

GLENRAC

Newsletter

March / April 2015

Where to find us - National Park & Wildlife
Services Building, 68 Church St
Office Hours— Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm

Inside This Issue

- *Feed for Thought*
- *Chilean Needle Grass—call for new monitoring sites*
- *Threatened Ecological Communities*
- *New funding opportunities*
- *Coming Events*

Trees on Farm Field Day Tues. 24th March 2015

- Ground Preparation for Planting Farm Trees
- Species selection
- Local Threatened Ecological Community Species



We look forward to seeing you there!



Glen Innes
Natural Resources
Advisory Committee



Local Land
Services
Northern Tablelands



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



NEW RAINFALL TOOL TO TEST FOR WATER REBATE ELIGIBILITY

Drought-affected farmers applying for funding under the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR) Scheme can now use a unique tool designed to test their eligibility for the program, Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson, said today. "Farmers can now test their eligibility for the scheme by using the Rainfall Deficiency Analyser - a calculator developed by the Bureau of Meteorology," said Ms Hodgkinson.

"For farmers dealing with the short-term challenge of providing water to livestock, the EWIR helps farms better manage long-term risks and be more prepared for future droughts. "The NSW Government committed an extra \$20 million to the EWIR program last month as part of our recently announced Drought Strategy, which delivers more than \$300 million in drought assistance and preparedness measures.

"The EWIR scheme aims to help severely drought affected livestock producers install on-farm water infrastructure such as pipelines, bores, tanks and troughs. "To be eligible, farmers must be experiencing a 1 in 50 year rainfall deficiency for 12 months or more," said Ms Hodgkinson. Minister Hodgkinson said drought declarations in the form of lines on maps were out dated and unfair, and could lead to a farmer on one side of a drawn line deemed eligible for assistance, while their neighbour on the other side of the line is not, despite enduring the same drought.

"The new NSW Government Drought Strategy invests funding into a transparent and accountable system of drought assistance that is administered according to measured rainfall data, not regional drought declarations drawn as lines on maps," said Ms Hodgkinson. "The emergency water infrastructure rebate is 50 per cent of the cost of purchase, delivery and if applicable, the labour cost to engage a person to install water infrastructure for animal welfare needs, to a maximum of \$20,000.," said Ms Hodgkinson.

To obtain a Rainfall Deficiency Report, farmers locate their farm business on the map and download a report using the Bureau of Meteorology - Australian Rainfall Deficiency Analyser.

The availability of rebates is subject to funds being available. **The scheme will close on 30 June 2015 or when the funding allocation is exhausted.** For more information visit <http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/emergency-water-infrastructure-rebate> or contact local RFCS Stuart Brummell on 6732 3325.

Source: NSW DPI website 24th February 2015 Media Release

GLENRAC News

Hello All, Thank you to everyone who made time to stop by at the GLENRAC stand at the recent Glen Innes Show. It is always valuable to catch up with people to hear what your issues are in the current season. The large map we had on display also created plenty of conversation, it is now available for viewing at the GLENRAC office on a permanent basis.

The new funding announced in our last newsletter is not yet finalised but we anticipate receiving contract documents in the very near future and look forward to getting those projects under way. We will be promoting all projects through our e/ flashes; the newsletter and through advertisements in the Glen Innes Examiner.

GLENRAC will be hosting a two-day event in May support by The Ascent Group through funding provided by the Australian Government's Drought Support Program. Themed "Rural, Resilient & Resourceful" it will feature keynote speakers including –Robyn Pulman, Creating Winning Habits; John Harper, the founder of Mate Helping Mate; Catherine Marriott, Influential Women and Tom Bowman, former Australian Wallaby now Barraba grazier. One to mark on the calendar. More details will be available closer to the event.

We are also looking at running the "How to use a GPS" workshops again this year on a Monday from 10:00am to 12:00pm contact the office if you are interested in attending. Regards, Kylie



Above—Pamela Benton & Ian Trow discussing the new weed control project during the Glen Innes Show.



Bright Ideas

Pasture Improvement Calculator—FREE

Developed by EverGraze, this calculator helps to determine the costs and benefits of resowing pastures compared to current practice.

The tool allows inputs of: costs of resowing; benefits of the resown pastures to livestock.; soils and the environment at any given financial values (ie different interest rates, tax rates, gross margins etc).

To access this calculator go to the MLA website, www.mla.com.au and search for "Pasture improvement calculator"

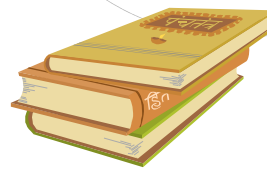


Win \$500 for Your Landcare Work!

