

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

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New Fact Sheet from NSW DPI "Key Soil Carbon Messages"

Released in March 2012. Soil organic carbon is a vital component of productive agriculture, but there are many myths and misconceptions about it. This factsheet provides the key messages from NSW DPI about soil carbon. www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture

Ben Lomond Soil Carbon project - annual field day

The Ben Lomond Landcare group hosted a soils workshop at "Highfields" Ben Lomond on Wednesday 21st March 2012. Guest speakers for the workshop were Brian Wilson, soil scientist from the University of New England and Garry McDouall, holistic farming educator from Resource Consulting Services, Bingara.

The Ben Lomond Landcare group are part of a three year project funded by the Australian Government's Community Action Grant program to conduct annual soil carbon monitoring on 13 properties across the Ben Lomond district. This workshop was part of the second year's funding and supplied high quality speakers for local farmers.

Associate Professor Brian Wilson presented a range of practical information on the challenges for farmers in participating in the emerging carbon market, including a snap shot of the international market place. Brian also gave an overview of the management practices farmers can use to increase soil carbon but cautioned that soil carbon is influenced by seasonal and external factors such as rainfall and fire beyond our control.

Brian reflected on the soil carbon data collected by the Ben Lomond Landcare group, measured at 0 to 30cm depths and the magnitude of the changes in carbon levels from 2011 to 2012 with sites varying from increasing to decreasing carbon levels. Brian's talk created a great deal of lively discussion and debate and answered a number of questions raised by those present.

The second presenter, Garry McDouall challenged the group with their vision for the future of agriculture and their definition of sustainable agriculture. Garry posed the thought that regenerative agriculture may be a better vision for the future and that all parts of the ecosystem need to be considered in relation to their interconnectedness. Gary spoke on the need to build resilience in farming business's and what grazing management principles need to be considered to increase soil carbon and nurture farm ecosystems for a regenerative future.

The Ben Lomond Landcare group would like to thank project supporters - GLENRAC, the Australian Government; guest speakers, Brian Wilson and Garry McDouall, property hosts, the Piestch family and the Ben Lomond Memorial Hall for catering for the event.



Glenrac News

Hello All,

Welcome to this month's newsletter, as usual the GLENRAC office has been a busy place over the past two months with numerous events taking place to make the most of the warm weather while it lasted!

We have also been busy putting in the leg work on coming events and project activities for the rest of the year. Our call for farmers interested in dung beetle monitoring has now closed and training for those farmers will commence shortly. The Severn River project is well underway with successful applicants for on ground works projects to be advised within the next week. Successful applicants for the tree planting project for Spring 2012 have been advised and I am happy to report that this project will fund planting 10,000 native seedlings on 21 properties across the district.

The Pinkett Whiskey grass and Coolatai grass project is now well underway, the project has been expanded to also include African Love Grass control as well. A pictorial display is now in place at the GLENRAC office of the work completed to date. If this is of interest to you call in and have a look at the results.

I have included some information and links on the Carbon Farming Initiative in this newsletter (Page 3). Whilst there is a range of information available it is not all relevant to farming businesses. GLENRAC has flagged this as a topic of interest and I will continue to put any relevant updates in future newsletters. If you have ideas for future newsletter articles, field days or project applications please let us know and we will endeavour to see if we can deliver them locally.

Regards, Kylie Falconer



Bright Ideas

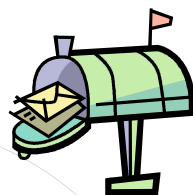
In Focus—Celebrating Farm Life—Photography Competition

The photography competition is part of the 2012 National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) conference, exhibiting entries from across the nation that 'Celebrate Farm Life'. The competition showcases the talents of primary, secondary and open section photographers, with winners announced at the Conference Welcome Reception on Monday 17th September 2012. Entries Close: 1st August 2012

More information on photography competition and the NCFH biennial conference 'Sowing the Seeds of Farmer Health' at <http://www.farmerhealth.org.au/conference2012/home>

You've Got Mail!

