



# GLENRAC

Annual Report 2018-2019



# CONTENTS



**3 - 4** Glenrac Committee Members & Staff Members

**5** Chairs Report - Presented by John Bavea

**6** Annual Review - Summary

**7 - 15** Annual Review

**16** *Case Study* – Crackdown on Indian Myna

**17** *Case Study* – Fighting Fire Weed

**18** *Case Study* – Local Links: Great numbers for GLENRAC growth

**19** *Case Study* - Learning about feral cats evasive nature

**20** *Case Study* - Serrated Tussock, the Persistent Problem





# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Name	Position	Year Apt	Name	Position	Year Apt
John Bavea	Chairman	2011	Sandy FitzGerald	Landowner	2017
Tony Corcoran	Secretary	2016	Jane Munro	Landowner	2014
Sam Baker	Treasurer	2011	Carol Harris	NSW DPI	2013
Jim Benton	Landowner	2008	Graham Price or Ian Trow	Glen Severn Shire Council	2006 2012
Mike Norton	Landowner	2010	Col Price	Glen Severn Shire Council	2012
Chris Leahy	Landowner	2016	Peter Croft	National Parks & Wildlife Service	2007
Ian Lockwood	Landowner	2016	Jayden Potter	Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council	2017
Andrew Campbell	Landowner	2016	Mark Donovan	Public officer	2016
Julie Firth	Landowner	2018			



# STAFF MEMBERS

## GLENRAC



**Kylie Falconer**

*Landcare Coordinator*

Mobile: 0427 325 901  
Telephone: (02) 6732 3443  
Email: [kylie@glenrac.org.au](mailto:kylie@glenrac.org.au)



**Lucy Faithful**

*Landcare Coordinator*

Telephone: (02) 6732 3443  
Email: [glenrac@glenrac.org.au](mailto:glenrac@glenrac.org.au)



**Jennie Coldham**

*Project Manager*

Mobile: 0427 260 258  
Telephone: (02) 6732 3443  
Email: [jennie@glenrac.org.au](mailto:jennie@glenrac.org.au)



**Kelly Walsh**

*Project & Administration Officer*

Telephone: (02) 67323443  
Email: [office@glenrac.org.au](mailto:office@glenrac.org.au)



**Eliza James**

*Project Manager*

Telephone: (02) 67323443  
Email: [Eliza.james@glenrac.org.au](mailto:Eliza.james@glenrac.org.au)



**Dr. Mahri Koch**

*Project Manager*

Telephone: (02) 67323443  
Email: [Mahri.koch@glenrac.org.au](mailto:Mahri.koch@glenrac.org.au)

## Chairmans Report Presented by John Bavea

The past 12 months have been a challenge for all of us.

I see in our membership challenges to health, ageing, relationships, financial stress compounded by drought – yes drought and for some of you rages of fire.

What I also see is the resilience of community, an ability to dig deep and a renewed application of and focus on those things that matter. Some of these are of a material nature but most are not.

What must we remember, and what I continually remind myself, is that the dawn follows the darkness, the rain that follows the drought and the excitement of new growth and the regeneration of land well loved.

We all hold a resolve to not only survive but foster such a regeneration and to create and build upon a legacy of which we can be proud.

Glenrac has long recognised that in a contemporary setting, for there to be a healthy landscape, requires a healthy and prospering community. Glenrac has, to that end, and done much heavy lifting in the past 12 months.

More than fifty percent of Australia's land mass is managed by farmers. Where models of agricultural production flourish the land blooms from soils well nourished. Where it fails, infrastructure crumbles and the land itself becomes degraded. Weeds, feral animals and systemic, long term poverty prevail. I believe both you and our region are both fundamentally strong and adaptive. We at Glenrac believe that we and you, have been and can continue to be leaders in caring for the land, the people and the communities that depend upon it.

I believe that in the past 12 months you will find that Glenrac has risen where others have fallen, it has delivered an output that for its size and in 'its space' would have felt, if any equals. I thank you, our membership, your executive team Tony, Sam and Ian, and your Committee of Management - both a force and resource of rare calibre. I further recognise the efforts our high performing, professional staff and of course Kylie Falconer's capable leadership. I thank our many partners with whom we have worked - without them, our work would be much diminished.

