

GLENRAC

Newsletter

MAR/APR 2014

Where to find us - National Park & Wildlife
Services Building, 68 Church St
Office Hours— Mon to Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm

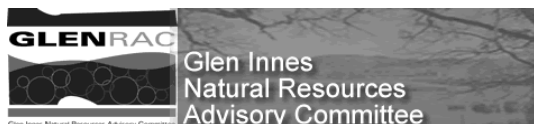
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**** DATE CLAIMER ****

LANDCARE ADVENTURE 2014

19th 20th March 2014 Glen Innes



**Local Land
Services**
Northern Tablelands



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



LANDCARE ADVENTURE - GLENRAC'S 25TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

The 19th and 20th of March will see Glen Innes hosting the “Healthy Land and Resilient Communities” Landcare Adventure. This is an annual two day event held each year in the New England North West. It brings together landholders and community members from across the region. The event is open to all - including non members of Landcare, town residents, farmers, government agency staff, schools, community groups & Landcare members.

This year the Landcare Adventure will focus on the various aspects of healthy land - soil, pastures, vegetation, water and management- and the relationship between healthy land and resilient communities.

The 2014 Adventure will showcase the NSW Department of Primary Industries Research Station, two privately owned farms, and a tour of Rangers valley Feedlot. Other highlights include leading speakers on agricultural, environmental and land management issues, skills sessions, and the presentation of the Landcare Awards at the Adventure Dinner.

Feature Speakers include—

Sam Bailey Author, farmer, pilot & paraplegic
Terry McCosker Resource Consulting Services
Isobel Knight 2013 RIRDC Rural Woman of the Year
Bart Davidson— InformAg. Soil, plant & animal consultant
Gary McDouall Holistic farming educator & practitioner

LOCAL LAND SERVICES ELECTIONS ON 12 MARCH 2014

The inaugural Local Land Services Board Member elections will take place on 12 March 2014. There are three members to be elected to each region. This is an opportunity for ratepayers to have a say in who can best represent the needs and priorities of their region.

GLENRAC News

Hello all,

We hope you enjoy this edition of GLENRAC News and have been under some rain. Since the last edition we have been busy focusing on our continuing projects. Pam's smooth transition into the GLENRAC fold has helped immensely with this process.

GLENRAC is very excited to be hosting the annual Landcare Adventure in Glen Innes this month and look forward to seeing many of you enjoying the adventure with us. It is also our 25th Birthday, so bring your glad rags with you to the dinner and celebrate with us. The current dry conditions have many of us narrowing our focus and we hope to help widen that focus in positive ways through the Adventure.

During February we attended a two day workshop on "Building a stronger Landcare Organisation". Lots of ideas were put forward, many of which we will implement through GLENRAC. If you are interested in what happens in natural resource and sustainable land management both locally and at a regional level, we have a suggestions box in the office which we would love you to use any time, or you can send them in by email or post.

See you at the Adventure

Regards,

Tanya, Pam and Lucy

DRY TIME STRATEGIES

- Keep stock supplemented so rumen stays healthy.
- Wean early - information sheet available at the Glenrac office or we can email it to you.
- Match stocking rate to carrying capacity- how much feed do we have and how long will it last?
- Do a **gross margin**/cost budget before considering feeding your stock or buying more feed. <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/farm-business/budgets/templates>
- Class stock and identify what is saleable. Prioritise sale order - which class will fetch most amount of money now, and which will be cheaper to keep?
- Do gross margins on feeding until abattoir sale dates, and selling at saleyard rates. If it's the better option, book stock in to abattoirs.
- Set critical decision dates for rain and amount of feed to carry you through winter, and stick to them. Be aware that there will be very limited pasture growth in the New England until Spring.
- **THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES** - be in a position to take them when it rains.
- There can be good opportunities to trade during a drought. Replacement cattle at the end of a drought are often less expensive than originally expected!
- An added benefit of early weaning is less grazing pressure on your pastures, which allows for a faster recovery when rain falls.
- For specific advice, try Jason Siddell, Local Land Services Livestock Officer on 0459 162 295.
- The MLA website also has some helpful tools, information and resources: <http://www.mla.com.au/Livestock-production/Environmental-management/Drought-and-disaster-management>

GLENRAC PROJECT SNAPSHOT

HONEY LOCUST

Project is ongoing with treatment at various sites like the 3 Mile Ashford currently underway. Treatment here is critical as this area is a major seed source of Honey Locust. Control works are continuing on participating private properties along the Severn and Macintyre Rivers. GLENRAC has been conducting inspections on participating properties and we urge anyone who has Honey Locust and adjoins the Severn or Macintyre rivers to contact us as there is still funding available.

SNELC PEST ANIMAL COMMUNITY EXTENSION PROJECT

Two half day workshops are currently being planned for multi species animal control. One is to be held at Pinkett focussing on bait preparation: grain (different grains, fermenting, use of lures), and meat (how to break down a carcass and get the most out of it, boning, use of different meats, and draining and drying). The second is to be held at Strathbogie focussing on reading the landscape and tracking: how to identify animal signs, tracks and crossover points, and bait placement and laying techniques.

Anyone interested in joining, or coordinating a baiting group in your area please contact GLENRAC on (02) 6732 3443 or glenrac@glenrac.org.au

GLENRAC PROJECT SNAPSHOT

LANDCARE ADVENTURE 2014

'Healthy Land - Resilient Communities'

Our Landcare Adventure is well under way with bookings already being taken, especially for the dinner to listen to Sam Baily speak on his experiences as a resilient landholder. Our other keynote speakers include Terry McCosker and Isobel Knight.

The 2014 Adventure will showcase the NSW Department of Primary Industries Research Station, two privately owned farms, and a tour of Rangers valley Feedlot. Other highlights include leading speakers on agricultural, environmental and land management issues, skills sessions, and the presentation of the Landcare Awards at the Adventure Dinner.

AOTG CARBON MANAGEMENT ON NORTHERN RIVERS FARMS - GLENRAC

Mahri Koch (Senior Technical Officer NT LLS) has been identified as the coordinator of the AOTG projects from Glenrac, Granite Borders and SNELC. She is currently talking to Selina Miller (LLS project officer) about contingency plans, as realistically it is too dry for the effectiveness of soil ameliorants to be assessed.

NT LLS GLEN ELGIN ECO-CARERS WEED PROJECT

There has been a contracted weed spray conducted, but this project is currently on standby as the season is too dry for weed spraying.

NT LLS Improve Riparian Habitats

Site assessments have been conducted on final participating properties. The steering committee will meet this week and on ground works will be commencing soon.

GIS

GIS updates for Natural Resource Management projects is ongoing. Glenrac is compiling GIS training manuals ready for training staff. We have commenced a spatial data agreement with Northern Tablelands LLS for use of LLS' cadastre data layers. Layers include information like LLS boundaries, Local Government boundaries, roads and waterbodies.

NT LLS SOIL SOLUTIONS

The project will deliver four hands-on workshops to provide training and support to participants.

The workshops will include two "soil testing methods" sessions (March), and once results have been returned, two supporting "how to interpret soil tests" sessions (late April).

Each series of two workshops are to be held in different areas; we are aiming for Dundee/Emmaville, and somewhere south east. If you are interested in becoming involved, please get in touch.

LANDCARE AUSTRALIA FUNDING - MEASURE TO MANAGE WORK- SHOPS, BART DAVIDSON

This project will conclude with a final workshop on the 10th April continuing the soil and feed tests.

The 4th workshop will cover grazing charts and test results from the autumn testing.

Bart will also be one of our guest speakers at the Landcare Adventure In March.

NT LLS HEALTHY SOILS

The final workshop in this project will be held on the 7th May at the RSL Glen Innes Grazing Charts—Grazing Principles. Topics covered include:

- Brief revisit of Grazing Principles, and biological planning, and how this ties in with a grazing chart
- Information to be gained from a grazing chart, its benefits and its value
- Establishing and reviewing benchmark carrying capacity - dse (or lsu) days per ha per 100mm of rainfall and why this is of value
- Completing the grazing chart manually with a focus on the logic behind the numbers
- Computerised charts, what if scenarios and using the chart proactively as a management tool.

The Glen Innes Severn Council's Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project (RVIP)



Submitted by David Nixon, Glen Innes Severn Council Weeds Officer

The Glen Innes Severn Council (GISC) has received a grant from the Local Government & Shires Association to initiate a Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project (RVIP)

The Glen Innes Severn Council's spray contractors have begun conducting removal and control of environmental weeds including Hawthorn, Pyracantha, Tree of Heaven, Honey Locust, Cotoneaster, Fruit trees, Coolatai Grass, Whiskey Grass and African Lovegrass.

This project is being supervised by Council's noxious weed officer, David Nixon and Council's Environmental Officer, Ian Trow.

These works are being prioritised according to Council's Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. The major focus is on roadside areas of existing High Conservation Value (HCV) and Medium Conservation Value (MCV) where an environmental species can be eliminated from a local area in one season, or where control zones can be established to prevent further infestation of clean land.

