

# GLENRAC

# Newsletter

JAN/FEB 2014

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

## Inside This Issue

- Local news
- Project Snapshot
- Pest and weed update
- Book reviews
- Funding & Training Opportunities

**\*\* DATE CLAIMER \*\***

## LITTLE LLANGOTHLIN FIELD DAY

5th February 9am  
Little Llangothlin Lagoon

## LANDCARE ADVENTURE 2014

19th 20th March 2014 Glen Innes

## 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.

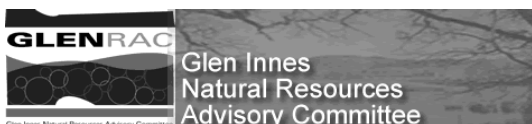
Nominations for Board member positions are now open. Occupiers of rateable land are eligible to nominate a candidate. Nominations close **5pm 31 January 2014**. Ratepayers across the State are encouraged to enrol to vote by lodging an enrolment form to be eligible to vote in the 2014 LLS elections.

Only persons on the Local Land Services electoral roll for the region will be eligible to vote. Persons on the electoral rolls of Livestock Health and Pest Authorities will not have their names automatically transferred to the LLS electoral roll.

Enrolments close 5pm 17 February 2014. For more information please visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/locallandservices](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/locallandservices)

## OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER

Pam Benton joined our GLENRAC team in December 2013. She has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Plants) and has recently been working around the Moree district as a sales agronomist. Pam is looking forward to a change of direction and will be working both in the GLENRAC office and out in the field.



Local Land  
Services  
Northern Tablelands



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



# GLENRAC News

Hello and Happy New Year to all,

We have a busy six months ahead of us at Glenrac and the majority of our current projects must be completed by the end of June. If you are one of our project participants we are relying on you to get your projects completed by the end of May to ensure we have adequate time for site visits and final reporting.

GLENRAC staff will host a display at the Glen Innes Show, on 21st to 23rd February, so please call in and see what's new and meet our staff.

We are busy planning the 2014 Landcare Adventure to be held in Glen Innes on 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014. In the coming weeks we will also be continuing with project work, finalising our review of corporate governance documentation, planning pest animal workshops, and hosting our next General Committee Meeting in February. Any workshops or field days for 2014 will be advertised through the Glen Innes Examiner, our email updates and our website [www.glenrac.org.au](http://www.glenrac.org.au)

This year, we are very excited to be working with our newest team member, Pam Benton, who will be helping us to continue at the standard you all expect from GLENRAC. WELCOME Pam!

Until next time,

*Tanya and Lucy*

## Sheep and Beef Cattle Farming Rebate

For a limited time, Workcover is offering a promotional rebate - up to \$2000 for sheep and beef cattle farmers with 0 - 50 full time employees (or equivalent) who adopt an eligible safety solution in their workplace.

The rebates are available for a limited time, subject to available funds, and exclude GST, freight and insurance.

Eligible activities include

- Animal loading ramps.
- Tractor roll over protection structures (ROPS)
- Sun Shade protection over stock yards
- Lifting devices.
- Non Slip Flooring
- Handrails
- Drainage system in sheds
- Personal Protective Equipment and safety signage.

WorkCover is committed to working with industry and the community to address these risks and will be delivering a range of activities and resources to assist sheep and beef cattle farmers.

The rebate will be available for items purchased between 1st October 2013 to 31st May 2014. Rebate applications must be lodged by the **31st May 2014**

Call 13 10 50 for more information on the *Sheep and beef cattle farming industry action plan*, or visit: [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/newlegislation2012/assistance-and-support/small-business-rebate/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/newlegislation2012/assistance-and-support/small-business-rebate/Pages/default.aspx)

## GLENRAC PROJECT SNAPSHOT

### BRG-CMA HEALTHY SOILS AND SOIL SOLUTIONS

This project still has the second half to run including 4 workshops to be run by Jeff Lowien in autumn, demonstrating soil sampling procedures, funding soil sample tests and then guiding participants through the results.

