

Regional Landcare Update

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

Issue 45: 15th November 2011

Community Action Grants Secured

The latest round of Community Actions Grants have been announced. In our region, this will see a total of \$459,000 injected into Landcare projects. Successful applicants include:

UGLA (Bingara) - phase 2 of Dung Beetle monitoring project at Gineroi.

Granite Borders Landcare (Tenterfield) had 7 successful applications in total, including herbaceous weed control at Mingoola.

Gwymac (Inverell) secured funds for 5 projects, including a *Farmer Wants a Life* project to increase numbers of young farmers involved in Landcare.

Glenrac (Glen Innes) will have 3 new projects, including soil monitoring at Ben Lomond.

Lower Pagan/Pian Creek Conservation Group will be commencing soil condition improvement trials.

Moree Local Aboriginal Land Council will be enhancing native vegetation communities.

Southern New England Landcare (SNELC) has secured 5 new projects, including a native habitat for water rats project on Uralla Creek.

A full list of successful projects is available at www.nrm.gov.au

PestSmart Roadshow

Invasive Animals CRC will host a 2012 PestSmart Roadshow to shine the light on pest animal management in rural Australia.

The roadshow will be visiting a number of centres in the first half of 2012. This includes: Toowoomba 16th March
Armidale 20th March

The event will showcase the latest in pest animal management innovation. This includes control options + research associated with feral pigs, wild dogs, foxes, rabbits and feral cats. More details available at www.feral.org.au

Dung Beetle Roadshow

The Landcare networks of the New England North West are gearing up for the 2012 Dung Beetle Roadshow.

Following the success of last year's event, the 2012 roadshow will include eleven events across sites in the areas of Bingara, Inverell, Tenterfield, Glen Innes and Armidale.

Special guest for the event is Dr Bernard Doube of SA who is a renowned authority on dung beetles. LHPA vets will also be on hand to discuss pestivirus and the link between dung beetles and buffalo fly management. The Roadshow commences in the week of 28th November. Contact your local Landcare office to find out more.

Managing Coolatai Grass Field Day

Glenrac will host a Managing Coolatai Grass to Create Productive Pastures Field Day Thursday 8th December, 2011. Venue for the event is "Reedy Creek", Strathbogie.

The half-day event will include property owner, Jim Benton who has been implementing a 2-year trial of Coolatai grass management. Other speakers include Lester McCormick, NSW DPI, who has lengthy experience with management trials with the species. Bob McGufficke, NSW DPI will also discuss tropical pasture establishment.

RSVP to Glenrac 67323443 or office@glenrac.org.au

Nocturnal Evening

Five Corners near Inverell is a property dedicated to educating the community on environmental conservation. Five Corners is a 250 hectare private nature reserve now covered by a Volunteer Conservation Agreement.

Owner Shirley Handy will host a Nocturnal Evening on Saturday 3rd December from 7pm. Special guest for the evening is terrestrial ecologist Wendy Hawes. Wendy will lead an exploration of the award-winning Five Corners after dark. RSVP to Shirley 67232251.

Past editions of the Update are available at www.landcarensw.org.au/nenw-docs

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



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



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Healthy Farms, Healthy Gwydir

Gwymac will host this event at Bundarra on Tuesday 13th December. The event will include a Paddock Plants session with NSW DPI's Clare Edwards. It will also be the official launch of the new Caring for our Country project for landholders in the Gwydir catchment near Bundarra, *Healthy Farms, Healthy Gwydir*. Gwymac will outline the scope of the project and how to be involved. Starts 9am + concludes with a free lunch at Bundarra Sport + Recreation Club. RSVP to Gwymac 67211241.

Funding Masterclass

FundBase is offering a Funding Masterclass in Project Planning and Funding Acquisition in Brisbane next week. This funding workshop will help you learn how to make your mark in the funding world and will cover the entire grants process—how to secure, report and acquit projects. 22-23 November in Paddington, \$460. Book in at www.fundbase.com.au

bcu Bill Ussher Agricultural Grant

This scholarship consists of two awards:

1. A winning prize of \$7700
2. A runner up prize of \$3300.

The scholarship is designed to provide educational or research

funding to assist family-run agribusiness in keeping abreast of industry changes and new technology. The grant is to be used for ongoing education in the field of agriculture or business, including:

- Accessing new markets
- Implementing up to date farming practices
- Introducing new stock / species
- Improving business practices.

Closes 9.12.2011. More at www.bcu.com.au/images/pdfs/forms/ag_grant_form.pdf

Weed Management Survey

ABARES has been commissioned by RIRDC to conduct a survey of NRM industry stakeholder to find out how Australia's weed management system is operating. This research is being undertaken in collaboration with Plant Health Australia. In order to provide an accurate snapshot of how the system is operating, including what models are working well and what needs further attention, your involvement is encouraged.

An online survey is available and you can remain anonymous. The link is www.surveymonkey.com/s/CommunityWeedManagementSurvey

The survey is available until 28 November 2011.

NSW Farmers Tertiary Scholarship

NSW Farmers Association has opened its annual tertiary scholarship program. This includes a total of 8 scholarships available, including 1 available to those studying a vocational course (ie, Tocal). The scholarship is awarded to those who can demonstrate a passion for agriculture and rural life. Online application form and further details available at www.nswfarmers.org.au. Closes 10.2.2012

Poorer Soils Could Make More Money

Initial findings from the NSW Department of Primary Industries have suggested farms with poorer soils will be able to make more money from carbon.

For the last 2 years, researchers have been sampling soils from Orange to Hillston to see what impact paddock management has on carbon levels.

Project Officer Aaron Simmons says that farmers that will be able to gain the most will be those people that haven't moved through to the no-till, zero-till cropping system. The carbon farming initiative will provide greater tax breaks to buy equipment to buy equipment for reduce tillage.