

# Regional Landcare Update 7

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

Issue 7: 23 April 2010

## 2010 Landcare Adventure Winners Announced

This week's Landcare Adventure hosted the annual Awards dinner in Tenterfield. The event was an opportunity for each of the 5 Landcare networks to recognise their Landcare Champions. Winners for each Landcare network were as follows:

### GWYMAC:

Neville & Dorelle Bryant

### Upper Gwydir Landcare Association:

Mardi Coulton

### Glenrac:

Sandy Fitzgerald

### Southern New England Landcare:

Gordon Bell  
Jim Reid

### Granite Borders Landcare:

Sandra Smith  
Alan Horneman

Congratulations to all winners for the award and for your continued support of Landcare in your region.

## Next Gen Program

The New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority has secured funding to run a workshop program during 2010.

The program will target young local leaders and focus on building skills in leadership, communication, mental health and improving productivity. Successful applicants will

participate in a series of 3 x 2 day workshops. Students, landholders and those working in the agriculture industry aged 18-25 are all encouraged to apply. Applications close 28.5.2010. Contact New England LHPA 67321200.

## Bio Fertile Farms workshop

Milkwood Farm at Mudgee will host a 3 day workshop to demystify soil biology and improve soil, water and nutrient retention. The workshop is part of the Regenerative Agriculture Series and will be held 29 September – 1 October. Special guest for the workshop will be Eugenio Gras from Mexico.

The \$650 workshop is free for landholders who access the FarmReady rebate. More details available from [www.regenAG.com](http://www.regenAG.com)

## Sheep CRC Day

The CRC for Sheep Industry Innovation and NSW Industry and Investment will host a workshop on 28<sup>th</sup> April. The event will include topics such as genetics, precision sheep management, beating blow-fly and nutritious, high yielding lambs and producing wool you want to wear.

The event boasts an array of speakers including Lewis Kahn (UNE), David Pethick (Murdoch University) and Alex Ball (MLA). Speakers from Sheep CRC will also address attendees. RSVP to Janelle Holzberger 67732927.

## Break it Down Composting

This 1-day workshop will be held on-farm on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Guest speaker and farm owner, Luke Bowman will discuss his composting enterprise; explain the equipment required and also the controlled microbial composting process.

Cost is \$66 per person, with numbers limited. Contact Felicity Baker at Namoi CMA for more details 67429214

## Mobile Muster Gears Up

You can help Mobile Muster and Landcare Australia at the same time, by recycling your old mobile phone through the 'Old phones, more trees' campaign. Under the program, one tree will be planted by Landcare for every 1kg of mobile phones collected. This campaign runs from 1<sup>st</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June and this year, Landcare hopes to plant a further 30,000 under the scheme.

Mobile phone handsets, batteries and chargers are all recyclable. Hand your phone in to your local phone retailer.

## Queensland Landcare Conference

The 2010 Queensland Landcare Conference will be held 14-17 September in Caloundra. The event will be the first Australia-wide State Landcare conference.

Themes explored at this event are a direct result of survey feedback from grassroots Landcare. Four conference

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



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themes have been selected – these being Natural Sequence Farming, Carbon Farming, Permaculture and Organic Farming. The event will include tours, forums and workshops. More details at [www.landcare2010.com](http://www.landcare2010.com) or phone 07 3844 0417.

## Weeds Field Day

Glenrac and Gwymac, the Landcare networks of Glen Innes and Inverell will host their Weeds in the Spotlight field day on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

The event will be held on Warrawee near Swan Vale, owned by Heather and Terry Young. Guest speakers for the day include Les Tanner, Bob McGufficke, Jonathan Lawson as well as landholders conducting trials of Chilean Needle Grass control. Running from 9am – 1pm, the event is free. Contact Glenrac 67323443 or Gwymac 67211241 for more details.

## Grasslands Society 2010 Conference

The theme of the Grasslands Society conference this year is 'Adapting Mixed Farms to Future Environments'. The 2-day event will take place 28-29 July in Dubbo. The 2010 event will look at issues faced by graziers and farmers in an increasingly challenging climate.

Extensive site tours include the sheep abattoir at Dubbo, trial sites at Trangie and saltbush lamb marketing at Wellington.

More information is available from Toni George 68808034 or [toni.george@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:toni.george@industry.nsw.gov.au)

## Saltland Genie Available

Landholders and extension officers now have access to a genie to help make the most of salt affected land.

The *Saltland Genie* is an interactive website to boost the productivity of saline land. It includes information on selecting the right pasture options, stories on landholders who are successfully managing salt affected land, research papers and interactive areas.

The web based resource is backed by a range of organisations, including CSIRO, MLA, and Future Farm Industries CRC as well as state governments of NSW, SA, Victoria and WA. [www.saltlandgenie.org.au](http://www.saltlandgenie.org.au)

## School Gardens show results

The concept of bringing vegetable and fruit gardens into schools is producing flow on results. With the success of Stephanie Alexander's school gardens and also state-run program such as Edible School Gardens, more and more students are actively learning about where their food comes from.

Landcare Australia's Junior grants - Coles and Yates programs – close on 14<sup>th</sup> May. These grants are up to \$1000 per project. More at [www.landcareonline.com](http://www.landcareonline.com) or [www.edibleschoolgardens.com.au](http://www.edibleschoolgardens.com.au)

## ProFarm workshop on Working Dogs

This two day course is for owners of working dogs or those looking to purchase a dog either for farm use or competition. The workshop will be held in Tamworth 29-30 May.

Topics explored include animal health and welfare; skills and methods for training dogs; herding instincts and working traits. More details available from Cassie Gardiner at the Tamworth Ag Institute 67631100.

## National Landcare Awards tickets available

Landcare Australia has commenced ticket sales for the National Landcare Awards gala dinner. Cost is \$50 pp to attend the awards dinner in Canberra on 24<sup>th</sup> June. The awards will be preceded by a workshop session, where finalists will present their nominated projects. RSVP by 31<sup>st</sup> May to [awards@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:awards@landcareaustralia.com.au)

## World Environment Day Awards

Celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> June, World Environment Day is hosting an awards program. The awards recognise projects that protect, manage and restore the environment. Volunteer programs and local government projects are both eligible. Entries close 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Entry forms and guidelines available at [www.unaavictoria.org.au](http://www.unaavictoria.org.au)



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