



Local Land
Services
Central Tablelands

Tableland Telegraph May Edition

Welcome from Peter Sparkes General Manager



Local Land
Services

As a recipient of the 'Tablelands Telegraph' I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS), which brings with it a new and exciting era in agricultural service delivery, providing agricultural, biosecurity, natural resource management advice as well as emergency management services, all from the one organisation.

Most importantly we will focus on keeping it local and being approachable. We are run by, and employ, skilled and dedicated local people such as vets, rangers, livestock, agronomy and natural resource management advisors, who will focus on local issues and the delivery of quality services.

As we are a newly formed organisation, we have a great opportunity to drive service delivery across our region for the benefit of both landholders and the local community.

Managed by local boards, we at Central Tablelands LLS are one of 11 regions with ours including local government areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Lithgow, Mid Western, Orange and Oberon. We are accountable for delivering services that add value to local industries, enhance natural resources, offer protection from pests and disease and help communities respond to emergencies like flood, fire and drought.

We are able to offer a stronger and more unified service through the combination of agricultural extension staff from NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), biosecurity and emergency response staff from the Livestock Pest and Health Authorities (LHPA) and natural resource management staff from the Catchment Management Authorities (CMA).

The first three months of operation has seen our new Board members in place with our region receiving the second highest number of votes cast, highlighting that you, our community, care about our region and how it is managed.

Much has been accomplished with our staff responding to property damage assessments following the Lithgow and Hell's Hole fires in January, while also adopting a priority response to the extraordinary dry seasonal conditions.

As a result our staff held landholder/community meetings throughout February in partnership with NSW Farmers and the Department of Primary Industries at Oberon, Mudgee, Molong and Blayney, with an astounding 225-plus people in attendance.

We will soon have options available for you to be able to provide us with your opinions and ideas on



how we can work together to provide services to build productive, profitable and sustainable communities to enhance our natural resources within the Central Tablelands In the interim our Staff and Board are available to discuss any issues as they arise.

Regards

Peter Sparkes – General Manager

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News from across the Tablelands

Board members announced

The inaugural Local Land Services Board Member elections took place on 12 March 2014.

Ratepayers have elected 34 board members across the 11 regions.

Three members have been elected to each region, except for the Western region where four members have been elected. The elections bring the LLS leadership team to full strength. More information on each board member is available here:

<http://centraltablelands.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/our-board/elections>

Our Chairman - Ian Armstrong



Ian Armstrong (*right*) was appointed local Chair of Central Tablelands LLS on 3 October 2013. Ian has extensive experience working with Government at both the State and Federal level.

Ian's political career has spanned 26 years and culminated in his appointment as Deputy Premier of New South Wales from 1993 to 1995. Ian was the Chairman of the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority. He is a Life Member of a number of southern NSW Show Societies, a former Pastoral Inspector for the Northern Territory government, and patron for many organisations including the Working Kelpie Council of Australia.

For more information on Mr Armstrong - [click here](#).

Rain a Godsend – but producers beware

Despite the fact the recent great rains have provided the close to ideal Autumn break across the region, Central



Tablelands livestock producers have been warned to be on the lookout for animal health issues which might become apparent.

Manager Biosecurity and Emergency Management with the Central Tablelands Local Land Services, Bruce Watt (*pictured right*), is warning for livestock owners to be watchful for issues including plant poisoning and increased worm burdens following the recent rains.

Dr Watt spoke to a gathering of farmers at Burruga earlier this month about the related issues following the prolonged period of rain in the Central West and said plant poisonings to livestock was top of the list of potential concerns.

“With the flush of new pasture many hungry cattle on a rising plane of nutrition may have issues with too much rich food too quickly,” Dr Watt explained.

“Let them get full on drier pasture early in the day and introduce them to the richer grass late in the afternoon before pulling them off at night,” he suggested.

Dr Watt also said foot abscess in sheep is becoming apparent, given some stock is spending prolonged time in heavy and water logged ground following the rains.

