

# Regional Landcare Update 10

The fortnightly e-news of the New England-North West Landcare Network

Issue 10: 4 June 2010

## Vote now for Landcare Awards

Voting is now open for the National Landcare Awards Peoples Choice Award. You are encouraged to get behind your favourite Landcare finalist with the winner to be announced by MC Catriona Rowntree at the National Landcare Gala dinner at Parliament House, Canberra on Thursday 24 June.

In our area, SNELC is a finalist in the Toshiba Community Group award category.

The 2010 Awards celebrate 20 years of community environmental volunteering in Australia with 88 individual and group State and Territory winners in the running for a National Award. Commencing in 2000, the bi-annual Awards celebrate the achievements of ordinary people making an extraordinary difference. For details, go to [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au) and follow the links.

## Increasing Soil Carbon of Agricultural Land

Dr Yin Chan, Principal Research Scientist (Soils) with Industry and Investment will lead this event on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at Wollongbar.

Dr Chan has been a research scientist since 1996, carrying out research in the areas of soil structure and soil carbon. Hear about the basic and often misunderstood facts of soil carbon at this half-day event.

## Technology of Growing Grass workshop

The most enlightening 2 days you will have for many years. Learn the truth about Carbon and its link to healthy soils and how to manage pasture for increased profits and health. This course covers a number of topics linking carbon and profitability to your management of the land and pasture, your property plan and your actions.

The latest science with practical hands on actions - including brewing compost teas and monitoring soil health. To be held in Glen Innes 7-8 July at the Services Club. Numbers limited, call Glenrac 67323443.

## Sheep & Wool Handbook released

This recent publication is an updated version of the original handbook released nineteen years ago. A feature of the handbook is a new chapter on sustainability. This section details the principles of grazing management that maintain landscape resilience, with particular reference to sheep. It outlines the 6 factors of landscape management that maximise rainfall use efficiency. This includes groundcover, litter, green pasture mass, diversity of species, shelter and healthy soils. Copies of the International Sheep & Wool Handbook are available at [www.une.edu.au](http://www.une.edu.au).

## Farm Succession at Moree and Warialda

KGI Training, the training arm of Kondinin Information Services, in conjunction with Next Rural and NSW Farmers

Association, are working together to provide the *Your Farm Your Future Your Family* workshops. The workshop will help producers develop a succession plan that reflects the needs and expectations of the entire family.

The workshops are the first step in planning to position a farm business for a successful transition. Workshop dates are Moree 16<sup>th</sup> June, Warialda 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Topics explored include succession planning tips and skills, conflict resolution, behavioural styles, tax and accounting requirements, communication and business structure. The \$450 workshop is FarmReady accredited. [www.kondinigroup.com.au/training](http://www.kondinigroup.com.au/training)

## Myall Creek Public Meeting

UGLA and GWYMAC will host a joint meeting at Myall Creek Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> June at 9am. UGLA and GWYMAC will discuss the new Myall Creek subcatchment project, which will focus on projects to improve water quality. Steve McLane (BRG CMA) will be on hand to outline the Myall Creek subcatchment and the on-ground assessment process. Refreshments provided. Details available from UGLA 67242052 or GWYMAC 67211241.

Contributions to the Landcare Update are welcome.  
Email to [gwymacgg@bigpond.com](mailto:gwymacgg@bigpond.com)



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## Holistic Management at Mudgee

This workshop will be held in 23-25 August in Mudgee. Learn how to improve your soil health and biodiversity while increasing grazing capacity, annual profits and enhancing your livelihood.

This workshop is FarmReady approved and will be led by Kirk Gadzia (USA) who has more than 20 years experience with Holistic Management.

Course cost is \$650 for 3 days. More details at [www.milkwoodpermaculture.com.au/courses](http://www.milkwoodpermaculture.com.au/courses)

## CSIRO to investigate Brown Coal link

The CSIRO will investigate claims that an ingredient of brown coal, or lignite, can greatly boost soil carbon when used in fertiliser.

The company Lawrie Co from South Australia has been using the humic acid in lignite in its fertilisers for ten years. Now scientists from the CSIRO's Sustainable Agriculture Flagship will incorporate 30 farm sites using this fertiliser, in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria, in a large national study of soil carbon.

Lawrie Co founder Adrian Lawrie is hopeful that the CSIRO will include it in a national program and reduce fertiliser costs for farmers.

More information at [www.csiro.au/news](http://www.csiro.au/news)

## Green Jobs Corps at Warialda

Warialda Community Care will be hosting a Green Corps team to undertake rehabilitation work in the Warialda and Gravesend areas. The project will run from June - December 2010 and will include activities such as Green Cestrum management, revegetation activities and restoration of public buildings. The team is also available to assist landholders with farm-based activities. More information is available from Bronwyn Sargeant 67291524 or [warialdarespitect@bigpond.com](mailto:warialdarespitect@bigpond.com)

## Serrated Tussock Workshop

This event will be held Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at Deepwater School of Arts. This event will focus on Serrated Tussock as a Weed of National Significance, as part of the Caring for our Country program. Morning tea and light lunch provided. Contact SNELC 67729123 for more details.

## Basic Biodynamics Workshop

Presented by Clifton Landcare, this two day workshop is for commercial farmers seeking a viable alternative to conventional agriculture. Presented by Cheryl Kemp and Adam Collins at Clifton Qld 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July. It will also include practical work, such as making compost and seaweed teas, looking at stirring systems and how

biodynamics can work for your farming system. Cost is \$77pp or \$132 per couple. Contact Clifton Landcare 07 4697 3148.

## Upskilling Incentives

The Australian Government is offering incentives for employees looking to upgrade their skills. Up to \$4000 is available for employees who meet the criteria for the program. Eligible courses include Certificate IV in frontline management, Certificate IV in Project Management as well as a number of other qualifications. Check your eligibility online at [www.upskilled.com.au](http://www.upskilled.com.au) or call the NSW government hotline on 1300 878 239.

## Recreational Fishing Grants

The NSW Government is currently offering their annual recreational fishing grants. This program funds activities including fisheries enhancement, education and awareness, research on recreational fishing, recreational fishing access including ramps and projects focused on sustainability. Two levels of funding are available; grants under \$10,000 and grants above \$10,000.

Applications close 30<sup>th</sup> June. More information and forms are available at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational)