



NEW ENGLAND
NORTH WEST
LANDCARE

REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 61, 20th July 2012

AUSTRALIAN FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Is the next Australian Farmer of the Year from the New England North West Area?

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their contribution to Australia's agricultural industry?

Don't be shy! Nominating yourself or someone you know for an award is a great way to contribute to the future of the agricultural industry.

Finalists in each category will be invited to the awards dinner in Melbourne where the winners of each category will be announced! Finalists will receive; two return flights to Melbourne, One night's accommodation at The Grand Hyatt, Melbourne & Two Awards dinner tickets.

If you're interested in nominating yourself or someone in your association, want to buy tickets to the September 12 dinner, or you just want to learn more about the event, contact Kondinin Groups marketing officer Kate Bishop on (08) 6263 9111 or kate.bishop@kondinin.com.au. Nominations Close August 3rd, 2012

PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND LANDHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN NEW ENGLAND NSW

This is a new project that is up and running in the region. The project has numerous partners and runs until June 2013. The project aims to reduce the threats to endangered ecological communities and

threatened species in the New England region of NSW. In addition, it aims to raise awareness about the impact of pest animals such as pigs, foxes, wild dogs and rabbits on our valuable natural assets as well as agricultural production. Landholders will be engaged in cooperative program to control and manage these pests, as cooperative and integrated approaches have been recognised as the most effective methods for controlling pest animals. The project will be delivering a number of field days and training workshops over the life of the project.

PESTSMART has a range of fact sheets available regarding pest animals and their control, including wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs, feral cats and rabbits. To find out more visit www.feral.org.au/pestsmart/

INVASIVE ANIMALS PHD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

To better understand the Australian community's role in controlling invasive animals, four Invasive Animals CRC "Facilitating Community Action" PhD scholarships are on offer for study commencing in 2013 at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. The doctoral researchers will work within a research program being led by University of New England, Penn State University (USA) and Griffith University academics. The research is concerned with supporting and enabling communities and community

groups to manage pest and feral animals. The research program is also intended to consider ways to improve the effectiveness of community-engaged research involving a variety of disciplines.

Applications close 17 August 2012. See the attached flyer for general information about the Invasive Animals CRC's PhD scholarships.

For more information, applicants should contact: Contact Prof Paul Martin via email: pmartin9@une.edu.au or ph: (02) 6773 3811 UNE, Armidale NSW

NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE AND AWARDS, SYDNEY

Early bird registrations extended until 31 July 2012.

The National Landcare Conference will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour from 3 to 5 September 2012. The conference will be held during Landcare Week, in association with the biennial National Landcare Awards ceremony.

The conference will provide an opportunity for the Landcare community and natural resource management professionals from across Australia to come together and share their experiences and knowledge.

Visit the National Landcare Conference website for more information about the conference program and registration.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Send your news for the Landcare Update to Sarah Legge at sarah@gwymaucklandcare.net.au



PUBLIC CONSULTATION OPENS FOR NEXT PHASE OF CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

The Gillard Government has invited the community to help shape the next phase of Caring for our Country by participating in a new round of public consultation.

Environment Minister Tony Burke and Agriculture Minister Senator Joe Ludwig released *An Outline for the Future* which sets out the broad framework for the next five years.

"*An Outline for the Future* document sets out the strategic objectives of Caring for our Country to ensure Australia's environmental assets are conserved, resilient and healthy, and our agricultural base is sustainable, productive and resilient.

"I encourage all stakeholders to have their say to ensure the design of the new program reflects the knowledge and experience of the community." Consultation will run until 15 August. For information on the public consultation process or to download a copy of *An Outline for the Future*, visit the Caring for our Country website.

COMPOST FIELD DAY

If you would like to learn more about compost, this is the day for you. Luke Bowman from 'Break it Down Composting' will be spending the day explaining; Compost production overview, humus, compost site design, building a compost windrow, testing compost, materials for composting, designing a

compost recipe, & hand composting for Gardeners We will also be visiting the compost site to view the compost turner and equipment. When: Wednesday 15th August 2012 Where: The Playhouse, Barraba & then to 'Break it Down Composting' site Time: 10am - 3pm There will be a bus running from Bingara departing at 9am. It is a FREE event, morning tea and lunch provided For more information please contact Brooke 67242052 or email ugla@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

NAIDOC SPEARHEAD WORKSHOP AT MUNGINDI

Harry White CMA Catchment Officer Aboriginal Support worked with Belinda Brosnan and Irene Harpham from Mungindi Central School to organise NAIDOC activities held on Tuesday the 26th of June. "The kids created spearheads based on traditional Aboriginal shapes and styles. Some students decorated their spearheads and presentation stands in designs based on traditional patterns, while other children chose to create their own unique designs," explained Mr White.

"The activities at Mungindi Central were all about keeping Aboriginal culture alive and the best way of doing that is getting younger generations involved in NAIDOC activities that create lasting memories and knowledge of our Aboriginal heritage." The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA was delighted to support this

year's NAIDOC celebrations at Mungindi Central School.

SOIL CARBON SPECIALIST SAYS A BREAKTHROUGH IS NEAR

A holy grail for Australian farmers is soil carbon, or at least finding ways to measure it. If farmers can get a baseline measurement on how much carbon is in their soil, and then work to improve that amount, they could earn significant amounts of money from carbon credits.

Terry McCosker is an agricultural consultant who is pretty confident that he has cracked the code of soil carbon. In conjunction with the CSIRO he has come up with equipment and techniques that allow him to measure soil carbon more accurately than ever before.

Terry is a highly respected figure in Australian agriculture for his work in holistic soil management. He has been dubbed the father of cell-grazing in Australia. *Terry McCosker, agricultural consultant, Resource Consulting Services*

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR FIELD WORK

The 1-day non-Certificate workshop has been developed to allow participants' to produce quality images for species identification, monitoring projects, collecting evidence on compliance issues, producing reports and publications. For Tamworth courses please call Cassie Gardiner T: 02 6763 1276