He also said those with sheep should keep a close eye on worm burdens in their flock and test regularly for numbers using readily available test kits.

“It might also be time to administer a second summer drench to flocks, albeit a little late, just to be sure,” he concluded.

For more information or advice on animal health contact the animal welfare team on 6331 1377.

Wild Dog control commenced this month

Wild Dog control programs across the northern corner of Central Tablelands LLS will continue to roll-out during May with programs commencing in Hill End and Hargraves earlier this month.

Biosecurity Support Officer in Mudgee, Brendon Stubbs, reports 3500 baits were distributed to landholders during mid-May, while aerial baiting in Hill End and Hargraves took place on May 9 and 10.

Also commencing this month was a program in the Rylstone and Goulburn River area – a joint program between Central Tablelands and Hunter LLS regions.

Brendon said ground baiting commenced in the Goulburn River Wild Dog Association area on 14 May, while ground baiting started around Rylstone on 16 May.

“It has been a big effort to get the program started and we have received great support from local landholders for both areas we are working within in the coming weeks.

“We will update ratepayers on the programs progress in the June edition of Tablelands Telegraph,” he concluded.

What is happening with Pygmy Perch?



Luke Pearce, NSW DPI Fisheries Conservation Manager recently updated local stakeholders at a community meeting (6 March 2014) on the Southern Pygmy Perch (*Nannoperca australis*) population in Blakney Creek and conservation stocking program in Pudman Creek (*pictured*

left).

Southern Pygmy Perch is a small-bodied fish that can grow up to 80–90 mm but is usually about 65 mm in length). The species was once widespread throughout the southern Murray–Darling Basin (MDB), including the Lachlan River system, and appeared to decline rather dramatically after the late 1960s.

As of 2009, just three remnant populations remained in NSW, the single Lachlan Catchment or Blakney Creek population discovered in 2002, and two in the Murray Catchment. A fourth translocated population was created in 2007 when Pudman Creek was stocked with 379 Southern Pygmy Perch using fish bred from the neighbouring Blakney Creek population.

In late 2010, a small number of fish were recorded in Pudman Creek but at that time it was still unknown if the species was recruiting in their new home.

The capture of several juvenile fish in 2013, the first time juveniles were detected, was a clear indication that the fish had successfully bred in Pudman Creek the previous spring.

Blakney Creek populations are showing trends in raw data (number of fish caught) indicating the population has been under increasing threat from Redfin, which was discovered in the system in 2005.

At monitoring sites where Redfin was not yet recorded in 2013, Southern Pygmy Perch persisted. The legacy of the Millennium Drought and recent drying back of the creek to isolated refuge pools also increases the risk of predation and resource competition from exotic fish species, such as Redfin and Carp. It was common for no other species of fish to be recorded in pools with Redfin.

Native vegetation regulation update - codes of practice released

The NSW Government is reforming native vegetation management to deliver the right balance between sustainable agriculture and protecting the environment. The new [Native Vegetation Regulation 2013](#) started on 23 September 2013 and a number of provisions have already been introduced, including the first three self-assessable codes are [now open for public exhibition](#).

These place trust in landholders to manage their properties sustainably while maintaining environmental standards.

The codes are for:

- clearing isolated paddock trees in a cultivated area
- thinning of native vegetation and
- clearing invasive native species

We encourage all landholders to review the draft Codes and make comments to the office of Environment about the applicability and ease of use.

The rules for [clearing native vegetation without approval](#) remain in place until the new self-assessable codes are finalised.

Farmers thoughts wanted in payment for ecosystem services survey

Readers are invited to give their thoughts on 'payment for ecosystem services' programs at the farm scale. The study is being conducted by the University of Western Sydney in association with Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries, Central West Farming Systems and CANFA, in

parts of NSW.

Key information is being gathered on farmers' perceptions of ecosystems services, features of support programs that are attractive to the farmers and farmers willingness to participate in such programs.

