

Regional Landcare Update

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

Issue 28: 25th February 2011

NextGen Farmers Grants

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has launched the 2011 grants program. Funds of up to \$50,000 are available for projects focused on landholders under 25 years. Projects should focus on building knowledge, access to tools and resources, develop leadership and network young farmers. Closes 28th March 2011. More at www.daff.gov.au

Rural Women's Funding

The Federal government's Recognising Rural Women program is now open. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for programs that focus on building leadership and capacity of rural women. Funding assists with staging events that increase representation of rural women in NRM activities. Closes 28th March. More at www.daff.gov.au of up to \$50,000 are available for those affected by

Worm Resources

Want to know more about earthworms and the tireless work they do for your soils? An online Pictorial Guide to Paddock Earthworms in SE Australia is available for download. A great resource for NRM staff and land managers; download at

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/soil_health_worm_wise

CFOC Feedback

The Federal government is seeking feedback on its Caring for our Country program. They are looking at hearing from NRM organisations about what is working well, what needs improvement and what are the future challenges in protecting our natural resources. The discussion paper and information on how to make a submission is available at www.nrm.gov.au. You can also participate in an online discussion on the website from March.

Starting in Your Backyard

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA is supporting WetlandCare Australia in the roll-out of some "Starting in your Backyard" Train the Trainer workshops. Starting in your Backyard is an environmental program that uses best practice education techniques to inspire community action towards sustainability. Participants are given the opportunity to connect with their local environment, and are provided with knowledge and skills to positively impact on this environment. Date for the Inverell workshop is Friday 18 March 2011. The

intended venue is Lake Inverell. Interested NRM staff are asked to contact Kirralee Donovan on 6652 5589.

New WaterWatch Website Available

A new WaterWatch website has been launched. The website address is www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waterwatch

The site includes information of how schools, groups and individuals can get involved with the sustainable use and management of our catchments. It also includes Manuals for teachers and trainers. Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA also has copies of the manuals and WaterWatch resources are available from the CMA's online resources library.

Awards Update

Nominations for the 2011 Regional Landcare and Catchment Management Awards have now closed. Judging will be conducted next week, with winners announced at the Landcare Adventure official dinner in Guyra on 16th March. Tickets for the Awards dinner and Adventure are on sale now. The earlybird discount has been extended. Act now to avoid missing out. Talk to your Landcare office for more details.

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



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



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MLA Meat Profit Day

MLA and Double B Beef will run a joint Meat Profit Day in Bingara on 24th March. This event is a must for anyone in the red meat industry. Topics on the agenda include fertiliser and profit, cost of production, soils and sacred cows, lamb vs beef, genetic evaluation and looking after yourself.

Speakers include Bart Davidson, Garry McDouall, Bill Hoffman and David Johnston. Costs \$20 for MLA members; \$40 for non members. Child minding facilities are available. Registrations phone 1800 675 717 and select option 4.

ABARES Outlook Conference

The annual Outlook conference will be held 1-2 March in Canberra. This is the premier agriculture, fisheries and forestry event of the year. The focus this year will be on innovation, biosecurity and productivity. At the conference, ABARES will also release the quarterly *Australian Commodities*, which provides a short-medium term forecast for major commodities.

Peter Cullen Trust Open

After a highly successful 2010 launch of the program, the Peter Cullen Leadership Program for 2011 has been launched. The program focuses on building leadership and

communication skills associated with positive change in water and catchment management. Hands on learning is a feature of the program, as well as a mentoring aspect. Applications are being sought and close 31.3.2011. More at www.petercullentrust.com.au.

WONS Feedback

Have your say on Weeds of National Significance. The WONS strategic plans are now available for comment at www.weeds.org.au/WONS/

In such a season as we have had, there is a great concern for weeds and their spread. If you have noticed a new incursion, report this to your local weeds officer.

Act now for AFF Funding

DAFF's Aussie Farmers' Foundation program closes next week, so there is still time to submit an EOI. Projects between \$15,000 and \$50,000 are eligible, and activities that focus on wellbeing of rural Australians, sustainable development and building capacity are encouraged.

The EOI needs to be approximately 1-2 pages long and details are available at www.aussiefarmersfoundation.com.au. Closes 1st March.

Cattle Can Help Restore Degraded Soil

A recent study published in the Soil Science Society of America Journal has revealed cattle can help restore depleted nutrients in soils. The 12-year study demonstrated paddocks with medium to heavy grazing proved to be the best way to sequester most nitrogen and carbon in the soil, improve soil fertility and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. More at www.soils.org/publications/sssaj/abstracts/74/6/2131

Soils CD for Baan Baa

DECCW has released two more interactive CD ROMs that map the natural landscapes and soils around Baan Baa. Go to www.shop/category.jsp?category=1064&parent=148

Sustainable Food Production Event

North East Downs Landcare (Oakey) will host a 2-day event *Biological Farming: Towards more Sustainable Food Production*. 29-30 March. The eminent array of speakers includes Dr Maarten Stapper, Dr Christine Jones, Dr Ash Martin, Bart Davidson, Hugh Lovel, Cam McKellar and Dr Nikki Seymour. At \$55 per person, this event is not to be missed. Copies of the flyer and details available from NED Landcare (David) 07 4691 14990 or 0400 045 275.