



PARKES and Districts LANDCARE

LANDCARE NEWS September 2010

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IMPORTANT DATES

September 6-12 - Landcare Week
September 8 - Hay Day - Condobolin - 2010 Hay & Fodder Production & Storage Conference
September 16 - Management of Mistletoe in Central West - 'Riversteen', 4162 Frogmore Rd, Hovells Creek (35km Se Cowra). RSVP Trudi - 6345 1997 redgrass@activ8.net.au
November 3 - Landcare NSW Muster - Yeoval - ideas, actions, directions for next 12 months

2011

September 5-7 - 2011 NSW Landcare and Catchment Management Forum @ Parkes "Thinking Differently... New solutions for the old Issues", for information visit <http://www.parkeslandcare.org.au/downloads/downloads-index.html>

LINKS

<http://www.juniorlandcare.com/> - Check out this Website for Junior Landcarers - Grants, challenges, Competitions and News

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/cag/> - **Community Action Grants** - available now... or call 1800 552 008.

www.parkeslandcare.org.au - have you visited the website lately? We are getting more adept at updating it. Find out the latest news, field trips, and more.....

www.facebook.com/pages/Parkes-and-Districts-Landcare/187389540979 - this will take you to our facebook page that has many photographs of our goings on. There is also a link on our web page to take you there.

FREE SEED CATALOGUE AVAILABLE - Seed World collect and source seeds Australia wide. For a FREE seed catalogue email Gary at sales@seedworld.com.au.

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE LANDCARE AWARDS

A 5 minute survey has been designed to help Landcare evaluate the 2010 National Landcare Awards and make improvements. Tell us your opinion - it could help shape the next National Landcare Awards. To participate in the survey visit www.landcareonline.com.au and click on news, it will take you to the survey.

***Do we have your email address? Newsletters by email save the environment.
Update your details using the form on the back of this newsletter or email
pdlsc@bigpond.com***

By now you should have received your invoices for next year's membership. Your membership is vital in ensuring that this organization survives. And with survival we are able to hopefully fulfill many needs for our members. The next year poses to be an exciting one building on events of the last twelve months as we escalate towards the NSW Landcare Forum and Catchment Management Awards in September, 2011.

There are many activities on the agenda so please re join and involve yourself with our organization.

The Community Action Grant for tree planting within the district is slowly rolling out, as we address Government guide lines, and as several groups now know, the Government is getting heavy handed in ensuring we show due diligence in distributing funds and being accountable.

Looking forward to all the action in the on coming year.

REVIEWS

Soil Pits in the Trundle District - June 2010

40 landholders attended the Landcare project highlighting the use of soil pits as a diagnostic tool for farm management, supported by the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority, soil scientist David McKenzie of McKenzie Soil Management in Orange, LCMA soils guru Ian Packer, and Chris Baker of Trundle Ag n Vet.

The pits were very diverse, with soils ranging from self mulching to high sodicity. Many issues landholders are dealing with can be



addressed by looking at the basics of soil structure, soil pH and examining the soil at depth rather than just the top 10 cm. A detailed report is currently being prepared. Landcarers who are interested in soil management are reminded that Parkes and Districts Landcare has a soil test kit box, with all the equipment needed to do some basic soil tests. Contact Gerald on 0428 743846.

Thanks go to all of the Landholders who allowed pits to be dug on their properties, busdriver Paul Curr, pit digger Tim Patton and the soils experts - David McKenzie, Ian Packer and Chris Baker for their contribution.



Opening of Forbes Landcare Shed

Forbes Urban Landcare celebrated a significant event on Tuesday 27 July with the finalisation of Project 22 - the Official opening of their Landcare shed in Young Street Forbes, to store equipment. Forbes Urban have been sourcing a home for over five (5) years and with the assistance of Forbes Shire Council who availed the land for construction. Development has taken around twelve months and funds were the result of a partnership with Forbes Shire Council and Forbes Urban Landcare, raising funds through drumMUSTER.

DrumMUSTERS representative, Jim Allen unveiled a sign commemorating the occasion praising the group for it's contribution. Forbes Urban president, Ron Hurley said the opening was a chance to thank all those who had contributed to Forbes Urban Landcare since it was established in 1992. Len Reade, who has been an integral part of the group since its inception gave a brief outline of the twenty one projects taken on. Deputy Mayor and Forbes Councillor cut the ribbon to officially open the shed.

