

# Regional Landcare Update

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

Issue 32: 22nd April 2011

## CAG's Opening Soon

The Federal Government is set to open the 2011 round of Community Action Grants shortly. This is expected to occur in mid May.

Last year, Community Action Grants funded several local Landcare projects throughout our region. Across Australia, a total of \$7.96 million was spent on supporting grassroots Landcare and community groups. Stay up to date by visiting [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au)

## Talking About the Weather

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA and Inverell Shire Council will jointly host this conference in May. The event includes key note speakers Martin Babakhan (Uni of Newcastle) and Tony Windsor, Darling Downs farmer Sid Plant, Dr Brian Wilson (UNE) and Garry McDouall (RCS). Date for the event is 18-19 May in Inverell. An early bird discount applies until the end of April, meaning cost is \$60pp for the 2-days, including tours, presentations and event satchel.

Program details are available at [www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au). Register with Inverell Shire Council 67288165.

## Good News Needed

MLA is aiming to close the city-country gap, by promoting good-news stories from the bush. In June, MLA will launch Target 100, which will be a list of the

top 100 initiatives in the agriculture industry which are increasing sustainability. MLA is asking producers to email a few sentences + photo of your family through to help create the Target 100. Contact Pip McConachie [pmcconachie@mla.com.au](mailto:pmcconachie@mla.com.au)

## NRCMA Incentives Days

Northern Rivers CMA will host community workshops in May to provide an outline of the 2011-2012 Incentive Program Guidelines and Application forms. Workshops will also explain NRCMA priorities and guidelines.

All workshops run from 10.30am-1.30pm and include morning tea.

- **Tenterfield** 9th May @ Anglican Church Hall
- **Armidale** 10th May @ Wicklow Hotel.

Participants are asked to register with Alstonville CMA office 6627 0170.

## Rural Climate Change Symposium

The National Centre for Rural Greenhouse Gas Research will host a Symposium in Armidale in May. The NCRGGR was launched in May 2009 and is a joint initiative of NSW DPI and UNE. Set down for 3-4 May at University of New England. Registrations close 27 April. For those that would

like a copy of the booklet of symposium abstracts, please contact Prof Annette Cowie 0403 071044.

## Plant Workshops

The Tree Tenders (Inverell) will host 3 workshops in April-May. These include:

Plant identification (30th April)  
Seed collection (7th May)  
Plant propagation (14th May)

Workshops are open to all community members. Each costs \$135pp. More information available from [julie.weir@treetenders.com.au](mailto:julie.weir@treetenders.com.au) or 67224200.

## Christine Jones at Uralla

Internationally respected Christine Jones will lead a workshop on 'The Fundamentals of Soil', Saturday 14th May in Uralla. Costs \$55pp and also includes a presentation by Bingara based Garry McDouall. Find out more about regenerative agriculture, myths and challenges surrounding carbon. Register with SNELC 67729123.

## Environmental Education Awards

NSW's Environmental Education Awards are currently open. This recognises an outstanding contribution to environmental education in 3 categories. This

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



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includes:

- Formal educator
- Government educator
- Community educator

If you know of an exemplary educator, nominations close 24th June.

[www.aaeensw.org.au](http://www.aaeensw.org.au)

## TSR Conference

The 2nd annual Travelling Stock Routes conference will be held in Orange 28th July 2011. Theme for the 2011 event is *Managing the Uses, Users and Threats...for Heritage, Habitat and Livelihood*. The event will be a practical and participatory workshop. More details at [www.npansw.org.au](http://www.npansw.org.au) or [www.grassroutes.org.au](http://www.grassroutes.org.au)

## Has your Non-Profit Group Registered?

DonorTec is a company which makes Microsoft software available for non profit organisations at a discounted price. As an example, Microsoft Office Professional is available for \$32.

Organisations can only place one order each year, but this can include multiple items. To register your non-profit organisation with the DonorTec team, email [support@donortec.org](mailto:support@donortec.org)

## New + Improved RabbitScan

Invasive Animals CRC and its partners have launched a new

and improved RabbitScan program. This is a website reference for landholders, industry representatives and community groups to report and map sightings of rabbits in their region. It also allows users to record management and control uses. Anyone is able to use RabbitScan to create a Rabbit Management Map for their farm / area. [www.feralscan.org.au/rabbitscan](http://www.feralscan.org.au/rabbitscan)

## Researchers Need Rabbits

I&I NSW Researchers have sent out a call to people who find freshly dead rabbits that may have died from calicivirus or rabbit haemorrhagic disease. Researchers are after livers from the dead rabbits to conduct ongoing research.

Researchers hope to work out how the virus has changes over time, so that new strains can be developed. 2cm cubes of rabbits livers are needed and can be frozen. Contact Dr Tarnya Cox 6391 3952.

## Coles School Garden Grant

Coles offers funding for schools to establish vegetable patches, native gardens and learn more about the environment. Grants of up to \$1000 are available per project. The next round of Coles Junior Landcare Grants closes 13 May. More at

[www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

## Women's Ag Group to Start

Gwymac (Inverell) will launch a new group for rural women in May. The Ag-n-Chat targets rural women across the NW Slopes and Plains. The first gathering will be held in North Star on Wednesday 25th May. The Bundarra Ag-n-Chat gathering will be held Thursday 26th May.

Special guest is well-known, Inverell based business woman, Fiona Brown. Event also includes a cheese-making demonstration + information about Landcare's role in the community.

A free event, running from 10am-12noon, morning tea supplied. Gwymac 67211241.

## BioChar Impact

In an Australian first, Tamworth Ag Institute have found the use of biochar has improved the water use efficiency in pastures. Along with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and boosting nutrient retention, water use efficiency is a newly found benefit of biochar. Results indicate that plots where biochar was applied at a rate of 10T/ha together with fertiliser, pasture was 17% more water efficient than those without biochar. Poultry litter trials are also currently taking place.