

Landchat

Landcare in the Southern New England, No. 84, July - August 2011

Southern New England Landcare...

Our **VISION** is for a vibrant, socially and economically healthy community existing in a healthy, productive and biodiverse environment.

Our **MISSION** is to foster community participation in sustainable natural resource management.

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Diary Dates

PMP Information night Uralla.....	17 Aug
BRG CMA Community meetings @	
Uralla & Guyra	24 Aug
Fox Competitions close.....	31 Aug
Prograze courses	Sep
State Landcare & Catchment Management Forum and State Landcare Awards, Parkes	5-7 Sep
Book Launch.....	6 Oct

Recognising Women Farmers Grants

The girls at Southern New England Landcare are always busy writing funding applications for a wide range of potential activities, so it is great when they are successful!

Two recent successes have been through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Recognising Women Farmers Grant Program.

"This program aims to help build leadership and representative skills of women involved in primary industries, particularly given the challenges of a changing climate," said Bec Ballard.

"Projects will help build these skills and strengthen the networks that women in rural, regional and remote areas depend on. So sorry guys, on this occasion it is all about the girls!" she said.

SNEL is one of only two organisations in NSW to receive funding under these grants!

Southern New England Women Adapting to Changing Landscapes

This project will provide women currently working in grazing enterprises with training and tools to assist with climate change challenges. It will identify the threat of climate change on biodiversity and our natural icons as well as the importance of sustainable agricultural practices and community networks to landscape resilience.

Run collaboratively by Southern New England Landcare and the NSW Department of Primary Industries, participants will take part in 5 workshops/activities over the next 9 months. These workshops include training opportunities, forums and bus tours.

The program will look at local women in agriculture, showcase new and exciting agricultural enterprises, and discuss potential impacts of climate change and possibilities for adaptation and mitigation on farm.

If you are interested in learning about what climate change will mean for you as well as being a part of a great network of women in agriculture from across the region contact the Southern New England Landcare office by the 26th of August. Places are limited so register now.

Continued on page 3

Funding *Successes!*



Above: Improving degraded riparian areas and remediating eroded lands project.

Below: Vegetation management for threatened woodland birds project.



Environmental Trust funds two large projects

Two large projects funded by the NSW Environmental Trust are now well and truly underway. In early 2009, Southern New England Landcare and Citizens Wildlife Corridors each received funding to complete a Degraded Riparian Areas and Remediating Eroded Lands Project, and a Vegetation Management for Threatened Woodland Birds Project respectively.

Both projects consist of a total of 19 rural properties. Seven properties are working on projects to rehabilitate degraded riparian and eroded lands. The result of these works will involve the protection of upland riparian zones and reduction of erosion and downstream sedimentation. The aim of this work is to improve the water quality in numerous tributaries of the Northern Rivers and Border-Rivers

Gwydir Catchments.

The remaining twelve properties are undertaking works which aim to manage vegetation and habitat for threatened woodland birds. The sites were selected as priority areas managed by sympathetic landholders to enhance, protect and manage existing patches of native vegetation. The work of this project adds to the region's continuing efforts to create linkages, corridors and refuges between patches of remnant vegetation.

Both projects also involve monitoring and evaluation plans, which will help to determine and quantify the impacts of such projects. It is important to monitor just how effective projects such as these are being, as this will allow for improvements in future project design. As well as this, if we can prove that these kinds of works are in fact working and achieving their aims, we will have a greater chance of attracting more funding to continue such works into the future.

Some key project statistics:

Improving Degraded Riparian Areas & Remediating Eroded Lands Project

- 8 km of stream protected
- 36 ha of remnant vegetation protected
- 11 km of fencing
- 7 properties.

Vegetation Management for Threatened Woodland Birds Project

- 24 ha of revegetation implemented
- 32 ha of remnant vegetation protected
- 16 km of fencing
- 12 properties.