Landcare Australia are now giving you the option of receiving Landcare in Focus direct to your email every quarter, by subscribing to their online edition.

They also want to make sure Landcare in Focus is covering the kind of Landcare news you want to read, and are running a short survey to help us find out what that is. Complete this survey before March 22nd to be in with a chance of winning one of five \$500 grants for your Landcare work!

Visit the Landcare Australia website to complete the survey, www.landcareonline.com.au



Book Reviews

AgGuide—Using compost in agriculture (2013) - This book is a must have for anyone interested in improving their soil health. This guide covers the basics in composting, commercial composting and what compost means to your farming practises. It is 106 pages full colour A4 pages. Cost \$25 from the NSW DPI Bookshop Phone 1800 025 520

Is that plant poisonous? (RCH Shepherd) Uses easy-to-understand language with colour photographs to aid in plant identification, details who the plant is poisonous to, which parts of the plant are poisonous and the toxins that are likely to be encountered, as well as symptoms of poisoning. Costs \$65 from the Rural Bookshop Phone 1800 025 308 or web www.ruralbookshop.com.au

Plants Poisonous to Horses (M Offord) This book is a guide for horse owners to help them prevent plant poisoning in their horses. I clearly outlines the ways to reduce this risk. The types of toxins that can be found in plants are discussed, along with the signs of poisoning that may be seen in horses that have ingested toxic plant material. Costs \$45.50 from the Rural Bookshop

Free Range Pig Farming Starting Out (L McCosker) Lee McCosker owns and operates Melanda Park Free Range in the New England region of New South Wales. Lee's love of pigs has led her on her quest for a better life for farmed animals and she now shares this information with others. Costs \$64.50 from the Rural Bookshop

Glen Innes Severn Councils - Roadside Environmental Management

Submitted by Ian Trow, Trainee Environmental Officer

Glen Innes Severn Council have received funding from the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (NTLLS) to help protect and enhance the significant amounts of natural roadside environments within the Council area. These areas are quite often the only natural bio-links for native fauna species to move between larger stands of habitat.

One of the primary goals for protecting roadsides that have been classified as High Conservation Value (HCV) or Medium Conservation Value (MCV) is to reduce and prevent the spread of weeds, both noxious and environmental. The chemical control of weeds will be undertaken along roadsides during the growing seasons until 2017. The weeds will be treated around all roads that have been classified as HCV or MCV within the Council area.

Glen Innes Severn Council have been able to partner the weeds project with GLENRAC to create a buffer zone between private property and the road reserve. Weeds are often spread to private property from the road reserves by vehicles and stock travelling through these areas. Part of this partnership Glenrac will lease with interested landholders to help create this buffer zone by treating weeds on private property, where both landholders and Council will benefit. This partnership allows for a more holistic approach to weed management by landholders and Council by treating all weeds in the weeds in an area.

Glen Innes Severn Council have comprehensive records of the roadside vegetation and environments due to extensive work to identify and map the whole roadside network within the Council area. This work was predominantly undertaken in the late 1990's and was the foundation for developing the Glen Innes Severn Councils Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. This plan can be found on Councils website at: <http://www.gisc.nsw.gov.au/environmental-services-gisc/environment-gisc/1148380-roadside-vegetation-management-plan>

The removal of weeds combined with additional native vegetation plantings along the roadside will ensure that these important linear reserves will be managed and maintained to obtain the best outcomes for both road users, neighbouring landholders and the native fauna.



What weeds will be targeted?

- ⇒ Tree of heaven
- ⇒ Whiskey grass
- ⇒ Cotoneaster
- ⇒ Hawthorn
- ⇒ Broom
- ⇒ Honey Locust
- ⇒ Coolatai grass
- ⇒ Firethorns
- ⇒ Black locust
- ⇒ Wild apples
- ⇒ English broom
- ⇒ St John's Wort
- ⇒ Privet
- ⇒ Common pear
- ⇒ Sweet briar
- ⇒ Blackberry

How do I know if I am eligible?

Contact the GLENRAC office to find out if your property adjoins one of the high or medium conservation areas. You can either call to discuss or call in to the office at 68 Church St to view the map.

Is funding still available?

Round 1 of this program has closed, with applicants being advised in writing this coming week. We anticipate advertising Round 2 in the coming months.

What is funded?

GLENRAC will fund the purchase of chemicals to control weeds or the supply of a contractor and chemical to control nominated weeds.

Would you like more information?

Contact Project Manager Pamela Benton on 02 6732 3443 for more information.

