

GLENRAC

Newsletter

April-June 2020



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Our vision is to create solutions for a sustainable and productive landscape.

Where to find us

NPWS Building
68 Church Street
Glen Innes

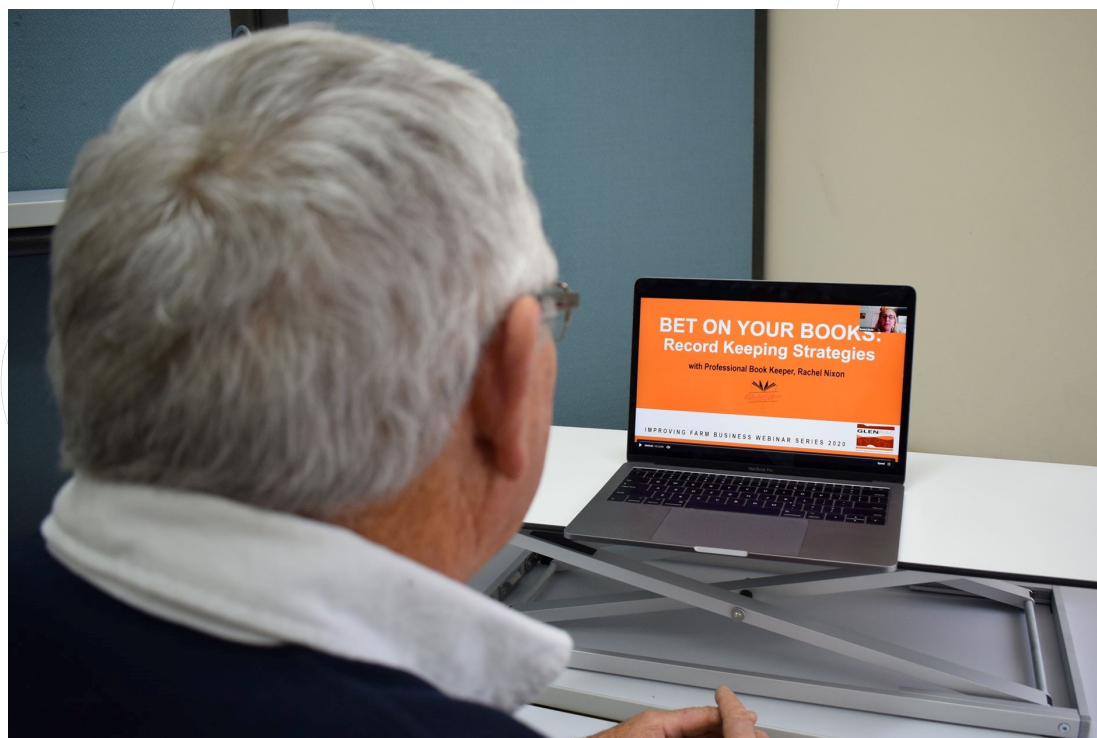
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Farm and Local Business Skills webinar series
- Little Llangothlin Update
- Have You Seen the Regent Honeyeater?
- Parthenium Weed Profile
- Bushfire Funding Update

BUSHFIRE FUNDING HELPS GLENRAC TO PREPARE LOCAL FARMERS AND COMMUNITY BUSINESSES FOR FUTURE DISASTER EVENTS WITH FREE ONLINE WEBINAR SERIES

If you thought COVID-19 would be enough to stop GLENRAC from delivering quality, tailor-designed workshops and events to the Glen Innes region — think again!

A range of free farming and local business disaster preparedness workshops are rolling out to the farming and business people of Glen Innes this year to strengthen the community against future disaster events, such as drought, bushfire, and most recently, infectious disease outbreaks.



GLENRAC Chairman, Ian Lockwood, attending the recent GLENRAC Farm Business Skills webinar, BET ON YOUR BOOKS: Record Keeping Strategies, with Roma-based professional book keeper, Rachel Nixon.

