

MEDIA RELEASE

24 January 2020

EMBARGOED until 7.00pm 26 January 2020 (following McKinlay Shire and Mount Isa City Council ceremonies)

Sarus Crane Award recognises best practice vision and community spirit

Southern Gulf NRM congratulates the winners of the prestigious Sarus Crane Awards and thanks them for their tireless contributions to a productive and sustainable future for the Southern Gulf region.

Selected and presented by regional Local Governments as part of the Australia Day award ceremonies, the Sarus Crane Awards recognise and celebrate individuals and groups making a significant contribution to the fields of land management, environment and disaster response.

The five winners this year were Ben McGlynn (Mount Isa), Lindsey Perry (Cloncurry), Vanessa Slack-Smith (McKinlay), Pluto Pastoral & Farming Co. – Patroy Station (Richmond), and Kylie and Jack Stewart-Moore (Flinders).

Ben McGlynn is a regional leader in beef research and sustainable grazing practices. Through his position as Chairperson on the Barkly Regional Beef Research Committee and hosting field days at Rocklands Station, Ben has contributed to regional beef research and education. Ben has also instigated a large development program at Rocklands to achieve a sustainable grazing system to minimise overgrazing of waterpoints.

Lindsey Perry received the award for her dedicated and tireless response during the 2019 monsoonal event. Lindsey played a crucial role in the Cloncurry region in coordinating fodder drops, distributing resources and encouraging collaboration. She navigated the unprecedented event with efficiency and worked hours and completed tasks that were well beyond what was expected of her. Lindsey was instrumental in ensuring fodder was allocated and delivered to where it was needed most.

Vanessa Slack-Smith donated her vet services and supplies to the McKinlay Shire during the 2019 Monsoon event. Vanessa's commitment went over and above to treat affected animals, big and small, throughout the region while her own grazing business was under threat.

Pluto Pastoral & Farming Co. received the Richmond Shire award for their ongoing commitment to eradicating Prickly Acacia through their successful annual weed eradication program on Patroy Station.

Kylie and Jack Stewart-Moore received the Flinders Shire award in Hughenden for practicing sustainable land management and hosting field days for the region to access industry experts. In 2019, they hosted field days focusing on erosion control and natural sequence farming to the region. The family has a long-term commitment to managing for ground cover and Mitchell grass growth.

“The future of natural resource management in our region depends a lot on people who stand up for their communities, supporting them through tough times and building knowledge for the future”, said Southern Gulf NRM CEO Andrew Maclean. “The people recognised by their communities for the Sarus Crane Award this year have each in various ways demonstrated the best of our community. We are grateful to them all”, he said.

Sarus Crane Awards are delivered in a partnership between Local Government and Southern Gulf NRM. This ensures that the awards are firmly embedded in each of the local government communities and that achievements are properly recognised over the entire region.

Mr Maclean thanked the Mayors and councilors of the participating Councils for their continuing commitment.

ENDS

For further information or comment:

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More information on the awards and recipients is included below.



SARUS CRANE AWARD

Background to the Sarus Crane Award

Since 2007, Southern Gulf NRM has proudly recognised individuals and groups making a significant contribution to the fields of land management and the environment by means of the well regarded Sarus Crane Award. That Award was announced at the Annual General Meeting of Southern Gulf NRM (then known as Southern Gulf Catchments). From 2016, Southern Gulf NRM offered partnerships with local councils in our region to offer the Sarus Crane Award as part of Australia Day Awards ceremonies. The objective is to enable wider recognition of achievement across all shires in the Southern Gulf region.



Story of the Sarus Crane Award's name

The iconic Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*), which is pictured in the organisation's logo, was picked for the name of the Award, in 2007. The Sarus Crane is the tallest flying bird in the world with some adult males reaching up to 1.8 metres tall. They have predominantly grey plumage with a red head and neck and long, pale red legs. Their significance to our region is that the only known breeding area for Australian Sarus Cranes is in the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria. This area is important not only for native flora and fauna species that call this region home but also for the numerous migratory bird species that travel vast distances along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway to reach these feeding grounds.

About Southern Gulf NRM

Southern Gulf NRM is the natural resource management (NRM) organisation for the Southern Gulf region of north west Queensland. We work with our partners and the community to protect our region's natural resources and maintain the prosperity of industries and communities that rely on these. The region comprises all the land whose creeks and rivers run into the south of the Gulf of Carpentaria.