BRG CMA Small Schools Environmental Grants

Kentucky Public School - "School Nature Reserve Rejuvenation" - \$1500

The school's large native habitat area was badly affected during the recent long term drought with a number of shrubs and trees dying partly due to a lack of mulching and soils becoming compacted. This has led to a reduction in bird life (the children conduct 'audits' to complete graphing activities in maths) and other ground dwelling animals that lack shelter. The area needs mulching and replanting with shrubs and trees that will attract bird life.

This project will include:

- the re-establishment of approximately 30-40 native trees and shrubs in an existing native garden across an area 1750 square metres;
- increasing native bird life and ground dwelling animals;
- continued student learning about native vegetation and the roles it plays in the environment; and
- long term sustainability of the area.

Kingstown Public School - "Biodiversity in the Playground" - \$1500

The School's aim is to increase biodiversity in the playground with natural habitat in conjunction with a natural pond and to bring back the native vegetation and use conservation methods to encourage the children to care for the land and see the benefits of biodiversity to the environment.

This project will include:

- Restore existing pond;
- Plant native trees and shrubs around the pond covering an area 20m x 20m;
- Erect project signage to acknowledge project and educate the community;
- increase habitat for native wildlife;
- continued student learning about native vegetation and the roles it plays in the environment; and
- increase community awareness about the importance of biodiversity.



Apology

What on earth was I thinking about? Clearly I wasn't thinking at all when I rushed off a "thank you" paragraph for the last edition of Landchat, and thanked the wrong person!

So please accept my apologies, Helen Schwartz! You are the one who sourced more than 1500 free native plants for community plantings. And you are the one who re-potted them all before they went to their final locations!

Thank you, Helen Schwartz, from all of us who benefited. And again my sincere apologies for the previous issue's name misprint.

Jill Moore Kashima

Thankyou Armidale Dumaresq Council

Armidale Dumaresq Council has once again provided support to the Community Landcare Resource Centre to the tune of \$10,000.

Thank you to all staff and Councillors, for your continued support of community environmental initiatives in this way.

Continued from page 1

Women's Business

A two day initiative where women on the land come together to network, develop skills, build resilience and plan for the future. Working directly with Banbai women on tribal land, women of all ages will revisit their role as caretakers of the land and the skills required to live sustainably.

This event will occur later in the year so stay tuned, and keep and eye out for more information in the next edition of Landchat.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Farm Ready grants re-open

On the 16th of June, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, said that the program will re-open on 1 July 2011 and changes will be introduced to extend the availability of funds and make the program accessible to more primary producers. The Minister also announced that the Farm Ready Reimbursement Grants will be expanded to include agritourism and food tourism training.

Primary producers and wild game harvesters will now be entitled to a reimbursement of 65% of the costs of approved courses. Each primary producer can still claim up to a maximum \$1500 each financial year, with funding up to \$500 also available to assist with travel, accommodation and child care expenses. The arrangements for indigenous land managers will not change and they will be eligible for a 100% reimbursement of the cost of approved training courses up to the maximum of \$1500 annually. For further information about FarmReady visit www.daff.gov.au/farmready.



High Country

Urban Biodiversity Project

Dates

- Uralla Mt Mutton Bush
Regeneration: The fourth Sunday of every month, 1:00pm to 4:00pm – August 28th, September 25th
- Armidale Snow Gums: The first Sunday of the month (starting September 4th), from 9:00am to 12:00pm
- UNE Landcare Working Bee: Sunday 21st August from 10:00am to 1:00pm and Wednesday 24th of August, 12:00pm to 2:00pm
- September: Bush regeneration in Guyra (Wednesday 7th, date TBC);
- Guyra Indian Myna workshop (Saturday 10th, date TBC);
- Armidale Urban Rivercare Group working bee Sunday 11th
- Walcha Bush Regeneration (Wednesday 21st, TBC)
- Woodlands Week, across Guyra, Armidale, Uralla and Walcha, from Saturday 24 September to Sunday 2 October – A week of exploring our woodland remnants, with spotlighting, nest box workshops, bush regeneration, wildflower walks, grasslands, and much more!
- Tuesday Oct 4 Walcha Launch

HiCUB Project's last 6 months!

HiCUB is now entering the last six months of the project. With spring fast approaching there is a lot to be done with on-ground works.

