



BIODIVERSITY FUND

The Australian Government has committed to reducing Australia's carbon emissions by between 5 and 25 per cent by 2020. This is known as the Clean Energy Future Plan. Under the program, the Federal Government has launched the Biodiversity Fund. This will provide \$946.2 million over the first 6 years to land managers to undertake projects that establish, restore, protect or manage biodiverse carbon stores. Included in eligible projects are those that have actions to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Applications available at www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture/biodiversity-fund/index.html

FARMER OF THE YEAR PHOTO COMPETITION

Entries for the 2012 Farmer of the Year Photo Competition will open on 1st January. The competition is sponsored by Elders and Fairfax Media. To find out more, go to www.yearofthefarmer.com.au

GRAIN RESEARCH UPDATE

Grains Research and Development Corporation will host their Northern Region Update in Goondiwindi 6-7 March 2012. There will be multiple concurrent and plenary sessions including topics such as weeds; carbon sequestration; cereal disease; nematodes and nutrition.

Key note speaker will be Prof Iain Young (UNE) to discuss Understanding Soil, Plant and Microbe Interactions in Cropping Soils. For a detailed agenda + registration forms, visit www.icanrural.com.au

SOILS WORKSHOP FOR SEVERN RIVER

GLENRAC, in partnership with Gwymac Landcare will host 2 workshops as part of the Severn River Health Project. These will be a one day workshop to be held in 2 locations-Glen Innes and Nullamanna. Workshop dates include:

Glen Innes Wed 7th March
Nullamanna Thurs 8th March
Usually \$200 per person, the workshop is offered for only \$20 per person, thanks to Caring for our Country funding.
RSVP to GLENRAC 67323443 or Gwymac Landcare 6721 1241.

2012 NATIONAL AWARDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Caring for our Country is sponsoring the award for Innovation in Natural Resource Management. The award recognizes best practice in sustainable NRM planning and implementation. The category is open to all councils—large, small, rural and urban. All councils are encouraged to enter. Applications close 17.2.2012. For more information, www.regional.gov.au/local/awards/index.aspx

COOLATAI GRASS FIELD DAY

Glenrac will host their Coolatai Grass field day Wednesday 25th January. The event, titled *Managing Coolatai Grass to Create Productive Pastures* will be held on Jim and Yvonne Benton's property 'Reedy Creek', Strathbogie Rd, Emmaville. Commencing at 9am, the event finishes with a free lunch. Register your attendance with GLENRAC 67323443. A map is provided when you register.

AWI FUNDING

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) Limited has announced its annual Call for Proposals. This is for organisations interested in on farm R&D projects and off-farm R&D projects with AWI. On farm projects includes those focused on sheep health, wool harvesting, clip quality and education. Off-farm projects include quality assurance, marketplace extension of fibre knowledge, performance apparel, innovation and textile development. Closes 1.2.2012. www.wool.com/About-AWI_Call-for-proposals.htm

RASF GRANTS

NSW Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation (RASf) is offering an opportunity for young people to attract up to \$25,000 in funding for a community project in their local area. To be eligible, you must be under 35 years of age on 1.5.2012 and be passionate about rural and regional issues.





Closes 15.1.2012,
rasf.smartygrants.com.au/
 CommunityFutures2012

ACTION ON THE GROUND

This new grant is offered by the Federal Government and aims to support farmers to reduce on farm agricultural emission of greenhouse gases and / or increase carbon sequestered in the soil. This is part of the Carbon Farming Futures Program + will invest \$99 million over 6 years through a series of grant rounds.

Examples of eligible projects include animal management and feed strategies to reduce methane emissions; management strategies to reduce nitrous oxide emissions; planting rotational crops for increasing soil carbon + more. Applications for the first round open 11.1.2012. Visit www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarmingfutures/action-on-the-ground. Applications close 8.2.2012.

GREENING AUSTRALIA WORKSHOPS

Greening Australia will run workshops during January 2012. To support the Federal Government's Clean Energy Future program, Greening Australia will provide information workshops for the public. The workshops will focus on guiding + establishing biodiverse plantings throughout the landscape. Our closest workshops will be held as follows:

Tamworth 19 Jan
 Toowoomba 20 Jan
 Register your attendance with Greening Australia
www.conlog.com.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=456&s=_0BK0WLX
 HV alternatively, email Nikki Whelan
NWhelan@greeningaustralia.org.au

WORM CONTROL WORKSHOPS

Dr Lewis Kahn and Deb Maxwell will present this workshop in the New England area during February. Worms could cost you over \$9000pa in production loss alone. Stay in control, cut losses and drench less through this Worm Control Workshop. This workshop is activity based, practical and applicable.

Dates:

Bundarra Thurs 23 Feb
 Armidale Fri 24 Feb
 Walcha Wed 29 Feb
 Cost of workshop is \$150.
 RSVP to Deb Maxwell 02 6779 4262 or deb@bellaine.com

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY BUSINESS PLAN

The 2012-2013 Business Plan has been released. This is the Federal Government's flagships NRM funding program. Due to the CFCO program being wrapped up June 2013, applications being sought are 12 months duration. Priority areas include Sustainable Farming Practices, Biodiversity and Increasing Knowledge + Skills. The online application form is now available at www.nrm.gov.au

Applications close 9.2.2012.

CHAIRS APPOINTED

The NSW Government has announced 9 new Chairs for Catchment Management Authorities in NSW. This includes Northern Rivers appointed Chair John Williams.

Recruitment for the Chair positions in Namoi and Border Rivers-Gwydir regions is continuing.

FLOOD FUNDING

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA has released a Flood Recovery Funding program. This targets landholders who were flood affected by January 2011 flooding. This includes areas of Yetman-Bonshaw-Tenterfield. Applicants will need to be able to provide evidence of the damage caused. Types of projects suitable for funding include regeneration / revegetation; fencing rivers + creeks; eradication of weeds (WONS), improving groundcover. Applications close 6.2.2012.

www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au

WORM CONTROL WORKSHOPS IN BUNDARRA

Gwymac Landcare will run a Faecal Worm Egg Counting workshop in Bundarra 9th February. This is part of the Healthy Farms, Healthy Gwydir project, funded by Caring for our Country. The workshop is available for just \$20 per person. Bundarra landholders should register with Gwymac 67211241.