

GLENRAC

Newsletter

Sept / Oct 2014

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

Inside This Issue

- *Bright Ideas*
- *Project Snapshot*
- *Fit Farmers workshops*
- *Little Llangothlin Lagoon*
- *Funding Opportunities*
- *Are you a Landcare Hero?*
- *Coming Events*

**** DATE CLAIMER ****

Spring Thinking
SUCCESSION PLANNING
WORKSHOP
With Lyn Sykes
2nd October 2014
9:30am to 4:30pm
Glen Innes & District
Services Club



Local Land Services
Northern Tablelands



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



GLENRAC celebrates 25 years of Landcare

2014 marks 25 years since the formation of the Glen Innes Natural Resource Advisory Committee as the umbrella group for the many local Landcare groups across the Glen Innes district.

GLENRAC was formed in 1989 by a group of concerned land managers to address land degradation issues occurring across the Glen Innes district including salinity and soil erosion problems caused by tree clearing, die-back and overproduction. The committee goals were to investigate issues of land and catchment degradation.

Members of the inaugural committee were Chairman, David Donnelly (Major Glen Innes); Secretary Phil Fogarty, committee members Len Donnelly (Severn Shire President); Helen Kennedy (Severn Shire Councillor), George Rozynski (Glen Innes Municipal Council), John Turner (PP Board), Brian Furrez and Steve Thoms (Forestry), Robert Weir (Dundee landholder) and Des Fitzgerald and Guy Robinson (Dept. of Ag. & Fisheries).

Many things have changed since this first committee but the objectives of GLENRAC remain constant "to improve the productive environmental and social resource base of the Glen Innes district."

GLENRAC will celebrate achieving this milestone with a **25th Anniversary Dinner** to be held on Thursday 25th September at the Glen Innes District Services Club from 7:00pm. This will follow the GLENRAC AGM at to be held at 6:00pm.

Brian Scarsbrick will be the Keynote speaker for the evening. Brian was active in the early years of GLENRAC through his role at the Dept. of Ag and will reflect on the early years and how Landcare has evolved across Australia since that time.

GLENRAC has secured some funding support from Landcare Australia to subsidise the cost of the dinner. Tickets are \$20pp. Payment and RSVP by the 18th September are required. Cheque or direct deposit (call for details) are our preferred method of receiving payment. **All are welcome to attend and help celebrate this milestone.**



GLENRAC News

Hello All,

Welcome to the September/October newsletter, it is full of news and events relating to natural resource management in the Glen Innes district and beyond. We also have more information available on the GLENRAC website which is updated at least weekly with News, Events and Current Funding. Be sure and take a look at the website if you are looking for all things relating to GLENRAC. We recently promoted two events through our e-flashes to be run in Glen Innes—Writing a Business Plan with Rural Biz and Understanding Your Farm Business Numbers with Principle Focus. Both workshops were at normal commercial cost as no current funding is available to subsidise these courses. Unfortunately insufficient registrations were received to run either course. However, if this would interest you in the future please call or email the GLENRAC office and let us know.

In a similar vein, funding is scarce on the ground at the moment but we are always interested to know what on farm or off farm projects you are interested in participating in, for example, tree planting, protecting riparian areas, fixing gully erosion. Contact the GLENRAC office and let us know, this will help us to develop projects linking together similar projects from across the district. Please note—this does not mean your project will be funded but it will help GLENRAC in applying for funding on behalf of our community.

This year GLENRAC celebrates 25 years of operation, a terrific achievement for the Glen Innes community! GLENRAC will celebrate its achievements on the 25th September with an Anniversary Dinner. If you have been involved in the past, or know someone who has, please let them know about it, we hope to see you there. Regards, Kylie Falconer



Bright Ideas

Farmsafe Australia launches app

The Australian Centre for Agricultural Health & Safety has launched a new Farmsafe Australia safety induction app for both iPhone and Android. The app is free and seeks to further improve the safety induction of new workers. Go to www.farmsafe.org.au for links to download for iPhone or Android devices.

