

## Riverina Murray Landcare Update Thursday 21st June 2018

### What's been happening

14 June **Western Murray Land improvement Group** are hosting a **Business and Technology Forum at Barham**. 55 people enjoyed the range of topics and really appreciated the WHS presentation. A hectic day that Strengthen your business through a series of presentations designed to improve your business management and analysis skills, provide practical information about product diversification, marketing and information on the latest innovations for water and harvest management. contact [Laura Kaylock](#) on 0431236045.

14 June 2018 30 farmers and 15 kids from Tarcutta primary Tarcutta Valley Landcare group and RLLS **Mates Gully Creek Open Day** Following successful completion of a range of sediment control works in Mates Gully Creek, we would like to invite you to come along and check it out! There will be visits to a number of key sites and discussions on sub-catchment drainage issues. On display will be: stream grade control structures gully control structures sub-catchment control works revegetation habitat management works for endangered species such as Swift Parrots. Collaboration between Tarcutta Valley Landcare Group, Mates Gully Creek landholders, Local Land Services and Natural Sequence farming expert, Peter Andrews has led to the success of this project Claudette Woodhouse 0428 287 156 or Trish Cookson [narrawaseeds@gmail.com](mailto:narrawaseeds@gmail.com)

14 June – **Corowa District Landcare** Annual Sheep Producers Information Evening Everyone enjoyed the tour of the whisky distillery & a delicious dinner at Corowa Whisky & Chocolate. There were about 40 attendees from far and wide. Many thanks to Dr Shawn McGrath, who presented on the current knowledge known about deficiencies & imbalances in dual-purpose crops for grazing livestock, current research on supplementing ewes grazing on pastures & also vitamin D nutrition for sheep in southern NSW. Thanks also to Sue Briggs from MLLS, who talked about the results of recent surveys she conducted on nodulation of clovers in pastures in the Murray region. Judy Kirk on M: 0417 858 533 [corowalandcare@bigpond.com](mailto:corowalandcare@bigpond.com)

All June and July- **Birds in Backyards Winter Survey:** Jun-Jul 2018 <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

The Landcare Nursery in Tumut has a wide range of native plants for Landcare projects, garden enthusiasts and for the rural property. The volunteers have been extremely busy and there is now a huge selection of locally native plants available as hicocells, tubestock and in advanced pots. The Nursery is open Monday to



Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm. For further information phone contact Steve 0427 568 131 or [tumutlandcarenursery@gmail.com](mailto:tumutlandcarenursery@gmail.com).

Mon 18 June **Murray RLF Celebration Dinner** wrapping up 2010-2018 Holbrook Landcare Network Murray Regional Landcare Facilitator Project at Barooga. A dozen supporters reviewed the project including outcomes and favourite memories such as the Henty Machinery Field Days, Landcare Conferences, iconic projects improving farming, planting trees and connecting the community to nature.

Tues 19 June **Murray Landcare Collective Regional Meeting** - heard from BCT, enjoyed a presentation about peri-urban planning from the Fenner Environment Conference, learnt more about the Murray LLS NLP2 plans and caught up with peer Landcare and producer groups from across the southern Riverina as they prepare for 2018-19.

19 June **Riverine Plains Advanced Spray Course** with Craig Day at Oaklands

<https://riverineplains.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018-AgSkilled-AdvancedSpray-Brochure-With-2018-Course-Dates.pdf>

Tuesday 19th June - 15 people attended the **Corowa District Landcare** Sheep & Pasture Producers Discussion Group Session 4 – Lamb Survival, with Kristy Howard & Eve Hall (MLLS District Veterinarian) at “Newfield” 102 Newfield Rd, Rennie, starting at 10.00am. For more information or to register your interest in joining the Group please contact - Judy Kirk: 02 60331137 M: 0417 858 533 E:

[corowalandcare@bigpond.com](mailto:corowalandcare@bigpond.com)

Tuesday June 19 **WinCott are proud to partner with Rice Extension’s Women in Rice** to bring a wonderful networking and knowledge building event, **Food and Fibre with Flair** at Griffith Over 70 people attended this wonderful event with the highlight being the guest speaker Robbie Sefton, who had the audience in fits of laughter about her grounded personality from the little country town of Deni and her rise to a major influencer in the agricultural industry. Basin Plan Basics: Where did it come from, What’s in it & What’s next? Liz Stott, Murray Darling Basin Authority did a great job of taking the jargon out of water and Workplace relations: Prioritising productivity over paperwork Ben Foley, Workplace Assured advised us on the changes the workplace regulations. [www.Foodandfibrewithflair.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.Foodandfibrewithflair.eventbrite.com.au)

Yesterday 20 June All are welcome to attend **West Hume Landcare’s Sheep Producer Group** meeting on 20th June 2018, 10am at Sam Schilg’s place (Sunshine, 1663 Kywong-Howlong Rd, Brocklesby). This group is



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facilitated by Kristy Howard and the topic for the next meeting is: Sheep classing for self, presented by Stuart Hodgson from AWI. BYO Lunch. Please RSVP to Kristy Howard by 18 June on email [kristy@inspiringexcellence.com.au](mailto:kristy@inspiringexcellence.com.au) or text 0400 282 222.