### HONEY LOCUST

Control works are continuing on participating private properties along the Severn and Macintyre Rivers. This project will also fund a joint control effort on crown land at the 3-mile crossing at Ashford which will take place in the coming weeks. Treatment here is critical as this area is a major seed source of Honey Locust. GLENRAC will be conducting inspections on participating properties in the coming weeks. We urge anyone who has Honey Locust and adjoins the Severn or Macintyre rivers to contact us as there is still funding available.

# GLENRAC PROJECT SNAPSHOT

## LANDCARE ADVENTURE 2014 'Healthy Land - Resilient Communities'

The Landcare Adventure will be held on 19th and 20th March starting at the Glen Innes Showground.

Guest speakers include Terry McCosker and Isobel Knight. Terry McCosker is an internationally acclaimed teacher and has worked in research, extension and property management for 45 years. Terry has published over 40 papers and made discoveries in the fields of bull fertility, ruminant nutrition and pasture ecology. Terry co-founded RCS over 25 years ago, which has set the benchmark for capacity building in rural and regional Australia. Terry is a pioneer in the field of soil carbon and carbon farming.

Isobel Knight is a succession planner who has helped hundreds of farming families transition their business. Isobel believes that succession planning is an area in agriculture which has been dealt with poorly in the past, and she saw this as an opportunity to do it better.

There will be a dinner with entertainment and local landcare network awards night on the 19th. Guest speaker at the dinner will be Sam Bailey.

Sam Bailey is a farmer, pilot, husband and best-selling author. He has achieved all of those from a wheelchair and has an incredible ability to take an audience on the journey of his life.

From a childhood growing up in the Australian bush to a car accident in the outback that turned his life upside down and its aftermath, Sam tells his story in his own down-to-earth laconic style that captures the great Australian spirit of 'having a go'.

He relates how he beat the odds to fulfil his life-long dream to be a farmer, learning to ride a four wheel bike; devising a hoist to get into farm machinery and ultimately learning to fly an ultra light aircraft.

Sam then found his soul mate in former Tamworth-based ABC radio Rural Reporter, Jenny Black.



Today they live and work together on their beef cattle property in North West NSW, in between travelling the country telling their story and giving inspiration to others.

The Landcare Adventure will also feature rotation sessions on soils, grazing and pastures with Bart Davidson and Garry McDouall. There will be some interesting field visits throughout the adventure, including a tour of Rangers Valley Feedlot and local farms that will showcase their achievements in agriculture and natural resource management

## SNELC PEST ANIMAL COMMUNITY EXTENSION PROJECT

GLENRAC will be organising pest animal workshops in the area as well as encouraging existing and new coordinated pest control groups in 2014

Anyone interested in joining, or co-ordinating a baiting group in your area please contact GLENRAC on (02) 6732 3443 or [glenrac@glenrac.org.au](mailto:glenrac@glenrac.org.au)

## NRCMA ACTION ON THE GROUND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF CARBON MAN- AGEMENT ON NORTHERN RIVERS FARMS - GLENRAC

This 4 year project is in its 2nd year and will continue regardless of the LLS changes. Glenrac has three properties involved in this study. The project will monitor the effects of different farming practices including the use of "alternate" fertilizers and biological and conservation farming practices on soil health.

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

This funding includes a contribution to the Landcare Adventure in March as well as soil and feed testing and a 4th workshop covering grazing charts and test results next autumn.

# Tropical Soda Apple is still a real Weed Threat

Submitted by David Nixon,  
Glen Innes Severn Council Weeds Officer

People buying cattle from the Grafton area are being reminded of the potential for Tropical Soda Apple to germinate and spread in the Glen Innes region.

## Infested Areas

The plant has been found in land adjacent to the Inverell Sale Yards, the closest infestations found to Glen Innes so far.

A trial at Tenterfield where Tropical Soda Apple plants were kept in pots and exposed to frosts revealed that the plants survived through the cold, icy weather conditions

Tropical Soda Apple was first identified in Australia at Kempsey in the Macleay catchment intruding into the Armidale Dumaresq Council area. area on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales (NSW) in August 2010. However, this weed is believed to have been present in the area for years.

