

GLENRAC

Newsletter

Nov/ Dec 2011

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

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Become a member of GLENRAC!

Membership form enclosed in this
newsletter. Fill out your details and
return to the GLENRAC office.

If you would like to receive our
e-updates sent out fortnightly be sure
and add include your email address on
your application.



Glen Innes
Natural Resources
Advisory Committee



Border Rivers-Gwydir
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Northern Rivers
CMA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



GLENRAC Welcomes new committee members

GLENRAC hosted it's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 13th September 2011, the AGM provided an opportunity to present a summary of the 2010/11 year for the community. Key achievements for GLENRAC in the 2010/11 year were presented in a Review against the GLENRAC Strategic Plan 2010 -2015 by Community Support Officer, Kylie Falconer. A full copy this report is available on the GLENRAC website.

An election of office bearers resulted in Jim Benton remaining as Chairman, Eric Sinclair as Secretary/Treasurer and John Brien as Public Officer. Landholder representatives elected were Sam Baker, Greg Chappell, Tony Hollis, Mike Norton, Mark Pietsch, John Bavea and Winsome Quilty. GLENRAC would like to welcome new committee members Sam, Mike & John.

Nominated representatives from the following organisations was endorsed. New England LHPA Rob Munro; NSW Primary Industries Jeff Lowien; Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Lands Council Karen Potter; Glen Innes Severn Council Graham Price (staff) and Dan Raymond (councillor).

GLENRAC would like to thank committee members Peter Smith and Brian Winter who did not stand for re-election for their contribution to GLENRAC over the period of their involvement. Peter Smith is now a Board member of the Northern Rivers CMA, and GLENRAC looks forward to working with Peter in his capacity as a Board member.

GLENRAC also presented a revised constitution for adoption at the AGM following a review period. This new constitution was endorsed by the meeting and has been lodged with NSW Fair Trading for registration. A key part of the new constitution is formalising GLENRAC's membership of those members of the community interested in natural resource management.

Free membership is now available for any interested member of the community, as a member you will continue to receive all the free services already provided by GLENRAC including the bimonthly newsletter, regular e/updates with notification of training and funding opportunities and field day dates as well as assistance with all services related to natural resource management in the Glen Innes Severn district. A copy of the membership form is in this newsletter.

A maximum of eight individuals per application is preferred. If you would like to join as a Landcare group with more the eight individuals please contact the GLENRAC office on 02 6732 3443.

Glenrac News

Hello All,

GLENRAC staff have been busy with field days and getting ready for the annual round of tree planting over the last two months. GLENRAC has two new staff on board, Lucy Faithfull and Sally Newman. Be sure and introduce yourself to our new staff when you see us at the office or at field days.

In the last few weeks we have also been busy helping interested landholders apply for the BRG CMA Sustainable Farming Grants. These grants had a reasonably short lead time and reminds me to encourage you to discuss your projects with GLENRAC staff now in order to have a project plan and budget ready for when funding opportunities do arrive. GLENRAC is planning to run a project planning workshop in early 2012, this might be an opportunity for you to bring in your property plans and discuss your ideas.

I attended the NSW Landcare Conference in Parkes in early September on behalf of GLENRAC. The conference was informative and enjoyable. I would like to congratulate Greg and Sally Chappell who made it to the final three of the Rural Press Primary Producer Award. Well done and thank for representing our region at the Awards!

Don't forget the GLENRAC office is stocked with a wide range of free printed resources you can come in and browse and take home for your reference. We have new brochures from MLA & BRG CMA arrived in the last week.