Replanting has taken place in one section to link two large HCV areas at Wellingrove.

A successful outcome will be the restoration of local high conservation value areas by the local eradication of particular species of environmental weeds such as exotic Fruit trees (growing beside roads from seeds thrown from vehicles, Hawthorn and Firethorn.

A second outcome will be the installation of control boundaries to stop the spread of environmental grass weeds such as Coolatai Grass, Whiskey Grass and African Lovegrass. Control boundaries will be areas at the edge of existing infestations where eradication will be conducted to stop the spread of these species into clean areas. The third outcome will be the linkage of two High Value Conservation areas by construction of a linkage in the road corridor.

Other major benefits to this project will be the Restoration of HCV and MCV areas in road corridors with the Prevention of further invasion of environmental weeds into HCV and MCV communities.

GISC is conducting a whole of Council roadside

For more information on weeds identification and control methods contact David Nixon, Weeds Officer at Glen Innes Severn Council on 0427669871 or landline 02 6730 2358 during office hours.

audit of environmental weed species using GIS systems to direct this project to specific locations. The project also addresses a key objective in the catchment action plan by restoring linkage between HCV communities. Threatened species and ecological communities have been identified in MCV and HCV localities in the roadside vegetation management plan. The nature of the works performed during the project have no ability to impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage, as no native vegetation (including scar trees, survey marks etc.) will be removed, and no soil disturbance will occur (artefacts). As a precautionary measure the Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council will be engaged to conduct various site audits prior to work commencing. GISC has invited GLENRAC to contribute to this project on a contractual basis.

Changes to Paraboss - UNE Media Release

Worms, blowflies and lice, present a major cost burden to the sheep industry each year, as well as a threat to animal health and welfare. They cost industry an estimated \$770 million a year in lost production and treatment costs. The popular Paraboss program, which links sheep producers to advice on tackling the costly challenges presented by worms, blowflies and lice, is set to continue under new management through the University of New England (UNE). Paraboss, which encompasses the Wormboss, Flyboss and Liceboss programs was developed by the Sheep CRC in conjunction with Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) to support producers in improved management decision making. The program provides a suite of products to animal health professionals and producers that includes training workshops, information updates and web based decision making tools, all of which will now be managed by UNE. UNE has appointed Dr Lewis Kahn as the director of the Paraboss program and Deborah Maxwell as the executive officer.

To subscribe to Paraboss go to www.paraboss.com.au

It is anticipated that the appearance and functionality of the ParaBoss suite of decision support tools will remain unchanged during the transition of the web-site to management by UNE.

DATE CLAIMER:

Australian Celtic Festival

1-4 May 2014

The Year of Cornwall. Highlights include music and dance at multiple stages and venues, displays and workshops, storytelling and poetry, clan gatherings, a huge parade through Glen Innes' heritage main street, Highland Games, living history displays, massed bands, traditional kirking of the tartans, Celtic yard dog trials, fun run and walk, Celtic stalls, food and more.

This year will also see an exhibition between from the Glen Innes Elks Rugby Club, so head down

Celebrate culture and friendship through song, dance, music, poetry, pomp, ceremony, spectacle, living history, parade, clans, special events, and of course, bagpipes.

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.



FARM INNOVATION FUND

The Farm Innovation Fund is an incentive-based initiative to assist farmers within NSW to identify and address risks to their farming enterprises, improve permanent farm infrastructure, ensure long term productivity and sustainable land use. Funding by way of a loan is available and by undertaking a Risk Assessment Plan, successful applicants could be eligible for a rate discount of 1.5% in the first 12 months. For more information and assistance in completing a farm business and risk assessment please contact **Stuart Brummell of Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW on 02 6732 3325 or email: stuart.brummell@rfgcsnw-northernregion.org**

AGRICULTURE

WHITE PAPER

The Federal Government is seeking bipartisan support for a review of Australia's agriculture industry, as it aims to double the nation's food production by 2050.

Minister for Agriculture, Mr Barnaby Joyce said the goal of the paper was to generate jobs, improve farm gate returns, consider food security and increase agriculture's contribution to Australia's wider economic growth. Mr Joyce said "This process gives the Australian people a chance to participate in Australia's agricultural future," he said. The 'Issues paper' and 'Issues paper fact sheet are available at

<http://agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au/>
Get on and have your say before April 17.