The following newsletters can be subscribed to by anyone interested in this subject -



1. **Invasive Animals 'NRM Notes'** - a newsletter dedicated to regional groups who work cooperatively to reduce the impacts of pest animals in their area. It's full of good news and case studies that describe how groups are approaching pest management in their area. Visit www.invasiveanimals.com.au to subscribe.
2. **Weeds Digest**—a weekly newsletter with the latest news on weeds, have a look on the website www.invasivespecies.com.au and follow the link to subscribe.
2. **Carbon Farming Initiative**—see Page 3 of this newsletter for details

BRG CMA announces new board members -

Jim Benton & Angela Doerring

The Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is pleased to announce the appointment of new Board Members, Angela Doerring and Jim Benton.

"The appointment of Angela and Jim completes the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA Board team," said CMA Acting Chair Leanne Savage.

"Angela and Jim join myself, Jim Burley, Sue Hudson and Deputy Chair Grahame Marriot, to make up the six member Board. Both Jim and Angela have extensive experience in practical natural resource management issues and I'm confident their knowledge and skills will be a very useful addition to the CMA team.

Jim is enthusiastic about his new role on the CMA Board, "I think it's a sound organization that creates good land management outcomes, beneficial to the whole community." Angela Doerring is from a mixed farming operation at Crooble south of Croppa Creek.

The CMA Board is made up of members recruited from the local community with a range of skills and experience relevant to natural resource management. The Board oversees the CMA's delivery of on ground natural resource management programs to farmers, landholders and local communities.

Congratulation to Jim on his appointment to the BRG CMA board.



Ensure a successful lambing

Contributed by Chris Shands
District Livestock Officer (Sheep & Wool)

Although the season has dried off considerably we should expect good ewe joining this season. Ewe ovulation rate is related to ewe fat score at the time of joining and ewes that had their lambs weaned by late December or early January will have had enough time to recover fat score and body weight for a successful joining.

Rams are usually joined with the ewes between now and the end of May, with the decision to join dependant on when adequate spring feed becomes available which is usually in late September or into October in most parts of the district.

By having ewes in 3 fat score or better you can expect a higher ovulation rate in the ewe flock and for every increase in fat score which is about 6kg of bodyweight, you can expect 12 more lambs per 100 ewes joined. The NSW Lifetime Wool project identified that in Merino flocks, increasing bodyweight up to 45kg lead to higher conception rates per kg of ewe bodyweight. But as bodyweight increased further the conception rate was smaller.

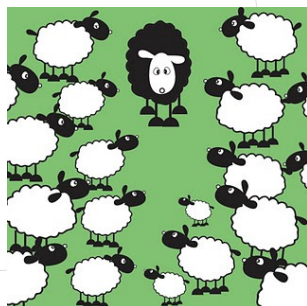
With the higher ovulation rate there will be the potential for more twins to be born, so a higher level of management will be needed for the twin bearing ewes from scanning.

Maintaining the ewes in 3 fat score through to shearing should present few problems and ewes will maintain condition on feed levels of around 1,000kg green dry matter per hectare which is about 2 to 3 cm of pasture height. It is important to monitor worm egg counts in the ewe flock during this period.

Joining is a good time to think ahead and plan which paddocks may be used for lambing. Planning ahead allows more time to select and manage lambing paddocks that will contain adequate feed for lambing ewes as well as being as low worm as possible.

With the national ewe flock at record low numbers it is time to maximise the opportunities for this joining season and put in place the best management practices to achieve a great start to the sheep reproduction cycle for the year.

For more information on this subject contact
Chris Shands at the
Agricultural Research &
Advisory Station, Glen Innes
on 02 6730 1900.



Maximise Your Lamb Survival Phone Seminar 11th May 2012

EverGraze, Making More from Sheep and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), are hosting a free national phone seminar titled 'Maximise Your Lamb Survival' on Friday 11 May from 12pm to 1pm.

Scientists will present data on the most common causes of lamb losses and key strategies for improving lamb survival; including feed and nutrition management for pregnant and lambing ewes; appropriate mob sizes to minimise mis-mothering; management of ewes and lambs to minimise losses from disease; selection of rams for achieving target birth weights; and providing shelter to minimise losses from exposure.