Want to know the latest on news and events from GLENRAC & around our region?

- Become a member of GLENRAC, its free and you will get all our latest news on our regular e/ashes
- Visit the GLENRAC website, its updated weekly. It has a list of currently available funding that may interest our members
- Find us on Facebook if you are online
- Attend an event, find something that interests you and come along
- Visit the office and view our extensive range of resources available to our community.

Threatened Ecological Communities

In current revegetation projects in our area, GLEN-RAC are encouraging landholders to plant species that are found in Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs). Why are they so important?

An ecological community is a group of plants, animals, and other organisms that naturally and consistently occur together. What occurs in an ecological community depends on environmental factors such as climate, landscape position, aspect, and altitude. While a particular ecological community will vary in structure and composition across its range, there are common elements that clearly identify one ecological community from another.

A healthy ecological community is not just about having lots of trees. For a community to function well, all the parts of the community need to be working together. This means that there is enough food, water, shelter, physical space, and diversity for reproduction so that every species can thrive and survive, even when times are tough.

Many ecological communities are now threatened with extinction due to clearing of native vegetation, the effects from weeds and feral animals, grazing by livestock, or the effects of added fertiliser. When these impacts threaten the survival of an ecological community, they can become protected under the Commonwealth Government *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* or the NSW *Threatened Species Act 1995*.

The TECs in our area include the following:

1. Upland Wetlands



Characteristics: Upland wetlands occur in closed, high altitude topographic depressions that are not connected to rivers or creeks. This ecological community can be distinguished from other wetlands in similar bioregions by the absence or near absence of peat underlying the vegetation, and the absence of heath through the wetland floor. They may be permanent, intermittent, or ephemeral, with grassland and sedge-land on their margins and a diversity of aquatic plants.

Trees and shrubs do not naturally occur in the wetlands, but stands fringing wetlands regulate runoff and act as a buffer. Mother of Ducks Lagoon at Guyra is an example of upland wetlands.

National Threat Status: Endangered

2. Box Gum Grassy Woodland



Characteristics: Box Gum Grassy Woodland has a canopy of widely spaced trees dominated by eucalypts species known as Box Trees, including White Box (*E. Albans*), Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*), and Blakely's Red Gum (*E. blakelyi*). The ground layer is dominated by perennial tussock grasses with a high diversity of herbs, and sparse shrubs may also be present. This ecological community can occur in three states: with both overstorey and understorey; with just the overstorey; or with just the understorey. When trees are removed it is described as a "derived native grassland".

National Threat Status: Critically endangered

3. New England Peppermint Woodland



Characteristics: This ecological community is either woodland or open forest with canopy typically dominated by New England Peppermint (*E. nova-anglica*). A range of other associated species such as Black Sallee (*E. stellalata*), Snow Gum (*E. pauciflora*), or Mountain Gum (*E. dalrympleana*) may also be present, and can be co-dominant in the community. The understorey is usually made up of a dense, species-rich ground layer of grasses and herbs, and shrubs are typically sparse. The community is found on poorly drained clay soils or coarse sandy soils above 900m.

National Threat Status: Critically endangered



Feed for Thought

Feed for Winter

Submitted by Jeff Lowien, Senior Land Services Officer - Pasture Agronomist—Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, Glen Innes

Although seasonal conditions have improved and stock numbers in most cases are significantly less than you normally carry, you still need to think about what feed and stock numbers you will be carrying through winter, particularly cattle producers.

Obviously from the drought last year, many pastures should be rested to allow them to recover by not only allowing their root reserves to rebuild, but also in a number of cases paddocks to reseed to get the plant population back to where it should be. Having winter crops can assist in achieving this.

Oats is the main stay for most producers looking for winter feed. A number of producers have already sown with grazing management the next thing to consider. A lot of the private varieties with plant breeders rights (PBR) are the erect types, which require grazing well before winter. This is because if the seed head within the stem is removed by grazing or killed by an early frost, the tiller dies reducing overall winter growth. Be aware of where the seed head is in relation to the bottom grazing height - early grazing will help to keep the seed head in a safe position.

Barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) is a disease that reduces the growth of oats. It is a disease spread by aphids which are most prevalent in the warmer months of plant growth. The impact of aphids can be controlled using seed treated with Imidacloprid (various trade names).



Damage on oats caused by Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus. Purpling starts at leaf tip and extends towards base although colouring most pronounced along leaf edge *Photo right B Winter DAFF QLD.*

Keep in mind this chemical has a 9 week grazing withholding period. With oat crops sown over the next couple of months, the use of treated seed is suggested to maximize yields.