## Means of Spread

Anecdotal evidence indicates that fruit of Tropical Soda Apple is eaten by cattle, feral animals and birds resulting in distribution of seed over wide areas.

It is **strongly recommended** that stock from affected areas are held in a quarantine area for 48 hours before being transported to other properties or to sale. Prevent stock from grazing and moving through infested areas and check cattle handling facilities, cattle camps and yards for new infestations.

## Identification

Tropical Soda Apple is a perennial shrub native to Brazil and Argentina. Plants grow to 1.8m in height and width, leaves are broad 15-20 cm long and 5.1-15.2 cm wide, hairy and resemble Fig leaves.

The entire plant has 2 cm long straight prickles. Flowering year round, flowers are white 5 petaled and develop in clusters below the leaves, fruit are 2.5cm in diameter (golf ball size) and resemble a watermelon but turn yellow at maturity.

## Control

Council's Weeds Officer will assist with identification, control information including removal and eradication. Individual plants can be manually removed, but care must be taken to remove all the root material, as plants will regrow from root fragments. Fruit should be collected and disposed of appropriately (deep burial or burnt).

## Legislation

Tropical soda apple is declared a Class 2 or 3 noxious weed throughout NSW. Under the NSW *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, the presence of a Class 2 weed must be notified to the Local Control Authority and the plant

**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.**

kept free of the plant. In areas where it is a class 3 weed, the plant including all fruiting material must be fully and continuously suppressed according to a management plan agreed by the Minister for Primary Industries.



## A NEW FORM OF FOX CONTROL?

Could this be a new species of flying fox ? An amazing picture of an eagle dealing with Reynard, taken by grazier Scott Bell in Western Australia. Department of Parks and Wildlife officer Matt Swan says although wedge-tailed eagles often scavenge for food they are also canny hunters. "They will go to carrion that is on the ground, kangaroo carcasses and things like that," he says. "But they are very adept hunters as well. They take a wide variety of food like small bobtails to prey items that are many times their own weight - wallabies or young kangaroos."

Lake Varley farmer Scott Bell managed to photograph a wedge-tailed eagle with a live fox in its claws. "We just finished picking up wheat from the harvester and saw a fox jump out of the crop then an eagle came out of nowhere and grabbed it." he said. "I jumped out of the tractor and managed to take that photo. Right place, right time. Just lucky I guess."

[www.abc.net.au/news/2013-12-05/flying-foxes-in-the-wheatbelt/5138450](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-12-05/flying-foxes-in-the-wheatbelt/5138450)

## DIRT TO DOLLARS WORKSHOP @ THE LYNN'S

The 6th November saw a group of enthusiastic landholders journey out to the Lynn's organic goat/ cropping property south of Glen Innes. The Lynn's volunteered to host the field day after attending the Healthy Soils workshop held earlier in the year. Both days were facilitated by Resource Consulting services teacher and consultant, Garry McDouall.

The Dirt to Dollars workshop was an on-farm day spent looking at soil, grass, animals, and infrastructure. The aim throughout this day was to create discussion around how to implement the principles learned at "Healthy Soils" and make the system work in the best possible way. Garry covered topics as broad as weeds, organics, compost, cropping, grazing management and dry time management.

Both of these workshops are supported by GLENRAC and the Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the NSW Government and the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.



Local Landholders at the "Dirt to Dollars" workshop

## 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. Keep an eye out for the issues white paper which will be released in the coming weeks.