Eco Day for Local Schools

What a great day!! On 30 July at the Central West Livestock Exchange two buses transported 69 students from schools in the Forbes, Parkes and Cabonne Shires. In all, twenty schools were involved, with a total of thirty teachers, parents and Landcarers helping on the day. The tree planting area was awash which prevented the opportunity to plant trees, however students attended six information sessions that included talks from:

Western Plains Zoo with a showing of frogs, praying Mantis, snakes and lizards.

GPS technology and its use.

Wiradjurie links to the land and their culture.

Weeds recognition and natural means of eradication.

Making a worm farm.

Bug watch and healthy waterways.

Participants were treated to a BBQ. The day was a great success and it is hoped to hold it annually. The Eco day was sponsored by the Lachlan CMA (a big thanks to Nina for the excellent job of organising), Forbes Shire Council, Forbes Shire Council, NetWaste, Rural Fire Service .

National Tree Day

Held on 1 August with the project for Parkes at Henderson Reserve on the Forbes Road. This has been a tree planting project on previous occasions. In all twelve participants, (4 children) contributed to the work and one hundred and twenty trees were planted in ideal soil conditions. Weather on the day was perfect and when work was complete the heavens opened up. A free BBQ was put on for the participants and there were heaps of giveaways. The day was sponsored by Parkes Shire Council, Lachlan CMA, Toyota and Planet Ark.

Family Friendly Garden Day

Another great day. Held at the Waterwise garden in PAC Park on 6 August. Twenty two participants (11 children) contributed to the day, and assisted with cleaning up rubbish, clearing up the native grass area and trimming the grass back. An area was also prepared that had been previously vandalised and some grasses transplanted. Don Jewell from GreenParkes Nursery assisted with preparation of the site and guidance on how the project should be tackled. Participants indulged in a free BBQ and some stayed longer than expected to complete the day's tasks. A great effort from all and it is anticipated that this will be repeated in the future. Parkes and Districts Landcare wishes to thank NorthParkes Mines and Parkes Shire Council (sponsors), Don Jewell, and Volunteers who assisted with the planning and success of these events.

UPCOMING TRAINING / WORKSHOPS / EVENTS - MORE INFO.....

RuralBiz Training - for Farmers / Farm Managers - an opportunity to improve management skills and gain a Nationally recognised qualification at the same time. Training is offered online or distance learning with a local workshop if needed. A great opportunity also for family members to learning and gain a solid base. There are a limited number of funded places for Diploma in Rural Business Management / Agriculture. Training commenced July 2010 continuing to early 2012. Visit www.ruralbiztraining.com.au.

HAVE YOUR SAY.... Landcare Groups are asked to circulate the following 3 questions from Landcare NSW Inc for networks to address. Responses are to be sent back to Gerald Carnie at Parkes & District Landcare by Sunday 10 October so that feedback can be prepared for the Muster on 3 November. The outcome of the muster will then be put to the State Landcare Forum @ Parkes in 2011.

1. What do you need to stimulate the re-formation or re-invigorate and maintain the viability of small local groups to address issues at the local level?
2. What is happening on your patch that is helping groups form?
3. If there were one issue/idea to take to the policy makers, what would it be?

CITIZEN SCIENTIST - everyone has the chance to help scientists study the impact of climate change in our ecosystem from their backyard or school. Become a Landcare Climate Watcher today and join Landcare groups in monitoring, collecting and recording data that will help shape the country's scientific response to Climate Change. To register, go to www.landcareonline.com.au

JUNIOR LANDCARE SUNFLOWER CHALLENGE OPEN!

If you are under 16 years old, a class, school or part of a youth group, you can take part in the challenge by competing to grow the tallest sunflower, the sunflower with the largest head or the most creative sunflower photo. Registrations open 11th August & close 22 October 2010. Visit www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au to register and receive your free giant sunflower seed. The final winners will be announced in March 2011.

