

# GLENRAC NEWSletter

**GLENRAC**

Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

**Our vision is to create solutions for a sustainable and productive landscape.**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

- Flood images
- Soil w/shops EOI
- **WANTED!** - Local priority weeds
- **GLENRAC** project activity updates
- **The on farm/off farm conundrum**
- **Calling for local First Aid EOIs**



**WHITE ROCK**  
Wind Farm

**GLENRAC CELEBRATED AT GLEN INNES AUSTRALIA DAY 2021!**



Project Manager Jennie Coldham was awarded the Environmental Citizen of the Year, and the 2019 Christmas Smoko drought relief event held in partnership with Ray White Glen Innes took out the Community Event of the Year.

Environmental Citizen of the Year, Jennie Coldham, has had a long history working in the Landcare space, working at Granite Borders Landcare for many years, followed by time as the Northern Tablelands Regional Landcare Facilitator and Member Services for Landcare NSW.

These days, Jennie leads many of GLENRAC's projects and is dubbed GLENRAC's grants writer extraordinaire - in the past 24 months alone Jennie has written grants in excess of \$4,000,000 on behalf of GLENRAC. Of these applications, \$1,500,000 has been secured for projects that have been or are currently being delivered in the Glen Innes community.



**L-R: GLENRAC Project Manager Jennie Coldham was awarded the 2021 Environmental Citizen of the Year, Vickie Williamson, Principal at Glen Innes Ray White and Kylie Falconer, CEO of GLENRAC took home the award for Community Event of the Year for the 2019 joint drought and bushfire relief event, Christmas Smoko at Glen Innes Showground.**

**GLENRAC were very excited to take home two awards at this year's Australia Day Awards!**

Jennie's skills have contributed greatly to GLENRAC's capacity to support the Glen Innes community in times of adversity, including the support services offered by the organisation during the 2018-2020 drought and bushfire period, the Time Out from the Dry and Fire Break meal vouchers, weed and pest control, tree planting opportunities, training, events and GLENRAC's ability to employ 6 local staff part time.

The 2021 Community Event of the Year was awarded to the Christmas Smoko, a drought and bushfire support event hosted by GLENRAC with Vickie Williamson and her team at Ray White Glen Innes at the Glen Innes Showground.

More than 160 people from across our region attended the free community event, taking a break from the extreme drought and bushfire conditions that were severely impacting the area at the time to catch up with friends and family for an afternoon instead. **Continued p2.**

**TAKE SOME TIME OUT FROM THE HEAT!**

GLENRAC have Fire Break meal vouchers to the value of \$300 for community members to enjoy a night out with friends or family at a local food venue. **FIND OUT HOW TO APPLY - page 7**



## GLENRAC MATTERS

Welcome to the first edition of GLENRAC News for 2021! Already this year has been a big one and we're amazed to realise we're already turning our calendars to April. As we're accustomed to (although continue to be amazed by) Mother Nature is keeping us all on our toes - this week has seen images of incredible flooding across large parts of NSW and Eastern of Australia. Whilst it is amazing to see rivers and dams in our region full again, our hearts go out to the people and animals impacted in these flood zones, especially the farmers whose crops and livestock are in peril. Nature is one powerful beast.

The GLENRAC Committee have been keeping busy, meeting regularly to finalise our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan which can be accessed at the *Organisational Documents* tab on our website ([www.glenrac.org.au](http://www.glenrac.org.au)). We would also like to welcome our newest committee member, Ian Vivers to the GLENRAC team. Ian is an owner/partner at Eaglehawk Angus and Beefmark Breeding centre, and a landholder at Kings Plains and Ebor. We are looking forward to working with Ian to make a better and stronger GLENRAC.

The GLENRAC staff team have been working steadily away throughout the year to deliver projects tailored to the people and needs of our region. Already we've run 20 face-to-face or online events this year, with many more to follow in 2021. Some of our highlights have included the 5-Day Shearing School Extravaganza at Glen Innes Ag Station, Household Composting and Worm Farming with Nicki Walker, Feral Feline and Felixer Focus with ecologist John Read, Introduction to Natural Sequence Farming with Stuart Austin at Strathbogie Station and our program of Smokos that have visited Emmaville, Torrington, Red Range, Bald Nob, Aqua Park and Deepwater. Our on-ground works continue to span across the areas of soils, weeds, revegetation and habitat protection.

