



Local Land  
Services  
Central Tablelands

## Welcome to the June Edition Central Tablelands Telegraph

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### Meet the Central Tablelands LLS Board



The Board of Central Tablelands Local Land Services met in Orange earlier this month to discuss the many issues facing ratepayers, landholders and communities at present.

It was the perfect opportunity for us to capture a photo of them together and introduce them.

*Pictured above are John Lowe, Ian Armstong (Chair), Pip Job, Reg Kidd, Ian Rogan, Peter Sparkes (General*

Manager) and John Seaman. Bruce Gordon was absent when the image was taken.



## In Focus - Central Tablelands Board Member Pip Job

Passionate about agriculture and in particular, the need for agriculture and natural resource management to be integrated to create a sustainable future for generations to come, Pip has dedicated her time to make this passion a reality.

As CEO of the Little River Landcare Group at Yeoval, she specialises in agricultural and natural resource management education and project delivery.

Chair of the Central West NRM Working Group and an executive committee member of Landcare NSW Inc, Pip also holds an Advanced Diploma in Agriculture, a Diploma in Community Coordination and

Facilitation and a Diploma in Holistic Management.

A beef cattle breeder who uses the principles of managing holistically to improve the environment, generate profit and create opportunities for her family and community, Pip also holds the position of secretary of the NSW Shorthorn Ladies branch and Chief Steward of the Cumnock Show Cattle section.

Pip has 15 years of business management experience, a deep understanding of rural communities and is experienced in managing agricultural complexities such as livestock health, climate variability, market fluctuations and the marketing of livestock.

## Across the Central Tablelands

### Rating commences in June - Rate relief for drought effected farmers

Local Land Services has commenced issuing its first rate notices following the transition to the new organisation on 1 January this year.

Starting earlier this month, more than 130,000 rate notices were issued across NSW, raising much needed funds to ensure important services are provided to support productive agriculture, natural resources, biosecurity and communities across rural and regional NSW.

Chair of Local Land Services Board of Chairs, John Macarthur-Stanham, said ratepayers should view themselves as investors in Local Land Services and take the opportunity to work with their regional Boards to tailor services that will best suit them. This is a sentiment that Chair of the Central Tablelands LLS, Ian Armstrong shares.

Rating is a vital component in terms of providing for actions that protect industries, environment and communities at a whole of region scale. While rates do form a significant component of LLS funding, they are implemented on ground in strategic programs that often draw funds from state and federal government programs.

“Across the Central Tablelands funding from rates in addition to other funding sources, provides services that help protect our agricultural industries and our environment. These services include the control of pest animals in coordination with other partners, regional vet services, mitigation of disease

outbreaks and the security of NSW's most important production systems." Said Mr Armstrong. "We want to encourage ratepayers to engage with us as Local Land Services in our efforts to develop products and services that will be valuable to not just them but to the community of the Central Tablelands as a whole, now and into the future."

Stakeholders of the Central Tablelands LLS, including those who do contribute rates, will not see a reduction services, in fact with rates now contributing to much broader outcomes, when combined with other sources of implementation funding, they will see widespread benefits to the whole of community and agricultural industry.

The NSW Government has granted Local Land Services rate relief for some ratepayers across the Central Tablelands region, specifically those most effected by recent drought in the Mid-Western, Lithgow and Oberon Local Government Areas. This will include a hold on six months of rates for all eligible ratepayers, in line with NSW Government support measures. We would encourage landholders who are still working through the effects of drought to get in touch with Central Tablelands LLS Agricultural Services Officers for assistance and advice in improving their ability to adapt, leading up to and during dry times.

[Click here](#) for the media release.

## Wild dog control program underway

This autumn has seen Central Tablelands and Hunter Local Land Services (LLS), in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife, carry out a coordinated wild dog control program throughout the Mudgee and Rylstone region. This program, bridging the boundaries of the Central Tablelands and Hunter LLS, has seen LLS Biosecurity Officers working with local farmers and communities to control these animals. Wild dogs have been a problem in the Mudgee and Rylstone areas with evidence suggesting that wide spread control programs date back over 120 years.



