

GLENRAC

Newsletter

Nov/ Dec 2015

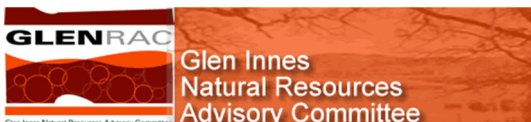
Where to find us - National Park & Wildlife
Services Building, 68 Church St
Office Hours— Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm

Inside This Issue

- *Book reviews*
- *Weeds Award for NEWA*
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- *Farm business skills program announcement*
- *Funding & scholarships*
- *Coming events*

Are you a GLENRAC member?

Visit our website for an application form. It's FREE and open to anyone interested in natural resource management, www.glenrac.org.au



Local Land Services
Northern Tablelands



Australian Government



Small grants to fertilise sustainable agriculture knowledge

Farmers and fishers across the country are set to receive a boost, with \$2.2 million in small grants announced to increase industry capacity and support the adoption of productive management practices.

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, said that these small grants would contribute to the overall resilience, competitiveness and productivity of Australia's agriculture and fishing industries.

"These small grants will assist farmers, fishers, community groups and farming systems groups to access and share best practice in their businesses, supporting the adoption of industry-wide best practice throughout Australia, from the introduction of new management practices in cropping and livestock industries, to the use of new technologies in dairy, aquaculture and fisheries.

Ultimately, adopting appropriate management practices that increase production, improve product quality and/or lower input costs also help to drive returns back through the farm gate. We need to help share knowledge and skills across the sector—to help farmers boost their productivity while better managing natural resources including soil, water quality and availability, and native vegetation.

"We want to fund activities like field days, workshops, conferences, demonstration events, training and skill development—activities that help develop innovative practices and more sustainable use of our natural resources within the broader agricultural community.

"Grants between \$5500 and \$55,000 (GST inclusive) are available for such activities and I encourage farmers, fishers, community groups and other entities, including farming systems groups to apply."

Applications for the National Landcare Programme Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants Round 2015-16 close at 2:00 pm AEDT **Monday 7 December**. For more information and to read the grant guidelines visit: www.nrm.gov.au/agsmallgrants

Source—Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP Minister for Ag & Water Resources

GLENRAC News

Hello All, Life is looking a little brighter and a great deal greener after our recent rainfall events! Amazing the difference three weeks can make to how our landscape looks. As usual the GLENRAC office has been a busy place with a number of active projects being rolled out involving on ground works and events.

GLENRAC held its AGM in late September, the meeting was well attended and we reported on our performance for 2014/15 and our performance against the goals of our strategic plan for the period 2010-2015. If you are interested in what has been achieved visit the GLENRAC website and look under Resources / Organisational Documents.

The GLENRAC committee will be undertaking a renewal of our Strategic Plan for 2015-2020. We recently included an electronic survey in our e/ flashes emailed to members. Thank you for those of you who made time to give us your feedback. If you don't get our e/ flashes and would like to give us your feedback please contact the office before 1st December and speak to one of our staff or speak to your local committee member—see the back page for a list of committee members.

You may already be aware of subsidised training on offer through the NSW Government's Smart & Skilled Program. If not, there is some information on Page 7 that may be of interest. If you don't know where to start to apply to complete this training contact the office and we will be able to help you access these opportunities. There is also the option that this training could be delivered locally instead of having to spend your time driving to major regional centres.

Be sure and read the article on Page 1, individuals and groups are eligible to apply. If you have an idea we would be happy to assist you in preparing a grant application that could benefit farmers in our region. Regards, GLENRAC staff - Kylie, Lucy, Tanya, Pamela & Jennie



Bright Ideas

Looking for Christmas gifts?



These calendars are available at the front desk of the national parks building and you will be supporting the Northern Tablelands Wildlife carers!

The calendar shows native animals rescued & cared for in the Northern Tablelands area by the Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers. They cost \$15 and are also available at the GI Vet Hospital or phone Kelly on 0437321838 to put in an order.

BOOK REVIEWS

Healthy Bees (2014)

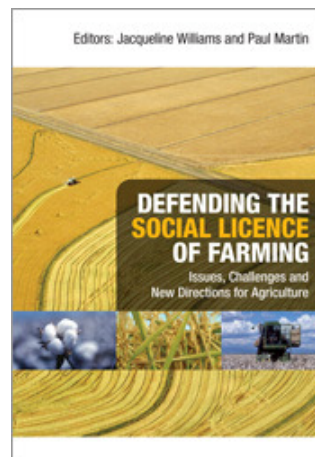


Pests and diseases can attack specific stages in the lifecycle of the honey bee and they can also attack specific castes. This publication covers the management of pests, diseases and other disorders of the honey bee. Publisher NSW Department of Primary Industries Price \$25.00

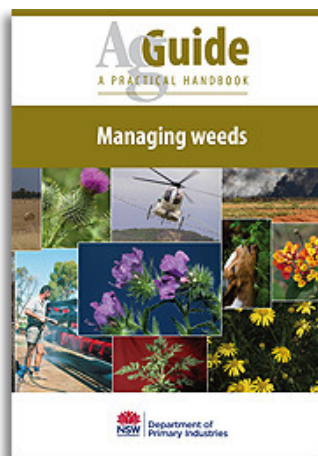
Defending the Social Licence of Farming (2011)

Issues including climate variability, water scarcity, animal welfare and declining biodiversity have led to increasing demands on farmers to conduct and communicate their farming practices so as to protect their 'social licence to farm'.

Publisher: CSIRO Publishing, Paperback - 2011
AU \$ 49.95



Managing weeds (2013)



This book is for people interested in managing weeds in the landscape, either for the protection of our natural resources and biodiversity, or for the protection of agricultural production and productivity.

A practical guide to help you design successful weed management programs. Publisher NSW Department of Primary Industries Price \$25.00

New England Weeds Authority success at NSW State Weed Conference

New England Weeds Authority has been selected to host 19th NSW Weeds Conference in Armidale in 2017.

The 18th NSW Weed Conference was held in Cooma from the 12th to 15th October 2015, hosted by Cooma-Monaro Shire Council. The theme for this year's conference was 'Weeds - The Future, Innovation and Adaption'. Attended by over 250 delegates, the program had a wide range of expert national, state and local speakers covering a wide range of weed management and control topics.

In addition to sharing knowledge on the management of weeds, this biennial conference is an opportunity to promote developments and new technology within the weeds industry. During this year's conference there was a clear focus on emerging technologies with a number of presentations under the title 'From Drones to Smartphones'. New England Weeds Authority (NEWA) is known as an organisation eager to embrace and develop new technology. NEWA was the lead organisation for the former Northern Inland Weed Advisory Committee's (NIWAC's) recent Feasibility Study and cost benefit analysis into the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (drones or UAV's) in weed management and surveillance.

Josh Biddle, Walcha District Weeds Officer, gave a presentation on both the research undertaken and the practical use of UAV's in regional weed inspection and surveillance programs. This was one of the best received presentations and generated a lot of discussion and enthusiasm amongst Weed Officers.

A highlight of the conference is always the announcement of the biennial Weed Management Awards. The Buerckner and Stephenson Awards honour Parkes Shire Council Weed Officers, Mal Buerckner and Ian Stephenson who were tragically killed on the job in a helicopter accident in 2006. The Buerckner Award recognises an outstanding contribution towards protecting NSW from the impacts of weeds, whilst the Stephenson Award recognises the outstanding contribution to planning and coordinating weed management programs in NSW

James Browning, NEWA's Senior Weed Officer, was the winner of the Buerckner Award and Heather Apps, Regional Project Officer for NEWA, was a finalist in the Stephenson Award. James is to be congratulated on achieving this outstanding

recognition for his longstanding commitment and dedication to his work, particularly acknowledging his noteworthy work with both Serrated Tussock and Tropical Soda Apple. Likewise it is pleasing to see Heather recognised for her devotion to her work.

To cap it all off, NEWA has been selected to host the 19th NSW Weeds Conference in Armidale in October 2017. This will bring over 300 delegates and their partners to Armidale. Councillor Maria Woods, Chair of NEWA, said "We are delighted to have been selected to host this most prestigious conference and we look forward to welcoming delegates and presenting a program of experts, field trips and live demonstrations as well as being able to demonstrate the wonderful attributes of the New England region".



Photo—James Browning, Senior Weeds Officer, and Heather Apps, Project Coordinator, and Wayne Deer, General Manager, at the Presentation Night.

Source—New England Weeds Authority

Glen Innes Severn Council and the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council, trading as New England Weeds Authority entered into a three (3) year agreement commencing 2015. NEWA has been delegated with authority to exercise all of Council's functions, powers and responsibilities under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and regulations.

Included in NEWA's responsibilities is the implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program 2015-2020 for the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area.