<http://agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au/>

## LITTLE LLANGOTHLIN LAGOON

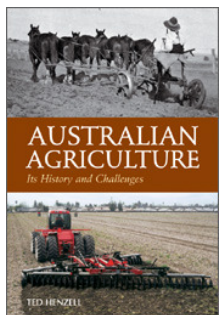
WetlandCare Australia is holding a field day at the Lagoon on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2014 at 9am and is inviting farmers to come along to meet them. Landholders can benefit from important restoration work by WetlandCare Australia and the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services. If you are interested in increasing the productivity of your land by creating healthy wetlands, WetlandCare Australia would like to hear from you. **Further information contact:** Eli Dutton at WetlandCare Australia ph: 1800 816 147 Email: [elidutton@wetlandcare.com.au](mailto:elidutton@wetlandcare.com.au)

## 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@rfgcsnsw-northernregion.org](mailto:stuart.brummell@rfgcsnsw-northernregion.org)**



# BOOK REVIEW



## Australian Agriculture Its History and Challenges

Ted Henzell Illustrations,  
Tables 320 pages

Publisher: CSIRO PUBLISHING

Agriculture in Australia has had a lively history. The first European settlers in 1788 brought agricultural technologies with them from their homelands, influencing early practices in Australia. Wool production dominated the 19th century, while dairying grew rapidly during the first half of the 20th century. Written in a readable style to suit students of history, social sciences and agriculture, *Australian Agriculture* will also appeal to professionals in the industry and those with a general interest in Australian sociology and history.

## Flocks of Colour

With introductory essays by ornithologist Penny Olsen, *Flocks of Colour* covers two and a quarter centuries of discovery and illustration of Australia's avifauna. It features a rich portfolio of images of all the Australian parrots, by various artists including John Gould, Edward Lear, Neville W Cayley and William T Cooper, selected from the collections of the National Library of Australia. The foreword is by Joseph Forshaw, a world expert on the parrot family.

Penny Olson

Colour illustrations

224 pages, 224 x 233 mm

Publisher: National Library of Australia Paperback - October 2013

ISBN: 9780642278067 -

AU \$ 39.99



## Two websites for Landcarers in NSW!

Are you looking for information on your local Landcare group? Would your group like a webpage? **The Gateway** is for you! [www.landcare.nsw.gov.au](http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au) All groups should list their details on The Gateway. For information on regional Landcare and Landcare NSW activities and representation go to [www.landcare.nsw.gov.au](http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au). **New member groups welcome - join now!**

## A Botanical Life

Robert David  
Fitzgerald

Penny Olsen AM

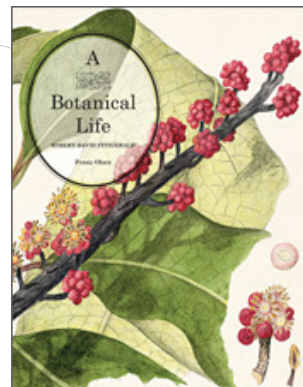
Colour Paintings

160 pages, 280 x 215 mm

Publisher: National Library of Australia Paperback - April 2013

ISBN: 9780642277718 - AU \$ 34.99

Robert David Fitzgerald (1830 -1892) was a successful colonial surveyor who had arrived in Australia in 1856 as a young Irish immigrant of 25. He was employed by the Lands Department in New South Wales and, although he was an exemplary public servant, he was also one of the last of the Victorian-era gentlemen scientists: an avid naturalist, ornithologist and skilled taxidermist. In 1864, while searching for birds to add to his collection, he was inspired by the discovery of a clump of Rock Lilies (*Dendrobium speciosum*) to collect a number of other orchid specimens in the area.

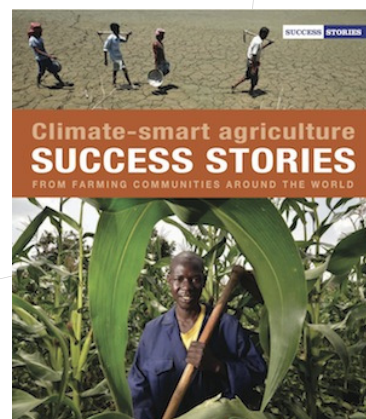


## CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

*success stories from farming  
communities around the world*

To ensure a food-secure future, farming must become climate resilient. Around the world, governments and communities are adopting innovations that are improving the lives of millions and increasing agriculture's resilience. These successful examples show the many ways climate-smart agriculture can take shape, and should serve as inspiration for future policies and investments.

