



NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST LANDCARE

REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 100, 31st January 2014

ISSUE 100

Welcome to the 100th New England North West Regional Update! Hopefully the updates have been serving their purpose over the past 4 years and providing information about upcoming events, funding opportunities and natural resource management news across the region.

If you have information to contribute to the update please send it to jennie@gblc.org.au

2014 LANDCARE ADVENTURE SHAPING UP

The program for the 16th New England North West Landcare Adventure is taking shape for a fantastic 2 days around Glen Innes on 19th & 20th March 2014.

With feature speakers including the inspirational Sam Bailey—farmer, pilot & best selling author; Terry McCosker of Resource Consulting Services and the 2013 NSW-ACT RIRDC Rural Woman of the Year Isobel Knight, the program is packed with interesting sessions.

Site visits include the NSW DPI Research Station, award winning organic producers Phil & Bettina Lynn and Rangers Valley feedlot.

Unbeatable value for money at \$100 per person including all meals for the 2 days, overnight accommodation (twin share) and bus transport for site visits.

Registration brochures will be available through your local Landcare Office this week or by emailing glenrac@glenrac.org.au

WEED IDENTIFICATION TOOL

Use this simple online tool to assist with weed identification. To begin the identification process, open the link <http://www.weeds.org.au/weedident.htm> and click on the State or Territory where the weed occurs.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH RCS

RCS are hosting a FREE KIT (Keep In Touch) day at Tom and Lucy Faithfull's property "Redbank" on 7th February.

Topics covered include water infrastructure planning, electric fence do's and don'ts, low stress stock shifting, cow and calf management, and a tour of the property will be incorporated in to the day.

Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether or not you have attended an RCS course. RSVP: Katie on 1800 356 004 or email: kcrozier@rcs.au.com

CLIMATE CHANGE DATE CLAIMERS

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services are planning to hold three events that will involve presentations from CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology. Their presentations, broadly, will cover global and Australian climate and weather patterns, Climate Change 101 and up-to-date climate change projections for the Northern Tablelands.

The workshops will be held in Inverell - 13th May, Tenterfield - 14th May and Armidale - 15th May. They will be late afternoon/evening events from 4-7pm, with a light supper afterwards. Put these dates in your diary and keep an eye out for more detail in future Regional Updates.

FARM INNOVATION FUND

Farm Innovation Fund Concessional loans are now available from the NSW Rural Assistance Authority to assist with drought preparedness, environment, farm infrastructure and natural resources works.

Up to 20 year terms, current interest rate is 2.5% which is fixed for the term of the loan. Visit <http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/farm-innovation-fund>

NATURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Farmers and small businesses in the Guyra and Gwydir Shires impacted by severe storms and tornados in November have access to Natural Disaster Loans. Applications must be lodged before the 30th June 2014.

<http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/natural-disaster-relief>

WORKCOVER BEEF & SHEEP SAFETY REBATE

Due to the overwhelming level of interest that farmers have shown in improving safety on their farms, the NSW government has decided to allocate additional funds to the Sheep and Beef Rebate Program.

WorkCover have re-opened the rebate program and applications for the rebate program will now be accepted until 30 April 2014.

Further information and FAQs are available on the WorkCover website at www.workcover.nsw.gov.au, or by contacting WorkCover Assistance Service on 13 10 50.



CALL FOR COMMENT GREEN ARMY

The Green Army is a hands-on, practical, grassroots environmental action programme supporting local environment and heritage conservation projects across Australia. It gives young Australians aged 17-24 training and experience in environmental and heritage conservation fields through projects that generate real benefits for the Australian environment.

The Department of the Environment, with the Department of Employment, is seeking public comment on the Green Army Draft Statement of Requirements. This document sets out the design features and proposed delivery arrangements for the programme.

Comments are sought from potential service providers and training organisations, potential project sponsors such as conservation groups, Indigenous groups and local councils, as well as potential participants.

Further information, including the Green Army Draft Statement of Requirements document is available at www.environment.gov.au/topics/cleaner-environment/clean-land/green-army or by calling 1800 780 730 or emailing greenarmy@environment.gov.au

GUNNEDAH TO HOST 2014 WOMEN'S FORUM

Gunnedah will host the 2014 Women's Forum on Friday 28 February and women from across the district are invited to come along and hear from a diverse range of speakers on a number of interesting topics.

The Forum will focus on the theme "The Power to Dream, Believe, Achieve".

Individuals wishing to register their attendance at the forum can find the registration form at www.gunnedah.nsw.gov.au, or contact Laurie on 6740 2230 to receive a registration package.

DROUGHT DATA NEEDED

NSW Farmers needs your help to lobby Government for drought assistance. They need local data to support the argument to the Minister that Government assistance is needed for those farmers affected by drought.

They will also be forwarding this information through to the DPI and the Regional Assistance Advisory Committee (RAAC) to assist in their advice to the minister. RAAC assures us that this information is just as valuable as physically being at their recent meetings.

Please click here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KM75HZM> to complete our Drought Survey.

Please encourage all affected farmers anywhere in the state to complete the survey.

WORLD VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

The 23rd IAVE (International Association for Volunteer Effort) World Volunteer Conference will take place on Queensland's Gold Coast 17th to 20th September 2014 at the Convention and Exhibition Centre. With delegates from around the globe, an exciting line-up of keynote speakers and presenters, and a comprehensive program, the Conference will highlight both the importance and complexity of volunteering.

Visit www.volunteeringaustralia.org

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW REPORTS

The region's MPs have encouraged community members and stakeholder bodies to provide feedback to the NSW Government, following the release of the final two reports from the latest local government review.

Local Government Minister Don Page released the final reports from the Independent Local Government Review Panel and the Local Government Acts Taskforce on Wednesday, 8 January, 2014.

Councils and the community now were given until 7 March, 2014 to make comments on both reports.

Both reports and online feedback options are available on the NSW Division of Local Government's website www.dlg.nsw.gov.au