



NEW ENGLAND  
NORTH WEST  
LANDCARE

# REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 62, 3rd August 2012

## 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](mailto:ugla@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)

## GRAIN & GRAZE FORUM

Want to grow a 4 tonne grain crop or 6 tonnes of pasture? Be able to make informed decisions on soil fertility to maximise output on your own farm?

Come along to the forum in Inverell to receive comprehensive discussion by an expert panel about soils. Numerous local soil types and their issues will be discussed, as well as answering any questions that you might have about soil fertility on your farm.

Speakers: Dr Chris Guppy, Bruce Gardiner, Craig Birchall & Bob McGufficke.

Date: 9th August 2012

Time: 9am—1pm

Location: Inverell RSM Club, Evans St

RSVP: By 7th August on 0417 813 456 or 0428173432 or email [fertiliserforum@hotmail.com](mailto:fertiliserforum@hotmail.com)

## VOTE FOR GROUP FROM NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST IN PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD!

The Balala-Brushgrove Landcare Group has been nominated for a National Landcare Award for undertaking a broad range of natural resource management projects for the benefit of local land owners.

Balala Brushgrove Landcare group is one of 88 finalists in the National Landcare Awards to be announced in Sydney on 4th September, 2012. Commencing in 1991, the Awards celebrate the achievements of individuals and groups that make a valuable contribution to the land and coast where they live and work.

Help get some recognition for the New England North West region by supporting this nomination. To vote visit <http://www.landcareonline.com.au/nationalawards/vote.php>

## CONSERVATION TILLAGE REFUNDABLE TAX OFFSET

Primary producers are now able to participate in research and apply for a 15 per cent refundable tax offset (RTO) on the purchase of new conservation seeding

equipment. The equipment needs to be installed and ready for use between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2015.

This initiative is designed to encourage conservation agricultural practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase soil carbon and maintain productivity. The RTO is part of the Carbon Farming Futures Program under the Australian Government's Securing a Clean Energy Future plan. For more information go to: [www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarmingfutures/rto](http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarmingfutures/rto).

## 2012 FARM INVENTOR OF THE YEAR

Celebrating 50 years of technical innovation and excellence, the 2012 NSW Farm Inventor of the Year Competition is on again.

Whether its a gate latch or heavy equipment, if you have an idea which isn't in commercial production then enter now for a chance to share in over \$40,000 in cash and prizes.

Show off your ideas to eager crowds at Henty, Orange and Ag Quip field days as our panel of judges look to crown this year's winners. For entry forms and full details on how to enter contact Kristina Wells at The Land on 4570 4444.

## URGENT NEGOTIATIONS NEEDED ON NATIVE VEGETATION

NSW Farmers' Association grassroots members have rejected proposed changes to



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native vegetation rules and called for urgent negotiations on the Act between relevant ministers and the association.

The urgency motion, put forward by the Moree District Council, was unanimously passed at NSW Farmers' annual conference being held at Chatswood, Sydney.

NSW Farmers' president, Ms Fiona Simson, said the current Native Vegetation Act was excessively prescriptive making it extremely difficult for farmers to adopt new technology and farming practices to improve efficiencies and productivity.

Ms Simson said that now more than ever, farmers of NSW need a united voice because agriculture is facing many threats and unity of purpose and scale is extremely important for achieving outcomes for our members.

Agriculture contributed more than \$14.5 billion or 3.4 percent to the NSW economy in the year ended June 2011. There are more than 43,500 farm businesses in NSW with farming land covering more than 72 percent of the state.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL WATER IN THE GWYDIR**

Since the establishment, of the Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) in Copeton Dam, the ECA Committee has provided advice to government on the management of this environmental entitlement.

To date, ECA water has been utilised to support bird breeding events and to return the

volume extracted or diverted upstream by irrigation back to the wetlands. However, this ECA entitlement on its own, was often insufficient for this purpose.

More recently, substantial water purchases on behalf of the environment have been made by both NSW State and Commonwealth Governments. These purchases have meant significant and meaningful additional water reserves for the environment in the Gwydir.

Should you wish to source information or make contact with one of the ECA members, please contact the Executive Officer, located in the Moree Office of State Water. ph 0448 4 4 2 4 3 4 or email: jane.humphries@environment.nsw.gov.au

## **NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE & AWARDS**

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.

[www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

## **CARBON FARMING HANDBOOK**

Written and published by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Carbon Farming Handbook will provide a wealth of information to landholders, farmers, waste operators and other clean energy businesses wanting to participate in the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI).

The handbook sets out how landholders and farmers can improve their land and farm sustainability while also generating carbon credits that can be sold on domestic and international markets.

This Handbook contains information about the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) and how it operates. It will also help you decide what type of CFI activity might be right for you, your business or your organisation.

Questions about the Carbon Farming Initiative can be sent by email to: [cfi@climatechange.gov.au](mailto:cfi@climatechange.gov.au) Or Carbon Farming Initiative on 1800 057 590

## **GWYMAC RECEIVES REVEGETATION FUNDING**

Gwymac would like to announce that they have recently received funding for 2 revegetation projects in the Inverell area from Caring for our Country. To register your interest in tree planting on farm, please contact Gwymac Landcare on 02 67211241.