

GLENRAC

Newsletter

Jan / Feb 2013

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

Inside This Issue

- *Project Snapshot*
- *Recycling Tips*
- *New Farm Doctor*
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- *Coming Events Dates*

Landcare Adventure Bingara

Upper Gwydir Landcare Assoc. will
host this year's Landcare Adventure
on the **19 & 20 March 2013**

More details to be
supplied in the next
newsletter & on the
website.



Regional Landcare Awards now open



Nominations are being called for the 2013 Regional Landcare Awards across the New England North West region. Innovative farmers, dedicated individuals and hardworking community organisations are just some of those being encouraged to enter the Awards.

The Regional Landcare & Catchment Management Awards aim to recognise the contributions of a diversity of individuals and organisations toward the improvement and maintenance of our natural resources.

Awards are currently on offer in both the Northern Rivers and Border Rivers-Gwydir regions in a number of categories.

Regional Landcare Facilitator, Jennie Coldham says "This is an opportunity to recognise people and organisations for their hard work and commitment to sustainable agriculture and the enhancement of our natural resources."

The finalists and winners of the Awards for the New England North West will be announced at a dinner as part of the annual Landcare Adventure on 20th March.

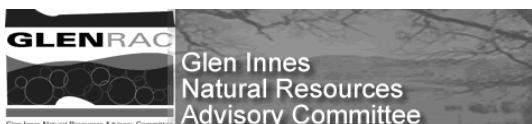
Held every two years, the Regional Landcare Awards recognise the achievements of the dedicated people who have committed their own time to care for our environment and contribute to sustainable production.

Categories include: Individual Landcarer Award, Innovative Community Group Award, Junior Landcare Award, Innovative Young Landcare Leader Award, Landcare Indigenous Innovation Award, Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award, Local & Regional Agency Landcare Partnership Award, Primary Producer Award & Urban Landcare Award

Winners of most of the categories from the Regional Landcare Awards will be nominated for the New South Wales State Landcare Awards which will be presented in September at the NSW Landcare Conference in Newcastle.

Nominations for the Landcare Awards are now open, closing on **Friday 15th February 2013** and individuals or groups can nominate themselves or others for the awards.

For more information about the Awards, categories and judging criteria, as well as nomination forms contact the GLENRAC office on 02 67323443 or go to the website, www.glenrac.org.au



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Glenrac News

Hello All,

Happy New Year to everyone! The GLENRAC office is once open for business after the Christmas break. We have a busy six months ahead of us and the majority of our current projects must be completed by the end of June. If you are one of our project participants we are relying on you to get your projects completed by the end of May to ensure we have adequate time for site visits and final reporting.

GLENRAC will also host a number of events over the next few months, not all dates & venues are confirmed as yet, but we will be advertising in the Glen Innes Examiner as usual, as well as through our email updates and the website. So keep an eye out for those events that interest you. Our first field day is the **Feral Animal Control field day** to be held on the 8th February at the Showgrounds. This free event has been run elsewhere in the New England North West already and is the one stop shop for information on feral animals.

GLENRAC has started a **mobile display** moving between the local rural merchandise outlets focusing on a key issue or project. Currently the display is showcasing the initial results of the Pinkett whiskey and Coolatai grass control project run from 2010 to 2012. Keep an eye out for the display when you are in town. Thanks to all the local outlets who have agreed to allow us to position the displays in store. GLENRAC staff will host a display at the **Glen Innes Show**, so please call in and see what's new and meet our staff. Regards, Kylie Falconer



Bright Ideas

New report from DAFF – Soil Condition & Ecosystem services

Dept. of Agriculture, Forestry's & Fisheries (DAFF) have released a new report investigating the relationships between land management practises and soil condition and the quality of ecosystem services delivered from agricultural land in Australia.

The report concluded that addressing soil carbon, acidity, and erosion results in better yields of agricultural products and public benefits such as clean water, protection from wind and water erosion and floods, reduced risks from pests and diseases and reduced need to use agricultural chemicals.

