



NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST LANDCARE

REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 49: 12 Jan 2012

COOLATAI GRASS FIELD DAY

Glenrac will host a field day positive results of Coolatai Grass management. This free event will be held at Jim + Yvonne Benton's property (near Strathbogie), where there have been trials of Coolatai Grass management, with favourable results. Speakers include Lester McCormick (NSW DPI), Bruce Gardiner (BRG CMA), owner Jim Benton and Jonathan Lawson (BRG CMA), who will provide an overview of the CMA's Invasive Species Program. Morning tea + lunch included. RSVP to Glenrac 67323443 by 20th January.

RAS ACHIEVERS NAMED

The 2012 Royal Agricultural Society NSW (RAS) Rural Achiever Awards have been announced. Eight Achievers were named for the state, with 3 winners in our region. Anna Reddon of Somerton, a media and public relations consultant; Matthew Irwin of Inverell who is studying a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and Rebecca Byrne of Moree – a District Agronomist with NSW DPI were all winners. Winners receive prize money, a dynamic professional development workshop + are recognised at an official function at Parliament House.

NEW APP FOR FARMERS

A new, free smartphone application is revolutionising the way landholders manage their properties. F-Track Live, designed by a farmer, can manage stock, storage systems,

maintain infrastructure and take note of conditions on properties - all at the touch of a button.

Users can load paddocks and cropping information, any tasks, + allow you have a stock book in your phone. The data is still available if there is no signal. The program also allows multiple phones to use the same database of information.

FIELD TO FABRIC COURSE

This workshop, to be held in Moree, will highlight to growers the importance attached to individual fibre properties by spinners. Presenters include Rene van der Sluijs (CSIRO), Dr Mike Bange (CSIRO Plant Industry), the Australian Cotton Shippers Assoc + Australian Ginners Assoc. Date: Wed 15th February, 2-4.30pm Venue: Max Centre, Moree RSVP by 13.2.2012 to Sally Dickinson, 0427 521 498 sally.dickinson@gvia.org.au

FARMING HISTORY

The National Museum of Australia is looking for old medals awarded to farmers at agricultural throughout Australia. It recently purchased a large collection of historical medals dating from the 1850's to the 1920's. The medals were given for events like champion ploughing, best butter fat production and the top kidney bean. Museum curator Doctor Margaret Sears says they represent the early days of Australia's agricultural heritage and are fundamental part of

Australia's history.

www.nma.gov.au/collections/highlights/agricultural_medals

SEVERN RIVER WORKSHOPS

Glenrac + Gwymac will join forces to offer a series of workshops for landholders in the Severn River catchment. Workshops will be delivered by Resource Consulting Services (RCS) + include healthy soils, property planning + monitoring themes. The Healthy Soils workshops will be held:
Wed 7th March, Glen Innes
Thu 8th March, Nullamanna

Property Planning + Monitoring workshops will be held as follows:

Wed 16th May, Glen Innes
Thu 17th May, Ashford
All workshops cost \$20pp. Book in with either Glenrac 67323443 or Gwymac 67211241.

NAMOI PHOTO COMP

Namoi Catchment Management Authority has launched its 3rd annual Catchment Photographic Competition. This year's theme is *Capturing Our Catchment*. Examples of images may be native plants + animals in their natural habitat; land + water systems; landscapes + landmarks; or natural + human-made elements. There are 5 categories on offer. Closes 31 January 2012. The photograph can be either colour or black & white. www.namoi.cma.nsw.gov.au



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Send your news for the Landcare Update to
Fiona Adams at fiona@gwymaclandcare.net.au



ENVIROBEAT FOR YOUTH

Narrabri will host the EnviroBeat Youth Conference 27-28 March 2012. The free event is open to Years 5 and 6 students in the Namoi catchment. This is a hands on event, with kids driving the agenda, kids-teaching-kids sessions + local students making presentations about locally relevant issues. Contact Col Easton at Namoi CMA 67645940.

BIRDS AUSTRALIA MERGER

As of 1 January 2012, Birds Australia has merged with BOCA (Bird Observation & Conservation Australia) to become BirdLife Australia. The new BirdLife Australia website will go live in early February + until then the current Birds Australia site will continue to be available.

BirdLife Australia is dedicated to achieving outstanding conservation results for native birds + their habitats. They possess specialised knowledge + have an Australia-wide network of members, volunteers + supporters. The new web address will be birdlife.org.au.

CLIMATEDOGS

The NSW Climatedog animation series uses humorous animations of sheep dogs to explain complex atmospheric phenomena to farmers. The series has been developed in collaboration with the [Australian Bureau of Meteorology](http://www.bom.gov.au) and [Victorian](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au)

[Department of Primary Industries.](#)

Each of these dogs represents the main drivers of climate variability in NSW. 'Ridgy' otherwise known as the Subtropical Ridge is the lead dog of the pack. 'Enso' represents the El Nino Southern Oscillation phenomena, 'Indy' represents the Indian Ocean Dipole + 'Sam' the Southern Annular Mode. See it for yourself at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/climate-and-weather/variability/climatedogs

BIOCHAR EVENT

Wollongbar Primary Industries Institute will host a workshop to review DPI biochar research undertaken through the DAFF Climate Change Research Program, and also feature other agricultural biochar activities. Date for the event is 6th June 2012. Contact Rebecca Lines-Kelly 6626 1319 or Rebecca.lines-kelly@industry.nsw.gov.au

FREE APP FOR GRAIN GROWERS

Developed by NSW Department of Primary Industries, CropMate VarietyChooser is a decision tool for farmers, to help choose varieties of barley, canola, chickpea, oats, triticale and wheat. Choose your region, desired disease resistance levels, see comparative yield trials to narrow down your choices and see details of each variety.

CHEMICAL CARD WORKSHOP @ DEEPWATER

NSW Farmers Association will host a chemical card workshop at Deepwater Thursday 2nd February. Both Refresher + Initial Accreditation workshops will be delivered. Generous NSW Farmers Association member discounts are available:

Refresher	\$175 (member) \$220 (non-member)
Full Course	\$265 (member) \$330 (non-member)

Call 1300 794 000 or email training@nswfarmers.org.au to book in.

ACTION ON THE GROUND NOW LIVE

The Australian Government's Action on the Ground program has opened for applications this week. Applicants can apply for projects across a range of priority areas, including increasing soil carbon; reducing nitrous oxide emissions; reduced methane emissions and projects that have an innovative approach to increasing soil carbon. Round one of the program will provide up to \$25 million for on-ground projects in the agriculture sector.

Funding per project is available up to \$605,000 over a period of up to 3 years. Closes 8th February. www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarmingfutures/action-on-the-ground