Here is a summary of the major works for the next six months:

- Soil Con has begun works in Uralla on the creek,
- Walcha Council will begin work on the Apsley River corridor project shortly,
- Urandangie ground works are scheduled to begin late August/ Early September,
- The Steering Committee has approved the removal of the firethorn hedge in Drummond Park and the broom infestation in the Snow Gums reserve;
- A number of community plantings will occur in the Guyra township, including the Golf Course, Scout Hall and an enhancement of the planting adjacent to Baldersleigh Rd;
- UNE Landcare will be working on bushland sites around the campus doing bush regeneration and plantings;
- The Dumaresq Ck riparian works will be extended to the northern gully tributaries with a community working bee;
- Regular bush regeneration will continue in Mt Mutton, Uralla and Snow Gums Reserve, Armidale; and
- HiCUB, in partnership with the Armidale Tree Group, Southern

New England Landcare, Armidale-Dumaresq Council and the Australian Government, will hold a "Woodlands Week" to highlight the importance of our valuable local woodland remnants.

There will be many opportunities for the community to join in bush regeneration and revegetation projects, and we welcome your involvement.

Please contact the HiCUB project at Southern New England Landcare 02 6772 9123 if you are interested in any of the activities listed above.

Bush Futures visit

At the end of June, HiCUB staff visited one of their sister projects "Bush Futures" in the Byron and Tweed shires.

The Bush Futures project is also funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. Some of the highlights of the trip include:

The Sustainable Streets initiative:

This program aims to foster community-inspired sustainable behaviour change at a neighbourhood level. It gives participants personalised support to change their habits and achieve a more sustainable lifestyle.

Nest boxes for wildlife: Bushland sites throughout the shires have been equipped with nest boxes for local wildlife. Monitoring of the boxes has shown great success, and they have found nesting populations of Squirrel Gliders and Gould's Wattle Bats. The Bush Futures project has also developed a nest box manual for the

community to use.

The Bush Futures report card: An audit of urban bushland within the project area was conducted, and the results were compiled into a 'report card'. This report card highlights bushland areas of significance. It assesses their values, identifies threats, and offers management actions.

This visit was a fantastic opportunity to see the different ways projects working towards similar outcomes could achieve their goals. The HiCUB team plans to look at some of the tools the Bush Futures project is using, and see if we can adapt them to fit our project. If you would like to find out more about the Bush Futures project, please visit their website at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/BushFutures/default.aspx.

UNE Landcare Group boosted

The UNE Landcare group is active on campus again, thanks to the support of the High Country Urban Biodiversity (HiCUB) project and UNE Facilities Management Services (FMS).

The group's main aim is to protect the bushland remnants on campus by promoting the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities.

To achieve this, UNE Landcare is developing management plans and conducting bush regeneration activities in a number of high profile bushland sites on the university campus. Some of the sites identified include the Ribbon Gum/Mountain Gum/Snow Gum Grassy Forest Woodland endangered ecological community (EEC) remnants that occur on North Hill above the ring road, the hill below Mary White College, and just north of Robb College; and the riparian zone of Dumaresq Creek.

Staff and students at the University of New England can make a lasting contribution to help improve biodiversity in the bushland remnants by volunteering with UNE Landcare.

The first working bee, held on Thursday 21 July, was a great success.

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Volunteers and FMS revegetated and mulched a 1000 m² section of Dumaresq Creek. The mulch, generously provided by Armidale Dumaresq Council, and follow up spot-spraying by FMS will help reduce competition from exotic grasses which are a major problem at the site.

The next working bee will be held at Dumaresq Creek on Sunday 21 August from 10 am to 1 pm. To be involved, contact Ellen Nyberg by phone (02) 6772 9123, or email ellen@snelcc.org.au.

Below: members of the rejuvenated UNE Landcare Group plant and mulch new seedlings at a recent working bee.

Apsley River & Walcha Woodlands

Preliminary works have begun in Walcha in preparation for the Apsley River corridor project.

Walcha Council has begun stockpiling rock and preparing to remove trees from the site.

