



Tablelands Telegraph

September 2014

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[Meet the Board](#)

Board member - John Lowe

Manager of the sheep production enterprise 'Lowther Park', John has the relevant local experience and connection in the eastern region of the Central Tablelands to make him an extremely important asset to the LLS.

John is passionate about representing the concerns and interests of farmers across the region and recognises the diverse nature of the Central Tablelands.

He believes it is crucial that the LLS and producers work hand in hand to manage threats to farm production and the environment effectively and efficiently.

John has represented the Oberon and Lithgow regions in the past in his position on the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority Board and has worked with groups such as the Coxs River Catchment Management Committee and the Hampton/Hazelgrove Wild Dog Group.

John will work to ensure his communities interests and those of the Central Tablelands community are a focus for the Central Tablelands LLS. [Meet our other Board members](#).



[Agriculture](#)

Liveweight loss and shrink in beef cattle

Update by Brett Littler, Beef Officer

The Liveweight loss/shrink that occurs when we take cattle off feed is something that I spend a lot of time explaining to producers. It is also something that can have a huge effect on what producers think

their cattle are doing and how they think they are performing. Unfortunately, sometimes the cattle scales are lying! Also, when you send cattle away for sale, the amount of gut fill that is retained can have a huge influence on the price you receive and also sometimes the performance of your cattle in a feedlot. [More information.](#)

Feedback from the Ag sector across the region!

A primary reason for these meetings is for Central Tablelands LLS to identify the key issues faced by the agriculture sector in this region. By listening to farmers and industry reps the LLS hopes to better understand the services that are beneficial to landholders and communities across the Central Tablelands. “We want to ensure that we understand our local communities and add value to the various agricultural industries across the Central Tablelands. These workshops will build on the already established relationships our staff have built over the past months within the sector”, said Mr Sparkes. In the coming months, and following on from these meetings, the Central Tablelands LLS will form an Agriculture Sector Advisory Group.



Quality is King - fodder conservation

The key message that came from the recent Fodder Information Sessions was that Quality is King. Making, storing and feeding high quality forage gives the producer more options to value-add that product into beef or lamb kgs/Ha.



Central Tablelands and Central West LLS, held three fodder conservation sessions at Cowra, Narromine and Mudgee.

A total of 61 producers attended these events to hear about how to improve the quality of the fodder that is produced, minimise waste, maximise livestock production, and improve the feed-out process. With 20-30mm of rain falling last weekend, producers

across the tablelands are encouraged to look at their fodder conservation strategies.

One of the main effects of climate variability is that the spring period is experiencing warmer temperatures. Combined with potentially less reliable median spring rainfall, could mean a shorter spring flush in some years.

Consequently, livestock producers have a smaller window to utilise pasture at its peak quality.

Conserving fodder, whether through silage or hay making, is one way of preserving that quality for a later date to either finish stock or drought feed. [Read more](#)

Love the smell of silage in the morning

Livestock producers have the opportunity to make silage while the



sun shines this Spring.

Central Tablelands and Central West Local Land Services delivered a series of Fodder Information Sessions involving industry and local producers.

Peter Johnstone, “Illinois”, Woodstock, is one of many producers throughout the area using silage to drought proof his livestock operation. Depending on the operation, Silage can be made and stored for under \$50/tonne, which provides a very cost effective alternative to hay.

Mr Johnstone (right) started making silage in 1984 and has a number of 200 tonne silage pits stacked tight with large square bales of lucerne silage and lucerne/ tetraploid ryegrass silage.

“Since we started putting silage into pits, we have not had to send sheep or cattle away on agistment, nor have we been forced to sell our breeders in a drought” Mr Johnstone commented. [Read more](#)

DPI Seasonal Conditions Report – August 2014

The NSW Government is replacing state drought declarations with a new Regional Seasonal Conditions Report. The new reporting system helps landholders manage operations and prepare for changing seasonal conditions and drought.

- [SUMMARY of the August 2014 Seasonal Conditions Report](#)
- [August 2014 Seasonal Conditions full report](#)

Will sheep meat demand remain strong? Webinar video

Sheep Connect NSW recently partnered with Mecardo to present the webinar - [Will sheepmeat demand remain strong? Ewe bet!](#)

This webinar provided participants with a great analysis of Australian sheepmeat industry projections.

