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Welcome



Spring has sprung!

Enjoy the beautiful sunny days and read up on what is happening across the central west in October.

If you want to get regular updates from us, a great way to keep in touch is via our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages where you can get daily updates of news and events around the region. All you need to do is become our friend :)

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



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Diary dates

26 September

[Spring agronomy field day - Gilgandra](#)

29 September - 6 October

[Macquarie River Artist Muster](#)

30 September

[Wild dog workshop - Mendooran](#)

30 September - 1 October

[Traditional Burning and Workshop - Orange](#)

2 October

[Landcare bus trip to Orange Environmental Learning Facility](#)

3 October

[2015 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People funding grants close](#)

4 and 5 October

[Discovery Weekend - Macquarie Marshes](#)

6 October

[Beef Australia 2015 Mentor Program closes](#)

7 October

[Wild dog workshop - Coolah](#)

9 October

[Grains Research and Development Corporation business update for growers - Forbes](#)

10 October

[Wild dog workshop - Coonabarabran](#)

[Prograze - Condobolin](#)

13 October

[Hemp Markets Forum - Narromine](#)

[Central West Farming Systems Spring Field Days - Tullamore and Tottenham](#)

15 October

[Drought Recovery Feral Pig Control Workshop - Nyngan](#)

[Central West Farming Systems Spring Field Days - Alectown to Nth Parkes mine](#)

16 October

[Drought Recovery Feral Pig Control Workshop - Coonamble](#)

17 October

[Central West Farming Systems Spring Field Days - Wirrinya to Gunning Gap](#)

21 October

[Central West Farming Systems Spring Field Days - Lake Cam to Euabalong](#)

22 October

[Central West Farming Systems Spring Field Days - Ungarie and Weethallee](#)

22 October

[Waterwatch Spring Snapshot - Macquarie River](#)

22, 23 October

[Summer Livestock Management Workshops - Coonamble, Quambone and Bugaldie](#)

23 October

[Commercial Goat Industry Field Day - Condobolin](#)

23 - 25 October

[Australian National Field Days - Orange](#)

28

October

[Goat meat markets - opportunities, development and promotion webinar](#)

31

October

[Central West Farming Systems Spring Field Days - Condobolin](#)

Check your rams

Our District Veterinarian, Hanna Thomas, has encouraged producers to regularly examine their rams for breeding soundness regardless of their lambing percentages.

Hanna recommends that every sheep producer should be examining their rams for breeding soundness at least eight weeks prior to joining. This time frame is important so problems can be detected and treated early. Rams need at least eight weeks to start producing viable semen again. It also allows time to source replacement rams, if necessary.

Apart from checking your rams are in good general health and condition, the areas to focus on are the 4T's.

To find out about the 4T's, [read more advice from Hanna here.](#)

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Early weaning of lambs

In dry seasons when feed availability is scarce, it is worthwhile to consider early weaning.

Ewes and lambs fed separately require less feed than ewes with a lamb at foot. This can result in supplementary feed savings.

Good management is critical for this to be successful. If done well, early weaning can be a very rewarding experience.

For more information, contact David Trengove (0419 985 878 or david.trengove@lls.nsw.gov.au) or [read the full article on our website.](#)

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Look out for locust - central west warned to watch

We are encouraging landholders to be vigilant over the coming months for any locust activity on

your property.

Some areas of central west NSW have experienced low to medium levels of locust activity in the autumn, with some egg laying being recorded.

The optimum time for control is when the locust nymphs are forming bands on the ground. This is usually around three weeks after hatching – early detection and reporting is essential.

[Read the full article](#)

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Lead poisoning risk - time to clean up your old batteries

Our district veterinarians have been regularly diagnosing lead poisoning as a cause of cattle deaths.

Inquisitive by nature, cattle are most at risk of lead poisoning because they tend to "taste test" old batteries found in farm tips or around sheds. Flaking lead paint, sump oil, ashes and diesel are other potential lead sources.

[Read more about lead poisoning.](#)

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Don't let the insects bug you!

Our Senior Land Services Officer, Neroli Brennan, advises that Spring is an important time to check your crops for insect pests and identify insects beneficial to your crop.

In addition, you need to understand monitoring techniques and economic thresholds to make an informed decision about controlling an insect pest outbreak.

For more information, contact Neroli Brennan (0428 692 713 or neroli.brennan@lfs.nsw.gov.au) or Greg Paul (0428 258540 or greg.paul@lfs.nsw.gov.au).

[More information](#)

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Inspect crops for weed escapes

With harvest almost upon us, it is worth inspecting crops for the presence of winter weeds. This will aid in planning for next year's crop and herbicide applications.

The presence of weeds may be the result of weed escapes from spraying and may indicate herbicide resistance. If herbicide resistance is suspected, a resistance test is the best option to confirm this. Herbicide resistance testing is also important to identify what herbicides are still working.

For more information, contact Neroli Brennan (0428 692 713 or neroli.brennan@lls.nsw.gov.au) or Greg Paul (0428 258540 or greg.paul@lls.nsw.gov.au) or [visit our website](#).

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Crown Rot raises its ugly head

We are beginning to hear reports of 'white heads' appearing in wheat crops within the northern and central parts of our region. This is more evident in soils where moisture is limiting. These 'white heads' are most likely the result of Crown Rot.

Crown rot is a fungal infection that attacks the base (crown) of the cereal (Durum, wheat, barley and oats) plant disrupting water and nutrient supply to the developing head. This results in the droopy 'white head' appearance within the crop. Most of these heads will contain no grain or very pinched grain at harvest.

If you are seeing these symptoms in your crop and you would like more information please contact Neroli Brennan (0428 692 713 or neroli.brennan@lls.nsw.gov.au) or Greg Paul (0428 258540 or greg.paul@lls.nsw.gov.au) or visit our [website](#).

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Drought recovery and feral pig control workshops - Nyngan and Coonamble

Landholders in the Bogan and Coonamble local government areas are invited to workshops to discuss the Commonwealth Drought Recovery program and feral pig control.

The workshops are being held at the [Nyngan Local Land Services](#) industrial shed on 15 October and the [Coonamble Local Land Services](#) office on 16 October.

Workshops start with a BBQ breakfast.

RSVP by 13 October to your local Central West Local Land Services office or call 1300 795 299.

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Summer livestock management workshops - Coonamble, Quambone and Bugaldie

We are providing livestock producers the opportunity to visit a local property, speak to an expert, ask questions and get some practical answers about livestock nutrition, animal health, reproduction, feed costs, early weaning and any other issues.

Two workshops are planned in Coonamble and Quambone on 22 October and one at Bugaldie on 23 October.

Contact Dr Jillian Kelly (0428 334 459 or email jillian.kelly@lils.nsw.gov.au) or David Trengove (0419 985 878 or email david.trengove@lils.nsw.gov.au) or visit our [website](#).

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Wild dog workshops in Mendooran, Coolah and Coonabarabran

We're holding the following workshop to help landholders reduce the stress and



economic impact of wild dog attacks.

- Mendooran - 30 September
- Coolah - 7 October
- Coonabarabran - 10 October

You will hear from our staff, wild dog trappers, vets and workcover.

The days start at 9.00am and finish with a BBQ lunch.

To find out more, contact Jason Gavenlock (0428 710 017 or jason.gavenlock@lils.nsw.gov.au) or Graham Kelly (0428 639 301 or graham.kelly@lils.nsw.gov.au).

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Drought recovery funding for bait, aerial, trapping and education

This project is funded through an Australian Government initiative to assist landholders in drought affected areas to recover from drought and minimise the impacts from invasive species.

We are inviting community groups, Landcare and industry groups to apply for funding for pest animal education and capacity building work.

The project activities should focus on educational and capacity building activities with a focus on pest animal management (particularly wild dogs, feral pigs and foxes) in the following Local Government Areas:

- Bogan
- Gilgandra
- Warrumbungles
- Coonamble
- Narromine.

To find out more, contact Geoff Graham (6831 1500 or geoff.graham@lfs.nsw.gov.au) or visit our [website](#).

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Small grants funding

Our Small Grants Incentive Program supports community groups to carry out capacity building, educational and other activities with a sustainable agriculture or sustainable environment focus.

Small Grants funding from \$1000 to a maximum of \$3000 (ex GST) is available for groups to participate in appropriate capacity building/educational activities.

Funding from the small grants project is not available for individuals. Applicant groups must be incorporated or should seek to partner with an existing incorporated group.

To find out more contact Dominic Nowlan 6349 1202 or dominic.nowlan@lfs.nsw.gov.au) or visit our [website](#).

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Waterponding funding available for Marra Creek

Our waterponding incentive project is a targeted project that helps landholders reclaim scalded claypan soils with the use of conservation earthworks, establishment of perennial herbage, and improved grazing management.

The program is targeted at the Bugwah soil landscape unit due to its erodibility of the sandy loam duplex soils. Waterponding is a proven soil conservation technique to stabilize and revegetate severely scalded claypan country.

To find out more contact Ray Thompson (6832 1008 or ray.thompson@lfs.nsw.gov.au) or visit our [website](#).

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Landholders funded to rehabilitate native vegetation

Landholders across the region have been making use of funding provided by the Commonwealth's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund and Central West Local Land Services to revegetate shelterbelt, windbreaks and wildlife corridors this winter.

Financial support was used to erect protective fencing and control weeds in preparation for planting seed and seedlings with Local Land Services project staff.

If you are interested in restoring native vegetation on your place and would like financial support, contact Andrew Knop on (6881 3409 or andrew.knop@lls.nsw.gov.au).

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Landcare launches crowdfunding campaign



Central West Lachlan Landcare has launched a crowdfunding campaign to fund [Plan BEE: Getting Native Bees and Communities Buzzing in the Central West](#).

Central West Lachlan Landcare is partnering with Little River Landcare Group, Macquarie 2100 and Coonamble and District Landcare to promote the role that native bees can play in sustainable agriculture. There will be a focus on community and school education as well as establishing native bee hives in the area.

For more information, contact Danielle Littlewood phone (6881 3403 or 0418 280 616 or email danielle.littlewood@lls.nsw.gov.au).

You can also [connect on Facebook...](#)

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Meet our new District Vets from Condo and Coonabarabran

Introducing Hanna Thomas in Condobolin

Hanna grew up on a sheep/cattle property near Gilgandra. After completing her Veterinary degree at CSU Wagga Wagga, Hanna worked for a private practice in Humpty Doo, Northern Territory. She then moved back to NSW to work as the district vet for Condobolin and is now working for Local Land Services based in Forbes.



Hanna will be focussing on disease investigation and surveillance, welfare concerns and compliance work. A key service is in-the-field investigations into animal health problems with the aim of obtaining a diagnosis or prevention plan for affected animals. These health issues could range from dying stock to reproductive concerns (eg. brucellosis in rams).

If you need to contact Hanna, phone (0428 434 336 or email hanna.thomas@lls.nsw.gov.au).

Meet Cecily Moore based in Coonabarabran

Cecily is originally from Sydney and, after graduating from Sydney University, spent a few years working in a mixed animal practice in Wellington NSW. She has recently returned from



working in Manitoba, Canada in both mixed and small animal practices.

Cecily loves working with sheep and cattle and getting out and about in the countryside. She first came to Coonabarabran as a vet student with the Livestock Health Pest Authority and loved it so much she's been coming back regularly ever since.

As the district vet, Cecily will be providing advice and investigation about livestock and livestock diseases, undertake surveillance activities within the district to gain an understanding of livestock health issues, implement animal health programs and manage biosecurity risks.

If you need to contact Cecily, phone (0407 716 816 or email cecily.moore@lls.nsw.gov.au).

[Other vets contact details](#)

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Kids teaching kids in Grenfell

Central Tablelands and Central West Local Land Services supported nearly 100 students involved in the first high school Kids Teaching Kids conference at Henry Lawson High School in Grenfell in early September.

Like thousands of kids across Australia, the students participated in the conference to explore a range of concepts, issues and innovations surrounding sustainable farming practices and production.



A careers expo also featured as part of the day. Students had the opportunity to meet with industry professionals and investigate a variety of career and study options available to them in the agricultural and environmental sectors.

[Hear from the kids and teachers on the event involved...](#)

To find out more about Local Land Service's role in school education and Kids Teaching Kids, contact Catie Guise on (6851 9508 or catherine.guise@lls.nsw.gov.au).

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Good luck in the Regional Achievement and Community Awards Ray Thompson

Senior Land Services Officer, Ray Thompson, has been nominated in the Peabody Environment and Landcare Award Category for the 2014 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards.



These annual awards will showcase Ray's commitment to the community and his outstanding achievements in restoring and revegetating thousands of hectares of scalded semi-arid rangelands in the Marra Creek region.

Ray has shared the waterponding technique throughout Australia and all over the world by guest speaking at education engagements and Australian National University, field days and conducting bus tours.

Winners of the Peabody awards will be announced at a gala presentation held in Wagga Wagga on 1 November.

[Send Ray your best wishes](#)

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New vegetation management online tools

The Office of Environment and Heritage has launched four [online tools](#) to help landholders determine if the Native Vegetation Act 2003 applies to their circumstances and what clearing they can undertake without approval.

The tools work using spatial viewers, which enable landholders to identify parts of their land where they are considering vegetation management and to view only those rules that relate to that area.

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Heads turn as a church is relocated in Warren

It is not every day that you see your local church move down the street!

During the first week of September, this historic building in Warren was moved from St Mary's School to sit beside Tiger Bay Wetlands.

It will now become a wetlands educational centre with an official opening planned soon.



Watch the relocation [on Youtube](#).

Check out what else is happening at [RiverSmart](#).

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Minister announces more funding for the war on weeds

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, has announced \$11.3 million funding for the 2014-15 Weeds Action Program; a key recommendation from a major weeds management review.

The funding is for research and implementation of new noxious weed control methods, including DNA barcoding, to identify exotic invasive grasses and the installation of red guide posts along

roadsides in high-risk areas.

View the National Resources Commission report: [Weeds – Time to get serious](#).

To view the full NSW Government response, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.

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Central West LLS reference groups meet to share successes

Members of the three Central West Local Land Services reference groups recently met with the organisation's Board and management team in Dubbo to explore their working relationship.

The Natural Resource Management Working Group, the Aboriginal Reference Group and the Local Government Salinity and Water Quality Alliance met to discuss the successes of the past and how they are going to build on these in the future.

Each of the reference groups meets on a quarterly basis, discussing issues that affect the communities they represent. They undertake training events and projects with a focus on the key business areas of Local Land Services.

For more information in regard to the Central West LLS reference groups, please contact Cherie Hughes (02 6840 7806 or cherie.hughes@lls.nsw.gov.au).

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First Australian case of Zolvix resistance

Monepantel (Zolvix[®]), the newest drench active for sheep, was released in Australia in 2010, but four years on, the first confirmed case of drench resistance has been reported.

[Read about testing for and managing drench resistance.](#)

Subscribe to [ParaBoss News](#) to get the latest on worms, flies and lice.

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Central West Rural Financial Counselling Service updated contact list

The [Rural Financial Counselling Service](#) provides free, impartial and confidential financial

counselling to help farmers, fishers and agriculture-dependent small businesses in their decision making.

[Access the updated contact list for the Central West](#)

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Farm Household Allowance

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

Eligible farmers and their partners will be able to access up to three years of payment. This is designed to give farm families time to get back on their feet and the opportunity to take steps to improve their circumstances.

[More information](#)

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BOM climate outlook video

Want to know the weather predictions three months in advance?

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has a monthly [Climate and Water Outlook video](#) which covers rainfall, streamflow and temperature for the next three months and beyond.

[Watch the video](#)

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Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) events link

The GRDC events link for the region will be featured in every newsletter from now on! Follow the link below and click on the blue markers on the map for events in your area.

[Access the GRDC events page](#)



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DPI Seasonal Conditions Report – October 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 October 2014 Seasonal Conditions Report

[October 2014 Seasonal Conditions full report](#)

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Direct contact details for Central West LLS staff

You can find out who your local staff are and their details in just one click!

Staff contact details (including mobile phone numbers) are up on our website to help deliver our services to the community.

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