Regards, Kylie Falconer



Bright Ideas

New! Tips & Tools: low worm risk pastures for sheep

A new, free resource from Meat & Livestock Australia. This fact sheet tells you the benefits of preparing low worm risk pastures for worm control in sheep (Feb 2011). To order go to www.mla.com.au/publications

Pasture Picker Tool

The Pasture Picker tool is a powerful resource for selecting pasture species suitable for your local conditions. It is a comprehensive guide to pasture species for anyone with an interest in animal production and research. This tool can be accessed at www.pasturepicker.com.au

You've Got Mail

The Ecological Agriculture Australia Association (EAAA) has been about since 2009 and represents Australian farming, natural & social ecology (or community), ethics, education, and food. Membership for the year is *free* so if it is something that peaks your interest, contact EAAA or browse the website www.ecoag.org.au

The Landcare in Focus magazine published by Landcare Australia Limited is now out and available for free for download at www.landcareonline.com.au

The Grasslands Society of NSW offers memberships for \$55 and this entitles you to copies of the newsletter and the Annual Conference Proceedings.



been

The New England North West Landcare Network publish a bi-monthly newsletter called **Regional Updates**. A copy of each newsletter is available on the GLENRAC website under "Newsletters". If you would like to receive this newsletter directly into your In-box, email us at glenrac@glenrac.org.au and we can email it directly to you.



New Funding for GLENRAC!

GLENRAC has been successful in applying for funding under the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Business Plan 2011 -2013. GLENRAC will receive **\$178,310** over two years for a project titled "Integrating river and land management plans along the Severn River".

This project will be delivered in conjunction with GWYMAC in Inverell to help landholders who own land adjoining the Severn River implement components of their property management plans in conjunction with findings from a River Reach plan to be completed as part of the project.

The project area will cover from the Severn River headwaters located east of Glen Innes to the junction of the Severn River and the Macintyre River near Ashford.

Project activities will be advertised in the local newspapers and in the GLENRAC & GWYMAC newsletters and e/flashs. If you are a landholder who owns property along the Severn River and are interested in being involved in this project please let us know. GLENRAC 02 6732 3443 or GWYMAC 02 672 1241

GLENRAC Field Day Reports

Mann River Field Day

GLENRAC hosted a field day to showcase the Upper Mann River Reach Plan implementation on the 22nd September at "Shannonvale Station". The field day was well attended with 40 people in attendance from across the local area, including Glen Innes and Guyra. The Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA), in conjunction with GLENRAC developed a plan for the upper reaches of the Mann River, covering 19 properties and 50km of stream bank.

The field day covered a range of topics including presentations from the Acting General Manager of the NRCMA, Ian Simpson. Ian outlined the role of NRCMA in implementing natural resource management related plans and activities for landholders on the eastern fall. Ian also outlined the basic components of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and who to contact if you have questions regarding the Act.

NRCMA staff, Tony Broderick and Shaun Morris were also on hand to discuss the achievements of the Mann River project to date and plans for funding in Year 2 of the project. Tony and Shaun will be the point of contact for landholders interested in applying for funding in Year 2 and encouraged anyone interested to contact them to discuss their project ideas.

Field day hosts, Greg and Sally Chappell shared with the audience the practicalities of planning and implementing project on-farm. Of particular interest was the planning and installation of off-stream water points from the Mann River. Greg outlined the process by which this project has allowed them to combine both their property management plans with the additional information provided by the Mann River Reach Plan to achieve a positive outcome from both a production and environment perspective.

Managing weeds in the riparian zone provided plenty of discussion from the audience. Local weeds officer for Glen Innes Severn Council, David Nixon, provided an extensive display of weeds including emerging weed threats targeted in Year 1 of the project, Japanese Honeysuckle, English Broom, Blue Periwinkle and Broad and Narrow Leaf Privet. Other weeds on display were serrated tussock and honey locust as weeds to be aware of. The field day concluded with a paddock walk to look at the water system in action on "Shannonvale Station".



Above—Field day participants inspect the weeds display at Shannonvale Station

Trees On Farms Field Day

GLENRAC hosted a "Trees on Farms" field day last Thursday, 13th October at "Yirri North". The field day was well attended with 30 people from the Glen Innes district. The field day was held to provide information for those interested in establishing native species on farms, with an emphasis on site preparation and post planting care.