Yesterday June 20 **Culcairn Landcare** Grazing crops and Feeding through winter Field Day 10am - 3pm @ Orange Grove 1791 Olympic Way Looking at strategies for getting through this tough winter. The will cover sheep and cattle nutrition and also the latest research in grazing crops. Cheers Ash  
[ajpaech@gmail.com](mailto:ajpaech@gmail.com) 0408 562 983 over 50 rsvp

Last night 20th June - Corowa Landcare SLOANE'S FROGLET NIGHT with Dr David Hunter. Everyone welcome. Learn about the THREATENED local SLOANE'S FROGLET & how YOU can HELP. Starting 5:30pm at Rivergum Holiday Retreat, 386 Honour Ave, Corowa. Please RSVP Monday 18th June, 2018 Sally 0427 549 856 or email [corowalandcare@bigpond.com](mailto:corowalandcare@bigpond.com)

20th June Riverina RDA hosting LARGE SCALE SOLAR PV IN THE MURRAY RIVERINA REGION- WHAT'S IN IT FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY? RENEWABLE ENERGY BUYER FORUM IN GRIFFITH register at [www.energybuyergriffith.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.energybuyergriffith.eventbrite.com.au) There are over twenty large scale solar PV developments at various stages of development in the Riverina- Murray region.

What is the potential for large energy users in the region to take advantage of the power produced? Is there a possibility for direct power purchase agreements? How can it benefit local users as to their power costs or their corporate renewable energy goals or commitments? Registration is free. Come along to find out more

## Up Coming Events

Thurs 21 June **HARDEN MURRUMBURRAH LANDCARE** Annual General Meeting. Following the AGM will be a soils workshop conducted by Mark Glover, CSIRO - Land & Water

21 June Evening **Conversation - Adapting Land Management in Our Area**

**Public - Hosted by Bowning-Bookham Landcare Group** - Steven Crimp from the Australian National University's Climate Change Institute <http://climate.anu.edu.au/about-us/people/steven-crimp> is going to lead a conversation about what's expected to happen in our local climate and what we can do. We'll talk about the trends, different actions we can take as land holders and as a community, and what seems to be working



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elsewhere. Join us for dinner from 6:30pm, there'll be a short business meeting from 7:15pm and start the Evening Conversation from 7:30pm. Come for any or all of the above.

Dinner and dessert will be available at Barneys.

21-22 June Holbrook Landcare Network will be moving to their new office which is actually their old office next to B1 the original Holbrook Bakery shopfront

22 June TBC LLS and MLI Feeding in Dry Times, Cootamundra. The presentations will be similar to the LLS workshops given 23-25 May. The format that worked really well last week, was that the participants could ask questions during the presentations and that gives farmers who are already feeding, feedlotting, using different feed mixes etc to have input. We also will have a table with lots of factsheets on feeding cattle and sheep etc as takeaways, as well as copies of the presentation by Jim Gibbs.

Fri 22 June The staff and students of **Hay Public School** would like to invite you to the opening of our Dhangaang Bush Tucker garden on Friday 22nd June at 10.30 am. Kathy Duncan  
Kitchen Garden Specialist Ph: 02 69931270 Entry via Edward Street, Hay.

Sat 23rd June **Young District Landcare** is hosting a **microbat workshop** with guest presenter Michael Pennay from 10 to 1pm at Young Golf Club. Michael is an expert and photographer who has researched bats for over 20 years in Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Michael will introduce the many 'undercover' bat species that call the Young district home, their characteristics, where they live and what they get up to around us each night in their hidden world under the cover of darkness. Learn why they are useful to have around, even if we can't see (or hear) them. This workshop will include an update on Young District Landcare's Microbats of the Young District project. The Microbats on Farms workshop is for farmers, orchardists, and anyone interested in learning about the amazing services provided by these tiny creatures. This is a free event with morning tea and lunch provided. Click here to read our media release.  
Please RSVP to Mikla Lewis on 0499 199 016 or email [young@lachlandcare.org.au](mailto:young@lachlandcare.org.au) by Thursday 21st June

Sun 24th June **TBC Wagga Wagga Urban Landcare Group -Stroud Homes Planting** pound Flat TSR  
Phone: Ed Maher @ 0408 771 750

26-27 June **Tocal's Precision Agronomy courses** Temora Workshop 1 (Workshop 2: 7-8 Aug)

For more information <https://tinyurl.com/y8o4wi57>

To Register your interest go to <https://tinyurl.com/ybq2npxc>





[Tocal College Grains Research and Development Corporation Cotton Australia](#)

Wed 27 June **Riverine Plains Farm Business Update** at Mulwala

The **Weeds Biocontrol Survey** is now open for the community. Help us improve biological control for weeds in the Riverina by completing this 10 – 15 minute survey [Click here](#) The results of this survey will help guide biocontrol projects for weeds on the Riverina. If you have any questions please contact Wendy Gibney Email: [wendy.gibney@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wendy.gibney@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Persons of Interest

**National Tree Day is Australia's largest tree-planting and nature care event.**

### #NationalTreeDay

Tree Day is an opportunity for you to do something positive for your community and the environment by connecting with nature.

