

Newsletter



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Our vision is to create solutions for a sustainable and productive landscape.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

- Drought support and funding availability
- Become a UNE Ecology volunteer!
- GLENRAC project activity updates
- Weed watch: African Lovegrass
- Scholarships and opportunities



Landcare
New South Wales



Local Land
Services



WHITE ROCK
Wind Farm

INTRODUCING GLENRAC'S NEW DROUGHT SUPPORT OFFICER

The Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee (GLENRAC) have successfully attained \$100,000 of drought support funding through an extension of the Australian Government Drought Communities Programme (DCP). The funding, which has been distributed to GLENRAC via the Glen Innes Severn Council, has been used to employ Kyle Holliss as a full-time Drought Support Officer for the remainder of the year.



Kyle Holliss is the new GLENRAC Drought Support Officer.

Kyle, who is the eldest son of Pinkett landholders, Tony and Barb Holliss, has recently returned to Glen Innes with his young family. During his time away, Kyle worked as a communications specialist for the Australian Defence Force, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of the Special Operations Task Group, and as a manager of the implementation of driverless truck fleets, industrial scale wireless networks and R&D Ag technology systems.

"It's great to be back in Glen Innes after so many years away," said Kyle. "Even though we've seen a great change in season in many parts of the area, the financial and emotional pressures of drought are far from over. I'm really looking forward to supporting landholders and the wider community as they navigate the tricky months ahead."

As part of his role as Drought Support Officer, Kyle will work closely with land holders, businesses, community groups and members to provide assistance with drought forms and applications, financial support and accessing further resources, such as referrals to wellbeing services.

Continued page 3.



DO YOU NEED A HAND WITH FINDING OR SUBMITTING DROUGHT OR BUSHFIRE FORMS?

Make a **FREE** appointment with the **GLENRAC Drought Support Officer** today:
Phone 02 6732 3443

GLENRAC MATTERS

Welcome back to another edition of the GLENRAC newsletter! We hope this issue finds you safe and well, particularly given the current COVID-19 climate. On the back of drought and bushfire, who could have guessed our next challenge would be a disease epidemic?

As always, the team at GLENRAC are keeping busy to ensure we are providing the region with the latest opportunities and information. Whilst restrictions continue, almost all of our events have moved online (with the exception of our Smoko events which will continue to be held face-to-face as long as possible – keep an eye out for an event coming to a townvillage near you soon).

We have a HUGE range of FREE online events that you can take part in from the comfort of your own home. The IMPROVING FARM BUSINESS SKILLS series, the STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY GROUP SKILLS series and the IMPROVING LOCAL BUSINESS SKILLS series are all headlined by leading industry experts and cover topics like finance, HR, marketing, WHS, continuity planning, grant writing and farm updates. More than 900 people have already registered to attend one of these webinars – take it from them, they're worth the watch!

You can visit our website at www.glenrac.org.au/events to see the full range on offer and register for an upcoming event. Missed out on registering for one of our webinars? Contact the GLENRAC office on 02 6732 3443 and one of our team can connect you with a recording of a previous event.

Keep an eye out for our weekly e-newsletters to stay up to date with all the latest funding opportunities, information and events happening near you. Don't receive these? Call or email the GLENRAC office so we can sign you up. Stay safe.

The GLENRAC team – Kylie, Jennie, Mahri, Rob, Kelly, Kyle, Jennene and Lucy

BRIGHT IDEAS

Be a UNE Ecology Volunteer!

Are you interested in volunteering with ecology, conservation, zoology & wildlife management at UNE? There will be local and remote field work



opportunities over spring and summer, particularly for frog and turtle research. Contact the GLENRAC office to find out how you can be involved!

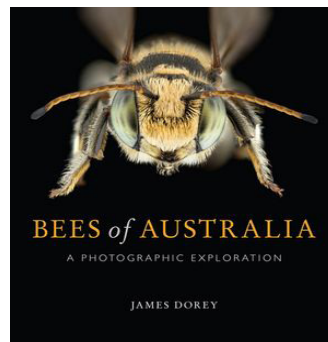


Dogs4Jobs
Do you have a work dog that needs rehoming? Dogs4Jobs is a holistic working dog

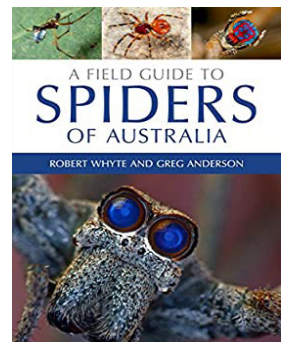
community service founded in November 2019, operating across Australia. Their primary purpose is rehoming working breed dogs from any source, where the dogs are in need of a second chance or a new purpose in life. Email contact@dogs4jobs.com.au for more info.