The latest results from EverGraze lamb survival research will be presented at the seminar and are also discussed in the recently released EverGraze Exchange - Improving the Survival of Lambs. The Exchange can be found at <http://evergraze.com.au/fact-sheets.htm>

The Carbon Farming Initiative What does it mean for you?

The Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) allows farmers and other land managers to earn carbon credits by storing carbon or reducing greenhouse gas emissions on the land. These credits, known as Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), can be sold to people and businesses wishing to offset their emissions.

Participation in the CFI is voluntary; farmers and landholders can choose whether or not to be involved.

A new handbook has been developed to help understand the CFI and how it operates. It will also help you to decide what type of CFI activity might be right for your business. You can access a copy of the book online at www.climatechange.gov.au or you can order your own hard copy version by calling the Hotline on 1800 057 590.

To keep up to date with the CFI you can also subscribe to the "Carbon Farming Initiative News" by contacting cfi@climatechange.gov.au or 1800 057 590.

A Resource Kit for Rural Landholders

A handy guide to all things associated with owning and managing property on the Northern Tablelands. GLENRAC has free copies of this guide available. If you would like one call into the office and collect one.



Declaration of the New Weeds of National Significance

Submitted by David Nixon, Glen Innes Shire Council Weeds Officer



Australia's Weeds of National Significance has grown by 12 as from 20 April 2012. The Australian Weeds Committee has declared an additional 12 Weeds of National Significance (WoNS).

Chairman, Dr Jim Thompson said the announcement further strengthened Australia's commitment to protecting Australia's natural ecosystems and primary industries.

"Since its introduction in 1999, the WoNS initiative has assisted government and stakeholders to prioritise investment and provide strategic management of widespread weeds that have serious detrimental environmental, economic and social impacts," he said.

These additional weeds have been selected based on their economic, environmental and social impacts and their potential to spread:

- African boxthorn
- Asparagus weeds
- Bellyache bush
- Brooms -Scotch, Montpellier & Flax Leaf
- Cat's claw creeper
- Fireweed
- Gamba grass
- Madeira vine
- Opuntoid cacti
- Sagittaria
- Silverleaf nightshade
- Water hyacinth.

Only three of the above weeds have been found in the Glen Innes Severn Council Local Government area.

- ⇒ African Boxthorn
- ⇒ English/Scotch Broom
- ⇒ Fireweed

"Adding these 12 weeds to the Weeds of National Significance list, which already contains 20 weeds, brings each of them under a coordinated management approach," Dr Thompson said.

"In the future the focus for all states will be on reducing the risk of spread to new areas while managing outlying infestations.

Dr Thompson said working in close partnership with governments across Australia allowed us to deliver an efficient and effective response to managing the most serious weeds, at a national, state and regional level.

"The program has helped to contain the impacts and associated costs to agriculture and the environment by minimising the spread of WoNS to un-infested parts of Australia," he said.

The original twenty (20) WoNS weeds declared in 1999 are:

- Alligator Weed
- Athel Pine
- Bitou Bush/Boneseed
- Blackberry
- Bridal Creeper
- Cabomba
- Chilean Needle Grass
- Gorse
- Hymenachne
- Lantana
- Mesquite
- Mimosa
- Parkinsonia
- Parthenium Weed
- Pond apple
- Prickly acacia
- Rubbervine
- Salvinia
- Serrated Tussock
- Willow - Salix species except *S. babalonica*, *S. calendron* & *S. reichardtii*

Only six (6) of the above weeds have been found in the Glen Innes Severn Council Local Government area.

1. Blackberry
2. Bridal Creeper
3. Chilean Needle Grass
4. Gorse
5. Lantana
6. Serrated Tussock

For more information on Weeds of National Significance visit <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/index.html>

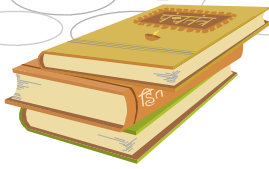
For more information on weeds growing in your area contact David Nixon, Weeds Officer at Glen Innes Severn Council on 02 6730 2358.