To be Chair of Glenrac is an honour and as this is my final report as such, I thank you for being given such an opportunity.





# GLENRAC

## Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020



### Summary - Annual Review 2018-2019

#### MEMBERSHIP

**122** NEW MEMBERS



TOTAL MEMBERSHIP  
**776**  
INDIVIDUALS

#### PRODUCTS

**4** PRINTED NEWSLETTERS



**42** EMAIL NEWSLETTERS SET

**1** ORGANISATION CAPACITY STATEMENT - COMMITTEE & STAFF



#### SUPPORTED

**11** LANDCARE GROUPS



#### SOCIAL MEDIA



**40%** INCREASE IN FACE-BOOK LIKES



**4,285** WEBSITE VISITS



**107** INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

#### EVENTS

**51** EVENTS



**1041** PARTICIPANTS

#### GRANTS



**22** NEW GRANTS VALUED AT



**\$554,299.50** SECURED

#### PARTNERSHIPS



**51** PARTNERSHIPS MAINTAINED

#### VALUE ADD

WE FACILITATED THE LOCAL DELIVERY OF FACE TO FACE TRAINING OF:



**2** SENIOR FIRST AID TRAINING COURSES FOR

**29** PARTICIPANTS

**2** CHEMICAL USERS COURSE FOR

**35** PARTICIPANTS

#### ON GROUND WORKS

**10,000**



NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS PLANTED

#### TRAINING

**1** COMMITTEE CAPABILITY LEVEL 3 TRAINING EVENT FOR COMMITTEE & STAFF MEMBERS



#### STAFF

**2-6** PART TIME STAFF



EMPLOYED OVER THE 12-MONTHS PERIOD

#### CELEBRATE

GLENRAC ACHIEVED

**30** YEARS

IN OPERATION ON THE 22ND JUNE 2019.

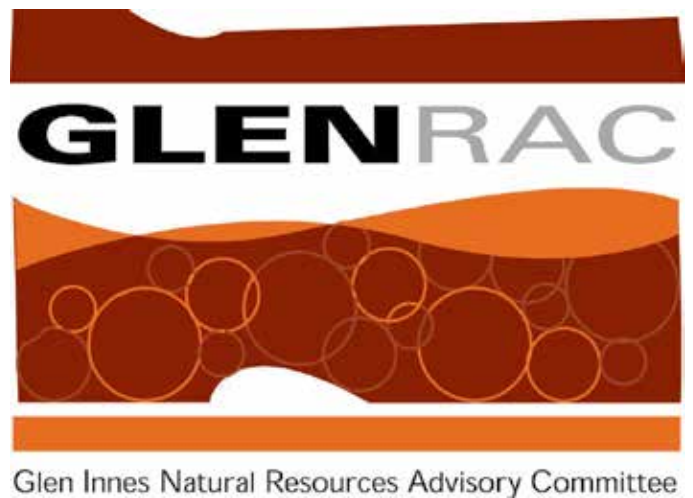


GLENRAC INC  
PO BOX 660  
GLEN INNES,  
T: 02 6732 3443  
W: www.glenrac.org.au





# **GLENRAC** **Strategic Plan** **Annual Review** **2018-2019**







**Priority: A. Sustaining Land – vegetation, soils, weeds, land use**

*Activity Planned*

**GOAL 1**

**Enhance vegetation cover and water use efficiency**

**Actions:**

- Host one annual pasture / groundcover event
- Number of attendees
- Number of partner organisations represented



1  
33  
3

- Looking at Legumes information event (10/12/2018)
- Event registrations
- Northern Tablelands Grasslands of NSW Society, NSW DPI,

**GOAL 2**

**Healthy soils for healthy landscapes**

**Actions:**

- Seek funds for soils projects - total value of soils projects.
- Number of soils projects initiated
- Number of landholdings involved in soils projects



\$99,110  
1  
0

- Research grant opportunities and apply for funds, no. & value of both applications written and secured
- NLP 2 Spotlight on Soils

**GOAL 3**

**Reduce the impact of weeds**

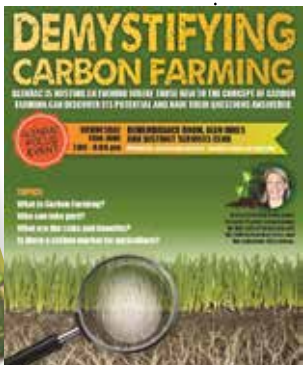
**Actions:**

- Host an annual weeds event
- Number of attendees
- Number of partner organisations represented
- Number of weeds projects initiated
- Number of landholdings involved in weeds projects
- Value of weeds projects implemented



