

GLENRAC

Newsletter

Sept / Oct 2013

Where to find us - National Park & Wildlife
Services Building, 68 Church St
Office Hours— Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm

Inside This Issue

- *Regional funding*
- *Local news*
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- *Pest and weed update*
- *Book reviews*
- *Funding & Training Opportunities*

**** DATE CLAIMER ****

GLENRAC AGM

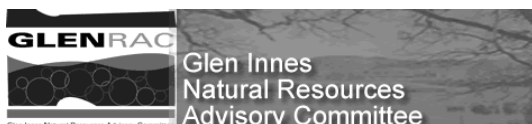
24th September 2013

RSL – Glen Innes

RSVP to GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 by
the 20th September.

LANDCARE ADVENTURE 2014

19th 20th March 2014 Glen Innes



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Northern Rivers



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Border Rivers–Gwydir



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



GLENRAC Secures more funding

Glenrac have been offered funding from the Jaramas Foundation through Landcare Australia to continue an existing project, funding a range of activities for farmers to increase awareness, knowledge and skills to understand and manage their soils and to understand the links between soils, plants, people and profits.

Some of the proceeds from this project will go towards New England Northwest Landcare Adventure in Glen Innes next year.

GLENRAC have another \$800,000 worth of applications pending but they will not be processed until after the election.

Local Landcare Co-ordinator Award Finalist

Kylie Falconer has been the GLENRAC Community Support Officer since November 2007. During this time, Kylie has built the organisation from only one executive position to having up to an additional five casual staff, and has raised its Landcare project operating funds from \$123,360 (21 projects) to a peak of \$445,265 in April 2013 (29 projects that were or are active in 2012/13). Due to the delegated nature of management, many of our achievements are attributed to 'GLENRAC' - they are, however, due to Kylie's management. Kylie has been enthusiastic, energetic, skilled, and an excellent leader. Awards will be announced at the NSW Landcare Conference in Newcastle 3rd to 5th September.



GLENRAC News

Hello All,

We hope you enjoy this edition of GLENRAC News. Since the last edition we have been busy making sure we carry on the administrative systems and procedures that Kylie has finetuned over the years, as we began job-sharing the Community Support Officer role. We have also been busy finalising annual reports and finishing off spatial data projects.

Although we still eagerly await news of Community Environment Grant funding, we were very pleased to receive funding from the Jaramas Foundation of Landcare Australia. This funding will allow the Measure to Manage Soils project to continue, and part of the grant will help fund our 2014 Landcare Adventure to be held 19th 20th March 2014.

In the coming weeks we will be preparing for our Annual General Meeting on the 24th September. At the AGM we will present what GLENRAC has achieved in the last 12 months. If you are interested in what happens in natural resource management both locally and at a regional level please come along. Your support by attending would be greatly appreciated.

Lucy will attend the 2013 NSW Landcare Conference in September and next week we will attend the Border Rivers Gwydir CMA course on pest animal management and strategic pest planning. The course will be presented by Tony Buckmaster from the Invasive species CRC at Canberra UNI and professor Mike Braysher who has experience in pest management and pest planning all over the world. We hope to apply knowledge obtained at this course to future Glenrac projects.

Regards,

Tanya and Lucy



Bright Ideas

MotionX-GPS - App for the iPhone and iPad.

This app allows the user to save up to 500 personal waypoints of your features like watering points, weed infestations, assets, or fence lines. You can see your position and tracks anywhere in the world on a topographic map. You can view your coordinates in UTM grid (easting, northing) or Lat/Long format. You can post your tracks and waypoints to Facebook or Twitter, or email them to share. You can also add a geotagged photo of your site. The App costs \$1.99, however, there are features that give it an edge over free apps. For example, it has destination search capabilities and the ability to preload maps before a journey. MotionX GPS Drive is a connected navigation app, meaning it relies on an iPhone's data connection. So although you cannot capture data outside the cellular tower network, the app is easy to use, has current topographic maps and has a user friendly layout.



