

GLENRAC

Newsletter

Jan / Feb 2015

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

Inside This Issue

- *Event reports*
- *20 Million Trees funding update*
- *25th Anniversary Landcare funding update*
- *Funding opportunities*
- *Coming Events*

6-8th February is the Glen Innes Show!

Make sure you visit the GLENRAC stand for new project information, to register your expressions of interest for upcoming events, or to discuss your ideas with staff.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Local Land
Services
Northern Tablelands



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



25th Anniversary Landcare Grants

GLENRAC has been very successful in obtaining eight grants for small projects in the local area under the Federal Government's 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants program. These projects will be administered by GLENRAC, and GLENRAC will be working with a number of local community groups to deliver them. The projects are due to be completed by June 2016, and the details are summarised below:

1. GLENRAC: **Creating and Restoring Habitat Linkages**— establish 5,000 native seedlings across the Glen Innes district.
2. Glen East Landcare: **Restoring Habitat and Creating Biodiversity Corridors**—revegetation of privately owned land in the local area.
3. Rummery's Hill Landcare: **Building a Toolkit for Resilient Landscapes**— delivery of a series of Prograze workshops to 16 landholders over an eight month period. Workshop topics will include plant identification, and improved understanding of growth phases and regeneration processes, and increased awareness of the value of native grasses.
4. NSW Farmers, Glen Innes branch: **Increasing Knowledge in Ecosystem Services**— 35 landholders undertake training through two workshops to improve natural resource management in farming situations.
5. Glen Elgin Federation Sports Club: **Rehabilitating the Headwaters of the Clarence River**—work with landholders in the Glen Elgin area to rehabilitate gully and streambank erosion sites in the headwaters.
6. Coldwood Pastoral Pty Ltd: **Erosion Control in Beardy River Headwaters**—rehabilitate a 2ha area of active erosion in the Beardy River headwaters.
7. Wellington Vale Pest Control Group: **Protecting Biodiversity and Enhancing Remnant Vegetation**—Weed control on roadsides and private land in the Wellington Vale area. Target weeds will include tree of heaven, broadleaf privet, pyrocanthus, and feral fruit trees.
8. Pinkett Sport and Recreation Association: **Smarter Grazing for Healthy Environment, Livestock, and Profit**—training for 30 local land managers through an Introduction to Grazing Management workshop, and a Low Stress Stock Handling school.

GLENRAC will provide more information on these projects as they progress during the year, and will have further details on hand at the Show. If you wish to register your interest in any of these projects, please see GLENRAC staff at the Show, or contact the office on 6732 3443.

GLENRAC News

Hello All,

Christmas came early for all of us with the widespread rains across the district in December and the announcement of Federal Government grants for GLENRAC and other local community groups! GLENRAC committee and staff are delighted to be the recipient of a number of new grants which have been developed from the "grass roots", through enquiries from you, our GLENRAC members to address locally important issues such as native tree & shrub planting on farms; soil erosion remediation and provision of local training opportunities.

More information on all these projects will be available at the GLENRAC Show display and then at the GLENRAC office, as well as on the GLENRAC website. When funding is available it will be advertised on the GLENRAC website, in our e/flash and in the Glen Innes Examiner. If you have access to email facilities make sure you are on our e/flash list as a range of other information is sent via this method including events run across the New England North West region that may interest land managers.

Please make time to visit the GLENRAC display at the Glen Innes Show, we will be in the New Pavilion. Call in and introduce yourself to staff and let us know what GLENRAC activities interest you. Regards, Kylie

Bright Ideas

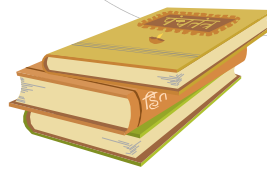
Interested in completing a farm business plan?

GLENRAC is currently in the process of organizing Rural Biz Training to come to Glen Innes to conduct a face-to-face Write a Farm Business Plan course. The one day workshop will likely be towards the end of March, and will cost \$275. If you are interested in attending please contact the GLENRAC office on 6732 3443. If you have already registered your interest we will be in contact when we have a confirmed date.

