



NEW ENGLAND  
NORTH WEST  
LANDCARE

# REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 53: 30 Mar 2012

## ADVENTURE 2012 A SUCCESS

Gwymac Landcare, hosts of the 2012 Landcare Adventure, have declared the event a success. Inverell district hosted 120 Landcarers for the 2-day event, taking in local farms, Landcare sites and a number of eminent speakers. Highlights of the event include the Paws Up presentation by BackTrack; John Polglase on the challenges of Coal Seam Gas + Landcare Awards presentation by Major General Jeffery. Gwymac thanks the staff + visiting landholders for making the event so successful. Sponsors include Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA, Northern Rivers CMA, RuralBiz Training, BEST Tree Tenders, Ferret's Run Winery + Caring for our Country.

## THEMED CAP WORKSHOPS

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA will host a series of themed CAP upgrade workshops. The 'resilience analysis' workshops will be held at Inverell East Bowling Club 9am-3pm. Workshops include:

Soils + Land use	30 April
Water	4 May
Biodiversity	8 May
Community	10 May

Morning tea + lunch provided free of charge. RSVP to Carina Johnson 67288042 or Alyson Foster 67288043.

## FUNDED FARM PLAN WORKSHOP

RuralBiz Training is offering funded positions in its upcoming Farm Planning workshop. Funded by the Energy Efficient Program, this workshop allows

landholders to complete a property plan online, without leaving the farm. The proposed start date for the event is 1st June. Participants plan what their farm will look like in 10 years, receive computerized mapping software + can network with others on the land. Book your place by calling RuralBiz Training 02 6884 8812.

## THE DIRT ON DUNG

Upper Gwydir Landcare will host this free field day Tuesday 3rd April at Somerset, Bingara. Starting at 2pm, special guest for the event is Dr Mahri Koch who will be discussing the role of dung beetles, how to trap beetles + undertake basic beetle ID. Afterwards, UGLA staff will discuss their role + how they can assist landholders in the Bingara district. RSVP to UGLA 02 67242052.

## PRECISION AG WORKSHOPS

Namoi CMA and GRDC will run a series of workshops looking at Agronomy Renovation: Turn *Picture Ag* into *Precision Ag*. The event will look at spatial tools available, yield monitoring, utilising EM surveys, remote sensing tools, learning how to choose the right spatial tools + interpreting the information. Events will be held as follows:

Rowena	3 April
Walgett	4 April
Narrabri	2 May
Quirindi	9 May

RSVP to Brooke Sauer 0427 090279 or Kate Jones 67429215.

There are 2 sessions held at each workshop. Morning session commences 8.30am. Afternoon session commences 1.30pm.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

A mini-workshop to be hosted in Walgett 2nd April. Learn more about all the ins and outs associated with being a committee member + leading committees. Topics covered include Minutes, Agenda, Constitutions, Meeting Procedure, Dealing with Media, Office Bearer Responsibilities + more. Equip yourself with the right information. 10am-1.30pm @ CWA Rooms. Register to Tanya 0419 215998.

## MANAGING FOR METHANE

A one day workshop hosted at Armidale 3rd April. Speakers include Mick Keogh (Australian Farm Institute), Annette Cowie (Rural Climate Solutions) + Roger Hegarty (UNE). Hear the latest research + technologies in methane management available for northern tablelands sheep producers. Free. Venue is Trevenna Potting Shed, UNE. Contact Sefton PR 67665222.

## ONE MILLION WOMEN

Namoi Sustainable Living and 1 Million Women are having a '1 Million Women' SAVE event in the Tamworth Town Hall 4th May. The purpose of the 1 Million Women initiative is to unite women to act on climate



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COUNTRY

Send your news for the Landcare Update to  
Fiona Adams at [fiona@gwymaclandcare.net.au](mailto:fiona@gwymaclandcare.net.au)



change. Visit  
[www.1millionwomen.com.au](http://www.1millionwomen.com.au)

### **YOUR COMMENTS PLEASE**

Federal Minister Burke has released the Draft Wildlife Corridors Plan for comment. The document sets out a policy direction for connectivity in the landscape. The draft identifies a number of existing large scale corridor projects as well as some proposed corridors. Closing date for public comment is 20th April. View the document at  
[www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-corridors/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-corridors/index.html)

### **RELIEF EXTENDED FOR WALGETT**

The Australian Government Disaster Relief payment has been extended to the Walgett LGA. This is a one-off payment of \$1000 for adults + \$400 for children for people who have been adversely affected by the floods. Assistance is delivered by Centrelink. Claim forms are available online. Visit  
[www.centrelink.gov.au/internet.nsf/payments/disaster\\_relief](http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet.nsf/payments/disaster_relief) or call 1802266.

### **WONGWIBINDA SHARES RESULTS**

A field day will be held at Wongwibinda, near Guyra outlining the results of 3-year trials of composting, run by Lewis Kahn. Find out more about the results of plots + paddocks over the last 3 years. See for yourself the trial plots and hear from Lewis Kahn about rates, results + lessons

learned. 18th April @ Wongwibinda Hall on the Guyra -Ebor Road. 9.30am start + event concludes at 12.30pm. RSVP to SNELC 67729123 or [mail@snelcc.org.au](mailto:mail@snelcc.org.au)

### **LANDSCAPE PLANNING FOR NRM CONFERENCE**

20-21 June, Cockle Bay, Sydney. Explores themes including resource condition in NRM; strategic land use; NRM planning for climate change; resilience + regional NRM planning; integration + opportunity for regional planning and next generation regional planning for building resilience.

[www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-corridors/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-corridors/index.html)

### **HOW TO TRAP DVD**

Invasive Animals CRC + ABARES have released a DVD *Managing Vertebrate Pests*, showing farmers how to trap wild dogs + foxes. The DVD features 2 hours of footage + was produced with guidance of professional trappers. It contains a range of information to assist landholders to set foot-hold traps in the most effective + legal manner. Free. Email [contract@invasiveanimals.com](mailto:contract@invasiveanimals.com)

### **LHPA REVIEW ANNOUNCED**

The NSW Government has announced the review of the Livestock Health and Pest Authority has been released for the public. The review recommends landmark + far-

reaching changes to the delivery of LHPA services to rural landholders. This includes:

- a new regional framework for biosecurity functions.
- A new management system to improve service delivery

View the review at the NSW DPI website. Comments are due by 23 May 2012. Submissions to be send to  
[lhpa.review@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lhpa.review@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### **MEAT CAMPAIGN GOES GREEN**

Meat + Livestock Australia is launching a new campaign to tell consumers their meat is produced by farmers who care for the environment. About 100 cattle + sheep farmers have joined the campaign to talk about their farming practices in social media + online forums. The campaign will also be screened on Qantas in-flight entertainment + in cinemas.

### **RABBIT CONTROL RESEARCH**

NSW Scientists have been screening more than 100 overseas strains of the rabbit calicivirus in a bid to come up with a more effective biological control agent. Rabbits cause about \$200 million worth of damage across Australia annually. Scientists at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute are working with overseas labs and also CSIRO through the program. It's hoped the new virus strain will prove more effective and spread more effectively.