Like to know more about local weeds?

GLENRAC has free copies of the "Weed Management Guide for North West NSW" for anyone interested in weed identification, management and control. Call in to the office at 68 Church St and collect a copy for yourself.

Another useful resource is the North West Weeds website, www.northwestweeds.nsw.gov.au



Book Review

- The Red Fox -

How to Improve Lambing Percentages
Submitted by Stuart Boyd-Law, National Parks & Wildlife
Service Glen Innes Pest Management Officer

Australian Native Grasses This manual by Native Seeds will assist in identifying and understanding how some commonly found Australian grasses can be grown and used. There are distribution maps, plant descriptions and photos of plants, seedheads and seeds. Available from Rural Bookshop, \$27.95, includes P & H.

Ag Guide—Managing for healthy soils (2012—NEW) - Published by NSW Dept. Of Primary Industries, 184 pages with full colour photos. This book covers a wide range of soils related topics. Available from NSW DPI Phone 1800 025 520 for \$34.00.

Ag Guide—Farm water (2012—Revised) An updated, detailed full-colour guide to farm water supply for stock and domestic use. Learn about water quality, stock water requirements, pumps, alternative power sources, pipes, tanks, underground water, and more. Save money by choosing the right pump. Available from NSW DPI Phone 1800 025 520 for \$34.00.

Sheep Connect NSW Industry Update Northern Tablelands

Thursday May 24th 2012
Agricultural Research & Advisory Station
9:00am start

This event will keep you informed on the latest thinking, research and opportunities available to Northern Tablelands sheep producers. You will hear from a range of guest speakers discussing key topics including:

1. Managing your flock—improving profitability by making the most out of performance information.
2. New wool and lamb marketing information.
3. Results of the 2011 Northern NSW wild dog trapping and baiting program.
4. Decision making in a available climate—what you can do to stay in front.

For full seminar details visit www.sheepconnect.com.au

This event is FREE but an RSVP is essential by 17th May 2012, email your details to sheep.connect@dpi.nsw.gov.au or phone 02 6391 3951 to register your interest in attending.

1080 / Pindone Training Available

- ⇒ Provide training for landholders in the use of 1080 & Pindone. This qualification is valid for 5 years.
- ⇒ If you would like to complete the 1080 & Pindone training course contact the New England LHPA on 02 6732 1200.
- ⇒ The course costs \$44 per person and runs for three hours

One of the most serious and successful pest animal introduced into Australia is the European Red fox. This animal has done untold damage to the environment and also to agricultural grazing enterprises.

The cost to Australian agriculture has been estimated at \$228 million per year with evidence that foxes can take up to 30% of lambs in some areas. These estimates do not take into account the direct predation effect on native wildlife and the competition for resources with native predators such as the spotted-tailed quoll. Native species such as the Bilby, brush tailed bettong and other small mammals have suffered serious population declines due to foxes.

The correct times to control foxes are when they are at their most vulnerable or when fox numbers need to be reduced prior to lambing to maximise lambing percentages. Therefore, the time to commence some form of fox control is rapidly approaching, as March/April is when young foxes tend to disperse from their family groups and are at their most vulnerable. As with all pest animal strategies, the most effective approach is to get maximum participation from adjoining landholders, cover a broad area and conduct the control effort at the same time. The other key principle is the use of an integrated approach where different control methods are used at the same time or in close proximity to one another.

The easiest and most effective technique is the use of 1080 baiting with either "Foxoff" or fresh meat. Baits will not last long at this time of year, but burying baits at known locations and replacing them when taken will improve the effectiveness of the baiting and reduce the likelihood of non-target animals such as working dogs taking a bait. After completion of the baiting program, fox numbers will be low in the control area, but after about 6 weeks, foxes in adjoining areas will start to migrate and re-infest the control area.

To maximise the effectiveness of fox control, programs will need to be conducted at least twice per year, with the second control period occurring immediately prior to spring lambing. To reduce predation pressure on spring lambs, it is best to start about 6 weeks before the first lamb is due to drop and then to continue baiting until lambing is complete. This should be done in conjunction with some spotlight shooting to remove bait shy foxes. Most foxes live in the wild for approximately 4 years, and foxes over 2 years of age are less likely to take baits. Older foxes are more experienced and adept at predation and spotlight shooting is the most appropriate method of reducing their numbers.

