

# Landchat

Landcare in the Southern New England, No. 75, March - April 2010

## 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

Autumn Fox Baiting .....	April-May
What does your garden grow?.....	13 April
What pesky plant is that? .....	14 April
Landcare Adventure .....	21-22 April
Wool Expo Armidale.....	7-9 May
Who Cares Seminar .....	22 April
RCS International Conference.....	20 July

## Landcare Adventure time at Tenterfield!

**The New England North West Landcare Adventure will be hosted by Granite Borders Landcare Committee in 2010 with the assistance of the other Landcare Networks from across the region.**

An interesting and diverse program is being prepared for the 2-day event, which will be held on 21st - 22nd April 2010.

There will be visits to various sites in the area looking at farm diversification; soil health; erosion control; whole farm planning and a variety of soil improvement treatments.

The Landcare Olympics will be one of the exciting highlights of the Landcare Adventure with activities on soils; weeds; pastures; fish; birds and all things NRM.

The Landcare Adventure would not be complete without the Awards Dinner. This dinner is held to highlight the achievements made by outstanding Landcarers across the region.

You do not need to be involved in a Landcare Group to attend. The Adventure is designed to be an opportunity for likeminded people to get together and share ideas

and knowledge and learn about natural resource management with fun and social activities included.

It is a two day event with the registration fee of \$75 per person (community members) covering bus travel, all meals, accommodation and the Awards Dinner.

This year the Adventure is supported by the Australian Government's Community Action Grants, Landcare Australia Limited, Northern Rivers CMA, Border Rivers Gwydir CMA and Namoi CMA, as well as other local sponsors.

Through funds provided by Landcare Australia Limited, Landcare Groups who participate in the Landcare Adventure have the opportunity to gain \$2,500 for on ground activities in their group.

A registration form for the Landcare Adventure has been included with this newsletter. Numbers are limited, by venue & bus sizes, register as soon as possible so you don't miss out.

If you require any further information please contact the Landcare Office on 02 67363500 or email [landcare@halenet.com.au](mailto:landcare@halenet.com.au).

# Malpas Family Day

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February, the Malpas Catchment Group hosted the Malpas Family Day at Malpas Dam. The Committee had decided it was a fitting time to kick off the new year and get local landholders and members of the broader Malpas community together for a great day out.

A beautiful sunny day greeted us all, and the rather strong winds provided for a great day of sailing. With a backdrop of a number of catamarans flying across the lake, the reality of this precious resource right in our backyard was pertinent.

The focus was on having fun, getting to know each other and promoting the Malpas Catchment Group initiative, so everyone gathered on the deck of the St Kilda Fishing Club for a BBQ.

After lunch, conversations shifted to what's been happening in the area, the state of the Dam and ideas about how we could improve NRM in the region.

The afternoon brought out many competitive spirits as both adults and kids gathered on the grass for some serious

games of egg tossing, egg and spoon races and scavenger hunts. Many thanks to Fiona Smith for kindly donating the eggs that some of us ended up wearing!

The mix of almost 30 people included local landholders, SNEELCC staff, Guyra residents, Guyra Mayor Hans Heitbrink, members of the Armidale Rowing Club, members of the New England Sailing Club and everyone's families.

This cross-section of community members provided for different perspectives on natural resource management, and allowed recognition that the objective for improved catchment health is shared by all.

Priorities for the catchment were discussed and will be reviewed at the next Malpas Catchment Group meeting.

Continued support from the Armidale Dumaresq Shire is greatly appreciated and with more stakeholders keen to be involved in looking after Malpas, there should be some great projects happening in the future and ultimately improvements in the water quality and surrounding environment.

*Below: The Under 15's final of the egg and spoon race at Malpas Family Day.*



## The Jackaroo

A Queensland jackaroo is overseeing his herd in remote territory when suddenly a brand new BMW advances out of a dust cloud towards him.

The driver, a young man in a designer suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the cowboy, 'If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?'

The jackaroo looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, 'Sure, why not?'

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone and surfs to a NASA page on the internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra high resolution photo. The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany.

Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODABC connected Excel spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full colour, 150 page report on his hi tech, miniaturised HP LaserJet printer and finally turns to the jackaroo and says, 'You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves.'

'That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves,' says the jackaroo.

He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuff it into the trunk of his car.

Then the jackaroo says to the young man, 'Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?'

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, 'Okay, why not?'

'You work for the Australian Government,' says the jackaroo.

'Wow! That's correct,' says the yuppie, 'but how did you guess that?'

'No guessing required,' answered the jackaroo, 'You showed up here uninvited, you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used all kinds of expensive equipment that clearly somebody else paid for, you tried to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know a thing about cows... this is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dog.'

# Funding available for on-ground works!

## Are you in the the Border Rivers - Gwydir Catchment?

Due to some projects not going ahead we have some materials and funding to re-allocate.

So if you have a Landcare Project ready to go but need some assistance to get it happening you could be eligible for the following assistance:

### Remnant Fencing

Do you have a patch over 2 ha in size that you want to fence out? Financial assistance is available.

### Stream Gully Health

Fencing materials are available to assist fence out a minimum of 150 m of stream/ gully line. This can include fencing out a larger area, as long as that area contains a stream or gully line and will be subject to management that improves the health of the stream and hence water quality.

Materials available are 22 rolls of hingejoint, 19 rolls of barbed wire and 145 steel posts.

Of course there is the fine print: you will need to enter into an agreement with Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA relating to the management of these areas and your works **MUST** be completed by 30 June 2010.

### For more information

Contact Alice at the Landcare office 67729123 or [alice@snelcc.org.au](mailto:alice@snelcc.org.au) as soon as possible!

# Environmental grants \$196,564 for Northern Tablelands projects

Environmental Trust funding of \$196,564 has been allocated for remedial projects in the Northern Tablelands.

Member for Northern Tablelands Richard Torbay welcomed the grants of \$98,594 for the Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale and \$97,970 to Southern New England Landcare. (SNELCC).

“These are great projects to protect threatened woodland birds in the Northern Tablelands and help improve water quality in the Northern Rivers and Gwydir catchments,” he said.

“This rehabilitation work benefits our communities and their involvement in these projects is an essential component.”

SNELCC Landcare Coordinator Bec Ballard said the funding allocation was “great news”.

“This will allow us to maintain involvement with the community and extend our work,” she said.

“Working with landholders to implement projects that address local issues which they’ve identified ensures the ownership and enthusiasm of continued Landcare activities.”

The SNELCC project in the Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra Council areas involves fencing to protect 8.1 km of streams across five waterways to exclude stock and improve water quality and riparian habitat. Overall it will protect 36 ha of remnant vegetation, rehabilitate 5 ha and arrest erosion on a further 9 ha. Seven landholders will be involved in the seven project sites.

SNELCC will also join Citizens Wildlife Corridors to extend the habitat for threatened woodland birds by restoring native trees and shrubs and linking fragmented patches of remnant vegetation with corridors.

The project will protect 32 ha of remnant vegetation and rehabilitate a further 24 ha. More than 18,000 native seedlings will be planted on the twelve properties involved in the venture.

*Below: SNELCC Landcare Coordinator Bec Ballard, Member for Northern Tablelands Richard Torbay MP, and Citizens Wildlife Corridors Chair Kath Wray.*



# Around Our Groups...

The following information about group activities was shared and recorded at the November 2009 and February 2010 SNELCC meetings. So, if your group is not represented here and you'd like to share your activities, be sure to accompany your SNELCC representative to the meeting - it's a great way to share information, activities and motivation!

## Ben Lomond Landcare Group

The Ben Lomond Landcare Group inaugural Management Committee meeting was held on Tuesday 16th February.

The group discussed a 5-page agenda and general administration, correspondence, committee positions, and future funding.

Altitude Living will continue and subscriptions for Altitude Living and the Landcare group will be due on July 1st 2010.

MessageMuster will also continue on a monthly basis and will partner with the School newsletter. Residents should have received their newsletter in the mail the first week of March 2010.

