

# GLENRAC

# Newsletter

MAY/JUN 2014

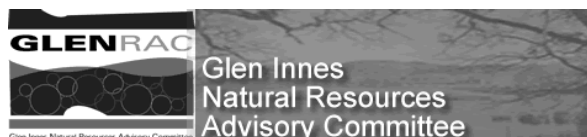
Where to find us - National Park & Wildlife  
Services Building, 68 Church St  
Office Hours - Mon to Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm

## \*\* DATE CLAIMER \*\*

- 2nd May Corn pickup day for pig baiting
- 7th May Grazing Charts Workshop, Glen Innes
- 28th May "Network, Negotiate & Communicate", Ben Lomond



Above: Landcare Adventurers at "Cherry Tree Hill"



**Local Land Services**  
Northern Tablelands



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



## LANDCARE ADVENTURE A GREAT SUCCESS

During March, GLENRAC presented a highly successful and well received Landcare Adventure. Terry McCosker of Resource Consulting Services challenged participant thinking about the future for grazing industries in Australia; and 2013 NSW Rural Woman of the Year, Isobel Knight demonstrated the importance of succession planning for every business. A visit to Phil & Bettina Lynn's property "Cherry Tree Hill" gave a close up look at compost making on a farm scale with insights to how it fits into their organic enterprise, and their plans to improve soil biology.

The NSW DPI Research Station was host to presenters including Bart Davidson, Garry McDouall, Carol Harris and Meg Perceval covering aspects of healthy soils, improved pastures, mental health and resilience, as well as finding out about the many programs being run on the station. We were reminded of the importance of the Research Station to the farmers & graziers of the Northern Tablelands and their need to maintain and enhance research activity there.

At the Adventure Dinner, farmer, pilot and best-selling author Sam Bailey had the crowd enthralled with his story and his ability to see the positives in his situation. A number of Landcarers from across the region were recognised for their commitment and contribution to Landcare through the Landcare Network Awards. Congratulations to Phil and Bettina Lynn, and Jim Coleman for their achievements.

Day two saw a tour of Rangers Valley feedlot which enlightened many to the environmental and animal welfare aspects of a large feedlot, and the way these issues are addressed. The Coldham's property "Ben Vale" was the venue for a series of presentations around livestock feeding, water

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# GLENRAC News

Hello all,

*It has been so nice to look around and see the changes in the country since our last newsletter! Great to hear plenty of positive weather reports, and positive market reports to go with it. Hopefully the frosts stay away a little longer so we can get as much growth as possible before winter..*

*In March Glenrac hosted the very successful Landcare Adventure, and it was great to see so much support, especially from the local community. More than 120 people participated in the two day event, and we received really positive feedback on the diverse and interesting program.*

*If you are not already familiar with the Rural Womens' Gathering, you soon will be! Glen Innes has secured the privilege of hosting the annual event for October 2015. With Glenrac as the auspicing body for the Gathering, we are looking forward to the publicity for Glenrac, and the opportunity to showcase our area.*

Regards,

*Tanya, Pamela and Lucy*

## NT LLS Healthy Soils

GLENRAC will be hosting a **Grazing Principles and Grazing Chart day** with RCS teacher and consultant Garry McDouall.

This workshop will include a revisit of Grazing Principles, biological planning and how it ties in with a grazing chart, information to be gained from a grazing chart, its benefits and its value, establishing and reviewing benchmark carrying capacity and why this is of value, completing the grazing chart manually and electronically with a focus on the logic, and "what if" scenarios. These grazing charts are an extremely useful management tool and enable proactive strategic planning and monitoring of your grazing, animal performance and business. The charts can give an early identification of potential rainfall and feed deficits meaning that corrective action can be done before stock, country and financial health suffers. This day is being supported by the Australian Government's grants and the NT LLS. The workshop will be held on the **7th of May**, and will cost \$20 per person.

## Honey Locust

GWYMAC will be assisting in the concluding stage of this project, to help increase the area that will benefit. The project is in its final phase, to be completed by June 30th, 2014. Control works are currently taking place on private and public lands.

## GLENRAC PROJECT SNAPSHOT

### *Glen Elgin Eco Carers Invasive Species Project*

Due to the dry period experiences in the last few months, this project has been extended so that the weed control that was scheduled for Feb/March can now be carried out in Oct/Nov 2014.