OLD PHONES MORE TREES FOR HEALTHIER BEACHES THIS SUMMER - MOBILEMUSTER

Australians are encouraged to round-up their old/broken mobile phones, batteries & accessories and hand them in for recycling. For every kilogram of mobile phones received by 31 October, a tree will be planted in five key coastal areas across Australia. Mobile muster locations are News on Rankin Forbes, Forbes Post Office, Forbes Town Hall, Parkes Post Office, Telstra Shop Parkes, Cartridge World Parkes. For more locations visit: www.mobilemuster.com.au

BUILDING A LANDCARE ARCHIVE - A CALL FOR LANDCARE KNOWLEDGE

The National Landcare Facilitator (NLF) and Landcare Australia Limited (LAL) are seeking the help of landcarers from around the country to help collect the knowledge that has been built by Landcare and related groups since the inception of Landcare nearly 21 years ago. The aim is to electronically record existing knowledge from the Landcare movement and make it publicly accessible in a central on-line location and build on this in the future. PDF copies of material can be submitted to the National Landcare Facilitator at landcarearchive@nrm.gov.au with an email which gives approval of the author/responsible entity for it to be made available to the public via the LAL website. The material sought for the archive includes books, guides, fact sheets etc which have been produced by Landcare communities across the country. It is not envisaged that news items such as media release and newsletters would be included. For information contact the National Landcare Facilitator Brett de Hayr on brett.dehayr@nrm.gov.au.

CARBON EXPO AT THE PARKES SHOW

CENTROC and the Lachlan CMA have joined forces to create a Carbon Expo feature for the Parkes Show showcasing products & services to help rural and urban people to live and work in an environmentally friendly way. Learn about government rebates available, activities of Netwaste, CENTROC and the Lachlan CMA's environmental projects. Talk to local suppliers of environmental products such as solar systems, water tanks & waterwise gardening gear. Parkes and District Landcare and Parkes Public School will also feature.

DO YOU HAVE NATURAL BUSHLAND ON YOUR PROPERTY THAT YOU WANT TO PROTECT?

The Nature Conservation Trust of New South Wales (NCT) is seeking landholders within the Central West Catchment who want to protect natural bushland on their property through a permanent Conservation Covenant (Trust Agreement). This is a legally binding agreement between a landowner and the NCT to protect the environmental integrity and biodiversity of a property.

The Conservation Covenant is registered on the property title which ensures your conservation legacy is protected forever. The NCT will provide ongoing support through its Monitoring and Support Program, offering management advice, information and assistance. Incentive funding is available to successful applicants to establish and manage their conservation area and may include:

- Up to \$10,000 for participating (to be spent at your discretion on conservation activities)
- Up to a maximum of \$200 per hectare for general conservation management
- Up to a maximum of \$8,000 per kilometre for stock-proof fencing (conventional)
- Up to a maximum of \$4,000 per watering point for alternative stock watering points
- Funding for conservation management activities/infrastructure specific to your property.

For more information visit Nature Conservation Trust or contact Danielle Smetana at the Nature Conservation Trust on (02) 6365 7881 or email danielle@nct.org.au.

CATCHMENT-WIDE FUNDING - for information contact one of the CMA Offices

Farm Planning: The Central West CMA in conjunction with the Western Institute of TAFE has Farm Planning courses available to landholders. Farm Planning is mandatory for some CMA funding programs. Farm Planning courses are heavily subsidised with a total cost to the landholder of \$438.

Small Grants for Groups: For groups such as Landcare, Schools and other community groups to apply for funding and support up to \$2000 to run a course, conduct a bus trip or tackle a small on ground project that improves the health of the catchment and the environment.

Woodland Restoration Program - Landholders can receive financial and technical support to implement projects which improve grazing management of native grasslands or protect remnant woodlands for conservation purposes. Two funding packages are available:

1. Woodland grazing management - designed to support landholders wishing to improve native grasslands through rotational grazing practices. Funding is available for, stock proof fencing, new watering points and grazing management payment.
2. Woodland conservation management - designed to support landholders wishing to manage remnant woodland areas for conservation purposes. Funding is available for, stock proof fencing, alternative stock watering points and conservation management.

For information contact: Andrew Knop, Catchment Officer Vegetation and Biodiversity on 68813409.

Expressions of Interest can be submitted to Level 1, 211 Macquarie St, PO Box 2105, Dubbo NSW 2830. Open from 5 July and will close when allocated funding is expended.