Due to the huge numbers of rabbits and foxes in the village, Sarah Harding had a meeting with the LHPA Ranger, Mr. Floyd. Sarah has arranged a village meeting to be held on 26th March to discuss the rabbit problem. Mr. Floyd will be the guest speaker.

Beth White gave a report on the construction of the toilet block and new tourist information sign that is now up in the CWA Park.

A general meeting of the Landcare group will be called soon.

**Arding Inc** - Don Hardman, Jim Reid and David Lawrence

Envirofund – Alfoxton planning, stage 3 tree planting, 1600 trees. Thomas lagoon continuation, 1000 trees to go in. 4 fox traps out. Applied to Uralla Shire to raise funds for insurance etc. Christmas party 12 December, Arding Church Hall. Newsletter for December currently in production.

**Armidale Urban Rivercare** - Ray South

Very successful public planting day on Oct 18th, linked to 350 Day (world day), great turn out from public, finished by 10.30, over 1000 trees in.

Contracted planting going very well, concentrating on certain areas to get well established then move, increased density to 50 cm, river oaks or swamp gums and all rest tea trees, bottle brush and lomandra.

**Balala-Brushgrove** - Tim Wright

November field day to launch the BRG grasses book, Clare Edwards and BRG CMA with Alice ran the day. Field day held at Lana, Judi Earl and Tim talked about changes on Lana. Christmas party was good, hoping to get the group together in March April to discuss activities for this year.

**BOZO**

Wollun salinity plantings starting to go in, BOZO successful in gaining community action grants for tree corridors. Wollun decimated by Christmas beetles this year, making a slow recovery with all the rain. Members attended the farming the sun field day at Walcha dairy. 3 members signed up for systems.

**Citizens Wildlife Corridors** - Kath Wray

Published newsletter in July, AGM in September. Just applied for grant for Eastlake to revegetate hilltop. January posted over 600 newsletters. Env Trust. 20000 research grant

from environmental trust applied for to get an interactive website up for identifying sitings of wildlife, plantings etc.

**Dangarsleigh** - Steve Harvey and Olivia Fulloon

Quiet period, fox baiting mixed result, lamb deaths OK. Engineered woodland on own property. Neighbour put in a DA for enviro-tourism B&B.

Funding through ATG - Peter Metcalf for the Imbota corridors project. Funding to run corridors into surrounding areas. Aim to get a corridor through to Dangars Falls- 7 km length. Sowing of trees this spring. Richard and Elsbeth Belfield held a field day last year and are planning on holding another field day this year. Looking at getting Martin Babakhan (meterologist) as guest speaker. Possible a field day around the time of SLEX.

**Enmore** - Gordon Williams

Hotspots workshop around the Enmore area. Plans in by April, on property burn in September. Eastlake did a substantial planting and direct seeding in September. Submission in to Environmental Trust for works that have already been done. Any options to transfer funding onto alternative works on property.

**Harnham** - Peter Lytton-Hitchins

Tree plantings at Taylors and Kyabra, 12000 pines, doing well. Weed day at Kentucky hall, 5th November. 2nd December at Kyabra, solar Farming The Sun day, flier goes around, Walcha, Guyra and Kyabra. Many changes with solar and regeneration, information vague, lots fo opportunity with solar and wind. Can now put back into grid at 60c rather than 18c, eliminating storage costs. Created system for small farmers, max amount energy put into grid.

*Continued on page 6*

# Waterwatch Workshop

Waterwatch is a State-wide program that follows on from Stream Watch. Waterwatch is aimed at members of the community helping to improve the health of their local waterways. This is achieved by communities taking responsibility for the health of their waterways, through monitoring and management.

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Carla Sbrocchi from Northern Rivers CMA and Stephanie McCaffrey from Namoi CMA attended Armidale to deliver a "Train the Trainers" workshop. This day was aimed at training key members of local organisations, who could then deliver training to other community members.

SNELCC will be offering community training later in the year, so keep an eye out for Waterwatch days coming up.

Once you have completed the training, SNELCC has both a junior and a senior Waterwatch kit that will be available to groups wanting to implement monitoring programs.

Please contact Alice Devlin or Bec Ballard at the SNELCC office if you are interested in holding a training day for your Group.