### *Soil Solutions*

During April, a number of people participated in the first of the Soil Solutions workshops, led by super consultant Jeff Lowien. The workshop was focused on soil sampling methods. Participants learned how to undertake simple dispersion and slaking tests on their soil at home, as well as how to correctly take a sample to be sent away for analysis. In the following days participants were required to take a sample of their own soil for testing. The second workshop will take place when the samples have been returned, and will focus on interpreting the results. Anyone who has missed this opportunity is encouraged to get in touch, as we will be holding an additional workshop in May.

# GLENRAC PROJECT SNAPSHOT

## *Landcare Australia Funding - Measure to Manage Workshops, Bart Davidson*

The aim of the workshop series is to give farmers and graziers the framework and systems to measure and monitor soils and pastures to make better farm input decisions and maximise farm returns.

Topics covered in the workshops are goal setting to identify the targets for production; stocktaking current management practises and the status of the soils, plants and animals; strategy and planning to identify shortfalls in production; implementation of the tools & processes needed to achieve the outcomes; measuring the results to identify the benefits; review and revision of actions taken historically to re-position going forward; benchmarking change in your soil health and fertility and identifying gaps are in crop and pasture production, using data from your own farm.

Follow up workshops focussed on using data from your own farm including analysing soil test results and developing a soil and plant nutritional management plan for your paddock and/or farm. This project will conclude with a final workshop on the 1st of May continuing the feed tests. This 4th workshop will cover grazing charts and test results from the autumn testing.

## *GIS*

Glenrac has received 2010 Spot5 imagery through a spatial data agreement with the NT LLS. This imagery is more current than the 2005 imagery we are using. When available, this data agreement will include ADS40 imagery. ESRI have released a collector app for smart phones which we are looking in to. This app could improve the efficiency of our field data capture. It works whether connected or disconnected to the cellular data network. We will be trialling this app in the coming months.

## *Pest Animals*

GLENRAC, in conjunction with SNELC have hosted three workshops on bait preparation, and identifying signs of pest animals. Everyone who attended learned a great deal from the experienced presenters, and left feeling quite confident that they could track ants if they wanted to.

Thank you to Tony and Barb Holliss, Ian Lockwood, and Phil a'Beckett for all of your help with these days. Just to go over the main message for anyone who missed it, regardless of the animal you're after, your pest management program needs to be:  
**Coordinated** - with your neighbours, and on a regional scale;  
**Broad scale** - covering a large area;  
**Cooperative** - with your neighbours;  
**Integrated** - use different types of baits to ensure maximum take-up, plus traps.

There is free corn available for pig baiting again this year, and we are encouraging landholders together with their neighbours and pest control groups to take advantage of this. Pickup day is on the **2nd of May**, and free feeding is a must. You will be required to report back to Glenrac before the poisoning day (15th of May) on whether or not your free feeding program was successful. Please get in touch ASAP if you would like to get involved.



## *NT LLS Property Management Plans - improving Riparian Zones*

The steering committee for this project have confirmed their property recommendations with NT LLS so GLENRAC can commence the works needed to improve the targeted riparian areas.

# Privet in the urban environment



Submitted by David Nixon, Glen Innes Severn Council Weeds Officer

## Health Affects

Privet can produce serious allergic reactions to many people which occur commonly during spring and early summer when privets produce masses of flowers. Allergy-like symptoms such as asthma, hay fever and irritation of mucous membranes affect some people and in extreme cases can cause hospitalisation.

Privet berries and leaves have also been reported by overseas sources to be poisonous to humans and livestock if ingested; however no known cases have been reported in Australia.

It is important to be a considerate neighbour and control Privet infestations so as to limit the health concerns associated with privets.

## Impact

Established Privet can almost totally replace a diverse mix of native tree and shrub species. It invades pastures and waste areas, reducing access and causing difficulty in stock movement and impacts on biodiversity.



The three Privet species included in Council's Privet Management Plan are:

- Broad Leaf Privet** (*Ligustrum lucidum*),
- Narrow Leaf Privet** (*Ligustrum sinense*)
- European Privet** (*Ligustrum vulgare*).

