

MEDIA RELEASE

3 July, 2017

Huon Valley volunteer environmental care groups urged to apply for Council grants

Are you part a volunteer environmental care group in the Huon Valley, such as a Landcare or Coastcare Group? Could your group benefit from some grant funding to protect and enhance the Huon Valley landscape?

The Huon Valley Council is calling for applications for the 2017 volunteer environmental care group grants program.

The project grants are given by Council each year to support and maintain the 'care' network in the Huon Valley. The network consists of the following volunteer environmental care groups: Landcare, Coastcare, and 'Friends of' groups as well as schools who are members of Landcare Tasmania, doing environmental works in the Huon Valley that benefit the broader community.

This year the maximum value a group can apply for has been increased to \$4,000. Applicants can carry out works on a variety of land tenures, including Council reserves, Crown land, private land and school grounds. Projects must be able to be completed by 30 June 2018.

In the past, care groups have undertaken a broad range of projects in the Huon Valley municipal area: some that help to educate and inform the community about native plants and animals; some that provide walking tracks for community members to access natural areas; some that rehabilitate and revegetate eroding creek banks and some that enable school children to experience environmental work in their own schoolyards.

Huon Valley Council Commissioner, Adriana Taylor, describes this grant program as a great collaboration between committed community members and the Council in a shared vision, and meets one of Council's Strategic Objectives, 'A Great Environment'.

"These grants provide integral financial support to our valuable environmental volunteers across the Huon Valley area in caring for our natural environment in a way that benefits everyone in our community," Commissioner Taylor said.

Successful care group applicants must demonstrate that the proposed works meet one of the criteria outlined in the Huon Valley Council's Natural Resource Management Strategy. The proposed works can include (but are not limited to) weed control, revegetation, fencing of priority habitats such as threatened vegetation, works that protect waterways and wetlands, environmentally themed community events, or equipment and training for community groups.



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A copy of the strategy, guidelines, application forms and information on how to apply for a volunteer environmental care group grant are available from the Council's website at www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au or by phoning (03) 6264 0300.

The Council's Natural Resource Management Coordinator, Ally Hughes, can help with project development and application preparation as well as providing advice and support for the duration of the group's project.

Completed applications can be lodged via the Council's website www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au, via email at hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au, by post at PO Box 210, Huonville, Tasmania 7109, or in person at the Council's Customer Service Centre at 40 Main Street in Huonville.

Applications close at 5pm Monday, 31 July 2017.

**For more information
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