



DROUGHT CONCESSIONAL LOANS AVAILABLE

Drought Concessional Loans are now available to assist farm businesses recover from and prepare for future droughts and return to viability in the longer term. Under the scheme, the Australian Government will provide New South Wales with \$100 million for the provision of Drought Concessional Loans in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Key features of the Concessional Loans Scheme:

- loans are for eligible farm businesses for the purpose of restructuring eligible debt
- providing new debt for operating expenses or drought recovery and preparedness activities, or a combination of these
- maximum loan term of five years
- loan amounts will be up to 50 per cent of total eligible debt to a maximum of \$1 million
- a variable concessional interest rate initially set at 4 per cent
- a concessional interest period of five years
- interest only payments available for the loan term
- at the end of the loan term, the farm business must repay or refinance the remaining loan balance
- the availability of loans is subject to funds being available. The scheme will close on 30 June 2015, or earlier if funds are fully committed.

Visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au

2014 HIDDEN TREASURES HONOUR ROLL

Hidden Treasures acknowledges the important volunteer roles women play within NSW rural communities. It is not an award, but provides a platform to pay tribute to rural women volunteers who donate their time and energy to help others.

We hope the annual Honour Roll will improve recognition of the important and diverse roles women volunteers play as key participants within NSW rural communities and that their stories will encourage others to take on volunteering roles.

Nominating a rural woman for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll is a great way to celebrate rural women from across New South Wales who give so much of their time to improving our communities and neighbourhoods.

You can nominate a friend, family member, colleague, community worker - any rural woman who you believe makes your community a better place to live.

To nominate a Hidden Treasures volunteer you simply need to complete the Nomination Form and tell us a short 'story' about why your nominee is worthy. All rural women nominated will be included in the Honour Roll.

Nominations close 30 July 2014.

For information or if you need assistance visit <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn/activities/hidden-treasures> or call the Rural Women's Network on 02 6391 3433 or email rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au

\$1.3 BILLION BUDGET FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson announced the NSW Government will invest \$1.3 billion in the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to ensure future research and development programs and delivery of rural and regional services.

The \$1.3 billion budget will be invested into agriculture, biosecurity, fisheries, Local Land Services, the Rural Assistance Authority and NSW Food Authority, as well as into Crown Lands, the NSW Office of Water and natural resources.

The NSW Government will continue to support research and development, with more than 1000 projects worth about \$100 million funded internally and externally.

For more information visit http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/519548/media_release_140617_1.3_billion_dollar_budget_primary_industries.pdf

NFF CONGRESS SAVE THE DATE!

Lock in the 20-21 October for the National Farmers Federation 2014 National Congress! At 'Producing Our Future' in Canberra we'll explore core business, left-field ideas and blue-sky opportunities for agriculture at the grass-roots, Australian and global levels.

See the Congress website <http://congress.nff.org.au/> for further information.



LOOKING FOR MEN WHO KNIT - & MEN WHO WANT TO LEARN!

Men, young and old, are encouraged to take part in the making of a knitted art installation of small knitted samplers on the theme of war and peace which will be sewn together to form a large wall hanging and displayed at The Goulburn Regional Art Gallery in April, 2015 as part of the Anzac Centenary.

This 'men only' knitting project commemorates the soldiers who served in World War 1 and it also assists returned veterans who have been wounded, physically or psychologically, in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

This project seeks to engage men in a therapeutic and creative knitting project whether they are high school boys who would like to learn to knit or young and older men dealing with various life issues of loneliness, depression, stress, isolation or chronic pain – or men who just want to develop their creativity.

Men can read much more about the project and the benefits of therapeutic knitting by going to the website where they can also register, print out the knitting instructions and watch short videos on learning how to knit.

More information can be obtained www.mensknittingproject.com.au by contacting Kaye Healey, Coordinator on 0408 67 55 36 or at kayehealey@gmail.com.

2014 WOMEN'S GATHERING

Heritage with Heart - Coolamon:
12, 13 & 14 September 2014

Chair of the Coolamon NSW Rural Women's Gathering Committee, Nicole Lucas says the 2014 Gathering will bring hundreds of women and their partners to the region and will be an opportunity for the local community to spread the word about the region's rich heritage, natural beauty and industries, and to share their unique experiences.

The committee's chosen theme, "Heritage with Heart", reflects the unique culture, history and environment of the Coolamon community.

More details are available from the Coolamon Rural Women's Gathering website <http://nswruralwomensgathering.org/>

or you can sign-up to the Gathering Facebook page for regular updates.

NORTH COAST LLS STAFF NEWS.

We are pleased to advise local producers that Cassie Maria has joined North Coast Local Land Services as District Veterinarian and is working from our Grafton office. Cassie has been working in private practice in Queensland and started with North Coast LLS on 16 June.

Cassie can be contacted on the Grafton office number 6642 3699 or mobile 0427 458 592.

ANGLICARE FAMILY AND DROUGHT SUPPORT

A component of the drought assistance package announced in February 2014, the federal government pledged \$10.7 million to increase social and mental health services.

This includes free, professional help, including one-on-one counselling, family support services and referrals for drought affected farmers, farming families and rural communities.

AngliCare Northern Inland is delivering these services in the Northern Tablelands, slopes and plains. They provide counselling for individuals, couples, families, adolescents and children, and offer this at home, at the workplace or at a local venue.

They also offer referrals to government services, non-government services, financial counselling, health services, mental health services, emergency relief and community support.

AngliCare offers life skills courses in conflict resolution, well-being, anger management, pastoral care and step-parenting, and can provide support through depression, grief and loss, separation, trauma abuse, stress and anxiety.

Contact 0407 005 100, the Glen Innes office on 6722 2766, or the regional office on 1300 549 577 or (02) 6701 8200.