Planet Ark recently celebrated 22 years of National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day - Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event. Proudly sponsored by [Toyota Australia](#), Tree Day is an opportunity to do something positive for your local environment and community and to reconnect with nature. National Tree Day started in 1996 and since then more than 4 million people have planted over 24 million trees and plants and it's still growing.

<https://treeday.planetark.org/involved/>

The dates for 2018 are:

**Schools Tree Day** Friday 27th July 2018

**National Tree Day** Sunday 29th July 2018

## Consultations, Conferences, Courses and Awards

The **Australian Financial Review 100 Women of Influence Awards** presented by Qantas encompasses ten categories, with the aim of identifying a diverse group of women championing change in business and society. The Awards uncover and promote Australian women who have dedicated their time and energy to help and encourage other women in their industry, and who are fighting for change every day.



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Nominations close Friday 6 July 2018. For more information visit:  
<http://www.afrwomenofinfluence.com.au/awards/>

**2018 Pest Fishing Competition – Entries open now!** After some great feedback from the community we have now scheduled the 2018 National Pest Fishing Competition to commence in October. For all the details and how to get involved see below or go to our [webpage](#). We have also opened up an early bird offer to make it easier to participate!

The 2018 Pest Fishing Competition is the first national event of its kind helping your local Councils and your region raise awareness of damage pest fish cause to our natural environment. The event is run by CitySmart on behalf of participating local Councils and community organisations across Australia.

- It will be held over a competition window from 20th October to 25th November 2018, allowing you to select the most suitable day and time for your community
- A fun-based activity for residents catching pest fish
- Increasing publicity
- Promote current Council and regional programs
- Friendly competition with other Councils – a leader board will run online and a national winning Council area will be announced after all site totals are posted
- For residents, a free, fun day out with friends and family with prizes to be won.

Applications open: June 2018 Competition period: 20 October – 25 November 2018

Simply download and complete the 2018 National Pest Fishing Competition [Entry Form](#) here (also attached) and email to [events@citysmart.com.au](mailto:events@citysmart.com.au)

**Find out more** Contact the Events team at CitySmart [events@citysmart.com.au](mailto:events@citysmart.com.au)  
ph: 07 3007 7000 web: [www.citysmart.com.au/events/pest-fishing/](http://www.citysmart.com.au/events/pest-fishing/)

Want to get involved and **report conditions on your farm**? The NSW DPI Farm Tracker app allows you to take stock of conditions at your place. The app allows you to record rainfall, pasture availability, livestock conditions, crop performance and other on farm conditions. This allows you to keep a record of your farm over time, or use the information to compare different areas of your farm. If updated regularly this can help provide a valuable record of how seasonal conditions affect your property. The information you collect will also contribute to the Government's seasonal conditions monitoring. The data from your reports provides a valuable ground truth of the information in NSW DPI's seasonal conditions monitoring systems. Over time your data will also help improve the accuracy of early warning for all farmers across NSW. This is particularly valuable in areas where there are few rain gauges.

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/cdi/edis-self-reporting>

The **NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards** are designed to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions individuals, communities and businesses are making throughout regional and rural NSW & the ACT. Do you know an individual, group or organisation who deserves to be recognised? We would love for you to enter **July 2018!**

**Nominations are now open for the prestigious NSW Roadside Environmental Management Award** sponsored by the NSW Roadside Environment Committee as part of the 2018 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards. The award incorporates, but is not limited to:



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- Assessment of roadside environments.
  - Preparation of roadside vegetation management plans or similar.
  - Implementation of roadside vegetation management plans or actions to support the roadside environment including staff/contractor training, community education, and demonstrated integration with other council plans or processes.
  - Monitoring and evaluation of roadside vegetation management plans or similar.
- More details and how to apply are provided below.

To celebrate World Environment Day, LGNSW is opening nominations for the 2018 Excellence in the Environment Awards. The Awards recognise outstanding achievements by local government in NSW in managing and protecting the environment. This year the Excellence in the Environment Awards celebrate twenty one years of inspiration from NSW councils in programs, projects and people across 15 award categories. A new category, the Sustainable Infrastructure Award, is available this year. The Awards culminate in two prestigious Local Sustainability Awards: one for overall council performance, and one to recognise the individual achievements of a council staff member or elected councillor in the field of sustainability.