Funded by the NSW Government’s Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund, and supported by the Glen Innes Severn Council, Business In Glen, Glen Innes Highlands Visitors Association and GLENRAC, the series of events will provide farm and community businesses with knowledge and tools to implement strategies that will not only assist them in adapting their businesses to withstand future climate-related challenges, but ensure the company thrives in the long term.

“Preparing our communities and farmers for future catastrophic weather events is what our region and the rest of the world needs to focus on,” said Mayor, Carol Sparks. “The more techniques and knowledge we can gain, the better we will be able adapt our businesses to the challenges of climate change.”

Facilitated by the team at GLENRAC, the workshops will be delivered by leading Australian industry professionals, and topics will include finance, goal planning, business recovery strategies, continuity planning and risk mitigation.

Continued page 3.



Many Hands, One Voice



GLENRAC MATTERS

Dear readers,

We hope the latest edition of the GLENRAC newsletter finds you safe and well during these strange times. Who could have imagined this time six months ago that we would be remarking upon the improved season? Fingers crossed the weather keeps up heading into winter, and that our farmers can ease the foot from the pedal – at least for a day or two!

Like many other businesses across the region, COVID-19 and isolation has been a challenge the team at GLENRAC have needed to adapt to. We are delighted to be able to continue supporting our rural community, with a wide array of events and workshops rolling out online, including our IMPROVING FARM BUSINESS SKILLS webinar series, and soon, our IMPROVING LOCAL BUSINESS SKILLS webinar series. This online format means that attendees can access the latest information and opportunities from leading industry professionals – all from the comfort of their own home and at a time that suits them.

Funding relief for drought and bushfires continues, with the NSW government allocating a further \$310 million towards emergency drought relief, including towards continuing the Drought Transport Subsidy – a rebate to assist primary producers with the transport costs of fodder, stock, fertilizer, water and other farm inputs. The team at GLENRAC remain committed to assisting the community to access support that is available, and we encourage you to call our office on 02 6732 3443 to discuss what opportunities you may be eligible for.

As always, we have an exciting array of events planned in the next few months. Sign up to our weekly newsletter, become a GLENRAC member or follow us on Facebook to ensure you're up to date with everything that's on offer.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We hope to see you (online) at a future GLENRAC event soon!

Regards, the GLENRAC Staff: **Kylie, Jennie, Mahri, Rob, Kelly, Jennene and Lucy.**

BRIGHT IDEAS

Agrifood Train-hack!

Teams of students, entrepreneurs, data scientists and future-looking farmers will board a two-day train ride datahack from Sydney to Armidale to interrogate agricultural data sets such as weather, production, environmental and consumer information— competing for a prize-pool of \$20,000! For more information or to register a team:

www.smartri.com.au/trainhackexpress/

Women Making Gravy

Social media training for rural and remote women in business. Find out more:

www.womenmakinggravy.com



WildDogScan

Whether you are a landholder, landcare or community group or local council, WildDogScan can help you map wild dogs, access resources, connect with other people, and find out about available support. Join WildDogScan to map wild dogs in your local area and help build information about wild dogs across your region. Go to www.feralscan.org.au or download the mobile app from Google Play or Apple App Store.

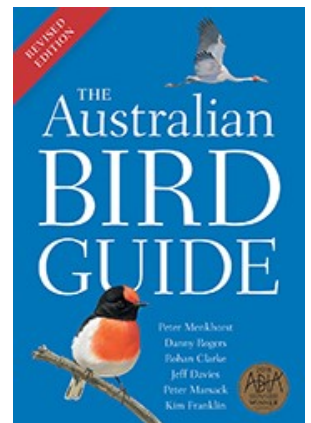


WHAT WE ARE READING

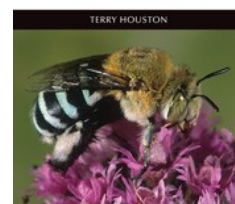
The Australian Bird Guide Revised Edition

By Peter Menkhorst,
Danny Rogers, Rohan Clarke,
Jeff Davies, Peter Marsack,
Kim Franklin.