The increased presence of wild dogs has driven the formation of landholder groups known as wild dog associations or wild dog control groups.

These groups are a great example of how landholders with a common interest can band together to take action, according to Central Tablelands Senior Biosecurity Officer, Mal Leeson.

"We have been working with a number of associations including the Rylstone District Wild Dog Association and the Goulburn River Wild Dog Association to develop a wild dog control strategy specific to the needs of the region," said Mal.

This most recent large-scale baiting program took place over a three-week period beginning mid-May and involved the laying of 7000 ground baits by land managers and the aerial placement of 6500

baits in remote locations.

Over the past 12 months, officers at the Mudgee LLS office have prepared and distributed 19,000 wild dog baits to landholders experiencing wild dog predation (see image above), taking a proactive role in wild dog management.

This work would not have been as successful without the financial support from Wilpinjong Coal Mine and Australian Wool Innovation, whose contributions made the delivery of free baits across the Rylstone and Goulburn area possible, including baits for aerial baiting.

LLS recognises that wild dogs are a significant issue for landholders. It is highly complex, without a 'one size, fits all' solution.

Landholders are urged to report wild dog incidences to LLS biosecurity staff in a timely manner by calling 1300 795 299 or the Mudgee office on 6372 1866.

## New vet for Mudgee

New Central Tablelands LLS District Vet, Nigel Gillian, is looking forward to working with Mudgee landholders to control new diseases and maintain our access to local and international markets.

LLS delivers the frontline public animal health service in NSW. Vets and stock inspectors are able to be mobilised quickly when a response is required, for example, during the 2007 equine influenza outbreak.

Bruce Watt, Manager of Biosecurity and Emergency management told Tablelands Telegraph that veterinarians and biosecurity officers deliver a range of national, state and local programs all aimed at safeguarding market access and enhancing livestock productivity.

"District vets like Nigel are responsible for carrying out in-the-field investigations into animal health issues on local properties," he said.

Nigel will be on the front foot from day one working towards the prevention of threats towards one of NSW's most productive livestock regions.

## Catering for weekend farmers

Across the Central Tablelands more and more people are turning to the farming lifestyle to break up the day to day of their weekly grind.

To cater for this, Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) recently held a Weekend Farmers Seminar to help keep local farmers up to date with all the issues they might face on a Saturday, Sunday and all the days in between.

Phil Cranney, Pastures Officer for the Central Tablelands LLS said many weekend farmers find themselves very time poor these days and find it hard to get hold of good quality unbiased information to help them make the best of their weekend farms"



“In the Central Tablelands, we have a strong mix of farming systems and this includes a big contingent of farmers who rely on off farm income to make ends meet” Mr Cranney noted. The seminar was conducted in Orange and covered topics on start-up and biosecurity basics, livestock and animal welfare, natural resource management and pastures, and “Eat it, Drink it!” – Horticulture.

“With four different 20 minute presentations per break out room, attendees could pick and choose which presentation they attended,” Mr Cranney concluded.

### Barbers Pole worm a concern



Sheep producers are being asked to keep an eye out for Barber's Pole Worm in their flocks, with close to perfect conditions for the parasite experienced in recent weeks. The warning comes from veterinarian and Manager of Biosecurity and Emergency Services at Central Tablelands LLS, Dr Bruce Watt.

"We have seen sheep dying of Barber's Pole Worm in the region, mostly because the conditions have been close to perfect for them for about two months after it started raining in February," he told the Tablelands Telegraph.

"The worms build up on pastures fairly rapidly and it has just started to kill sheep."

Dr Watt said in some cases it appears drench resistance appears to be involved, nullifying the effectiveness of preventative treatments.

"I strongly suggest sheep producers conduct regular worm egg counts on their stock and get a better impression of the worm burdens which may exist at this time of year," he urged.

With the weather turning colder, Dr Watt said Barber's Pole eggs won't hatch anymore, but what has hatched onto the pasture will be available to grazing sheep.