Guest speakers on hand were Sarah Caldwell from Mole Station Native Nursery, Troy Dawson Glen Industries and property host, Sam Baker. The speakers covered a range of topics including seed collection, seedling propagation, species selection, ground preparation prior to planting and post planting activities. An open forum concluded the event at the site of last year's planting at "Yirri North" with many ideas shared between those in attendance.



Sam Baker told us he would continue to plant trees for wind protection to increase his pasture and stock productivity. He plans future tree planting as part of his property management plan to link up the natural environmental areas, especially the riparian areas on his property. This will also enhance the aesthetics of the property.

Also on display at the field day was the moulder available for landholders to borrow from Border Rivers Gwydir CMA. The moulder is a great tool for tree planting site preparation and has been used with great success over the past 3 years on local sites.

Many of the attendees will be planting tree seedlings next month funded under the "Caring for Our Country" project "Integrating sustainable land management practises across the Glen Innes District". 5000 native seedlings will be planted on 17 properties across the Glen Innes district as part of this funding.

GLENRAC would like to thank Sam & Bea Baker for their hospitality in hosting this event and thank you also to our guest speakers Sarah Caldwell & Troy Dawson for their informative contribution to the day.

If you are interested in planting trees on your farm in the future but not sure what to plant? GLENRAC is planning to run a field day on native plant identification and species selection early in 2012. Keep an eye out for dates in future newsletters!

This project is supported by:



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Serrated Tussock - I.D & Control

Submitted by David Nixon, Glen Innes Shire Council Weeds Officer



“BE WISE” It is of utmost importance that if you are a land-owner/ manager and suspect that you may have Serrated Tussock but not sure of how to correctly identify the tussock from other grasses call the Glen Innes Severn Council’s Noxious Weed Officer for assistance.

Identification and Characteristics

Serrated tussock is a perennial, tussock forming grass similar in general appearance to several of our native tussocks.

Young plants are erect and densely tufted with very fine leaves and the leaves are bright green. Leaves at all growth stages feel rough or serrated if the finger and thumb are drawn down the blade.

As the plant grows to maturity in winter they become a bleached straw colour. By the time the tussock is at the flowering stage the leaves are long and drooping. Flower stalks usually appear in spring-earlier summer. A tussock in full flower presents a distinctly purple appearance due to the large number of purple florets.

When the seeds are ripe the stalk becomes very brittle, the first strong wind breaks it off and the whole seed head is blown along until it lodges against some obstacle. As the seed head dries out, the seeds are released and fall to the ground to begin a new colony. It has been estimated that a hectare of dense tussock can produce over 2 tonnes of seed or about 500 million seeds.

The following characteristics enable serrated tussock to be distinguished from other tussocks throughout the year:-

1. The leaves are tightly rolled and narrow and can be rolled continuously between your thumb and index finger without a flat edge.
2. In autumn when most other grasses have dried off to a straw-colour, the young serrated tussock plants still retain their bright green colour, except for the tips which are bleached.
3. The upward-pointing barbs on the leaf blade, which gives them their rough or serrated texture, are minute and almost invisible to the naked eye. If the leaves appear at all hairy, the plant is not serrated tussock.
4. The seed head breaks off whole. If the previous year’s seed heads remain on the plant, it is not serrated tussock.
5. Serrated tussock is rarely found in swampy or heavily timbered areas.
6. Flowering and seedling heads are a dark purple.

Dispersal

The primary dispersal is by wind and seeds can fly for many kilometers. The tuft of basal hair and the awn of the seed allows it to catch on the fleece of sheep. It may also be picked up in mud on the hooves of livestock or on cultivating implements, in vehicle tyres or on firewood.

Seed buried by cultivation or other means may remain dormant for several years (New Zealand research shows up to 15 years) so an area which appears to have been cleared of the weed for some time may produce seedlings after subsequent soil disturbance.

Integrated Management

For long term control, vigorous improved pastures must be established to compete with serrated tussock to help prevent re-invasion. Ploughing or spraying alone without pasture establishment is not effective because serrated tussock will regenerate from seed reserves in the soil (Up to 1200 million seeds/hectare in old infested areas).

