



NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST LANDCARE

REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 104, 28th March 2014

LANDCARE ADVENTURE A GREAT SUCCESS

Congratulations to GLENRAC for a highly successful Landcare Adventure. More than 120 people participated in the 2 day event with very positive feedback on the diverse and interesting program.

Terry McCosker of Resource Consulting Services challenged participant thinking about the future for grazing industries in Australia; and 2013 NSW Rural Woman of the Year demonstrated the importance of succession planning for every business.

A visit to Phil & Bettina Lynn's property gave a close up look at compost making on a farm scale with an insight to how it fits into the Lynn's enterprise and their plans to improve soil biology.

The NSW DPI Research Station was host to a number of presenters covering aspects of healthy soils, improved pastures, mental health and resilience, as well as finding out about the many programs being run on the station. We were reminded about the importance of the Research Station to the farmers & graziers of the Northern Tablelands and then need to maintain and enhance research activity there!

Farmer, pilot and best-selling author Sam Bailey had the dinner crowd enthralled with his story and his ability to see the positives in his situation.

A number of Landcarers from across the region were recognised for their commitment and

contribution to Landcare through the Landcare Network Awards.

Day 2 saw a really interesting tour of Rangers Valley feedlot which enlightened many participants to the environmental and animal welfare aspects of a large feedlot, and the way these issues are addressed.

"Ben Vale" Emmaville was the venue for a series of presentations around livestock feeding, water reticulation systems, dung beetles and current drought subsidies. Followed by a look at cropping options such as soya beans and seed oats, and corn silage production.

The Adventure was drawn to a conclusion at the spectacular Bens Falls Restaurant with a lunch of Rangers Valley Wagyu burgers, the launch of "Dung Down Under - Dung Beetles of Australia" and highlights from projects of the five Landcare Networks in the region.

Well done to GLENRAC for putting together such a wide ranging program with something for everyone, and to the Landcare Networks of the region and their staff for all their effort and support for the event. We look forward to the 2015 Adventure in the Granite Borders Landcare area.

STATE OF THE CLIMATE REPORT RELEASED

This State of the Climate is the third in a series of reports produced by CSIRO and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. It provides a summary of observations of Australia's climate and analysis of the factors that influence it.

<http://www.csiro.au/en/Outcomes/Climate/Understanding/State-of-the-Climate-2014.aspx>

LLS BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

Congratulations to the newly elected Local Land Services Board members in the New England North West. For the Northern Tablelands LLS Board we welcome:

Ross King - Walcha
Timothy Norton - Walcha
David Worsley - Nullamanna

And for North West LLS:

Penny Blatchford - Gurley
Mark Evans - Walgett
Phillip Kirkby - Narrabri

For more information about Local Land Services visit their website

www.lls.nsw.gov.au

SOIL SECRETS WITH HUGH LEVEL

Upper Gwydir Landcare are hosting a one day workshop with internationally renowned soil scientist Hugh Level on Wednesday 9th April 2014 at The Living Classroom Bingara from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Soil Secrets to be shared include:

- the use of total soil tests, the total package that you have in your soils,
- how to make the unavailable, but present, minerals and elements available,
- the role of the biochemical sequence
- the importance of boron and silicon in this sequence ,

Cost \$25.00 includes all catering day & evening. RSVP by 4th April 2014 to UGLA phone 0267242052 or email ugla@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Send your news for the Landcare Update to Jennie Coldham at jennie@nenwlandcare.org.au

The Regional Landcare Facilitator Program is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture





SUSTAINABLE NAMOI EXPO

Sustainable Namoi Expo is on again at Bicentennial Park, Tamworth Friday 9th May 2014 11am to 4pm and Saturday 10th May 9am to 4pm.

Loads of exhibits on building, renovating, design, gardening, health and well-being, agriculture, vehicles and much more.

There's something for everyone! The kids will enjoy Cartoon Dave in the Kids Tent while you grab a locally roasted coffee and browse the exhibits. Save the date in your diary now.

For more info visit www.sustainablenamoiliving.com.au

EUREKA AWARDS OPEN

The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are open for entries, and in 2014 we are celebrating 25 years of rewarding science!

This Eureka Prize awards \$10,000 for excellence in the scientific research, development or innovative application of agricultural practices that have improved, or have the potential to improve, the productivity and sustainable use of our natural resources.

Information about this prize, including judging criteria, conditions of entry and how to enter, is available online at <http://australianmuseum.net.au/eureka>

Entries close 7pm AEST Friday 2 May.

AG'N'CHAT WEEKEND

GWYMAC Landcare are hosting a weekend for rural women on 5th & 6th April 2014 in Inverell. The 2 days feature some really interesting topics and speakers including:

- Farm Business Planning
- Hints and tips for building your own website
- Etiquette and Conversation
- Love, Land and Legacy
- 'Fact checking' - Verifying and evaluating information
- Holistic Management
- 'Building a food revolution and stronger communities'
- And more!

The weekend starts at 9.30am Saturday 5th April and will conclude 3.00pm Sunday 6th April. Cost for the 2 days is \$90 per person (\$70 for GWYMAC members) including all sumptuous meals, refreshments and extra goodies! To RSVP contact GWYMAC Landcare on 02 67211241 or admin@gwymaclandcare.net.au

STOP PRESS!!!

Pip Job, CEO of Little River Landcare in Central West NSW has been awarded as the 2014 NSW Rural Woman of the Year. Pip is a passionate advocate for agriculture, Landcare and rural mental health. She is also a Board member of the Central Tablelands LLS and Executive of Landcare NSW.

Congratulations Pip!!!

A CALL TO ACTION

To honour 25 years of Landcare, it is timely to reflect on the great work Landcare has done and time to look to the future. It is time for a new discussion about engaging Australians, from all walks of life, to help address the environmental challenges facing Australia.

It is essential to reopen the discussion about these key issues, and to collaborate with stakeholders, ensuring Australia as a whole, is well placed to address these emerging issues.

For more detail on the call to action visit https://www.acfonline.org.au/sites/default/files/resources/ACF_NFF_statement_210314.pdf

MEASURE TO MANAGE WORKSHOP

Upper Gwydir Landcare are holding workshops to give farmers and graziers the framework and systems to measure and monitor soils and pastures to make better farm input decisions and maximise farm returns.

The first workshop will be held Tuesday 1st April 2014 at Yallaroi Hall from 9.00am to 2.00pm.

Follow up Workshop will be focussed on using data from your own farm including analysing soil test results and developing a soil and plant nutritional management plan for your farm.

For more information or to RSVP contact UGLA on 02 67242052 or email ugla@gwydir.nsw.gov.au