Phone contacts for weed enquiries are 02 6770 2358 or 0438 501 286. To see where NEWA will be working visit <http://>



Pest Animal Update

NEW FUNDING - Community Wild Dog Control Initiative

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) has helped 48 groups across Australia to conduct on ground activities to kill wild dogs by releasing cash payments from a project commonly referred to as the 'Kill More Dogs' initiative.

The AWI Board has endorsed a second round of funding for dog control activities and applications are open to new groups as well as those assisted by the original funding.

If you would like to apply, please complete the form on <http://www.wool.com/on-farm-research-and-development/sheep-health-welfare-and-productivity/pest-animals/wild-dogs-foxes-and-pigs/> or Ian Evans at AWI on 0427 773 005

Plague locust infestations on the Northern Tablelands

Landholders urged to report any signs of locust activity as soon as possible. Multiple plague locust infestations have been confirmed on the Northern Tablelands with the insects reported to be feeding on pasture and oat crops in the Bundarra and Torryburn districts.

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Invasive Species Team Leader, Mark Tarrant has expressed concern about the potential for damage to crops and pastures in the Northern Tablelands region if locusts are not detected and managed early.

If you suspect plague locusts on your property, or if you notice locust activity as you are travelling through the region, please contact your nearest Northern Tablelands Local Land Services office at Glen Innes - 02 6732 8800. Source—NT LLS

FERAL CATS STILL WANTED

UNE PhD student Frances Zewe is looking for feral cats as part of her studies to investigate the prevalence of toxoplasmosis in the Glen Innes and surrounding cat population. Whole fresh or frozen feral cat carcasses are required or Frances can supply a "trapper pack" (not traps) to collect the required samples. You can collect samples from cats trapped or shot or found as roadkill. GLENRAC now has a number of the "trapper packs" available for interested land managers.

If you can assist in this research contact Frances on 0423 363 481 or mail fzewe@myune.edu.au



State wide review of pest animal management - Closes 30th November 2015

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is inviting public submissions in regards to key questions outlined in the 'State wide review of NSW pest animal management Issues Paper'. The NRC would prefer to receive submissions electronically using their online submission form.

⇒ To participate in this review visit www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/pest-animal-management

Vertebrate Pest Induction Training GLEN INNES 24th November

This training course is free for landholders to attend. The training runs for 3 hours and you will receive a certification for the use of 1080 and Pindone for 5 years.

Topics covered include Legislation, Pesticides Act and Control orders; Risk Management; Bait Types; Poison notices; Distance restrictions; Transport; Disposal. To register to attend contact Tania Stone on 02 6770 2000.

Northern Tablelands LLS Strategic Plan Public Consultation

The Northern Tablelands LLS Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is now seeking your feedback. This strategy will guide the future direction of the organisation and the way it will deliver services for the people, primary industries and landscapes of the Northern Tablelands of NSW.

To view the plan and for more information <http://open.northerntablelands.lls.nsw.gov.au/lsp>
Please comment before Monday 22 November 2015.

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Are you A Friend of Landcare NSW?

You can join Landcare NSW as a Friend of Landcare as an individual. You can join online or by completing a hard-copy application form. For more information visit www.landcarensw.org.au

As a "Friend of Landcare NSW" you will receive the following benefits:

- ⇒ Quarterly updates on LNSW activities & new information;
- ⇒ Quick feedback loop on the important issues affecting Landcare at both State and Federal levels;
- ⇒ By adding your voice we can be more effective at every level.



Have you ever wondered were to go if you or a friend or family member need help?

GLENRAC has available a fridge magnet listing rural support services and networks that will help you to help others when they need a hand. If you would like one for your fridge call into the office or we usually have them at GLENRAC events.

The MindSpot Clinic is a free telephone and online service for Australian adults troubled by symptoms of anxiety or depression.



They provide free online screening assessments to help you learn about your symptoms, free treatment courses to help you to recover, or we can help you find local services that can help.

<https://mindspot.org.au/> or phone 1800 614 434

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised for the amazing work that they do?

There are many exceptional women in NSW who deserve to be recognised. If you would like to acknowledge a woman in your community who has made a significant contribution, has demonstrated excellence in her career, or is an inspiring role model, you can nominate her for the 2016 NSW Women of the Year Awards. Nominations are now open. Visit www.women.nsw.gov.au for more information. Nominations close 13 January 2016.

Country Education Foundation Guide— FREE to download

The 2016 Country Education Foundation (CEF) Scholarships Guide is a comprehensive list of tertiary scholarships developed for rural and regional students. This guide is free to download for your reference.