Image source: Motion X GPS

LLS RETAINS INDUSTRY EXPERTISE

Glenrac and BRG- CMA have welcomed the appointment of Jason Siddell as Senior Land Services Officer (Livestock) working on the NSW Northern Tablelands. This appointment retains Mr Siddell's extensive meat and livestock industry expertise for the benefit of sheep and cattle producers across the Northern Tablelands.



Over the past 3 years Jason has been employed as the District Livestock Officer (Beef Products) with the NSW Department of Primary Industries based at the Glen Innes Agriculture & Advisory Station.

As an LLS Livestock Advisory Officer Mr Siddell will continue to utilise his extensive industry and research expertise working with grass roots cattle and sheep farmers. LLS Advisory Officers work in partnership with farmers and farming groups advising on best management farming practices and delivering the latest research and development outcomes for on-farm application.

The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services will officially commence operation in January 2014, servicing the region covered by the Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Guyra, Inverell, Armidale and Uralla Shires.

However, Jason is already available to sheep and cattle producers on the Northern Tablelands through the Glen Innes Agriculture & Advisory Station. For advice and information on livestock contact Jason by phone: 02 6730 1900 or 0459 162 295, or email: Jason.Siddell@cma.nsw.gov.au

GLENRAC Project Snapshot

Healthy Soils Dollars to Dirt

Glenrac is pleased to announce two upcoming workshops to be held on 9th October and 6th November 2013. These Border River Gwydir CMA funded courses include the RCS Healthy Soils Workshop and their follow up Dirt-to-Dollars Implementation Day. Previous Healthy Soils workshops in this area have been well attended with a lot of positive feedback from participants.

This time round we are able to fund the follow up day which includes an on-farm day spent looking at soil, grass, animals, and infrastructure. The aim throughout this day is to create discussion around how to implement the principles learned at "Healthy Soils" and make the system work in the best possible way. We often fall into the trap of feeling that we need to spend money before we can make a change. This workshop will help participants to look initially at how to use what is available and at the farmer's disposal right now to maximise results, rather than work on what they do not have.

Glen Elgin Eco-Carers Group Management of Invasive Species in Granite Country

This project will assist landholders at the western end of the Glen Elgin valley to control Weeds of National Significance (WONS) including Blackberry, Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle Grass which are being introduced to high conservation value roadside vegetation and the private properties adjacent to these high conservation value sites.

Implementing property management plans to improve riparian habitats in priority rivers and streams

This project will provide funding to help implement sustainable land and river management practices identified through property management planning activities. Funding will be provided for activities that will improve ecosystem services and/ or improve productivity through the adoption of best management practises. Activities that will be funded include fencing riparian zones, wetlands or native vegetation; weed or pest animal projects; demonstrations sites to improve soil condition and reduce wind and water erosion. Calls for expression of interest will be advertised in the coming weeks on Glenrac's website, local papers and by e-flash to Glenrac members.

Community Empowerment to develop the Ben Lomond community & landcare capacity

This project will host two community empowerment workshops at Ben Lomond, to help develop leadership and capacity in the community. The project will engage this small farming community to hold ongoing networking meetings and collate a resource library to build awareness and share their learnings.

NSW RURAL WOMEN'S GATHERING

The 2013 annual NSW Rural Women's Gathering is being held in Scone on 25, 26 & 27 October. There is a fantastic line-up of speakers, more than 60 workshops on offer, and a host of other great activities you don't want to miss. Registrations are now open so jump online and register <http://www.upperhuntertourism.com.au/blog/nsw-rural-womens-gathering-2013/> today. Early Bird registration received up until 1 September will be entered into the draw for a full registration refund, the winner to be announced during the Gathering weekend.

HAVE A CUPPA WITH...

The National Rural Women's Coalition is pleased to present the A Cuppa With™ webinar and e-Networking series. Using the latest technology, sessions will be conducted in a web conferencing room which provides an engaging multi-media experience where the speaker and the participants can interact in the virtual classroom as if they are face to face. The sessions offer networking opportunities with women from all corners of Australia.

