

Regional Landcare Update

The fortnightly e-news of the New England-North West Landcare Network

Issue 43: 24th October 2011

Farm Planning Workshop

Complete an online, computerized farm plan, all from your own home. RuralBiz is offering funded places in their computer-based farm planning workshop for \$210. This entails 6 x half day sessions, includes a digital image of your property and FarmMap software. Further information from www.ruralbiztraining.com.au 68848812.

LHPA Review

Community consultation meetings will be held across NSW for the LHPA Review. This will be an opportunity to hear community views on the State's LHPA's first hand. The role of the LHPA and other important issues will be discussed at the meetings. In our area, venues include Tenterfield Memorial Hall 24th October 9am. Tamworth (Calala research Centre) 24th October 6pm. Public submissions are open until 5 November. Written submissions should be sent to secretary@lhpareview.com.au

Cream of the Crop

The Cream of the Crop competition invites NSW secondary + tertiary students to promote the importance of agriculture to their peers, to encourage a better understanding of agriculture as well as promote agricultural careers + rural life.

The competition includes a section for PowerPoint presentations + one for video presentations. There are 8 categories on offer. Previous finalists have covered topics such as the importance of buying Australian produce, sustainable farming, agriculture + technology and climate change. Cash prizes available. Winners are presented at a function in their honour at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2012. Entries close 1.12.2011. www.landlearnsw.org.au/

Have any good erosion photos?

Have you taken any good photos of erosion or erosion control measures or even erosion control bloopers? You can submit them to the IECA 15th annual photo competition. The deadline for submissions is 30th Dec 2011. See www.erosioncontrol.com/the-latest/ieca-photo-contest.aspx

G & G Field Days

Grain and Graze will host 2 workshops in the Inverell area this week. This includes a 'Free Nitrogen' field day at Nullamanna Station on 25th October. How to maximise free nitrogen will be addressed. The second event will focus on how to control common grass pasture weeds. This event will be held 27th

October at Forest Hill. More details available from Nicole Gammie 0409 344 072

Chemical Card Workshop

Rural Biz Training will run a Chemical Card workshop in Glen Innes 16th November. Refresher (\$190) and initial accreditation (\$280) workshops available. www.ruralbiztraining.com.au or 6884 8812.

GPS Workshop @ Bingara

UGLA will host a hand held GPS workshop for landholders on 10th November. Presented by BRG CMA's Luc Farago, this half day workshop is free. Ideal for beginners. RSVP to UGLA 67242052.

Grass Seed Harvester

Grass Grabber is a new lightweight brush harvester for collecting native grass seed. It can be mounted on the front of an ATV or Quad bike or can be reconfigured to be operated manually. Brush width 750mm, Australian designed + built, lightweight fibreglass, BHP steel + Honda 4 stroke engine.

Designed for collection of Kangaroo Grass, Wallaby Grass, Weeping Grass, Red Grass, Spear Grass + Poa. A limited number only will be made in time for this summer's harvest Production is underway now. Contact Grass Grabber at Goulburn 02 48445149.

Contributions to the Landcare Update are welcome.
Email to Fiona Adams at gwymacgg@bigpond.com



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



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Capturing the Catchment

Namoi CMA has launched their new photographic competition, Capturing our Catchment. This competition is now in its 3rd year. This year, Namoi CMA is looking for images that capture the catchment. Various categories on offer for primary, secondary, open, professional, colour and black + white sections. All details and entry forms available at www.namoi.cma.nsw.gov.au Closes 31.1.2012.

New Soil Factsheets

The Department of Environment and Resources Management (Queensland) have recently released three new factsheets. The new titles may be downloaded at www.derm.qld.gov.au and include:

- Soil conservation waterways: construction and management,
- Soil construction waterways: plants for stabilisation and
- Soil conservation waterways: planning and design

Could you be a Community Assessor?

The Australian Government is seeking applications for community assessors. Assessors play a crucial role in sustainable natural resource management by representing

community perspectives on a range of funding decisions.

Ideally, applicants will have a broad community knowledge + experience in managing natural resources; knowledge of local natural resource management issues + opportunities; knowledge of sustainable farming practices. Closes **8am** 26 October 2011.

[www.daff.gov.au/
communityassessors](http://www.daff.gov.au/communityassessors)

2012 Year of the Farmer

Australian farmers feed + clothe 60 million people, yet they account for less than 1 per cent of the Australian population. Australian Year of the Farmer 2012 has been officially launched and aims to remind Australians just how important our farmers are.

A Year of the Farmer Roadshow will see 9 state-of-the art Roadshow vehicles touring the country to demonstrate why Australian Farmers are among the best and most efficient in the world. Over twelve months, the Roadshow will attend 2000 event days across all states and territories. Join the Year of the Farmer newsletter database to stay in touch. www.yearofthefarmer.com.au

Bio Farming Bus Trip + Field Day

North East Downs Landcare will host *Biological farming: towards more sustainable food*

production Bio-farming bus trip + field day, Thursday 3rd November 2011, 8.30am.

The program will include visits to three farms looking at:

- ◆ Field trials + broadacre application of alternative nutrient strategies
- ◆ Starter trials with a range of rates for comparisons
- ◆ Liquid fertiliser technology
- ◆ Addition of nutrients, biology, carbon + stimulants
- ◆ Green manuring with summer legumes. Tour guide is Ian Moss, agronomist (F.A.R.M.). \$20pp. RSVP to Owena Reimers at North East Downs Landcare 0409 058538

CMA Field Day @ Narrabri

Namoi CMA will host a field day 27th October, Federation Farm (20km west of Narrabri on the Kamilaroi Hwy). The event will discuss CMA funding opportunities, with a focus on options for engineering tree canopy cover to suit your farm, ecosystem services + economic benefits of woody native vegetation for farming enterprises.

Includes practical demonstrations for successful establishment + maintenance of re-vegetation programs. The 3-hour event will commence 8.15am for 8.30am start. Refreshments + morning tea provided. Contact Col Easton 6764 5940.