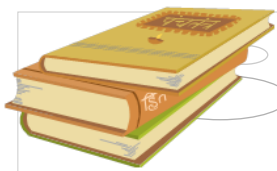
NATURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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.

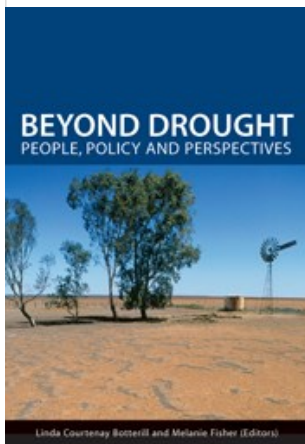
<http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/natural-disaster-relief>

NORTHERN TABLELANDS LLS WEATHER AND CLIMATE PRESENTATIONS - 13TH TO 15TH MAY 2014

As part of the 'Regional planning for climate change' project, funded through the Australian Government, we 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 Central Slopes region of which the Northern Tablelands is a part. We have chosen 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. These locations were chosen based on feedback from participants at climate workshops last year.



BOOK REVIEW



Beyond Drought People, Policy and Perspectives

The unpredictability of Australia's climate poses real challenges for practices that were developed based on the relative predictability of a European climate. More recently, policy has been moving towards accepting drought as a reality, rejecting the notion that it is a natural disaster in favour of an

approach based on risk management.

Beyond Drought provides a multi-disciplinary discussion aimed at increasing the level of understanding of drought's many facets and its impact on the environment, communities and the economy. It introduces a range of perspectives in order to emphasise the complexity of drought policy. The book cuts through the often emotional debate that occurs during a drought event, aiming to stimulate reasoned discussion about the best way that Australian farmers and the broader community can live with the vagaries of an uncertain climate. Edited by: Linda Courtenay Botterill & Melanie Fisher Publisher: CSIRO PUBLISHING Paperback - 2003 ISBN: 9780643069541 - AU \$ 34.95

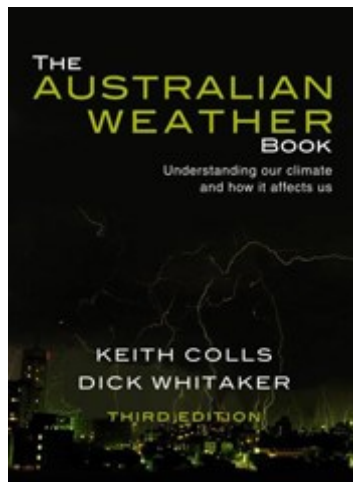
The Australian Weather Book Understanding Our Climate and How It Affects Us

Australia has a unique climate and recent natural disasters and climate change debates have made meteorology and the weather heated topics of discussion.

This new edition of *The Australian Weather Book* features: how the weather affects us personally and in our day-to-day living; an explanation of Australia's climate, including rainfall, temperature, drought, flood, the Southern Oscillation Index and weather extremes; climatic change and the effect of human activity on climate; and instruments used to measure weather phenomena.

Updated to include recent Australian natural disasters - from Cyclone Tracy, to the Brisbane floods of 1974 and the Queensland floods of 2011.

Publisher: New Holland. Paperback - 2012
ISBN: 9781877069956 - AU \$ 29.95



DROUGHT ANNOUNCEMENTS

A number of local government areas across the New England North West are now eligible for drought assistance. This assistance includes:

Up to \$20,000 for transport subsidy for the transport of stock, fodder for stock, drinking water for stock and domestic water.

Up to \$30,000 for the installation of water infrastructure for livestock.

Don't forget the "Water Availability Statement" and "Drought Management Plan" forms as well.

For more information visit the Rural Assistance Authority website at <http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/emergency-water-infrastructure-rebate> or contact your Rural Financial Counsellor.

LOCAL DROUGHT WORKSHOPS

With the continued dry, New England North West Landcare Network will be running a series of Drought Management Seminars to provide information on management options and assistance available. Locations will be Deepwater, Glen Innes, Ben Lomond. Dates to be confirmed but probably early March. Please contact Glenrac for more information. 02 6732 3443

We would also like to hold some

"SMOKO BREAKS"

around the district for local people to have a break, and catch up, and keep in touch. These will be informal get-togethers, and will be a great way to stay connected with others in the community.

If you are interested in attending or hosting a Smoko Break, please let us know.



Funding & Training Opportunities

'Anxiety: learn, think, do'

With 32% of women in Australia experiencing anxiety over their lifetime, [Jean Hailes](#) is proud to have partnered with MLC Community Foundation to develop this innovative evidence-based online resource aimed at preventing common mental health problems in women. 'Anxiety: learn, think, do' provides education strategies, self-assessment and a range of self-management tools for women. Visitors to the site can access information on the symptoms, causes and ways to manage anxiety across different life stages.