The Guide includes a wide variety of scholarships which range from a \$500 textbook or accommodation grant up to \$50,000 per year for education and living costs.

This Guide is a must read for rural and regional students who face greater financial barriers when pursuing higher education. If you need financial assistance, we strongly encourage you to APPLY! You can also subscribe to the CEF newsletter for more regular updates.

<https://cef.org.au/students/scholarships/>

\$45 MILLION BUSINESS SKILLS PROGRAM BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE OF FARMING IN NSW

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair today launched the NSW Government's \$45 million Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program.

From today, service providers and primary producers can apply to participate in vocational training and farm business planning, with a maximum of \$5000 per farmer, and \$9000 per farm business, claimable over the next five years.

The \$45 million program is a core component of the NSW Government's \$300 million NSW Drought Strategy. "We are working hand-in-hand with our farmers to help them manage risks, like drought, and to drive continued growth in this critical \$12 billion industry" Mr Blair said.

"This provides farmers with the funding they need to upskill and develop farm business plans, as part of this government's five-year strategy to help the sector be better prepared and better able to manage risks."

Three priority areas have been identified for providers, which include risk management; financial and business management; and farm business planning/drought preparedness. This funding can also be used for the preparation and planning that is required to apply to service providers for multi-peril insurance.

Service providers are encouraged to apply to the Rural Assistance Authority (RAA), with a list of courses to be placed on the RAA website in coming weeks. Separate to the pre-approved courses, from today primary producers are also able to apply to the RAA for approval for other vocational training or farm business planning service providers that meet their needs and are within the guidelines for the program.

Farmers are able to register immediately with the RAA and they will be advised of the programs once they have been registered. The program guidelines have been developed through extensive consultation with NSW Farmers', Local Land Services, the Rural Assistance Authority and the Department of Primary Industries. For more information or to apply, visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au

Source : NSW Rural Assistance Authority (4th Nov. 2015)



**Department of
Primary Industries**
Rural Assistance Authority

Funding & Scholarship Opportunities

Local rural leaders to claim up to \$25,000 in Grants

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation is on the search for young, motivated leaders in rural areas who are looking to improve their community through local projects.

Funding of up to \$25,000 will be available for Community Futures Grants, a program for NSW residents aged 35 and under, which encourages young people in rural areas to take a leadership role in improving their local community.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit www.rasnsw.com.au/grants to find out more about the grant and to complete the online application form. Applications close at 5pm on 6 December, 2015 and the recipients will be announced at the 2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show.



New England Electorate Grants

FEDERAL Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce has encouraged community organisations in the New England Electorate to apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 to assist the work of their volunteers.

Applications for Volunteer Grants close 2pm AEDT, Wednesday 9 December 2015. For further information go to dss.gov.au/grants alternatively, contact the Volunteer Grants 2015 Hotline on free call 1800 183 374 or email vg2015@dss.gov.au



Coles Nurture Fund

The fund will allocate grants and interest-free loans small Australian food and grocery producers, farmers and manufacturers to innovate and grow their business, to fund the development of new market-leading products, technologies, systems and processes.

Applications close on 12 February 2016. For more details go to <https://www.supplierportal.coles.com.au/csp/wps/portal/web/ColesNurtureFund>

FREE COURSES - FULLY FUNDED ACCREDITED COURSES FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY



- Open to everyone unless you are in full time education (uni or school), includes recent school leavers
- Includes a range of courses such as Prograze, Landscan, Quad bike handling, chemical user training, chainsaw use, beekeeping, pasture management.
- Courses can be delivered face to face in groups or completed on-line
- Select the course/s you wish to attend, send in a letter to Monique validating your need to complete this training;
- Training must commence before 30th December 2015 and must finish by 30th June 2016
- For more information contact Monique Caslick, Short Course Coordinator T: 02 67631203 E: monique.caslick@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Training Subsidies available in the New England & North West region

Thanks to the NSW Government's Smart and Skilled program, RuralBiz Training is able to offer the Diploma of Agriculture and the Advanced Diploma of Agriculture to those in the New England and North West region at heavily subsidised prices.

This is a great opportunity to upgrade your business skills for the farm - and it's all online so you won't need to leave the farm! VET FEE-HELP is also available for assistance in paying your student fees. For more information visit www.ruralbiztraining.com.au or phone 02 6884 8812

\$50,000 rebate for small & medium business' to increase recycling

THE State Government has marked National Recycling Week by doubling a recycling rebate program for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to purchase small-scale recycling equipment.

