

Regional Landcare Update

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

Issue 30: 31st March 2011

Sustaining Rural Communities

A 2-day conference set down for 5-6 April in Narrabri. This is hosted by Cotton Catchment Communities and the Australian Government. The 2nd conference will focus on issues to transform rural Australia and sustain rural communities. Registrations close 30th March—there is no charge to attend the conference, however, you may wish to attend the welcome reception (\$35) and Wednesday dinner (\$65). Find out more at www.cottoncrc.org.au

Coles Offer for Schools

Any schools who have already received Coles Junior Landcare Grants may also qualify for remedial funding. These funds are available to school projects that have been affected by floods and adverse weather events.

Schools are asked to send a photo of the damaged garden, along with details of when the original Coles grant occurred. March also marks the celebration of 1000 Coles Grants since 2008. Schools are asked to supply a photo showing their favourite garden shot. More at landcareonline.com

Soil and Plant Nutrition

Namoi CMA will host this

workshop with guest presenter Bart Davidson from BioNutrient Solutions. The Tamworth workshop takes place 5th April and costs \$100pp (usually \$500). RSVP to Peter Dawson 6764 5907.

International Conference for Environment Centres

The first conference of its kind, this event will be held at Manly 8-11 September. Environment Centres and community activists play a pivotal role in mobilizing the community energy to address global concerns.

This year the Manly Environment Centre celebrates 20 years as a shopfront office providing a focal point for education, research and advocacy. Hear the latest research, see some of the latest monitoring equipment and hear from industry experts. More at www.mec.org.au

Environmental Trust Workshop

The NSW Government will host a workshop to share details of its 2011 Environmental Education Program. Expressions of Interest are now open and close 21.4.2011.

The Armidale workshop will be the only one held in the New England-North West. Date for the workshop is 11th April.

Two timeslots are available 10am-2pm or 6-8pm. RSVP one week before the workshop to info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

\$8 Million Recovery

Rural communities to benefit from \$8 million Australian Government disaster funding package

Farmers, volunteers and natural resource management organisations in flood, cyclone and bushfire affected areas across the nation will benefit from an \$8 million Australian Government disaster recovery package.

Regional natural resource management organisations will receive \$4.9 million for environmental recovery work including the restoration of wildlife corridors, removal of debris spread by flood waters and weed and pest animal control activities. This includes \$400,00 allocated to Border Rivers-Gwydir region.

Conservation Volunteers Australia will receive \$1.35 million to help coordinate on-ground environmental recovery activities. This will be delivered in close cooperation with regional NRM bodies.

More is available from nrm.gov.au

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



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



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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.

Soils Seeds + Weeds

Glenrac will host this field day at Pinkett on Friday 8th April. The event will discuss local issues, including tips on weed control and improving soil health. To find out more, or to RSVP, contact Mahri 67323443.

Namoi Property Planning Workshops

Namoi CMA will host computerised property planning workshops with Mick Alexander from Grazing BestPrac. These workshops have been subsidised by Namoi CMA, meaning cost is \$75 (refundable deposit). The Tamworth workshop is 4th April, RSVP asap to Peter Dawson 67645907.

Rural Women's Gathering 2011

Gloucester will host the 2011 Rural Women's Gathering on 14-16 October. The event is a great chance for rural women to come together and celebrate their role in farming

communities. More at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

2011 National Tree Day

Now entering its 16th year, Planet Ark's National Tree Day is firmly cemented as one of the nation's largest community environmental events. This year National Tree Day will be held on Sunday July 31st and Schools Tree Day on Friday July 29th – however you may register a site or activity on any day that suits you.

National Tree Day is not just about tree planting, you can register a number of other activities such as follow-up maintenance at a previous planting site, seed collecting or any activity that would help meet environmental outcomes in your area.

Register now at treeday.planetark.org

Mental Health Training

A Mental Health First Aid training workshop will be held in Guyra on 6-7 April. This is a highly informative and relevant workshop for anyone on the land or anyone working with landholders. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to contact jennie@gblc.org.au

Lyn Sykes in Moree

You're invited to attend a free day of laughter and learning with Lyn Sykes on 14th April in

Moree (Max Centre). Improve communication skills, maximise your potential and reduce conflict. Lunch and morning tea provided. 9.30am-3pm. RSVP to Jenny Croft 0429 446417 or jenny.croft@industry.nsw.gov.au.

Tracking Down the Best Legume

The hunt is on for the best legume to plant with tropical perennial grass pastures favoured by graziers across the north and west of NSW.

A team led by Industry and Investment NSW farming systems hydrologist Dr SEAN Murphy is endeavouring to identify one that will share water resources equally with the grasses.

The project will look at use of soil moisture, any reduction to salinity and how tropical grasses effect legume establishment. Results of the trial will be shared with landholder once available.

2011 Grasslands Conference

Scheduled for 26-28 July at Bathurst. This event is now in its 26th year. Theme for the 2011 event is Grasslands: Opportunities, Threats, Realities. Details of event tours, presentations and preliminary program will be available soon. Stay in touch at www.grasslandsnsw.com.au