A project launch will be held on Tuesday 4 October with Richard Torbay MP, Member for the Northern Tablelands. The whole community is invited to attend and participate in the first Walcha planting.

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Showcasing Guyra's natural assets

Whilst it may be difficult to appreciate under a layer of frost at this time of the year, there is actually a vast array of beautiful local flora in and around Guyra.

The HiCUB project has developed plans to enhance the abundance of some of the local species, as well as showcase them to the community.

Planting will occur in a few strategic locations, with the aim of restoring habitat and encouraging small native birds and insects to return to the area.

The edge of Mother of Ducks lagoon will be revegetated with species such as *Hakea macrocarpa*, *Leptospermum polygalifolium* (tea tree) and *Lomandra longifolium* (spring mat rush). The Golf Course will also feature some new scattered trees, in particular *Eucalyptus nova anglica* (New England Peppermint) with the added bonus of providing shade in summer and protection for keen golfers on those chilly winter mornings.

Other areas around town which will be a focus for the HiCUB Project include the land around the Scout Hall, the edge of town along Baldersleigh Rd and the TSR in South Guyra.

Returning local native species to the Guyra township has benefits to many spectrums of the community. As already mentioned, the HiCUB Project's most important objective is to enhance urban biodiversity. Increasing species diversity and numbers will encourage small native birds and insects to return to these areas by providing habitat for these creatures.

Perhaps more noticeable benefits, however, will be the beautification which will result from these works. Once the plants are established, spring time will be a showcase of flower and winter time will seem less bleak with shelter from the wind and frost.

These plans developed through the HiCUB Project provide a unique opportunity for community members to become involved in enhancing the biodiversity in Guyra. Planting working

Monitoring & improving soil health in Guyra & Walcha

It is not a new concept that the biological, physical and chemical properties of your soil will have a substantial impact on production. However, the process of finding out the state your soil is in, and then the ways it can be improved, can be complicated and time consuming.

For the past nine months, five landholders at Guyra and five at Walcha have been focusing on the health of their soil and applying a variety of fertiliser mediums to optimise this vital resource.

Following on from the Northern Rivers CMA Soils Baseline Data Project of early 2010, Southern New England Landcare received funding under the Northern Rivers CMA 2010-11 Incentives Program, for ten landholders to monitor and improve soil health on sites on their properties.

Landholders have had soil food web testing conducted, which looks at soil biology and how improving this

can enhance key functions such as nutrient availability, disease protection, water retention and improved soil structure. As a result of thinking about where their soil may be lacking, landholders have added ameliorants such as compost, compost tea, chicken and cow manure and fish hydralysafe.

Monitoring pasture growth and stocking rates, as well as the soil testing has meant that these landholders have been able to assess how their chosen ameliorant is working on their property to improve soil health.

This project has been a great opportunity for engaging landholders in addressing soil health issues and allowing them to try biological or conventional fertilisers that they otherwise may not use. This project, funded by the Northern Rivers CMA is a great example of how innovative ideas are being embraced in sustainable agriculture.

bees will be held in November and all are encouraged to come along, plant a tree, have a sausage sizzle and enjoy a day out with other community members.

Learning about the species which once dominated the landscape and encouraging their return is a great first step in rediscovering the natural environment. These plantings in Guyra will showcase the local native flora to not only the Guyra community, but those passing through who wish to learn a little more about the unique environment of the New England Tablelands.

Maps and species information within

the plans will be available for viewing at Guyra Shire Council in the next few months.

The Guyra plantings will begin in November and we welcome the community's involvement.

Please contact the HiCUB team on 02 6772 9123 or visit www.hicub.org.au to find out how you can become involved in urban biodiversity projects.



Farming the Sun Shines in Green Globe Awards!



Farming the Sun was joint-winner (with Charles Sturt University) of the inaugural 2011 Regional Sustainability NSW Green Globe Award, and was also highly commended for the 2011 Community Sustainability Award.

"The purpose of Farming the Sun is to significantly increase the understanding, affordability and take-up of renewable and sustainable energy throughout Australia's High Country and contribute to a vision of the New England being a sustainable region with a thriving new energy future...

