



NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST LANDCARE

REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 55: 30 Apr 2012

CFI WORKSHOPS FOR ADVISORS

The Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is hosting a series of workshops to present information on the Carbon Farming Initiative for people who provide advice + information to landholders. The workshops will include opportunities to raise questions + provide feedback. Places are limited, so RSVP is essential by 11th May. Venues + dates:

Armidale	22 May 10am—12 noon
Casino	21 May 10am-12 noon
Narrabri	23 May 10am-12 noon

The event is free, with lunch provided. RSVP to carbonfarminginitiative@daff.gov.au.

TRIALS OF DIRECT DRILL TREE SEEDING

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA, together with Armidale Tree Group are trialling the suitability of direct drill techniques for planting tree seed in the Inverell region. This process uses the CMA's custom built tree seeder, where a mixture of Eucalyptus, Melaleuca, Acacia and Kurrajong trees were planted last Spring. A field day will be held Wed 16th May at Inverell Research Centre. Find out about ground preparation, weed control, the availability of local seed + the benefits of direct drill techniques. The seeder will also be available for hire for those interested in taking

up direct drill seeding. RSVP to Drew McCudden 67288038.

DR HUNGERFORD EVENT @ URALLA

Dr Carole Hungerford is a high profile GP with practices based in Bathurst + Sydney. She's a woman on a mission to educate doctors, patients + the community about a nutrition based approach to healthy living. She is particularly concerned about the link between human health + soil health, along with the need to re-assess some of our food growing practices. Dr Hungerford will present at a one day event in Uralla Sat 19th May. \$55 per person. Reserve your seat with SNELC 67729123.

MANAGING LAND FOR CARBON WORKSHOPS

This workshop will be held in Guyra and Inverell in May. The workshops will be delivered by Greg Reid, from NSW DPI. This one day workshop will outline how the CFI works, what changes there will be after 2015 + non-Kyoto credits and soil carbon, aggregators, additionality, permanence + things to look out for in a carbon contract. The workshop is FarmReady accredited and subsidized by the Carbon Farming Initiative, which means landholders will be able to attend for free.

Guyra 8th May
Inverell 9th May
(both workshops 9am-4pm)
RSVP by 3rd May to your local

Landcare network or Jennie Coldham 0427 260258.

FARLEY BIOGRAPHY RELEASED

A new biography of the late Rick Farley has been released. Farley was formerly the executive director of the National Farmers Federation + is known for his work to establish the NFF Fighting Fund + also the formation of Landcare. He died in 2006 at the age of 53. The new book, *A Way Through* outlined Farley's 20 year career in agropolitics + his passion for supporting Australian farmers.

DR CHRISTINE JONES IN TENTERFIELD

Dr Christine Jones Soils Event Granite Borders Landcare will host an event Friday 4th May 2012 with special guest Dr Christine Jones, who will discuss *The Fundamentals of Soil*. Free, with lunch + refreshments provided. 9am-4pm at Tenterfield Golf Club. RSVP by 2.5.2012 to GBLC 02 67363 500 or landcare@halenet.com.au

PRECISION AG WORKSHOPS

Namoi CMA will host a series of Precision Ag workshops, commencing this week. The workshops are funded by Namoi CMA + GRDC and will assist landholders with spatial agronomy + the tools available. Also covered at the workshop is a session on how to evaluate spatial information + make agronomic + farm management decisions.

Narrabri 2 May
Quirindi 9 May



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Send your news for the Landcare Update to Fiona Adams at fiona@gwymaucklandcare.net.au



RSVP to Kate Jones 67429215.

RATE SUBSIDIES OFF THE MENU

Federal Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig announced last week that interest rate subsidies will be taken off the table for good once the last two EC declared drought free this week. Minister Ludwig Gwydir CMA staff says the subsidies are no longer relevant in helping farmers cope with drought.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING EXPO

Whether you are interested in the environment, building + renovating, food miles or just a fun day out, the Namoi Sustainable Living Expo will be held in May. The event includes a series of activities + events including tours + educational workshops. To be held 18-19 May. Visit sustainablenamoiliving.com.au for more information.

FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARDS OPEN

As part of the 2012 Year of the Farmer, the Year of the Farmer Awards have been launched. Now is the time to put modesty aside + share your story, while helping to promote the dynamic Australian farming industry. There are ten categories to choose from, including:
Rural Leader, Young Farmer , Dairy Farmer, Biosecurity Farmer (Plant), Biosecurity Farmer (Animal), Diversification Farmer, Grain Grower, Wool Producer,

Horticulture Grower + Livestock Producer. Nominations close 3 August 2012. Visit <http://kondiningroup.com.au/static/ASP?t=2&l=16#nominations>

RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD SECURES FUNDING

The Rural Women's Award will continue until at least 2014, thanks to a new round of funding from the Australian Government. A further \$225,000 has been announced for the annual awards, which is led by Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. The Awards recognise leaders in women's rural affairs + award a \$10,000 bursary to winners from each state.

LANDCARE SURVEY OPEN

Landcare Australia has launched 2 surveys to find out what primary producers + Landcare groups think of the organization. Landcare groups + landholders are asked to participate in the survey to help identify what issues exist + areas of need. The online survey closes 11 May + can be found at www.landcareonline.com

CMA TO HOST FARM PLANNING INFO SESSIONS

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA will host a series of information sessions to highlight benefits + scope of their Farm Planning workshops. The sessions will outline what's involved in a Farm Planning course, how it can help you make decisions for the farm business + take

some of the stress out of running a farming enterprise. Sessions will be held as follows:

Tenterfield	14 May
Warialda	15 May
Yetman	17 May

All sessions start at 6.30pm. RSVP to Scott Graham 67288049.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUNDS SECURED

Armidale Tree Group has been successful in securing close to \$100,000 under the NSW Environmental Trust's Restoration + Rehabilitation program. The project will restore 90 hectares of grassy woodland. Meanwhile, Liverpool Plains Land Management was awarded \$99,400 for restoration of koala habitat in Gunnedah. The projects will commence in the 2012-2013 year. The 2012 round of funding applications for this program will be launched in July 2012.

WONS LIST EXPANDED

Australia's Weeds of National Significance list has been expanded, to include a further 12 target species. By expanding the list, the national program aims to assist communities to control further spread of the species + target control actions. Newly declared weeds include: African boxthorn, asparagus weeds, bellyache bush, brooms, cat's claw creeper, fireweed, gamba grass, Madeira vine, opuntoid cacti, sagittaria, silverleaf nightshade + water hyacinth.