2  
76  
2  
2  
0  
\$5,000

- Farmer Update (19/4/2019), Spray Drift Management and Weed Control event (10/4/2019)
- Event registrations
- New England Weeds Authority; Northern Tablelands LLS
- Research and apply for funding opportunities
- No. and value of grants secured







**GOAL**  
4

**Landholder education**

**Actions:**

- Facilitate one Property Planning course per annum
- Number of Attendees
- Number of Partners
- Funding \$ secured for participants of Property Planning
- Number of projects implemented
- Other training / awareness raising events
- No. participants
- No. partners



- 1
- 0
- 1
- \$0
- 0
- 12
- 252
- 7

- Promote NT LLS farm planning training and other similar training where applicable
- NT LLS
- Research and apply for grant opportunities
- No. and value of project to complete PMP activities

- Sciemna 15/8-3; Focus - Dr. Jacky Williams 16/8 -33; AGM 19/9-33; NLIS 14/11-7; Focus 15/11 The Social License of Farming - 13; Focus Water, Water, Water -Feb 38; Focus -Restoring Earth 20/3 - 19 ; 23/5/2019 NLIS (7); 30 & 31/5 Biosecurity & Drought Planning workshops, 2 events, (45) 19 & 20/6 Carbon Farming, 2 events (54)

- Event registrations
- University of New England (UNE); NT LLS; Go Ahead Solutions; UNE; Glen Innes Severn Council; Glen Morris; Rayner Ag;



# Priority B: Managing Water – erosion control, water quality

GOAL			Activity Planned
GOAL 1	<p><b>REDUCE RISK OF SOIL EROSION AND REPAIR ACTIVE EROSION SITES</b></p> <p><b>Actions:</b>                      Funding secured for soil erosion projects                      Number of soil erosion projects implemented                      Host Soil Erosion related events                      Number of Attendees                      Number of partner organisations represented                      Number of hectares treated for soil erosion</p>	<p>→</p> <p>\$0 0 0 0 0 0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop shelf projects, apply for grant funds</li> <li>- No. project agreements</li> <li>- No. events</li> <li>- Event registrations</li> <li>- No. partners</li> <li>- GIS mapping of sites</li> </ul>
GOAL 2	<p><b>PROTECT WATERWAYS AND RIPARIAN ZONES</b></p> <p><b>Actions:</b>                      Funding secured for riparian projects                      Number of riparian projects implemented                      Number of metres treated                      Number of hectares</p>	<p>→</p> <p>\$0 0 0 0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop shelf projects, apply for grant funds</li> <li>- Maintain project records and database</li> <li>- GIS mapping of sites</li> <li>- GIS mapping of sites</li> </ul>
GOAL 3	<p><b>PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Actions:</b>                      Number of training events facilitated                      Attendees at training events</p>	<p>→</p> <p>0 0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigate opportunities to deliver events locally</li> <li>- Event registrations</li> </ul>





**GOAL 1**

**BIODIVERSITY UNDERSTANDING AND ENHANCEMENT**

**Actions:**

Funding secured for biodiversity projects	\$99,930.00
Number of biodiversity projects implemented	1
Number tree plantings completed	10,000.00
Number of hectares	10
Host biodiversity related events	3
Number of attendees	59
Number of partner organisations represented	3



**Activity Planned**

- No. and value of grants secured, 1 NSW Environmental Trust Restoration & Rehabilitation Restoring Biodiversity and On Farm Habitat - Glen Innes
- NT LLS Trees on Small Farms project
- Trees on small farms event 7/11 (25); Wattle Bend bird walk 25/5/2019 (15); Focus - Turtles & Regent Honey Eaters 24/1/2019 (19)
- Event registrations NT LLS, Glen Industries, Mole River Native Nursery

**GOAL 2**

**PROTECT NATIVE HABITAT**

**Actions:**

Number of articles in GLENRAC media	1
Maintain printed materials at GLENRAC	✓
Information events	1
Number of attendees	16