Earlier this year, GLENRAC successfully delivered up to \$2000 funding to 58 landholders around the region as part of our Bushfire Recovery Small Grants round. This funding, which was provided by Local Land Services, was to assist with weeds and animal welfare related bushfire recovery projects.

To keep up to date with all the events, opportunities and funding available at GLENRAC, watch out for our weekly e-flashes that drop into your inbox every Monday around 5pm. You can also follow our Facebook ([www.facebook.com/glenrac](http://www.facebook.com/glenrac)), Instagram (@glenrac), website, or call our office on 02 6732 3443. And if you haven't already, sign up to be a member of GLENRAC (it's FREE) - your participation means we have access to bigger and better opportunities for our region. Hope to see you at a GLENRAC event soon!

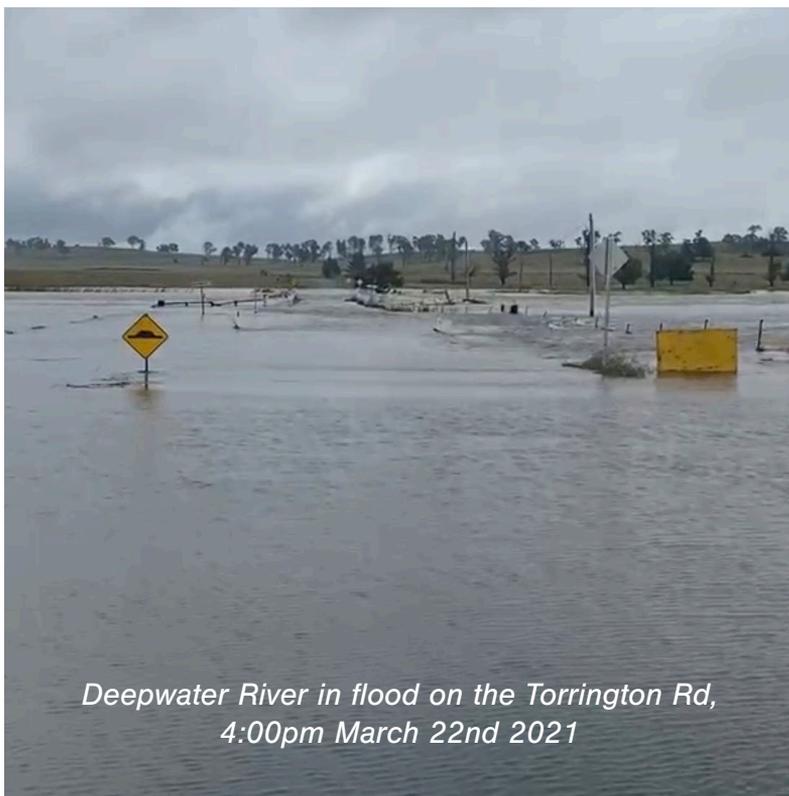
**The GLENRAC team – Kylie, Jennie, Mahri, Kelly, Jennene, Christine and Lucy**

### **GLENRAC CELEBRATED AT GLEN INNES AUSTRALIA DAY 2021!** - continued from front page.

As well as providing an opportunity for much needed social connection and support during this difficult time, the Christmas Smoko created a forum for groups across the district to join together in support of the community.

The day featured food catered by the Glen Innes Lionesses Club, Lions Club and The Super Strawberry, children's Christmas gifts donated by members of the community through the Ray White Little Ray of Giving promotion, 1188 2NZ /GEM FM radio station and GLENRAC, and wrapped by the Glen Innes CWA day branch ladies, ladies pamper packs from the Rotary Club of Glen Innes Evening & Satellite, pet food donated by Glen Innes RSPCA Glen Innes branch, hampers from the CWA Glen Innes evening branch and Guyra branches, lucky door prizes, over \$7000 worth of gift vouchers to local businesses, donations of 10L drinking water, dog biscuits, men's clothing, cereal and hampers.

We are extremely grateful to all of our event partners and supporters, and everyone who helped to make the day such a great success. We would like to share this award with each of you. It's pretty amazing what small communities can pull off when they work together!