BOOK CLUB

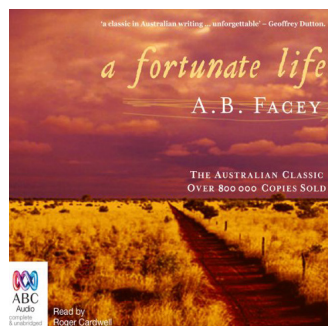
Looking for new activities to help pass the time while you stay at home? These books will help you on your citizen scientist journey! Get photo snapping, ID-ing and submitting species or phenomena in your own backyard!



BEES OF AUSTRALIA –
JAMES DOREY \$40



SPIDERS OF AUSTRALIA –
ROBERT WHYTE AND GREG ANDERSON \$40



AUDIO BOOK OF THE MONTH

A FORTUNATE LIFE –
A.B. FACEY
Read by Roger Cardwell

Listen to this ABC Audio classic on Audible (monthly subscription \$14.95) or purchase for \$46

INTRODUCING GLENRAC'S NEW DROUGHT SUPPORT OFFICER

Continued from page 1. Kyle will also co-ordinate a number of free Smoko events across the smaller towns and villages in the region to ensure face-to-face support is reaching all in need. In the past, these events have run in areas including Glen Elgin, Aqua Park, Emmaville, Wellingrove, Torrington, Pinkett and Dundee, and featured presenters from the Rural Financial Counselling Service, the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, New England Weeds Authority, Rural Crime, Hunter New England Health, Stringybark Ecological, as well as pest animal consultants.

Kyle's position will build upon GLENRAC's important role as a drought support service in the Glen Innes community. Since 2019, the natural resources organisation has supported more than 2,500 people through drought support events, workshops, allocation of donations and face-to-face meetings. **Schedule a FREE appointment with the GLENRAC Drought Support Officer by contacting the GLENRAC office on 02 6732 3443.**

DROUGHT AND BUSHFIRE FUNDING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



SPECIAL DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT – Up to \$75,000 for primary producers whose properties were directly impacted by last summer's bushfires.

RIC DROUGHT LOAN – Loans up to \$2 million for primary producers to prepare for, manage or recover from the effects of drought. 1.92% interest, first 2 years interest free (applications received before 30th Sept 2020), 10 year term.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FUND – Interest-free loans up to \$100,000 for primary producers to implement systems and management practices that enhance the sustainability of their farm business. 7 year term, no repayments for first 2 years. Can be used for restocking purposes.

EMERGENCY DROUGHT TRANSPORT SUBSIDY – Round 3 of the Drought Transport Subsidy open from 1 July 2020. Eligible primary producers can claim up to a maximum of \$25,000 up to 31 Dec 2020, subject to funds being available. From the 1 July 2020, the subsidy has been expanded to include transport of purchased stock to a farm business.

Invoices for Round 2 2019/20 movements will only be processed until 30th September 2020.

COVID-19 SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has established a COVID-19 Primary Industries Liaison Team to help primary producers navigate the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 on their business and industry. Key topics covered include border crossing information, your health and the health of your workers and managing primary production workforce. For more information visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/home/covid-19



NSW Department of Primary Industries

RECOVERY HUB

Resources to support the primary industries sector transition from drought to recovery, rebuild productivity and improve drought resilience

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recoveryhub



Department of
Primary Industries



PROJECT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

ROADSIDE WEEDS BEWARE!

GLENRAC is taking aim at invasive roadside weeds in their latest project. Working in collaboration with Glen Innes Severn Council and New England Weeds Authority, the project, which is funded by the Australian Government's Communities Combatting Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought Program, will target priority weeds on roadsides that are not widespread in surrounding paddocks in order to limit their spread. Whilst the aim is to address any roadside weeds of concern, the focus will be on invasive grass weeds such as Whisky Grass, Coolatai Grass and Giant Paramatta Grass.

"NEWA is looking forward to working collaboratively with GLENRAC and Glen Innes Landholders to identify and treat locally significant weed infestations," said New England Weeds Authority Biosecurity Officer, Trent McIntyre. "One focus of the project will be the roadside weedy grass species. Another is new and emerging species that are identified as being of concern, especially those introduced through feed and fodder. The long-term goal of the project is to reduce these infestations to a point where they are easily managed into the future by NEWA and Landholders."

The project will also assist farmers to identify new weeds that have been introduced to the area through drought and bushfire fodder and help landholders to control these weeds before they spread.

Landholders are encouraged to contact Trent McIntyre from New England Weeds Authority on 0438 501 286 if they notice any unusual weed species growing or bring a bagged sample into the GLENRAC office at 68 Church St Glen Innes for identification. New England Weeds Authority will attend all GLENRAC's upcoming Smoko events and attendees are invited to bring bagged weed samples along for identification.