This community enterprise was the first major initiative to address a strategic priority from the New England Sustainability Strategy (NESS) – particularly addressing the need for renewable and sustainable energy (New Energy Future) and building regenerative jobs, business and economics (Regional Regeneration).

Southern New England Landcare congratulates Farming the Sun for their achievement, including all coordinators, partners and supporters, and the many SNELCC members and staff who have been involved.

Farming the Sun has created something truly remarkable and it is a platform already being built upon.

The NSW Government's Green Globe Awards are the leading environmental awards in New South Wales, recognising the achievements of business, government, community and individuals.

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/greenglobes/2011/GGA2011excelsustwin.htm

Do you have an upland wetland?



Do you live in the Namoi Catchment? If so, you may be able to access financial assistance to conserve and manage these areas on your farm.

The Namoi Catchment Management Authority has secured funding through the Federal Governments Caring for Our Country Program to conserve and manage upland wetlands of a moderate to high condition.

Upland wetlands within the Namoi Catchment are a unique type of wetland that are found primarily above elevations of 700m. They are mostly found on private land around Nundle, Walcha, Bendemeer and towards Kingstown and Retreat. They are normally groundwater fed and can drain into rivers and streams. Upland wetlands occur either as areas of open "grassy" or "healthy" vegetation and can range from temporary bogs and water bodies to relatively permanent lagoons occupying small areas (0.25ha to 10ha).

Upland wetlands support a wide range of native plants and animals; they provide significant habitat for a range of bird species as well as habitat for frogs, turtles and eels.

Many of the upland wetlands no longer exist due to past land uses and ongoing threats, such as clearing and draining, grazing and damage caused by feral animals such as pigs.

There are a range of benefits associated with improved management of upland wetlands. These include the filtering of sediment and nutrients for improved water quality, the protection of stock from hazardous bog areas, as well as increased biodiversity on farm.

Southern New England Landcare is currently working in partnership with the Namoi Catchment Management

We Need Your Feedback

Southern New England Landcare is currently in high demand from the many organisations and individuals who value our member network in order to offer information, education, research, or incentives to achieve environmental outcomes.

As always, Southern New England Landcare's *primary* goal is to provide valued and relevant services to our MEMBERS, and to this end we are seeking YOUR opinion on how services could be improved.

We are asking members to complete a short survey questionnaire online at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F6RP5DS>

You can also find a link to the survey at our website.

Responses will be dealt with confidentially and a report of the findings will be presented to the November AGM. We thank you in advance for your time and look forward to hearing what members think.

Authority to assist landholders in accessing incentive funding targeted at improving the condition of upland wetlands.

If you have an upland wetland on your property that you would like to protect please contact the Southern New England Landcare office on 02 67729123.

Below: an upland wetland in the Namoi Catchment.



What's new & happening?

Wanted: your views on looking after our local region!

If there's a special spot down by the river, a remnant patch of unusual native trees on a stock route, a pristine fishing hole, or a region of rich black soils that needs to be protected as highly productive farmland, the Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (BR-G CMA) wants to work with you to ensure these important natural assets are managed and protected.

The BR-G CMA wants to hear your views on what's worth saving in our catchment, what areas might need to be better managed, and how public money should be spent to get the best bang for our buck when it comes to looking after our natural assets.

A series of meetings are being held right around the catchment to help upgrade the Action Plan for this region.

Over the past 5 years millions of dollars have been spent on projects like fencing off river banks to stop erosion and improve water quality, and rehabilitating old mine sites to stop toxic heavy metals leaching into the environment.

Investment has also been targeted at catching effluent run off from saleyards and helping industry recycle waste so there's less pollution in our rivers, and the BR-G CMA has also assisted local councils in rehabilitating valuable community assets such as the Moree Spa Baths.

But where should investment be focussed in the future? What new problems need to be tackled in our catchment and how do we make our land more resilient to natural disasters like flood and drought and erratic changes in climates?

And are there special natural assets or environmental problems in your area that have gone unnoticed? Maps will on hand at the Catchment Action Plan meetings so you can show us where these places are and tell us why they're important.