*Deepwater River in flood on the Torrington Rd,  
4:00pm March 22nd 2021*

## BRIGHT IDEAS

### Wondering where to go for your next holiday?

Stay in the Bush was created by the same team that brought you Buy From The Bush. Now, more than ever, rural communities invite you to stay with

them, taste their food, buy their art, wander their streets, fish their rivers, take in the open sky and have a yarn by an open fire. SITB was created with the idea to keep tourism in Australian regional communities. Why not check it out for your next holiday destination! [www.stayinthebush.com.au](http://www.stayinthebush.com.au)



### Help build Australia's Frog identification database!

Australia has over 240 known species of frog, almost all of which are found nowhere else in the world. Some species are flourishing, like the Striped Marsh Frog. But others have declined dramatically since the 1980s, and four have become extinct. FrogID is a national citizen science project that is helping

us learn more about what is happening to Australia's frogs. All around the country, people are recording frog calls with nothing more than a smartphone. This helps to monitor frog distributions over time, understand how frogs, and their ecosystems, are responding to a changing planet and inform conservation prioritisation and land-use planning decisions in Australia. Join in the fun - visit [www.frogid.net.au](http://www.frogid.net.au) to download the app today!

## LISTEN, WATCH, READ!



### EXTRAORDINARY OUTBACK STORIES

Join regional journalists Lucy Samuels and Lucy Taylor as they fly across remote Australia, yarning to the unsung heroes of the bush. You can listen and subscribe to the podcast on Apple Music, Spotify and Google Podcasts.



### KISS THE GROUND

Kiss the Ground is a full-length documentary narrated by Woody Harrelson that sheds light on an "new, old approach" to farming called "regenerative agriculture" that has the potential to balance our climate, replenish our vast water supplies, and feed the world. Watch it today on Netflix.



### FOR THE LOVE OF SOIL: STRATEGIES TO REGENERATE OUR FOOD SYSTEMS

- BY NICOLE MASTERS  
Learn a roadmap to healthy soil and revitalised food systems to powerfully address these times of challenge. This book equips producers with knowledge, skills and insights to regenerate ecosystem health and grow farm profits. \$35.50 at [www.booktopia.com.au](http://www.booktopia.com.au)



## GLENRAC SOILS WORKSHOPS EOI

GLENRAC is inviting interested landholders to participate in a series of workshops focused on soil health and fertility. The workshops will include sessions that will look at soil test results, how to interpret them and how to use this information to make decisions about fertiliser and other inputs.

Participating landholders will receive a number of subsidised soil tests for 0-10cm and 10-20cm soil samples (depending on the number of workshop participants).

As part of this Australian Government funded project GLENRAC will be compiling a district snapshot about soil fertility.

If you have previously done some soil testing we would appreciate you providing the results for this report!

EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST TODAY! VISIT: [BIT.LY/GLENRACSOILS](http://BIT.LY/GLENRACSOILS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL GLENRAC 02 6732 3443 OR EMAIL [JENNIE@GLENRAC.ORG.AU](mailto:JENNIE@GLENRAC.ORG.AU)

# WANTED

★ DEAD OR ALIVE ★

HAVE YOU SPOTTED ANY LOCAL PRIORITY WEEDS AROUND GLEN INNES?



TARGET THEM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SIGHTING: [WWW.BIT.LY/GLENRACWEEDS](http://WWW.BIT.LY/GLENRACWEEDS)

OR CALL WEEDS BIOSECURITY OFFICER TRENT MCINTYRE 0438 501 286

# PROJECT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

## LITTLE LLANGOTHLIN NATURE RESERVE RAMSAR SITE

We are so proud to share a documentary of the Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve RAMSAR site, created by David Waugh in partnership with GLENRAC's Dr Mahri Koch, the Banbai Rangers, National Parks and Wildlife, UNE Environment and local landholders. This documentary shares how we are discovering this web of life at Little Llangothlin. Filmed by David Waugh of Vimeo, all participating government agencies, scientists, volunteers, and bird watchers share their experiences at the Reserve and their roles in this five-year project funded by the Australian Government and Local Land Services. GLENRAC manages the project on behalf of these agencies and in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service. Grab a cup of tea, put your feet up and head to [www.bit.ly/RAMSARdocumentary](http://www.bit.ly/RAMSARdocumentary) to watch the documentary for yourself!!



