



NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST LANDCARE

REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 103, 24th March 2014

PEST ANIMAL FIELD DAYS

Bait Preparation & Pest Animal Control Field Day on Thursday 3rd April 2014 from 8.30am to 2.00pm at "Hawkesly Park" Ten Mile Road Deepwater.

Identifying Signs of Pest Animals and Bait Placement Field Day on Friday 4th April 2014 from 8.30am to 1.00pm at "Strathbogie" Emmaville.

Both days are free of charge with morning tea and lunch provided. Please RSVP to GLENRAC on 02 67323443 or email office@glenrac.org.au

ROUND TWO OF FARM FINANCE LOANS AVAILABLE TO NSW PRODUCERS

NSW primary producers can now access the \$10 million second round of the Farm Finance Concessional Loans scheme.

Concessional loans of up to \$650,000 are available to eligible primary producers as part of this second round, with a variable interest rate starting at 4.5 per cent.

The scheme allows eligible farm businesses to restructure existing debt in the form of low-interest loans. The loans are available to refinance up to half of existing long-term commercial borrowings.

The NSW package is managed and administered through the NSW Rural Assistance Authority and applications close on 4th April. 2014. Visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au

LLS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE UNIT CLOSE BY FOR ADVICE

Landholders on the Northern Tablelands may not be able to rely on the weather, but they can count on Local Land Services to help with services and information on how to cope with drought.

The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) Sustainable Agriculture Unit is a recently formed team that brings together expertise in agricultural production, natural resource management and Property Planning.

Sustainable Agriculture Unit Acting Team Leader, Andrew Walsh, reports there has already been a lot of inquiry from landholders seeking information from Senior Land Services Officers Georgie Oakes (Pastures), Jason Siddell (Livestock), and Iestyn Taylor and Bruce Gardiner (Property Planning).

For more information on livestock and pasture management and farm planning, contact your local LLS office in Armidale, Glen Innes, Inverell or Tenterfield on 1300 795 299.

WOW- A NEW WEB SERVICE

The Weather Observations Website - provides an online weather community in Australia where everyone can share information and photos about the weather. This free online service lets you view and contribute historic, real-time or automated weather observations, sightings and weather snaps, or simply send in a quick report such as "Thunderstorm on the horizon!"

Visit <http://www.bom.gov.au/wow-support/>

NSW ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST PROTECTING OUR PLACES PROGRAM FOR 2014

The NSW Environmental Trust will be holding a series of workshops on its Aboriginal environmental grants program for 2014.

Workshops will start at 10.00 am and finish around 3.00 pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Port Macquarie - Thursday 3 April
Cobar - Wednesday 30 April
Glen Innes - Tuesday 6 May
Narrabri - Thursday 8 May

For more information visit www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au.

SOIL SOLUTION WORKSHOPS

Are you interested in finding out more about the soils on your place, how you can improve them, and what you can achieve with them?

Then come along to GLENRAC's Soil Solutions Workshops!

The series of workshops will take place in the following format:

- First workshop on "soil testing methods" (early April)
- Collect your soil sample from your property
- Send it away for FREE analysis
- Second workshop on "interpreting soil tests" (early May, when test results have arrived)

To register, or for more information, get in touch with Glenrac on 02 6732 3443 or office@glenrac.org.au



LIFTING THE LID ON DROUGHT WORKSHOPS

The final week of Lifting the Lid on Drought workshops this week with workshops at Nullamanna Hall Thursday 27th March from 7.30-10.00am; Tenterfield Bowling Club Thursday 27th March from 4.00-7.30pm and Glen Innes RSL Friday 28th March from 3.00-6.30pm.

For more information or to RSVP contact your local Landcare Office.

DROUGHT REACH NSW

Drought Reach is a NSW wide tailored project developed and funded by NSW Government, to up-skill and empower NSW Agriculture workforce with learning and knowledge building focus on drought, drought preparation, sustainability, climate change, financial and farm management, future proofing and more.

There are 30 places for a FULLY FUNDED Diploma of Agriculture starting 7th April 2014.

All rural regions of NSW residents can apply for a place regardless of in drought or if they want to strategically plan for future drought. For more info or to apply for a place contact:

Phil Pamment- Head Teacher
TAFE New England
Phone: (02) 6773 7111
Phil.Pamment@det.nsw.edu.au

NSW ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST INVITES GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Trust is now calling for applications to the following grants programs:

- Environmental Education Program
- Protecting our Places Program
- Eco Schools and Food Gardens in Schools Programs

Environmental Education Program

Grants of \$5,000 to \$100,000 are available for community and non-profit organisations and government to support educational projects or programs that develop or widen the community's knowledge of, skills in, and commitment to protecting the environment and promoting sustainable behaviour.

Expressions of Interest are due by 5pm Thursday 17 April 2014

Protecting out Places Program

Grants of \$2,000 to \$35,000 are available to Aboriginal community groups and organisations to protect land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people and to support education projects about the environment and its importance in Aboriginal life.

Information workshops and webinars on the Protecting Our Places Program will be held across NSW between 27 March and 8 May. You can register online or call our Aboriginal Programs Officer on (02) 8837 6399 or email info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au.

Applications are due by Friday 30 May 2014.

Eco Schools and Food Gardens in Schools The Eco Schools Program will award up to 60 schools grants of \$2,500 to deliver environmental management projects.

The Food Gardens in Schools Program will award up to 20 schools grants of \$3,500 to educate students on healthy sustainable living through growing and harvesting food in school gardens. For 2014, an additional 18 grants of \$3,500 are available for schools working with children with special needs.

Applications are due by Friday 16 May 2014.

Guidelines, application forms and a range of resources are available on the Trust's website: www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au.

WOMEN IN COTTON MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Wincott was established in December 2000 with the objective of supporting rural women across the Australian cotton industry. With 14 amazing years under their belt, a new committee on board and a bucket load of enthusiasm - Wincott are looking to the future and want to ensure we are reaching women in all facets of the cotton industry and meeting their needs.

Sign up today for a chance to win an ipad mini. For more information visit <http://van0378.wix.com/wincott>