

Regional Landcare Update 19

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

Issue 19: 1st October 2010

Ben Lomond Soil Carbon Workshop

Ben Lomond Landcare group will showcase its Soil carbon project at a workshop on 4th November 2010 at Ben Lomond. Developed in partnership with Glenrac, this project will benchmark soil carbon levels and soil biology across a diversity of farming systems, soil types, rainfall areas and altitudes within the Ben Lomond district. Special guests include UNE research scientists Dr Chris Guppy and Dr Paul Kristiansen, who will discuss the latest results from Tablelands research programs. RCS senior consultant, Gary McDouall, will discuss sustainable farming techniques and soil biology. Register your attendance with Glenrac on 6732 3443 or glenrac@glenrac.org.au by 29th October 2010

McMaster Research Station Open Day

Located north of Warialda, McMaster Research Station will host their annual open day on Friday 8th October. Theme of the day will be sustainable mixed farming systems in a changing climate. Other issues explored during the day include water efficiency in cropping systems and how to graze cropping country without damaging yields. Other showcase items include GPS livestock tracking and

Graze 2 program. Lunch available. More details available from Simon Jasper 67295044.

Wind Farm Info Session

NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water will host an information session on wind energy, specifically targeted at landholders. This free event will take place at Armidale Town Hall on November 19. A free bus will run from Tenterfield for the day and pick up passengers en route. Wind farming developers operating in the Northern Tablelands will be on hand, as well as government agency staff. Complementary meals. Contact your local Landcare network for more information.

Joint Weeds Focus at Swan Vale

A joint weeds field day will be hosted at Swan Vale (halfway between Inverell and Glen Innes) on 11th October. Guests include district weeds officers, CMA invasive species officer and Landcare staff. Noxious and WONS weeds will be on hand to assist landholders improve skills in ID and management. Focus will also be on local WONS, Chilean Needle Grass + Serrated Tussock. Bring along any weeds needing ID. Free morning tea and lunch provided. RSVP to Gwymac 67211241

Women's Award Closing Soon

There is still time to nominate for the 2010 Rural Women's Award. Closing date is 15th October. Winners receive a \$10,000 bursary for further development. More at www.ruralwomensaward.gov.au

Promote Your Work!

Want to share the good work of your organisation / group with the rest of the community? Why not promote your upcoming event on the Landcare Australia events calendar. Go to www.landcareonline.com.au for more details.

Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture

Hosted by NutriTech Solutions, this FarmReady approved course will run in Coonabarabran from 11-14 October. Includes skills sessions, hands-on sessions and opportunity to network with industry professionals and landholders. The 4-day workshop will focus on mineral, microbe, plant and pest management. Human health management will also be covered each day. More information from Suzi at NTS (07) 54729900.

Vigilance is the Key

LHPA staff are reminding landholders to remain vigilant for locust hatchings, with confirmation of the first

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



Regional Landcare Update

Authorities in four states have started aerial spraying, as fears of devastating locust plagues intensify. This week, locust hatchings have been spotted in areas including Muswellbrook and Bylong.

Warmer weather and moisture should see additional hatchings from here on. More at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/insects/locusts/current

Youth Leading Australia

YOUth LEADing Australia is a national youth climate action congress that will run simultaneously in 12 locations around Australia 23-25 November. OzGREEN launched YLA in November 2009, bringing together 500 young people aged 10-30 years, in 7 locations across Australia.

Together they learnt about local sustainability challenges; they met with local sustainability champions; and shared success stories, challenges, actions and inspiration with each other through digital media and social networking technology.

In our area, Armidale will host a YLA event this year, with another 11 venues nationally and 5 international venues. Register your interest now / find out more at www.ozgreen.org

Coolatai Grass Focus

Glenrac will host a field day at Strathbogie on 9th November to examine the results of a trial Coolatai control project designed and initiated by landholders Jim & Yvonne Benton. The Bentons have combined a number of management & control strategies to reduce infestations of Coolatai and promote more desirable pasture species, particularly native grasses. Participants will have the opportunity to view the trial sites and hear from Jim Benton. District agronomist, Jeff Lowien, will also be on hand to share knowledge and experience with Coolatai grass management. RSVP to Glenrac 6732 3443 or glenrac@glenrac.org.au by 3.11.2010.

Public Facilities Program

Offered by the NSW Government, this program provides \$30 million to water and energy saving projects across NSW. Up to \$40,000 is available per organisation for projects that improve resource use efficiency. Closes 25.10.2010, go to www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Wetlandcare Competition

Wetlandcare Australia has launched its 2010 National Art + Photography Competition. With 5 categories and prizes up to the value of \$1500, the competition has a category available for everyone. All artwork and photos must be your

original work. Closes 3.12.2010. Download an entry form at www.wetlandcare.com.au

Pasture Improvement Calculator

EverGraze has launched a new calculator to help work out the costs and benefits of re-sowing pastures. The "Pasture Improvement Calculator", calculates farm inputs, including costs of re-sowing, the benefits of the re-sown pastures to livestock, soils and the environment at any given financial values (ie different interest rates, tax rates, gross margins etc). The tool allows comparison of two different re-sowing options compared to current practice. Download your copy at www.evergraze.com.au/tools.htm

Flagship Event at Inverell

The annual Resource Management Competition Field Day will be held Friday 8th October at Inverell.

Hosted by Inverell based Macintyre Development Unit, the event is now in its 23rd year, and is expected to attract upward of 80 landholders.

Key note speaker Mike McCosker, who will discuss his research + work in the biological fertiliser industry and also outline his progress establishing a hemp-growing industry in the area. A free event, sponsored by BRG CMA, GWYMAC and The Tree Tenders, call 67211241.

