

# Regional Landcare Update

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

Issue 29: 21st March 2011

## And the winner is....

New England North West Landcare celebrated the 2011 Border Rivers-Gwydir Landcare and Catchment Management Awards this week. Held every two years, the Regional Awards recognise excellence in all areas of the community. Congratulations to all winners and finalists, which includes:

### Individual Landcarer Award

1. Andrew Baker (Ashford), 2. Rex Maddocks (Tenterfield)

### Primary Producer Award

1. David + Alex Mason (Inverell) ; 2. Ron Caccianiga (Gravesend)

### Urban Landcare Award

1. Tenterfield Naturalists; 2. Tenterfield Community Garden

### Community Group Award

1. Balala Brushgrove Landcare Group; 2. Tenterfield Naturalists

### Young Landcarer Award

1. Duncan Davidson (Delungra)

### Local Government Landcare Award

1. Uralla Shire Council; 2. Gwydir Shire Council

### Landcare Education Award

1. Macintyre High School (Inverell); 2. Glen Innes Schools; 3. Boomi Public School

### Innovation in NRM Award

1. Engineered Woodlands Project; 2. Jim & Yvonne Benton (Glen Innes)

### Indigenous Landcare Award

1. Banbai Business Enterprise Inc (Guyra).

Award winners will now

progress to the State Landcare Awards to be held in Parkes in September.

## Grain + Graze Field Days

Grain and Graze will host several field days across the North West, to showcase their Northern Region Project. Dates and venues include: Gravesend 29th March  
Croppa Creek 31st March  
Bellata 5th April  
Inverell 6th April  
Elsmore / Inverell 6th May

The events will highlight trials occurring with gypsum, green manure crops, tropical pasture establishment and the effect of potassium and nitrogen on sown pastures. RSVP to Nicole Gammie 0409 344 072.

## Farm Day

Farm Day aims to close the city-country divide by encouraging farmers across the country to open their gates to a city family for a day. Australia's annual FarmDay, will be held 28-29 May. Since 2007, close to 1000 city families have visited working farms around the country on FarmDay to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the farming industry.

FarmDay is calling on farmers to consider hosting a family this year. I'd strongly encourage farmers

to get involved in this important initiative by registering to host a city family at [www.farmday.com.au](http://www.farmday.com.au)

## Namoi Catchment Awards

Namoi CMA has launched their 2011 Catchment Awards. There are 11 award categories on offer, including Education, Community Group, Innovation in NRM, Young Landcarer, Primary Producer and more. Download an entry form at [www.namoi.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.namoi.cma.nsw.gov.au) Entries close 2nd May 2011.

## MLA Targets Good News

Meat and Livestock Australia is looking for good news stories from red meat producers. Under their new 'Target 100' project, MLA is showcasing positive stories of sustainability from our nation's red meat producers. These will be showcased on the MLA website. If you are a landholder that would like to share a positive story of improving natural resources, such as joining a Landcare group, planting trees or fencing off a watercourse, contact Pip, [pmcconachie@mla.com.au](mailto:pmcconachie@mla.com.au)

## Fauna Awareness

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA will host a Fauna Awareness Workshop with Alex Dudley on Saturday 9th April.

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



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This will be held on the property Five Corners, approximately 20 mins north of Inverell. RSVP to Kelly 67288031.

## 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.

## The Fundamentals of Soil

Dr Christine Jones and Garry McDouall will present this workshop on 14th May in Uralla. This is a full day dedicated to the theoretical and practical issues of soil carbon and its sequestration. Cost \$55 (\$50 for Landcare Adventure participants). Book with SNELC on 6772 9123.

## Trevenna Field Day: Grass, Ground + Gas

Held at Trevenna's demonstration site for methane management strategies on 29th March. 9.30am–2pm,

near the western carpark of University of New England. See the demonstration site, hear the latest research, see some of the latest monitoring equipment and hear from industry experts. Lunch provided. RSDVP to I&I 67288500 or jim.meckiff@industry.nsw.gov.au

## Grasslands Booklet

Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC) has released a new booklet, *Understanding Our Native Grasslands*.

The booklet aims to raise community awareness about the critical role native grasslands play in maintaining healthy soils and water, creating habitat for animals and plants, fodder for stock and as being culturally important for indigenous people.

In The booklet is available from the NRAC Secretariat (02 9895 7334) or download at [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

## Talking about the Weather

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA and Inverell Shire Council are hosting a 2-day conference 18-19 May regarding climate variability, future climatic changes and their affect on the land. Including speakers such as Martin Babakhan (Newcastle University), Tony Windsor MP and Dr Brian

Wilson. Tickets for the 2 days are \$85. Register now at [www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au)

## Farmer of the Year Award

Applications are now open in the 2011 NSW Farmer of the Year Awards. The awards are an initiative of NSW Industry and Investment, NSW Farmers' Association, The Land and The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. Two categories are on offer—Young Farmer (16-35 years) and Farmer of the Year (35 years+). Download a nomination form at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au). Closes 9th June.

## Research Scholarship Program

NSW Rural Assistance Authority has unveiled their 2011 Research Scholarship program, to the value of \$10,000. This aims to support research work by students enrolled in regional universities which assist in building productive and sustainable agricultural businesses and / or communities.

Applications are invited from Masters Research or Doctoral students. Scholarships must be expended within one calendar year. Two annual research scholarships are available. More at [www.raa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au). Closes 31.3.2011.