Have your say and fill in the [survey here...](#)

Consultation on the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper

The NSW Government is pleased to release the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper for public comment following the first major review of Crown lands legislation in more than 25 years.

The NSW Crown estate is large and diverse – making up about 42 per cent of the State – and holds tremendous importance for the social, environmental and economic health of NSW.

For more info and to have your say see: www.crownland.nsw.gov.au

Restoration day with the Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council

Tim Nalder, Senior Land Services Officer and Liz Davis, Education Land Services Officer, recently spent a day with the Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) to learn more about the restoration work the Orange LALC is undertaking on locally owned sites.



Liz and Tim were able to share information with the group on the best restoration options available to them for native species enhancement and revegetation, removal of weeds and pest control.

With previous help from LLS biosecurity officers, the Orange LALC group has been able to implement successful rabbit control programs on the site.

There were approximately 10 members of the Orange LALC group there on the day and they explained the importance of restoring country for their group.

It not only delivers physical results in terms of improved environmental and landscape outcomes, but has a direct link to the cultural and spiritual health of the group.

This restoration project fits in nicely with the future objectives of Orange LALC. They are working towards establishing a self-sustaining business based on seed production and propagation, rehabilitation work and fencing.

For more info contact Liz Davis on 6363 8600

Kids teaching kids

Central West LLS will be delivering the eighth Kids Teaching Kids conference in Central NSW this year. Parkes East Public School will play host to over 100 students and teachers for a day of learning and fun hands on activities around the theme of Sustainable Agriculture. Central Tablelands LLS will be supporting a number of schools to attend this major event with celebrity garden specialist Costa Georgiadis the guest of honour, sharing his knowledge on sustainable gardening practices.

In addition to this event, we are pleased to announce that together with Central West LLS we will be delivering a further two conferences. Neville Public school will host the second primary school conference on Wednesday 13 August.

A high school conference will also be a focus this year with an event scheduled to be held in National Target Kids Teaching Kids week on Wednesday 10 September.

Please lock these dates in your calendars

Support for schools

Kids Teaching Kids is a free program. Financial support will be offered to the host school through Local Land Services and Kids Teaching Kids. All presenting schools are invited to apply for a \$330 Target Teacher Relief Grant that will assist in the planning of your presentation. Presenting schools will also receive a \$100 gift card from Target to assist with their presentation (costumes, props, etc). Travel support will also be offered to presenting schools.

The theme for the conferences will be Sustainable Agriculture. 2014 is the International year of Family Farming (IYFF) and we aim to raise the profile of farming families within our region and right across the world. This broad theme means that schools can focus on everything from soils and salinity to worm farms, sustainable production to gardening, bees to pest animals and much more. School mentors could be scientists, landcare people, industry professionals or even farmers.

To find out more about Kids Teaching Kids or to register for an event, contact Catie Guise (Central West LLS) 0429 982 197 or catherine.guise@lls.nsw.gov.au or Liz Davis (Central Tablelands LLS) liz.davis@lls.nsw.gov.au or 0427 452 662

Exploring Aboriginal culture through EnviroStories

High School and 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.

Read the previous winning books or watch a short video on the 2013 EnviroStories competition.

The competition is open to all primary school students, individuals and classes.

The education kit and other support materials are available now...

Great news for our budding writers and illustrators

New closing date - We have extended the closing date for Envirostories, the new date will be Term Three, Week Two, Wednesday 23 July. Keep working, we are looking forward to seeing some great stories!!

For more information contact Liz Davis on 6363 8600 or liz.davis@lls.nsw.gov.au and Catie Guise (Central West LLS) 0429 982 197 or catherine.guise@lls.nsw.gov.au

LLS staff assist with major creek management project

Work has been completed on a joint project by Charles Sturt University (CSU) and Bathurst Regional Council (BRC), to rehabilitate a shared section of Hawthornden Creek, on the southern



boundary of CSU in Bathurst.

