



**2025 Mary MacKillop Today**  
**Highways and Byways Small Grants Program**  
*Embracing and Valuing Diversity in Nature and Community*

Total Funding: 29 projects valued at \$120,557.58

Grant Recipient/Location	Project Description
<b>1. The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion Ltd.</b> Myers Flat, Bendigo VIC \$4,695.00	<b><i>Indigenous re-vegetation</i></b> Re-vegetation of the Great Stupa inter-faith Peace Park, which is barren land, with mostly indigenous bush tucker plants by volunteer local community members collaborating with the local Indigenous Dja Dja Wurrung people.
<b>2. Wild Weed Weavers</b> Denmark (Kwoorabup), Great Southern WA \$4,783.00	<b><i>Wild Weed Weavers</i></b> The removal of invasive weeds from Mount Hallowell Reserve (Kooryunderup) and transforming them into functional, handcrafted objects – blending conservation efforts with cultural and creative expression.
<b>3. Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council Inc.</b> Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Area NSW \$4,917.00	<b><i>Supporting New Growers for the Southern Tablelands Tree Start Growers Network</i></b> This project will support an additional 20 growers/community volunteers to join a collaborative initiative undertaken by Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council and Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare to learn to propagate and grow native tubestock from home.
<b>4. Wynyard Landcare Group Inc.</b> Frenchs Road Nature Reserve, Somerset TAS \$1,000.00	<b><i>Validating Biodiversity</i></b> This project will provide for the purchase of an audio recorder to monitor the call of birds and potentially bats, in an effort to retain one of the last significant woodlands in the area. The land is under threat through encroaching urbanisation, and it has been observed that endemic and migratory birds and Tasmanian Devils, Spotted Quolls, platypus and other pademelons and macropods live in this woodland.
<b>5. Hovells Creek Landcare Group Inc.</b> Reids Flat NSW \$4,450.00	<b><i>Sharing Indigenous land management knowledge practices with farming women</i></b> A workshop facilitated by a First Nations woman who will share her Aboriginal knowledge and connection to country with farming women, as an initial approach to introducing Indigenous cultural practices to a more conventional farming community.
<b>6. Wattle Hill Landcare Group</b> Wattle Hill TAS \$5,000.00	<b><i>Blueprints for a Better Future: A Wetland for Biodiversity and Resilience</i></b> Restoration of a significantly degraded wetlands particularly in the riverine areas. The project aims to enhance water filtration, biodiversity, and habitat connectivity by re-establishing native vegetation and improving hydrological function and carbon sequestration.
<b>7. Cambrai Primary School and Preschool</b> Cambrai SA \$2,500.00	<b><i>National Landcare Conference - Meldanda showcase</i></b> A dynamic partnership between the small, local school (30 children) and a community Landcare group, this project will fund five students to attend a National Landcare Conference on the Gold Coast. The students will showcase the work being done along the Marne Valley to preserve its water assets and protect a dying river system.
<b>8. Capricorn Conservation Council Youth Sub Committee</b> Rockhampton QLD \$5,000.00	<b><i>CCC Youth Cultural Immersion and Acknowledgement Project</i></b> This project will engage the CCCY Subcommittee and broader youth community in an immersive cultural learning experience led by an indigenous elder and a First Nations artist. It aims to create lasting cultural, social, and environmental change by empowering young people to become leaders in reconciliation and sustainability.
<b>9. (it's no) drama LTD</b> Leongatha, Foster, Toora (South Gippsland) VIC \$2,500.00	<b><i>On Display</i></b> The development and presentation of a public performance in regional Victoria for people with disabilities. The project will create a welcoming space for diverse and marginalised people to come together in a safe and supportive environment where participants can engage in creative activities and work toward a public performance as part of <i>Social Inclusion Week 2025</i> .
<b>10. Hay Trees on Plains Landcare Group Inc.</b> Hay NSW \$1,795.00	<b><i>Landcare Champion Podcast</i></b> This project arose from a request by local High School students following two introductory podcasting workshops, to progress to producing the podcast series themselves. The Landcare group will teach the students how to produce a podcast and learn researching, technical and communication skills.