The awards are for projects undertaken during the period from January 2017 to May 2018. All local government organisations are encouraged to put forward an entry. Submit your entry online now. Award Categories

- Asbestos Management sponsored by SafeWork NSW
- Climate Change Action sponsored by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
- Communication, Education and Empowerment sponsored by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
- Community Sharps Management sponsored by NSW Ministry of Health
- Invasive Species Management sponsored by Department of Primary Industries
- Innovation in Planning, Policies and Decision Making sponsored by WolfPeak
- Natural Environment Protection and Enhancement: on-ground works sponsored by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
- Roadside Environmental Management sponsored by NSW Roadside Environment Committee
- Resource Recovery
- Community Waste Services
- Behaviour Change in Waste
- Sustainable Infrastructure sponsored by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
- Water Management sponsored by Water Directorate

#### Sustainability Awards

The Awards culminate with the two prestigious Local Sustainability Awards: one for overall council performance and one to recognise the individual achievements of a council staff member or elected Councillor in the field of sustainability.

- Local Sustainability Award sponsored by Local Government Super and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, includes a \$10,000 prize for an overseas study tour or a professional development program for council staff.
  - Louise Petchell Memorial Award for Individual Sustainability sponsored by Local Government Super.
- All details on how to apply are available on the Awards website. **Entries close on Monday 30 July 2018.**

**SHARE THE GRAIN STORY** GrainGrowers is holding a competition for children between the ages of 5 and 18 living on a grains farm anywhere in Australia – or who has relatives who do – to tell the story about your family's history on a grains farm, which blends together the past and the future. Prizes include a drone, a goPro and an iPad. **Deadline 17 September. More?** [social@graingrowers.com.au](mailto:social@graingrowers.com.au)



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2018 AgriFutures™ **Rural Women's Award Gala Dinner & National Announcement** confirmed for Monday, 15 October 2018. The seven inspiring women recently announced as 2018 AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award state and territory winners will gather in Canberra for the announcement of the National Winner and Runner Up during a gala dinner in the Great Hall, Parliament House on Monday, 15 October 2018. The Gala Dinner & National Announcement will be hosted by 2017 AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award National Winner Tanya Dupagne. The black tie event will be attended by alumni, industry and private sector leaders, government officials, parliamentarians and media. For the second year in a row, the event is open to the public to purchase tickets [online](#).

The 2018 state and territory winners vying for the National title are:

- Linda Blackwood, NT
- Allison Clark, TAS
- Melissa Connors, VIC
- Darrylin Gordon, WA
- Jillian Kilby, NSW/ACT
- Alex Thomas, SA
- Krista Watkins, QLD

Tickets to the 2018 AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award Gala Dinner are on sale until 5.00pm, **Friday 28 September** (unless sold out prior) at [agrifutures.com.au](http://agrifutures.com.au).

### **Farm decision making and climate change: Opportunity to participate**

#### **Decisions land managers make are based on research, training and often 'rules of thumb'.**

These rules of thumb can guide decisions such as when to join, what pastures perform better, what paddocks you use for off shears etc.

Variations we are beginning to experience as part of climate change may have an influence on these accepted rules of thumb. Researchers from the Australian National University and University of Technology Sydney have a current research project exploring agricultural adaptations to climate change and are looking for land managers to help them!

If you choose to participate in this study, researchers will ask you to:

Complete discussions, either in person or over the phone (up to 3 in the year)

Attend one or two (1 day) workshops over the year

Researchers would schedule activities around your availability.

Through combining the expertise of the farmers involved in the study with the research from ANU and UTS, the researchers will develop rules-of-thumb which are useful and appropriate to climate change adaptation decision-making. For more information, view the project fact sheet here, or contact Steven Crimp, ANU - (02) 6125 7265 or [steven.crimp@anu.edu.au](mailto:steven.crimp@anu.edu.au).

### **Sheep producer feedback is needed for animal health monitoring and preparedness study.**

This online questionnaire takes around 30 minutes and is anonymous. It is being conducted by Charles Sturt University, Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics and Sciences and CSIRO as part of a Rural Research and Development for Profit project. By submitting a survey response, you will have the opportunity to go into a prize draw to win an iPad or one of 20 of \$50.00



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retail gift vouchers. [Click here](#) to complete the survey, or use the following address in your browser <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sheep03>

9 July - 11 July 2018 **GRDC Innovation Generation** (Wagga Wagga). TBC (please contact event organiser for [more details](#)). Innovation Generation (IG), is the leading annual gathering for under 35s working in the Australian grains industry.

24-26 July **NSW Farmers Annual Conference** 2018 at Luna Park, Milsons Point, SYDNEY [https://www.nswfarmers.org.au/NSWFA/Events/Event\\_Display.aspx?EventKey=NSWFAAC](https://www.nswfarmers.org.au/NSWFA/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=NSWFAAC)

31 July -2 Aug Australian Grains Industry Conference in Melbourne, VIC <https://www.ausgrainsconf.com/australia>

Jul 26 - 27 Agribusiness Today Forum, TBC venue and location

Friday 27 July 2018 [APCC12 Early-bird Registrations are now open!](#)

