



# Central West NSW news and events

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*Issue 1 - February 2014*

## Welcome to the first Central West Local Land Services newsletter

As you would well be aware, Local Land Services (LLS) opened doors on 6 January – built from Catchment Management Authorities, Livestock Health and Pest Authorities and parts of the Department of Primary Industries Ag extension.

You've received this email because you were on the local mailing list for one of these organisations. You can unsubscribe at any point using the button at the bottom of the page.

If you are interested in the latest news on agricultural production, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management across the central west, read on...

Feedback is gratefully received. Please let us know how we can make this more useful.

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## Enrol to vote in LLS Board elections

We are reminding and encouraging rural ratepayers to enrol to vote for LLS Board Elections.

People on the previous LHPA electoral roll **will not** automatically transfer to the LLS electoral roll so will need to re-enrol.

You have **until 5pm 17 February to enrol** to vote. Nomination and enrolment forms are available from our website [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au) or LLS Offices.

### Key LLS election dates:

- ratepayer enrolment closes **5pm 17 February 2014**
- voting closes **5pm 12 March 2014**
- Board members announced on **14 March 2014**.

## Take a step towards cell grazing greatness

PrincipleFocus have joined forces with us to deliver a series of three day workshops across central west NSW.

Day one and two focus on **cell grazing in practice:**

- working with natural ecological practices to reduce costs and improve productivity
- learning how to redesign grazing management to increase profits and improve sustainability
- visit a local property using grazing management principles
- understand the principles of holistic farm management.

Day three will **examine grazing charts:**

- identify trends which are an early warning signs to lower rainfall
- plan grazing management to maximise pasture production and animal performance
- measure paddock yield in dollars
- match stocking rates to carrying capacity
- plan and monitor your feed budget.

Register online through the PrincipleFocus website [www.principlefocus.com.au](http://www.principlefocus.com.au)

### Where and when

Coonamble: 25-27 March 2014

Molong: 8-10 April 2014

Dubbo: 6-8 May 2014

## Stock feed chemical residue risk during the dry

Farmers hand feeding stock during the current dry conditions are reminded of the risk of chemical residues in fodder.

If chemicals are found in animals above thresholds, markets can be damaged, animals returned from abattoirs, carcasses can be condemned and quarantines imposed.

All farmers are encouraged to ask for a Commodity or Fodder Vendor Declaration before buying grain or hay. This declaration will detail the chemical treatments applied to the feed and allows the purchaser to identify potential residue risks.

Chemical residues in stock feed can be present due to:

- applying chemicals to a crop from pre-planting through to harvest
- chemicals used for insect control in storage
- storing grain and hay in facilities which have been previously treated with organochlorine (OC) pesticides
- spray drift from nearby chemical applications
- persistent chemicals in soils if large amounts of soil are mixed into feed during harvest.

If chemical residues are allowed to enter our food chain, they will damage the 'clean' reputation of Australian animal products and may affect our domestic and export markets.

When an animal enters the food chain, it is tested at an abattoir. If the carcass is found to contain any chemicals above the maximum residue limit, it will be condemned.

Other animals in that consignment will often be condemned or returned to the property of origin, and the origin of the stock will be traced. Additional testing required and quarantine may be imposed.

Producers are urged to be especially cautious if feeding unconventional stockfeeds during current dry times, according to Central West LLS District Vet Jillian Kelly.

"While most farmers' priority is sourcing fodder at a reasonable price; the chemical residue risks that the fodder brings with it also need to be considered," she said.

"Some of these were never intended to be fed to animals and hence their residue risk may be high. Producers should request a By-product Vendor Declaration from the supplier as part of a risk assessment before feeding these materials."

Obtaining accurate and detailed commodity, fodder or by-product vendor declarations is the only way to fill in a LPA National Vendor Declaration and Waybill correctly and substantiate claims made. These may be checked under the random audit process of the LPA program.

Anybody with questions regarding drought feeding or chemical residues in livestock should contact their nearest LLS District Veterinarian or Livestock Officer.

## Drought support and advice at LLS info afternoon in Coonamble

Landholders in the Coonamble district have an opportunity to hear what drought support is available at a Central West Local Land Services (LLS) workshop on 14 February (12 to 4.30pm).

A range of speakers will be talking about drought issues and support:

- livestock health and nutrition
- financial assistance in drought times
- biosecurity and emergency response matters
- support and help for landholders from the Salvation Army
- mental health and wellbeing, including blood pressure and health checks.