- Newsletter, e/flash and web site media articles
- DONE - Materials always on hand
- Event registrations

**GOAL 3**

**CONTROL OF PEST ANIMALS**

**Actions:**

Funding secured for pest animal projects	\$19,000.00
Number of landholders assisted with pest animals	30
Host pest animal related events	2
Number of Attendees	40
Number of partner organisations engaged	8
Number of articles in GLENRAC media	5



- Research and apply for grant funds
- Ben Lomond Fox Baiting, Mann River fox baiting
- 11/5 Focus on Ferals (30) ; 18/5 Indian Myna Bird Control (10);
- Event registrations
- CVCIA NSW DPI, IA CRC, AWI, UNE, Stuart Boyd Law, QDAF, QMDC
- Newsletter, e/flash and web site media articles



**GOAL 4**

**BUILDING STRONG ROBUST COMMUNITIES**

**Actions:**

Number of 'people' articles in GLENRAC media	15
Host community Events	21
Number of attendees	610
Number of partner organisations involved	24



- Newsletter, e/flash and web site media articles  
 - Fit Farmers (14/9-28); Socially Savvy workshops (26-28/11 - 65); Deb Novak (5/9-9); Steph Dale (15/10 - 20), Get Online (16/10-17); 8 Smoko with Friends events (120); Committees with Confidence workshops, 3 events (50); Building Resilience Events, 11 events (272); First Aid Training, 2 events (29)

- NSW DPI, RFCS, Safe Work NSW, NSW Police, Louise Scott; NSW Farmers Guyra branch; Be Connected; The Write Road; Deb Novak; DHS; Salvos; SLM; Healthwise; RAMHP; NT LLS; NSW F-GI; Are You Bugged Mate?



**Priority D: Extending GLENRAC Performance**

*Activity Planned*

**GOAL 1**

**EXTEND GLENRAC'S REACH – WIDER AND DEEPER**

**Actions:**

Number of GLENRAC newsletters produced	4
Number of E-flashes produced	35
Website visitation	4285
Social media engagement (increase in Likes)	151



- 4 printed newsletters per annum  
 - Published on an 'as needed' basis  
 - Review for GLENRAC general meetings, monitor site usage  
 - Review for GLENRAC general meetings, monitor FB data

**GOAL 2**

**PROFESSIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

**Actions:**

Annual employee performance review conducted	DONE
Annual professional development plan completed	DONE
Employee training opportunities secured (no)	9
Annual skills / capacity audit completed	DONE



- Complete staff appraisals  
 - Complete staff training plan for 2018/2019  
 - Research training options and sources of funding or subsidised training  
 - Skills matrix maintained

**GOAL 3**

**MONITOR, EVALUATE AND REPORT**

**Actions:**

Present results of annual Monitoring Evaluating & Reporting activities at GLENRAC AGM	DONE
---	------



- Annual report created for 2017-2018 year, presented at the AGM



**GOAL 4**

**PROVIDE A VOICE FOR GRASSROOTS LANDHOLDERS**

**Actions:**

No of opportunities Chair represents GLENRAC at regional / state meetings  
 Report on above activities at GLENRAC AGM.



2  
1

- NE/NW Landcare Chairs meetings and sub-committee meeting held September 2018

**GOAL 5**

**SECURE RESOURCES FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION**

**Actions:**

Secure funding for NRM, sustainable agriculture & environment focused activities  
 Value of funds secured  
 Number of landholdings funded