Also available on the FarmSafe website are free farm safety resources for a range of topics including WHS Induction, Safety Induction Templates, Injury registers, Training registers, Hazard Checklist and Safety Action Plan and Safety Guides.

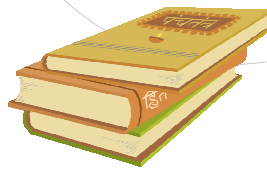
NSW Seasonal Conditions and Climate Change Summary e-newsletter

NSW DPI have a free e-newsletter for anyone interested in monthly seasonal condition reports for across NSW. Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au and enter "seasonal conditions" into the search area. This website also has links through to supporting website for more information on factors influencing the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

Subscribe to the New England North West Landcare update

New England North West Landcare put out a fortnightly e-newsletter for interested land managers. This newsletter covers news, events and funding opportunities for across the New England North West area.

To subscribe go to <http://eepurl.com/0e4PX>



Book Review

Grasses of the NSW Tablelands (New)

Published by NSW DPI, this new book is an easy to use reference to grasses of the NSW Tablelands, including methods of identifying species. It includes colour photographs of each species with notes on species management. 176pp, \$20, order from the NSW DPI bookshop, Phone 1800 025 520

Protecting our bushland and reserves in the New England North West NSW (New)

Published by GWYMAC Landcare in Inverell this is a new and free resource available to interested land managers. Topics covered include Threatened Ecological Communities, Responsible Gardening; Common garden escapes and weeds of our area; native alternatives; invasive animals, protecting cultural heritage.

If you would like a copy please contact the GLENRAC office and we can arrange for one to be collected from our office.

Australia's War Against Rabbits

The Story of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease, released in May 2014, provides up-to-date information on the use of biological control agents to manage wild rabbit populations. 232pp, \$79.95, order from CSIRO Publishing Phone 1300 078 000

GLENRAC Coming Events

Fit Farmers workshops

Thurs. 11th September

Glencoe Hall 10:00am—12:00am

Deepwater Tennis Club 2:30pm—4:30pm

GLENRAC will host two workshops next week on Thursday the 11th September. The workshops will target topics relating to improving farmers physical, mental and financial fitness.

Guest speakers will include representatives from NSW WorkCover, New England Medicare Local, Rural Fit, Rural Financial Counselling Service and the Drought Support program. The presentations will be short and filled with useful information you can take away and use straight away on the farm.

The workshops will promote NSW WorkCover's Small Business rebates that are available to any small business employing less than 50 people. The Small Business rebate offers eligible business's \$500 to help you run a safe and productive farm and covers a wide range of safety related products. To be eligible you must attend an information session such as this workshop, attend a webinar or have a site visit. More information on this program will be available at the workshops or visit the NSW WorkCover website, www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

The Fit Farmers workshop are free attend those interested thanks to the support of the Drought Support Program - Carers NSW and NSW Farmers Glen Innes branch. If you would like to attend please RSVP by 8th September to GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 or kylie@glenrac.org.au

This event supported by—



**Growing
the best**

Spring Thinking Succession Planning Workshop

Thurs. 2nd October

Glen Innes & District Services Club 9:30am—4:30pm

This workshop will cover all aspects of succession planning and communication for farming families. Lyn Sykes, well known succession planning consultant will lead the day. Lyn's presentations will be supported with presentations from local professionals Jane Newsome of Roberts & Morrow and Peter Pardy from APJ Law.

Even if succession planning seems like something is the far, far distance mark this workshop in your calendar. It is not often we are able to provide such high quality and experienced speakers on this important topic locally.

The workshop is free to attend, thanks to the support from Carers NSW, the Ascent Group and Foundation of Rural & Regional Renewal.