Increasing Soil Carbon: training in key landscapes within the catchment covering grazing management and conservation farming for improved land management. The Central West CMA is offering incentive funding to implement certain land management practices.

Riparian Rehabilitation: This is a highly targeted project to rehabilitate riparian areas across the central west catchment. Eligible landholders will be contacted by the CMA.

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY - COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS

This is an Australian Government initiative seeking to achieve an environment that is healthy, better protected, well managed & resilient, and provides essential ecosystem service in a changing climate. Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and

Forestry Tony Burke, encouraged small community groups nationwide to apply for grants of \$5,000 to \$20,000 to help them take action to protect and revitalise the Australian landscape.

Eligible community groups may include:

- Community groups involved in coastal rehabilitation, restoration and conservation;
- Groups of farmers or land managers working on sustainable farming or improving natural resource management;
- Indigenous partnerships involved in protecting or improving the environment;
- Groups involved in biodiversity, environmental protection or managing natural resources.

Visit the Caring for our Country website at Natural Resource Management or call 1800 552 008. Applications close in late August.

FRRR SMALL GRANTS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

This program benefits people in rural and remote communities. Not for profit organisations can apply for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas. Closing date 30th September. Visit Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) www.frrr.org.au. Grants will be made in amounts up to \$5000. Applications from communities with a population of 10,000 or less will receive priority.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FUNDING

Border Rivers-Gwydir, Central West and Namoi Catchment Management Authority (CMA) region landholders are invited to apply for stewardship payments as part of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative. If you are a private land manager in these regions, you could be paid to manage the following ecological communities:

- box gum grassy woodland (white box, yellow box, Blakely's red gum)
- natural grasslands on basalt and fine-textured alluvial plains of northern NSW
- weeping myall woodland.

The Environmental Stewardship Multiple Ecological Communities Project works with landholders to protect threatened ecological communities complimenting production needs. Funding is available for up to 15 years. For information call 1800 447 371 or visit www.nrm.gov.au/stewardship. If eligible, a field officer will conduct an on-site assessment on your property during spring 2010.

RED PROGRAM FOR ALL SCHOOLS IN THE CENTRAL WEST

The Central West Catchment Management Authority is introducing the RED program to primary schools. **RED stands for Recycling + Education = Difference.** This program will highlight that Green bags are not biodegradable, but are recycled into plastic products that schools can use, such as: tables & chairs, signage, shade cloth, benches, and many other products produced by Replas: www.replas.com.au.

This is a great opportunity to enrol your school in the RED program and educate children and your community about recycling. Schools are eligible for competitions with Green Bag Australia, such as decorating a Christmas bag to carry end of year goodies home. To assist primary schools, the Central West CMA has purchased library bags for primary children. For information or to arrange to have library bags delivered, contact Liz Davis on **6363 8603 or 0427 452 662**, or liz.davis@cma.nsw.gov.au.

COMMUNITIES IN LANDSCAPES PROJECT

Communities in Landscapes (CiL) is the project currently managed by Landcare NSW with funding from Caring for Our Country. This builds on the successful collaboration between two community organisations - Landcare and the Conservation Management Network – that began with our joint 'NRM Networking Partnerships' conference in 2008. CiL is designed to address CfOC threatened species targets for Grassy Box Woodlands ecosystems across the Central West, Lachlan & Murrumbidgee regions. The project has the understanding that we must work with communities and land managers from the ground up to bring change, integrating conservation and production and we do this by working with communities and not by telling them what to do. Three Community Woodlands Officers are working directly with Landcare and other land manager groups to provide support and help develop projects to be funded by some of the CfOC project funding. It is a significant opportunity and responsibility for LNSW. Its focus is only on three regions but we are hoping that this is model for partnerships with Landcare that we can play a role in implementing in other parts of the state in years to come.

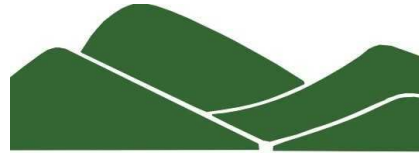
Parkes and District Landcare would like to thank the following sponsors:



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catchment
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Together We're Making a Difference
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NORTH PARKES

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