The most comprehensive and beautifully illustrated field guide to Australia's unique birdlife. \$49.99.



A GUIDE TO
NATIVE BEES
OF AUSTRALIA



A Guide to Native Bees of Australia

By Terry Houston

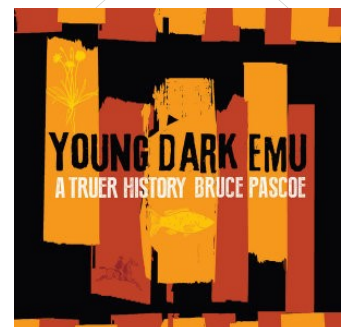
An illustrated introduction to the estimated 2000 species of Australian bees. \$49.99.

Young Dark Emu

By Bruce Pascoe

Pascoe has collected a swathe of literary awards for Dark Emu and now he has brought together a book for younger readers.

Using the accounts of early European explorers, colonists and farmers, Bruce Pascoe compellingly argues for a reconsideration of the hunter-gatherer label for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians. \$18.75.



BUSHFIRE FUNDING HELPS GLENRAC TO PREPARE LOCAL FARMERS AND COMMUNITY BUSINESSES FOR FUTURE DISASTER EVENTS WITH FREE ONLINE WEBINAR SERIES

Continued from page 1. The farming business stream of the project, *Improving Farm Business Skills* (which is held online every Thursday from 1:00pm-2:00pm) has already proved to be hugely successful, with more than 90 attendees tuning in to listen to Roma-based book keeper, Rachel Nixon, discuss strategies for successful record keeping.

A similar stream of weekly webinars focussed on improving local community business skills is set to release later this month, with a range of industry-run webinars that have been tailor-made to suit the needs of businesses in the Glen Innes community.

“Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, these workshops have launched as a series of online webinars – a new avenue for GLENRAC, but a platform which we expect to utilise more regularly heading into the future and beyond isolation,” said GLENRAC Chief Executive Officer, Kylie Falconer.

“The great thing about these events taking place online is that we can engage industry professionals who we may not otherwise have been able to access, and attendees have the flexibility to log onto the webinars from the comfort of their own homes. Even better, if they are unable to tune in at the time of the event, so long as they have registered with GLENRAC beforehand, a recording of the workshop will be emailed to them to watch at a time that suits,” said Falconer.

“Glen Innes Severn Council is pleased to be partnering with GLENRAC to deliver a series of Community & Small Business Disaster Preparedness webinars,” said Graham Price, Glen Innes Severn Council’s Director of Development, Planning and Regulatory Services.

“With over 1000 members, GLENRAC has a very strong track record of delivering high quality projects on time and within budget. Council is encouraging primary producers to participate in these free weekly online training webinars aimed at improving farm business skills.”

For more information about the BCRERF or to register for an event, contact GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443.

FARM BUSINESS REBOOT



WITH REBECCA FING - DIRECTOR
HOUSE PADDOCK TRAINING & CONSULTING

SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL FARMING FAMILIES



WITH CARMEN QUADE
AGRIFOCUSED

IMPROVING FARM BUSINESS WEBINAR SERIES

IMPROVING FARM BUSINESS WEBINAR SERIES

BONUS OFFER
FOR GLEN INNES
FARM BUSINESSES!