<http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/publications/climate-smart-agriculture-success-stories-farming>



# Funding & Training Opportunities

## Applications open for 2014 scholarship program

Applications are now open for the 2014 NSW Farmers' tertiary scholarship program. In 2014, five (5) scholarships to the value of \$4000 each will be available.

Scholarships are open to students who are members (or come from a family that is a member) undertaking full time courses and in their second or subsequent year of tertiary study. Students undertaking vocational or postgraduate studies can however apply in their first year of study.

NSW Farmers' scholarships are available to students studying any course at any recognised tertiary institution and are not limited to those studying in NSW.

This year was the final year for the Goobang Fire Park Scholarships and the seven year arrangement between NSW Farmers and the Goobang Fire Trust for co-funding additional scholarships.

We thank the Goobang Group for its generous contribution to the scholarship program and providing vital financial assistance to members and their families.

More information including an online application form can be found on our [website](#). Applications will close 5:00pm Friday 14 February 2014.

For further information call the Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000.

## More Beef from Pastures online

Online delivery of the MBfP program provides southern cattle producers with easy access to tools to increase the amount of beef produced per hectare. How you can join MBfP. MBfP is being delivered through a range of activities depending on producers' interests in a given area.

This includes information days, producer groups that may meet several times a year and MLA Producer Demonstration Sites.

Contact your relevant MBfP state coordinator to find out how to get involved in your area, or visit the MLA website to access *More Beef from Pastures: The producer's manual*. For more information go to [http://www.mla.com.au/News-and-resources/Industry-news/More-Beef-from-Pastures-manual-online?utm\\_campaign=fridayfeedback\\_221113&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_source=CM\\_MLA-Master](http://www.mla.com.au/News-and-resources/Industry-news/More-Beef-from-Pastures-manual-online?utm_campaign=fridayfeedback_221113&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=CM_MLA-Master)



## The SITA Community Grants Program

The SITA community Grants Program provides grant payments of up to \$5,000 for projects that have a positive impact on your local community.

Closes 31st January @ 5.00pm - See more at: <http://sitacommunitygrants.com.au/#sthash.mSeLn7fO.dpuf>

## 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](http://www.evertrain.edu.au)

## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2014 WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The NSW Women of the Year Awards are a fantastic way for our communities to recognise the inspirational women in our lives and nominate them for an award. These Awards showcase women who have made outstanding contributions to the community and have paved the way for women in NSW, particularly the younger generation.

This year a third category has been added to the awards which will recognise the achievements of young women in our community.

This category shines the spotlight on young women aged 18 to 30 who have excelled in their chosen field or have made a significant contribution in the community.

Awards will be presented in three categories:

- \* The NSW Premier's Award for Woman of the Year
- \* A.H. Beard's Community Hero Award
- \* Harvey Norman's Young Woman of the Year Award

The Awards are a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding contributions and achievements of the hard-working women in the community.

Nominate someone today who you think deserves to be recognised.

For more information or to make a nomination visit [www.women.nsw.gov.au](http://www.women.nsw.gov.au).

Nominations close on Thursday 9 January 2014 at 11.00pm.

# 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

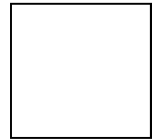
**For all questions relating to GLENRAC please contact our staff at -**

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

Ph: (02) 6732 3443 Mobile 0427 325 901

email: [glenrac@glenrac.org.au](mailto:glenrac@glenrac.org.au) website: [www.glenrac.org.au](http://www.glenrac.org.au)

GLENRAC  
PO Box 660  
GLEN INNES  
NSW 2370



## To The Land Manager



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

## Coming Events:

Dec - Jan

GLENRAC office closed from 20th December till 6th January 2014

5th Feb

Wetlands Field day – LITTLE LLANGOTHLIN

21st - 23rd Feb

Glen Innes Show

19-20 March

Landcare Adventure! – GLEN INNES



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