This event supported by -



Rural Women's Day

Wed. 15th October

Glen Innes Showgrounds 9:30am—2:30pm

GLENRAC will host a Rural Women's Day to coincide with International Day of Rural Women. We are still in the process of finalising the program for this event. More details will be available throughout September via the GLENRAC e/flashs, our website and in the Glen Innes Examiner. It should be a great day filled with fun and interesting speakers and interactive activities.

Ben Lomond Landcare Workshop

Water Management for Grazing

Tues. 21st October

Ben Lomond Hall 9:00am—3:30pm

Topics covered will include physical aspects of the land that determine water capabilities, water quality, water budgeting, harvest options, storage options, delivery options to livestock or secondary sources (including troughs and pipelines) and monitoring options, and will be delivered by a number of speakers.

The day will be fully catered. For more information please email Ben Lomond Landcare on blandcare92@gmail.com or phone Beth White on 0427 647 067.



All the events listed on this page are supported to some extent by the Ascent Group or Carers NSW as part of the Australian Government's drought assistance package.

If you are interested in learning more about the drought assistance package, the Dept. of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries have a new newsletter "Drought & Rural Assistance Newsletter". You can access a copy at <http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/assistance/newsletters/drought-rural-assistance-issue-1-august-2014>

Spring Time Noxious Weeds

Submitted by David Nixon, Glen Innes Severn Council Weeds Officer



Paterson's Curse, Vipers Bugloss, Gorse, English/Scotch Broom, Sweet Briar and Nodding Thistle are the noxious weeds in the Glen Innes Severn Council area that either flower and or produce seed in the spring season.

Paterson's Curse and Vipers Bugloss are the first plants to set seed. Both plants are *Echium* species and look very similar but differ in rosette leaves and vary in flower colour. It is strategically important to control Paterson's Curse and Vipers Bugloss prior to flowering so as to stop seed set because the plants set seeds early in the flowering process. Seeds can number over 30,000 per square metre in dense patches.

Paterson's Curse is often regarded as being non-toxic or of low toxicity but evidence has been presented that alkaloids in the plant may cause liver damage in stock leading to loss of condition and sometimes death. Pigs are most susceptible to poisoning, followed by horses, whilst sheep, cattle and goats are least affected. There have been no stock deaths reported in the Glen Innes Severn Local Government area associated with Patterson's Curse. Paterson's Curse was introduced to Australia as a garden ornamental.

Gorse and English/Scotch Broom once established can take a considerable amount of time to reduce infestations because of the prolific amount of seeds the shrubs produce. There are up to 40,000 gorse seeds/m² under a mature gorse bush at any one time. Up to 90% of gorse seed in the soil at any time is "hard" which can lie dormant for decades before it germinates. Gorse plants can live up to 30 years with English/Scotch Broom plants living up to 15 years.

English/Scotch Broom and Gorse were introduced to Australia as garden ornamentals with Gorse being used as a hedging plant.

Sweet Briar is an erect shrub to 3 m, commonly 1.5 to 2 m. It has pink or white flowers with small prickles along the leaf stalk. The fruit are orange to red in a capsule shape with short spines at the stalk end.

Sweet Briar flowers in late spring to summer with the best results for chemical control throughout spring and early summer periods. Sweet Briar was also introduced to Australia as a garden ornamental plant.

Nodding Thistle germinates mostly in late summer, autumn and early winter but some germination also occurs in spring, especially if there is enough moisture available. Plants only flower once then die but slashed plants will survive until they flower.

Nodding Thistle seeds may survive in the soil for a long time. New Zealand studies indicate that up to 13 years may be required to completely deplete a soil bank.

Seedling density may reach 100 to 200 per square metre but with a very high natural mortality with usually less than 20% of seedlings surviving to maturity.

The presence of biological insects on properties has aided in the reduction of the Nodding Thistle seed bank. The CSIRO is confident that, given more time, the remaining seed bank should be substantially reduced.