RSVP: Libby McIntyre (6881 3429 or [libby.mcintyre@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:libby.mcintyre@lls.nsw.gov.au)) or Jillian Kelly (6822 1588 or [jillian.kelly@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jillian.kelly@lls.nsw.gov.au)).

## Meet our General Manager

Laurie Dwyer has been appointed to lead and manage LLS operations across central west NSW.

Laurie was born and raised on a farm outside Ballarat in Victoria and has a strong background in management and regional delivery.

Laurie has spent the last two months travelling around the central west meeting staff and getting a feel for local issues and opportunities. He is excited about building the new organisation and working with a range of people.

"What first attracted me to the position is the model of engagement used to develop LLS – going out to community and asking people what they want LLS to do," he said.

Being from Victoria, Laurie is heavily into the AFL and looking forward to getting out and supporting the Dubbo Demons next season. His other interests include horse racing and travel.



## Farm Innovation Fund - a loan for all seasons

*Rob McGorman – Senior Rural Financial Counsellor, Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW Central West Inc.*

The Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) has recently announced an upgrade to the long running Special Conservation Service Loan and now provides, in its place, a loan to meet the cost of carrying out permanent capital works that have a significant beneficial impact on the land, the long term profitability of the enterprise and also addresses preparation for adverse seasonal conditions.

This new facility aims to keep and build on the best aspects of the Special Conservation Service loan and works that are eligible for funding fall into four (4) main categories - Drought Preparedness, Farm Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment. This means it still covers works such as stock and domestic water supply (including cap & piping artesian bores), woody weed control, fodder storage, soil conservation and refurbishing / desilting ground tank. However it now also covers farm and shearing sheds, fencing, new / upgrading irrigation systems and natural disaster mitigation works e.g. grain storage pads.

Funds can now be borrowed up to 100% of the cost of the works (excluding GST) with the limit of any one (1) loan being lifted to \$250,000. The low interest rate remains and is fixed for the term of the loan. Furthermore a 1.5% reduction in interest rate for 12 months may be available if training has been undertaken that aids in the preparation of a Farm Business and Risk Assessment Plan.

In keeping with the Government's commitment to encourage preparedness to cope with risks involved in the agricultural industry (both climate and other), part of the application is a Farm Business and Risk Assessment Plan. This plan, whilst not being overly detailed, demonstrates that the issues of risk have been identified and strategies have been put in place to increase the farm business' resilience in a variable world.

If you'd like to speak to someone locally, please contact your local Rural Financial Counsellor as there a number of offices servicing the Central part of the state.

Alternatively call the Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW Central West Regional Office (Dubbo) on (02) 6884 7841, or visit [www.rfcs-cw.com.au](http://www.rfcs-cw.com.au) or [www.raa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au)

## Business of farming one day short course

We're working with PrincipleFocus to deliver a one day Business of Farming summary workshop focusing on dynamic principles of land, people and business management.

- take the fear out of drought
- create systems that reduce emotional stress
- identify areas for immediate and sustained improvement.

We have created a new one day workshop which summarises the key principles of profit, production, property, people and pecuniary.

The workshop will look at:

- What are the principles? Which should you implement?
- What are the results of the top 10% farmers?
- What does the future look like for your business?

We'll showcase real life examples at the workshop through a panel of guest speakers. You will identify key areas of improve, how to implement learning and identify what skills does the individual / business needs to develop.

## When and where

Thursday 27 Feb 2014, Lazy River Estate, Old Dubbo Road, Dubbo

Cost is \$100 per person. Contact Ceridwyn Usback on 6885 5788 for more information.

## RCS Keep In Touch day - 27 Feb, Wellington

*'Currawarra' – Wellington NSW, Hosts Steve and Kate Kiss*

KIT days are an opportunity for you to gather with like-minded people on a property in your region to discuss and see how to apply the skills from RCS workshops to your land types and production systems.

Discussion topics for the day...

- Drought strategies - Prepare for, manage and recover from dry times.
- Do's and Don'ts of supplementation
- Pasture and feed budgeting
- Plus topics of interest brought up by producers on the day.

The event is free and everyone is welcome! Please bring a chair, water and any questions you may have!

Facilitator: Mike Parish

Thurs 27th Feb 2014, 9.30am – 4.00pm

RSVP: Katie on 1800 356 004 or email [kcrozier@rcs.au.com](mailto:kcrozier@rcs.au.com)

## Anthrax awareness and prevention

The current dry, hot weather creates conditions favourable for the emergence of anthrax events in those areas that have had a history of the disease in the past.

