



# Tablelands Telegraph

## *October Edition*

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### Meet the Board

## John Seaman

A primary producer in the Perthville and Evans Plains regions for all his working life, John brings to the Board an extremely strong connection to the producers of the Central Tablelands.

His experience extends from sheep and Cattle production, to natural resource management and the operation of a broad range of agricultural ventures.

John is a passionate advocate for the provision of services to ensure the vibrancy of the Central Tablelands and its producers.

He has worked on many boards and committees including the NSW Game Council, Livestock Contractors Association, Ovine Johnes Advisory Committee and was recently the Chairman of the Central Tablelands Livestock Health and Pest Authority.

As author of the Rural Notebook, published in Bathurst, Blayney and Oberon newspapers, John has a well-founded respect from the communities of the Central Tablelands, as a voice for community and industry alike.

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## Making News

### Pip Job wins Rural Woman of the Year

People across the Central Tablelands are celebrating following the announcement of Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) board member, Pip Job, as the National Rural Woman of the Year. This is the first time that a NSW woman has won the award.

The winner was chosen from seven State finalists and announced by Barnaby Joyce, Minister for Agriculture, at a dinner at Parliament House late last month.

"Pip is an extremely valuable and involved member of the Central Tablelands LLS board.

Pip's enthusiasm and commitment to Landcare and rural communities is exceptional. On behalf of all the Central Tablelands LLS board and staff I congratulate Pip on this outstanding achievement," commented Ian Armstrong, Chairman of the Central Tablelands LLS Board.

"It is very well deserved."

[Read the full story](#)

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## Agriculture

### Legume workshop addresses pastures

Legumes are an important part of pastures in the Mudgee area.

A short seminar and workshop on pasture legumes was held on Thursday 18 September at the straw bale complex, AREC.

"This year we have seen in some pastures a massive amount of annual legumes germinate and persist" said seminar organiser Clare Edwards. Ms Edwards is a Senior Lands Service officer – pastures with the Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

The seminar also covered plant identification and information on rhizobia. [Read more](#)

## Choices important at joining

With bulls going out, or about to go out, with the cows for mating, LLS Senior Land Services Officer Brett Littler thought it was time to remind producers that it is their choice how long a bull stays in with the cows and that this has a big influence on a number of factors.

Brett provides some timely advice about; [What to do with a new bull](#), [Calf castration methods](#) and [The difference between extended](#)

[and compact calving](#).

## Kids teaching kids about sustainability

Nearly 100 students converged on the Henry Lawson High School in Grenfell recently to teach and learn about sustainable agriculture.

The students participated in a Kids Teaching Kids conference to explore a range of concepts, issues and innovations surrounding sustainable farming practices and production.

This was the first high school Kids Teaching Kids conference in central west NSW. [Read more](#)

## Alerting motorists about noxious weeds

Red Guide Posts are being installed along roadsides throughout the Riverina and Central Western NSW (by weed officers) to identify known locations of high risk noxious weeds.

The Red Guide Posts alert road users of the site they need to avoid to prevent further spread of noxious weeds along high risk pathways.

This project was funded through the NSW Government Weeds Action Program (WAP) New Innovative Projects; Murray LLS; Eastern Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory

Group; Western Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group & Lachlan Valley Weeds Advisory Committee.

A major component of this project was the development of resources that can be picked up by RMS, LLS and other Local Control Authorities across the State.

[Read more](#)

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## Natural Resource Management

### Central Tablelands to benefit from state funding

People and communities across the Central Tablelands region will benefit from a funding announcement made by Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson and Minister for the Environment, Rob Stokes.

The announcement will see Catchment Action NSW funds provided to Local Land Services over three years for improvements in biodiversity conservation, threatened species, native vegetation and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

“We are extremely pleased with this announcement. The continuation of NSW Catchment Action funding will enable Central Tablelands Local Land Services to continue the great work and projects that have been started across our region”, LLS Central Tablelands Chairman Ian Armstrog told the Tablelands Telegraph.

