



Alice Knight OAM

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2016 Joan Kirner Landcare Award Winner*

The need to care for the land was instilled in Alice from her parents who, nearly six decades ago, purchased 25 hectares of significant remnant vegetation to ensure the conservation values on the land were preserved (now jointly managed by the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Knights). This connection shaped the way Alice thought about the land, how it should be managed and how individuals taking responsibility and caring through their own actions was the only way to ensure the prosperity for future generations. Alice had the landcare ethic long before the emergence of Landcare. Alice and her brother Kevin were one of the first farming businesses to start applying what is now recognised and accepted as whole farm and catchment planning. The initial plan for the Pittong Pastoral Company indicated land classes, areas for revegetation and future fencing. It formed the basis for a large scale and sustained program not only to begin enhancing the landscape, but also to lift productivity. They showed leadership by investing significant amounts of their own time and money into on-ground activities rather than relying on grants or incentives. They led by example. The greatest test of Alice's commitment and ability to encouraging participation is demonstrated in the impressive statistics of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group. This is a testament and legacy to the inclusive culture Alice had helped create among landholders who are involved in the project.

The Victorian Landcare Program acknowledges Alice for her outstanding contribution to Landcare and the catchments and communities she has served.