21st MAY 2020	Farm Business Reboot 1: Introduction and Values
28th MAY 2020	Farm Business Reboot 2: Business Planning
23rd JULY 2020	Farm Business Reboot 3: Farm Business Risk & Assessment
30th JULY 2020	Farm Business Reboot 4: Intro to WH&S & Emergency Planning
6th AUG 2020	Farm Business Reboot 5: Business Continuity Planning

REGISTER: WWW.GLENRAC.ORG.AU/EVENTS

4TH JUNE 2020	Secrets of Successful Farming Families: Part One
11th JUNE 2020	Secrets of Successful Farming Families: Part Two
18TH JUNE 2020	Secrets of Successful Farming Families: Part Three
25TH JUNE 2020	Secrets of Successful Farming Families: Part Four

REGISTER: WWW.GLENRAC.ORG.AU/EVENTS

IMPROVING FARM BUSINESS SKILLS - weekly webinars, every Thursday from 1:00pm-2:00pm

This FREE series of events is facilitated by leading industry experts, and has been tailored-designed to help your farm business thrive in the long term! Getting involved is as simple as registering at www.glenrac.org.au/events. Need help getting online? Give us a call on 02 6732 3443 and one of our friendly staff will be happy to help. Can't attend a webinar you're interested in at the time it's on? No problems. Recordings of each session will be sent to all registered attendees.

BONUS OFFER FOR GLEN INNES FARM BUSINESSES!

Attend all 5 FARM BUSINESS REBOOT sessions with Rebecca Fing from House Paddock Training and Consulting and receive FREE 2 hours of one-on-one coaching with Bec or Property Maps! Register: www.glenrac.org.au/events

PROJECT NEWS AND EVENTS

Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve RAMSAR Project Year 2

We made it through the second year of the National Landcare Program Phase 2 RAMSAR project at Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve – a year of drought, wildfires, flooding rains, COVID-19 office closure and social distancing. The recent rains have provided some water to the Lagoon, and many bird species have returned to feed there. Future good rains will see groundwater revived and breeding of threatened bird species, such as the Australasian Bittern, hopefully resumed.

Working with Local Land Services, we had an information filled day at Ben Lomond before COVID-19 became evident. Pest animal officers, Perry Newman and Chris Watters, showed landholders the most effective way to set up fox and wild dog traps and baits, and pre-feeding techniques for feral pig management.

Did you know that by recording on your phone the location of feral species in your area, you will help map feral animal travel and behaviour so we can better manage their control across all tenures? Download the latest updated app at www.feralscan.org.au



Right: Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve now has some water in the lagoon, and Straw necked Ibis have returned to feed at the Reserve. Left: June Walker and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Officers, Perry Newman and Chris Watters.



Regent Honeyeater: Have You Seen One?

Through the National Landcare Program Phase 2, GLENRAC has partnered with Local Land Services for a five-year federally funded project centred on the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater bird. Year 2 of the project has engaged many of our local landcare groups and community groups interested in birds to raise awareness of: what kind of habitat the RH needs to survive, how to recognise its calls, and encouraging improvement of on-farm Regent Honeyeater habitat.

Earlier this year, we met up with community members at Deepwater Brewery for an information session on the Regent Honeyeater, with local landholder Tom Faithfull (*pictured*) guiding us through lots of interesting facts and photos about the bird and where it can be locally found.



You can join GLENRAC's Facebook page *Woodland Birds of the New England NSW* — a page for all birders, birdwatchers, bird lovers and bird photographers who are interested in the woodland birds in New England NSW. Share your enthusiasm and knowledge of these birds and their environments, post sightings of New England woodland birds with the date and location, and share thoughts on how to improve habitat on-farm and in backyards — what you could do and what you have done that works.

WEEDS TO WATCH OUT FOR: PARTHENIUM WEED!



Parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) is native to the Caribbean, southern United States of America and central America. It was introduced to central Queensland in the 1950's in contaminated pasture seed from Texas USA.

The weed is identified as a significant biosecurity risk in NSW, and is listed as Prohibited Matter in Schedule 2 of the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015. Previously, there was no established population of Parthenium weed in NSW, with all infestations being eradicated. However, Parthenium weed has been discovered recently on a drought feeding station on the slopes and plains west of the Northern Tablelands. The weed is believed to have been carried by millet hay from northern Queensland which was imported for feed during the 2019 drought.