[Read more](#)

## Green Army participants wanted

Enthusiastic 17-24 year olds interested in supporting the environment while learning important life-long skills should consider being part of the government’s Green Army project to begin in Bathurst later this month, according to Federal Member for Calare John Cobb (*pictured*).

Mr Cobb said the Bathurst project, Hilltops to Waterways, was the first of many to be unveiled in the Calare electorate, and will protect and improve the habitat quality of remnant Box-Gum Grassy Woodland, an endangered ecological community in the Bathurst urban area.

[Read more](#)

## Leading agronomist welcomes Landcare visit

Late last month, Mid Lachlan Landcare organised for 13 local graziers to visit Bob Freebairn on his property at Coonabarabran (*pictured left*).

The focus of the day was to learn from Bob about the potential role that tropical grasses and temperate legumes could play in the Mid Lachlan Landcare district in order to increase biodiversity of our pastures, and boost animal production.

The group was shown how Bob plans, grows and manages these pastures on his property. It was particularly interesting to see Serradella and Biserrula growing throughout his property mixed with native grasses and sown tropical grasses, and it was amazing to see how well they had responded to recent rainfall events in the area and to observe livestock already grazing these pastures.

[Read more](#)

## Bathurst Council a Green Globe Finalist

Paul Toole MP Member for Bathurst has congratulated Bathurst Regional Council for being shortlisted as a finalists in the 2014 Green Globes Awards, which recognise outstanding excellence, leadership and innovation in environmental sustainability across NSW.

Mr Toole said it was tremendous to see Bathurst represented amongst the finalists of the Green Globes Awards as they bring together some of State's best and most innovative organisations.

[Read more](#)

## Bathurst Council to combat illegal dumping

Bathurst Regional Council (BRC), the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), and the Roads and Maritime Services will increase joint efforts to curb illegal dumping within the region in a coordinated campaign beginning this month.

Bathurst Mayor, Cr. Gary Rush said illegal waste dumping is an ongoing, costly and a highly visible problem in NSW including the Bathurst Region.

"Illegal dumping continues to be a problem right across the country and it's estimated to cost Bathurst Regional Council tens of thousands of dollars a year, not to mention the significant impact and cost on the local environment," Cr. Rush said.

[Read more](#)

## Dos and don'ts on Stock Routes

Central Tablelands Local Land Services is reminding the public of the dos and don'ts on the Stock Route network, technically known as Travelling Stock Reserves or TSRs.

The TSRs are Crown Land originally established for the droving of sheep and cattle. The 'Long Paddock' remains an important network for the movement of stock and has become a feed reserve for farmers in times of drought.

Stock routes are also valued for their social, cultural and environmental benefits. As a general guide, the following passive recreational activities are permitted on TSRs during daylight hours:

bushwalking, fishing, bird watching, horse riding, swimming, picnicking and cycling. [So what is permitted and what is illegal on TSRs?](#)

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## Biosecurity

### Look out for locusts

Local Land Services is encouraging landholders to be vigilant over the coming months for any locust activity on their properties.

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 more](#)

## Wild Dog workshop in Coolah

Central West Local Land Services (LLS) is holding a workshop for landholders in Coolah to help them control wild dogs.

The workshop is part of a program to help landholders control this emerging problem and reduce the stress and economic impact of wild dog attacks.

The workshop is being held on 7 October.

Wild dogs are becoming a problem for central west farmers, according to Central West LLS Officer, Rhett Robinson.

"In the last six months there have been numerous sightings of wild dogs throughout the local area and 260 sheep lost at two separate locations," Mr Robinson told the Tablelands Telegraph.

[Read more](#)

## Stop Queensland Fruit Fly

Our local fruit growers are putting in the hard yards to keep fruit fly numbers in the Central Tablelands down this season. This will benefit everyone who loves their local fruit and also help our local horticultural businesses crack the lucrative fresh export markets of Asia.

With new free trade agreements in the pipeline, Cherry and Apple grower organisations are showing great initiative in negotiating their way through the trade protocols.