All three species are considered to be serious environmental weeds throughout Australia. Infestations threaten biodiversity, including endangered plant and animal species and ecological communities. Dense stands of privet prevent other vegetation surviving or establishing.

Broad Leaf Privet is the most common species found in the Glen Innes Severn Council area. A mature shrub can produce one million seeds.

## Land Owners/ Mangers and Council's Obligations

For large infestations allowances have been provided for a gradu-

**For more information on weeds identification and control methods contact David Nixon, Weeds Officer at Glen Innes Severn Council on 0427669871 or landline 02 6730 2358 during office hours.**

The *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* makes provision for compliance. This will be achieved through property inspections, the issuing of Penalty Infringement Notices, fines and undertaking court proceedings when necessary for non compliance.

## Privet Control

**Chemical-** Privet is to be treated effectively with a herbicide registered for its control, in the manner specified on the label.

**Manual -** Small Privet plants and saplings may be hand pulled or maddocked/spaded.

**Mechanical-** Privet may be removed by mechanical means at anytime of the year.

**Hedging-** Privet may be hedged. To appropriately maintain a formal privet hedge, it must be pruned each year before full development of the flowers. At times follow up pruning may be required to prevent flowering and seeding within the hedge.

The Glen Innes Severn Council's Privet Management Plan has a particular emphasis on the control of privet within close proximity areas where community meetings and gatherings occur, both on Council

and private land. There is also a major focus for control within the Glen Innes town, Council's rural villages and along high conservation roadside vegetation corridors.

*Coordinated fox and pig baiting have commenced in the Glen Innes region*

## Why bait foxes?

### Ecological benefits:

- Native mammals less than 5kg as well as reptiles and birds are preserved;
- Spread of weeds eg. blackberry is reduced;
- Spread of canine diseases, future threat of Rabies and others, is reduced.

**Economic benefits:** increased Lamb marking percentages and profit.

CONTACT GLENRAC IF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
6732 3443

From page 1...

reticulation systems, dung beetles and current drought subsidies, followed by a look at cropping options.

The Adventure was drawn to a conclusion at the spectacular Bens Falls Restaurant with a lunch of Rangers Valley Wagyu burgers, the launch of "Dung Down Under - Dung Beetles of Australia" and highlights from projects of the five Landcare Networks in the region.

A BIG thank you to our steering committee, our regional Landcare coordinator and to the regional Landcare Networks and their staff for all their effort and support in helping pull together such a wide ranging program with something for everyone.

We look forward to the 2015 Adventure with Granite Borders Landcare in the Tenterfield area. Thank you also to all the organisations who supported the adventure financially, including the Northern Tablelands Local Lands Services, Landcare Australia, Glen Innes Severn Council, New England Mutual, New England North West Landcare, our Regional Landcare Facilitator and many other generous donors.

## *A call to action*

To honour 25 years of Landcare, it is timely to reflect on the great work Landcare has done and time to look to the future. It is time for a new discussion about engaging Australians, from all walks of life, to help address the environmental challenges facing Australia.

It is essential to reopen the discussion about these key issues, and to collaborate with stakeholders, ensuring Australia as a whole, is well placed to address these emerging issues.

For more detail on the call to action visit [https://www.acfonline.org.au/sites/default/files/resources/ACF\\_NFF\\_statement\\_210314.pdf](https://www.acfonline.org.au/sites/default/files/resources/ACF_NFF_statement_210314.pdf)

## *STOP PRESS!!!*

Pip Job, CEO of Little River Landcare in Central West NSW has been awarded as the 2014 NSW Rural Woman of the Year. Pip is a passionate advocate for agriculture, Landcare and rural mental health. She is also a Board member of the Central Tablelands LLS and Executive of Landcare NSW. Congratulations Pip!!!



Ever feel like you're not getting your message across?

Wish you could listen and remember more effectively?

Want to improve your negotiation skills?

Then book in now!