## NATURAL SEQUENCE FARMING AT STRATHBOGIE STATION

Such a terrific day out at Strathbogrie Station in March for Natural Sequence Farming with Stuart Andrews from Tarwyn Park Training! This event, which GLENRAC hosted in partnership with Gwymac Landcare, gave 67 landholders the opportunity to learn the practice of NSF and how it can be adapted into their own landscape to improve rehydration and productivity. Stuart was incredibly generous with sharing his knowledge of NSF, a method pioneered by his father Peter Andrews for over 40 years. A big thank you to Stuart and Megan Andrews, Strathbogrie Station manager Michael Fitzgerald for providing such an incredible venue for the day, Holly Smith at The Coffee Incident for her delicious and healthy catering, and all of the attendees for making the day such a success! This event was made possible through funding from Glen Innes Severn Council's Drought Communities Programme.

## FOCUS ON FERAL FELINES + FELIXER

We had a great time hosting SA based ecologist and author John Read at last month's Focus event: Feral Felines and + Felixer! John is one of the masterminds behind the Felixer, a cutting-edge device that targets feral cat and fox numbers by ejecting poison gel onto the animal, which is then ingested through grooming.

We are very grateful to John for being so generous with his knowledge & for facilitating such an interesting discussion amongst the attendees. Hope to have him back again in the near future! Thanks to funding from the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme for making this event possible.



# PROJECT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



## BUSHFIRE RECOVERY + SMOKOS

Project manager, Christine Davis rolled out GLENRAC's Bushfire Recovery small grants earlier in the year, providing funding from NT Local Land Services between \$647 and \$2000 to 58 local landholders for bushfire recovery projects focused on weed management and animal welfare. This was the first time many applicants had applied for a grant and many are now new GLENRAC members - a big welcome to all of you! Kelly Walsh has also been busy rolling out bushfire and drought recovery Smoko events around the region, stopping in Aqua Park, Bald Nob, Emmaville, Torrington and Red Range to bring small communities the latest information and resources from leading industry experts.

These events will continue into 2021, with upcoming venues including Ben Lomond (20/4), Glen Innes (21/04), Pinkett (27/04).



## A DAY OUT WITH GEOFF BASSETT + COLIN SEIS AT THE NENW LANDCARE AWARDS

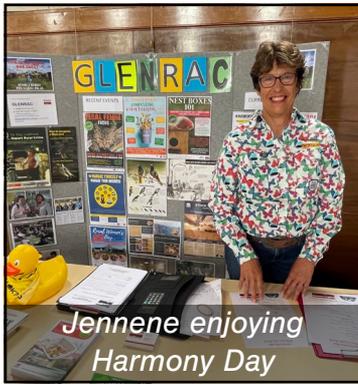
Attendees of this year's NENW Landcare Awards at Inverell RSM club were treated to a day of talks from two of the region's legends of regenerative agriculture: pasture cropping pioneer Colin Seis and soil guru Geoff Bassett. A big congratulations to all of the awardees and nominees - there are some very clever and inspiring people getting about the NE&NW! GLENRAC were key organisers of this event, with Julie Firth as judging committee member, Kelly Walsh as official photographer and Lucy Munro as graphic designer and steering committee member.



## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSTING + WORM FARMING 101

We were delighted to welcome back cult hero composter Nicki Walker from North East Waste for two-days of workshops at Glen Innes Showground in March! 52 attendees learned all of the secrets of household composting and worm farming and were treated to compost bin and worm farm lucky door prizes and Helen Morgan's delicious catering. Nicki is an incredibly engaging and vibrant presenter, and we can't wait to have her back at a future event! Thanks to funding from Glen Innes Severn Council's Bushfire Capacity Building Events for making the days possible.