A Cuppa with Robyn Henderson—Modern Networking
12th September 2013 @ 7.00pm

A Cuppa with Jeanette Long—Mentoring & Personal Growth
10th October 2013 @ 7.00pm

A Cuppa with Alice Greenup—Telling Your Story
14th November 2013 @ 7.00pm

For more information visit <http://www.nrwc.com.au/Projects/ACuppaWith.aspx>

Soil health webinars

Back in our May/June edition, we suggested listening to a live series of soil health webinars on the Landcare Australia website. These webinars are now available on the site as a PDF of the Q&A session and 3 downloads of the webinar slide shows—well worth watching if you missed the real thing http://www.landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=10445

WARNING ! WEEDS CAN KILL



Submitted by David Nixon, Glen Innes Severn Council Weeds Officer

- ◇ Dozens of animals (especially cattle) die every year from eating poisonous plants.
- ◇ Green Cestrum & Mother of Millions are among the most poisonous noxious weeds in the region.
- ◇ Green Cestrum can kill within hours and there is no antidote. Herbicide treatment needs to be applied from late spring to early autumn.
- ◇ Mother of Millions is very dangerous during winter and when feed is scarce. This plant flowers in winter making it easier to identify.
- ◇ Grazon DS will control both of these plants as will a few other chemicals. However plants can still be poisonous once they have been treated, so stock need to be taken away from the infested area until plants have decomposed.
- ◇ Both plants have been popular garden plantings that have found their way onto properties and river banks.
- ◇ Although there have been no sightings of either of these plants in the Glen Innes Severn Council area, there may be plants growing in ratepayers gardens. There have been stock losses in the Inverell region caused by Green Cestrum and Mother of Millions being eaten.
- ◇ Mother of Millions has been sighted in the Guyra and Jackadgery districts of the New England region.
- ◇ Weeds spread into rural areas from gardens, machinery and introduced fodder, domestic and native animals..
- ◇ Other noxious weeds that can cause stock poisoning and are growing in the Glen Innes Severn Council area are St John's Wort, Paterson's Curse, Johnson Grass and Red Lantana.

ARE WE WINNING THE WAR ON FERAL PESTS?

Prof. Linton Staples simple answer is that we are losing! We must do much more to redress a worsening situation.

With rabbits showing increased resistance to RHD virus, no new fleas to aid myxoma spread and potential attenuation of virulence for this virus, we are gradually losing the half a century of benefits of two disseminating lethal bio-controls for this devastating pest. I have said many times that the rabbit has the potential to turn much of productive Australia into a desert. No-one should be complacent enough to think that the rabbit problem is solved. This is very dangerous thinking. We must rely increasingly on conventional controls (baiting, trapping, ripping, fencing and shooting) to maintain the status quo with this pest. We must strive, wherever possible, for local eradication as the long term least-cost inspirational goal.

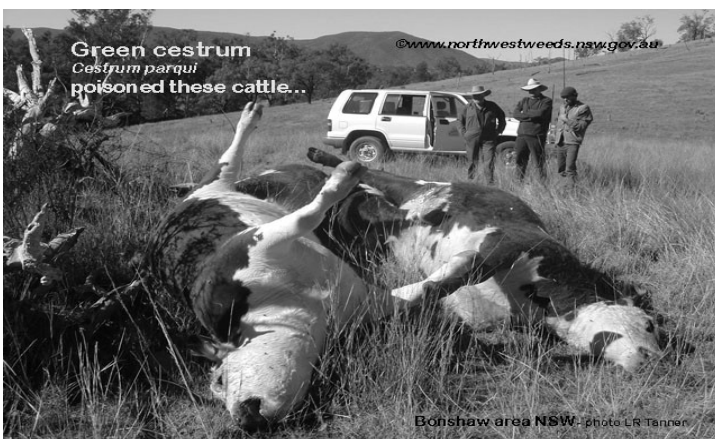


National Wild Dog Update

By Greg Mifsud
National Wild Dog Facilitator,
Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

The message about cooperative and coordinated management of wild dogs is gaining momentum around the country with preparations being made for spring regional campaigns in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. Eastern NSW have just completed their aerial and ground baiting campaigns to great effect, while in the Victoria River District of the Northern Territory pastoralists have just completed a trial regional baiting programme delivering 80,000 baits to just over 65,000 square kilometres of land across 12 properties. Local governments in western Queensland met a couple of weeks ago to review their aerial baiting calendar to ensure better coordination of the regional baiting programmes between shire boundaries. The process of closely scrutinising timing of the control programmes across the western and north western shires commenced last year with the support of Agforce Qld Wild Dog Coordinator Brett Carlsson, however this was hampered because everyone wanted to go at similar times which severely limited the capacity of the aerial baiting operator to service all of the shires.