<b>11. Kulungah Myah Community Centre</b>  Melville and Kardinya WA  \$3,900.00	<b><i>Corroboree for Life Dance Workshop</i></b> The project consists of a 6-week dance program with Aboriginal students from Melville Senior HS facilitated by a dance studio run by members of the local Noongar community. The purpose is to nurture the students' connection to their culture and community through traditional dance and storytelling, to build students' skills and confidence, and to create a sense of belonging for the students within their community.
<b>12. Gilgandra Film Festival</b>  Gilgandra NSW \$5,000.00	<b><i>Gilgandra Film Festival</i></b> The Gilgandra Film Festival is initiated and staged by local volunteers and features both short documentary films made by local school children as well as those made by award winning national and international film makers. Grant funding will purchase new sound equipment.
<b>13. Ngaarr Thawun Rural Ag and Environmental Sustainability Corporation</b>  Narrabri Shire NSW  \$5,000.00	<b><i>Building Resilient Landscapes: Year-Round Dung Beetle Integration for Soil Health and Natural Flood Mitigation</i></b> The project aims to address gaps in the local ecosystem functions through natural, sustainable methods by introducing winter-active dung beetle colonies into the soil. The deep tunnelling of the bison dung beetle will naturally improve soil health, enhance water absorption, and thereby reduce flood impact in a region vulnerable to both drought and floods.
<b>14. Avon Valley Environmental Society inc.</b> Northam, WA  \$5,000.00	<b><i>Raised boardwalk over wetlands – Northam, WA</i></b> The aim of the project is to construct a raised boardwalk over part of the Doornjtj Korlinny (Walking Together) Track that crosses over a seasonal wetland while allowing sufficient free flow of water as well as ventilation to ensure the continued health and ecology of the wetlands.
<b>15. Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre</b>  Kuranda, far North QLD \$5,000.00	<b><i>Gardens for Communities Project</i></b> This project is driven by the need for better access to the community garden site which slopes steeply and must be terraced if locals are to use it effectively and sustainably. Facilitated workshops will be held for sustainable growing, harvesting, food preparation and financial literacy once the garden is terraced and can be used safely.
<b>16. Gunning District Landcare Incorporated</b> Upper Lachlan Shire (Gunning and Dalton, with participants from the surrounding rural area) NSW \$3,950.00	<b><i>Landcare Seminar Series</i></b> Free series of four lectures covering erosion, invasive species, revegetation, and riparian zone management all of which are intensifying due to climate change and adversely affect the local community. Grant funding will cover speaker fees and travel costs, venue hire, catering, marketing and administration.
<b>17. Bass Coast Landcare Network</b>  Bass, VIC  \$4,994.00	<b><i>Community training in Propagation of food and indigenous plants at the River Garden</i></b> The project will establish a Training Nursery at the 1ha River Garden site, which will teach community volunteers of all ages to safely learn to propagate and grow food and native plants, including vegetables and indigenous plants. Produce is donated to local food relief pantry programs at community centres, and indigenous plants will help increase the biodiversity and health of the local environments.
<b>18. Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group</b>  Tarwin River Forest, Turtons Creek, VIC  \$5,000.00	<b><i>Protecting the Gang-gang Cockatoo: A Community Strengthening Approach to Conservation</i></b> An educational and interactive event bringing together the community to learn about, discuss and engage in the protection of the endangered Gang-gang cockatoo. A shared purpose will be to foster intergenerational connections and build collaborative support to protect future threatened species and ensure ongoing conservation of wildlife in the face of increasing habitat loss and natural disasters.
<b>19. Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association</b> Dawson Catchment, QLD  \$5,000.00	<b><i>Soil to Success: Maximising Land Productivity</i></b> An innovative field day that will provide a platform for local graziers to share knowledge, experiences, and insights on sustainable grazing practices that protect and enhance the health of our land and precious reef ecosystems - optimising productivity while maintaining soil health and ensuring long-term sustainability.
<b>20. Dr Stephanie Dale (Foundation Broken Hill)</b>  Online - targeting women in far west NSW \$2,200.00	<b><i>Women's Enterprise Circle: An Online Boutique Business Development Program</i></b> A structured online program supporting geographically isolated women in the Far West of NSW to identify and develop existing skill sets leading to better their employment/business opportunities, foster stronger social networks and develop income generating projects. The program, which will include both indigenous and non-indigenous women, focuses on peer engagement, entrepreneurship, shared learning and empowerment.