The principles and methods of serrated tussock control are:

- a) Prevention
- b) Chipping or spot spraying individual plants and small patches
- c) Cultivation or blanket spraying large infestations
- d) Replacing dead tussock with improved perennial pasture
- e) Management to maintain a competitive perennial pasture
- g) Continual follow up



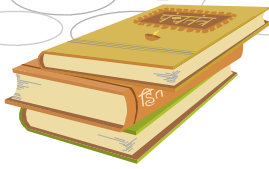
Picture—Serrated tussock



Picture—The seed of the serrated tussock

For more information on indentifying or controlling serrated tussock David Nixon at Glen Innes Severn Council on 02 6730 2358.





Book Review



At the Library

Weeds of the South East (2011) A fully updated comprehensive identification guide for weeds in the south east region of Australia. 546pp \$79.75

Domestic Geese (2011) All there is to know about keeping geese. 200pp \$44.95

Daring to Dream 2(2011) *Stories from inspirational rural women* Twenty five incredible women from across NSW share their knowledge and experiences to provide inspiration and ideas for others who may want to start on a daring dream journey of their own. Available from the NSW DPI bookshop, \$11 + P&H

Poisonous to Pets (2011) The “must have” guide to toxic plant for dog & cat owners. 336pp with colour photographs \$39.95

New Book! *Bush Tucker, Boomerangs & Bandages*

GLENRAC hosted a pre-book launch for Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in June 2011. The first of the books is titled “*Bush Tucker, Boomerangs & Bandages*” and was compiled by Michelle McKemey and Harry White. It is a guide to common plants within the catchment area, with important uses and meaning to the Aboriginal people.

This book is very comprehensive. Environmental Scientist Michelle McKemey was engaged to research the ecological side of the book, whilst Harry researched the traditional knowledge component.

“*Bush Tucker, Boomerangs & Bandages*” is available free of charge from GLENRAC office in Glen Innes or direct from Border Rivers-Gwydir office at Inverell.

Also available at the GLENRAC office is the BRG CMA published “**Practical Guide for Soil Erosion**”. This booklet is a guide to preventing , assessing and treating soil erosion on your farm.

Glen Innes Severn Public & TAFE Library has a variety of resources covering natural resources. One of our special collections, *Discovering Wild New England* was donated originally by National Parks & Wildlife Service. That collection now contains 61 titles including:

- Native Plants of the NW Slopes of NSW Traprock Country by Lyn Lacey
- Water & Wetland Plants for southern Australia by Nick Romanowski
- Grasses of New South Wales by D.J.B Wheeler
- A field guide to the trees and tall shrubs of the north-west slopes by David Carr
- Native Wildflowers of the New England Tablelands of New South Wales by Ruth Tremont
- Extinct and endangered plants of Australia by J Leigh
- Saving our threatened native animals and plants

Outside this special collection, we also have material covering natural resources in our general non-fiction area, including:

- CSIRO handbook of Australian Weeds by M Lazarides
- Field guide to Weeds in Australia by Charles Lamp & Frank Collet
- A field guide to Australian native shrubs by Ivan Holliday & Geoffrey Watton
- Australian bush flower essences by Ian White
- Poisonous plants in Australia by Janusz Talalaj
- Dung Beetle Resource Pack by Belinda Pearce

Go online and search our catalogue www.gisc.nsw.au/library.html or order a resource from another Library through our Inter Library Loan system (fee for service).

You can join the Library for FREE and have access to the Glen Innes Library 6 days a week: Monday & Friday 10am - 5pm; Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8.30 am - 5pm; Saturday 9am - 3pm

Library Services are also located at Emmaville, Deepwater and Glencoe. Come and visit us at 71 Grey Street, Glen Innes or contact us on 02 67302600 or email library@gisc.nsw.gov.au



Congratulations to Our Local Hidden Treasures!

