John Tucker

Australian Government Individual Landcare Award

John Tucker is a passionate Landcare volunteer and advocate. His tireless work on Landcare and other environmental projects around the North West region since the late 1980’s and the support he provides to new volunteers and members of the community is invaluable. Of particular note is the School’s Liaison work he undertakes on behalf of Landcare. John has given of himself to an extraordinary degree. He has been a foundation member and stalwart supporter of several groups, spending hours liaising and organising, supervising helpers and sharing his great love for our country. He has inspired people from all sections of society including landholders, environmentalists, the disabled and disadvantaged and, in particular, our next generation of Landcarers.

Within his local community John is a wonderful ambassador for Landcare. This year he won the Tamworth Regional Council’s Community Senior Volunteer of the Year Award and the Landcareer of the Year Award for the North West. The people in our region admire him for the community work he does and are aware that a very large proportion of it is done in the name of Landcare.

Most importantly John leads by example. He can be found at almost every working bee in the district, working hard and encouraging the other participants to continue and come again. He is always optimistic and cheerful and helps to keep other volunteers motivated and positive. He has been, and continues to be, a Landcare member we can be very proud of.

Jeremy Bradley

Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award

Jeremy is a self-confessed “extreme carbon farmer”. He operates a small farm in the Hastings Valley where he rotationally grazes cattle with a difference. With his focus clearly on the soil, cattle are used as the ‘top-link’ in the soil foodchain (manure distributors). Jeremy uses self-modified machinery to simultaneously mulch pasture residue and inoculate the soil and mulch with live microbes, selected to breakdown and incorporate plant material into the soil, building soil carbon and enhancing microbial activity. With minimal inputs, Jeremy has increased the soil pH throughout the profile, effectively deepening the topsoil, enabling stronger root system development and enhanced productivity.

In his horticulture, Jeremy has developed and promoted the use of minimal-till green manure incorporation using compost tea and a pasture mulcher for the production of in-situ compost.

Jeremy has been enthusiastically involved in research and trials of new techniques and has encouraged learning and adoption of low cost regenerative biological farming techniques through extensive participation in conferences and leadership of field days and demonstration trials. He has shared his passion and knowledge with agricultural students at schools throughout the region and was instrumental in the development of the Mid North Coast Microherders group for which he continues to operate the Facebook, email help desk and website and organises and runs biological farming workshops and field days.

His innovations include new ways of combining and incorporating selected microbes into farming soils, the introduction of new cover-crop/green-manure methods and species, a focus on the selection and use of locally sourced microbes and the dissemination of the knowledge of the values of local biology in soil-building.