BR-G CMA Program Manager Amanda Bigelow is leading the Action Plan upgrade and is urging the public to get involved, "We know how busy people are, and how valuable their time is, but it's crucial to the BR-G CMA that we find out what's most important to local people when it comes to caring for our natural assets and striking the balance between economic productivity and the protection of our environment."

Local meetings will be held at Uralla (24th Aug 10am – 1pm Uralla Golf Club) and Guyra (24th Aug 10am – 1 pm Guyra Bowling Club). This is the best opportunity for landholders in the BRG catchment to have their say about assets that are important to them and potential influence future funding priorities.



PMP Information Night

- Are you maximising profitability?
- Is your operation sustainable?
- Do you have a property management plan?
- Do you have a farm business strategic plan?
- Do you want to maintain farm business viability in the long-term?
- Could free training help achieve your farm management goals?

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA is concerned with the long-term environmental and economic sustainability of landholders within the catchment area. We offer a series of workshops in 'Farm Management Planning' to provide landholders with a set of principles for sustainable, profitable land management.

The BRG CMA is holding information sessions for landholders who are interested in developing a property plan at the Uralla Community Centre on Wednesday 17 August 2011 from 6.30 to 8.00 pm.

Hot finger food, tea and coffee will be provided. Please RSVP by August 14th to the SNELCC office.

The course provides a fast-tracked path to obtaining on-ground works incentive funding through the BRG CMA. A satellite image of your property, morning and afternoon tea, and all materials are provided.

For further information and to RSVP, please contact Bruce Gardiner (6728 8036) or Alice Devlin (6772 9123).

New Prograze Course

NSW DPI is starting a Prograze course for the areas east of Armidale in September.

Prograze is a series of eight workshops over ten to twelve months.

Prograze is designed to help producers develop practical and relevant pasture and livestock assessment skills, and to use these skills to improve the profitability and sustainability of grazing systems on their farms. Information includes:

- visually assessing pasture quality and quantity,
- understanding how pasture quality and quantity impact on animal production
- assessing livestock (sheep and cattle) fat scores
- using pasture and livestock assessments as basis for matching pastures to livestock requirements
- using grazing management to improve the productivity and sustainability of your pastures plant recognition skills

Cost is \$ 670 per farm family with a farm ready subsidy of 65%.

For further information and to register your interest please contact Clare Edwards at NSW DPI Armidale office on 6738 8508.

'Bush Tucker, Boomerangs & Bandages' Launch

Harry White and Michelle McKemney have co-authored a book called 'Bush Tucker, Boomerangs and Bandages', due for print in September. The book is about indigenous plant use and covers a wide range of local native species in and around the Border-Rivers Gwydir catchment, and how these species were used by Aboriginal people.

On Thursday 6th October, the book will be launched by Harry and Michelle from 9.30 am at the Pat Dixon Centre, Taylor St Armidale. All are welcome to attend to learn a little about the book, celebrate its launch and pick up a copy signed by the authors.

Please RSVP to the SNEELCC office on 02 6772 9123 if you would like to attend. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

CHEMICAL CARD PLUS

Online Group

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www.ruralbiztraining.com.au

Or contact us

P: 02 6884 8812

E: support@ruralbiztraining.com.au



Notable NSW DPI Fact Sheets

1. Coolatai - www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/364886/Coolatai-grass-web.pdf
2. Mouse monitoring and baiting - www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/387719/mouse-monitoring-and-baiting.pdf
3. Poultry litter on pastures - www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/140359/Best-practice-guidelines-for-using-poultry-litter-on-pastures.pdf
4. Greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural enterprise - www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/climate-and-weather/general/life-cycle-assessment-of-greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-agricultural-enterprise

See the history & diversity

...on the agricultural tour through Portugal and Spain

Enjoy this tour through Portugal and Spain, with a great mix of history and agriculture. Join us on this study program to learn about the agricultural industries of Portugal and Spain, and at the same time soak up the culture and history of these two countries. Visit some of the historic production areas looking at wine, sherry and cork production.