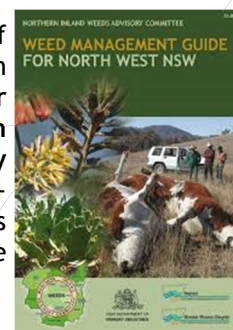
Nodding Thistle was introduced to Australia as a contaminant in pasture seed from New Zealand.

Nodding Thistle germinates mostly in late summer, autumn and early winter but some germination also occurs in spring, especially if there is enough moisture available. Plants only flower once then die but slashed plants will survive until they flower.

The presence of biological insects on properties has aided in the reduction of the Nodding Thistle seed bank. The CSIRO is confident that, given more time, the remaining seed bank should be substantially reduced.



Information and photos of all of the above weeds can be found in the **Weed Management Guide for North West NSW** and the **Glen Innes Severn Council's Priority Noxious Weeds Hand Book** available free of charge at Council's Church Street office and the GLENRAC office.



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

News from GLENRAC's Partner Organisations

Landholders Looking After Little Llangothlin Lagoon

WetlandCare Australia and the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services are working in partnership, funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program, to protect and enhance the ecological character of the Little Llangothlin Lagoon Ramsar site.

The site is listed as being of International Importance under the Ramsar convention, to which Australia is a signatory. The convention aims to conserve wetlands which are rare or unique, or important for conserving biological diversity.

Little Llangothlin Lagoon and surrounding landscape is recognised as providing internationally important water-bird habitat and supporting various nationally threatened plant and animal species and several threatened ecological communities.

This project has engaged farmers in the Lagoon's catchment to increase productivity and farm health, while improving wetland condition and protecting habitat values through the provision of livestock fencing and alternate watering infrastructure. The project is also partnering with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to undertake on-site tree planting works within the Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve to restore native vegetation communities bordering the lagoon.

Native vegetation health will be improved over 200 ha across the project area, including areas of Upland Wetlands and New England Peppermint Woodland, both threatened ecological communities. Water quality and native fauna habitat in and around the internationally significant Little Llangothlin Lagoon wetland will also be enhanced. Works undertaken will also contribute to reducing weed invasion and expanding key habitat and corridors within the region.

WetlandCare Australia has a long history of working with partner organisations and landholders within the New England Tablelands to provide mutually beneficial outcomes for farmers, wetlands and threatened species and communities. Landholders in the area who may be interested in being involved in management activities on their land are encouraged to contact WetlandCare Australia's Senior Project Officer Eli Dutton on 1800 816 147 to find out more.



Little Llangothlin Lagoon

Assistance available for landholders for biodiversity projects

The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services has funding available under the "Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks" program to support projects that manage, protect and restore native vegetation and improve landscape scale connectivity. Activities eligible for funding include fencing, planting native trees, direct seeding with native seeds, and weed management. For projects that protect and manage stream banks and native vegetation along streamside areas funding is available to subsidise the cost of alternate stock water infrastructure (pumps, pipes, tanks and troughs). Joint projects across property boundaries are encouraged to increase the effectiveness of projects. Funding is competitive and there is a limit to what funding is available. Priority will be given to proposals that protect and/or plant native vegetation beside or connected to streams, creeks and rivers.

Expressions of interest are invited by calling Martin Dillon or Iestyn Taylor at the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Armidale office on 02 6772 2366. LLS staff will work with you to design, develop and cost a project proposal ready for competitive assessment. The due date for the next round of project proposals is **15th September 2014**. Proposals will be reviewed by an assessment panel in early October and successful projects will then have a management agreement developed and signed.



Local Land Services
Northern Tablelands

GWYMAC Landcare presents Graham Sait workshop NTS Certificate Sustainable Ag.

GWYMAC Landcare will host a 4 day training course with Graham Sait of Nutri-Tech Solutions from the Monday 13th to Thursday 16th October in Inverell. The course will run from 8:30am to 5:00pm each day. It costs \$400pp or \$370 for GWYMAC Landcare members. This includes all meals and workshop materials.