Join us for a week of exciting presentations, local field trips and a 1-day threatened plant translocation workshop! One of our plenary speakers, Dr Jen Silcock from the Threatened Species Recovery Hub, will talk about the 60,000 year history of plant translocations in Australia. [Download Jen's conference abstract here](#). There will be a night tour to Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary, and a Field Trip to Barrer Hill Woodland Restoration Project with Greening Australia to view a variety of restoration and translocation techniques including the endangered Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides*). There will also be free tours of the Herbarium and the Australian National Botanical Gardens, and you'll be able to take home free copies of the 2019 ACT Threatened Plants Calendar and the new 3rd Edition of the ANPC's Translocation Guidelines! The APCC12 Call for Abstracts is also now open - submissions close Friday 27 July 2018. [Download the APCC12 registration form here](#). NB. Online registration will be available very soon! [And join the ANPC today](#) to receive considerable discounts on your [registration fees!](#)

**26 July 2018 GRDC Grains Research Update (Moama) 9:00am - 1:00pm** The GRDC Grains Research Update events provide agronomists, consultants, researchers and growers with a forum to showcase innovative thinking and the latest research outcomes relevant to modern farming systems. [View full details](#)

7-9 Aug 19th Australian Cotton Conference [cottonshippers@bigpond.com](mailto:cottonshippers@bigpond.com)  
<http://www.australiancottonconference.com.au/>

11 August 2018 **Citizen Science: Challenges and Benefits for Biodiversity Conservation**

[The Citizen Science Forum](#) will explore a wide range of issues relating to the challenges and benefits of Citizen Science (CS) in biodiversity conservation. Presentations will be 15-20 minutes duration, with a panel Q&A session at the end of each thematic segment. Those interested in presenting should contact The Hut Environment and Community Association. Registration opens 1 May 2018. In Brisbane

13-14 Aug in Canberra for [Crawford Foundation](#) 2018 Annual Conference "Reshaping Ag for Better

14 - 16 August Australia New Zealand **Biochar Conference (ANZBC18)** will be held on Tuesday at Southern Cross University Gold Coast Campus, Bilinga, Qld, Australia.



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15-16 August **CSIRO AgCatalyst** at Melbourne Park, VIC At AgCatalyst, attendees can examine the latest in digital technologies, data science and next generation genomics, delve into biologicals, materials science and new bioproducts, and discuss the latest developments in food science, precision agriculture and robotics.

**Serving up value** is the theme for 2018 with live demonstrations of cutting edge agriculture technology, latest food products and unique networking opportunities. 500-600 attendees are expected from agribusiness, peak industry bodies, rural research funders and providers, universities, CSIRO and policy-makers in innovation. <https://www.csiro.au/en/Research/AF/Areas/AgCatalyst>

Nominations for the **2018 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards are opening on Wednesday 30th May!** Including the **Prime Super Agricultural Innovation Award**, Great prizes are up for grabs, plus every person or group nominated will receive a certificate of achievement. To find out more please [click here](#). **Nominations Close 16 August**

**2018 New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory Biosecurity Roundtable, Sydney on Thursday 30 August 2018.**

This event is presented by the National Biosecurity Committee, and co-hosted by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE NSW/ACT BIOSECURITY ROUNDTABLE BY CLICKING [HERE](#)

24 August AIM Breakfast Yarrowonga 'Acknowledge Inspire Mingle'

**17 August to 2 September for 'NSW Sustaining Landcare Week', supported by the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare (PFL).** Sustaining Landcare is about securing the services and support Landcare groups need to carry out their valuable projects and activities. We need to raise awareness of the consequences if Landcare does not have access to core infrastructure such as Local Coordinators and central support services. Landcare NSW has advised the NSW Government and all political parties that the cost of Landcare support over four years is \$32.5 million. Because of your hard work, Members of Parliament (MPs) are beginning to understand the issues. But there's more work to do, hence we hope you will read this email and take action.

Our State Minister, the Hon Niall Blair, has received a copy of the [Progress Report on the NSW Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative](#). We encourage all Landcarers to read this report and share it among your networks. It highlights the positive difference Landcare is making with the support of the NSW Government and Local Land Services. Educating our elected representatives about Landcare is an ongoing challenge and a great opportunity. For this reason, Landcare NSW is coordinating a statewide event to reach out to MPs and raise awareness of Landcare. While national 'Landcare Week' would seem the obvious opportunity, this is held in September when the NSW Parliament is in session making it impossible for MPs to attend events in their electorates.

Our aim is to encourage Landcare regions to hold an event to showcase your group and activities to your local Member of Parliament and other candidates in your electorate. This will assist groups to form a relationship with their local MP and other key stakeholders, including Local Land Services. If you already have this relationship, inviting them to an event will help to keep it alive. By holding activities statewide over the course of a week or 10 days we aim to increase our impact and raise awareness of Landcare.