To view a copy of this report go to the www.daff.gov.au and search for key words.

Handy Soils Focussed Websites

Soil Carbon fact sheets

www.soilquality.org.au has a range of fact sheets on soil carbon, including "how much carbon can soil store"

UNE Living Soils Website

www.une.edu.au/livingsoils this website covers soil organisms, their roles, the food web and management effects.

Soil Health Knowledge Bank

www.soilhealthknowledge.com.au This site has been developed for farmers and the wider community to provide an overview of current soil health knowledge and tools to assess soil condition.

Local Land Services Community Consultation Meetings coming soon

The Local Land Services (LLS) Stakeholder Reference Panel will be hosting public consultation meetings across NSW from February to April.

One of the workshops will be held in Glen Innes on **Tuesday 26 February** from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the Glen Innes District Services.

The workshops will follow three months of collecting and analysing online feedback through the Panel's Have Your Say website.

The purpose of these workshops is to allow community and stakeholders to have their say on the four main pillars of LLS being boundaries, governance, services and the rating framework.

The background papers on each of these pillars will be placed on the Have Your Say website during January 2013 for participants to read prior to attending the workshops.

For more information go to the Have Your Say website at www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/locallandservices



GLENRAC Project Snapshot



GLENRAC mapping update

GLENRAC is still holding GPS training workshops in 2013, the first workshop to kick off on January 15th. Courses are held at the GLENRAC office, only takes 2 hours of your time and you don't need to own a GPS to attend the course.

Participants can learn how to easily measure distances of their fence lines, take a picture of their site and link this to a map, calculating areas of paddocks or weed infestations, mapping soils sampling sites or any other feature of interest like water pipes and connections in water systems.

To register your interest in learning how to use a GPS unit contact GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 or email tanya@glenrac.org.au

Mapping revegetation plantings

GLENRAC has begun generating the property maps for those landholders that participated in the native tree planting mapping project. 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 helps identify gaps in vegetation corridors across the landscape. This will enable GLENRAC to strengthen it's future funding applications for revegetation and other natural resource management projects for landholders in the future.

If you have native tree plantings on your property and would like to assist us in the mapping of these trees please contact GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 or email tanya@glenrac.org.au.

Flood Recovery Project

Glenrac is currently assisting landholders repair significant areas of erosion caused by January 2011 floods. This project is administered through Granite Borders Landcare and Glenrac is a partner in it's delivery. The project is funded through the Federal Government's Caring for our Country program.

This project is providing significant help to those landholders who submitted an Expression Of Interest to Granite Borders Landcare in 2011 for assistance to repair the affected natural resources through ground works relating directly to landscape damage. This project is underway and will wrap up in May 2013.

Blackberry Control

The second arm to the Flood Recovery project is the control of Weeds Of National Significance in particular Blackberry, on the Mann and Severn Rivers. GLENRAC recently secured \$22,360.00 through this project and has begun allocating this assistance to landholders that responded to the recent expression of interest. This project also concludes in May 2013.

2012/13 Tree Planting project

The 2012/13 tree planting project is well underway with the majority of the seedlings being planted out in November and December of 2012. A big thank you to the team at Glen Industries for looking after the seedlings between delivery and planting; coordinating the planting dates with landholders and getting the plants in the ground.

At this stage we have not secured funding for any tree planting projects for the 2013/14 financial year. But we are interested in finding out if you are interested in participating in future projects. So please contact us or see us at the Show to discuss your future plans.

Beetle Banter

The GLENRAC dung beetle demonstration farm project is humming along nicely with lots more beetles being captured and identified now the weather has warmed up and we have received some good rain in the district. Part of our project is the purchase of beetle colonies for those properties involved in the project which will be happening in the next few months.

A common question from landholders is where can I buy dung beetles?