Herefords Australia Youth Exchange

Each year one Herefords Australia Youth member aged between 18 - 30years from Australia will be funded to visit New Zealand, and a New Zealander will visit Australia. The Australian recipient will travel to New Zealand for up to 2 weeks. The exchange may include New Zealand Hereford Association (NZHA) Ambassador Tour, New Zealand Beef Expo, seedstock & commercial producers, as well as other related organisations around the country.

The dates for the 2015 Exchange are approximately 16th of March until 2nd of April, excluding travel days. Applications are now open, and close on the **20th February 2015** at 4:00pm. To apply or for more information visit the Herefords Australia website www.herefordsaustralia.com.au/Youth/NewZealandAmbassadorYouthExchange.aspx



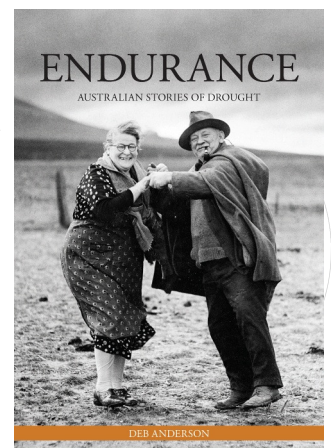
Book Reviews

Camera trapping- Wildlife management and research

P Meek, P Fleming, G Ballard, P Banks, A Claridge, J Sanderson, D Swann. NEW Nov 2014. Camera trapping in wildlife management and research is a growing global phenomenon. Major themes presented in the book are camera trapping for monitoring; the constraints and pitfalls of camera technologies; designing trapping surveys; the identification, management, and analyses of images camera trapping; and future directions for research using camera traps. Remarkable photographs are included, showing enlightening, and entertaining images of animals. Paperback, 392 pp. \$89.95

Endurance- Stories of Australian Drought

D Anderson. NEW Nov 2014. *Endurance* presents stories of ordinary Australians grappling with extraordinary circumstance, providing insight into their lives, their experiences of drought, and their perceptions of climate change. The book discusses the physical impacts, science, politics, and economics of drought and climate change in rural Australia. The book is grouped into three themes: Survival, Uncertainty, and Adaptation. *Endurance* will appeal to anyone with an interest in life stories, rural Australia, and the environment. Paperback, 256 pp. \$45



Blackberry- the perennial thorny issue

Submitted by David Nixon, Glen Innes Severn Council Weeds Officer



Blackberry was in Australian gardens, nursery catalogues and the Melbourne Botanic Gardens by 1850. But the heavy promotion of Blackberry occurred in the 1860s, by members of 'acclimatization' societies and by the Victorian Government Botanist, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller. Blackberry, it was claimed, not only provided edible fruit, but also controlled erosion along streams and was ideal as a hedge plant.

Alas for those areas which followed such advice! Blackberry was recognised as a serious weed less than 20 years later, when it was claimed to be ruining farmland in NSW, and when it was proclaimed noxious in part of Victoria. The Baron, however, remained recalcitrant, writing in 1895 that Blackberry "deserves to be naturalised on the rivulets of any ranges". Blackberry is now one of Australia's Weeds of National Significance.

Blackberry is a highly invasive plant, competing aggressively for soil moisture and nutrients, quickly covering large areas with a dense canopy, excluding light from the soil surface and replacing native vegetation. Blackberry quickly becomes a monoculture, completely dominating the site.

Foxes and birds play a major part in the distribution of its seed, but Blackberry does not just depend on seed to reproduce - it has some special mechanisms of vegetative growth, which allow its rapid spread and make it difficult to eradicate. Blackberry can sucker, and it can also grow from root fragments.

The impenetrable nature of the thickets formed by Blackberry can restrict access of stock and wildlife to streams, and provides excellent cover for snakes, rabbits and foxes.