“Up to \$50,000 (instead of \$25,000) is now available through the Bin Trim rebate for each SME in NSW who would like to improve their recycling rates. This rebate offer ends March 2017.

For more information visit: epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim

Coming Events and Opportunities

Wellington Vale Weeds Field Day - Wednesday 18th November 2015

GLENRAC is hosting a field day at the Tent Hill Hall from 10:00am to 12:00pm, a BBQ lunch will follow.

Come along to find out about -

- New funding for weed control for landholders around Wellington Vale, Emmaville & Deepwater
- Tips on weed identification and control
- Training available for pest animal control
- Services available through GLENRAC for landholders
- Presenters will include staff from GLENRAC, NEWA and NT LLS

If you would like to attend RSVP to GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 or kylie@glenrac.org.au by the 17th November 5:00pm.



Get the Dirt on Soil Health - Bus Trip - 19th November 2015 - 9:00am to 4:00pm

Join us on a bus trip to Derek & Fiona Smith's Working with Nature farm located just outside of Guyra to 'get the dirt' on the soil health. The day will consist of a mini soil health workshop following by a farm walk to view soil health principles in action.

Derek was an invited speaker at last week's National Biological Farming Conference in Lismore. If you are interested in improving the health of your soils make sure you attend this event! Cost is \$20 per person. Morning tea & lunch provided.

For more information visit the GLENRAC website and look under Events. Seats are limited.

Both these events are supported by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme - 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants & Regional Landcare Facilitator programme



National
Landcare
Programme



Composting Workshop, Armidale Tuesday 24th November 2015

Features of a good compost - How to make your own compost - How local landholders are using compost on their own farms - Tour of the City to Soils Project

Presenters include: • Gerry Gillipse, Organics Consultant for Resource Recovery Australia • David Hardwick, Agricultural Ecologist, Soil Land Food • James Turnell, Waste Manager for Armidale Dumaresq Council

- ⇒ Cost: \$20/person includes catering for the day
Venue: Armidale Bowling Club.
- ⇒ For more information, contact: Kristy Youman 02 6772 9123 or kristy@snelcc.org.au
- ⇒ To register go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/composting-workshop-tickets-19460259159>

NT LLS Meeting Market Specifications Beef Cattle Field Day Glen Innes Thursday 26th November 2015

Topics include:

- ⇒ Update on the latest outcomes from the NSW DPI muscling herd research
 - ⇒ BeefSpecs and the new BeefSpecs Drafting Tool. Mob and individual animal growth model-based tools, developed by NSW DPI to help producers manage cattle to better meet market specifications
 - ⇒ 3D cameras which will revolutionise live cattle assessment and provide objective measurements for breeding and management decisions
 - ⇒ Live Animal Assessment - muscle and fat (practical activity in cattle yards)
 - ⇒ Utilising industry feedback to modify breeding and backgrounding programs
 - ⇒ Launch of Barnaby by Heritage Seeds, bred by NSW DPI and the Future Farms Industries CRC
- RSVP by 23rd November to Jason Siddell on 0459 162 295

Native Bee Keeping Workshop - Inverell Saturday 5th December 2015

The workshop will include : how to split a boxed hive; how to transfer a hive from a log into a box; amazing honey for tasting and how to locate hives in the bush so they can be protected

The cost of the workshop is \$50 per person. BYO morning tea and lunch, hat, and water. Contact Gwymac Landcare to book your place 02 6721 1241.

GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2015/16

CHAIRMAN - Jim Benton

TREASURER - Sam Baker

SECRETARY - Jeff Lowien

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Glen Innes Severn Council : Graham Price or Ian Trow & 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: Trevor 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



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Coming Events:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 18 Nov | Wellington Vale Weeds Field Day 10:00am to 12:00pm |
| 19 Nov | Get the Dirt on soil health bus trip 9:00am to 4:00pm \$20 pp. |
| 23-24 Nov | Northern Lights Project Display Glen Innes Library |
| 24 Nov | 1080 / Pindone Training course, Glen Innes Ph 02 6770 2000 |
| 24 Nov | SNELCC's CITY TO SOIL COMPOST Field Day \$20pp. |
| 26 Nov | Meeting Market Specs Beef Field Day, Glen Innes Ph: 0459 162 295 |
| 1 Dec | Glen East Landcare group meeting 7:30pm Ph 02 6732 3443 |
| 5 Dec | Native Bee workshop, Inverell |
| 2015 | International Year of Soils "healthy soils for a healthy life" |

For more information on any of these events, including contact details visit the GLENRAC website, www.glenrac.org.au