Chris O'Connor, energy manager in the CSU [Division of Facilities Management](#), said that in 2010, a BRC report identified Hawthornden Creek as being the most significantly degraded of five urban creek systems within the Bathurst city area and recommended this as the highest priority for rehabilitation."

The rehabilitation consisted of two significant 'packages' of civil works: the construction of a 45 metre section of rock capping, and installation of three Schauburger sills, which are large rock structures within the creek bed designed to reduce the flow rate of water in the creek; and construction of three stormwater 'rock chutes' designed to receive stormwater run-off from the CSU campus.

"These works are designed to slow the speed of water flowing in the creek under storm conditions," Mr O'Connor said.

"This minimises erosion of the channel bed and creek bank, and the volume of sediment entering the Macquarie River.

"High sediment loads have the potential to decrease the amount of light penetration and dissolved oxygen within the creek, thereby starving freshwater fauna and flora of light and oxygen, which can lead to death of freshwater organisms.

"These rehabilitation works complement CSU's target to allocate 20 per cent of University land to biodiversity improvement by 2015."

During the process, both CSU and BRC staff worked closely with staff from Central West CMA, now Central Tablelands Local Land Services, on a range of land management of revegetation works as part of the project,

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In the media

Local Land Services delivering for Regional NSW - 24 April

With the new regional service delivery organisation Local Land Services this month marking 100 days of operation, NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, has thanked staff, board members and ratepayers who have participated in the development and transition of the new regional service delivery organisation.

Ms Hodgkinson said Local Land Services has revolutionised the way regional services are delivered in NSW, and is the biggest reform of its kind in seven decades.

Read the full media release [by clicking here](#).

Leaders of Local Land Services meet in Dubbo - 9 April

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, and Member for Dubbo and Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources, Troy Grant, today welcomed the new Local Land Services board members at an induction in Dubbo.

Ms Hodgkinson said now that the elections are finalised it is an opportune time to hold the induction for elected and appointed board members.

Read the full media release [by clicking here](#)

Pip Job named Rural Woman of the Year - 26 March

Landcarer, landholder and Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) Board member Pip Job was named the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) NSW-ACT Rural Woman of the Year at a special dinner at Parliament House in Sydney last night.

Pip started in Landcare, joining the Little River team as she returned to the workforce after having her second child and now holding the position of chief executive officer.

Read the full media release [by clicking here](#).

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Have you visited us online?

Central Tablelands LLS website - www.centraltablelands.lls.nsw.gov.au

Central Tablelands LLS Facebook page - www.facebook.com/centraltablelandslls

What's Happening Around the Traps?

Lighting the Path – Workshops on Cultural Fire

Central Tablelands LLS Cultural Burning Project invites you to a Cultural Fire Knowledge sharing day with Victor Steffensen this May.

You will learn about Cultural Sharing, Fire and Land Management and if conditions are right you may be involved in a cultural burn.

Workshops are taking place between May 13 and 17.

For more information contact Milton Lewis 6341 9306 or Michelle Hines 6341 9304

Save the date: Agribusiness Today Forum 2014

The Agribusiness Today Forum will be conducted in Blayney on 7 August 2014.

The event will focus on profitable beef in a changing environment and is a joint event presented by Agribusiness Today, Regional Development, Charles Sturt University and The Graham Centre.

Topics covered by a range of professional speakers during the forum will include:

- Australian Beef Production in a Global Market
- Future of Australian Beef Markets
- How to Produce more Beef from your Herd
- Australian Beef production in a global market
- Improving reproductive efficiency in females
- Beef retailing in a competitive market
- Animal welfare in beef production
- Greenhouse gas emissions & beef production

More information on the event will appear in next month's edition of Tablelands Telegraph

Bird Field Day – Capertree Valley

Local wildlife enthusiasts had the chance to pick a buff-rumped Thornbill from a Striated Thornbill last weekend at bird workshop and field-day at Capertree.

Attendees were also provided with some clues to finding Regent Honeyeaters in their local communities.