This event may be something you already have planned: a tree planting, a field day, a working bee, a guided walk, an education session...the key is to make sure you invite your local MP! Please invite your Federal MP,



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too, as we also want to build relationships with representatives in Canberra. The PFL will send a notice to all NSW Members of Parliament encouraging them to accept the invitation to attend a local Landcare event in their electorate and will also encourage them to get in touch with the Local Landcare Coordinator in their region to find out about upcoming events. The PFL Chair Kevin Anderson, Member for Tamworth, has committed to organising a debate (a Notice of Motion) in the Legislative Assembly of the NSW Parliament the week beginning **17 September** which will enable all MPs to speak about Landcare in their electorate and the events they attended. In order to ensure the likelihood of your MP being able to attend your event, can you please send out an invitation to the MPs' offices ASAP and at the latest by mid-June.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> September **FarmLink Open Day 2018**

#### 25 August - 29 August 2019 **19th Australian Agronomy Conference (Wagga Wagga)**

National conference for agronomists to network and share research results.

[View full details](#)

#### September Twilight Weed and Crop Walk, Graham Centre Field Site, Wagga

The annual John Ralph Essay Competition was established in honour of John Ralph, the inaugural Chairman of the Australian Farm Institute. John made a major contribution to the Australian Farm Institute during his six years of chairmanship, and always insisted that comprehensive and objective research should be the basis for policy decisions, particularly for a sector such as agriculture, which has a wide diversity of different commodity groups and business arrangements

The topic for the 2018 John Ralph Essay Competition is: Society should determine the right to farm.

There are two categories for this competition:

- The Open category is open to anyone, including students, farmers, agribusiness participants, policy-makers, consultants, researchers, etc.
- The Novice category is open to persons 25 years of age or under, on Saturday 31st of December 2018.

The two winning entries will be selected by a panel of judges and these will be published in the Summer 2018 edition of the Farm Policy Journal, to be released in December, 2018.

Visit the Australian Farm Institute website for more information.

**Entries close 5pm on Monday, 3 September 2018.**

#### All September [National Biodiversity Month](#)

#### 1st September [National Wattle Day \(link is external\)](#) -

**9th to 12th Sept 2018 21st Australasian Weeds Conference** The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc., on behalf of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies Inc., will be hosting the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference in the popular Sydney beach side suburb of Manly from 9 - 12 September 2018. This biennial conference carries on a long tradition of bringing the weed management community together to discuss new developments and share information about cutting-edge and best weed management practices. The conference attracts over 250 delegates from across Australasia and globally. Delegates will come together to network with peers, engage with industry sponsors, listen and participate in presentations and field trips on a variety of topics including; More information: [www.21awc.org.au](http://www.21awc.org.au)



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10th - 13th September: 68th Australasian Grain Science Conference: Grain Science Transforming our future (Wagga Wagga). The conference themes of market intelligence, capacity building and value adding technologies align with GRDC's aim of investing in RD&E that creates enduring profitability for Australian grain growers

17 & 18 September Australian Regional Development Conference at Tweed Heads

**SER Australasia Conference 2018 - Brisbane, 25-28 September 2018**

The Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA) is pleased to announce the 2018 conference '*Striving for Restoration Excellence*' to be held at the University of Queensland, Brisbane. SERA is a collaborative effort. If you are a scientist, practitioner, manager, policy maker, planner or someone who cares about our bush, seas and waterways you do not want to miss this conference! If you are interested in restoration planning and management or want to ensure restoration really makes a difference then this is the conference not to be missed. The proposed themes for SERA 2018 are focused around four pillars: Principles & Practice – *doing it right in restoration; Biomes - rainforests, woodlands, grasslands, seagrasses and beyond; Impact – making a change; Specialist Disciplines – seed technologies, provenance, marine restoration and more.* **Final call for Abstracts - deadline extended to 31 May!** [Click here for more information and submission details.](#)

Sept-Oct 2018 **Birds In Backyard [Spring Survey](#)** : Sept-Oct 2018 (and don't forget about Bird Week and the [Aussie Backyard Bird Count 22-28 Oct 2018](#))

23 Nov AIM Breakfast Yarrowonga 'Acknowledge Inspire Mingle'

December 4 Graham Centre End of Year Function, Convention Centre, CSU, Wagga

10 – 12 October **2018 National Landcare Conference and Awards**, to be held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre from 10-12 October 2018. Themed 'Landcare – Building a Better Tomorrow', the 2018 National Landcare Conference and Awards is your opportunity to contribute to, engage with, and learn from your community and peers. Held over three exciting days, the event will deliver an engaging program with keynote speakers, informative presentations, social events, and educational field trips within close proximity to Brisbane's CBD. Recognising the hard work and innovation of the Landcare community, the Landcare Awards gala dinner is a chance to let your hair down and celebrate the achievements of peers with the announcement of the National Landcare category winners and the People's Choice Award winner. We officially welcome you to join us for what promises to be the leading knowledge-sharing event for the Landcare movement in 2018.

22 November 2018 **National Biosecurity Forum (held in Canberra)**

5th December [International Volunteer Day \(link is external\)](#)

5th December [World Soil Day \(link is external\)](#) -



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# Grants, Funding, Scholarships & Opportunities

## Locations to find grants

- Community builders: [www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au](http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au)
- Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal: [www.frrr.org.au](http://www.frrr.org.au)
- Grants Link: <https://www.grants.gov.au/>
- Regional Arts NSW: <http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants>
- Business Projects: <http://ausindustry.gov.au>
- Our Community: <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au>
- Philanthropy: <http://www.philanthropy.org.au>
- Business: <https://www.business.gov.au/search?q=&c=assistance&c=events&c=advice>
- Equity Trustees administers a number of other charitable trusts and foundations which provide grants across a range of areas beyond our [five pillars granting program](#) areas.