"If the pasture is contaminated, this means the problem will continue right through winter," he warned.

### Rock fern killing young cattle

Some upsetting news for landholders has been the recent losses of young cattle to rock fern.

Dr Watt said young, hungry cattle have been put onto hilly, rocky country and have eaten the palatable fern, with dire consequences. "Rock fern poisoning is really unusual and not something we see too regularly in this region," he noted.

"It would appear that calves from two to about 18 months of age are most affected by eating the fern."

Dr Watt warned producers to be careful against introducing young cattle to paddocks where they



suspect rock fern might be present.

## Bird workshop a success at Capertee

On the morning of Sunday 4 May 2014, about 50 people gathered at the Glen Alice Hall in Capertee to hear BirdLife Australia's Woodland Birds for Biodiversity team present a workshop on woodland bird identification and monitoring techniques.

The workshop came about through a project administered by the Great Eastern Ranges program and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife via funding sourced from the NSW Environmental Trust.

Most of the people present had been helping out with tree-planting on the Saturday and had also been at the dinner in the same hall the night before. Despite the bitterly cold winds, it was great to see such a good turn-out for the workshop.



The morning opened with Mick Roderick, NSW Project Coordinator for the woodland birds project, talk about what temperate woodland birds are any why they are so threatened.

Dean Ingwersen, BirdLife's Threatened Bird Program Manager and Regent Honeyeater Recovery Coordinator, then spoke about why it is so important to be monitoring these birds and gave a run down on the various methods

for doing bird surveys.

Dick Turner, botanist and well known for his long-term involvement in the Regent Honeyeater Operations Group in the Capertee, then spoke about the various tree and mistletoe species preferred by Regent Honeyeaters.

After wrapping up, with Dean giving some specific tips on identifying and looking for Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots, it was time to put into practice some of the things that had been covered in the workshop in the field.

It was a very well attended and received workshop and BirdLife are keen to run a similar 'talk and walk' again in the valley in the future.



Mick and Dean would like to thank Carol Probeta and Tiff Mason for helping out with guiding people and giving expert advice on local birds, Dick Turner for his part on important tree species and Warren and Julie Owens for their help in facilitating access to the hall, especially considering the preparation and clean-up for the big tree-planters dinner the night before.

More information is available on the woodland birds project at the BirdLife Australia website at <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/woodland-birds-for-biodiversity> or you can email Mick or Dean ([mick.roderick@birdlife.org](mailto:mick.roderick@birdlife.org) / [dean.ingwersen@birdlife.org.au](mailto:dean.ingwersen@birdlife.org.au)) who are always keen to talk woodland birds

with anyone!

## Swampy Meadows Field Day - 13 June

A field day at Tarana earlier this month highlighted the wonders and needs of the swampy meadows at the heads of many of our local river systems.

Terry Rath, of Mount Rankin Landcare Group, said the field day was arranged by the Central Tablelands Local Land Services and highlighted the importance of these ecosystems to the health of the rivers.

“Dr. Barbara MacTaggart was the guest speaker at the field day and she spoke about the great preservation work being done in the Fish River catchment,” Mr Rath explained.

“We were taken to a property where we were able to see where an area of land below the foothills held a Swampy Meadow flat area holding a huge reserve of water underground. This water if preserved, can feed dams and rivers all the way through dry times and droughts,” he said.

“These natural sponges formed over time and sometimes having water flowing over them can be great places to get bogged.”

Mr Rath said during the field day, participants were urged people to love the swampy meadows, preserve them and fence them if they must to save them because they hold vital spring and dam

water.



“Some landholders save them for special grazing or lambing because the Native Plants can hide the lambs,” he explained.

Dr MacTaggart, who has studied these marvelous phenomena in depth, warned attendees that overgrazing will kill them, in fact, interfering with them in any way can kill them.

“By boring into the swamp that day, she showed attendees the life, and development of the marsh down to the layers of peat, pure carbon, from

decomposed plant life from the many centuries past,” Mr Rath concluded.