As part of the workshop, a Regent Honeyeater planting took place in the Capertee Valley on Friday 2 and Saturday 3 May, and was followed by a Woodland Bird identification Workshop on the Sunday.

For more information on this or future events, readers are welcome to contact either Mick Roderick on 0421 761237 or at mick.roderick@birdlife.org.au or Dean Ingwersen on 0409 348 553 or at dean.ingwersen@birdlife.org.au.



Fish River Field Day



The Central Tablelands Local Land Service conducted a local field day on best management practices for riparian areas on farms.

It took place at 'Paris' 2517 Tarana Road, Tarana earlier this month with a good roll-up of interested community members.

The day covered topics such as management options and a demonstration by Blue Tongue Ecosystems of planting into the riparian areas using long stemmed tube stock planting techniques, as well as tube stock planting in the floodplain.

For more information on this or any future events, contact Martin Prestidge on 6363 8605 or 0437 131 230 or at martin.prestidge@lls.nsw.gov.au

Viminalis Decline information session

A Viminalis Decline information session was held on Sunday Afternoon, 11 May at "Hedberg Hill" Forbes Road Orange. Speakers for the event included Catherine Ross, Sue Wakefield and Louise Harcombe.

Visit www.centraltablelands.lls.nsw.gov.au for more details. For more information or to submit an article, email enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au.

Landcare NSW Forum

The Landcare NSW Forum will be held in Dubbo on the 28th – 30 May. For more information contact: Amanda Pollard-Harris at aharris@landcarensw.org.au

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The Funding Arena:

Environmental Trust: Food Gardens in Schools Closes 16 May

Grants of \$3500 each are available for up to 38 schools in 2014. At least 18 of these grants will fund projects working primarily with students with special needs. For more

info: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/FoodGarden.htm

Ian Potter Foundation Environment and Conservation Small Grants Closes 27 May

The Foundation supports smaller projects that encourage the role played by volunteers and environmental organisations in increasing public understanding and awareness of key issues. Grants up to \$20,000. For more info visit www.ianpotter.org.au/environment-conservation

Environmental Trust: Protecting our Places Closes 30 May.

The aim of the Protecting our Places program is to protect land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people and to support education projects about the environment and its importance in Aboriginal life. For more info visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/pop.htm

FRRR: Culture, Arts, Tourism and Community Heritage (CATCH) Program Closes 30 May

Not-for-profit community organisations (such as museums, community art groups, progress associations, event organisers, cultural groups etc) can apply for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities in rural and remote locations, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Communities with a population of less than 10,000 are given preference.

For more info visit www.frrr.org.au/cb_pages/CATCH.php

ANZ Staff Foundation Closes 15 July

The ANZ Staff Foundation has distributed \$3.7m in small grants to community organisations since July 1997. Grants of around \$5,000 support a variety of projects from disadvantaged youth to the environment. A National Advisory Board and State Committees comprising ANZ employees decide the granting rounds each year.

Canon Environmental Grants

Canon Oceania is now appealing for applicants for its annual environmental grants program. Grants in-kind worth \$45,000 (25K AUD) are available to Australian organisations making a positive impact on their environment and community. For more info [click here](#).

Rural Education Australia Program - REAPing Rewards Closes 25 August

The REAPing Rewards small grant program is a national program targeting education. It supports locally-driven projects and programs that directly benefit children and youth (0-18 years) and their educators in rural and remote communities. Grants are up to \$10,000.

For more info [click here](#).

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Looking for your Local Office?

You can find your local LLS office throughout the Central Tablelands by simply clicking here -

<http://centraltablelands.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/contact-us>

Trying to get in touch? Anything we can help with? Call 1300 795 299

Got some feedback for us? We would love to hear it!

If you have some feedback for us here at Central Tablelands Local Land Services, we would love to hear from you. Simply go to www.lls.nsw.gov.au/feedback and let us know what you think about any aspect of our work.

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