The website is available at: <http://anxiety.jeanhailes.org.au>

NSW DPI EVERTRAIN LEARNING

Online learning allows farmers to connect from the paddock; a new e/learning training platform is available for agribusiness and farmers to study a range of courses on managing carbon, soil biology, salinity and climate risk. The five EverTrain courses are: Managing Carbon on Agricultural Land; Managing Climate Risk in Agriculture; Salinity Concepts NSW; Salinity Management NSW; Soil Biology. For more information or to sign up for a course go to: www.evertrain.edu.au

Create Wealth in Agriculture RCS "Business of Grazing" & "Farming & Grazing for Profit"

Two courses later in the year—Farming and Grazing for Profit—Wagga Wagga: 18-24 June
Business of Grazing—Dubbo: 26-28 August
The primary difference between 7-day Grazing for Profit (GFP) and 3-day Business of Grazing (BoG) is the comprehensive depth into which each topic is covered. Please contact RCS if you are interested 1800 356 004

CHEMCERT COURSES STARTING UP AGAIN

Tuesday,	4 March 2014	Guyra	CT3178
Wednesday,	5 March 2014	Inverell	CT3181
Thursday,	6 March 2014	Glen Innes	CT3182
Wednesday,	12 March 2014	Armidale	CT3189
Friday,	14 March 2014	Gunnedah	CT3190

Ring 1800 444 228 or find them on www.chemcert.com.au

Upcoming PROfarm courses

Off-road four wheel drive (4x4) training Armidale 2nd April. Chainsaw - Trim & cross-cut felled trees Glen Innes - 28th Apr 2014 contact Tocal College, CB Alexander Campus Phone: 1800 025 520 Email: profarm@tocal.com

IT'S BACK Sheep and beef cattle farming rebate

Get up to \$2000 to help your business be smarter and safer

Who can claim?

Sheep and beef cattle farmers in NSW - you can claim up to \$2000 if you are a sole trader or employ 50 or fewer employees, and sheep or beef cattle farming is your main business.

To claim, go to the WorkCover website <http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/newlegislation2012/your-industry/sheep-and-beef-cattle-farming/Pages/default.aspx>

Send your completed application form, with a paid tax invoice or receipt, to WorkCover NSW.

(Tax invoice, receipt or proof of purchase must be from a registered business, and state supplier's name, address, ABN/ACN/BRN, payment date, cost, and description of product or work undertaken).

Need more information?

Call 13 10 50 or email: safetyrebate@workcover.nsw.gov.au

1080/ PINDONE TRAINING

The following dates are for short courses on 1080/ Pindone training, and allow landholders without a current chemical card to legally collect and lay 1080 baits. Courses are half a day, and will cost around \$50.

- Tenterfield 11, 12 and 18, 19 March
- Inverell 10, 11 and 17, 18 June
- Glen Innes 9, 10, and 16, 17 September
- Armidale 9, 10 and 16 and 17 December

Please contact your LLS offices for further details.

Tenterfield Office (former LHPA) 02 6736 1355

Inverell Office (former LHPA) 02 6722 3091

Glen Innes Office (former LHPA) 02 6732 1200

Armidale Office (former LHPA) 02 6772 2366

GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2014

CHAIRMAN - John Bavea VICE CHAIRMAN - Jim Benton

TREASURER - Sam Baker SECRETARY - Jeff Lowien

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Greg Chappell, Tony Holliss, Carol Harris, Winsome Quilty, Mark Pietsch, Sam Baker, Mike Norton, Norman Whitaker

Glen Innes Severn Council : Graham Price, Col Price & Ian Trow

National Parks & Wildlife Office: Peter Croft

New England Livestock Health & Pest Authority: Rob Munro

Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Lands Council: Karen Potter

Public Officer: John Brien

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 website: www.glenrac.org.au

GLENRAC
PO Box 660
GLEN INNES
NSW 2370



To The Land Manager



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Coming Events:

5th & 12th March

March

19-20th March

26th March

1st- 9th April

10th April

18 - 21st April

28th April

Pest Management Toolbox meetings

Dry time get-togethers Deepwater, Glen Innes, Ben Lomond

Landcare Adventure! – GLEN INNES

MLA/GHD Weeds Workshop

Coordinated fox baiting

Final Measure to Manage workshop

Easter

Pig grain feeding starts



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