Chemical Control- Blackberry is to be treated effectively with a herbicide registered for the control of Blackberry, in the manner specified on the label.

The best time to spray Blackberry is after petal fall and before fruit set: i.e., late summer to early autumn, completely covering all canes, leaves and suckers. Follow-up will be needed to deal with regrowth and seedlings.

Mechanical Control- Blackberry maybe removed by grubbing, hoeing or ploughing to remove the crowns, or slashed to prevent spreading;

Cultural Control- Blackberry maybe strategically grazed with either goats or sheep to consistently defoliate the plants and control emerging seedlings. This method is only acceptable when the plant is effectively

prevented from flowering and setting fruit with an overall reduction in bush size.

Biological control with Blackberry Rust Fungus continues to be investigated both in Australia and overseas. The many species and hybrids of Blackberry show different susceptibility to the various strains of the rust. As with most biocontrols, the best that can be hoped for is a reduction in vigour rather than complete eradication. The rust has no harmful effect on the environment or on other plants or animals, and it is not allergenic.

Blackberry is a Class 4 Noxious Weed. Owners/Occupiers of land are obligated and required to actively control Blackberry under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and prevent it from spreading and its numbers and distribution must be reduced.



Photo source—NSW DPI Agfact

What is a Weed Of National Significance?

Under the National Weeds Strategy, 20 introduced plants were identified as Weeds of National Significance (WONS). These weeds are regarded as the worst weeds in Australia because of their invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts.

For more information visit
www.environment.gov.au

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

GLENRAC Event Reports

Bus trip to 'Kenilworth'

On Monday the 8th December 34 people from Glen Innes, Ebor, Grafton, and everywhere in between travelled to Guyra to visit Derek and Fiona Smith's Working with Nature farm, and learn more about the way that their farm is run. 'Kenilworth' is a unique 300 acre biodynamic farm is home to cattle and open range chickens. The Smiths utilise the livestock as a tool to manage the landscape.



Derek and Fiona have embraced natural farming systems as a way of protecting biodiversity, storing carbon, managing disease, and maintaining consistent food production. GLENRAC Project Officer and organiser of the event, Pamela Benton, said "we were very pleased that such a diverse group of people were interested in learning more about biodynamic farming systems. The importance of organic matter in soils really should not be underestimated, and the management practices that work to increase those levels, is something that as land managers we should all be considering."

The attendees to the GLENRAC field day enjoyed an informative, interactive day, and were shown an 'energy broadcasting tower' that follows the principles of subtle energy, the cattle on the farm and a demonstration of how Derek handles them, and the mobile chook house and feeders.

GLENRAC would like to express their appreciation to Derek and Fiona Smith for their generosity and hospitality in hosting the day, and thank them for their enthusiasm and passion in sharing what they do. Thanks must also go to the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and the Caring for our Country Community Action Grants program for enabling GLENRAC to provide the event free to members.

More photos from the day can be found on GLENRAC's Facebook page. For more information on the Smith's property or for details on the Regenerative Farming courses Derek is running this year, please visit their website www.workingwithnature.net.au

'Dry Times' workshops for sheep and beef producers

Good falls of rain across the district over the past month have been received by very thankful farmers; however producers are very much aware that there are still tough times ahead. 'Managing Dry Times' workshops were held on Tuesday 9th December and 38 local sheep and beef producers attended the two events at the Glencoe community hall, and at the Dundee community hall.

GLENRAC in conjunction with New England North West Landcare, Regional Landcare Facilitator and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services staff put the events together over a very short space of time to try and meet producers' needs. Kylie Falconer, Landcare Coordinator from GLENRAC said "that due to the interest in an early weaning workshop held at the end of November, there was a need for further information. The purpose of the day was to provide producers with information that would assist them in their decision making processes over the coming months, given that the time lost in production in the spring months will not likely be made up before winter".

Lewis Kahn from AIMS Agriculture presented a very informative session on nutritional requirements of sheep and cattle in the different stages of reproduction; efficiency and cost effectiveness of different feeds including milk; early weaning from a nutritional perspective; and feed budgeting. Lewis highlighted the need for feed budgeting going into next winter to assess suitable stocking rates for the colder months.