Jennene enjoying  
Harmony Day



Shearing School



Nest Boxes 101



Manage Yourself  
Manage Your Business

## THE ON FARM/OFF FARM WORK CONUNDRUM...

It's an issue for so many farming families, do we work off farm for a ready supply of cash? Or do we work on farm for possibly more job satisfaction, however potentially uncertain and hard to measure financial rewards? It's not just the ladies facing this issue, we all know blokes on farms who are also shearers, truckies, tradies, teachers, stock agents, agronomists, bankers or fly-in-fly out miners. Some families have adult children who work on and off farm and are re-examining the balance.

### IF YOU PRIORITISE ON FARM WORK

- You need to put a value on your work. Count the savings in labour paid for, count the productivity gains in increased yields, better pasture management, clever marketing or lower R&M bills.
- You need to be paid FULL STOP. Have a talk about how this will work. Spend some time identifying your goals as a farming family and work toward them.
- Couples with combined finances may still benefit from having separate accounts for some things. Many women I know have mentioned that they work for financial independence, but also a sense of financial privacy and self-determination. The Barefoot Investor, Scott Pape talks about setting aside a "Splurge" bank account for all of life's necessary indulgences. His and Hers splurge accounts (separate from farm and family money) might be one way to address this issue.
- Recognise the social aspect that work often provides and build something back in. For some people it's structured social time such as a sporting group, volunteer involvement or a yoga class.
- Outline areas of responsibility within your farming family business and any training that needs to take place. It's good for everyone to have autonomy in decision making at a defined level. There's not a lot of job satisfaction in continually being the gopher.
- Don't ignore superannuation, it's one of the great benefits of off farm work.
- Income protection insurance may also be a consideration as you don't have sick leave. It's ok for the odd flu, but might be a concern with regard to the big C. Remember if you are self employed as a sole trader or partnership you are not covered by workcover. Talk to a professional.
- Housework needs to be a shared responsibility. The family might have lived in this house since 1921, but it is 2021 and all work has value.

with finance consultant, Carmen Quade from  
Agrifocused **AgriFocused**  
training + communications + mentoring

### IF YOU PRIORITISE OFF FARM WORK

- Own it as a choice. Fill in the blank in this sentence "I choose to work off farm so I can.....". Not "I have to work off farm".
- If your long-term goal is to be farming full time, set some criteria, an end date or a date for revision.
- Make sure you have the most appropriate business structure. Consider things like carried forward losses and Family Tax Benefits. Professional liability and asset protection may be an issue for some. Make sure your accountant knows what your goals and plans are.
- You only have so many hours in the day. You will have to accept help outsource some tasks, be more organised or use contractor.
- Minimise travel where possible by working from home part of the time if you can. But don't work from home with little kids about. You can't do both things at the same time.
- Don't over commit. Not to work, not to the farm, not to extra-curricular activities for you and the whole family. You need to have a bit of slack in the system so that if the dishwasher breaks down, the sheep get out again and there is a bad case of gastro in the household it doesn't bring you to the edge of a mental breakdown.
- Don't use all of your holidays to catch up on farm work or for peak on farm periods, you also need to structure time away from the farm.
- Determine what the main challenge or advantage of working off farm is, and make sure your work addresses this. So, if the most important thing about working off farm is the social contact, get a job that gives you this. If the most important thing is the money, perhaps finding higher paid work is more important than the social side. If the greatest challenge is getting things done on farm or for your family, prioritising off farm work with low and predictable hours, or flexibility is possibly more important than other aspects of job satisfaction.
- Housework needs to be a shared responsibility. The family might have lived in this house since 1921, but it is 2021 and all work has value.

Have some conversations with your nearest and dearest, talk to a professional, do your sums follow your heart. There is no one size fits all approach and family life stage and your stage in the business life cycle has a lot to do with it. Most importantly, things change all the time. Be prepared to change with them.

# INFORMATION, OPPORTUNITIES AND FUNDING

TAKE SOME TIME OUT FROM THE HEAT

# FIRE BREAK



**GLENRAC HAVE MEAL VOUCHERS  
TO THE VALUE OF \$300 AVAILABLE  
TO ASSIST SMALL GROUPS OF PEOPLE  
IN OUR BUSHFIRE IMPACTED COMMUNITY TO  
CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY  
AT A FOOD HUB IN TOWN.**

LIMITED VOUCHERS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS ONLY.  
CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION  
02 6732 3443 OR EMAIL [GLENRAC@GLENRAC.ORG.AU](mailto:GLENRAC@GLENRAC.ORG.AU)



## CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR FIRST AID TRAINING IN AND AROUND GLEN INNES

Are you interested in getting your senior first aid certificate? GLENRAC are calling for EOI's for people who would like to undertake this training FREE of charge mid-2021. Call our office on 02 6732 3443 to register your interest today. \*Priority will first be given to farmers and their family members.

## APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR ELECTRIC FENCE GRANTS

Applications are open for the 2021 Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing Grants. Gallagher is continuing its commitment to supporting projects aligned with the priority areas of conservation fencing and grazing management. Eligible applicants are invited to apply for an individual electric fencing project grant for up to \$8,000, for fencing materials. Up to 12 grants across Australia are planned. Applications close 9th April. The grants provide funding to undertake fencing projects, using Gallagher products, which MUST have: Tangible environmental or sustainable agriculture outcomes; Fencing products and a product list developed together with their local Gallagher Territory Manager; and Provide knowledge-sharing opportunities through field day(s), site visit(s) or demonstration(s). For more info or to apply visit: [www.landcareaustralia.org.au/gallaghergrants](http://www.landcareaustralia.org.au/gallaghergrants)

# JOIN THE GLENRAC MOB



## WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A GLENRAC MEMBER?

- Immediate access to the latest offers and resources available
- Incredible events tailor designed for the Glen Innes region
- Direct line to leading industry experts and information
- A stronger GLENRAC is a stronger Glen Innes
- It's FREE!

Visit [WWW.BIT.LY/GLENRACMEMBER](http://WWW.BIT.LY/GLENRACMEMBER) or call 02 6732 3443 TO SIGN UP TODAY!

## GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2020/21

**CHAIRMAN** – Ian Lockwood

**VICE CHAIR** – Julie Firth

**TREASURER** – Sam Baker

**SECRETARY** – Tony Corcoran

### LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Rob Banham, John Bavea, Andrew Campbell, Sandy Fitzgerald, Barb Holliss,  
Jane Munro, Mike Norton, Ian Vivers

**GLEN INNES SEVERN COUNCIL:** Graham Price, Col Price

**PUBLIC OFFICER:** Col Price

For all questions relating to GLENRAC please contact our staff at

**68 Church Street PO Box 660 GLEN INNES NSW 2370**

**Phone: 02 6732 3443**

**Mobile: 0427 325 901**

**Email: [glenrac@glenrac.org.au](mailto:glenrac@glenrac.org.au)**

**[www.glenrac.org.au](http://www.glenrac.org.au)**

GLENRAC  
PO Box 660  
GLEN INNES  
NSW 2370



## To The Land Manager

This activity is part of the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative



**Local Land  
Services**

The Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative is funded by the NSW Government, and is supported through the partnerships of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW.



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee

### COMING EVENTS:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 13th April    | Regent Honeyeater Roadshow – 8:30am-11:30am, Emmaville. Contact Mahri for a map. |
| 14th April    | NLIS Workshop – 10:00am-12:00pm, GLENRAC office.                                 |
| 20th April    | Smoko with Friends Ben Lomond – 10:00am-12:00pm, Ben Lomond Hall.                |
| 21st April    | Focus: Animal + Livestock Bushfire Recovery – 7:00pm-9:00pm, Glen Innes RSL.     |
| 22nd April    | Staying Safe Online – 10:00am-12:00pm, GLENRAC Office.                           |
| 23rd April    | Chemical Card Training – 9:30am-3:30pm, GLENRAC Office.                          |
| 27th April    | Smoko with Friends Pinkett – 10:00am-12:00pm, Pinkett Sports Ground.             |
| 12th May      | Focus: FROGS! With Jodi Rowley – 7:00pm-9:00pm, Glen Innes RSL.                  |
| 24th-25th May | Mental Health First Aid Training – 9:00am-3:00pm, Glen Innes Community Centre.   |

**TO REGISTER, OR SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF EVENTS, VISIT [WWW.GLENRAC.ORG.AU/EVENTS](http://WWW.GLENRAC.ORG.AU/EVENTS)**