New BoM outlook website

The Bureau of Meteorology has a new climate outlook website which provides rainfall and temperature outlooks for three months ahead plus new outlooks for individual months and maps that can be tailored for any location. [See more here.](#)

Introducing... Karen O'Malley, Horticulture Officer, Central Tablelands LLS

Karen provides advisory and industry support services for commercial horticultural enterprises. This includes fruit, vegetables,



viticulture, herbs, olives, nuts, berries, cut flowers and small producers.

Karen is also involved in plant health diagnostics and biosecurity awareness. Karen regularly holds small landholder workshops and provides liaison and support to apiary industries.

Karen is currently working on strengthening export market access for fruit growers through area wide pest and disease management programs. She also provides plant biosecurity awareness and advice and is developing horticultural advisory publications.

Karen is the co-author of the Orchard Plant Protection Guide (which will be out in September) – [Click here](#)

Away from work Karen likes being out in nature, horses, working dogs, art, self-sufficiency gardening, bird watching, astronomy, reading non-fiction, bush walking, wildlife photography, small acre farming.

Karen can be contacted on 0428 103 665 or karen.omalley@lls.nsw.gov.au

Natural Resource Management

Central Tablelands LLS Incentive funding available for farm projects

Central Tablelands LLS is taking Expressions of Interest for the following types of farm projects:

- Riparian enhancement
- Vegetation conservation management
- Property management planning

Funding is available to landholders and community groups such as Landcare, Local Councils and

Indigenous groups. Applications close at 5pm on the 31st October

2014. More information and Expression of Interest form now available.

[More information](#)

Saving a rare plant species

The River Lett (near Hartley) has a population of *Asterolasia buxifolia*, which is an endangered species that only grows in one known location.

Funding has been allocated to undertake weed control at the site where the plant exists as several weeds are considered a threat to the population.



The areas shown in pink and purple are the sub-regions where the species or community is known or predicted to occur. They may not occur throughout the sub-region but may be restricted to certain areas. ([click here](#) to see geographic restrictions). The information presented in this map is only indicative and may contain errors and omissions.

There is interest to expand these works out to other parts of the river and tributaries.

As a result, Central Tablelands Local Land Services, in collaboration with Lithgow Council, Lithgow Oberon Landcare, the Office of Environment and Royal Botanic Gardens are working to protect the unique native biodiversity values on the River Lett.

As part of this work, Central Tablelands LLS are looking to support landowners to undertake weed control works on the River Lett and several of its tributaries including Blackmans Creek, Butler Creek, Reedy Creek and Kerosene Creek.

If you are interested in becoming involved or would like more information on the project, please contact either Huw Evans (6350 3117) or Stuart Lovejoy (6350 3113).

Supporting local landholders with tree planting

Staff from Central Tablelands and Central West LLS spent a full day earlier this month planting trees for a number of local landholders.

Central Tablelands LLS staff member, Julie Reynolds, reports local landholders, Bruce Wilson and Danny Wilson, both received funding under the CW CMA "Western Woodlands" project to revegetate some areas on their properties.

"We planted a couple of hundred tree seedlings and direct seeded an area of nearly five hectares," Julie said.

The trees planted included Grey Box, Yellow Box, White Box and a mixture of wattles including Mudgee, Western Silver, Hairy, Box Leaf, Silver and Deans.

Julie said the landholders were really happy to have the trees planted to help rehabilitate their gullies, provide windbreaks and increase the biodiversity of their farms.



Regent Honeyeater habitat restored



Bathurst Regional Council has secured over \$65,000 from the NSW Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Program to restore the endangered Regent Honeyeater habitat in the Bathurst area.

The critically endangered status of the Regent Honeyeater species, with estimated remaining numbers being between 800 and 2000 birds, is primarily due to its loss of habitat.

The project will aim to restore Casuarina Gallery Forest along 1000 meters of the Macquarie River, utilising plant species known to be associated with the critically endangered birds.

Central Tablelands LLS staff were also involved in the planting of habitat for Regent Honeyeaters at Capertee earlier this month.

Landcare updates

Across the Central Tablelands region there are a number of Landcare groups with passionate and dedicated community members who are committed to the health and productivity of their local landscape.

Over the next few months Central Tablelands LLS staff will be heading out to meet the Landcare community and consult with groups to learn more about their communities and the challenges they face. We have established a Landcare buddy system to ensure local staff members are involved with Landcare groups in their community and are working on a process to introduce the buddies to all their groups.

