

# Regional Landcare Update

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

Issue 33: 9th May 2011

## Volunteer Grants

The Federal Government's Volunteer Grants are currently open. This ever-popular grant is ideal for community organisations that rely on volunteer input. The grant funds \$1000-\$5000 grants for non-profit community organisations to purchase small equipment to assist the work of volunteers. Closes 8 June. [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au)

## Woolworths Grants

Woolworths has launched its new round of funding, with grants of up to \$10,000 available. The *Woolworths Fresh Food Future Program* provides funding to help farmers and farming groups develop or implement sustainable farming practices. The program has 3 key areas of focus:

- Water use efficiency
- Nutrient management
- Carbon footprint

Closes 30th May. More details available at [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

## Talking About the Weather

There is still time to register for this conference being hosted by BR-G CMA and Inverell Shire Council. 18-19 May. An impressive array of speakers includes Martin Babakhan, Tony Windsor MP, Carolyn Ditchfield, Garry McDouall, Adam Blakester, Brian Wilson + Darling Downs landholder Sid

Plant. Registration is \$85pp. Contact Inverell Shire Council 67288165.

## Women's Ag Group to Launch

Gwymac will launch its new group for rural women this month at North Star. The Ag-n-Chat group has been successfully implemented in the central west, and is now launching in our region.

The 2-hour event is free, and aims to increase skills and knowledge of rural women in an informal and fun atmosphere. Includes inspirational business woman Fiona Brown, a cheese making demonstration and news from Landcare. North Star CWA Hall 25th May Bundarra Town Hall 26th May. Contact Gwymac 67211241.

## Farm Day

This event is organised by MLA and will be hosted on the weekend of 28-29 May. Farm Day sees farming families host a city family for a hands-on and realistic farming experience. Register now at [www.farmday.com.au](http://www.farmday.com.au)

## Succession in Warialda + Narrabri

A succession planning workshop will be hosted in Warialda and Narrabri in June. Led by Isobel Knight (ProAgtive), the free workshop will guide participants through

the 12 key strategic areas to be addressed during the succession process. The event runs 9am – 3pm and includes lunch. Dates are:

7 June in Narrabri (RSVP to Julie Roy 0448 035152)

8 June in Warialda (RSVP to Kim Deans 67210030)

## Grain Grower Benchmark

Grain growers in northern NSW and Queensland can now compare their performance against regional benchmarks to identify what separates our most profitable farmers.

GRDC commissioned ABARES to establish physical and financial performance benchmarks for each grain growing zone. The result is growers can now see how their enterprise compares to regional benchmarks. Reports for each zone are available from [www.grdc.com.au/abaresreports](http://www.grdc.com.au/abaresreports)

## FarmGate Training

FarmGate Training is offering a new round of subsidised qualifications available to land managers and those working in the agriculture industry. These heavily subsidised programs also include Recognition of Prior Learning availability. Qualifications available include Cert IV in Agriculture, Conservation and Land

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



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Management + Rural Business Management, as well as Diploma and Advanced Diploma options. Further details are available at [www.fgt.com.au](http://www.fgt.com.au) or 9317 5770.

## Awards Season

May is the month for award nominations, with the 2011 Landcare Awards and also the Farmer of the Year Awards both seeking nominations.

The NSW Landcare + Catchment Management Awards include several categories and feature a staff category. Closes 27th May. [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

The NSW Farmer of the Year Awards are hosted by NSW Farmers Association and have both an Open and Young category open. Closes 9th June. [www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au)

## OH&S Laws Changes

The NSW Government has announced new OH&S laws in parliament, meaning farmers will no longer have to prove their innocence if an employee is injured on their property. This harmonises OH&S laws nationally.

## Students Focus on Wild Dogs

A new university course is taking students into the bush to gain first hand experience with wild dog trapping and monitoring. This is a

partnership between NSW DPI research scientist Dr Guy Ballard, UNE and NSW DPI's Wild Dog Ecology Unit. The course aims to increase student knowledge in balancing conservation objectives, reading prints and tracking the animals.

## Sustainable Living Feature

This 2-day event in Namoi Catchment, features all facets of sustainable living. Event features include alternative energy sources, recycled building materials, bio-fuel, open house tours and energy efficient homes.

28-29 May, 9am–4pm. Free bus tours are also available and depart from Gunnedah and Tamworth. Find out more at [www.lplmc.com.au/festival.html](http://www.lplmc.com.au/festival.html)

## Parthenium Comments

Parthenium is a Weed of National Significance which infests more than 8 million hectares in central Queensland and has the potential to infest much of eastern NSW. This annual weed quickly builds a large seed bank, making eradication difficult.

NSW Industry and Investment have developed the *Draft NSW Parthenium Strategy* which details strategic direction over the next 5 years. Submissions for the draft strategy close 3rd June. The Draft Parthenium

Strategy can be downloaded at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/legislation/state/nsw-parthenium-strategy](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/legislation/state/nsw-parthenium-strategy)

## Cotton Trade Show

The 12th annual Cotton Trade Show will be held in Moree 25-26 May. The show features innovation from the industry, trade exhibits and incorporates the Northern Cropping Systems Expo. More details available at [www.cottontradeshow.com.au](http://www.cottontradeshow.com.au)

## Namoi Carp Muster

Namoi CMA and a host a local sponsors will see this event held in Tamworth on 21-22 May. Registrations start at 7.30am at the Cricket Club Amenities Block in Carter Street. Cost \$5 Adults; Seniors and Children \$2. Thousands of dollars of prizes are up for grabs. To find out more, contact Anne Ferguson 67429220.

## Book on Rural Women

A new book has been launched by Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson. *Daring to Dream 2* brings together stories of inspirational women from rural backgrounds. In total, 25 women from various backgrounds are showcased, from across diverse geographical backgrounds. Copies are available from Rural Women's' Network 1800 028 374.