Local producer Paul Wright presented to the Glencoe group his experience in early weaning, and the Dundee audience heard from Mark Pietsch. Of the presentations Mrs. Falconer said, "both Paul and Mark delivered excellent information and offered practical advice that was of genuine benefit to those present. GLENRAC would like to thank them both for their contributions on the day".

Stuart Brummell from the Rural Financial Counselling Service gave a presentation on the assistance currently available to farmers, and had details on hand for producers. Anglicare Northern Inland also had information available on the day. Other presentations on the day were from Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (NT LLS) staff Jason Siddell on feed cost calculations, and Dr. Lisa Martin and Dr. Steve Eastwood on animal health issues associated with early weaning and following rain events.



GLENRAC Projects News

Great turnout for discussion at Early Weaning day

Seventy beef producers from around the district and as far away as Warwick converged on Greg and Sally Chappell's property 'Shannon Vale Station' on Wednesday, 26th November to discuss options for early weaning. Landcare Coordinator Kylie Falconer initially began planning the day after talking with local graziers over the past couple of months. Kylie said "we had hoped that we may have been discussing pasture renovations to bulk up pasture following drought, but as the season has not improved we decided instead to focus on early weaning".

Local landholder and GLENRAC committee member Sam Baker was pleased the organisation was able to host the event to respond to the needs of local producers in a practical and timely manner. "GLENRAC is able to respond to the needs of our members, and events like today are important to provide locally relevant and accessible information for farmers who are looking at early weaning as a drought management strategy", he said.



The programme for the day included presentations by host Greg Chappell, Dulverton Angus, on the practical aspects of early weaning including a tour of the yard facilities and viewing of feeding equipment used; Riverina Stockfeeds nutritionist Greg Brown and Territory Manager, Tony Grob on nutritional requirements for early weaned calves, and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (NT LLS) District Veterinarian Dr. Lisa Martin on animal health considerations from an early weaning perspective, and Livestock Officer Jason Siddell outlined the services and advice that NT LLS staff can provide landholders with. Anglicare Northern Inland also had a display at the field day.

GLENRAC received positive feedback from graziers who attended, and would like to thank all of the presenters and sponsors for the day. Thanks in particular must go to Greg and Sally Chappell for hosting the day.

Success for GLENRAC with 20 Million Tree Grants

The announcement made at the end of December on the federal governments 20 Million Trees programme was a very welcome one for the Glen Innes district. GLENRAC submitted two funding applications worth a total of \$170,550.30 (including GST) for revegetation in the area, and were successful in both.

GLENRAC had received many enquiries for funding to plant trees for shelter over the past three years, and the applications were submitted to reflect this. During the application process expressions of interest for tree planting were called for, and the submissions were based on those numbers.

GLENRAC Chairman Jim Benton was very satisfied with the outcome. "These grants will afford a large number of landholders in the local area the opportunity to improve not only the landscape and the environment, but also their livestock production systems. This will also allow GLENRAC to continue to engage the community in active natural resource management," Mr Benton said.

The two projects, *Creating Habitat Connections and Enhancing Biodiversity on Farm*, and *Linking Remnant Vegetation to Build Habitat Connectivity*, will establish a combined 31,000 native trees and shrubs on private land. This will work towards addressing the lack of shelter and connectivity between isolated patches of remnant vegetation in the extensively cleared landscape of the local district. The objective of the project is to increase the area of native habitat available for native flora and fauna, and to offer shelter to livestock and pastures. GLENRAC will encourage landholders to plant species known to be present in the two Threatened Ecological Communities in the local area.

These project applications were written for landholders who submitted expressions of interest, and GLENRAC staff will soon be contacting those who did. If you did not submit an expression of interest, there are still options to plant trees in the coming year. For more information see 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants (see Page 1) or call in and see us at the Glen Innes Show.



News from around the ridges



Target 100 is made up of 100 active research, development, and extension projects that focus on animal welfare and environmental sustainability, within the context of profitable farming systems. The initiatives are research and development projects that the cattle and sheep industry commissions Australian university and research organisations to undertake in order to find more efficient and environmentally beneficial practices across the supply chain.

The 100 initiatives tackle the issues of biodiversity, water management, reducing emissions, and promoting soil health to ensure Australia continues to lead the way in sustainably producing some of the world's best beef and lamb.

There are 100 active initiatives at any given time on Target 100. As one project is completed, another is added. To view past or current initiatives, visit the website at www.target100.com.au

Supporting Native Birds in Rural Landscapes

Birds are easy, interesting and beautiful to observe. They are also well recognised as 'indicator species', as their presence (or absence) indicates the presence (or absence) of many other species. Consequently, the collection of native birds using a particular area is also a good guide to the health of the area and the quality of the ecological services available.

Much work has been done to look at how birds function in rural landscapes, how they benefit our production systems and the wider environment and how different sorts of vegetation and landscapes support different bird species.

Land managers can contribute to the health of the birds in an area, and hence the health of the vegetation and other components of their landscapes and production systems. By incorporating the following tips into farm and other land management planning we can keep both healthy bird populations and healthy landscapes.

Tips for bringing birds back into rural landscapes:

1. **Protect existing remnant vegetation** (trees, shrubs, grasses and other herbs) - and the bigger the better (e.g. it takes 40ha of healthy bush to support a pair of Eastern Yellow Robins to raise nestlings to independence!).
2. Establish (plant) **locally native tree, shrub, grass and other herb species.**
3. Create **variety of structure** (including different heights and densities of vegetation and presence of logs, rocks, etc.) - more bird species occur where habitat is more varied. This can be done by enriching remnants with only trees and including a variety of shrubs in plantings.
4. **Connect native areas** with wide (ideally 50m) windbreaks, or 'stepping stones' (patches) of at least one hectare.
5. **Leave logs and branches** where they fall- to provide habitat- and conserve areas dominated by native grasses and herbs.
6. Create **wide** rather than long and narrow native sites. The wider the area, the more woodland bird species there are.

For more information please visit <http://cwc-armidale.org.au/pdf/WoodlandBirds.pdf> or www.birdsinbackyards.net

Submitted by Ruth Tremont, Southern New England Landcare.

Biodynamics field day at 'The Oasis'

Angus and Kim Deans hosted a successful biodynamic field day at their property 'The Oasis', near Tingha, on the 14th of December. Attendees from as far away as the Liverpool plains travelled to the property to hear the Deans' story, see their operation, and meet staff from Biodynamic Agriculture Australia who were in attendance.

The Deans moved to the property in 2005, and began the process of rehabilitating the very degraded property, which was formerly sluiced for tin. To address the issues on the property, they employ permaculture principles and use biodynamic agricultural principles, including rotational grazing.

If you are interested in reading more about Angus and Kim's journey, or getting in touch, please visit their website www.biodynamiclife.com

Like to know more about what's happening at GLENRAC?

The GLENRAC website is updated weekly and contains information on news, events and funding opportunities. You can also subscribe to our e/flash newsletter which is sent out every two weeks or so. If you are on Facebook, please search for GLENRAC and 'like' our page to stay up to date with projects and events from around the area, and to see more photos from our events.

Funding and Opportunities

Glen Innes Severn Council & GLENRAC Weeds Project

Over the coming two years Glen Innes Severn Council will be working collaboratively with GLENRAC on a weed control project, *Protection and Restoration of Roadside Vegetation*. Council have received funding through the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services to control environmental and noxious weeds in the road reserves that have been identified as containing habitat of high and medium conservation value.

As a part of this project GLENRAC will receive funding to manage weeds on private property to create a buffer zone of approximately 200m from the property boundary to the areas of significant conservation value on the roadside. GLENRAC will be looking for landholders whose properties adjoin these high and medium conservations roadside areas. To find out if you will be eligible visit our display at the Glen Innes Show or contact the office after the show.

