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Tablelands Telegraph

August 2014

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Meet your Board

In focus - Central Tablelands Board Member Reg Kidd

Reg has worked in Local Government for 24 years and is Head of the School of Rural Studies NSW TAFE. Reg has a Bachelor of Science (Ag), a Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture and a Masters in Education Administration. Reg has a strong passion for the culture and community of the Central Tablelands region and has vast experience in rural issues and advocacy.



A farmer, communicator, educator and agricultural consultant in the Orange region, Reg brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion to the Board. Reg has worked as a councillor and conservationist and has been involved in natural resource management for many years.

With experience in a number of committees and boards, including those with a natural resource focus, Reg has strong governance and strategic thinking skills. Some of the boards Reg has worked on include the Central West Salinity Alliance of 32 Councils, NSW

Landcare Advisory Committee, NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Board and NSW State Management

Committee.

Reg was a member of the Central West Catchment Management Board which developed the Catchment Blueprint and has a vast knowledge of the natural resources issues facing the Central Tablelands region.

Reg is the Local Government Community representative on [the Board](#) and is also an avid gardener and radio presenter.

Across the Tablelands

New staff welcomed - Jeff Boyd (PVP Officer)

Jeff was recently employed as the Senior Land Services Officer (PVP) for the Central Tablelands LLS. The role is responsible for the administration of the NSW Native Vegetation Act and provides assistance to both LLS staff and Landholders who are interested in gaining a greater understanding vegetation management including adherence to the multiple components of environmental legislation that applies.

Jeff has a background in Forestry with a BSc (Forestry) from the ANU and was previously responsible for the management of River Red Gum Forests on the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers, Alpine Forests around Tumbarumba and Pine Plantations at Bombala.

He has also worked as PVP Officer with the Western CMA, PVP Officer and PVP co-ordinator with the Lachlan CMA and more recently as the Area Manager (Lachlan Area) for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, before moving on to private ecological consulting and environmental works on large scale construction projects.

\$300,000 to target pest animals

Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) will work closely with Landholders in the management of pest animals. Almost \$300,000 in funding has been announced following a successful application to the Commonwealth Government.

Landholders and communities across the Central Tablelands region will benefit. The funding will be used for the management of pest animals on drought affected properties.

Ian Armstrong, Chairman of the Central Tablelands LLS Board said, "We applied for this funding knowing that many landholders have endured extended dry seasons over recent years, which has lead to an extraordinary increase in pest animal populations".

The funding will be rolled out over the coming months and will include programs to help control feral



pigs, wild dogs and feral goats in the Oberon, Lithgow and Mid Western Local Government areas.

[Read the full story](#)

Aerial baiting underway

The Central Tablelands LLS Biosecurity Officers have been working closely with the members of the Hargraves Hill End Wild Dog Action Group (HHEWDAG) in the past months to formulate a strategy to bring under control the escalating wild dog population in the Avisford and Meroo areas.

Reports of mauling and stock deaths and have been increasing in recent times. Wild dog sightings are occurring in areas where no previous incidence has been reported.

Senior Biosecurity Officer with the Local Land Services, Mal Leeson said, "A public meeting was held last month with affected land managers in an effort to coordinate a "cross tenure" approach to wild dog management in the area. Following this meeting, talks were held with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and a strategy was undertaken to carry out the aerial baiting of inaccessible lands where wild dog movement may occur."

[Read the full story](#)



Restoring Fish River

Two hundred years after surveyor George Evans walked along the Macquarie River where Bathurst was later settled, a local landholder is working with the Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) to restore the river to its original state.

With funding from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Futures Biodiversity Fund, Central Tablelands LLS has supported Paul Hennessy of 'Macquarie' at O'Connell, near Bathurst. This work will restore the banks of the Macquarie River where it travels through his property.

"The Macquarie River is a wonderful piece of history and I would like to think that it is being restored to what it used to look like all those years ago," Mr Hennessy said.

Central Tablelands LLS Land Services Officer, Allan Wray said more than 33 hectares of 'Macquarie' are being enhanced and protected along a five kilometre stretch of stream that was struggling with willow infestation.

[Read the full story](#) or [watch a video](#) of the rehabilitation work on the Fish River.

Review of the LLS Election Process

We are aware of the disappointment, across the Central Tablelands about the process undertaken to elect LLS board members earlier this year. We acknowledge that there is work to be done to ensure a better process in the future. There has been a complete review of the election process, into which we

provided the feedback of Landholders and community members across the Central Tablelands. We value the feedback that people provided and trust that it will be incorporated into the recommendations to be developed for future elections.

What's on the Horizon?

Fodder information sessions address feed gaps



Following the below average 2013 Spring conditions and the dry, scorching hot Summer, many livestock producers are left with depleted stocks of conserved fodder. Even if conserved fodder was not needed for their own herd, many producers sold their hay and silage into the red hot domestic market early this year. With the high prices of fodder and grain supplementation fresh in memory of many producers and sub-optimal stocking rates in some areas, this spring may provide some good opportunities to replenish on-farm stocks of hay and silage.

Central Tablelands and Central West Local Land Services are working together to provide producers across the regions with an opportunity to hear from NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Hay and Silage experts – Neil Griffiths and John Piltz in a series of seminars to be held at Cowra, Narromine and Mudgee on the 12th and 13th August. Information will be presented on addressing the feed gaps in farm systems and outlining the animal nutritional requirements of stock during the feed gaps. [Read the full story](#)

Introduction to Grazing Management workshops.

Grazing management is one of the most talked about topics on farms. Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) and Tocal have teamed together to deliver a one day workshop for producers.

The day will cover the effects of grazing management on pastures dynamics including quantity and quality of feed. Clare Edwards, pasture agronomist with the Local Land Services explained that the introduction day will also cover information on pasture production, groundcover and biodiversity.