\$1,060,471.50  
 \$554,299.50  
 16

- 31  
 - 22  
 - Maintain organisation's database



# Priority E: Working Forward – a stronger GLENRAC

			<i>Activity Planned</i>
<b>GOAL 1</b> <b>COMPLEXITY – BUILDING CAPACITY</b> <b>Actions:</b> Increase in GLENRAC membership numbers Number of new groups established No. groups supported No. meetings attended?			
		122	- Promote free membership at all events, Target 750 members by 30 June 2019
		2	- Rummerys Hill Bird Watchers, Glen Head Waters group
		11	- Existing groups = 9 (To be listed)
		6	- Glen East; RH; Yarraford
<b>GOAL 2</b> <b>DEMOGRAPHICS CHANGING WAYS AND MEANS</b> <b>Actions:</b> Identify new / emerging target markets for engagement Opportunities / events to engage new target markets (no)		1	- Land for Wildlife Regional Provider agreement
		0	
<b>GOAL 3</b> <b>DIVERSIFYING RISK AND BROADENING PERFORMANCE</b> <b>Actions:</b> Value of 'fee for service' income annually		\$19,750	- Identify new opportunities to secure income for the organisation
<b>GOAL 4</b> <b>EDUCATION – INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL</b> <b>Actions:</b> Complete annual review of committee skills Provide flexible / support work environment		DONE	- Develop skills matrix, review annually
		DONE	- Liaise with staff to ensure this is happening
<b>GOAL 5</b> <b>RENEWABLE ENERGY</b> <b>Actions:</b> No of articles in GLENRAC media on renewable energy No of events / activities on renewable energy Attendance at renewable energy events			- Newsletter, e/flash and web site media articles
		2	- Sapphire Wind Farm Information event 5/12/2018



**GOAL  
6**

**PERFORMANCE – CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

**Actions:**

- No of Board meetings held
- Annual reporting to NSW Fair Trading lodged
- Annual reporting to ACNC lodged
- Annual LNSW Organisational Health Check complete



**Activity Planned**

- Target 6 meeting per annum
- Target lodgement within 30 days of holding the AGM to minimise fees
- Lodgement due 31st December annually
- Annual review of health check with staff and Board

8  
✓  
✓  
✓

**GOAL  
7**

**RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS**

**Actions:**

- No of partnerships maintained

51



**GOAL  
8**

**ADVOCACY**

**Actions:**

- Continue to promote the positive image of primary production

DONE



# Taking Action

# MEPAAW-NT-03



## Crackdown on Indian Myna

GLENRAC Inc

### Successful trapping techniques and the impact of Indian Myna's on native birds was strongly presented at local workshop.

#### The issue

Indian Myna's are an introduced species that have taken to Australian environments fondly, however they come with a plethora of issues for native birds and primary producers. Not only do they evict other animals and birds from nests and hollows, they attack chicks of other species, scavenge stock feed, defecate on the backs of livestock, contaminate feed bins and leave a mess in their wake. Myna's also come with a risk to human health as they are a haven for avian diseases such as psittacosis and salmonellosis, and are carriers of bird mite. Educating locals on an intimate level of how to identify, control and prevent the invasion of Indian Myna's has been recognised as a major need in the GLENRAC area as sightings become more numerous.

#### The solution

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 GLENRAC hosted a 'Control the Invasive Indian Myna Bird' workshop for farmers and locals. Guest speakers, Kevin and Laura Nobel from the Clarence Valley Conservation in Action Landcare gave an in-depth presentation on identification and control of Indian Myna's, understanding successful trapping techniques and humane euthanasing methods, and the large impact Indian Myna's have on native birds and environments. A demonstration of the Feral Scan app provided an invaluable resource to track sightings and control measures carried out, which can also be interfaced with other producer sightings in the area. Finally, the Landcare and Feral Fighters funding enabled the reprinting of the 'Indian Myna Project Handbook' available for free at the GLENRAC office.

#### The impact

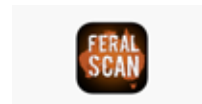
This event resulted in a significant increase in knowledge and confidence to undertake control measures on the Indian Myna population. Before the event 50% of participants had little or no knowledge while after the event 80% had a lot and expert knowledge. Confidence had a shift from 40% having a little, to 60% of attendees having a lot of confidence in undertaking control measures. This workshop has enabled producers to effectively identify Myna's by their brown body and black head, different to the native Noisy Myna with mottled grey. Indian Myna's have white patches on the underside of the wings, notable when in flight, that Noisy Myna's do not have. Participants now also understand the prolific breeding cycle and repelling homing habits and how to ensure new habitats don't look welcoming to them.



### Key facts

- Myna's will eat any feed including grains, pet food and will even scavenge through manure.
- Myna's nest in tree hollow's, roof eaves, and the dead fronds of palms and exotic trees.
- Traps are available to borrow from the GLENRAC office or your local Landcare office.

