

GLENRAC

Newsletter

Nov /Dec 2012

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

Inside This Issue

- GLENRAC AGM report
- Pasture to Pocket workshop
- Honey Locust Update
- Event Reports
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Soils for Life field day

Wednesday 21st November 2012
"Shannon Vale Station"
1241 Shannonvale Rd Glen Innes
9:30am to 4:00pm



Please RVSP by 16th November 2012.
Alternate wet weather venue if required.

Soils for Life ~ Local producers recognised



Greg & Sally Chappell of Shannon Vale Station have been recognised by the Outcomes Australia organisation, which through its Soils for Life program is aiming to reverse Australia's land degradation crisis.

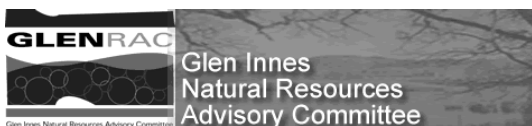
The organisation, led by former governor-general Michael Jeffery, supports farmers who are achieving high performance through innovative regenerative land management. The principal purpose of the program is to enhance the natural environment through the provision of information and education on innovative leading performance in managing Australia's natural environment, particular with a focus on our rural landscape.

Soils for Life have selected 19 properties from across Australia to show case innovative management strategies. A case study has been developed for each property and is now available in a comprehensive report on the Soils for Life website, www.soilsforlife.org.au

Greg & Sally will host a field day at Shannon Vale Station on **Wednesday 21st November** to share their experiences in implementing significant management practise changes including the use of compost, implementing soil and plant monitoring, using cattle and mechanical mulching to influence pasture plant diversity.

Guest speakers at the field day will include Major General Michael Jeffery, Greg Chappell and Bart Davidson. The field day will include a paddock tour in the afternoon and a display of different types of mulchers owned by local farmers.

If you would like to attend please RSVP to GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 or email glenrac@glenrac.org.au by the 16th November. A fee of \$10 per person will be payable on the day to contribute towards catering costs.



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



Glenrac News

Hello All,

Busy times here at the GLENRAC office with a number of events held over September and October. The GLENRAC AGM was well attended, thank you to all who made the time to attend. A motion was passed at the AGM to quadruple GLENRAC's membership in the next 12-months. If you are not currently a member I encourage you to join, it's free and your membership adds weight to GLENRAC's collective voice locally, regionally and nationally as a Landcare network.

Congratulations to Rob Dulhunty who has recently been appointed as the Chairman of NSW Landcare Inc. NSW Landcare provides a central contact point and advocacy body for Landcare in NSW. The New England & North West Landcare region is represented by Sonia Williams, Armidale & David Walker, Gunnedah.

Mike Norton, Eric Sinclair & Lucy Faithfull attended the National Landcare conference in Sydney at the start of September and have reported back that it was a great event. A number of the presentations and videos of plenary sessions from the conference are now available on-line at www.daff.gov.au/landcareconference.

In our last newsletter we introduced the Atlas of Living Australia (Atlas) (www.ala.org.au). This week CSIRO have released a paper on selecting species for bio-diverse plantings in the face of climate using this free resource. If you would like to view a copy of this paper GLENRAC has an electronic copy available for loan. Regards, Kylie Falconer



Bright Ideas

*Free App—Mobile access
for ag & vet chemicals*

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) have released a new iPhone application that enables people to instantly access information about ag & vet chemicals while on the move. You can conduct searches on product name, active constituent, pest or host and/or check withhold periods. Go to i-Tunes to download this new application.

Cattle Herd Health Field Day

*Glen Innes Research & Advisory Station
14th November 2011, 9am-3pm*

NSW DPI, NE LHPA & MLA will host an information day for all cattle producers looking to maximise herd productivity. Topics covered on the day will include -

- Selecting heifers for genetically improved reproductive performance,
- Minimising the effects of infectious infertility diseases
- Recent finding for cattle worm control
- Buffalo fly control / management strategies.

This event is free to attend and morning tea & BBQ lunch will be supplied. To attend contact Beef Officer Jason Siddell on 0459 162 295 by the 12th November 2012.



GLENRAC A.G.M Report

GLENRAC hosted it's AGM on the 19th of September. The meeting was well attended by members of the community. At the meeting Jim Benton stood down from the position of Chairman given his new commitments as a member of the Border Rivers Gwydir-CMA board. Ben Lomond landholder, John Bavea was elected as our new Chairman.