In the Tablelands area, Waterwatch is supported by the Northern Rivers, Border Rivers Gwydir and Namoi CMAs, with officers in each of the CMAs.

*Below: Alice Devlin, Bec Ballard and Helen Smith collect samples from Dumaresq Creek for chemical testing.*



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# How SNELCC can help you!

Southern New England Landcare is always happy to assist our groups and members and there are a number of ways we can do this.

Our staff are of course the main link – but please be aware that with changes to Landcare support over the years our coordinators no longer receive funding that enables them to be instantly responsive to the needs of the community. Instead they are funded under projects that have outcomes that need to be met – we do our best to tailor your requests and meld them in to a project outcome – however this isn't always possible.

That doesn't mean we don't listen or care – your requests form the basis of any future funding application we submit – so hopefully we will be able to work with you to address your issue – the time lag just might be a little longer than you would like.

## Field days and workshops

To ensure we can help we ask that you give us plenty of notice for any upcoming activities – if possible several months – that way we can allocate resources and work with you to make the event the success you hope it will be. It takes time to track down speakers, organise any funding, the publicity and other logistics of the day. Of course the bigger the event the more lead time that is needed.

## LANDCHAT newsletter

If your group wants to advertise a meeting workshop or small field day they have organised or report on any activity then send us in an article for LANDCHAT

## Landcare Resource Centre

Need a desk space or computer access when in town for a few hours? Just call in - we can help you out.

The Center is suitable to hold small informal or formal meetings (Sustainable Living Armidale hold their executive and subgroup meetings on a regular basis) just give the office a call and we can book a room for you – we have a meeting room suitable for up to 10, the balcony for up to 20, and the community room and kitchen which are suitable for informal meetings of 3-4 people. Tea, coffee, whiteboards, butchers paper, and data projectors are available.

There is also a library of information (a bit disorganized at present – we would love someone to tackle the job of sorting it out!).

## Meetings

We always look forward to attending your group meetings – just let us know when they are on and we will do our best to attend. If you need ideas or inspiration to get your group together give us a call.

## SNELCC meetings

SNELCC meetings are held the second Thursday of February, May, August and November and are advertised in Landchat – you are welcome to attend and learn what is happening across the region.

## Website

Our web page is not only a timely way to find out current information it has a wealth of information from past projects. Check it out at [www.snelandcare.org.au](http://www.snelandcare.org.au).

Many grey areas. Field days will sort out facts. Committed to 60c for 20 years State Government.

Combined xmas party with Harnham RFS and Landcare. Xmas beetles hit plantings bad, trees starting to reshoot hoping autumn moth doesn't hit. UNE monitoring occurring again looking at a seminar to look at results in May.

#### **Herbert Park** - Richard Maclean

Few problems with LAC and Landcare group. LAC involved with pine forest committee, landcare members don't want to be involved. Getting to stage where can get away from, PF committee formed Not much happening with members, Setting up a wetland on property.

Able to get people together but yet to get things happening on ground. Landholders in the group are funding their own projects as they are tired of funding process. Environmental improvements looking at riparian areas, erosion works etc. successful new year get together, 55 people attended, apologies from 15. Helen Swartz organised event. Bec attended event and Rachel Betts attended from NEWA, Herman Beyersdorf – Herbert Park councillor, Pine Forest rep James Rowe. Good herbage mass at the moment.

#### **Lower Apsley** - Peter McNeill

Usual fox baiting, mounds way to go. Group meeting with shane Andrews etc, farm carbon emissions workshop. Carbon audit on 3 properties to happen, Qantas money. Own place, remnant fenced off. Involved with the group carbon audit. 3 properties covering various types of soil types and vegetation. Sites identified to get a cross section of the area. Group planting scheduled for Christmas has been cancelled due to dry weather now very wet. Walcha area had a visit from chinese business men wanting to purchase pine trees. Chinese, Russia and Mongolian govt have put a freeze on trees for pulp so now approaching Australia. Container

them in Newcastle, send to Sydney, ship to China. BRG – country at the top of the Horton – received grant last year, inspection next week.