NSW’s “Hidden Treasures” were announced at NSW Rural Women’s Gathering at Gloucester in October. The annual Hidden Treasures Honour Roll acknowledges the volunteer roles of women within NSW’s rural and regional communities. Local ladies, **Dorothy Every** from Ben Lomond and **Tricia Stack** from Deepwater were listed as our “hidden treasures”. *Well done to Dorothy & Tricia!*

New Resources for Farmers

Feral Scan

Feral animals cause over \$720 million damage each year in Australia and threaten our native Australian wildlife. Feral scan.org.au has been developed by the Invasive Animals CRC to allow community members to map where feral animals impact in your local area. The website will record what animal (rabbit, camel, fox, feral pig, myna, toad) and is interested in sightings, damage and control activities in your local area.



Join today @ www.feralscan.org.au

New Feral Animal Cameras now available for loan

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA have recently purchased 6 Trail Cameras to assist landholders in determining feral animal populations and movements. The presence of feral species can cost landholders dearly and have a detrimental impact on both agricultural production and native biodiversity. Knowing the habits of these animals can make it easier to control them.

Operating off AA batteries, these cameras can be strategically positioned to capture images of wildlife both day and night. Using infrared technology the new illuminator sensor provides clear night time pictures without producing sound or a flash. Cameras can be set up to automatically transfer between night and day modes, and can also be set to capture either still images or video footage. A camouflaged metal security box and cable ensures against damage and theft. Digital images are saved to a standard SD card, similar to what is used in a normal digital camera. Images can either be viewed directly off the camera or can be uploaded to a standard computer.

These cameras are the latest edition to the range of biodiversity equipment that is available for loan to landholders from the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA, and will be used in conjunction with traps that are currently being purchased. Six fox/dog traps and six pig traps will soon be available for loan from the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA. There is no cost associated with the loan of any equipment. The Border Rivers-Gwydir simply asks that borrowers return equipment in working order.

To find out more about other equipment available through the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA, contact the Glen Innes Office on 02 6732 2992 or the Inverell office on 02 6728 8020.



Weeds Controlled by Management— Jeff Lowien

We certainly can't complain about the seasonal conditions we've been experiencing over the past year particularly as graziers. And now as the weather warms up pastures are really bounding away. But so are also the weeds and this can create problems in cost of chemical and labour as well as loss of production. There is a range of "tools" available to help keep these problem plants or weeds under control.

The tools to use include grazing management, herbicides, mechanical and biological methods as well as the use of fertilisers to boost pasture growth.

These tools should be applied in complementary ways to maximise suppression of the weeds and to promote the desirable components of the pasture.

With grazing management, the aim is to keep a good dense pasture cover during the germination and establishment period of the weed. For summer growing weed species this is in the spring, and for winter weeds aim for a dense cover in autumn.

A dense pasture cover reduces the amount of sunlight and alters ground temperatures thereby reducing weed germination and establishment.

Stock density can also influence weed control. Few pasture weeds are grazed in preference to sown pasture species and therefore a high stock density may be needed to force stock to graze the weed. Grazing weeds at the vegetative stage can reduce growth, delay flowering and reduce seed production.

There are a number of studies, which show that set stocking or continuous grazing has resulted in an increase in the level of broadleaf weeds. More flexible grazing systems that offer greater control of grazing intensity compared with set stocking will provide better control of broadleaf weeds through improved pasture competition.

Grazing management won't completely remove weeds and therefore may need to be complimented with judicious use of herbicides. For example the odd nodding thistle will survive and these are easily cleaned up with herbicides to prevent flowering and seed set.

For more information please feel free to contact me at the Agricultural Research & Advisory Station on 02 67301900 or mobile 0427102680.



PROFARM SHORT COURSES 2011

NSW Dept. Of Primary Industries offer a range of short courses through the PROFARM program. Upcoming courses to be held in **Glen Innes** include Working Dogs with Bill Davidson 26 & 27 November. This course will cover selection and care of your working dog, understanding herding instincts and working traits and training methods for farm use or for competition.