## In the news

For a more in-depth understanding of what is making news across the Central Tablelands LLS, click on the links below:

- [Bathurst rain garden protects river from stormwater pollution](#)
- [New district vet to serve the Mudgee region](#)
- [Fish River project helps preserve "Macquarie" and our natural environment](#)
- [Volunteers plant thousands of trees to protect endangered birds](#)

- [First rounds of Local Land Services Rates delivered](#)
- [Wild Dog Management in Focus at Mudgee and Rylestone](#)

## What are we currently working on?

### Improving water quality in Bathurst

Staff from the Central Tablelands LLS have been working closely with Bathurst Regional Council to improve the quality of domestic water run-off into the Macquarie River catchment, including a number of specifically built rain gardens along key roadsides.

To see what staff have been up to and to get a better understanding of the project, click here to watch a short video.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoNw9aL\\_L1U&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoNw9aL_L1U&feature=youtu.be)

### Native vegetation Regulation Codes of Practice

Now is the time to have your say on the Native vegetation Regulation Codes of Practice.

The first three self-assessable codes for clearing under the Native Vegetation Act 2003 are now on exhibition and open for comment.

The codes on exhibition are:

- Managing invasive native species (INS) – to allow for management of these species by clearing of dense infestations of INS.
- Thinning of native vegetation – to allow for the removal of some smaller trees and shrubs to maintain the structure of thickened native vegetation.
- Clearing of isolated paddock trees in cultivated areas – to allow for the removal of some paddock trees to allow for more efficient agricultural production.

Local Land Service encourages all landholders to review the Codes and make comment about how they will work for them.

- Review the [codes and information](#) on making a submission. [Click here](#) for more information on Code of Practice.

### What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity means protecting the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds. Biosecurity is essential to ensuring the safety, well-being and prosperity of all people.

Local Land Services works with landholders, industry and the community to uphold biosecurity.

Australia is in a unique position because of its isolation and strong quarantine regulations. We have managed to remain safe from many threats as a result of this. NSW by extension has been able to

maintain good biosecurity measures.

Changes in a number of external factors have meant that more and more we must be vigilant about strengthening our measures and upholding biosecurity.

For the latest information on critical animal biosecurity issues visit [Animal Health Surveillance News](#) .

## What's happening around the traps?

### Grow better crops with less - Irrigation Workshop

Presentations will include:

- Increasing yields with less water - Brian Thompson, Porosity Ag
- Energy efficient irrigation - Edward Joshua, NSW DPI
- Retaining soil structure for yield - Ian Packer, Soilpak Services

Thursday 24th July, Bathurst. RSVP 19 July to Casey Proctor - 0429 110 072

### Paddock Plants Workshops

Workshops:

- 15 July - Blayney
- 16 July - Eugowra
- 17 July - Dunedoo

Contact Phil Cranney on 0458 745 478 for more information.

### "Lunch on Legumes" workshop

Workshop to be held in Cumnock, contact Phil Cranney on 0458 745 478 for more information.

### Central Tablelands LLS at the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days

The Mudgee Small Farm Field Days are on again this year, now running in it's 37th year, the field days brings a great line up of demonstrations, talks and over 400 exhibitors including the Central Tablelands LLS.

We will have local and regional staff at the field days over the Friday 11 July and Saturday 12 July.

### Central Tablelands Landcare AGM

Central Tablelands Landcare will be conducting its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25 June between 6pm and 9pm.

The meeting will take place at the ELF in Orange and will include a trivia night hosted by David Hardwick.

All are welcome.

## 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

## The funding arena

### 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 information, [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 information, [click here](#).

## 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

## Have some feedback for us?

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](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/feedback) and let us know what you think about any aspect of our work.

## Find us online

Central Tablelands LLS website - [www.centraltablelands.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.centraltablelands.lls.nsw.gov.au)

Central Tablelands LLS Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/centraltablelandslls](http://www.facebook.com/centraltablelandslls)

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