



NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST LANDCARE

REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 63, 17th August 2012

AG N CHAT UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPOST & DRAWING WORKSHOP

Gwymac invites all rural women to attend an 'Ag n Chat' morning at Yallaroi on the 21st August 2012 and Bonshaw on Friday 24th Aug 2012.

Ag-n-Chat is a group for rural women. It's an informal + fun way to meet other rural women in your area. Each Ag-n-Chat gathering is a chance to learn more about life on the land & hear from other inspirational rural women.

Any rural women who would like to attend, please contact Gwymac for more information and to register on 6721 1241 or admin@gwymaclandcare.net.au

SCHOOL STUDENTS TO TURN TEACHERS

AT THE BORDER RIVERS KIDS CONFERENCE

Schools located along the New South Wales - Queensland border are gearing up for a teaching event with a difference, the Border Rivers Kids Conference!

The Conference is a 'Kids Teaching Kids' event to be hosted by the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA at Yetman on the 30th and 31st of August.

Australia Post 'Kids Teaching Kids' week is held from the 27th to the 31st of August and is supported by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

"This is a terrific opportunity for local students to learn more about their environment while they teach other children about a unique aspect of their special

patch of the Murray-Darling Basin," said CMA Education Officer, Kelly Coleman.

"The students will work with expert mentors to develop their ideas and to prepare a conference presentation using various creative means to get their message across, including play, song, video, dance and games."

The students attending the Conference have also been involved in the Border Rivers Schools' Waterwatch Network with assistance from Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA Catchment Officer, Lestyn Taylor.

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA has a strong passion for the environment and is supporting the Border Rivers Kids Conference to raise awareness about how we manage our local waterways amongst our next generation.

For more details contact Kelly Coleman on 02 6728 8041 or <http://education.brgcma.com>

CHILDREN OF TREEFEST 2012 & FROG DREAMING

This year marks 20 years since the original Treefest at "The Hill", Kentucky, an event that attracted over 6,000 people on one day to see 90 exhibitions and to listen to speakers from all over Australia. This year the annual Frog Dreaming event will be held in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of Treefest. Visit our website www.treefest.org.au for more details about the event. When: 20-21 September 2012 Where: "The Hill", Kentucky NSW Registration: Ph. Michael Taylor

0412 332 484
register@treefest.org.au or

BORDER RIVERS GWYDIR CMA WANTS YOUR COMMENTS

The Border Rivers Gwydir CMA is encouraging community members to submit comments and recommendations on the proposed Native Vegetation Legislation Following meetings held across the region. Farmers need to send consistent and focused messages that will ensure the legislation represents a balance between production and conservations Mr Hutchings from the Border Rivers CMA said. Copies of the draft legislation can be found at environment.nsw.gov.au or by contacting the BRG CMA on 67288 020. Submissions close Friday 24th August.

FLOOD GRANTS

Farmers and small business operators who suffered flood damage in January and February this year are being urged to apply for grants with the NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA).

RAA general manager Steve Griffith said applications must be received by August 31 but the date for production invoices and receipts for reimbursement had been extended to November 30 due to continuing waterlogged soil conditions in many areas and a lack of available contractors.

'Grants of up to \$15,000 are available to eligible primary producers and small businesses who suffered damage as a result of flooding and excessive



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Sarah Legge at sarah@gwymaclandcare.net.au



rainfall in the Gwydir, Moree, Narrabri, and Walgett local government areas.'

'Applications can be lodge with either an estimate, or quote of the damages suffered.'

Mr Griffith said grants would be paid to recipients on subsequent production of tax invoices or receipts. Contact RAA, 1800 678 593 or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au

GRANTS FOR ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

Minister for Sustainability Tony Burke today called for applications under the 2012-13 Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO) program.

"There are many great organisations working everyday at local, regional, state and national levels to achieve better protection for our environment and heritage.

"That is why we are continuing the GVESHO program, which has provided funding for environment and heritage groups for many years.

"Last year, I expanded the program to also support sustainability organisations with their ongoing administrative costs."

In 2012, 163 not-for-profit community - based environment, sustainability and heritage groups received funding under the program to assist with the day to day running costs of their organisation.

Grant guidelines and application forms are available at www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/gvesho

FUNDING TO HELP BOOST FISH NUMBERS

More than half a million dollars worth of grants are now available for individuals or groups committed to rehabilitating fish habitat across NSW, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries Conservation Manager, David Cordina, said today.

"Applications are now open for grants of up to \$40,000 as part of the NSW Government's Habitat Action Grant program," Mr Cordina said.

"These grants are open to fishing clubs, Landcare, Rivercare and other community groups, individuals and local councils wanting to improve fish habitat in their local area.

"If your local creek, river or estuary isn't as productive as it used to be, the cause could be poor fish habitat.

Mr Cordina said funds from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust are used for the Habitat Action Grant Program, which is administered by the DPI.

"Previous projects include removing barriers to fish movement, re-snagging waterways, bank stabilisation works, removing invasive weeds to re-establish native vegetation on our riverbanks, opening floodgates and fencing riverbanks to control the access of livestock," he said. *Applications for Habitat Action Grants close 28 Sept.*

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hag>

NOMINATE YOUR NEIGHBOUR MDU AWARD

Macintyre Development Unit is seeking nominations for this year's Black- Woods Shield Resource Management Competition. This award will be presented to the successful landholder from the Macintyre Valley at the Field Day in October this year. This Field Day will take place on the winners property showcasing the site for it's best practice in natural resource management on farm. The award landholder will receive prizes of cash and an assortment of rural goods. For a nomination form please contact Gwymac on 6721 1241.

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE 2012

taking place from 3-5 September in Sydney.

The line up of conference speakers includes award-winning international scientist Dr David Suzuki, environmentalist Tim Flannery, Australian food and wine expert Lyndey Milan, as well as rugby star and best-selling author Peter FitzSimons.

Those who have registered are reminded that bookings are open for pre-conference field trips and workshops. Please visit the website to book or contact the registration office on 02 9254 5000.

The theme for this year's conference is *Landcare — the future in our hands*.