

Regional Landcare Update 8

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

Issue 8: 7 May 2010

Eco Smart Building Expo

This expo will focus on sustainable living in the Namoi and is a free event, being hosted across the Namoi region. Upcoming dates include:

Tamworth 8-9 May
Gunnedah 15-16 May

The expo is hosted by Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee in association with Namoi CMA. The event includes tours of open houses, workshops, exhibits and eco-friendly products. More details available from Rachel Hill 67418365 or 0447 518 332

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.

Biodiversity Workshop in Ashford

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA will host a Biodiversity workshop in Ashford on 26th May. The event

will feature ecologist Wendy Hawes from The Envirofactor. The event is open to the community is free of charge. Further information and registrations to Andrew Walsh 67288044.

Community Development Grants Program

This grant is funded by the Community Relations Commission. The Commission has introduced a new direction in grant applications with the creation of three grant categories to better support the work of not-for-profit incorporated community organisations.

The General Grants program closes 28th May. Details at www.crc.nsw.gov.au

National Tree Day – Time to Register

Each year, hundreds of Landcare groups register a site for National Tree Day. Last year 312000 Australians participated in National Tree Day activities.

Now is the time to register your 2010 Tree Day site. Those registering before 28th May go into the running to win one of 50 Site Coordinator Promotion Packs. These packs include giveaways for participants and also a National Tree Day t-shirt for your coordinator.

Register now at treeday.planetark.org/involved/coordinate.cfm or 1300 88 5000.

Spree on Board with Landcare

Laundry detergent Spree has become a national Landcare sponsor. Spree has pledged support for a number of Landcare based activities, including land based projects and a project focusing on regeneration of the Murray Darling Basin. Under this scheme, 30000 native species will be planted in the mid-Lachlan Landcare region of NSW.

Draft Plan for Comment

The draft Gwydir Wetlands Adaptive Environmental Management Plan is on exhibition until 24th May and public submissions are invited. The Gwydir Wetlands provide habitat for rare, endangered and vulnerable species and support large populations of migratory water birds and colonial water bird breeding events.

A printed copy of the Draft Plan may be requested by calling 131 555 or emailing info@environment.nsw.gov.au. The Moree office of the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA also has printed copies.

Love Food Campaign launched

NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change have launched a *Love Food Hate Waste* campaign. The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness of the food we waste and its impact on the

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Email to gwymacgg@bigpond.com



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environment. Negative impacts of wasted food include contributing to generation of methane and burden on landfill sites.

More information and details on how to be involved at www.lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au

Waste into Art

Local governments of the New England-North West, together with Northern Inland Regional Waste are hosting the 2010 Waste into Art competition. The competition encourages the community to think creatively about re-using waste and is sponsored by Country Energy.

Entries close on 4th June. A regional travelling exhibition will follow.

Details at www.nirw.org.au

Technology of Growing Grass

This 2-day workshop will be presented by Grazing BestPrac on 7-8 July.

The workshop is an opportunity to learn more about the carbon cycle, how to brew compost tea and the benefits of regenerative agriculture. The workshop is FarmReady accredited (usually \$990). More details at www.grazingbestpac.com.au

Caring for our Country may suffer cuts

A recent article in the Canberra Times reported the Caring for our Country funding package may suffer cuts of up to 25%. Figures provided by

Environment Department sources suggest Caring For Our Country is scheduled to take a 22per cent cut down from \$544million allocated in last year's budget forward estimates for the 2010-11 financial year to around \$433million - as quoted by departmental staff.

Soil Health at Glen Innes

Glenrac will host a free Soil Health workshop on 27th May at Glen Innes Golf Club. Running from 9.30am – 1pm, the workshop will discuss measuring and monitoring of soil health on Northern Tablelands properties.

Guest speakers for the event include Derek Smith, Carolyn Ditchfield and Jeff Lowien. RSVP to Glenrac on 67323443.

Biodegradable Fishing Line

A newly developed biodegradable fishing line has the potential to reduce the loss of aquatic species. Early trials with recreational fishers indicate the line is similar in quality to conventional lines – and degrades within 5 years. More details at www.frdc.com.au/documentlibrary/FISH%2017-4.pdf

ANZ Foundation Grants

The ANZ Staff Foundation offers funding to community groups to help them achieve their goals. Projects with an environmental focus are eligible to apply. Details available from 1800 808 910. Closes 15th July.

Harvesting the Sun in Inverell

Gwymac will host an information day all about solar energy in Inverell. The event will take place on Sunday 20th June.

Features of Harvesting the Sun include trade exhibits on solar (PV) panels, solar hot water systems, solar pumps as well as information on rebates. Speakers include residents who have made the switch to solar energy as well as DECC staff. More details available from Gwymac 67211241.

Frogs Online Information

Australia is home to more than 216 native frog species. The Frogs Australia Network provides a comprehensive online reference for identifying frogs, information on habitat and species conservation. You can also join the Frogs Australia Network to keep receive updates on new programs and projects. www.frogsaustralia.net.au/frogs/

Supergrass Could Boost Biofuel Potential

Scientists in Victoria have developed a new type of 'supergrass' that has the potential to be a better way of converting biomass into biofuel. The genetic modification technology can be applied to perennial grasses such as ryegrass and in trials, has led to a doubling of plant biomass. www.abc.net.au/rural/



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