

Regional Landcare Update

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

Issue 4: 12 March 2010

Regional Scholarship Available

Regional employees working in front-line and mid-level management are encouraged to apply for the \$8000 grant currently offered by Australian Applied Management Colloquium. AAMC is a 6-month program developed by a consortium of stakeholders including major Australian employers and employer groups, the National Leadership Institute and the Workplace Training Advisory of Australia. More at www.appliedmanagement.com.au

Regional Facilitators for Long Term

Longer term arrangements for the National Landcare Facilitator Initiative have been finalised. There will be a competitive application process, where up to 56 organisations will be selected and contracted to employ a Landcare facilitator to provide services to each specific NRM region. Applications close 15 April 2010.

Who Cares about the Environment?

These public seminars will be hosted by DECC W throughout the state to measure and track the environmental knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of the people of NSW.

In our area, the seminar will be held Thursday 22nd April in Armidale. Venue will be the

Quality Hotel Powerhouse Conference Room, 31 Marsh Street, Armidale. This seminar is especially relevant for Extension Officers. More at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/community/who_cares.htm

Property Planning Competition

BRG CMA will host this schools based competition on Thursday 25th March, SW of Inverell. Host property will be Weegowrie, owned by Alex and David Mason. Over 200 students are expected to take part with the day, which coincides with the school Agriculture syllabus. Landcare CSO's, CMA staff and I&I (formerly DPI) will all be on hand to assist. Contact Drew 67288038.

ETS Forum

21st April in Tamworth (10.30am-3.30pm). Hosted by Namoi CMA and I&I, this forum will look at the implications of an ETS on the ag industry. Presenters include the likes of Alan Lauder (Carbon Grazing Trust), landholder Ian McClelland and Peter Cosier (Chairs of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists).

Weeds Day to focus on Chilean Needle Grass

Glenrac and Gwymac (Glen Innes and Inverell based Landcare) will host a weeds field day on Thursday 6th May. The event will be held at Swan Vale, half way between Inverell and Glen Innes.

Contact Glenrac 67323443 or Gwymac 67211241.

CFOC Grants now available

The Australian Government's Caring for our Country Open Round of grant applications is now open.

Grants close 15 April. More details at www.nrm.gov.au

Association laws are changing

Register with Fair Trading to receive free email updates about changes that are occurring with the *Associations Incorporation Act*. Subscribe for free email updates by calling the Registry of Cooperatives and Associations on 1800 502 042. A fact sheet is also available from the website www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

New Dung Beetle Website

The new dung beetle website is now available at www.dungbeetles.org.au. Dung Beetle Field Days will be rolled out in the latter part of the year. Details available in future *NE-NW Landcare Updates*.

PNF Info Available

Find out all you need to know about Private Native Forestry. New online resources include the PNF Code of Practice, Vegetation Plans & accreditation workshops. New fact sheets are available – www.dpi.environment.gov.au/pnf

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



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Who's feeling Adventurous?

The New England North West Landcare Adventure is an annual 2-day event designed to provide education and awareness, highlight innovative Landcare projects and allow Landcarers to network across the region.

This regional event will be held 21-22 April and will be hosted by Granite Borders Landcare Committee, the Tenterfield-based Landcare Network.

All landholders are invited to attend. Cost for landholders is \$75 per person. This includes accommodation, all meals (including the Landcare Awards Dinner) and transport.

The 2010 event is supported by Landcare Australia, Caring for Our Country Community Action Grants, and Namoi, Northern Rivers and Border Rivers Gwydir CMA's.

This is a fun, informative and affordable event! Make your plans to be in Tenterfield this 21-22 April. Contact Granite Borders Landcare for more information 67363500.

Gwymac Website now available

Landcare in the Inverell area has a new online home. The Inverell based Landcare network, Gwymac has launched their new site at www.gwymaclandcare.com.au

The site is complete with details on Landcare events, projects, has handy links to

local weather and the region's Landcare & NRM organisations.

Green Loans to be discontinued

The Australian Government's Green Loans program is being re-shaped to meet public demand. As of 22nd March, the Green Loans will no longer be available.

Home owners are still entitled to apply for the free Home Sustainability Assessments. Under the scheme, assessors make recommendations for how home owners can improve energy and resource use at home. To book a free Home Assessment, call 1800 895 076.

The Technology of Growing Grass

Hosted by Grazing BestPrac, this 2-day workshop will look at Carbon and its link to healthy soils. The course will also cover the link between carbon and profitability.

Course numbers are limited to between 15-25. Being FarmReady approved, rebates apply to offset training, travel and accommodation costs. Register with Mick or Noela 07 4938 3919.

Water for Life

The NSW Government's Water for Life website provides fact sheets, learning materials for students and tips for conserving this precious natural resource. www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au

Rural Task Force

Backed by St Vincent de Paul, this initiative aims to help rural people in tough times. The TaskForce works to help rural people with household running costs. More at www.vinnies.org.au

Small Farms & Sustainable Living Expo

Coffs Harbour 24-25 April 2010. Includes farm displays, NRM education, local produce showcase, soil health feature as well as livestock exhibits. info@mncevents.com.au

New Board Members at CMA

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA has welcomed two new board members, Grahame Marriott of Inverell and Sue Hudson of Armidale. Grahame's career has included roles with Dept of Aboriginal Affairs, in non profit community organisations and most recently, BEST Employment. Sue is a *Wiradjuri* woman who well known for her work with Aboriginal and farming communities.

Governance training

The Australian Institute of Community Practice and Governance is offering a range of training programs including *Secrets of Successful Boards*, *How to Get Donations and Bequests*, *Cert IV in Governance and Community-Business Partnerships Bootcamp*. For more details about these short courses, go to ourcommunity.com.au/scheduledtraining