Get together with your neighbours and implement some form of fox control - NOW!! LHPA rangers can assist you with planning a baiting program for your area.



Opportunities to get involved in local activities

waste > art & design competition

The 2012 Regional Waste > Art & Design Competition and Exhibition is open to all residents in participating Council areas. It celebrates the reuse and recycling of waste in our community through art, sculpture and graphic design. Eligible winners in the local competitions will go on to compete in the Regional Waste > Art & Design Competition & Exhibition to be hosted by Glen Innes Severn Council during July/August. Entries close 15th June 2012.

The competition includes categories to challenge and stimulate the imagination. These are:

Section 1 - Primary Schools

Artworks representing a specific environmental message - **Educate the Litter Bugs**. Artworks are to be a Class entry (ie Yr 2B, 4C etc). Artworks must use recyclable, reused materials. Entries can be either 2D/3D/Photographic/Audio Visual (5min max). How you interpret the theme can be any number of ways! The main focus is to have an educational component that would educate Litter Bugs - whether it be on the consequences of their actions, their behaviour or actions are incorrect, what they should be doing etc.

Section 2 - Secondary Schools

This year's Secondary Section has a theme of **Re-funk the Defunct**. Artworks are to use items that would be considered old, unwanted, defunct or reusable.

- > Art (2D/3D/Sculpture)
- > Functional Art (Furniture/Inventions/Homewares)
- > Textiles and Wearable Art (Clothing/Jewellery)
- > Audio Visual (Movie/Jingle/Animation)- 5 minute maximum

Section 3 - Open

- > Junior Section (7-16yrs any entries of art/functional art photographic/audio visual)
- > Art (2D/3D/Sculpture)
- > Functional Art (Furniture/Inventions/Homewares)
- > Textiles and Wearable Art (Clothing/Jewellery)
- > Building or Elements of Building or Large Sculpture (Photographic entries only)



If you are looking for tips on recycling household waste visit www.nirw.org.au/education to view *Easy Guides* for worm farming, composting, mulching, natural cleaning products and recycling.

Local farmer recognised

At the recent Landcare Adventure hosted by Gwymac Landcare in Inverell, Major General Michael Jeffery presented the GLENRAC Landcare Award to local land owner, **Peter King**, in recognition of his contribution to the Rummerys Hill Landcare Group. Peter has organised a number of meetings and field days including expert talks, displays and group activities to help members manage their land better for grazing, wildlife conservation and lifestyle purposes.

Peter King said 'because Rummerys Hill has only been lightly cleared it remains a good wildlife refuge. Rare wildlife such as koalas, squirrel gliders and glossy black-cockatoos rely on Rummerys Hill, part of a regionally important wildlife corridor linking Pindari Dam to the eastern ranges.'



Congratulations to Peter on receiving this award!



Australian Native Plants Society—Northern Tablelands

The Australian Native Plants society is a group of dedicated gardeners on the Northern Tablelands of NSW. The members share a wealth of knowledge and practical experience with respect to creating beautiful gardens using Australian native plants. They meet monthly in Armidale and host a monthly native plants forum for the 3rd Tuesday of every month in the TAFE Seminar room in Armidale. The forum runs from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

The topic of this months forum is "Bush tucker, boomerangs and bandages" presented by Harry White & Michelle McKemey. This book is a comprehensive guide to native plants used as a source of food and bush medicine.

For more information on the Native Plants Society and their events visit www.anps-armidale.org.au

Funding & Training Opportunities

Young Farmers Wanted! Woolworths Agricultural Business Scholarships

Woolworths is offering 30 young Australian farmers aged between 20 and 35 years the opportunity to attend the 2012 Woolworths Ag Business Scholarship program.

During the fully-funded 12-day course, participants gain a broad academic perspective on the business of agriculture from key academics, Woolworths business leaders and other industry experts.

