

Regional Landcare Update 5

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

Issue 5: 25 March 2010

Farm Succession workshops

Presenters Lyn Sykes (Succession Planning facilitator) and Kathy Sims (CPA and former Rural Financial Counsellor) are leading a series of Succession Planning workshops for landholders.

The workshop will explore options for passing on the family farm without hurting family relationships.

Farm Ready approved. Contact Rural Biz 6884 8812 or admin@ruralbiztraining.com.au

Climate Change creates Opportunity

A new RIRDC publication highlights a range of opportunities for the development of new rural industries, to assist farmers adapt to climate change. The report, *New Rural Industries for Rural Climates* was released recently.

The report identifies new opportunities for new rural industries, due to increased extreme climatic conditions associated with climate change. Many crops identified have a tolerance for drought and / or salinity and are water use efficient. Download a copy at www.rirc.gov.au

Farming the Sun

In the last 18 months there has been a large take-up of solar energy across the New England – particularly solar power & hot water & the first large solar farms. Farming the Sun information sessions will be held as below:

29 Mar 5.30-6.30pm, **Uralla** Community Centre
30 Mar 12.30-1.30pm, **Guyra** Gala centre
30 Mar 5.30-6.30pm Duval Seminar Room, **UNE**
31 Mar 5.30-6.30pm, **Walcha** Motel

The Sessions include information for homes & businesses; rebates & credits available; high quality technology options for solar power & hot water, the free Sustainable Home Assessments & details of the new Solar Bonus Scheme that pays **you** for power. www.ness.wikidot.com or Liz Gardiner 6778 7249 Adam Blakester 6775 2501

Ask a Farmer

The NSW Farmers' Association is seeking assistance from Members for the Sydney Royal Easter Show 'Ask a Farmer' program, which will be held in Food Farm pavilion from 1 April until 14 April 2010. The Food Farm Pavilion attracts around 350,000 visitors throughout the show. It aims to educate children, teachers and parents about where their food comes from and how it is produced in a sustainable manner.

If you are interested in assisting this program, please complete an 'expression of interest form' by Friday 26 March 2010 at the link below. www.nswfarmers.org.au/about_us/eoi_-_ask_a_farmer_program

Adventure Could Win Your Group \$2500!

The NE NW Landcare Adventure 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.

Thanks to Landcare Australia, \$2,500 will be given away to an Adventure participant for a Landcare project! To be eligible, just explain in 25 words or less how your group could spend \$2,500 when registering. Contact GBLC 67363500.

Volunteer Grants Open

Under this program, \$21 million will be available to eligible non-profit community organisations to assist their volunteers and encourage volunteering. Volunteer Grants provides funding of between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Projects can focus on costs of training courses for volunteers; purchase portable, tangible, small equipment items to help volunteers; fuel reimbursement for volunteers for transport others to activities, delivering food and assist people in need. Volunteer Grants 2010 closes at **2 pm AEST on Friday 16 April 2010** www.fahcsia.gov.au

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



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Protecting Our Places Open

The aim of the Protecting Our Places program is to protect land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people and to support education projects about the environment and its importance in Aboriginal life.

Grants of between \$2000 and \$35000 are now available for projects that restore aboriginal land that is culturally significant and / or projects that educate the aboriginal community.

Partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations are supported, but the applicant organisation /group must be Aboriginal. Applications for the Protecting our Places program close 4 June 2010. Details at www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

Private Native Forestry Info Sessions

NSW Industry and Investment along with Dept of Climate Change and Water will host a series of field days to increase awareness of opportunities and regulations surrounding Private Native Forestry (PNF). Free lunch and morning tea will be provided, pre-registration is essential for those attending. Presenters include representatives from Forests NSW, Forestry Consultants and DECCW. Topics cover measuring your PNF through to PNF - Making it Pay.

Dates:

16th April – **Gunnedah**

20th April – **Bingara** (9am start)
22nd April – **Yetman** (9am start)

Phone John Macgregor-Skinner
66722770 john.macgregor-skinner@dpi.nsw.gov.au

National Climate Change Workshops

Hosted by Soil Systems Australia in conjunction with Organic Federation of Australia, this workshop will be held Friday 23rd April at Wright Robinson Winery, Glencoe. The climate change workshops are open to all producers and cost is \$40 / producer.

The information session will run from 9am – 3pm; non organic producers are welcome to attend. More information at www.soilsystems.com.au/news.html

Soils Health Day at Inverell

Hosted by Gwymac and Bannockburn Landcare Group, Sally Muir (Extension Officer) from Department Industry and Investment will present a one day workshop on soils health on Thursday 15th April.

Sally is a specialist in soil biology management and provides advisory services for nutritional and physical sustainability of soils.

The day will be spent doing hands-on assessments of soil health, with inexpensive and readily available tools. The field day will include 3 diverse sites in the Bannockburn Landcare area, north of Inverell.

All are welcome - attendance is free. For further information, contact Gwymac 67211241.

Eco Schools

These grants are currently being offered by NSW Environmental Trust. This program provides grants to schools to give them the opportunity to involve their students and community in developing and implementing environmental management projects.

The ultimate goal of the Eco Schools grants program is the development of ecologically sustainable schools.

Grants are available to a maximum value of \$2500, more at www.environmental-trust.gov.au ; closes 21st May 2010.

Native Grass Seed Harvester Available

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA now has a native grass seed harvester available. The harvester was commissioned by BR-G CMA in a bid to encourage the establishment of native grasses in the catchment.

The machine is user-friendly and is built on a trailer that can simply be towed by a ute with a tow-bar.

The machine will harvest nearly all native grass species including blue grass, kangaroo grass, native sorghum, Mitchell grass, slender panic, spring grass and wallaby grass. Further details available from BRG CMA Inverell 67288020 or Moree 67572550.