

# Regional Landcare Update

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

Issue 42: 7th October 2011

## AgriTourism + Sustainable Farms Field Day

Upper Gwydir Landcare Assoc (Bingara) will host a field day 26th October focusing on combining sustainable farming with agri-tourism. The event will be held on The Oaks, Narrabri Rd, Bingara and will showcase 2 local agritourism enterprises—*Sherwood's Cottage* and *Bike Territory*. The free event also includes lunch, morning tea and presentations from New England Compost and NSW Department of Primary Industry staff. Contact UGLA 67242052.

## Pasture Update

Presented by the Grasslands Society of NSW, a field day will be held at Glen Innes Research Station 11th October 2011. 10am–4pm. Speakers include Bob Freebairn (The Land columnist + Agronomist), Dr Greg Lodge (NSW DPI), Mick Duncan (President, Grasslands Society) and also includes paddock sessions. \$10 member; \$15 non members.

Free buses will run from town across the New England + Stanthorpe.

Further details from Carol Harris 0458 206973 or Jennie Coldham 0427 260 258.

## ProFarm Workshops

Two-day, accredited workshops will be hosted as below: Off road 4WD course, Armidale 12-13 October, \$480

Safe Tractor Operation, Glen Innes 19-20 October, \$490

Working Dog Course (weekend), Walgett 22-23 October, \$390

Further information from Cassie Gardiner 67631276.

## Wanted: Farm Innovators

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA has launched its Sustainable Farming Practices Grants program. This program will enable BRG CMA to fund farm research and demonstration programs that could boost the bottom line for primary producers while benefiting the long term health and sustainability of our environment. Eligible projects include erosion management, improving groundcover, stabilising streambanks, better managing land to its capability, installing alternate watering points and more. Details available from Landcare offices or [www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au) Closes 21.10.2011

## Jewels in the Landscape

A two day workshop on managing significant native vegetation remnants, including TSRs, road easements and private land. To be held 3-4 November at Guyra. Hosted by Australian Network for Plant Conservation. Themes explored include connecting

conservation and community, identifying natural values, monitoring, where to get help and biodiversity values of TSR. ANPC members \$170pp, non members (community group) \$180pp. RSVP to 6250 9509.

## Board Builder Conference

This year's conference theme is 'Spring Clean your Board'. Friday 18 November, Melbourne—this conference is for community sector boards, committees and councils. Learn more about risk management, roles and responsibilities of boards, troubleshooting and the dynamics of boards. \$295pp. More at [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)

## Cert IV in Business Governance

A practical accredited, staff governance training for the members and supporters of Boards, Management Committees and Councils of Australian Community groups and schools. To be held 24-27 October in Armidale (9.30am-4pm). This is Australia's most inexpensive accredited governance qualification. \$1595—contact Regional Landcare Facilitator Jennie Coldham [jennie@gbic.org.au](mailto:jennie@gbic.org.au) to see if you are eligible for Department of Education and Training rebates. More at

Past editions of the Update are available at [www.landcare.nsw.org.au/nenw-docs](http://www.landcare.nsw.org.au/nenw-docs)

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



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

## Chemcert Workshops

A new round of chemical card workshops are scheduled for October in Inverell, Armidale, Tenterfield and Glen Innes.

Initial accreditation \$340;  
Refresher \$250

Armidale	14 November or
Inverell	19 October or
	17 November
Glen Innes	18 October
Tenterfield	17 October or
	16 November

More details from

[www.chemcert.com.au](http://www.chemcert.com.au) or 1800 444 228.

## Wind Farm Feasibility

The Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Fair Trading and 3 community organizations funded a feasibility study into New England Wind. The final report of the study will be launched at Armidale's Sustainable Living Expo (SLEX) on 22 October. If you are after a copy, email Adam Blakester [adam@starfishenterprises.net](mailto:adam@starfishenterprises.net) or Paul Cruickshank [paul.cruickshank.nsw.gov.au](mailto:paul.cruickshank.nsw.gov.au)

## Chilean Needle Grass

In a joint project between BRG CMA, Landcare and local weeds officers, Chilean Needle Grass will be in the spotlight over the next month. As a Weed of National Significance, funding will be injected into controlling outlying infestations of the species throughout the Border

Rivers-Gwydir region. This program will also be supported by a number of awareness raising field days, including:

Glen Innes	27 October
Swan Vale	8 November
Inverell	10 November

Further details available from Glenrac 67323443 or Gwymac 67211241.

## Dung Beetle Roadshow 2012

The Landcare Networks of Granite Borders, Glenrac, Southern New England Landcare, Gwymac and Upper Gwydir Landcare Association will be supporting the 2012 Dung Beetle Roadshow. This is a partnership project with Northern Tablelands Dung Beetle Express Project and funded by Caring for our Country Community Action Grants. Scheduled for November, the Roadshow will feature the latest information on dung beetles, pestivirus and also buffalo fly management. More information available soon.

## Solar Flagship in Moree

Moree Solar Farm has been selected as the winner of funding for its photovoltaic project. This will see the NSW Government inject \$120 million to support the project. The 150 megawatt project is planned to begin construction in mid 2012. When complete, it will comprise 650,000 photovoltaic panels and produce enough

power for about 45,000 households.

## Future of Agriculture Debate

The National Farmers' Federation and Westpac are calling for farmers to have their say on shaping the future of Australian agriculture. The Blueprint for Australian Agriculture was launched by Jock Laurie this week in Canberra. It is designed to outline the role of farming and agriculture in Australia over the next 40 years and the challenges it must overcome. A series of workshops will be held across the country over the coming months to gather input from all stakeholders involved in the industry - from farm to fork.

## If You Care: Food Security Forum

A food security forum will be hosted Wednesday 12th October, 11am at Gunnedah Town Hall or Showground. To be hosted by Alan Jones, the event will shine a light on the importance of food producing regions in our country.

The forum will be filmed by Sky TV and continues on from the first televised forum held in Oakey in August this year. Hosted by Caroon Coal Action Group and Mullaey Pipeline Group, all are welcome to attend. [www.gabpg.org.au](http://www.gabpg.org.au)