There will be an optional demonstration farm field day on Friday 17th October at Gravesend. For more information contact GWYMAC Landcare on 02 6721 1241.



Funding Opportunities

What help is now available for drought affected farmers?

Income assistance for farmers

The Farm Household Allowance (FHA) is available now for farmers and their partners who are experiencing financial difficulty.

The FHA is a fortnightly income support payment available Australia-wide, without the need for a drought declaration. The FHA has been designed to suit the circumstances of farmers and their partners.

Farmers are urged not to self-assess their eligibility but to contact the Department of Human Services to explore their options. Further information is available by calling the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316 (8am - 8pm).

Drought Concessional Loan Scheme

Drought concessional loans are now available to help farm businesses recover from drought, prepare for future droughts and return to viability in the long term.

Loans are available for any combination of debt restructuring; operating expenses and/or drought recovery and preparedness activities. Loan amounts are up to 50 per cent of a farm business's total eligible debt to a maximum of \$1 million. The loans will have a term of five years, with a concessional interest rate period of five years.

For information on the loans in New South Wales contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au.

Rural Financial Counselling Service

If you have any questions regarding how you can access assistance or your eligibility to receive assistance contact our local RFCS office Stuart Brummell on 02 6732 3325.



NSW Environmental Trust—Restoration & Rehabilitation grants

The aim of the Restoration and Rehabilitation program is to facilitate projects run by community organisations and government entities working to prevent or reduce environmental degradation of any kind. Through these projects, we also aim to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment. Grants of between \$5,000 and \$100,000 are available. If you have a project you think fits this grant description, contact the GLENRAC office and we can help develop a project application for the Glen Innes district. For further information go to <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/restoration.htm>

Tackling Tough Times Together grants Round 3 < \$10,000

The Tackling Tough Times Together grant program helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through the 2013/14 drought. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available across most of Queensland and selected shires in the New South Wales Northern Tablelands .

Funding will support community based activities that both help to relieve current stressors and symptoms, but most importantly, build capacity and resilience for the future. Funds could also support activities that engage people in being active, exploring options and creating something that will stand the test of tough times.

For more information contact

03 5430 2399 or visit [http://](http://www.frrr.org.au/grants/tackling_tough_times_together-round_3)

[www.frrr.org.au/grants/](http://www.frrr.org.au/grants/tackling_tough_times_together-round_3)

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[- round 3](http://www.frrr.org.au/grants/tackling_tough_times_together-round_3)



Tackling Tough Times Together

Applications close 3rd October 2014.

NSW Primary Industries Habitat Action Grants

Individuals and community groups wanting to improve fish habitat are being encouraged to apply for a grant through the next funding round of the NSW Government's Habitat Action Grants Program.

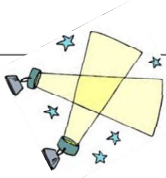
Previous funded projects include:

- ⇒ removing invasive weeds and re-establishing native vegetation on our riverbanks;
- ⇒ opening floodgates or improving road crossings to remove barriers to fish movement;
- ⇒ restoring eroded river banks;
- ⇒ re-snagging waterways; and
- ⇒ bank stabilisation works.

For more information about the program, application forms and examples of past projects visit <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hag%20> or contact a Department of Primary Industries regional officer on (02) 6626 1107 or (02) 4916 3817. Applications close 19th September 2014.



Department of Primary Industries



Put yourself in the spotlight



2014 Farmer of the Year Award open

NSW Department of Primary Industries



Applications are now open for the 2014 NSW Farmer of the Year Award, with farmers of all ages across NSW encouraged to enter. The annual awards now in their 11th year are designed to acknowledge agricultural excellence.

The successful 'Farmer of the Year' will be awarded \$10,000 and the other finalists will receive \$2000.