To read more on these stories please go to the **Animal Control Technologies Australia** website at <http://www.animalcontrol.com.au/news.htm>



For more information on weeds identification and control methods contact David Nixon, Weeds Officer at Glen Innes Severn Council on 02 6730 2358.

PlaceStories

PlaceStories is a digital storytelling and communications system designed to meet the communication and reporting needs of community projects, networks and organisations. GLENRAC is a member of the Digital Landcare community, and we aim to publish stories which provide a snapshot of our groups and interesting projects and activities occurring within the local Landcare organisation.

We currently have a few stories published including one about Kylie Falconer, the Dung Beetle project and the Ben Lomond soils project field day.

We have included a PlaceStory below, but to see them in their glory, these postcards have been posted on the GLENRAC Facebook for all of you to see and there will be a link put on our website.



Landholders around the Glen Innes area have been participating in GLENRAC's dung beetle monitoring project over the past 12 months. Landholders have been trapping dung beetles once a month to get a handle on what different species are established around the district, when they are active and when they are not active.

Some really interesting results have come to light including the establishment across the district of *Onthophagus binodis*, an introduced species which becomes active fairly early in the New England spring and keeps working through summer and autumn. This species was released through previous dung beetle projects 5 - 10 years ago. A great result to see it turning up at every participating property!

Full results of the project will be published soon - check out the GLENRAC website at www.glenrac.org.au for more information.

Federal Government funding secured for BRG CMA

Federal ministers Mark Butler and Joel Fitzgibbon announced the funding allocation and said the government acknowledged the important role local resource management organisations play in building an environment that is healthier, better protected, well-managed and resilient as well as ensuring our farming practices are sustainable. Border Rivers Gwydir CMA have received \$2,059,900.00 for the 2013–2014 financial year

2014 RURAL WOMEN'S AWARDS

Nominations for the 2014 Rural Women's Award are now open and close on 31 October 2013. This is Australia's pre-eminent Award for rural women. It provides a \$10 000 bursary to state winners to assist them to implement their vision for rural and regional Australia.

All state winners (and runner-ups) have the opportunity to attend the Australian Institute of Company Directors and complete the Company Directors Course as well as participate in a media/presentation workshop. An additional \$10 000 bursary will be awarded to the national winner (and runner-up) to assist in meeting national commitments such as speaking engagements.

For more information and/or to download an application form, please go to www.rirdc.gov.au/rural-women's-award.

Nominate Top NSW Farmer

APPLICATIONS are now open for the 2013 NSW Farmer of the Year Award, with farmers of all ages across NSW urged to submit entries.

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson and NSW Farmers' Association President Fiona Simpson said the annual awards, now in their 10th year, acknowledged agricultural excellence.

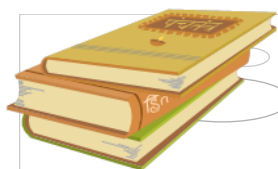
The successful 'Farmer of the Year' will be awarded \$10,000 and the other finalists will receive \$2000.

Ms Hodgkinson said the awards recognised people with outstanding management skills, the use of innovation, profitability, sustainability, and community involvement.

"NSW Farmers' Association president Fiona Simpson said the finalists played an important part in promoting the sector and educating urban audiences about farmers' contributions on many levels.

Application forms are available at www.nswfarmers.org.au or at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au, and entries close

Friday October 11, 2013.



BOOK REVIEW

Common Dung Beetles in Pastures of South-eastern Australia

M Tyndale-Biscoe , Csiro Publishing, 01/01/1990 - Science - 72 pages

This is a colourful, useful and easy-to-read account of dung beetles in south-eastern Australia. It tells why the CSIRO brought dung beetles to Australia, what they do, where they live, how to recognise them and how to help them spread. Imported dung beetles are described and illustrated in colour. Native beetles and beetles other than dung beetles found in dung pads are also described. Maps of the predicted and current distributions of each species follow the descriptions.

Small Paperback - 1990 We have a few copies at the GLEN-RAC office.

We also have a few copies of the Landcare Australia **Dung Beetle Dictionary**. Use this dictionary to browse through the different species of dung beetles. Easy to use and printed to live in the work ute, Quadrunner or saddlebag. Pictures, descriptions and maps help you pinpoint the beetles you find and others you might have in your area. You can search the dictionary to find which beetles live in different states of Australia or how big and small they grow to be!

A guide to managing Box Gum Grassy Woodlands.

Kimberlie Rawlings, David Freudenberger and David Carr. Canberra, A.C.T.: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, 2010.

A practical book designed to assist private land managers manage their remnant woodlands to grazing, wildlife and native plant species can all coexist. The book also contains method to monitor the health of your woodlands and monitoring sheets. A few of these books are available through Southern New England Landcare 6772 9123 or can be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.nrm.gov.au/resources/publications/stewardship/pubs/bggw-handbook.pdf>

Further Reading

Border Rivers Gwydir CMA have a brochure about Box Gum Grassy Woodland which includes species lists of plants and animals found in these remnant areas. This is available at our office or downloadable from http://agbiolinks.com.au/uploads/docs/TECfact_GrassyBox_WebReady.pdf

ECOSMAGAZINE also has an article on Climate-resilient restoration of box gum grassy woodlands by Michele Sabto. Box gum grassy woodlands are an iconic part of the eastern Australian landscape and once extended across large parts of inland south-eastern Australia. On trial sites on farmland in southern and central New South Wales, CSIRO is looking at ways of restoring these unique ecosystems to improve their resilience to a drying, warming climate.

This could give us more ideas on restoration and resilience in changing environmental conditions.

- See more at: <http://www.ecosmagazine.com/paper/EC12255.htm>

Local Land Services Update

Katrina Hodgkinson MP Minister for Primary Industries.

"I would like to provide a brief update to your readers on one of the most important agricultural reforms which has been undertaken in the last 70 years.

From January 2014 Local Land Services will bring together technical and practical knowledge from Catchment Management Authorities, Livestock Health and Pest Authorities and some agriculture advisory services from Department of Primary Industries.

Local Land Services will be an organisation of considerable financial capacity with a strong and a certain future. Over a four year period Local Land Services will have projected revenues in excess of \$500 million.

For the first time in NSW, Local Land Services will have access to a dedicated \$35 million Future Fund that will help underpin the delivery of agricultural advice, biosecurity and extension services and natural resource management.

Local Land Services is a logical progression from the LHPAs, CMAs and DPI advisory services - it will be an organisation focussed exclusively on delivering relevant and modern services to our farmers and land managers. The benefits to farmers are clear and the reform puts farmers and land managers back at the centre of the decision making process.

From January 2014, the advice and services from Local Land Services or the Department of Primary Industries will be available from 139 towns across NSW, an increase of 22 locations through bringing Livestock Health & Pest Authorities into the network.

There is still more work to be done but I encourage anyone with an interest in the land or agriculture to take this opportunity to get informed, please visit our website and learn how Local Land Services can benefit you <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/locallandservices>"

Photography Prize 2014

WetlandCare Australia invites photographers of all ages to enter our Photography Prize. The theme for World Wetlands Day 2014 is Wetlands and Agriculture.

Don't forget our montane wetlands

This Photography Prize gives everyone an opportunity to share their favourite wetland and take part in raising awareness about the importance of wetlands for all life on our planet.

The Prize is open to all Australian residents of any age, in all States and Territories.

Entries close: Friday 7 December 2013

There is also a People's Choice prize run through the WetlandCare Australia Facebook page. Winning entries will be posted online, and the entry that secures the most 'Likes' by March 31 2014 will be awarded a Canon Waterproof Camera, valued at \$345, donated by Dolphin Office Choice Ballina. Go to www.wetlandcare.com.au

Funding & Training Opportunities



FRRR

Foundation for Rural
& Regional Renewal

Small Grants for Small Communities

The Small Grants for Small Rural Communities is a collaborative program supported by various partners. It is the longest running and broadest program offered by FRRR. The program is open twice a year, and closes at the end of March

and September.

The program will offer up to \$400,000 per round in grants up to \$5,000 for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities, with populations of 10,000 or less, living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Applications are invited from not-for-profit, incorporated community organisations. Organisations should have an ABN or Incorporation Certificate and projects must be for a charitable purpose (benefit the whole community). Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR) is not required for this grant program.

http://www.frrr.org.au/cb_pages/

[small_grants_for_small_communities.php](http://www.frrr.org.au/cb_pages/small_grants_for_small_communities.php)

Opens 1st August 2013 and closes Friday 27 September 2013 at 5pm

MLA Extension and Communication Grants

MLA offers a range of funding opportunities for red meat producers interested in participating in initiatives and events that accelerate the adoption of R&D outputs and promote sustainability and competitiveness in the on-farm sector.

MLA's Producer demonstration sites (PDS) form part of MLA's producer research support initiative. Funding is available for groups of producers keen to be actively involved in on-farm research and demonstration trials.

The purpose of PDS projects is to support groups of livestock producers and extension staff to demonstrate, develop and adopt priority research technologies and findings. In addition, the projects aim to shorten the time lag between technological innovation and on-farm use by producers.

PDS projects enable producer groups to partner with research organisations and focus specifically on trialling MLA supported R&D or addressing key research.

Who can undertake a Producer Demonstration Site project?

PDS projects are aimed at groups of producers and supporting organisations such as State Departments of Primary Industry, Departments of Natural Resources, CSIRO, Universities and private consultants.

Funding support is available for producer groups involved in northern beef, southern beef, lamb and sheep meat and goat production.

Applications may be submitted at any time. Preliminary applications should be submitted a minimum of twelve weeks prior to the intended commencement of the project to enable project proposal review and, if successful, contracting prior to commencement.

To apply, visit:

<http://www.mla.com.au/Research-and-development/Funding-opportunities/Producers>

Honey Locust Have you seen this plant?

On ground control works through the Biodiversity Fund - Honey locust control project are well under way. Honey locust (*Gleditsia tricanthos*) is a highly invasive tree capable of smothering native vegetation and severely altering the habitat of threatened species. The honey locust plants form impenetrable thickets and the trunks are protected by large thorns.

If you are on the Severn or Macintyre Rivers NSW, GLENRAC still has some funding to assist you with Honey Locust control. If your property has Honey Locust and is on the Severn or Macintyre Rivers please contact Tanya at GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443.



Classic Honey Locust thorns. Source: NPWS

GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2012/2013

CHAIRMAN - John Bavea VICE CHAIRMAN - Jim Benton

TREASURER - Sam Baker

SECRETARY - Dr Eric Sinclair

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Greg Chappell, Tony Holliss, Jeff Lowien, Winsome Quilty, Mark Pietsch, Sam Baker, Mike Norton, Norman Whitaker

Glen Innes Severn Council : Graham Price & Col Price & Ian Trow

National Parks & Wildlife Office: Peter Croft

New England Livestock Health & Pest Authority: Rob Munro,

Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Lands Council: Karen Potter

Public Officer: John Brien

For all questions relating to GLENRAC please contact our staff at -

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Ph: (02) 6732 3443 Mobile 0427 325 901

email: glenrac@glenrac.org.au website: www.glenrac.org.au

GLENRAC
PO Box 660
GLEN INNES
NSW 2370



To The Land Manager



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Coming Events:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 3-5 September | NSW Landcare Forum, Newcastle City Hall www.landcarecmaforum.com.au |
| 24th September | GLENRAC AGM, 7.00pm Glen Innes RSL |
| 3rd October | Measure to Manage Day 3—analysing feed test results |
| 9th October | RCS Healthy Soils workshop—Glen Innes RSL |
| 25-27 October | Rural Women's Gathering in Scone, www.upperhuntertourism.com.au |
| 29-29 October | QLD State Landcare Forum, Warwick www.headwaters.ddrlandcare.org |
| 6th November | Dirt-to-Dollars Implementation Day |



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