### Project Partners



The Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative Program that enables the promotion of these case studies on the Gateway, is funded by the NSW Government and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW





# Taking Action

# MEPAAW-NT-03B

## Fighting Fireweed

GLENRAC Inc



### GLENRAC hosted a weeds workshop to increase knowledge and skills for Fireweed management and prevention.

#### The issue

The aim of this workshop was to increase the knowledge and skills of producers concerning the impacts of Fireweed. Introducing producers and contractors to new technologies for the purpose of identification and monitoring had been recognized as a need in the community. Fireweed contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids that are toxic to stock and cause liver damage; young and hungry stock are at most risk of poisoning, therefore informing land managers of up to date control methods and technologies for most accurate identification will enable the prevention of Fireweed spreading in the GLENRAC area and ensure sound production on local properties.

#### The solution

The workshop was held on the afternoon of the 10th April 2019 at the Glen Innes Saleyards Canteen. Our guest speaker Mary O'Brien educated the crowd on the most effective modes of weed management and practical application methods. With an extensive background in local legalities and biosecurity for farmers she also outlined the best record keeping approaches to ensure the survival of the top weed management tactics. Our second speaker, James Browning, presented various biosecurity obligations and consequences for neglecting to manage weeds on your property, while Josh Ross of the New England Weeds Authority presented the workings and inside knowledge of the Weed Wise app. Fourteen participants attended the workshop from across the Glen Innes District, including primary producers and spraying contractors.

#### The impact

Before the event, the majority of participants (88%) had a little or some knowledge of fireweed. Immediately following the event, 78% of participants had a lot or expert knowledge. Producers can identify fireweed now most by the flower. The tap-rooted, daisy-like plant has 13 petals and 21 bracts forming the 'cup' under the flower. The confidence in participants before the event was relatively low (85% little or some confidence), following the event however, 86% of participants had a lot of confidence in their ability to undertake weed management. The best form of control for Fireweed is prevention; ensuring adequate groundcover and no bare earth with competitive pasture species.



#### Key facts

- Fireweed forms a persistent seed bank and will take over heavily grazed and neglected pastures.
- Contains alkaloids toxic to livestock that cause liver damage.
- Seed spread mostly by wind, but also on clothing, machinery and in contaminated livestock feed and wild animals.

#### Project Partners



The Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative Program that enables the promotion of these case studies on the Gateway, is funded by the NSW Government and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW



17 Jun, 2019

## Great Numbers for GLENRAC Growth

GLENRAC Inc



**One of GLENRAC's greatest achievements has been sustained and strong growth in membership. From 2015-2016 to March-2019 we recorded an increase of 73% in membership numbers.**



### The issue

Membership is key for Landcare networks and groups. Community engagement and continued relevance to our membership are key to retaining and attracting members. GLENRAC wanted to grow our membership base in terms of both number and diversity of members. This would help ensure we are truly representative of our community of interest.

### The solution

We receive the majority of new membership applications from events we run. Over the past 3.5 years we have run a many activities ranging in topics, presentation format and content.

We take membership application forms to all events and encourage participants to become members so they are part of our communication loop for the future. The most common way people find out about our events is our regular e-flash (email newsletter).

GLENRAC offers free membership for interested individuals. Free membership makes it easy to join and there isn't the hassle of annual financial renewals to remember for members or for staff or volunteers to administer. Fee free membership is equitable for all members of our community, regardless of economic status.

### The impact

A strong and diverse membership is an indicator of a healthy and relevant organisation. GLENRAC strives to meet the needs of our members and through our membership database we can ensure a high level of direct communication with members particularly through our e-flashes.

New members bring new skills and interest. Increased membership is making it easier to fill our committee of management positions at the Annual General Meeting. People now ask how to become a committee member instead of avoiding attending in fear of getting a job!

A focus on membership growth has increased our profile on all levels. GLENRAC is seen as good people to do business with, and a great group to be a member of. Our membership is not limited to locals, we also have members who live away from Glen Innes, interested landcarers, past residents, absentee landholders and those looking to move to the district.



### Key facts

- Representation
- Free membership
- Diversity of members
- Activities drive new memberships



The Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative Program that enables the promotion of these case studies on the Gateway, is funded by the NSW Government and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW





# Taking Action

# MEPAAW-NT-03

## Learning about feral cats evasive nature

GLENRAC Inc



### Research is underway to narrow down how to effectively manage feral cats on farm.

#### The issue

There are numerous feline diseases that humans can contract and severely suffer from. These include Giardia and Toxoplasmosis, which are both protozoa parasites that will not show symptoms in cats but will greatly affect humans if contracted. These diseases are not restricted to feral cats but are also carried in domesticated pets. Feral cat sightings have been increasing in the GLENRAC area and it has been noted that education of the risks carried by these animals needs to be delivered along with effective monitoring and control tactics.