The tour takes in the highlights of Lisbon, Evora, Madrid, Cordoba, and

Seville. And travel through the Andalusian and Toledo regions.

Portugal and Spain Agriculture Tour

LEARN about cattle, citrus, olives, strawberries, tomatoes and wine production. Visit major production companies, machinery manufacturers & cooperatives exporting world wide.

SEE the historic wine and sherry production of these country's as well as cork production.

EXPLORE the historic cities of Lisbon, Madrid and Seville, and the UNESCO listed Evora and see the mix of roman, moorish, and christian heritage that has shaped the culture and development of these countries.

VISIT the Cathedral-Mosque of Cordoba, the Puente Nuevo (Spanish for New Bridge) in the historic town of Ronda and Explorers Monument and Belem Tower and the Castelo de São Jorge moorish castle in Lisbon

17 Day Escorted Tour 11th - 27th February 2012



For itinerary visit www.quadrantaustralia.com/RuralPress or phone: 1300 301 128

NSW Travel Lic No. 27A 4890

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“Thinking Differently”

The 2011 NSW Landcare & Catchment Management Forum

5th - 7th September 2011, Parkes NSW

Check out www.parkeslandcare.org.au for the program and registration form for what looks to be a truly worthwhile event - the 2011 NSW Landcare and Catchment Management Forum.

Held every two years, this year's forum will address a variety of environmental issues facing landholders, government and industry proponents, education institutions and urban communities. It represents a must-attend for practitioners across all of these sectors and will provide a forum for extensive interaction.

The forum will offer presentations, field trips, discussions and case studies with the aim of building knowledge and partnerships in the Landcare and Catchment Management community, and to create a way forward.

The theme “Thinking Differently” will underpin conference sessions, highlighting the fact that the natural resource management world is changing and the time for action is now.

Come along and help chart the future of Landcare!!

New England North West Landcare will assist with co-ordinating travel and accommodation to the NSW Landcare Forum, the NSW Landcare Awards and the Landcare Muster.

Accommodation

Double or twin share accommodation has been booked at Parkview Motor Inn, 34 Forbes Road Parkes. The cost of accommodation will be around \$50 per person per night.

Travel

A 50 seat modern coach will travel from Stanthorpe to Parkes, picking up participants along the way. The route has not yet been set (past Glen Innes) and will depend on where the majority of participants are from.

Car pooling arrangements will be made, where possible, to assist people not along the route to meet the bus.

The bus will depart on Sunday 4th

September in order to have people in Parkes for the NSW Landcare Muster on Monday 5th September. Participants will return on Thursday 8th September as the forum program doesn't finish until 5pm Wednesday 7th. Timings will be finalised and advised closer to the Forum date.

The cost of the coach is being subsidised by Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA to assist Regional Landcare & Catchment Management Award winners to attend the Forum. The cost of coach transport for other participants will be minimal.

Registration

Please contact Southern New England Landcare to provide your details if you wish to take up this travel and accommodation opportunity.

You will also need to complete a Forum Registration Form to register for the forum itself.



Come Home to Grass Roots.

On the 5th - 7th Sept. 2011, Landcare is coming home to Parkes for the NSW Landcare and Catchment Management Forum.

Thinking Differently:

New solutions, for old issues.

Challenge your perceptions and revisit perennial issues with new perspectives.

Urban: Agriculture: Biodiversity:

What are the old issues? What are the new solutions? What will work for you in the 21st Century?

For details on Sponsorship applications and other information...Phone (02) 6862 4914

www.parkeslandcare.org.au

Program Thinks Differently!

The program for Parkes is exciting! Here is a summary, but for more detail, see www.parkeslandcare.org.au.

MONDAY 5th September

Landcare NSW Inc Muster

Meet with other Landcarers and help determine the actions that Landcare at the State level should take over the next 12 months. The Muster gives a chance for discussion and hearing what other like minded people are doing. Meet friends and connect with your grass roots landcare mates.

