



NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST LANDCARE

REGIONAL UPDATE

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12 ACTIONS FOR A GREENER CHRISTMAS

Planet Ark have just released the 12 Do's of Christmas - twelve simple actions Australians can take to reduce waste, recycle right, and get a little creative over the holidays. To make it easy for you to show your support for a meaningful Christmas that's kinder to the Earth, check out the online promotional kit. If you have any questions about the 12 Do's of Christmas promotions, please contact Planet Ark's media team on 02 8484 7200 or email pr@plantark.org.

FARMING KIDS NOW PUBLISHED AUTHORS

Over 180 stories from 17 schools across rural communities of New South Wales and Queensland participated in the recent "Our Farmers, Our Future" Enviro-Stories Education Program.

The students worked with their teachers during Term 2 to write and illustrate creative stories for other children to read and learn about farming in their local area, where our food comes from and how we can live sustainably.

This year's Enviro-Stories Education Program was supported by the Border Rivers-Gwydir and Central West Catchment Management Authorities, Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Cotton Australia, and the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program.

Only 16 entries have been chosen for publishing into student readers as well as e-books for online interaction in the classroom. These winning books will be distributed to schools and libraries throughout central NSW and Queensland.

The BRG CMA applauds the winning Enviro-Stories entrants, particularly those from this region who have captured the stories of farming in this catchment so expressively. Congratulations to:

- Amber Gordon from Gilgai Public School, who wrote "Hoot the Owl Saves the Day".
- Chloe Deacon-Stock from Jennings Public School, who wrote "What we have on Farms".
- The Year 3-6 Class from Boomi Public School, who wrote "Our Farms are Our Future".
- Rachael Bender from Boomi Public School, who wrote "Life as a Sheep".
- Daniel Peden and Harrison Bryan from Boomi Public School, who wrote "Cotton on Koramba".

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA Education Officer, Kelly Coleman, recently presented schools with their printed books. "I don't think that some students realise the magnitude of their efforts. The fact that they are now a published author, like so many of their favourite authors, is a bit daunting to many of our young creative kids. They have done a fantastic job."

ONE LAND MANY STORIES

The Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has released *One Land - Many Stories: Prospectus of Investment* (the Prospectus).

The Prospectus presents the Australian Government's vision for protecting Australia's valuable and most vulnerable environments. It provides an overarching framework of the Australian Government's priorities for biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in 2013-14 through elements of the Land Sector Package and the Sustainable Environment stream of Caring for our Country.

The Prospectus will not be a set of funding guidelines. There is no funding attached to the Prospectus. Funding guidelines, including the new funding amounts available, will be released for the Biodiversity Fund and for the Caring for our Country Sustainable Environment stream in the coming months.

As the Prospectus is a new approach to communicating, representatives from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities are visiting capital cities to provide a run through of the document and explain the new approach. The sessions aim to clarify understanding of the Prospectus and the information presented will be based on what will be publically available.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Send your news for the Landcare Update to
Sarah Legge at sarah@gwymaucklandcare.net.au

This document is available for download from www.environment.gov.au/prospectus

LAWS TO SUPPORT THE LEGAL TIMBER TRADE

New laws are now in place to support international efforts to promote the legal timber trade and reduce the harmful environmental, social and economic impacts of illegal logging.

The Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 makes it an offence to import timber or timber products – or to process Australian raw logs – that have been illegally logged, and is consistent with Australia's international trade obligations. Minister Ludwig said the new legislation:

- places no requirements on Australia's trading partners or their exporters
- establishes equal treatment for suppliers of timber regardless of nationality
- supplies equally to both Australian-grown and imported timber.

The government will continue working with stakeholders and industry partners to implement the laws and develop supporting regulations.

"Draft regulations will be tabled before the end of May 2013 allow industry 18 months to establish systems and processes to comply with the regulatory requirements," Minister Ludwig said.

For more information about the new laws visit the DAFF website.

CMA STOCKS UP THE SEED BANK FOR THE BRIGALOW NANDEWAR BIOLINKS PROJECT

Professional seed collectors have begun searching the North West for stocks of wild seed from more than one hundred different native species, particularly from rare and endangered ecological plant communities across the Brigalow Nandewar region.

The aim is to collect at least 200 kg of local provenance seed that can then be used in plantings to re-connect key remnant areas of native vegetation. These plantings will increase biodiversity in the region and extend habitat linkages for native species that may be forced to migrate to survive as climatic conditions change.

Five professional collectors are harvesting seed on behalf of the Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA). The seed will be used to help re-establish threatened ecological plant communities in high priority areas.

Ecological Consultant Dave Carr is coordinating the seed collection process, "We've already collected a substantial quantity of Red Ash and Sticky Wallaby Bush seed from a semi-evergreen thicket plant community on the slopes of the Nandewar range between Bingara and Boggabri."

According to Mr Carr, many of the target species may never have been collected for seed propagation before, so there

are likely to be some exciting discoveries ahead.

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA's seed collectors are searching for complete collections of plant types that make up each native vegetation community, including trees, shrubs, grasses, and vines.

Seed collectors must keep accurate records of where each species has been collected, so that the seed can then be best matched to revegetation sites, particularly with regard to soil type, rainfall, and temperature range.

The seed collected through the "Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks Project - Connecting Cattle, Crops and Creatures" will be planted in new revegetation sites as the project is implemented over the next four years.

For further information contact Ivan Lackay at the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA's Inverell Office by 02 6728 8043 or ivan.lackay@cma.nsw.gov.au

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



**WISHING ALL OUR READERS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A SAFE + FUN
HOLIDAY SEASON.**