#### **Malpas Catchment** - Presented by Alice and Bill Perrottet

New committee to be formed, not finalised yet. Planning to hold a family fun day at the dam in mid Feb 2010 to re-establish community network.

Pasture monitoring group with Judi Earl, a number of people involved, Monday this week out at Boorolong. Wongwibinda compost trial. Pasture measurements in partnership with Lewis Kahn, a 3 yr trial. \$17000 gone into the trial, 3 yrs to go. Malpas Family Day at the Dam on Sunday. Invites to all. Struggling to get people attending meetings. Need to reinvigorate group. Asked for ideas on how to get people interested.

#### **Oaky** - Presented by Bec

Met Tuesday, Christmas party ...Nov at Wollomombi falls. Hall committee and LAC working to do up toilet block and works in village. Dung beetles working well, increase in bird and native wildlife. Continued monitoring of precious plantings going well, natural regeneration occurring. Dung beetles working well since December rain. Oaky xmas party went well with 45 people attending. Very successful information/planning day with Bec, Alice, Shane Andrews and Warwick Browne. Encouraging to see "New Blood" attend and showing interest.

#### **Soil Health Forum** - Jill Moore-Kashima

SLEX was big event, helped to set up 4 speakers (Garry McDowell, Cam Laurie, Bruce Picone and Trish Bancroft), stand for 3 days in landcare tent. Possible last event, was supposed to be in the community, but now just Jill, but great stuff come out of it. Jill will withdraw somewhat Applied for community action grant.

Would like to talk with people about humus in soils and food supply, difference between organic and biological farming.

Withdrawing from email groups. Emailing landholders outside of

the tablelands network as well. Working with landholders out at Bai Yai that haven't had much to do with Landcare as yet. Interesting discussions and some keen landholders. Starting to understand issues about weeds and why the weeds are an issue. Bai Yai has been working with a stewardship and the federal government program.

#### **Sustainable Living Armidale** - Ray South

Pleased to be affiliate members. Successful meeting featuring electric vehicles and bicycles, lawn mower, lots of interest.

#### **Uralla Rivercare**

Ongoing maintenance, privet has gotten away with wet weather. BRG targeted incentives project – extension of previous URC work – removal of willows and fallen pines. Bamboo stands have spread because of suitable weather and the removal of the Willows that shaded the area. a working bee planned in March. Working with work experience projects with 2 participants helping out – centerlink.

#### **Wongwibinda/Aberfoyle** - John Winter-Irving

A few members were at launch of E-graze in Guyra. Judi and Lewis launched new program and monitoring. Have 4 or 5 meetings in each area group with data collected. Much country changing hand, community events happening, RFS ran basic fire fighter course, followed up by RFS first aid course, both run at school, using as resource centre. Low stress stock handling course at Ebor.

Dec BBQ, went well met new people to the area. Pasture monitoring programs with Judi – 1st monitoring day at Nooralim, access to Judi's new simulation program. 2nd day in early Feb at Yarrabinda, incorporating a biodiversity component into the program. Michelle McKemmy ran the biodiversity component. Up to the landholder on what parameters to include and how to conduct scenarios.

# Solar Power Bonus:

## First Tracking System Installed in New England

A significant milestone has been marked for solar farms with the installation of the New England's first large scale solar power system with automated sun tracking. This is the first system installed as part of the Farming the Sun community enterprise being coordinated by the New England Sustainability Strategy (NESS).

"Tracking systems significantly increase the power generated by solar farms by as much as 40%," said Adam Blakester, NESS Convenor. "They automatically tilt and turn the solar panel arrays to follow the sun, from dawn to dusk, meaning more solar is farmed into power."

The first tracking system has been installed at Eulalia, a compact commercial seed farm located on the outskirts of Armidale and operated by John Davidson. Sustainability is central to Eulalia's operation and John is a champion for the value of tracking systems further improving the environmental and financial performance of solar power.

"I see my work as harvesting the sun," said John. "One part of my harvest is producing non-hybrid vegetable seeds which are sold to gardeners right around Australia. At the very same time I'm harvesting the sun for power which is exported directly into the grid."