Annual and biannual ryegrasses is another option to help rest pasture paddocks. For good winter feed yields, ideally they should be sown before the end of March. If sown later, the bulk of their feed will be produced in the late winter/spring period which fits very well into a system where you want to let a pasture paddock seed down in spring.

With whichever crop you grow, adequate nutrition should be applied at sowing. To maximise regrowth, topdressing with nitrogen after the first grazing and late winter will be needed. However consider if the extra feed produced can be profitably used.

In some cases with reduced stock numbers and other paddocks with excess feed, it may not be economical to topdress with nitrogen.

For further information please don't hesitate to contact Jeff Lowien on 0409855704.

FREE Forage Oats Guide 2015

QLD Department of Agriculture & Fisheries have available an eight page forage oats guide. It is a table of forage oat varieties available for commercial sale in Queensland and northern New South Wales in 2015. This guide discusses the recommended management practices for growing oats for forage, and strategies to minimise leaf rust infection. To access a copy go to the website www.daff.qld.gov.au and search for "Forage oats variety guide".

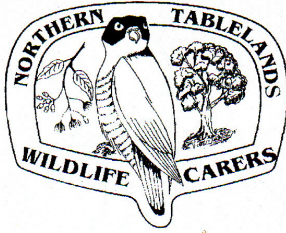
If you need help to access this guide contact the GLENRAC office and we may be able to assist you.



Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers

Submitted by local NTWC Kelly Stumbles

The Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers - NTWC are a group of licensed volunteers who rescue, rehabilitate & release sick, injured & orphaned native animals; which also includes the rescue & relocation of snakes. We care for all native species of birds, reptiles & mammals.



To care for native wildlife you need to attend training courses & be a member of a wildlife group that is licensed by NPWS. Caring for wildlife can be very rewarding but also devastating. This is why training courses need to be attended so that these amazing animals have the best chance of being returned to the wild as they are not pets.

The NTWC covers the Northern Tablelands area as our name suggests. We have carers in Tamworth, Uralla, Armidale, Guyra, Glen Innes, Inverell & Tenterfield plus a few other smaller areas in between.

We hold quarterly meetings & also put out a quarterly newsletter. We rely on grants, donations, raffles & other fundraisers to help with the costs of caring for wildlife.

We currently have a raffle running with a beautiful print of Flying-foxes as the prize, tickets are only \$1ea. In Glen Innes tickets are available at the NPWS Office & the Glen Innes Vet Hospital. To make a donation - which is always gratefully appreciated - just visit our website for details or phone us.



If you come across an animal that needs help you can contact the Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers who will put you in contact with a carer in your area.

Contact Details for Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers Ph: 0408 555 719 or 1800 008 290, website www.ntwc.org.au or email committee@ntwc.org.au

Chilean Needle Grass - Why is it so successful?

Submitted by Carol Harris - Research Scientist
NSW Department of Primary Industries, Glen Innes

Nassella nessiana (Chilean Needle Grass (CNG)), a Weed of National Significance, is invasive in many grazing areas, conservation areas and roadside reserves. Previous research conducted on the Northern Tablelands provided very useful knowledge about the biology of CNG, the role of the soil seed bank and management options that could be used to reduce the CNG seed bank.

These studies were conducted in just one area of the Northern Tablelands on land used for agricultural production. There is a need to evaluate seed banks of CNG under established stands of CNG across the spectrum of land management classes (agricultural, roadsides and conservation areas) on the Northern Tablelands and to determine how different management treatments have affected these seed banks. Of particular interest will be determining if there are differences in CNG viable seed banks between the conservation sites, roadside sites and agricultural areas and what are the implications for management.

A new collaborative project (between NSW DPI and Northern Tablelands LLS) will evaluate seed banks of CNG under established stands of CNG across the spectrum of land management classes on the Northern Tablelands.

This project will:-

- Identify current and potential levels of CNG seed banks in agricultural and non-agricultural soils across the Northern Tablelands.
- Establish monitoring sites for future assessment of the change in level of viable seeds of CNG in seed banks in areas of varying land management.
- Determine if certain categories of CNG infestations are more amenable to specific control measures.
- Up to 15 monitoring sites will be established on the Northern Tablelands from Walcha to Tenterfield, and from the eastern fall country near Glen Innes to Inverell.

We need your help. Do you know of a potential CNG site on agricultural, roadside or conservation areas either with or without a control history? If so please contact Carol Harris at NSW DPI Glen Innes on 6730 1900, 0458 206 973 or carol.harris@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Local Land Services
Northern Tablelands



Department of Primary Industries

Funding and Opportunities

Small Grants for Rural Communities (SGRC) Round 27

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities in rural, regional or remote Australia. Priority is given to communities with a population of 10,000 or fewer.