GLENRAC will be able to fund activities to control a range of weeds on private landholdings including the purchase of chemicals. Some of the weeds targeted under the project include whiskey grass, tree of heaven, Coolatai grass, St John's Wort, privet, and blackberry. A component of the project is mapping the chemically treated areas for future reference in Council, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, and GLENRAC undertakings.

Tackling Tough Times Together grants Round 5 < \$10,000

The Tackling Tough Times Together grant program helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through the 2014/15 drought. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available across most of Queensland and selected shires in the New South Wales Northern Tablelands.

Funding will support community based activities that both help to relieve current stressors and symptoms, but most importantly, build capacity and resilience for the future. Funds could also support activities that engage people in being active, exploring options and creating something that will stand the test of tough times.

For more information contact 03 5430 2399 or visit http://www.frrr.org.au/grants/tackling_tough_times_together_-_round_5

Applications close 5th March 2015.



Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate funding extended

On the 11th of January the NSW State Government announced an additional \$20-million in funding under the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate scheme.

In order to ensure the latest round of funding is allocated to farmers who need it most, a number of important changes to eligibility guidelines have been made:

- Funding is only available to those farm businesses experiencing a one-in-50-year rainfall deficiency as identified by the Bureau of Meteorology's latest rainfall data.
- Applicants must seek pre-approval from the Rural Assistance Authority prior to the commencement of any on-farm works.
- Producers will be able to claim 50 per cent of the cost of installing on-farm emergency water infrastructure, up to a cap of \$20,000.
- The scheme will close on 30 June 2015 or when the funding is fully allocated.
- Projects can be for a range of water infrastructure, including installation of bores, new water storage tanks, pumps and pipelines, stock troughs, and de-silting of dams if the property relies on surface water and does not have access to good quality groundwater.

For more information, visit the Rural Assistance Authority website www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/emergency-water-infrastructure-rebate or Phone 1800 678 593 (free call from your home phone, charges may apply for mobiles or pay phones)

Continuing Financial Assistance

Farm Household Allowance, drought concessional loans, and farm innovation loans are still available. If you have any questions regarding how you can access assistance or your eligibility to receive assistance contact Stuart Brummell from the Rural Financial Counselling Service office on 02 6732 3325.



GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2013/14

CHAIRMAN - Jim Benton

VICE CHAIRMAN - John Bavea

TREASURER - Sam Baker

SECRETARY - Jeff Lowien

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Greg Chappell, Tony Holliss, Jane Munro, Desmond FitzGerald, Mike Norton, Norman Whitaker, Geoff Coldham, Gordon Wollen

Glen Innes Severn Council : Graham Price & Col Price

Department of Primary Industries : Carol Harris , **National Parks & Wildlife Office**: Peter Croft

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services: 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 kylie@glenrac.org.au

GLENRAC
PO Box 660
GLEN INNES
NSW 2370



To The Land Manager



**Local Land
Services**
Northern Tablelands



Coming Events:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 6-8th February | Glen Innes Show |
| 9th February | Faecal Worm Egg Counting course, Inverell—Rural Biz Training 6884 8812 |
| 3rd March | SMARTtrain chemical application (level 3), Glen Innes—PROfarm 6763 1276 |
| 4th March | SMARTtrain chemical application level 3 reaccreditation, Glen Innes—PROfarm 6763 1276 |
| 5th March | SMARTtrain chemical risk management (level 4), Glen Innes— PROfarm 6763 1276 |
| 17th March | Pindone course, Glen Innes. Phone Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Glen Innes office 6732 8800 |
| 24th March | Chainsaw—trim and cross-cut felled trees, Glen Innes— PROfarm 6763 1276 |
| 26th March | Chainsaw—fell trees manually (basic), Glen Innes—PROfarm 6763 1276 |
| 27-28th May | 2014 Landcare Adventure, Tamworth. Tamworth Regional Landcare |