Welcome Reception

TUESDAY 6th September

Field Trips

Inlcuding: Alternatives to Traditional Farming Systems, Whole Farm Approaches to Sustainable Farming & Biodiversity, Urban Landcare, The Dish.

Workshops

Including: Art exhibition, Soil Health to Human Health, Finding and Working with sponsors.

Good Luck!

Southern New England Landcare wishes all our local NSW Landcare Awards Finalists the best of luck in the upcoming awards: Balala-Brushgrove Landcare Group, Armidale Urban Landcare Group, the Engineered Woodlands Project, Banbai, Uralla Shire Council and all other finalists from the New England and North West.

Keynote Speaker Major General Michael Jeffery AC, AO (Mil), and CVO, MC

Panel Session “Thinking Differently” with Dr Maarten Stapper PhD, Dr Carole Hungerford B.A. M.B. B.S. F.A.C.N.E.M and Dr John Hoskin.

NSW State Landcare Awards Finalists Presentations

NSW Landcare Awards Presentations

WEDNESDAY 7th September

Guest Speaker and MC Rob Gell, National President of Greening Australia Ltd

Keynote Speaker Richard Neville, Practicing Futurist.

Why Social Research is Critical for NRM with Professor Allan Lindsay Curtis BA (Melb), DipEd (Melb) PhD (CSU)

Perspectives on the Australian Framework for Landcare

Panel Session “Thinking Differently” on the Carbon Farming Initiative or “Using our Initiative”, with Walter Jehne, Terry McCosker, Louisa Kiely, Tom Nicholas and Aaron Soanes.

Panel Session “Thinking Differently” on Sustainable Landcare... Landcare’s sustainability, with Garry Reynolds, Heather Campbell, David Walker and Madi Stevenson.

KidsLandcare Carnival Report

Announcement of the Location for 2013 Forum

Fox Control: prizes to be won!

Local businesses are supporting the Coordinated Fox Control program and encouraging landholders to become involved by donating incentive prizes.

Landholders who participate in coordinated group fox baiting will enter a draw to win a half hour joy flight for two people with Fleet Helicopters.

The individual who brings the most fox feet (front right paw) into the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority (Armidale) office will win a Cass Creek Remote Fox Caller donated by Uralla Sports and toys. Entries for the fox foot raffle close 31 August.

In addition, a fox shooting form to record details of any foxes shot over the winter period can be collected from the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority, GrazAg Armidale or Uralla Sports and Toys. Return this form to the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority (Armidale) by the 31st August for your chance to win a \$150 open order from GrazAg Armidale.

Foxes are a community problem that are best controlled through a coordinated approach that uses multiple control methods.

Foxes are a problem for all enterprises. They predate lambs, spread a range of weeds including blackberries, and they eat dung beetles. They are responsible for spreading a broad range of diseases and parasites that can infect livestock, domestic animals and humans. These include Parvovirus, Canine distemper, Toxoplasmosis, Mange, Canine hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Encephalitis, Helminth parasites, Ticks, Mites, Fleas and Hydatid tapeworm. The combined use of a variety of control methods; such as trapping, baiting and shooting; more effectively reduces fox numbers.

Thank you to all participating businesses for their contributions to the 2011 Coordinated Fox Control Program.



Southern New England Landcare Ltd
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Resourcing Landcare in our region

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Level 1, 3/119 Beardy Street, PO Box 85, Armidale 2350.
Tel 02 6772 9123, mail@snelandcare.org.au, www.snelandcare.org.au

Landchat
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Landchat

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Landchat presents a forum for the expression of a range of opinions.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of Southern New England Landcare or its employees.

While every effort is made to publish accurate information, Southern New England Landcare and its employees do not accept responsibility for statements made and opinions expressed in this newsletter.



General Meeting

6:30 pm Thursday 11th August 2011

Uralla Community Centre (cnr Hill & Maitland St)

All members are invited.

Please contact your group's SNECC Representative if you wish to accompany them to the meeting.

Dinner will be provided for a small charge.

Please RSVP by

Tuesday 9th August 2011

for catering purposes.

Tel 6772 9123 • mail@snelandcare.org.au

www.snelandcare.org.au



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY