

Regional Landcare Update 18

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

Issue 18: 17th September 2010

Minimum Till Showcase at Bingara

Upper Gwydir Landcare Association (Bingara) will host a minimum till field day on Thursday 14th October. The day will incorporate farm visits to showcase benefits, results and machinery demonstrations of minimum till farming.

Special guest is Bruce Maynard from Narromine. Bruce is a well known advocate for time control grazing, whole farm planning and no kill cropping. His farm has been the venue for more than 130 field days in the past 5 years.

This is a free event; register with UGLA 67242052 or 0427 291073.

Resource Management Excellence at Inverell

MDU (Inverell) will host the 23rd annual Resource Management Competition Field Day on Friday 8th October. The Resource Management Competition recognises excellence in all facets of farm management and culminates in an annual field day on the champion property. The 2010 field day will be held on 'Coombah', owned by Jim and Judy Hain.

Hains have transformed Coombah since purchasing the property in 2003. The field day will include key note speaker Mike McCosker (Ausmin Australia), farm tours, expert commentary, trade exhibits, event booklet and complementary lunch.

More information + field day directions from Gwymac 67211241 or 0427 210 114.

Productive Farming + Biodiversity Incentives

BRG CMA invites landholders in the Lower Horton, Warialda Creek and Mosquito Creek subcatchments to apply for their newest incentive program. This program focuses on projects that integrate productive farming and biodiversity for improved ecosystems. Activities should aim to improve the condition and extent of native vegetation in addition to improving soil condition through sustainable farming practices.

Closes 22nd October, contact Beth Ozols 67572561 / 0429 773 453.

Farmers offered Recognition of Prior Learning

Rural Biz Training offers landholders an opportunity to tone up management skills and gain a nationally recognised qualification. Landholders who have run their farm for at least 2 years can now qualify for Recognition of Prior Learning. Funded training places are now available for Diploma in Rural Business Management (Agriculture) and Advanced Diploma in Rural Business Management (Agriculture). Training is delivered via online and distance education options. More information from www.ruralbiztraining.com.au or 6884 8812

The Key to Healthy Soil

If you want your farm to be more profitable, to improve your asset and find out more about soil alternatives, there will be a free workshop in Tamworth on 29th September, 9am-3pm (Tamworth Golf Club). Speakers include Neville Janke discussing nutrition, John Lawrie (the role of lime); and case studies from Cam McKellar 'Inverary Downs' and Rohan Kingsham 'Dalblair'. Features a question and answer session and complementary meals. Register with Anne Michie 67621733 / 0432 258 983.

UNE to host Merino Field Day

The University of New England will host the New England Merino Sire Evaluation Field Day on 29th September. Starting at 1pm, this event will focus on the NEMSE project and its outcomes so far. It will include an opportunity to assess each of the NEMSE sires' progeny by group. More information available from Paul Arnott 0407 450 093.

Volunteer of Year Award

NSW Centre for Volunteering has launched the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award. This award recognises the outstanding efforts of 2.4 million volunteers in NSW and promotes the value of volunteering to the community. Nominations are now sought for 2010 award and close 30

Contributions to the Landcare Update are welcome.
Email to Fiona Adams at gwymacgg@bigpond.com



Regional Landcare Update

September. More details at www.nswvolunteerawards.com

National Water Week Plans

National Water Week is an annual awareness week that aims to raise public awareness and improve understanding of water issues in Australia. National Water Week is the only event in Australia that provides a national focus for water issues. In 2010 National Water Week will take place on 17 - 23 October.

As part of National Water Week 2010 the Australian Water Association is launching the National Water Week Ambassador initiative. This new initiative aims to raise community awareness and improve understanding of water issues in Australia and globally. Download resources, kits and find out more at www.nationalwaterweek.org.au

Yates Grants for Schools

Yates' School Environmental Management Planning (SEMP) grant is now available for Junior Landcare projects. The SEMP grant can be used to improve the school environment and encourage lifelong learning for sustainability. Projects can range from developing a new SEMP or implementing actions from an existing SEMP. Closes Friday 22nd October. More details, guidelines and application form available at www.landcareonline.com

Yates Junior Landcare Sunflower Challenge

Yates and Junior Landcare are encouraging you to don your gardening gloves and grow giant sunflowers this summer! Yates will be sending free sunflower seeds to all children who register for the Junior Landcare Sunflower Challenge.

This is a fun outdoors activity and a great way for children to learn about sustainability, the environment and gardening. Register as an individual or school group and you will need to care for their plants during the hot summer weather. Those who register could be in with a chance to win some fantastic prizes! Registrations close 22nd October at juniorlandcarechallenge.com/Sunflower/Home.htm

Funding for Energy Saving

Funding is now available through the NSW Government's Climate Change Fund for community and non profit organisations. Up to \$40,000 is available for organisation (including groups, clubs, rural organisations) to make their facilities more energy / water efficient. This can include tanks, energy efficient lighting, climate friendly hot water systems and more. Applications close 5pm, 25th October. Previously funded organisations are not eligible to apply. Details at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfpfp.htm

Red Meat Green Facts

Meat and Livestock Australia has released a new red meat industry brochure. *Red Meat Green Facts* includes information on water, land, biodiversity and carbon emissions in the industry. It also features case studies of meat producers across the country and also a myth-busting section to dispel confusion surrounding the meat production industry. For your copy, go to www.redmeatgreenfacts.com.au

Environmental Stewardship Funding

Landholders in the Namoi, Border Rivers-Gwydir and Central West CMA regions are invited to apply for funding to conserve threatened ecological communities. This is known as the *Environmental Stewardship Multiple Ecological Communities Project*. Under this program, private land managers could be paid for up to 15 years to manage ecological communities including:

- White box, yellow box, Blakely's red gum grassy woodland
 - Natural grasslands on basalt and fine textured alluvial plains of northern NSW & southern QLD
 - Weeping Myall woodland
- Participation in the project is entirely voluntary and more information is available from 1800 447 371 or mec@cma.nsw.gov.au

This project is supported by NE-NW Landcare Network Chairs (including GWYMAC, GLENRAC, Granite Borders Landcare Committee, UGLA, SNELC, Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee + Tamworth Manilla Landcare Association) through funding from the NSW Government and the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