Opportunities for people to work with New England Weeds Authority or as weed spraying contractors will also be made available through the roadside weeds project, injecting money back into the local community. Anyone interested in casual employment or weed spraying should contact GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 for more information.

SUCCESSFUL RELEASE OF REGENT HONEYEATERS!

This June, 20 captive bred Regent Honeyeaters were released into bushland on private property in the Lower Hunter to supplement the local population. The release is just a small part of a multi-organisation recovery program for the critically endangered species that includes habitat protection, fire management, captive breeding, population monitoring, and advance habitat improvement methods including the propagation and planting of Mistletoe high in the forest canopy to provide food and nesting sites.

Want to be find out more information about Regent Honeyeaters? Join our Facebook group, 'Woodland Birds of the New England' or contact the GLENRAC office to find out more information, including where to find this endangered species in the New England and upcoming bird watching events.



PROJECT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

SOIL EROSION PROJECT

GLENRAC will assist a number of landholders in the district to address active areas of soil erosion through a project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. The project will address issues of stream bank and gully erosion and biodiversity loss through on ground works including gully and streambank stabilisation, fencing and revegetation with grasses, native trees and shrubs. Most of the project sites were first looked at a couple of years ago and earthworks designed and costed to address the issue. Sourcing funding to assist landholders to undertake the works has taken time and in that time changes have occurred with some erosion sites getting significantly worse, so sites have been revisited recently to adjust planned earthworks. Works will be undertaken in coming months, avoiding the summer storm season.



LITTLE LLANGOTHLIN NATURE RESERVE RAMSAR PROJECT YEAR 3

Recent rains have brought hundreds of water birds back to Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve and its lagoon which is now 40% full! GLENRAC Project Manager, Dr Mahri Koch recently attended the quarterly bird survey at the Lagoon with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for the National Landcare Program RAMSAR project, and was impressed by the diversity of bird species on offer. "Clouds of hundreds of Grey Teal and other duck species and water birds kept our volunteer bird spotters busy at our recent quarterly bird survey," said Dr Koch. "Black swans competed for the best nesting sites while the woodland birds – pardalotes, honeyeaters, parrots, and wrens – practised social distancing in the New England Peppermint woodland. "Thanks to National Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger, Koen Dijkstra for the opportunity to contribute to the survey."



Thank you to bird twitcher and GLENRAC member, June Walker, for the photo of birds on the Lagoon!



GLENRAC SMOKOS ARE BACK!

Why not take a break from the farm and catch up with mates from around the region, whilst also brushing up on the latest news from leading industry experts? Keep an eye out for a Smoko near you. **Numbers limited during COVID-19 restrictions. RSVPs are essential. Contact the GLENRAC Drought Support Officer on 0431 874 260 or email kyle.holliss@glenrac.org.au*



Social distancing in practice at the Pinkett Smoko

WEED WATCH: AFRICAN LOVEGRASS

African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) is a widely distributed invasive grass species in the Northern Tablelands. It has low feed value, can quickly colonize disturbed areas and can grow to a large perennial tussock grass of 1.2m in height. African lovegrass grows on acidic, sandy soils with low fertility and can tolerate heat, drought and frosts. It is a born survivor.



Locally, there are 2 species of African lovegrass; Curvula (*Eragrostis curvula curvula*) has lime to dark green leaves and Blue chloromelas (*Eragrostis curvula chloromelas*) has blue-green leaves. Leaves are narrow (3 mm wide) and often curl near the tips, and the leaf margins are often folded or rolled inwards. Reproduction is only by seeds which are dispersed by water, animals, in hay and fodder, earthwork machinery and vehicles. Roadside slashing equipment is commonly blamed for spreading seeds. Every effort should be made to prevent African Lovegrass from becoming established on your property.

To reduce chances for African lovegrass to enter your property avoid bringing in hay, grain, or silage from African lovegrass areas, limit animal movement from infested areas into clean paddocks, check the coats of new stock for weed seeds, quarantine new stock for at least 10 days, clean vehicles and machinery before coming onto your property, inspect hay or fodder for weed seeds, broadcast seed for desirable species in disturbed pastures, revegetate unproductive areas, spray the boundaries of infested paddocks with a 20–25 m strip.

For help with weed identification and management please contact the Glen Innes New England Weeds Authority Biosecurity Officer, Trent McIntyre on 0438 501 286 or email Trent at tmcintyre@newa.nsw.gov.au. You can also visit the NEWA website at www.newa.com.au



New England Weeds Authority Weed Officers are on hand to assist with your noxious weed identification, management and control. Contact the team on 02 6770 3602, drop into their office at 2/129 Rusden St Armidale, or visit www.newa.com.au.



INFORMATION, OPPORTUNITIES AND FUNDING

BE A CHANGE MAKER

APPLY NOW!

2021 NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Developing current, emerging and future leaders

\$30,000 bursary to study leading-edge global agriculture

- 14 week scholarship
- Applications open 29 June 2020

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 11TH SEPTEMBER 2020!

#NuffieldAg www.nuffield.com.au



STUART TAIT
2017 SCHOLAR

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION TRUST

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) works with landholders to establish and manage long term conservation areas on private land. BCT have a number of pathways to achieve this, including voluntary agreements, funded agreements and stewardship sites under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. The BCT provides a unique opportunity to secure long term funding for conservation areas, with funding set aside and managed in trust for all our grants, funded agreements and stewardship sites. **To find out more visit www.bct.nsw.gov.au**

WILD DOG PROBLEMS?

Do you know who to report wild dog problems to? If you are having trouble with attacks or even sightings you can report it to Local Land Services staff, Perry Newman or Chris Watters. If you are a member of your local Wild Dog Control Association you can also let them know or upload on the groups Feral Scan records.

Local Contacts:

- Perry Newman 0428 669 132 or perry.newman@lls.nsw.gov.au
- Chris Watters 0429 825 725 or chris.watters@lls.nsw.gov.au

Royal Agricultural Society Foundation Rural Scholarship

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation invites budding students of any age across a diverse range of tertiary courses (including university, TAFE or college) who require financial aid to complete their studies to submit an application. More so than ever, rural and regional NSW has the necessity for driven individuals with an interest in community involvement and strengthening the sustainability of the future of rural and regional NSW. Scholarships of up to \$6,000 for full-time or \$3,000 for part-time study are available, along with opportunities to build exclusive professional networks through participation in a range of events. **Applications close 7th September 2020. Visit www.rasnsw.com.au for more information.**

JOIN THE GLENRAC MOB



WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A GLENRAC MEMBER?

- Immediate access to the latest offers and resources available
- Incredible events tailor designed for the Glen Innes region
- Direct line to leading industry experts and information
- A stronger GLENRAC is a stronger Glen Innes
- It's FREE!

CONTACT THE GLENRAC OFFICE ON 02 6732 3443 TO SIGN UP TODAY!

GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2019/20

CHAIRMAN – Ian Lockwood

VICE CHAIR – Julie Firth

TREASURER – Sam Baker

SECRETARY – Tony Corcoran

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

John Bavea, Andrew Campbell, Sandy Fitzgerald, Chris Leahy, Jane Munro, Mike Norton

GLEN INNES SEVERN COUNCIL: Graham Price, Col Price

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES: Carol Harris **NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE:** Dr. Peter Croft

GLEN INNES LOCAL ABORIGINAL LANDS COUNCIL: Jayden Potter

PUBLIC OFFICER: Col Price

For all questions relating to GLENRAC please contact our staff at

68 Church Street PO Box 660 GLEN INNES NSW 2370

Phone: 02 6732 3443

Mobile: 0427 325 901

Email: glenrac@glenrac.org.au

www.glenrac.org.au

GLENRAC
PO Box 660
GLEN INNES
NSW 2370



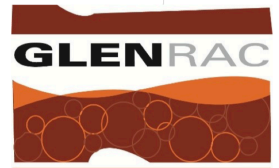
To The Land Manager

This activity is part of the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative



**Local Land
Services**

The Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative is funded by the NSW Government, and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW.



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

COMING EVENTS:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 20th August | Farm Budgeting Masterclass 1: What Good Budgets Look Like – 1:00pm-2:00pm, online. |
| 27th August | Farm Budgeting Masterclass 2: Improving Productive Cash Flow – 1:00pm-2:00pm, online. |
| 31st August | NLIS Workshop – 9:30am-4:00pm, GLENRAC Office. |
| 2nd September | Business Continuity: Resilience, Motivation, Optimism – 7:00pm-8:30pm, online. |
| 3rd September | Farm Budgeting Masterclass 3: Using Excel to Plan Your Budgets – 1:00pm-2:00pm, online. |
| 10th September | Farm Budgeting Masterclass 4: Reviewing Your Budget Mid-season – 1:00pm-2:00pm, online. |
| 8th September | Collared: Wild Dog Control with Guy Ballard and Darren Marshall – 7:00pm-8:30pm, online. |
| 15th September | Controlling the Indian Myna Bird – 12:30pm-1:30pm, online. |
| 17th September | Farm Business Skills: 6 Strategies for the Future – 1:00pm-2:00pm, online. |

TO REGISTER, OR SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF EVENTS, VISIT WWW.GLENRAC.ORG.AU/EVENTS