There have been no recent cases in the central west, however landholders should be aware of and manage risks.

Central West Local Land Services (LLS) is encouraging landholders to look out for sudden deaths in stock and consider vaccinating against this disease where there is a local history.

Anthrax is a bacterial disease caused by *bacillus anthracis* and appears to be more prevalent in the summer and autumn months. The bacterium produces highly resistant spores which can persist in the soil for at least 60 years.

Stock may become infected through ingesting or inhaling the spores. Recent earthworks (ploughing, digging tanks or drains, etc.) or close grazing of pastures can disturb spores and increase the chance of infection.

Anthrax can occur in stock of all ages and classes. It is a notifiable disease under the Stock Diseases Act 1923.

If spores are ingested or inhaled, they quickly multiply inside the animal and may lead to sudden death. Animals dying from anthrax may have a dark bloody discharge coming from body orifices, although this does not happen in all cases.

While the incidence of anthrax is very low, the impacts can be severe according to Central West LLS District Vet Jillian Kelly.

“Apart from sudden death in livestock, there are implications for our export markets and humans can also contract the disease,” she said.

“For these reasons, we encourage ratepayers to report and investigate any sudden deaths in livestock. We also recommended that properties with a history of anthrax consider vaccinating to protect their stock.

“Vaccination is the only way to control and prevent anthrax. Vaccination will not only prevent stock deaths in the short term, but will also decrease the risk of anthrax over time.

“No deaths occurring will help to break the cycle, as there are no fresh spores produced to infect the soil.” said Jillian.

Vaccination should be carried out annually. If you have a history of anthrax on your property and want to vaccinate, you need authorisation to purchasing the vaccine. There is a link to the form on the Central West LLS website [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centralwest](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centralwest)

Contact your closest LLS District Veterinarian to find out more.

Further information is also online at the Department of Primary Industry’s website. Search ‘DPI anthrax’ or visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Low stress stockhandling school – Bathurst, 27-28 March

Low Stress Stockhandling gives you access to advanced Stockhandling methods in just two days.

- increase profits from your animals
- increase productivity
- improve Meat Quality from your livestock
- be more effective with your time and money
- reduce labour costs and cost of production
- have quiet stress free stock and people
- learn to work through ALL situations confidently.

For eligible attendees Local Land Services is subsidising participants. Subsidised cost is \$110 inc GST per person.

Contact: Grahame Rees (Ph: 0428 953 925, [peneena@bigpond.com](mailto:peneena@bigpond.com)). [www.lss.net.au](http://www.lss.net.au)

## Former Board member Tim Ferraro's exec appointment

Tim Ferraro's appointment as LLS statewide executive manager has been welcomed by our Chair Tom Gavel.

Tim was previously a ministerially appointed member of the Central West LLS Board. His former **Board position is now open to applicants** wanting to guide the organisation locally.

The Central West LLS Board consists of four ministerially appointed Board members and three ratepayer-elected Board positions. Visit [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centralwest](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centralwest) to find out more about the vacant position.

## Riversmart water cycle community and family event – 22 March

**What:** RiverSmart's Water Cycle sponsored by NRMA Insurance. Make your way along a river trail on bike and have your river knowledge tested through an outdoor classroom.

**Where:** Tracker Riley Cycle/Walkway, Macquarie River, Dubbo

**When:** Saturday 22 March 2014 - World Water Day

For more information visit [www.riversmart.org.au](http://www.riversmart.org.au)



## Conservation Agriculture Field Day - Coonamble Bus

The Conservation Ag Field Day is on 20 February at the Condobolin Ag Research Station. The day includes:

- disc and tyne equipment
- spray, weedseeking and precision ag technology, etc
- herbicide resistance management with demo of prototype microwave weed killer.

Landcare is looking at running a bus from Coonamble to Condo if there is enough interest. The route has not yet been finalised, but possible pickups include:

- Coonamble
- Gulargambone
- Gilgandra
- Warren
- Trangie.

Cost is \$40 per person incl food and entry. Local Land Services is funding the cost of bus hire.

RSVP 14 Feb to Anne Williams 6825 6212 or Danielle Bonnington 0497 665 426.