The NSW Solar Bonus Scheme began on 1 January 2010 which means renewable energy generators like John Davidson are being paid premium rates for the renewable energy they produce and export to the grid – up to a maximum of 10kW per power meter.

"The combined effect of sun tracking systems and the Solar Bonus is to make solar power a good financial investment as well as being a good environmental investment," added Blakester. "Depending on the system configuration we are predicting financial returns in the vicinity of 14-18% per annum."

More than 200kW in new solar power has been taken up in the Farming the Sun initiative during just eighteen months. At the same time more than 200 solar hot water systems and 130 sustainable home assessments are also under way.

Eulalia was a showcase for the Sustainable Living Expo '09 and will be

open to the community again as part of the Armidale Home Grown Garden Tour 2010. The Tour is being held on Saturday & Sunday 6-7 March and is organised by Armidale Local Food (ALF), part of Sustainable Living Armidale. The Tour features ten productive backyard food gardens within the town boundary, providing visitors with a unique opportunity to meet and share ideas and expertise with fellow food gardening enthusiasts, while demonstrating the wide range of fruits, berries, vegetables

and herbs that can be grown in local backyards.

Tour booklets can be purchased from the Armidale Visitor's Information Centre in Marsh St 6772-4655. For further information contact Paul Kristiansen 6772-3954 or Jo Leoni 6771-2324. For more details about Farming the Sun solar power, solar hot water or home sustainability assessments contact Liz Gardiner, Regional Coordinator, on 6778-7249 or go to [www.ness.wikidot.com](http://www.ness.wikidot.com).

*L-R Adam Blakester, John Davidson, Jamie Reardon, and Liz Gardiner with the first solar tracker.*



*L\_R: Jo Leoni, Paul Kristiansen, and John Davidson at the seed farm.*

# What's happening?

## Landcare on Facebook

There are over 4,000 volunteer landcare groups across Australia who give countless hours to tackling environmental issues and making our communities a better place. Landcare Australia is the official not-for-profit of these groups. You can visit Landcare on Facebook, upload photo's or join in conversations at: [www.facebook.com/landcareaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/landcareaustralia)

## New Website for the Dung Beetle Express



[www.dungbeetles.org.au](http://www.dungbeetles.org.au)

The Northern Tablelands Dung Beetle Express now has a new look website!

There are now more resources for download and a new links page.

As well as the Harvest and Release Protocols and School's Kit, you can now download all of our information pamphlets and old newsletters.

There is information on:

- the benefits of dung beetles
- dung beetle biology
- how to minimise chemical impacts on dung beetles
- links to many sites with information about dung beetles
- current and historical dung beetle projects.

Check it out!

If your organisation has a webpage with a link to our old address, please update your link to the new address.

## Local Tocal Courses

Run by Tocal College trainers, the aim of these workshops is to train those who are in a position to share this with others and to provide to them high quality resources that they can use.

### What does your garden grow?

13 April, Armidale, \$210

For Trainers/Weed professionals/Landcare leaders - A train-the-trainer course to equip weeds professionals to educate their community how weeds spread; how to manage weeds in their garden and the importance of growing less weedy plants for the benefits of the environment.

### What pesky plant is that?

14 April, Armidale, \$210 Plus \$55 DVD

For Trainers/Weed professionals/Landcare leaders - Plant Identification is a key step in the control of weeds and the protection of valuable native flora. This all new hands-on workshop aims to develop skills in plant identification by utilising the Environmental Weeds of Australia DVD. This DVD is another tool in the plant identification kit bag and can assist in accessing information on more than 1000 environmental weeds.

#### For more information and registrations, contact

Annette Beer, Education Officer,  
T: 02 6938 1671  
E: [annette.beer@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:annette.beer@industry.nsw.gov.au)

## Wanted: Wool Expo volunteers!

Southern New England Landcare will have a display at Armidale's Wool Expo on the 7th – 9th of May.

This year's display will include other organizations and Natural Resource Management providers from the Southern New England area and has space for a display from your Landcare group if you are interested.

If you are able to help us on the site for a two-hour stretch some time during these three days, or if you can help us set up Thursday afternoon, please let us know so we can arrange a pass for you. Contact us at the office on 6772 9123!