Sam Baker was elected as the Treasurer and Eric Sinclair remains as our Secretary. We welcome one new committee member as Norman Whitaker joins the committee. All other landholder representative remain the same as last year. A list of committee members is listed on the back page of this newsletter.

John Williams, the Chairman of Northern Rivers CMA was our guest speaker at the AGM. John's presentation gave the audience an overview of the coming challenges for the CMA's in NSW, both in terms of funding and service delivery. Also attending the AGM was Hans Hietbrink, newly appointed Chairman of BRG-CMA who lives in Guyra. Thanks to both John & Hans for making the time available to attend the AGM and meet with members of the Glen Innes community.

GLENRAC Community Support Officer, Kylie Falconer gave a presentation of GLENRAC's achievements for the 2011-12 financial year. A copy of the summary of this presentation is now available on the GLENRAC website under "Resources".

Key achievements for 2011-12 were -

1. Secured 19 grants for a total of \$464,662.50 ;
2. Assisted 10 land managers secure \$105,056 of direct grants from CMA's;
3. Hosted 19 events attended by 363 people;
4. Developed 5 new publications;
5. GLENRAC now employs 5 part time staff.

GLENRAC Project Snapshot



GLENRAC mapping update

GLENRAC staff have been busy mapping native tree plantings on properties across the Glen Innes District over the past three months. We have begun collating this data in ArcView and it will prove invaluable in developing funding applications for revegetation and natural resource management projects for landholders in the future.

GLENRAC's GPS training courses have been popular and most participants are finding the technology easy to understand. Participants are now able to apply their new skill to all sorts of mapping applications on their property. These include, measuring distance of fence lines, calculating area of a weed infestation or calculating the area of a paddock, mapping an area of interest such as where weeds were sprayed this year, to go back and check on regrowth in subsequent years, mapping soil sampling sites, mapping water pipes and connections in water systems .

There are an infinite number of GPS models available today, the Magellan was chosen by GLENRAC because of its "Calculate Area from waypoints" feature, its inbuilt camera, its ruggedness rating, ease of data download using VantagePoint at home, and the unit is eligible for the current Magellan promotion that includes free maps by registering the unit <http://www.magellangps.com.au/bonusacc>

The Magellan touch screen style is proving acceptable to most landholders, however some do prefer the button style operation of the Garmin. GLENRAC have both units available for landholders to borrow if they are keen to map some of their own property features.

To register your interest in learning how to use a GPS unit contact GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 or email tanya@glenrac.org.au The training courses usually run on a Friday morning and take two hours to complete.

Mapping revegetation plantings

We are still seeking properties interested in participating in the revegetation mapping project. We are looking for any native planting done in the last 20 years, regardless of the source of funding. Mapping data will help identify gaps in vegetation across the local landscape and as a basis to develop future funding applications.

To get involved contact GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 to arrange a suitable time for one of our staff to visit your property and collect planting locations.

Pasture To Pocket Workshop

A vibrant group of young farmers from Glen Innes and surrounding districts, including Inverell and Guyra took advantage of the Pasture to Pocket grazing management course organised by GLENRAC in late October.

Resource Consulting Services senior lecturer, Garry McDouall led the participants through the Pasture to Pocket course covering the principles of managed grazing, including plant and animal processes, managing for healthy animals, practical means of feed budgeting, and assessing carrying capacity for resilient properties.

Grazing charts were introduced as part of the course to provide a practical tool for monitoring stocking rates on each paddock, showing grazing and resting periods for each mob of livestock, and allowing an assessment of paddock yield and profits across the whole farm.

The course was well received by participants, with the field trip to Albert & Wendy Holliss' property being a highlight. Many found the material challenged some of the current management styles with alternative options providing food for thought in the future. They also felt the course highlighted the importance of plant health and growth and the need to monitor graze length in each paddock and stocking rates, especially in dry times. Garry stressed the need to focus on what you want, not on what you don't want.

Four follow up events will be held with participants on topics of interest voiced during the course. These sessions will recap on discussions from the training, and to give participants the chance to delve deeper and work together to build on skills and knowledge developed through the training.

The Pasture to Pocket training was subsidised by a Community Action Grant from the Australian Government. Please contact the GLENRAC office 02 6732 3443 or email Lucy Faithfull at office@glenrac.org.au for more information.