If you are interested in getting involved with Landcare or would like further information regarding the Landcare updates please contact Liz Davis on 0427 452 662 or email liz.davis@lls.nsw.gov.au

[Website launched for Mid Lachlan Landcare](#)

Mid Lachlan Landcare has launched a [website and blog](#) where you can find their latest news and events. Mid Lachlan Landcare district currently supports four local Landcare groups and is involved in a number of projects from grazing management to threatened species monitoring. You can subscribe to hear about their upcoming events on this site.

[Voting open for Landcare Awards](#)

With sixty-nine finalists across nine diverse categories, there are plenty of worthy winners, however it's up to the public to decide who will be this year's National Landcare People's Choice Award winner. Voting closes at 6pm on 17 September, 2014. [Read More](#)

[NRM on farms newsletter](#)

NRM on Farms is a monthly newsletter that summarises recent information about climate and natural resource management relevant to agriculture to keep farmers, agricultural and NRM advisors and researchers up to date. It is freely available to anyone interested or involved in agriculture or NRM. To subscribe email. To subscribe email Rebecca Lines-Kelly at rebecca.lines-kelly@dpi.nsw.gov.au

[Biosecurity](#)

[Tackling the wild dog problem](#)

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, (*right*) has announced that Local Land Services has established a cross-regional team to tackle the growing problem of wild dog management.

Ms Hodgkinson, in Gunnedah for AgQuip earlier this month, said the cross-regional team is also working to ensure best outcomes are delivered from the \$2.4 million Commonwealth investment in pest management in drought-



affected areas. [Read More](#)

Map wild dogs and other feral pests using your mobile phone

Help map feral sightings in your area!

[Feral Scan](#) is a free mapping service that you can use to help with feral pest control in your local area. iPhone, Android and iPad users can now access WildDogScan and record wild dog data much more quickly while in the field. This is a valuable addition to WildDogScan and can be used by farmers, NRM groups, wild dog control associations, community groups, and local governments.

Managing fruit fly this season

The suspension of dimethoate in 2011 and now fenthion in 2012 and further restrictions in 2013 means that orchardists and home gardeners are no longer able to apply an insecticide and be assured that the problem has been dealt with.

Fruit fly management in home gardens, commercial orchards and vegetable crops is no longer as simple as spraying crops when fruit flies become active.

The future of orchard management lies in the implementation of complex integrated management programs that include the use of lures, baits and cover sprays, orchard hygiene – an issue that is becoming increasingly important, physical controls and new technologies as they become available and accepted by industry. [Read more](#)

Show us your feral photos.

The Invasive Animals CRC is currently running its national photo competition and some great prizes are up for grabs! There are five prize-winning categories and entering the competition is easy to do and is totally free.

This year's prizes are as follows:

First - Apple iPad mini with Cellular and WiFi connectivity

Second - GoPro HERO3 White with waterproof housing, rechargeable Li-ion battery and adhesive mounts

Third - Polaroid 300 Camera Bundle

Best Remote Camera - \$50 CSIRO Publishing Voucher

People's Choice - \$50 CSIRO Publishing Voucher



Entries are open until 30 September 2014. [Read more](#)

Green Peach Aphids (GPA) - Emerging resistance issue

Green Peach Aphid is a common pest of canola, cereals, cotton, pulse crops, peanuts, stonefruit, a wide range of vegetables and

ornamentals. Large populations of GPA damage plants through sucking resulting in chlorosis of leaves, wilting and stunting of new growth. Green peach aphid is also one of the most effective vectors of over 100 plant viruses.

Some of the most common viruses include beet western yellows virus (BWYV), cucumber and celery mosaic virus, potato leaf roll virus, potato virus, papaya ringspot virus and lettuce mosaic virus. Yield losses from virus infection are generally much higher than yield losses due to physical damage to crops by the sucking action of aphids. [Read more](#)

Animal Health

Understanding pain management

A research group within The Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney is currently conducting research into producer attitudes towards painful husbandry practices and pain management in sheep.

The group has created an online survey titled "Understanding attitudes of Australian wool producers towards painful husbandry practices and pain management in sheep".

This aim of this survey is to investigate producer perspectives on the issues of pain to inform research and development into practical and affordable methods for on-farm pain management, and to improve the national and international profile and sustainability of the wool industry in the long term.

The research group is interested in the attitudes of producers to understand what the limitations are to providing pain relief on-farm, and what might encourage them in the future to provide pain management for their animals.

[Complete the survey](#)

Pestivirus status vital

With many cattle producers gearing up for joining in October and November, now is the time to test heifers to determine their pestivirus status.

That is the advice from Central Tablelands LLS veterinarian Dr Bruce Watt.