The course is practical as well as theoretical, and covers topics such as:

- Business strategy and planning
- Agricultural value chain
- Successful business leadership
- Business finance
- Logistics and supply chain management
- The role of government
- Doing business with retailers
- Sustainability and environmental issues



To apply visit www.woolworths.com.au or Phone 02 8885 4981. **Applications close 1st June 2012.**

Coles Junior Landcare Grants

101 schools around Australia will receive grants of up to \$1,000 from Round 3 to assist with the development of various garden projects, not only educating children about fresh fruit and vegetables, but also the importance of looking after the environment.

Schools, day care centers and youth groups can apply. Visit www.juniorlandcare.com.au or www.coles.com.au to apply.

Applications close 27th July 2012.

2012 RIRDC Rural Women's Award

This Award provides a \$10,000 bursary for the NSW/ACT winner and the opportunity for the winner and runner up to participate in further leadership and development activities.

The Award is open to women involved in primary industries or natural resource management, whether you work on broad acre farming, intensive livestock, fish, forestry or related service industries.

For more information and how to apply contact the Rural Women's Network on 02 6391 3620, see www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn or visit your local Westpac branch.

Applications open 1 August and close 15 October 2012.



Complete Property Planning At Home On Line

RuralBiz training have secured funding for farmers to complete Property Planning by Online/distance learning. This training involves online training sessions / virtual workshops so you would need access to a computer and reasonable internet speed.

Manuals are provided, use of a digital image of your property and FarmMap, a computer software package for complete computerised mapping.

Completing a property planning course is important when you are applying for funding for on ground works projects. If you don't already have a property plan this might be the course for you!

For further information phone 02 6884 8812 or visit www.ruralbiztraining.com.au or

QUAD BIKE HANDLING

NSW Dept. Of Primary Industries are now calling for Expressions of Interest from people interested in completing Quad Bike handling training. The course aim to teach participants how to safely and effectively operate four wheeled motor bikes and to carry out routine checks and maintenance.

The course will cost \$455 per person GST Free and includes ATV Agskills Guide and Certificate of Attainment upon successful completion of the course.

The date, venue and duration of the course are not yet set and NSW DPI would like your preferences noted on the Expression on Interest. For a copy of the EOI form contact GLENRAC or Cassie Gardiner at NSW DPI Tamworth on 02 6763 1276.



Working Dogs Course

NSW Dept. Of Primary Industries are planning on running a two day course for anyone interested in training working dogs. The course will cover a range of information including selecting and care of working dog and training your dog to work with stock.

The course will be run in Glen Innes on the 3rd & 4th November 2012. For more information contact Cassie Gardiner at NSW DPI Tamworth on 02 6763 1276 or email tamworth.profarm@dpi.nsw.gov.au

GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2011 /2012

CHAIRMAN - Jim Benton

TREASURER / SECRETARY - Dr Eric Sinclair

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Greg Chappell, Tony Hollis, Winsome Quilty, Mark Pietsch, Sam Baker, John Bavea, Mike Norton
Glen Innes Severn Council : Graham Price & Dan Raymond
Department of Primary Industries : Jeff Lowien , 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 funding and funding applications, contact
GLENRAC OFFICE 68 Church Street (PO Box 660) GLEN INNES NSW 2370
Ph: (02) 6732 3443 Fax: (02) 6732 6628 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 Owner



Coming Events:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 16 May | Resource Consulting Services Property Planning & Monitoring workshop Glen Innes |
| 16 May | BRG-CMA Trials of direct drill tree seeding, Inverell RSVP to 02 6728 8038 |
| 17 May | Resource Consulting Services Property Planning & Monitoring workshop Nullamanna |
| 17 May | BRG-CMA Catchment Action Plan Upgrade— Focus Group—Emmaville 1:00–3:30pm |
| 24 May | Sheep Connect NSW Industry Update - Glen Innes RSVP to 02 6391 3951 |
| 14 July | Yarraford Landcare Meeting |
| 3-5 Sept | National Landcare Conference Sydney |
| 24 Sept | Introduction to writing winning grants workshop, Inverell, www.ourcommunity.com.au |