The annual awards recognise the best farmers in NSW, focussing on their agricultural management skills, their use of innovation, profitability, environmental sustainability and community involvement.

The award is an initiative of the NSW Farmers' Association and NSW Department of Primary Industries, with support from The Land, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and WorkCover NSW. Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au for guidelines and application forms. **Entries close Friday 19 September 2014.**

2015 Science & Innovation Awards for young people in agriculture

Grants to realise big ideas from young rural innovators. If you are aged 18 to 35 years this is your chance to apply for up to \$22,000 to fund your innovation research project that will benefit Australia's primary industries. For more information and application forms at www.daff.gov.au/scienceawards **Applications close 5:00pm Friday 3rd October 2014.**

Are you a Landcare Hero?

The Landcare Hero Honour Roll seeks to promote, acknowledge and celebrate the considerable contributions of those who have been involved in Landcare for 25 years or more. The honour roll will all year and is acknowledging through photos and short biographies inspiring Landcarer's.



If you would like to share your experiences or know someone who deserves to be celebrated go to www.landcarelife.com/25_years

NSW / ACT Rural Women's Award now open

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, has encouraged rural women to enter the prestigious 2015 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) NSW-ACT Rural Women's Award.

Ms Hodgkinson said the 2015 awards are now open to women in NSW and the ACT involved in primary industries and natural resource management who have a desire, commitment and leadership potential to make an even greater contribution.

"Ms Hodgkinson said four finalists will be selected in NSW-ACT with the winner to receive a \$10,000 bursary and participation in the RIRDC Australian Institute of Company Directors' course. The three finalists will receive \$1000 to further develop their vision or build their leadership and business management skills.

To apply and for more information on mentoring, visit <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn> or call 02 6391 3620.

Entries close Friday 31 October 2014.



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Scholarships

Rural Scholarships are available to support individuals in NSW who demonstrate a passion for rural and commitment for any career that will ensure the future success of rural and regional NSW.

Scholarships of \$5,000 for full-time study or \$2,500 for part-time study are available.

There is no limit on the types of courses that qualify or the age of the applicant. You could be studying at University, TAFE or VET courses, on campus or by distance learning. However applicants all have one thing in common - a desire to play an active part in the future of rural NSW.

For more information go to <http://www.rasnsf.com.au/rural-scholarships.htm>

Applications close midnight 30th September 2014.



GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2013/14

CHAIRMAN - John Bavea **VICE CHAIRMAN**— Jim Benton

TREASURER—Sam Baker **SECRETARY** - Jeff Lowien

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Glen Innes Severn Council : Graham Price & 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 glenrac@glenrac.org.au

GLENRAC
PO Box 660
GLEN INNES
NSW 2370



To The Land Manager



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Coming Events:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 11 Sept | Fit Farmers workshop Glencoe Hall 10:00am–12:00pm, 02 6732 3443 |
| 11 Sept | Fit Farmers workshop Deepwater Tennis Club 2:30pm–4:30pm, 02 6732 3443 |
| 15–Sept | National Landcare Conference, Melbourne |
| 24 Sept | World Heritage Walk, Gibraltar Range National Park 9:45am Phone Chris 02 6728 8046 |
| 25 Sept | GLENRAC AGM, Glen Innes Services Club, Remembrance Room, 6:00pm |
| 25 Sept | GLENRAC 25th Anniversary Dinner, \$20 per person, Remembrance Room, 7:00pm |
| 2 Oct | Spring Thinking, Succession Planning workshop, Glen Innes Services Club 9:30am–3:30pm |
| 15 Oct | Rural Women's Day, Glen Innes Showgrounds, 9:30am–2:30pm |
| 13-16 Oct | GWYMAC Landcare NTS Certificate in Sustainable Ag, Inverell Ph 02 6721 1241 |
| 21 Oct | Ben Lomond Landcare Water Management for Grazing, Contact Beth White 0427 647 067 |



**Local Land
Services**
Northern Tablelands