Parthenium weed invades pastures and crops. It causes severe human health risks, such as respiratory problems and severe dermatitis. It can also cause health problems in livestock. The weed is toxic to livestock, out-competes pastures, can taint the flavour of meat, reduces crop yields, contaminates grain and is a host plant for crop viruses. Parthenium weed should never be touched with bare hands.



Above: Parthenium weed flower, photographed by P.Blackmore DPI.

Above: Parthenium weed plant, photographed by Auld and Medd DPI.

Seeds are introduced into NSW mainly on or in harvesting machinery, hay and grain, heavy vehicles that have picked up mud in QLD, and vehicles and machinery from infested areas of QLD. Seeds can also be moved in contaminated soil, potting mix or compost.

With the severe drought of 2019, followed by summer and autumn rains, it is important to check your property for any plant that is unfamiliar, especially in sacrifice paddocks, feed-out areas and hay storage locations.

If you spot a weed that is unfamiliar, get in contact with one of the friendly Biosecurity Officers at New England Weeds Authority.

New England Weeds Authority Biosecurity Officers (Weeds) from left to right:



New England Weeds Authority Weed Officers are on hand to assist with your noxious weed identification, management and control. Contact the team on 02 6770 3602, drop into their office at 2/129 Rusden St Armidale, or visit www.newa.com.au.



GLENRAC ACTIVITY SNAPSHOTS



Planting out seedlings with the Local Land Services and BackTrack Youthworks at Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve as part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Program to protect the RAMSAR site for future generations. Image by NTLLS.



GLENRAC members Ros Alexander and Jane Newsome pictured with keynote presenter, AgriBusiness consultant, Sam Newsome (centre), at our Emerging From the Big Dry: A Roadmap to Recovery for Your Land, Livestock and Finances event earlier this year.



NT LLS District Vet, Nigel Brown, giving an update on animal health and nutrition at our Smoko With Friends event in Dundee.



Amazing venue at Cath and Bob Wheatley's Woolshed at "Rosedale" for the Stannum Smoko.



We are so grateful to be able to work with Luke Corben and the hard working men at Glen Industries. Here, the boys are planting out the last of 10,000 native tree seedlings as part of our Environmental Trust project Stage One.

INFORMATION, OPPORTUNITIES AND FUNDING

DROUGHT IS TOUGH.
BUT CATCHING UP WITH
FRIENDS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE.

TAKE A LITTLE TIME OUT FROM THE DRY OVER A MEAL WITH FRIENDS

GLENRAC HAS VOUCHERS TO THE VALUE OF \$300 TO SUPPORT SMALL GROUPS OF LANDHOLDERS TO HAVE A NIGHT OUT WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS OR NEIGHBOURS.

CONTACT GLENRAC BY PHONE 02 6732 3443 OR
EMAIL LUCY.MUNRO@GLENRAC.ORG.AU TO FIND OUT MORE.
LIMITED VOUCHERS AVAILABLE. FIRST IN FIRST SERVED.



SAY FAREWELL TO ISOLATION WITH A TIME OUT FROM THE DRY \$300 MEAL VOUCHER

As self isolation restrictions begin to ease, why not support our local food businesses by organising a catch up with friends over a meal? GLENRAC have meal vouchers to the value of \$300 to support small groups of landholders to have a night out with family, friends or neighbours at a business in town. Available to members only. Not a member? Contact us to sign up today - it's FREE!

RURAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE REBATE FUNDING EXHAUSTED

Due to an unprecedented demand, the NSW Government has advised that available funding for this rebate has been exhausted and the scheme is now closed to new applicants.

For more information about all of the funding and support opportunities available in the Glen Innes region, visit our website: www.glenrac.org.au
We also email out weekly e-flashes with all of our upcoming events and new funding opportunities that are available. Stay up to date — call our office on 6723 3443 to subscribe!

Do you need help submitting drought or bushfire assistance applications? Want to find out what opportunities you might be eligible for? GLENRAC are here to help you get access to support and funding. Call our office to find out more 02 6732 3443.