Common funding outcomes

The program funds a wide range of projects such as:

- Repair and maintenance of small to mid-scale community infrastructure, such as public halls, schools and recreation reserves.
- Providing communications equipment and enhancing infrastructure and systems, especially for emergency services organisations.
- Community events and capacity building, such as volunteer training, support and development.

Projects should contribute to the development of a community's social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Applications close 27th March 2015 at 5:00pm.

For more information contact FRRR on 1800 170 020 or visit the website www.frrr.org.au



2015 Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants

The Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants program is offering funding of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds and communities.

Coles has sponsored the grants program since 2008, and has seen a broad range of projects come to fruition, including vegetable gardens, composting and worm farms, Indigenous bush tucker gardens and green walls. These projects encourage students to learn about sustainability and caring for the environment in a hands-on manner.

All primary schools, secondary schools, kindergartens, day care centres, and youth groups are eligible to apply for a Coles Junior Landcare Garden grant.

Applications close 27th March at 5:00pm. For more information visit the website www.juniorlandcare.com.au



Public Reserve Funding

Applications for funding under the next round of the Public Reserves Management Fund Program will open in early March 2015, delivering at least \$15 million to improve public reserves across the State.

Crown reserve caravan parks, local parks and reserves, state parks and showgrounds on Crown land will be eligible for funding, along with freehold showgrounds and schools of arts.

It will be open to a wide range of activities including repairs and maintenance, pest and weed control, recreational infrastructure, environmental initiatives and other capital projects to improve the condition of Crown reserves.



Information on how to apply this year will be on the Crown Lands website at www.crownland.nsw.gov.au

NSW Government \$300 million Drought Package

The NSW Government announced their new Drought Strategy on the 3rd of February, it will provide key assistance measures for primary producers over the next five years.

The NSW Drought Strategy delivers a range of new measures under three key areas:

1. Supporting farmers to prepare for and manage drought
2. Committing to a transparent and accountable system of drought assistance
3. Helping our primary producers and regional communities build resilience

Key points of interest include -

- \$250 million over five years to continue the popular Farm Innovation Fund.
- \$45 million over five years for vocational training and farm business planning.

GLENRAC will endeavour to keep you up to date with opportunities for farming businesses under this new strategy.

GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2013/14

CHAIRMAN - Jim Benton

VICE CHAIRMAN - John Bavea

TREASURER - Sam Baker

SECRETARY - Jeff Lowien

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Greg Chappell, Tony Holliss, Jane Munro, Desmond FitzGerald, Mike Norton, Norman Whitaker, Geoff Coldham, Gordon Wollen

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

Department of Primary Industries : Carol Harris , **National Parks & Wildlife Office**: Peter Croft

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services: 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 -

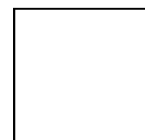
68 Church Street (PO Box 660) GLEN INNES NSW 2370

Ph: (02) 6732 3443

Mobile 0427 325 901

email kylie@glenrac.org.au

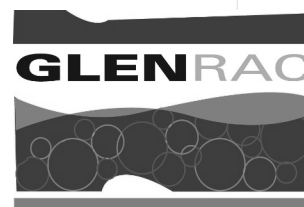
GLENRAC
PO Box 660
GLEN INNES
NSW 2370



To The Land Manager



Local Land
Services
Northern Tablelands



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Coming Events:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 17th March | Pindone course, Glen Innes. Phone Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Glen Innes office 6732 8800 Free to attend for landholders |
| 18th March | Faecal egg count for worms, PROfarm Tamworth 6763 1276 |
| 24th March | Chainsaw—trim and cross-cut felled trees, Glen Innes Contact PROfarm 6763 1276 |
| 24th March | Trees on Farms field day (more details to be advertised) |
| 26th March | Chainsaw—fell trees manually (basic), Glen Innes—PROfarm 6763 1276 |
| 21 -22 May | Rural, Resilient & Resourceful Event, Glen Innes—6732 3443 |
| 27-28th May | 2015 Landcare Adventure, Tamworth |
| 1—3 September | NSW Landcare Conference , Orange “From the Ground Up” Celebrating International Year of Soil 02 6368 7872 |
| 9-11 October | NSW Rural Women’s Gathering, Glen Innes |



Women For All Seasons
9-11 October 2015
Email: gatherintheglen@gmail.com