#### The solution

The Ferals in Focus information event was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 at the Dundee Hall, a central location for local pest management groups. Dr. Bronwyn Fancourt presented her fascinating findings on feral cat behaviour and adequate control methods for producer groups as well as up and coming resources available for monitoring and management. An abundance of print information was available for producers to take home for further learning and a cat trap was on display for demonstration of how to use, these are also available to borrow from the GLENRAC office.

#### The impact

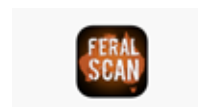
Dr. Fancourt's research has shown that dogs, or dingos, are not an effective method for deterring felines from an area nor to control their population numbers. She has also found that baits used to control dog numbers are not very effective for cats; even if they are interested in the bait, the likelihood of it being ingested within the desired time frame is low. Therefore the most effective form of control is to have a cat-detecting dog on hand or trapping. Cat bait is in the works for approval to use in NSW. Producers were shown how to use the Feral Scan app to record sightings, damage and control measures of feral cats in their area. Knowledge of feral cats increased from less than 30% of attendees with a lot of knowledge to over 80%. Of the 29 attendees 14% had a lot of confidence to undertake necessary control methods before the event, which increased to 82% after the event.



### Key facts

- Destruction of native wildlife populations is not the only damage caused by feral cats.
- Current available baits are not an effective method of control for feral cats.
- Trapping and a cat-detecting dog are the most effective methods for feral cat termination presently.

### Project Partners



The Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative Program that enables the promotion of these case studies on the Gateway, is funded by the NSW Government and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW



29 May, 2019

# Taking Action

# MEPAAW-NT-03A

## Serrated Tussock, the Persistent Problem

GLENRAC Inc



### Integrated monitoring and control of Serrated Tussock was a focus at the annual Farmer Update.

#### The issue

Serrated Tussock is an issue arising for local farmers in the Northern Tableland regions. Out competing preferred pasture species and reduced production for grazing animals, its prevalence has been exacerbated with current dry conditions. Refreshing and increasing knowledge and keeping the pest front of mind when checking paddocks is a constant need for the GLENRAC region to keep on top on new invasions. The aim of this event was to address the issue by promoting new technologies and best practice methods for identification and control.

#### The solution

The annual Farmer Update was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 with key speaker James Browning from the New England Weeds Authority. James informed attendees of the biosecurity responsibilities of the producer and those of the public when it comes to Weeds of Nation Significance. Regarded as one of the worst weeds, due to invasiveness, potential for spread and economic and environmental impacts, Serrated Tussock is everybody's business. Stuart provided a plethora of information to take home, as well as how to identify and the top integrated management practices to control Serrated Tussock, which included a demonstration of the Weed Wise app.

#### The impact

Farmers were shown the most notable ways to identify Serrated Tussock is the feel of the leaves and the hairless ligule. Though rough textured due to upward pointing barbs, when a Serrated Tussock leaf is rolled between ones fingers it should feel smooth like a needle. In other grasses the ligule is different by colour or the presence of hairs. The best mode of control is prevention. The second best is an integrated strategy that includes minimal soil disturbance, maintaining at least 80% ground cover in grazing systems, and destroying existing plants in manageable blocks. Participants showed a significant increase in knowledge after the Farmer Update. Of the 60 attendees, 64% of participants having some knowledge prior; we observed that 62% of participants had a lot or expert knowledge after the event. The change in confidence to manage Serrated Tussock was also significant. Before the event 64% of producers had some confidence, however after the event 59% had a lot of confidence.



### Key facts

- Herbicide treatment alone, results in reinfestation from seed in soil, it is important to incorporate other control methods.
- Competition from more desirable plant species is key to prevention and control.
- Serrated Tussock can be acclimatised to many different environments, especially if bare soil is present.

### Project Partners



The Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative Program that enables the promotion of these case studies on the Gateway, is funded by the NSW Government and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW



17 Jun, 2019