BUSH FIRE ASSISTANCE

- **Special Disaster Grant:** Up to \$75,000 available to primary producers affected by the NSW bushfires since August 2019. **Closes: 31 July 2020.**
- **Public Land Boundary Fencing Program:** Landholders who share a boundary with public land and were impacted by the 2019 bushfires are eligible to receive up to \$5,000/km for the replacement of damaged boundary fences. **Apply: www.ils.nsw.gov.au**
- **Bushfire Funding:** Salvation Army funding for people directly impacted by bushfire and/or landholders or farm workers impacted by drought. **Call 1800 733 276.1300 662 217 or email your contact details to sal.disasters@salvationarmy.org.au**
- **Rebuilding Fence Structures:** BlazeAid volunteer assistance rebuilding fences and structures damaged in bushfires since August 2019. **Apply: bit.ly/blazeaidregister**

WOMEN

ON BOARDS

CALLING FOR
EXPRESSIONS
OF INTEREST!



ARE YOU AIMING TO HOLD A
POSITION ON A BOARD OR
COMMITTEE WITHIN YOUR
LOCAL COMMUNITY?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
DEVELOPING SKILLS IN
LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE?

DO YOU ENJOY SHARING IDEAS
WITH LIKE-MINDED WOMEN?

Women within the Glen Innes and Inverell region are invited to attend a series of networking events and workshops with leading industry professionals (valued over \$500), designed to give you the skills to become a leader of the future!

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY THURSDAY 28TH MAY 2020:
BIT.LY/REGISTERWOMENONBOARDS



For more information contact
Glen Innes - Kylie: 0427 325 901
Inverell - Lee: 0429 232 363

This event is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2019/20

CHAIRMAN - Ian Lockwood

VICE CHAIR - Julie Firth

TREASURER - Sam Baker

SECRETARY - Tony Corcoran

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

John Bavea, Andrew Campbell, Sandy Fitzgerald, Chris Leahy, Jane Munro, Mike Norton.

Glen Innes Severn Council : Graham Price, Col Price

Department of Primary Industries : Carol Harris

National Parks & Wildlife Office: Dr. Peter Croft

Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Lands Council: Jayden Potter

Public Officer: Mark Donovan

For all questions relating to GLENRAC please contact our staff at:

68 Church Street (PO Box 660) GLEN INNES NSW 2370

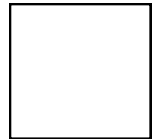
Ph: (02) 6732 3443

Mobile: 0427 325 901

Email: glenrac@glenrac.org.au

www.glenrac.org.au

GLENRAC
PO Box 660
GLEN INNES
NSW 2370



To The Land Manager

This activity is part of the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative



**Local Land
Services**

The Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative is funded by the NSW Government, and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW.



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Coming Events:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 28 May | Farm Business Skills— Farm Business Reboot 2: Business Planning. 1:00pm-2:00pm online. |
| 4 June | Farm Business Skills — Secrets of Successful Farming Families Part 1. 1:00pm-2:00pm online. |
| 11 June | Farm Business Skills — Secrets of Successful Farming Families Part 2. 1:00pm-2:00pm online. |
| 18 June | Farm Business Skills — Secrets of Successful Farming Families Part 3. 1:00pm-2:00pm online. |
| 25 June | Farm Business Skills — Secrets of Successful Farming Families Part 4. 1:00pm-2:00pm online. |
| 23 July | Farm Business Skills— Farm Business Reboot 3: Risk & Assessment. 1:00pm-2:00pm online. |
| 30 July | Farm Business Skills— Farm Business Reboot 4: WH&S & Emergency. 1:00pm-2:00pm online. |
| 6 August | Farm Business Skills— Farm Business Reboot 5: Continuity Planning. 1:00pm-2:00pm online. |
| 13 August | Farm Business Skills— Farm Planning: Biosecurity & Drought Planning 1:00pm-2:00pm online. |