Dr Bernard Doube's, recent guest speaker at the dung beetle field day can supply beetles. **Dung Beetle Solutions Australia** - 37 Cave Avenue, BRIDGEWATER SA 5155 phone: 08 8339 4158 fax: 08 3339 7558 Their website www.dungbeetlesolutions.com.au has a page where you can let Dr Doube know a bit about your property and he will contact you to discuss which beetle species will suit your property and how he can supply them.

Another beetle source in Australia is John Feehan. Colonies of dung beetles can be purchased from John Feehan (3 Prell Place, Hackett, ACT 2602, phone (02) 6248 0376 preferably in the evening).



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

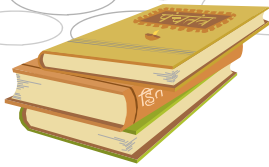
What is a Weed Of National Significance?

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.



Book Review

BRG CMA Launches Farm Doctor Tool

Innovations for Regenerative Landscape Management (2012) Outcomes Australia This new publication supports the work of Soils for Life, co-hosts of the recent Shannon Vale Station field day. It contains case studies of the 19 properties across Australia involved in this project. GLENRAC has donated a copy to the Glen Innes Severn library or you can download a copy or chapters from www.soilsforlife.org.au

The Australian Weather Book (2012) Whitaker & Colls Understanding our climate and how it affects us. This new edition features how weather affects us personally; an explanation of Australia's climate; climate change and the effect of human activity of climate change. CSIRO PUBLISHING—152PP \$29.95

Property Planning AgGuide Series (2012) New from NSW DPI, this book provides a simple, step by step approach to improve farm viability and biodiversity on farms. NSW DPI Bookshop—146PP \$30.00

A Guide to Succession—sustaining families and farms (2007) This guide has been reprinted by GRDC, the guide is free but a \$10 P&H charge applies. Visit the www.grdc.com.au website or phone 02 6166 4500.

Vegetation Restoration Guides (NEW) - Greening Australia has developed a series of restoration guides for several native vegetation habitats, including temperate eucalypt woodland and grasslands. Available on-line only at www.greeningaustralia.org.au

The new Farm Doctor Profitability and Rainfall Use Efficiency (RUE) calculator has been launched on the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA (BRG CMA) website. The Farm Doctor is an easy to use tool to assess how well your various farm enterprises are performing, given the amount of rainfall received.

In farming and grazing systems, rainfall is lost to run off, deep drainage, and evaporation, while soil fertility and other constraints limit the ability of plants to utilise all the moisture that soaks into the ground. The Farm Doctor takes complexity out of rainfall use calculations and can make calculations on a paddock by paddock basis, including livestock enterprises.

You can easily convert typical individual paddock and stock measurements into useful productivity indicators. It provides a simple way to determine which areas on your property are performing well, and on which paddocks changes in management could improve Rainfall Use Efficiency.

The program also contains a financial management component. You can enter information from your tax returns, and the Farm Doctor creates a graph, creating an easily understood picture of your operation's profitability.

Take a look for yourself on the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA website: www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au Click on the link to the **EDUCATION & TRAINING** page, then the **FARM PLANNING** tab at the bottom of the page, and download the Farm Doctor software.

For further assistance or queries regarding the Farm Doctor, contact Bruce Gardiner by phone on 02 6773 5279, or email bruce.gardiner@cma.nsw.gov.au

Recycling Tips



Printer cartridges can be left at Australia Post in the "Cartridges 4 Planet Ark" collection box for recycling.

Mobile phones, mobile phone batteries, chargers and accessories and mobile wireless broadband devices can be left at 3 locations in Glen Innes—Australia Post, Robyn Willis Real Estate and One Zero. Schools can also register for the Schools Recycling Challenge. For more information go to www.mobilemuster.com.au

Used needles and syringes used as part of your animal health program can be collected in a puncture resistant container (must have a lid) and dropped off at the Community Sharps Centre at the Glen Innes Hospital (located at the Emergency entrance). For more information phone 02 6767 5449 or www.nirw.org.au

Farm Planning Information Session

The Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) will hold a free Farm Planning Information Session in Glen Innes on Wednesday 30th January from 3:00pm at the Glen Innes Services Club, aimed at maximizing profits and long term sustainability.

