

Regional Landcare Update 6

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

Issue 6: 8 April 2010

Environmental Trust Grants

The 2010 round of grants available through NSW Environmental Trust are currently open. This includes a range of funding programs targeting schools, community groups, the indigenous community and local government.

Closing dates are varied; check online for specific program details at www.environment.nsw.gov.au

NSW Farmer of the Year

NSW Farmers Association has launched the 2010 Farmer of the Year competition. The Awards are a joint initiative of the Association and also NSW Industry and Investment. There are two categories in the Awards – NSW Farmer of the Year and NSW Young Farmer of the Year. Winners receive \$10,000 and \$5,000 for the respective categories. Online application forms are available at www.nswfarmers.org.au

Landcare Projects attract additional funding

Federal Minister Tony Burke has announced further funding for Landcare based projects. Last year, the Rudd government announced \$5 million of funding across 299 community projects. This included projects in the Gwympac, Granite Borders, SNELC and Glenrac regions. Minister Burke has now announced a further \$876,000 of funding, which will see an

additional 49 Landcare projects across Australia, up to the value of \$20,000 each. In our region, approved projects in round 2 announcements include Glenrac, who will implement a biodiversity project aimed at enhancing remnant vegetation and planting additional native vegetation across the Glen Innes district. A full list of projects is available at www.nrm.gov.au

Succession Farming Info Day in Glen

Rural Biz will conduct a Farm Succession Planning workshop in Glen Innes on Thursday 27th May. The workshop will be led by Lyn Sykes, well known for her expertise in the field of succession planning. Topics addressed on the day include how to fund farm succession and retirement at the same time; what issues are important and finding a starting point. The workshop is Farm Ready accredited. For further details or registration forms, contact Rural Biz 1800 087 670.

Adventure Registrations Closing Soon!

Registrations for the NE NW Landcare Adventure will be closing shortly. The event will be held 21-22 April and will be hosted by Granite Borders Landcare Committee, the Tenterfield-based Landcare Network. Cost for landholders is \$75 per person. This includes all meals,

accommodation, (including the Landcare Awards Dinner) and transport.

Registering means landholders could win \$2,500 for their local Landcare project. Contact GBLC 67363500.

RIRDC Names Finalists

The State winners of the 2010 RIRDC Rural Women's Award have been announced. In NSW, the winner Lana Mitchell, who was awarded with a \$10,000 bursary.

Lana is a native flower grower based at Gundaroo, north of Canberra who now exports flannel flowers to the US and Japan. The state winners now proceed to the national final, with the winner to be named on 25th May.

Climate Champions Named

A group of 30 farmers have been named Climate Champions, by rural research and development corporations covering grain, wool, meat, sugar, horticulture and irrigation. The group includes landholders and extension officers.

The Climate Champions will assist with the Australian Government's *Managing Climate Variability program*; providing a farmers' perspective to researchers and decision makers. Climate Champions will also demonstrate adaptation to fellow landholders. More at managingclimate.gov.au

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



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Warialda Rural Forum Boasts Eminent Speakers

'Bent Over and Sunburnt' is the slogan for the Warialda Rural Forum, being hosted on 16th April at Warialda Bowling Club.

The forum will investigate the 'cracks in the system'; providing options and alternative ways of thinking to attendees. Speakers for the event include Michael and Louisa Kiely from Carbon Coalition, Leigh Belbeck (Bindaree Beef) and 2009 Rural Woman of the Year Kim Currie, the driving force behind Orange's wine, food and tourism initiative. A key note address will be delivered by Federal MP and local, Mark Coulton.

Further details are available from Gwydir Shire Council's Rod Smith, 67293006 or rsmith@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Calls for 'Alternative Ag' Farm Trials

'Outcomes Australia' a government backed group, chaired by former Governor-General Major-General Michael Jeffery, has called for more trials of alternative farming to reinvigorate the Murray Darling Basin.

In a recent meeting with senior water and agriculture stakeholders in Canberra, the group recommended organic, biodynamic, holistic and natural sequence farming are groundtruthed across demonstration farms. Major-General Michael Jeffery hopes

that within a decade, a third of Australian farmers will have ceased using artificial fertilisers. Outcomes Australia continues its fact-finding tour of rural Australia and will report recommendations to both State and Federal governments. More information at www.abc.net.au/rural/act/canberra

Woolworths' Ag Scholarships

Together with University of Western Sydney and Royal Agriculture Society of NSW, Woolworths is offering 30 young Australians the opportunity to attend the 2010 Agricultural Business Scholarship program.

Applications are open to anyone currently employed in the agriculture industry or those studying in year 2 or further of a tertiary degree in Agriculture or Horticulture. Applicants need to be between the ages of 20-30. Successful applicants will attend a 12 day course with leading lecturers from UWS and Woolworth's business management team.

Closes 28th May 2010. More at Woolworths.com.au (follow the links).

Communities in Control Conference

The Communities in Control movement brings groups together from across the entire community sector and from all over Australia. The focus of the conference is our common future and how we can build on our common strengths and

take control of our community's future.

Date of the 2010 conference is 31 May – 1 June in Melbourne. The conference is especially relevant for those working for or in community development. A post-conference skills day will also be held (2 June), focusing on sustainable fundraising and marketing in hard times. Registration fees start at \$298. service@ourcommunity.com.au

Kookaburra Awards

Supported by Westpac, these annual awards recognise community groups and individuals who lead change in our community. The 2010 Kookaburra Awards will offer prizes to individuals and organisations and projects that really make a difference – that stretch people's vision of what's possible in our community. A \$10,000 prize package is awarded to winners. Entries close 12 May 2010. www.ourcommunity.com.au

Enviro Weeds Workshop

Industry and Investment will host a workshop on environmental weeds, using their new computerised key. The workshop will be a 'Train the Trainer' event, held in Armidale 14th April. The course targets those working in extension areas, nurseries, weeds officers, NRM agencies such as CMA and community organisations such as Landcare. More available from Matt Benham, Armidale Dumaresq Council 67703602.



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