The workshops will be held on:

- 14th August - Oberon
- 15th August - Lithgow
- 18th August - Orange
- 25th August - Hampton
- 1st September - Bathurst

For more information contact [Clare Edwards](#) or [Phil Cranney](#)

Regent Honeyeater Tree Planting - 15 and 16 August

The Capertee Valley Regent Honeyeater Recovery Group was established by Birdlife Australia (formerly Birds Australia) in 1993 to help conserve the endangered Regent Honeyeater in the Capertee Valley. The Capertee Valley is one of the most important key breeding areas remaining for this species.



This August marks the group's 21st year of planting trees for the Regent Honeyeater and the wonderful group of volunteers have planted over 111,000 trees and shrubs throughout the Capertee Valley!

The main planting is on Saturday 16 August 2014. However organisers are always looking for volunteers to help prepare the planting stock and guards on Friday 15 August and help with any possible follow up work on Sunday 17 August.

[Download the program and more information](#)

Feral Pig Management Workshop (Bigga) - 16 August

Jason Wishart is visiting from Adelaide to advise the Central Tablelands LLS on a coordinated, cross-tenure feral pig control in the region. He has been with the Invasive Animals (IA) CRC for 7 years.

The IA CRC is Australia's largest integrated invasive animal research program.

Jason's primary focus at IA CRC is feral pig ecology and management, as well as the development of new technologies and integrated strategies to reduce feral pig damage or impacts.

Jason's Masters Degree examined feral pig impacts and control methods in the Macquarie Marshes.

However, he has spent the past couple of years on a pig and fox management program at Mount Hope to reduce impacts on agricultural production and Malleefowl.

Jason helped develop the HOGHOPPER, a commercially available feral pig specific bait delivery device, and is now involved in the field testing of sodium nitrite concentrate (highly toxic to pigs, quick acting and potentially reversible), to be added to other substrates or mixed in with grain. [More information](#)

[information](#)

Wild Dog Workshop at Yeoval - 11 and 12 August

Central Tablelands LLS, Central West LLS and Little River Landcare are conducting a Joint (Commonwealth funded) project on fox and feral pig control in the Toongi, Yeoval and Cumnock area in August 2014. Foxes are a continual problem and feral pig numbers are on the increase.



The program will include '1080 accreditation training' (conducted by Scott Sullivan), field days, issuing of fox baits and construction and issuing of pig traps. Participants in the program need to be financial

members of Little River Landcare.

The training days will be held at Yeoval on 11-12 August 2014 with baits and traps being issued in the following days. For more information contact Scott Sullivan, scott.sullivan@lls.nsw.gov.au

Ag Sector Reference Meetings - August 21-27

Central Tablelands LLS is holding Agriculture Sector Reference meetings across the region. The first of these meetings was held in Mudgee on Monday 28 July, with further meetings coming up in Lithgow/Oberon, Bathurst and Canowindra.

Various industry representatives from the Agriculture sector will be involved. Attendees will include farmers from the sheep, cattle, horticulture, viticulture and mining industries, as well as reps from NSW Farmers, rural merchant, Irrigators and local Wild Dog Associations.

The Ag Sector Reference meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Bathurst – Thursday, 21 August
- Canowindra – Friday, 22 August
- Lithgow/Oberon – Wednesday, 27 August

[More information](#)

Ram select workshop - 2 September

Local Land Services, in conjunction with the Sheep CRC, will be conducting a ram selection workshop at Bigga in early September.

The workshop will include all aspects of successful ram selection including assessment, use of breeding values as well as a number of practical exercises throughout the day. Places are limited to 30 and will go quickly. [Download the flyer and further information.](#)

The Funding Arena

Farm Household Allowance

The Farm Household Allowance (FHA) provides eligible farmers and their partners who are experiencing financial hardship with assistance and support to improve their long-term financial situation.

The allowance will be paid fortnightly at a rate equivalent to Newstart Allowance (or Youth Allowance for those under 22 years). A Health Care Card will be provided to recipients. [More information](#)

Rural and Remote Diversity Scholarship Program - Closes 31 July

This program is aimed at providing governance educational opportunities for women residing in rural and remote regions of Australia. The Program will award 30 scholarships to suitably qualified experienced women to undertake our highly regarded Company Directors Course; Reimbursement of accommodation and travel costs up to A\$2000; 12 months membership to the Australian Institute of Company Directors. [More information](#)

Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA) - Closes 15 August

The Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA) program is a targeted small grant program, designed to support projects and activities that benefit and support older people living in small rural and remote communities. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available. [More information](#)

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. [More information](#)

ANZ Seeds of Renewal - Closes 26 August

Applications are invited from not-for-profit community based organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate which contribute to the development of education and employment opportunities of communities with a population of 15,000 people or fewer. [More information](#)

Contact us

[Your local LLS office](#)

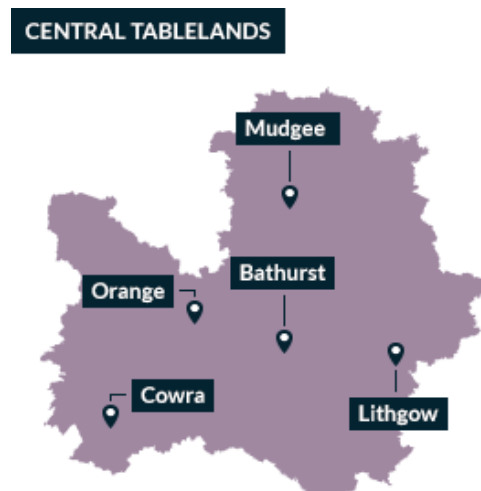
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