## **"Network, Negotiate & Communicate"**

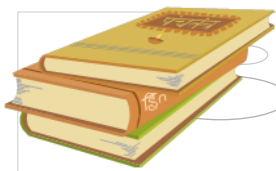
- 28th of May @ the Ben Lomond Hall
- Training conducted by Richard Groom
- RSVP closes on the 14 of May, or as soon as places are filled
- For more details, see page 7

## *LLS Board Members elected*

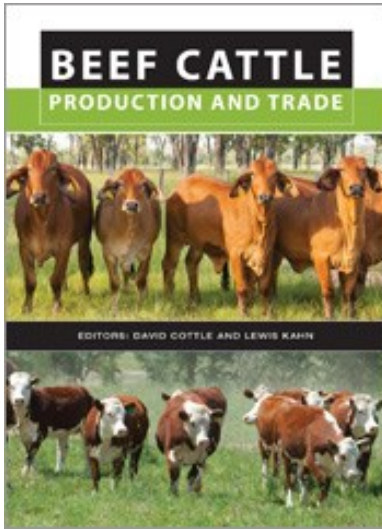
Congratulations to the newly elected Local Land Services Board members in the New England North West. We look forward to working with you.

Northern Tablelands LLS:  
Ross King - Walcha,  
Timothy Norton - Walcha,  
David Worsley - Nullamanna,

North West LLS:  
Penny Blatchford - Gurley,  
Mark Evans - Walgett,  
Phillip Kirkby - Narrabri



# BOOK REVIEW



## BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION AND TRADE

Edited by: David Cottle Consultant and Lewis Kahn

*Beef Cattle Production and Trade* covers all aspects of the beef industry from paddock to plate. It is an international text with an

emphasis on Australian beef production, written by experts in the field. Colour photographs, Graphs, Line Art 584 pages, 275 x 210 mm For more information see <http://www.lucidcentral.com/>

Publisher: CSIRO PUBLISHING Hardback New - April 2014 ISBN: 9780643109889 - AU \$140.00

Illustrations, Photographs Publishers: CSIRO PUBLISHING / Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) Flash Drive New - March 2014 ISBN: 9781486301980 - AU \$120.00

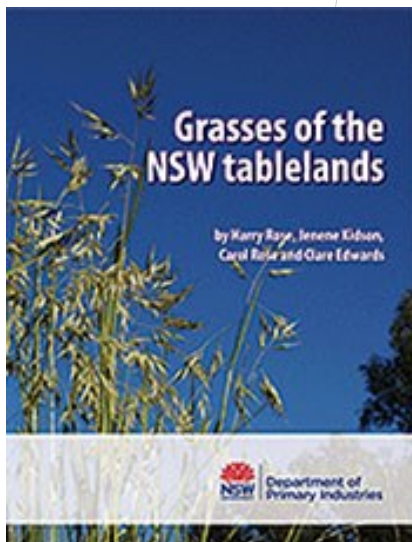
## Grasses of the NSW Tablelands

Harry Rose , Carol Rose, Claire Edwards, Jeanne Kidson.

Colour photographs 176 pages Publisher: NSW Department of Primary Industries

An easy-to-use reference to the grasses of the NSW tablelands, including the methods of identifying species. It contains beautiful colour photographs for each species and notes on appearance and management. A great glovebox guide.

July 2013 ISBN: 9781742565507 - AU



## AusGrass Grasses of Australia

Revised Edition ABRS Identification Series D Sharp- Australian Biological Resources Study. BK Simon- Queensland Environmental Protection Authority. AusGrass is the largest and most comprehensive identification guide to a plant group ever published. This product has been updated to use the Lucid software version 3.5. Using either interactive or dichotomous keys, AusGrass enables quick and accurate identification of any of the 1323 species of grass, native or naturalised, growing wild in Australia.

This powerful identification tool can be used with living plants or dry specimens, even when they are not in flower or fruit. Provides an easy-to-use interface with comprehensive fact sheets for each species, including a botanical description, notes on distribution and taxonomy, as well as images including diagnostic line drawings, scanned specimens, photographs and stereomicrographs.

For instructions on the use of the USB Flash Drive please view instructions. This software is for personal use only.