If you would like to find out more about farm planning please attend. The Farm planning course is valued at over \$3,000, but is being offered to farmers free of charge, with the CMA providing satellite images, study manuals, catering and course administration support. To RSVP contact Scott Graham at the Border Rivers Gwydir CMA on 02 6728 8049.



Out in the paddock



Insects Reduce Pasture Profits

*Jeff Lowien, District Agronomist
Glen Innes*

Increasing costs of establishing and maintaining pastures are difficult enough to cope with. But a double whammy can occur with insects damaging pastures and reducing the production and therefore profitability of your pastures.

Many pasture insects can go unnoticed until pastures become stressed through overgrazing and dry period/droughts. Some even show symptoms on pastures that can be mistaken for seasonal effects such as frost.

The following are some of the more common pasture insects that you should be on the lookout for.

The first are the pasture scarabs. There are a range of insects that are commonly referred to as scarabs or white curl grubs which as larvae are found in the soil, up to 60mm long, creamy white with enlarged darkish grey rear end and are "C" shaped when resting. The most important of this group are the Christmas beetle, large brown cockschafers, black soil scarabs and small brown cockschafers.

It is during the larval stages (grub) that pasture damage occurs. In large numbers they can be very destructive as they feed by chewing on plant roots. When this occurs during dry periods and/or overgrazing, plant death is significant. The first sign you usually see of their presence are the circular dead or bare patches in the pasture. In wetter periods, presence of scarabs can be detected by being able to roll the pasture back like a carpet.

Economic threshold (or the level at which control measures should be undertaken) is considered to be greater than 2 to 5 larvae per square metre.

Crickets are another group of insects that can cause significant pasture damage if numbers are high. They are usually most common during dry weather in mid to late spring and in late summer to autumn, particularly if the previous winter was mild.

Crickets prefer the heavier, deep cracking soils, but can also be found on the medium to light soils. They will feed on all parts of plants. Feeding normally occurs late afternoon and night. During the day they can be a bit hard to find as they hide under stones, in soil cracks or in rank vegetation. Severe damage to pasture will occur if populations are high in dry weather. As a guide, populations greater than 5 per square metre can cause significant economic loss.

Earthmites are probably the most common insects encountered by graziers. There are 2 groups - blue oat mite

BOM and RLEM look very similar unless you've got a sharp eye or a hand lens. From the point of view of the damage done to pastures the confusion doesn't really matter but for control purposes it is important to distinguish between the two as different chemicals maybe required.

Most activity of earthmites occurs in the autumn (after the seasonal break) and spring. During these periods the best time to look for them is late evening or early morning.

Paddocks should be inspected closely for presence of insects regularly. Insect populations in a lot of cases can be maintained at low levels through undertaking certain management strategies and hygiene. For example in the case of scarabs the encouragement of birds and parasitic insects by providing nectar bearing native plants is a good long term option. Close grazing in late spring, summer and autumn will assist in destroying eggs and larvae but it can also increase the presence of other insects such as grasshoppers. Chemicals should only be used as a last resort.

Action on The Ground Project

Supplied by Lindy Brown, NRCMA

Three local Glen Innes farms are participating the Northern Rivers CMA managed "Action of the Ground" project. This project is funded by the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Program. The project will run for the next two years.

The projects involves 10 partners including GLENRAC and 27 landholders from across the Northern Rivers catchment area covering beef cattle, dairy, sheep, vegetable, potato, herb and chicken producers.

Twenty seven trial sites with a combination of, compost, chicken and cow manure applications, coupled with biological and rotational grazing practises will be set up with the aim of reducing nitrogenous gas emissions and increasing soil carbon.

