

Regional Landcare Update

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

Issue 23: 10th December 2010

The \$25000 Question

Do you have an idea which can transform your community? The Royal Agricultural Society Foundation is offering young people (35 years + under) the opportunity to secure up to \$25000 for a new and innovative community project. Projects can be as diverse as playground equipment for your local kindergarten, or tree planting to tackle salinity.

More at www.rasf.org.au + applications close 14 January 2011.

FarmReady Over-subscribed

FarmReady Reimbursement Grants program has now been fully subscribed for the 2010-11 financial year. From COB 26 November 2010 to 30 June 2011, no new pre-approvals will be issued for FarmReady approved training courses.

All pre-approvals issued on or before 26 November 2010 will be reimbursed on course completion as long as all eligibility conditions are met. The registration of training courses will remain open.

The FarmReady Reimbursement Grants program will recommence 1 July 2011 for the 2011/12 financial year, when the FarmReady Reimbursement Grants will be expanded.

Interim Income Support

Interim Income Support for up to 6 months is available for many areas around Delungra, Bundarra and Inverell areas. Landholders who were unsuccessful with their EC application may also be eligible.

There is concern that many landholders in these areas do not realise they are eligible for this financial assistance. Check your eligibility by viewing details + maps at www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/nsw_act/delungra

Rather than self assess your eligibility, please call the Drought Assistance Hotline on 132316 to find out more.

Halting Tilapia

As part of the Native Fish Strategy, the NSW and QLD governments are working together to prevent the spread of tilapia, which are currently found in south east QLD. Tilapia are considered to be one of the worlds worst 100 pest fish species and have the ability to out-compete native fish for food and habitat.

As part of the Strategy, a voluntary survey is available for waterway users and will ascertain community knowledge of fish species and find the best ways to provide important information. This anonymous survey is available until mid December 2010.

The information supplied in this survey will be collected by the Aquatic Biosecurity & Risk Management Unit of Industry & Investment NSW + is available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PB BVJN>.

Celebrating Upland Wetlands

On the 13th December 2010, enjoy a field day at Little Llangothlin lagoon celebrating upland wetlands. The lagoon is an abundant site following a wet spring. For information, ring Glenrac on 6732 3443 or email to glenrac@glenrac.org.au to register for the event.

Paddock Trees + Soil Fertility

University of New England student Phoebe Barnes' research has demonstrated the positive affect paddock trees have on soil fertility. She found that paddock trees improved a range of soil nutrients both under and away from the tree. In the paddocks the nutrients phosphorus, nitrogen and sulphur, as well as soil carbon were highest under the tree, and decreased moving away from the tree trunk. Soil moisture showed minimal extraction of water in the 0-30cm zone—suggesting little competition with pasture species. Contact Phoebe pbarnes@une.edu.au

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



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FOR
OUR
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SCU Scouts for Summer School Participants

The Southern Cross GeoScience (SCGS) Summer School will be held 10 January - 4 February, 2011. This is a four week program for high achieving undergraduate students to undertake research alongside leading geoscience researchers, and gain valuable field skills on sites around the north coast of NSW. Successful applicants will be provided with accommodation for the duration of the program, assistance with transport costs and a \$300/wk stipend for the length of the program.
<http://www.scu.edu.au/geoscience/index.php/66>

2011 Youth Undergraduate Program

Young Australians are invited to apply for the 2011 Investing in Youth Undergraduate Studentship Program. This program is in its 2nd years and provides financial and mentoring support to Australian students committed to the rural sector. Successful applicants receive \$5000 annually for mentoring partnerships and leadership / development skills. The 2011 call for applicants follows the successful pilot trialled this year. The program will provide support for the 4-year tenure of undergraduate studies.

Download forms at www.rirdc.gov.au or call 62714100. Closes 28.1.2011.

United Forces for Ag Research

Two of Australia's leading agricultural research organisations have finalised their merger. From 1st December, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) and the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) will have a new name. The new organisation will be known as the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES). The new website is www.abares.gov.au

Science and Innovation Awards

ABARES is currently seeking nominations for the 2011 Science and Innovation Awards. If you have a great idea for a project or an innovative or emerging scientific issue, then start working on your application now! Nominations are open to those aged 18-35 years, with 11 award categories. Each category includes a grant of up to \$22,000, including:

- Meat + livestock
- Cotton
- Viticulture
- Grains
- Emerging + Niche rural industries

Applications close 7.1.2011,

read past winner's booklets and find out more at www.abares.gov.au/conferences-events/scienceawards

Re-Vamp for a Classic Textbook

An updated version of the classic student textbook *A Guide to Better Pastures in Temperate Climates* has been relaunched by Industry and Investment. Due to the number of pasture species found in Australia, the new book will focus on NSW species in particular and has been renamed *A Guide to pasture species in NSW*. The 138p handbook is available from the Tocal College Bookshop on 1800 025 520 for \$30 including postage.

Environmental Trust Announces Education Projects

NSW Environmental Trust has announced the community based programs which have secured funding. In total, 10 projects were funded. In our area, Gwy mac (Inverell) secured funding for an outreach program which will focus on empowering women farmers through environmental education. This program has been successfully trialled in central west NSW as a means of increasing the number of rural women in NRM leadership roles.