"We have seen cases of pestivirus in stock recently and know it is present in 80 to 90 per cent of Tablelands herds.

"It is important growers know and understand the status of their herd now," he told Tablelands Telegraph.

"The exposure status can be determined through a blood test, with cattle not exposed to the virus at the greatest risk of infection."

Dr Watt said these cattle can be protected with a simple vaccination, but it was vital to know the herd status in planning phase of this year's joining.

[Click here](#) for more information on Pestivirus.

Ewe management critical during pregnancy

As the late winter conditions dry off, and feed quality drops, some pregnant ewes across the Central Tablelands are beginning to struggle.

District veterinarian, Dr Bruce Watt, said many ewes put on substantial condition during the terrific autumn experienced this year, but were struggling under the burden of twins and triplets and a lowering plane of nutrition.



These fat ewes are showing a rapid form of pregnancy toxemia with different symptoms to those we normally.

"They become weak, collapse and die rapidly," Dr Watt reports.

"We are suggesting to producers with ewes in this conditions to consider supplementary feeding with high energy feed to get the ewes through the lambing period."

Dr Watt said while pasture conditions were still good, the amount of internal fat in many of these ewes meant they were not capable of eating sufficient food to maintain themselves and their lambs.

Fortunately, this problems resolves itself once the ewes lamb.

More information - [click here](#)

Upcoming Events

Soil Wealth Farm Tour – 11 September

Applied Horticulture Research (AHR) invites you to a vegetable farm walk hosted by Ed and James Fagan at Cowra, NSW. The farm walk and talks will focus on ways of managing vegetable soils to ensure healthy soils and profitable crops. The free event will draw on the experience of vegetable growers, researchers and consultants. [Click here](#)

Irrigated Soil Health Workshop, Bathurst - 12 September

Contact: Casey Proctor on 0429 110 072

Establishing an area of low pest prevalence for market access - 16 September

Workshop for fruit growers, Orange. Contact: Karen O'Malley on 0428 103 665

Flying Fox netting grants information session, Orange - 16 September

Contact: Karen O'Malley on 0428 103 665

Lunch with Legumes, Mudgee - 18 September

Legumes are an important part of pastures in the Mudgee area. A short seminar and workshop on pasture legumes will be held on Thursday the 18th September at the strawbale complex, AREC starting at 10.30am. For more information contact Clare Edwards on 0428 435 615.

Small farms information session , Bathurst - 2 October

Contact Phil Cranney on 0458 745 478 or Karen O'Malley on 0428 103 665.

Other dates to remember

- [National Threatened Species Day 7 September](#)
- [Australian Farmer of the Year Awards 10 September 2014](#)
- [NSW Rural Women's Gathering "Heritage with Heart" Coolamon 12-14 September 2014](#)
- [2014 National Landcare Conference & Awards 19 & 20 September](#)
- [Henty Machinery Field Days 23-25 September 2014](#)
- [Australian National Field Days, 23 - 25 October](#)

Funding Opportunities

Central Tablelands LLS Incentive funding available for farm projects

Central Tablelands LLS is taking Expressions of Interest for the following types of farm projects:

- Protecting and restoring creeks and rivers
- Vegetation conservation management
- Property management planning

Working together to improve and manage the health of the Landscape. Applications close at 5pm on the 31st October 2014. More information and Expression of Interest form now available.

Small Grants for Rural Communities (SGRC) - Closes Friday 25 September

The Small Grants for Rural Communities is the longest running and broadest program Federation for Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR) offers. A collaborative program supported by various partners which has the flexibility to address issues that make a difference to the sustainability of rural, regional and remote communities. [Click here](#)

2015 Science Awards - closes 3 October, 2014

Grant applications are now open for the 2015 Science and Innovation Awards for young people in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. If you are between 18-35, this is your chance to apply for up to \$22,000 to fund your innovative research project that will benefit Australia's primary industries. [Click here](#)

Murray Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program closes Friday 31 October

Developed to provide assistance to economic development projects that support the economic base of regional communities that are likely to be affected by the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan. [Click here](#)

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Give us your feedback

Feedback is gratefully received. [Please let us know](#) how we can make this newsletter more useful.

Your contributions

Contributions to Tablelands Telegraph are always welcome. Please [email us](#) any content about events and activities across the region that are relevant to Agriculture, NRM, Biosecurity or Emergency Management.

Kylie Krause - Communications Officer, Central Tablelands Local Lands Services

Contact: kylie.krause@lls.nsw.gov.au

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