**DROUGHT FUNDING** To help farmers, their families and rural communities manage and respond to the current dry conditions, the NSW Government this week announced an additional \$275 million in drought support measures. The FarmLink region is classified into two zones as either being on Drought Watch or Drought Onset.

> Full details are available via the Droughthub website <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub>; <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/drought-assistance-fund> ; <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/farm-innovation-fund> or by contacting the Rural Assistance Authority or Rural Financial Counsellor Service <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/other>

## DROUGHT-AFFECTED FARMERS

Support for farmers and their families facing drought has been boosted by \$284 million in the NSW Budget 2018, bringing the NSW Government's drought relief package to well over half a billion dollars. For more information please see the attached press release or go to <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub>.

"To date, the Farm Innovation Fund has delivered \$220 million to more than 1300 farmers to help build on-farm infrastructure, and prepare for and battle drought. "Our farmers are continuing to tell us that these loans are one of the best measures available, which is why we have decided to double the funding available, taking the Fund's total value to \$500 million." The NSW Government will also expand the criteria of the Fund to deliver \$50,000 seven-year interest free loans to allow producers to bring in fodder and grain to sustain stock on hand, as well as install key water infrastructure. The NSW Government's drought package includes:

An additional \$250 million in the Farm Innovation Fund, which:

- o provides farmers with low-interest loans of up to \$250,000 to improve farm infrastructure and help farmers prepare for and deal with drought;
- o introduces new loans of up to \$50,000 that will be interest-free for seven years, to allow producers to bring in fodder and grain, to move livestock, or install key water infrastructure including troughs, underground pipes or water-saving technology;

New criteria in the Farm Innovation Fund which allows farmers to use the loans to "bio-bank" the genetics of their herd that would otherwise be lost during destocking; Additional staff within the Department of Primary Industries to process and streamline Farm Innovation Fund applications; More than \$4 million in mental health support for communities facing natural disaster and drought including:



- o Support for the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, including continued funding for 13 statewide coordinators to link rural people to the help they need; and
- o Additional counselling support through funding for the National Association for Loss and Grief, a Dubbo-based NGO.

New funding of \$25 million to build and operate three new Doppler radar weather stations in the Central West and Far West to improve weather forecasting and help farmers make better business decisions;

A new kangaroo management plan to reduce kangaroo numbers in drought-hit areas, including:

- o Removing the need for landholders to physically tag culled kangaroos;
- o Removing the 'shoot and let lie' conditions to reduce bio-security risk;
- o Expanding the commercial harvest zone for kangaroos in the South East of NSW; and
- o Connecting landholders experiencing high kangaroo numbers with commercial harvesters through Local Land Services and other agencies.

Up to \$5 million towards helping local councils repair dirt roads damaged by the temporary access for heavy vehicles carrying feed, water and livestock.

[Apply here - Tara Fellowship application](#) The **Tara Hunt Fellowship Our 1 Million Women** Tara Hunt fellowship will offer a young woman the opportunity to undertake communications training to expand her skills and knowledge and bring those learnings back to 1 Million Women. It's a glorious four-week journey (broken up over 6 months - see dates below) with the 1 Million Women team to learn how to effectively communicate the challenges of climate change and encourage solutions. We are looking for young women between the ages of 18 to 25 years-old and based anywhere in Australia or New Zealand to apply for the fellowship. If you have a love of this earth and a desire to make a positive change, then you are the perfect candidate. All expenses will be covered including travel, accommodation, food and all on the ground costs.

Application submissions close on Friday, 22nd June at 11:59pm (AEST).

All Fellowship costs are covered. Accommodation will be provided during your stay in Sydney plus daily living expenses and all your travel costs to and from Sydney and during your stay will be covered. **OVERVIEW OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

1. International Youth Media Summit - July 21st - August 9th
2. Working with 1MW - for 2 weeks anytime before December 31st 2018
3. 1MW Summit - Date to be confirmed (before end of 2018)

**Funding available with Greening Australia for superb parrot habitat** on properties in the South west slopes area – Yass, Boorowa, Young, Harden, Jugiong. Assistance is available for landholders who wish to plant or direct seed trees and shrubs or erect fencing to protect woodland habitat greater than 10 hectares for the Superb Parrot. Nicki Taws (02) 6253 3035, [ntaws@greeningaustralia.org.au](mailto:ntaws@greeningaustralia.org.au)

**Country Arts Support Program (CASP) 2019 Applications close: Friday 3 August, 17:00 AEST**

CASP is an annual small grants program administered by Regional Arts NSW (RANSW) on behalf of Create NSW and is guided by the ACDP's three major objectives:

- A creative and vibrant NSW arts and cultural sector renowned for excellence and innovation (Quality).
- State-wide engagement with diverse audiences and communities (Reach).
- A resilient NSW arts and cultural sector (Health) and cultural activities.