There will be a Southern New England Landcare staff member present at all times and it is a great opportunity to catch up with people you haven't seen for a while!

## Autumn Fox Baiting

By combining an autumn and a winter control program, fox densities can be kept low all year round.

Fox numbers are at their peak in autumn and they are mobile and hungry. Young, inexperienced foxes are leaving their dens and dispersing.

If you or your local coordinated fox control group would like to take part in Autumn baiting, contact the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority on 6772 2366.



## New Board Members for Border Rivers - Gwydir CMA

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA is delighted to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors.

Grahame Marriott of Inverell and Sue Hudson of Armidale were recently appointed to the Board and participated in their first Board Meeting last week.

Grahame Marriott is a natural fit for the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA Board as his enthusiasm for sustainable agriculture and communities has been fuelled by postings such as the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs, wool classer in the New England and North West area, consultant to ATSIC both in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and northern NSW, Trainer and then Project Manager at Inverell Skill Training Inc. and Managing Director and Company Secretary of BEST Employment Ltd in Inverell.

Sue Hudson is a Wiradjuri woman who now lives in Armidale in northern NSW. Her husband and family are fifth generation landholders at Uralla, where they run a superfine wool and cattle enterprise. She is an archaeologist specialising in environmental and Aboriginal sites and relics including advising on preservation of these sites and the moral and legal aspects of site protection. With the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMAs desire to enhance Indigenous cultural awareness across all catchment communities Sue is very well-placed to offer her expertise to the CMA at a strategic level.

“A lot of my work involves introducing Aboriginal people to environmental projects and bringing the local Aboriginal and farming communities together. I am particularly enthusiastic about providing advice and training in schools as it is essential that the future managers of our catchment are knowledgeable about its history”, Sue said.

For natural resource management advice and information please contact the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA in Inverell on 02 6728 8020.

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## Who Cares? Seminar

10.45am for 11.00am - 2pm#

Thursday 22 April

Quality Hotel Powerhouse  
31 Marsh Street, Armidale

*Who Cares?* measures and tracks the environmental knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of the people of NSW. It has been tracking changes and trends in environmental views, priorities and actions every three years since 1994.

The 2009 research considers questions such as:

- what are the most important environmental issues in NSW today and how have these changed?
- how important is environment compared to other issues, now and in the future?
- what are people thinking about climate change?
- which information sources do people trust?
- what are people doing to protect the environment and why?

Come along and find out how *Who Cares?* can inform your work. Seminars will present the research findings and consider their relevance to a range of sectors including community, business and government.

\* *Morning or afternoon tea will be provided.*

# *Includes lunch.*

A separate registration is required for each attendee. Call Kiem Forbutt on 02 8837 6000 or Susan Byrne on 02 8837 6000. Email [sustainability@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@environment.nsw.gov.au) or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/community/whocares.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/community/whocares.htm)

## Cressbrook Farm Trees

Taking orders now for 2010.

Early bird discounts, order 6 months prior to planting to receive 10% off purchase price.

Native and exotic trees and shrubs.

Incorporating garden design.

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# Farmers seek connection between nutrition & landscape health



**Food researchers and agricultural experts are coming together at an international forum organised by RCS in Brisbane on July 20 to discuss the links between nutrition, health and the landscape.**

Cell grazing founder and forward-thinking agriculturalist Terry McCosker believes that speakers at the RCS International Conference will be exploring the need for significant changes in current agricultural practices to avoid long-term ramifications for our community's health and our environment.

"Farmers and graziers are becoming increasingly concerned about how they can produce healthy food for the table whilst maintaining their landscapes," Mr McCosker said.

"Science, the environment and nutrition are all interconnected. Maintaining this relationship is pivotal to human health and landscape health."

In a complete turnaround for agricultural forums, the farmers attending an international conference on the future of the industry will focus on a direct connection between farming businesses and human health.

*Top left: Terry McCosker.*

*Left: Jerry Brunetti.*



The International Conference which celebrates 20 years of RCS influence, will canvas what is believed to be the three great challenges of this era – food production, landscape health and human health. These challenges all focus on farming practices and will be addressed by keynote speakers who have each been exposed to these issues on a global scale.

