor classroom.

Local schools will be invited to submit projects for landcare funding in 1991 to continue some very good work by schools.

Information on local salinity and sand dune drift problems has been revealed in a survey conducted by the Tintinara Landcare Group.

EYRE

PENINSULA

by landcare officer, Matt Foley

Lower and western Eyre Peninsula schools have received a boost to their landcare and environmental education programs, from funds allocated by the Eyre district landcare committee.

This is part of the State-wide Landcare in Schools program.

The committee judged applications on their educational value, the degree to which the projects are likely to lead to ongoing activities, and the extent to which the projects involved other schools and community groups.

Nine schools were funded from the first round of submissions.

Many of the schools will set up nurseries to supply trees for the local community.

Other projects deal more specifically with local problems such as salinity.

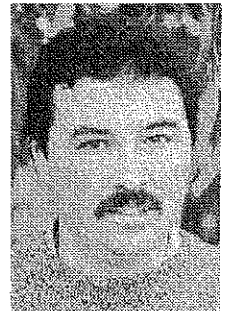
The Ceduna Area School hopes to bring a soils information trailer to Eyre Peninsula.

The trailer is being developed at Urrbrae Agricultural High School, and is designed to give "hands on" experience in soil conservation.

NORTHERN AREAS AND YORKE PENINSULA

by landcare officer, Chris McDonough

The Barossa Valley Viticultural Landcare Group combining with the Rowland



(Cont. next page)

Profile

Being a landcare officer with the Department of Agriculture is a far cry from social working - but Rebecca Lang couldn't be happier.

Rebecca, (right) appointed in November, was considering a career in social work when she first started tertiary study in Victoria.

However, deciding social work was not for her, she saved to go overseas for six months.

Before and after the trip she worked at a retail plant nursery, which made her decide to study horticulture.

"I spent an enormous amount of my childhood in the bush and have always been interested in the natural environment," she said.

Rebecca did a Certificate in Horticul-

ture in Melbourne, "which was the main thrust to make me go back and get a formal qualification," she said.

She has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Horticulture), an Associate Diploma (Nursery Production and Management) and an ambition to do her Masters.

"I'm a firm believer that the rural community needs all the help that it can get from the urban community and I intend to be a part of that," she said.

Rebecca would like to continue working in landcare and wants to increase her technical expertise in soil science and agronomy.

She thinks landcare will be a gradual process.

"Unless things improve economically, it's going to be very gradual," she said.

"People in the city have to realise that their support and understanding of landcare issues is vital, otherwise the situation is not going to improve any faster."



Rebecca is a course writer for the Advanced Certificate in Horticulture at the Brookway Park School of Horticulture.

She is a keen bushwalker and enjoys reading, swimming and windsurfing, and will be kept busy in autumn when she and husband Ivan plant 1,000 trees on their Normanville property.

Murray Bridge hosts conference

Directions for the Decade of Landcare will be decided at a special conference in Murray Bridge this month.

Landcare groups and their members are invited to attend the inaugural Community Landcare Conference at Murray Bridge Butterfly House and town hall on February 26 and 27.

While landcare is well established in

SA, some important issues need to be discussed including -

- Directions for the Decade of Landcare.
- Costs and whether the program is still on the rails.
- Why people are involved, the problems they face and success rates.

Tours and workshops are organised for the two days, including bus trips to see water erosion controls, salinity monitoring and a salt tolerant pasture project.

There is a limit of 300 delegates, and bookings close on February 15.

For enquiries contact Rebecca Lang (08) 226 1850 or Tracy Doherty (08) 226 1845.

Salinity problems west of Keith will be discussed at an information night this month.

Regional head of the Department of Mines and Energy in the South-East, Mr Fred Stadter, will explain the technical side of the underground water problem at 8.30 pm on February 20, at the Keith Institute.

The Department of Agriculture's soil conservation officer at Keith, Rosy Parsons, said the aim was to give people a better understanding of what was happening underground.

Around the State

(Cont. from previous page)

Flat and Lone Pine Agricultural Bureaux held a very successful field day recently.

After discussing landcare issues, 80 participants examined machinery and management methods used to protect soils on three local vineyards.

Most other groups are involved in 1990 assessment and future program planning activities.

Many trees are being grown by "Trees For Life" groups and seeds are being collected for direct seeding projects.

Congratulations to the Hummocks Soil Conservation Board and the Blyth-Snowtown District Council for their success in the SA section of the National Landcare Awards.

CARE CALENDAR

Readers are invited to submit dates and details of landcare-related events for inclusion in this column to:

Mrs Cicely Bungey
Department of Agriculture
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Phone (08) 226 0538

The deadline for the next issue is March 18.

FEBRUARY

- Life Be In It - Clean water month.
- 6 Soil Conservation Council, Lyndoch.
- 7 Soil Boards' conference, Lyndoch.
- 20 Dryland salinity information night, Keith Institute, 8.30 pm.
- 26-27 Inaugural Community Landcare conference, Murray Bridge.

MARCH

- Life Be In It - Landcare month.
- 2-3 Launch of Pt Adelaide Education Centre (Kids for Landcare).
- 4-8 Salt watch week.
- 11-15 Advertiser - Landcare week.
- 18-22 World forestry week, launch in Rundle Mall.
- 19 Stubble handling field day, Borderown.
- 20 National Landcare awards presentation, Canberra.
- 26 Soil structure management for sustainable cropping seminar, Orroroo Football Clubrooms, 10 am to 4.30 pm.
- 27 Central Yorke Peninsula revegetation conference, Maitland Golf Club.

APRIL

- Life Be In It - Clean air month.

Competition winners announced

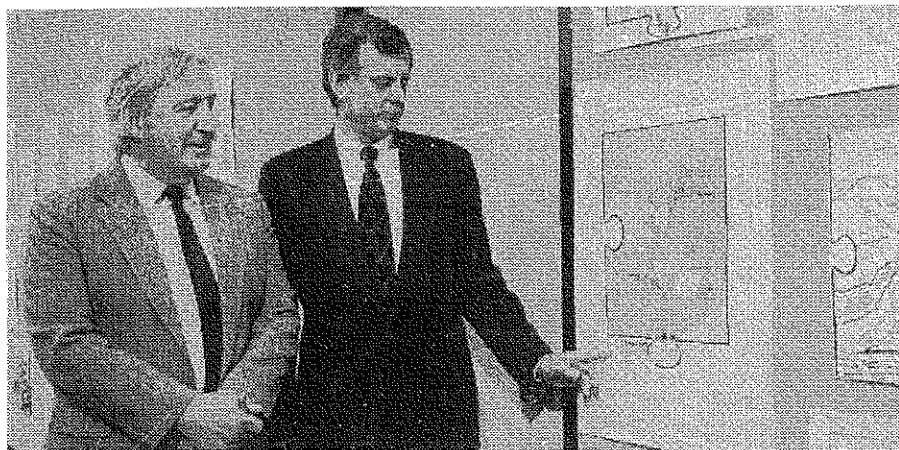
Producing landcare posters was a popular project for SA's school children in 1990 as across the State they took part in the Kids for Landcare poster competition.

These were displayed in the Education Building in Flinders Street, Adelaide, in December and judged in three categories.

The winners were -

Reception to Year 2 - 1st Marcus Thiele, Browns Well Area; 2nd Michael Humphrys, Ascot Park Primary; 3rd Brad Hoare, North Haven Junior Primary.

Years 3-5 - 1st Heidi Schmuki, Mannum Primary; 2nd Xanthe Kleinig, Jodi Baker and Lee Morgan, Laura Primary; 3rd Tyson



Baird, Hills Christian Community

Years 6-8 - 1st Erin Higgins, Kristy Thomson, Laura Primary; 2nd Jade Stevens, Aphrodite Bolger, Kadina Primary; 3rd Shelley Hazen, Mt Pleasant Primary.

Honorary mention - Eleanor Hamilton, Kadina Primary.

First prize winners received a cheque for \$100 and \$150 for their school. Runners-up won \$50 and \$100 for their school and third prize winners were given \$25 plus \$75 for their school.

Shown above are two of the judges, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mr Glynn Webber and Associate Director-General of Education, Mr Garth Boomer, with some of the posters.

Schools focus on 'Saltwatch'

SA's school children will help tackle the State's salinity problems which are causing annual production losses of \$58m.

From March, these students and communities will be involved in "Saltwatch", a program designed to help overcome this major land degradation problem.

"Saltwatch", which is already successful in Victoria, will:

- Develop government and community awareness.
- Help people understand the salinity problem.
- Assist farmers, Government and the community make long term decisions to correct land salinisation.

It is a Kids For Landcare project and from March 4, school children will collect local water samples on public and private land and test them in classrooms.

The salt content will be recorded on computer and plotted on regional maps so that levels can be monitored in a region or catchment.

Schools are now being approached to take part in Saltwatch and 10 are expected to participate in nine regions.

These are Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas, Mid-North, Mt Lofty Ranges, Adelaide Plains, Riverland, Mallee, South-East and Kangaroo Island.

Riverland students take major landcare award

Glossop High School students should be proud of their 1990 efforts after winning the SA Education section of the National Landcare Awards.

SA's awards were presented in Adelaide on December 10.

Glossop High School worked on six major landcare related projects last year.

They were the Berri evaporation basin monitoring and rehabilitation project; "Operation Siberia", a land reclamation project; saltwatch; drainwatch; a Jimmy James Memorial tree planting day and Disher's Creek district seeding experiment.

The aim of the landcare program was to educate students and their families through different activities.

The Premier, Mr Bannon, opened "Operation Siberia" in June, where he met and discussed landcare issues with students.

Landcare has helped develop environmental education at the High School

with chemistry, science, geography, typing, computing and English students all became involved in the program.

Saltwatch, which began in June, involved the measurement of salinity in over 500 water samples collected by other Riverland high school students.

Soil salinity levels were recorded at the Berri evaporation basin.

Drainwatch encouraged students who live on fruit blocks to study water drainage and effective irrigation methods.

The Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Planning, Woods and Forests Department, E&WS Department, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the local agricultural bureau were all involved last year.

The landcare program has led to a major effort to propagate and plant native trees and shrubs in the Riverland and to encourage others to do the same if it is to remain a viable primary production area.