Land managers involved attended a two day workshop in November to meet and discuss their respective projects. Day One commenced at the NSW DPI Grafton Agricultural Research Station, home of one of the 27 trial sites. Dr Lukas van Zwieten (DPI) gave the group an overview of the complexity of nitrogenous fertilizers, nitrous oxide emissions and discussed the relationship between emissions, soil moisture content and soil carbon levels, particularly the labile carbon fraction.

Funding Opportunities

\$5,000 Scholarship for 1st year agriculture students

The Horizon scholarship is an initiative of the Rural Industries R&D Corporation in partnership with industry sponsors and not only offers students financial support but also work placements, mentoring and professional development opportunities.

To be eligible students must be entering their first year of university and studying a degree related to agriculture such as agriculture science, rural science, vet science or agribusiness.

Applications close **1 February 2013**. Visit the website for more details www.rirdc.gov.au/horizon or by contacting RIRDC ON 02 6271 4132.

NSW Farmers Tertiary Scholarships now open

NSW Farmers Tertiary Scholarship program is now also open for students attending university in 2013. The scholarships are open to students who are Members or come from a family that are Members (see Eligibility Criteria for full requirements), undertaking full time courses in their second or subsequent year of tertiary study (exceptions for the vocational scholarship). They are available to students studying any course at any recognised tertiary institution, and are not limited to studying in NSW.

For more information go to www.nswfarmers.org.au
Applications close on the **15th February 2013**.

2013 Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grants

Since 2008 Coles has been providing School Garden Grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds or community, such as bush tucker gardens, water wise gardens or veggie gardens.

These programs encourage students to learn about the environment through "outdoor learning" and interaction in developing their own school gardens.

Round 1: closes 5pm (AEDT) Friday 15 February 2013
Round 2: closes 5pm (AEST) Friday 10 May 2013
Round 3: closes 5pm (AEST) Friday 2 August 2013

For more information visit: www.juniorlandcare.com.au

WIN A KITCHEN FOR YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation is giving rural and regional NSW community organisations the chance to win a kitchen worth **\$25,000** courtesy of Bunnings Warehouse.

RAS Foundation Executive Officer, Jocellin Jansson said that the kitchen would be a wonderful boost for a rural community. "There are many community buildings or community facilities in rural and regional towns that could be transformed with a new kitchen, turning them into a more useable and functional facility for the whole community to use for a range of events and activities. It's important to both Bunnings Warehouse and the RAS Foundation that the kitchen can be used by many in the community."

The donated kitchen includes all of the cabinetry, cook tops, sink and oven, as well as a smaller kitchen, suitable for use indoors or outside undercover.

Applicants are asked to answer a series of questions explaining why their community needs a new kitchen, who would utilise the kitchen and how it would enhance their community. Those eligible to apply include community centres, welfare organisations, churches, men's sheds, service clubs, sporting clubs, CWA branches and show societies.

The inaugural winner of the RAS Foundation Community Kitchen Award will be announced in early March, with the presentation to take place during the Sydney Royal Easter Show, 21 March - 3 April. The successful organisation will be responsible for freighting the kitchen from Sydney and associated installation costs.

Applications close **10 February, 2013**. Applications are now open; forms and further information can be found online at: <http://www.rasnw.com.au/1878.htm> or contact foundation@rasf.org.au or 02 9704 1232.

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



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:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 8 Feb | Feral Animal Control Field Day, Glen Innes Showgrounds 9:30am—3:30pm |
| 15 Feb | Regional Landcare Awards nominations close |
| 22 & 23 Feb | Glen Innes Show, come & see the Glenrac display |
| 26 Feb | Local Land Service Stakeholder Reference Panel Community Consultation workshop Glen Innes |
| 8 March | Feral Animal Management Techniques workshop, |
| 14 March | Severn River—integrating property management plans |
| 19 & 20 March | New England North West Landcare Network, Landcare Adventure Bingara |
| 2 May | Ben Lomond Landcare—Soil Carbon workshop Guest Speaker Dr Christine Jones |