Keynote speaker Julian Cribb, of the University of Technology in Sydney, will delve into the scientific challenges facing world food production; and Jerry Brunetti of Pennsylvania, USA will address the nutritional challenge of the era which he sees as turning the tide on human health. NFF's Gary Leech will discuss soil carbon trading as a pathway to improving landscape health.

"Mr Brunetti's lifetime of study indicates that our culture will continue to see a decline in health unless we concentrate on getting fresh food back onto our plates and also growing that food on healthy soils," said Mr McCosker.

Mr McCosker co-founded RCS whose priority is in regenerating the agricultural landscape for the sake of better produce and healthier lifestyles.

"We know that health can be undermined because of a lack of nutrients from fresh food in our diets," he said. "This conference will investigate the current farming methods and whether the way we work the land has a direct impact on the standard of our produce as well as our ecological health."

"Farmers are now looking to the skies not just for rain but for innovations in thinking, delving into notions of energy and positive connections as all relevant to the effect on human health," Mr McCosker said. "The conference will provide an opportunity to explore a range of ways to come together to solve these problems."

For more information, visit [www.rcs.au.com](http://www.rcs.au.com).

## FARMERS... HEROES OF THE FUTURE.



**Quadrant AgTours - NSW Sustainable Farming - Pre Conference Tour**  
**5 days: 15-19 July** Cell Grazing, pasture cropping, bio-dynamic and biological farming systems

**20th Anniversary RCS International Conference**  
**Brisbane - 20th-22nd July 2010**

The Carbon Economy and Food Production, Healthy Landscapes / Healthy food / Healthy people, New thoughts... new pathways... where to from here?

**Quadrant AgTours - Qld Sustainable Farming - Post Conference Tour**  
**5 days: 23-27 July** Cell Grazing, carbon farming, pasture and Brigalow management



Expect to be  
**CHALLENGED**

Expect to be  
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Expect to be  
**INSPIRED**

For programs, more information or to register

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# The 2010 New England North West

# Landcare Adventure

## 21-22 April 2010

### All Welcome!

Cost-\$75\* per person!

\*Subsidised to \$75 pp for landholders.

\*Cost for agency staff is \$150 pp.

\*Dinner only is \$40 pp.

Costs include bus travel, all meals, Awards Dinner, & twin share accommodation. For those not requiring accommodation, the cost remains the same.

Numbers limited by accommodation and dinner venues, so HURRY to ensure you don't miss out!

#### For more information, contact:

Granite Borders Landcare Committee

PO Box 400

Tenterfield NSW 2372

Tel/Fax: 02 6736 3500

Email: [landcare@halenet.com.au](mailto:landcare@halenet.com.au)

#### Natural Resource Management in Action!

Visit local properties to hear about

- Diversifying your farm business to maximise your natural resource base
- Alternate fertilizers—making compost teas, charcoal and cow pat pits
- Erosion control, revegetation & stock watering
- Whole Farm Planning—balancing production and on farm conservation areas

#### Celebrate Landcare Achievements!

- See and hear from State Landcare Award winners
- The Landcare Olympics - soils, weeds, pastures, fish, birds and all things NRM
- Visit the award winning community biodiversity project Tenterfield Park
- Landcare Awards Dinner - with Awards being made to outstanding Landcarers from across the region.



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## Landcare Adventure Registration Form

Name(s): .....

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Telephone: ..... Fax: ..... Email: .....

Will you require accommodation? Yes No No. Beds: .....

Special dietary requirements: .....

Please make cheques or money orders for \$75 pp, or \$40pp for dinner only, payable to Granite Borders Landcare Committee, and post or deliver them to us at: PO Box 400, Martin St, TENTERFIELD NSW 2372 by Friday 9th April 2010.



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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 13th May 2010**  
Uralla Community Centre (cnr Hill & Maitland St)  
All members are invited.  
Please contact your group's SNELCC Representative if you wish to accompany them to the meeting.  
Dinner will be provided for a small charge.

**Please RSVP by  
Tuesday 11th May 2010  
for catering purposes.**

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