Honey Locust—Application to have declared noxious

Submitted by David Nixon, Glen Innes Severn Council Weeds Officer

It was decided by all the members of the Northern Inland Weeds Advisory Committee at their quarterly meeting in July 2011 to prepare a submission for Honey Locust to become a Class 3 Noxious Weed throughout all of the regional member councils.

Action required under a Class 3 Noxious Weed states that **“The plant must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.”** The control objective for the weed control class 3 is to reduce the area and the impact of those plants in parts of NSW.

The Glen Innes Severn Council’s weed officer assisted the Inverell Council’s weeds officer in preparing the submission for declaration to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

Council has been notified by the (DPI) that the submission has been successful and the declaration of Honey Locust should be gazetted by the end of the year.

Within the Northern Inland Weeds Advisory Committee there is a core infestation located along the Mann River where approximately 22km of stream bank is heavily infested with the weed. The majority of this infestation is located in the Glen Innes Severn Council, adjacent to the multiple occupancy community Wyaliba where it was introduced as a cattle fodder tree over 40 years ago.

There are also infestations in State Forest, National Parks & Wildlife, Livestock Health & Pest Authority lands adjacent to the Mann River as well as on three private properties downstream from Wyaliba.

The Wyaliba Landcare group has been controlling the infestation using chemical and mechanical techniques for several years.

The Glen Innes National Parks and Wildlife Service have also implemented a very successful control program in previous years adjacent to Wyaliba and in the adjoining Guy Fawkes River National Park.

Another core infestation of Honey Locust is located on private and crown land along the Severn River growing on the boundary between the Glen Innes Severn Council and the Inverell Shire Council.

Honey locust is also present further west of the Divide. It is established in riparian areas along the Severn and McIntyre Rivers reaching into the Ashford area. Ornamental plantings are located within Inverell and Bingara urban areas.

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



GLENRAC’s Honey Locust Control Project Update

As previously reported GLENRAC was successful in obtaining a Biodiversity Fund project for \$109,300 over 3 years to control Honey Locust on the Mann & Severn River’s.

We have recently held our first steering committee meeting for this project drawing together key stakeholders from across the region to pool our knowledge and resources on where the honey locust is, what control activities have taken place and are planned for the next two years.

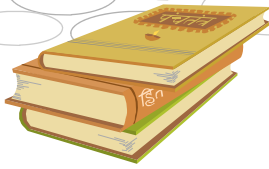
Members of the steering committee included staff from GLENRAC and GWYMAC Landcare networks, Weeds Officers from Glen Innes Severn, Inverell and Clarence Valley Councils, National Parks & Wildlife, Crown Lands, New England LHPA, Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Lands Council, Border Rivers Gwydir & Northern Rivers CMA’s, State Water and private land managers. Thanks to all who were able to attend this meeting.

GLENRAC will be calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from landholders who would like to participate in this project over the next two months. If your property is affected by Honey Locust we would encourage you to contact GLENRAC so we can ensure you are contacted once we release the details of the EOI.

To register your interest by phoning 02 6732 3443 or email Project Officer Tanya Weir at tanya@glenrac.org.au



Photo—Classic spines of the honey locust plant (NPWS)



Book Review

Draft Catchment Action Plan now available for review

Essential Bushfire Safety Tips (2012) Joan Webster
This completely updated edition lists approximately 3000 tips to help you make an effective bushfire plan. NEW Oct 2012 - CSIRO PUBLISHING - 184pp \$29.95

Field Guide to Australian Frogs (2011) Tyler & Knight
This revised and updated guide provides a concise account of all known frogs of Australia. CSIRO PUBLISHING—200PP \$49.95

An introduction to camera trapping for wildlife surveys in Australia (2012) Meek, Ballard & Flemming
New free web resource from the Invasive Animal CRC. Recommended to anyone who used camera traps for monitoring pest or their impacts. It is the “one stop shop” for most aspects of camera trapping from selecting a fit for purpose camera, designing surveys and recommendations for managing and analysing camera trap data.

To download a copy go to www.feral.org.au/camera-trapping-for-wildlife-surveys/

Feral Animal Management Equipment—Available for Free Loan

Border Rivers Gwydir CMA have a range of equipment available for loan to landholders and community members.

Trail Cameras

These cameras can be used to assess the population of pest animals prior to implementing a control program. Operating on AA batteries these cameras can be strategically positioned to capture images of wildlife both day and night.

Each camera comes with a camouflage metal security box and security cable. Images are stored on an 8Gb SD card. Data from the card can be displayed and uploaded to PC via an SD card reader (both are supplied as part of the loan of the equipment).

Feral Animal Traps—for pigs, foxes/dogs

For more information on borrowing this equipment contact BRG CMA Inverell Office on 02 6728 8020.

Both Northern Rivers & Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA's now have their draft Catchment Action Plans (CAP) available for review by the community.

The CAP will guide investment in managing natural assets into the future. It sets achievable goals and strategies for balancing production and conservation within resilient landscapes to maintain economic and social vitality of the region.

You can access a copy of either CAP on the respective websites, www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au or www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au If you don't have internet access GLENRAC has printed copies available for loan & review.

The period for feedback closes on the **9th November 2012**. Both CMA'S encourage interested community members to contribute feedback either by completing the online survey on either website and/or by completing a written submission and sending it in by mail or email.



Ben Lomond Landcare to host community empowerment workshop

Ben Lomond Landcare will host a two day personal and community empowerment workshop on the **24th & 25th November** with experienced facilitator Keith Cox. Keith has had extensive experience in delivering community leadership and development courses throughout Queensland and is highly recommended by Ben Lomond Landcare's Chairman, Richard Makim.

Richard says of Keith's training “I personally found the course a huge benefit in operating in public life. I felt confident and was able to achieve much more than I would have without it.”

This workshop aims to train future trainers who can replicate the course to train others in their community. Ben Lomond Landcare will assist Keith with his travel costs and offer the course free of charge to anyone interested in attending.

If you would like more information or would like to register to attend contact Richard Makim on 02 6779 4200.



Biodiversity Matters

Trees for Farms field Day

GLENRAC hosted a Tree's for Farm field day on the 11th of October; wet weather forced a last minute change of venue from 'Ker Even' to the Show Grounds Tea Rooms. Despite the wet weather the event attracted 25 interested land managers to hear from our guest speakers Shane Andrews, Armidale; Chris Eveleigh, Kentucky and Troy Dawson, Glen Industries.

The aim of the event was to provide information for those land managers interested in planting trees of farms this year or in the future. Our guest speaker's provided high quality information that could be implemented straight away for those planting in 2012 or to consider for future planting planning activities.

Shane Andrews, a farm forestry consultant from Armidale gave a comprehensive presentation on the economic benefits of shelter belt plantings, encompassing production benefits in the form of improved livestock production, reduced lambing mortality and improved pasture growth.

Chris Eveleigh operates the Kentucky Tree Nursery at Kentucky south of Uralla. This nursery supplies many of the seedlings required for GLENRAC plantings when we have funding available for this purpose. Chris discussed factors to consider when planning a tree planting, including indentifying what already grows well on your property and what species have done well in past plantings, on your farm or neighbours.

Troy Dawson from Glen Industries gave some tips on site preparation and post planting care of seedlings. Glen Industries will again be planting seedlings for the current GLENRAC project funded by the Australian Governments Caring for Our Country program. 10,000 seedlings will be planted on 21 farms in the next two months.

The field day finished with a panel discussion of the three speakers and generated a large number of questions from the audience. All our speakers emphasised the need for well planned and executed site preparation and post planting care of seedlings to ensure maximum survival of seedlings in any season.

GLENRAC also released our latest reprint of **Tree Planting in the Glen Innes district** compiled by Guy Robinson. This fact sheet has some practical and tried & tested suggestions for species selection for the Glen Innes district. Copies available now at the GLENRAC office or on the GLENRAC website under "Resources".



Dung beetle & fox field day

GLENRAC hosted a "The Good, The Bad, The Ugly" field day on the 30th October. This event addressed The Good—dung beetles, The Bad—Foxes and The Ugly—diseases affecting livestock carried by foxes.

Guest speakers included Dr. Bernard Doube from Dung Beetle Solutions Australia, based in S.A.; Dr Andrew Biddle, Bob Davidson and Brett Cameron from the New England Livestock Health & Pest Authority.

Those attending the event received some entertaining and good quality information on dung beetles including a field walk to view dung beetles in action. NE LHPA staff discussed fox control options and the impact of disease carried by foxes affecting cattle including Neospora and Leptospirosis.

This event was supported by the Australian Government's Community Action Grant program. Thanks to the Glen Innes Agricultural & Research Station for providing the venue, Regional Landcare Facilitator, Jennie Coldham for assistance in organising the event and our guest speakers from near & afar.



Above—Bernard Doube, man of action! Getting down and dirty with some dung beetles in Glen Innes



Left—Rob Chappell, Desmond FitzGerald & Paul Tudor look at dung beetle activity

Funding & Training Opportunities

Science & Innovation Awards for Young People

The awards aim to encourage science, innovation and technology in rural industries and to help advance the careers of young scientists through national recognition of research and ideas.

The awards are open to people aged between 18 and 35, who can apply for up to \$22,000 to fund an original project on an innovative or emerging scientific issue to benefit Australia's rural industries.

There are twelve award categories: cotton, dairy, fisheries and aquaculture, grains, viticulture and oenology, animal welfare, red meat processing, pork, new and emerging rural industries, meat and livestock, sugar and horticulture. Each category is generously supported by the research and development corporations.

And there is an additional award for one outstanding project—the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Award. This award provides an additional \$33,000 to one recipient of the industry awards to extend their project.

Applications close 23 November 2012. Visit the website for more details or contact scienceawards@daff.gov.au

2012 Yates Junior Landcare Backyard Challenge

The 2012 Yates Junior Landcare Backyard Challenge will ask kids (aged 8-16 years) to enter a short video or photograph around the theme of "how does your backyard grow?"

The challenge will give kids the opportunity to share with other kids about their backyard and the environment in their local community. Their 'backyard' could be anything from an outback farm, to a suburban veggie patch or an apartment balcony.

Entries close: Friday 16 November 2012. For more information visit: www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au

Looking for more grants?

The GLENRAC website is updated weekly with new funding opportunities' as they become available. To keep up to date visit the website and see what else is available from time to time, www.glenrac.org.au



Free Property Management Planning Courses still available

Do you need to better plan your working hours around the farm? Do you need to think about ways to alter your business operation to make it more profitable, or compatible with your family life?

The Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is now offering Farm Planning advice and workshops at no cost to land managers, throughout the New England Tablelands. The aim of the workshop is to make farming more profitable and take some of the stress out of running the business.

Farm Planning is about better management strategies, such as using natural resources for best results, maximising the use of limited financial reserves and getting the best from the people on your farm.

"In the middle of a drought or a flood, it's difficult to plan. Now is the time to develop and implement strategies to minimise the impact of the next crisis. Farm Planning can help you to work out a long term strategy for your business to survive and thrive. It can help you to build a resilient farm business", said CMA Farm Planning Officer Scott Graham.

Farm Planning takes a holistic approach to running your business, considering your circumstance and goals. The CMA will provide you with:

- * a satellite image of your property
- * study manuals
- * catering
- * course administration support

Farm Planning takes a minimum of six days, with times and dates negotiated to suit participants. Courses are expected to start in January 2013. The course is available to all landholders regardless of where your property is located.

If you are interested in completing a property management planning course contact GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 or Scott Graham at the BRG-CMA for more information on 02 6728 8049.

Interested in further training? Let us know your ideas and we can investigate if we can organise it to run locally.

GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2012/2013

CHAIRMAN - John Bavea

TREASURER—Sam Baker

SECRETARY - Dr Eric Sinclair

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Greg Chappell, Tony Holliss, Winsome Quilty, Mark Pietsch, Sam Baker, John Bavea, Mike Norton, Norman Whitaker

Glen Innes Severn Council : Graham Price & Col Price

Department of Primary Industries : Jeff Lowien , **National Parks & Wildlife Office:** Nerida Holznagel

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 -

68 Church Street (PO Box 660) GLEN INNES NSW 2370

Ph: (02) 6732 3443 Mobile 0427 325 901 email glenrac@glenrac.org.au

GLENRAC
PO Box 660
GLEN INNES
NSW 2370



To The Land Manager



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Coming Events:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 9 Nov | Submissions close for BRG & NR-CMA Catchment Action Plans |
| 14 Nov | Cattle Herd Health Field Day , Glen Innes 9:00am–3:00pm Ph 02 6730 1941 |
| 21 Nov | Soils for Life Field day Shannon Vale Station 9:30am–4:30pm |
| 24 & 25 Nov | Ben Lomond Landcare Personal & Community Empowerment Ph 02 6779 4200 |
| 29 or 30 Nov | Safe Quad Bike Handling course, Glen Innes NSW DPI PROfarm Ph 02 6763 1276 |
| 7 Dec | GLENRAC Operating Committee Meeting 9:00am |