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The 2019 CASP Guidelines are [available here](#). Please note that applicants must contact their local Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO) prior to submission. [You can find your local RADO here](#). Those in non-contributing regional areas are encouraged to contact Regional Arts NSW. For more information visit [regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/casp](http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/casp)

**Threatened Species Children's Art Competition 2018** Art competition will be open for entries between June 4 and August 3 2018. Children from 5-12 years old in NSW are invited to unleash their creativity while learning about our threatened species. Each child chooses one of over 1000 threatened species in NSW, researches, then draws or paints it, and writes a short explanation of their work. Photographs of artworks and written explanations can be submitted on our website. Fifty finalists will be chosen for an exhibition in Sydney in September, with winners announced at Parliament House Sydney on September 7, Threatened Species Day. In 2018 there will be great prizes offered in different age categories: 5-7 year olds, 8-10 year olds, 11-12 year olds; and special prizes for Most Unusual Entry, Best Group Work Entry and Best Written Explanation. Best Plant Entry is a new category for prizes! Some of the entries will be posted on Facebook as they come in and teachers will receive a certificate by email that they can print and hand out to every child who enters. Last year over 1600 children entered the competition. Sixty three primary schools got involved as well as numerous after school programs and private art schools. More information is available on the website or you can email or call on 0414958714 for flyers to be sent to you.

Don't be sheepish about taking this online survey **Sheep producers are asked to take part in an online survey on animal health** monitoring and preparedness as part of a study conducted by Charles Sturt University, Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics and Sciences and CSIRO. The anonymous survey takes around 30 minutes. Respondents go into the draw to win an iPad or one of 20 of \$50 retail gift vouchers. Take the survey [here](#)

LANDCARE LOTTERY Landcare Australia has launched a charity lottery with \$1 million worth of prizes and 60% of ticket sales going directly to Landcare Australia. Tickets cost \$25, and can be purchased at <https://playforpurpose.com.au/landcare>

**Murray Dairy Business Mentoring Program** - A free session with an AgBiz Assist agricultural consultant to help you implement a farm business process or practice for your farm. How does it work? This program is open to dairy farmers within the Murray region, you can expect from the program:

- A Consultation with an experienced financial mentor from AgBiz Assist
- Mentors to work with you to help implement a farm business practice or skill, including record-keeping, accounting, budgeting or business analysis
- Mentors will signpost farmers to tools, resources or services to enhance your business management, including programs such as DairyBase

Any dairy farmers in the Murray region interested in improving their capability across farm business management and analysis should contact Lachlan Barnes at Murray Dairy on 0438 092 352 or [lachlanb@murraydairy.com.au](mailto:lachlanb@murraydairy.com.au)

**Landcare Receives Funding Boost for Dung Beetles Riverina Highlands** Landcare Network is embarking on a 2 year project to look at the opportunities for maximising the use of dung beetles to improve pasture condition. With funding secured from Meat and Livestock Australia, the project will conduct a series of field trials to measure changes in cattle dung pads as a result of dung beetle activity. As part of the field trials, up to five species of beetles will be released across 5 participating properties. The producers involved will be helping with monitoring species survival rates and their spread across the property as well as their effectiveness in





processing the dung. RHLN is looking for 5 properties geographically spread across the region to be involved in this trial. Landholders interested in being involved in the dung beetle trial should download a copy of the dung beetle project fact sheet and EOI which can be found at [www.riverinahighlandslandcare.com.au](http://www.riverinahighlandslandcare.com.au). During the initial stage of the project the Landcare Network wishes to learn more about landholders current perceptions of dung beetles. We would appreciate you taking the time to complete the following survey. It should take about 5 minutes of your time. Your responses are voluntary, anonymous and will be confidential.

[Landholder Dung Beetle Survey](#)

**Hort Innovation encourages all growers and industry participants to share their thoughts and ideas for the research and other investments they want to see** – and it's as simple as using our [online Concept Proposal Form](#). Hort Innovation invests more than \$100 million each year into initiatives and programs that provide benefit to Australian horticulture growers, the wider horticulture sector and the community. Each investment starts with an idea – and we'd love for you to share yours.

**Aid for NSW Farmer Upskill** NSW farmers can take subsidised [pre-approved courses](#) through the State Government's \$45m Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program. Or farmers can [apply](#) for other professional development activities. Participants can [claim reimbursement](#) of up to 50% (GST-exclusive) up to \$5000/farmer or \$9000/farm business. For further information [www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/professional-development-program](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/professional-development-program)

**Indigenous Advancement Strategy Community Led Grants** enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and service providers to seek grant funding to address emerging needs and/or opportunities that they have identified as priorities. As a first step, potential applicants must discuss their proposal with their local PM&C Regional Network office, by calling 1800 079 098 and asking to speak to a staff member in their local office. [Indigenous Advancement Strategy Community Led Grants Website](#)



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