For site licences please contact: [pulishng.sales@csiro.au](mailto:pulishng.sales@csiro.au) or call 1300 788 000. Software remains a property of Lucid. Lucid is a trademark of the University of Queensland. Flash Drive - March 2014 ISBN: 9781486301980 - AU \$120.00

# Funding & Training Opportunities

## “Network, Negotiate and Communicate”

The Ben Lomond Landcare group have been very fortunate to secure Richard Groom from Principle Focus to present “Network, Negotiate and Communicate” on the **28<sup>th</sup> of May, 2014**. The day is part of a program which includes a one day face to face workshop with Richard and two months of post-workshop online support from Principle Focus, including eight individual follow-up emails and five half day follow-up sessions with group members.

Richard Groom is a director and business coach of Principle Focus, one of Australia’s leading education, training and consulting service providers to the agricultural sector. One of Mr Groom’s business goals is that ‘while transforming Australian agriculture, those involved will be inspired’, and the course has been designed to that end. Focussing on improving listening skills and memory, effective oral and non-verbal communication skills, and questioning skills, you will finish the program feeling inspired, and better equipped to network, negotiate and communicate with those around you.

The cost for the program is **\$100, and RSVPs close on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May**. Places are strictly limited and will be snapped up quickly, so please contact the office if you wish to attend. Phone Glenrac on 6732 3443 or email [glenrac@glenrac.org.au](mailto:glenrac@glenrac.org.au)

## 1080/ Pindone Training

The following dates are for short courses on 1080/ pindone training, and allow landholders without a current chemical card to collect and lay 1080 baits. Courses are half a day and will cost around \$50.

The following dates for 1080/pindone training (Tenterfield, Inverell, Glen Innes and Armidale respectively) are:

- 10, 11 and 17, 18 June
- 9, 10, and 16, 17 September
- 9, 10 and 16 and 17 December

Please contact your LLS offices for further details:

**Tenterfield Office (former LHPA) 02 6736 1355**  
**Inverell Office (former LHPA) 02 6722 3091**  
**Glen Innes Office (former LHPA) 02 6732 1200**  
**Armidale Office (former LHPA) 02 6772 2366**

## Natural disaster assistance

Farmers and small businesses in the Guyra and Gwydir Shires impacted by severe storms and tornados in November have access to Natural Disaster Loans. Applications must be lodged before the **30th June 2014**. For more details, see <http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/natural-disaster-relief>

## Insurance job

The hay shed at Larry and Susan’s farm burned down, and Susan called the insurance company. “We had that shed insured for fifty thousand, and I’d like the money”, she began. The agent replied “wait just a minute Susan, it doesn’t quite work like that. We will determine the value of the old hay shed, and provide you with a new one of comparable worth.” After a bit of thought Susan said “I’d like to cancel the policy on my husband”.

## NT LLS weather and climate presentations

As part of the ‘Regional planning for climate change’ project, funded through the Australian Government, the LLS are planning to hold three events that will involve presentations from CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology.

These presentations will cover global and Australian climate and weather patterns, Climate Change 101 and up-to-date climate change projections for the Central Slopes region of which the Northern Tablelands is a part.

They have chosen **Inverell (13th May), Tenterfield (14th May) and Armidale (15th May)**. They will be late afternoon/evening events from 4-7pm, with a light supper afterwards. These locations were chosen based on feedback from participants at climate workshops last year.

# GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2014

CHAIRMAN - John Bavea VICE CHAIRMAN - Jim Benton

TREASURER - Sam Baker SECRETARY - Jeff Lowien

## LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Greg Chappell, Tony Holliss, Carol Harris, Winsome Quilty, Mark Pietsch, Sam Baker, Mike Norton, Norman Whitaker

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

National Parks & Wildlife Office: Peter Croft

New England Livestock Health & Pest Authority: Rob Munro

Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Lands Council: Karen Potter

Public Officer: John Brien

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

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

Ph: (02) 6732 3443 Mobile 0427 325 901

email: [glenrac@glenrac.org.au](mailto:glenrac@glenrac.org.au) website: [www.glenrac.org.au](http://www.glenrac.org.au)

GLENRAC  
PO Box 660  
GLEN INNES  
NSW 2370



## To The Land Manager



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

## Coming Events:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 2nd May  | Pig grain pickup day and free feeding starts |
| 7th May  | Grazing Charts Workshop, Glen Innes          |
| 15th May | Pig grain poisoning day, LLS building        |
| 28th May | “Network, Negotiate & Communicate”           |



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