## Schools news

### Sustainable Schools Network - Parkes/ Forbes

We'll be working with Central West Lachlan Landcare and Parkes and Forbes Shire Councils to establish a Sustainable Schools Network.

The network will build relationships that will increase opportunities, ideas and resources for our local schools.

An introduction will be held with two teacher information sessions:

**Forbes** - Tuesday 25th February

**Parkes** - Thursday 27th February.

All early childhood, primary and secondary schools are invited to come along to meet your local contacts, preview the Landcare Learning Kits and talk about opportunities for your school.

Please come along and meet the team, share your ideas and stories. For more info contact Catie Guise (02 6851 9508 or [catherine.guise@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:catherine.guise@lls.nsw.gov.au)).

### Exploring Aboriginal Culture through Envirostories

During Term 1 and 2 primary school students in the Central West and Central Tablelands are invited to participate in the popular EnviroStories program.

EnviroStories is an education program that supports students to create their own story book. Students then strive for the honour of getting their book published in a competition.

The 2014 theme is 'Tools, Totems Tucker- Exploring Aboriginal culture'. Last year, over 100 entries were received for the "Save Our Species" Envirostories program. You can read winning books at [www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)

The competition is open to all primary school students, individuals and classes. The education kit and other support materials are available now at [www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)

## **Kids Teaching Kids**

We will be delivering the eighth Kids Teaching Kids conference in the region this year.

Parkes East Primary school is very excited to be the host. The conference will be held in term two on Wednesday 28th May 2014. The theme for this year's conference will be based around sustainable agriculture.

Kids Teaching Kids is a school based learning model that inspires young people to learn and care for their environment. Kids Teaching Kids is a student focused and driven learning model that uses peer teaching as a focus. Throughout this process the students have the opportunity to develop some terrific skills in communication, teamwork, research and community involvement.

For more information on Kids Teaching Kids head to their website

<http://www.kidsteachingkids.com.au/>

To register for this event please contact Catie Guise (0429 982 197 or

[catherine.guise@lts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:catherine.guise@lts.nsw.gov.au)).

## Contact us

Call 1300 795 299 to contact your Local Land Service office from Monday to Friday during business hours.

### Dubbo

Head Office - 96 Victoria Street, (PO Box 6082)  
Ph: 02 6882 2133, Fax: 02 6884 2302  
13/36 Darling Street (PO Box 2105)  
Ph: 02 6881 3400, Fax: 02 6881 3401  
Dubbo NSW 2830

### Coonamble

Lot 2, Buckley Drive (PO Box 40)  
Ph: 02 6822 1588, Fax: 02 6822 2338  
Coonamble NSW 2829

### Condobolin

7 Hay Street  
Ph: 02 6895 2033, Fax: 02 6895 3406  
32 Bathurst Street (PO Box 100)  
Ph: 02 6895 2152, Fax: 02 6895 2049  
Condobolin NSW 2877

### Coonabarabran

89 John Street (PO Box 108)  
Ph: 02 6842 1300, Fax: 02 6842 1770  
Coonabarabran NSW 2357

### Forbes

2 Sheriff Street (PO Box 726)  
Ph: 1800 885 747, Fax: 02 6851 6991  
46 Sherriff Street (PO Box 897)  
Ph: 02 6852 1688, Fax: 02 6852 4065  
Forbes NSW 2871

### Gilgandra

23 Warren Rd (PO Box 181)  
Ph: 02 6847 8500, Fax: 02 6847 2997  
Gilgandra NSW 2827

### Grenfell

20 Warraberry Street  
Phone: 02 6349 1200, Fax: 02 6343 2366  
Grenfell NSW 2810

### Email

[admin.centralwest@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin.centralwest@lls.nsw.gov.au)

### Nyngan

58 Cobar Street (PO Box 45)  
Ph: 02 6832 1008, Fax: 02 6832 1635  
91B Pangee St (PO Box 121)  
Ph: (02) 6835 9194, Fax: 02 6835 9199  
Nyngan NSW 2825

### Parkes

Cnr Court & Currajong Street  
Phone: 02 6816 3200; Fax: 02 6862 5254  
Parkes NSW 2870

### Trangie

Trangie Research Station (PO Box 181)  
Ph: (02) 6880 8028, Fax: 02 6888 7201  
Trangie NSW 2823

### Wellington

30 Warne St (PO Box 227)  
Ph: (02) 6840 7800; Fax: 02 6840 7801  
Wellington NSW 2820

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For updates go to [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)