<b>21. Springfield Lakes Nature Care INC</b> Opossum Creek Bushcare site Brookwater, QLD \$5,000.00	<b><i>From Bush Care to Bush Tucker</i></b> Creating a Bush Tucker and Medicine Garden to educate and raise awareness of traditional owners' use of native plants for food and medicinal purposes. Through the establishing of the garden, indigenous ways of caring and connecting to land will be recognised and learnt. This will help community members of all ages to access cultural knowledge, strengthen social interactions, restore and preserve eco systems and native flora and fauna.
<b>22. Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association Ltd</b> Brisbane, QLD \$5,000.00	<b><i>APNA Festival of Nursing</i></b> This project will send two remote area nurses from QLD to APNA's Festival of Nursing in Brisbane in July 2025. Through participation in education sessions and workshops, networking with peers from all over the world, developing new skills and knowledge to be applied in their work, the aim is to encourage them to remain in their community. A further aim is for the remote nurses to take on student nurses in APNA's student placement programs so that it might support their town's investment in talent for the future.
<b>23. Katanning Land Conservation District Committee (Katanning Landcare)</b> Katanning, WA \$1,324.00	<b><i>Gear for the Greening</i></b> This initiative aims to improve the environment through the provision of two new "Landcare Event" roadside signs directing volunteers, farmers and community members to often out-of-the-way sites. The grant will also bolster the supply of tree-planting buckets so volunteers can comfortably and safely complete planting native seedlings.
<b>24. Bush Baby Wildlife Rescue Inc.</b> Moura, QLD \$5,000.00	<b><i>Native Canopy for Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre</i></b> This project will enable the establishment of a native flowering tree canopy and planting of native grasses at a wildlife rehabilitation centre to create a safe environment for injured animals to recover. This will assist in providing shade and nesting sites for birds, offering cover for small mammals and insects, and enhancing local biodiversity. The focus will be on native plants which will attract vital pollinators to develop the ecosystem.
<b>25. Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc. (LUCI)</b> 7 Mile Lagoon, Lockyer Valley, QLD \$4,996.00	<b><i>Koala Climate Corridors: Bunyas to Border schools</i></b> The project engages local student volunteers in a native tree planting initiative to contribute to a landscape-scale habitat corridor between the Bunya Mountains and Main Range National Park. Indigenous knowledge and the cultural significance of looking after the land will be shared by a local First Nations mentor together with an interactive wildlife demonstration.
<b>26. Uniting Queenscliff</b> (Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia) Queenscliff, VIC \$4,900.00	<b><i>Community reconciliation gathering space</i></b> The purpose is to use a centrally located site to build a safe, inclusive space that invites greater public usage and enjoyment, re-introducing plants native to the Bellarine. There will be seeds and cuttings sourced locally and propagated at the nursery in Queenscliff by volunteers, to enhance environmental biodiversity. Grant funding will cover the costs of consultation fees for the Wadawurrung traditional owners, Gardens for Wildlife consultation and plans, purchase of 400 plants and landscape materials.
<b>27. Neighbourhood Collective Australia</b> Bendigo, VIC \$4,900.00	<b><i>Acknowledging Country Together</i></b> This project will bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, including those from multicultural backgrounds, in a series of four art and regenerative gardening workshops, culminating in a celebration day, including a welcome to country ceremony and art exhibition. The aim is to increase cross-cultural connections and understanding, and reduce social isolation for women.
<b>28. Brukunga Community Association Inc.</b> Brukunga, SA \$5,000.00	<b><i>Brukunga Fire-Resilient Garden for Community Safety and Wellbeing</i></b> This initiative will establish a garden at the town's entrance located in the local Fire Station grounds, featuring fire-resistant native plants, educational signage and rustic metal sculptures to improve safety, teach environmental sustainability and be aesthetically pleasing to both visitors and the local residents. Cudlee Creek was adversely impacted by the 2019 bushfires. This project is a direct response to the bushfires - addressing climate change through resilience, education and community involvement.
<b>29. Warevilla Incorporated</b> Ceduna, SA \$4,013.58	<b><i>Community Cultural Safety and Landscape Enhancement Program</i></b> This initiative will fund the purchase of tools and equipment needed to repair and maintain property in a small Aboriginal family-based community in Ceduna SA. The goal is to provide skills training to community members, so they are self-sufficient in maintaining and preserving their homes and properties while ensuring the safety and well-being of the community.