You must RSVP by 17th November to attend. You can bring your own dog along to the course. Cost \$390 GST Inc. For enquiries or to register phone Cassie Gardiner in Tamworth on 02 6763 1276

On-Line Property Management Planning Course now available

Rural Biz Training have limited funded places available for the next On-line Property Management Planning course. Funding is available through NSW Education and Communities and includes 6 half-day training sessions/ virtual workshops, manuals, digital images of your property (max. Value \$210 per business) and FarmMap, computerised mapping software.

Completing this training course also gives you nationally recognised qualifications as well and may contribute to "prior learning" if you enrol in other courses. If this would be interest to your business contract Rural Biz on 02 6884 8812 for further information.

Faecal Worm Egg Counting Inverell

Rural Biz Training will host a FEC training course in Inverell on Thursday 24th November 2011 from 8:30am to 4:30pm. The one day course costs \$250 per person GST Free and all equipment will be supplied for your use on the day. For more information contact Rural Biz Training on 02 6884 8812.

Introducing Soil Care

SoilCare Inc is an issue based Landcare group based in the Northern Rivers region of NSW. It is an association of primary producers and others with special interests in soil health and soil processes.

Membership fees are \$55.00 for life membership. Members enjoy discounts for soil analysis at two Lismore soil laboratories, EAL & SFI. For more information contact Bonnie Walker on 02 6628 1788 or visit www.soilcare.org

As you are aware the NRCMA is currently reviewing the existing Catchment Action Plan in preparation for the development of a new CAP that will span 2012-22.

As an initial step in the process an **achievements and opportunities discussion paper has been prepared**, that highlights some of the regional achievements in NRM over the past five years since the introduction of the first CAP. Opportunities for the new CAP are included, along with a **survey** that invites you to provide input into the development of the new CAP.

The opportunities paper, survey, and other related CAP material, included responses to frequently asked questions, is now available at our new CAP engagement website: <http://yoursay.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/>

A **second survey will also be open to the public shortly** to gain insight into the environments that people value and the issues they see as important when it comes to managing our natural resources.

Information provided by the community through these surveys will form an important component in defining landscape values and identifying regional priorities for natural resource management.



How to attract small birds to your garden

In 2009 GLENRAC released the popular "Birds in Our Backyards" leaflet, with Spring approaching we thought it was a good time to refresh on how to get those small birds to visit our gardens.

- ⇒ Ask your nursery for advice on locally native shrubs
- ⇒ Plant shrubs that will grow into dense foliage and give small birds somewhere to hide
- ⇒ Plant shrubs close together in clumps
- ⇒ Provide some water in your garden for birds to drink and bathe in
- ⇒ Invite your neighbours or friends to get involved in shrubs planting and make it a community effort. The more habitat there is around your area for small birds the more of them you'll see
- ⇒ Good shrubs for birds include Grevilleas and Hakeas



GLENRAC OPERATING COMMITTEE 2011 /2012

CHAIRMAN - Jim Benton

TREASURER / SECRETARY - Dr Eric Sinclair

LANDHOLDER & DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Greg Chappell, Tony Hollis, Winsome Quilty, Mark Pietsch, Sam Baker, John Bavea, Mike Norton
Glen Innes Severn Council : Graham Price & Dan Raymond
Department of Primary Industries : Jeff Lowien , 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 funding and funding applications, contact
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Ph: (02) 6732 3443 Fax: (02) 6732 6628 Mobile 0427 325 901
email: glenrac@glenrac.org.au website: www.glenrac.org.au

GLENRAC
PO Box 660
GLEN INNES
NSW 2370



To the LAND Owner



Coming Events:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1 & 2 Nov | NRCMA Board Meeting, Glen Innes |
| 7 Nov | Fauna Awareness Workshop, Rummery's Hill |
| 7–11 Nov. | Land of the Beardies Display at the Town Hall |
| Mid Nov. | Managing pasture weeds, including Chilean Needle Grass |
| Late Nov. | Dung Beetle Field Day, Wellingrove |
| 2 December | GLENRAC Committee Meeting |
| 8 December | Managing Coolatai to create productive pastures, Strathbogie |