Our first meeting was in Orange on 16 September to discuss collating industry information for use in the trade proposal documents. We also discussed using trapping data for identifying action thresholds and corrective controls.

This will allow trial market access into sensitive domestic markets, then the ability to target export markets.

If you are a commercial grower and would like to know more about how to meet the interstate and export trade requirements contact horticulturalist [Karen O'Malley](#).

## Managing Fruit Fly at home

People who have a small number of fruit trees can actively support the effort to suppress fruit fly locally, so we can all enjoy unspoilt fruit. Regularly picking up and destroying fallen fruit, using fruit fly traps and removing neglected fruit trees is a start.

If you don't like the idea of spraying your home yard fruit, there are excellent exclusion nets that are very successful in stopping fruit fly infestations and a whole range of fruit damage from birds, bats, possums, hail and sunburn.

[Read more](#)

## Surveying for Little Cherry Virus

Little Cherry disease was confirmed in a Tasmanian commercial cherry orchard in January 2014.

It is currently unknown if Little Cherry disease is present in cherry orchards

in NSW. To help answer this question, Biosecurity NSW are asking all cherry growers to look at their orchards for any symptoms of this disease, report their findings and provide leaf samples for diagnosis. This diagnostic service will be provided at no cost to April 2015.

Reporting a “Nothing Found” is just as important as it will add to the weight of evidence that NSW is free of Little Cherry virus. This in turn can contribute to the strength of our trade requirements.

Little cherry disease is spread by infected plant propagation material, including rootstock and budwood. At present there doesn't appear to be insect vectors in Australia. The best time to look for symptoms is 10-14 days before harvest.

[Read more](#)

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## Animal Health

### So you have a new bull?

With Spring Bull sale season starting to come to an end and some producers making some big investments, Senior Land Services Officer (Mudgee) Brett Littler believes it is important that you look after your new investment and that you ensure you get the most from him (lots of calves over more than a couple of years). You can reduce problems by getting them home and settling them in properly.

During the sale and delivery process, Bulls can become upset and excited.

They are subjected to a lot of stress through strange people, yards, handling methods, trucking, unloading, new paddocks and different water and feed.

[Read more](#)

### Local Land Services/Zoetis partnership gets results

Over the past two years the Livestock Health & Pest Authority (now Local Land Services) in conjunction with Zoetis (formally Pfizer) worked together on a Leptospirosis surveillance research project across the Central, North and Western regions of NSW.

As a result, a comprehensive and current report on Leptospirosis exposure in sheep flocks, cattle herds and feral pig populations in

our local area has been compiled.

Both Local Land Services and Zoetis would like to acknowledge the land owners and managers who participated in this study, without their assistance the valuable information in this report would not have been obtained.

At a local level, the research project results will help guide livestock producers to make the best decisions in terms of vaccination and management to protect the reproductive potential of their herd, the health of themselves, their staff and families. It also provides Local Land Services further reason to run targeted pest animals programs in the area, and importantly provides baseline data for future comparison.

[Read more](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### Calling all Rural Women

The RIRDC Rural Women's Award is Australia's pre-eminent Award for rural women.

The Award identifies and supports emerging leaders and change agents who have the capability and resources to drive innovation, productivity and sustainability within primary industries, and build economic and social development within rural communities.

The Award acknowledges that women offer a unique approach to leadership, which involves connecting and collaborating to effect change and influence, often without the need for position or authority.

[Read more about the award](#)

### Patch Adams afternoon to talk mental health - 12 October

Rural Adversity Mental Health Consultant (RAMHP), Dianne Gill, is conducting a mental health workshop in Manildra on 12 October.

The workshop will include a screening of the Robin Williams movie Patch Adams at 1.30pm at the AMUSU Theatre in Manildra, followed by a brief Mental Health presentation and afternoon tea.

Information stalls from Mental Health and Alcohol and other Drugs will be available.

To RSVP, please contact Dianne on 0418 452 902.

### Paddock Plants workshop - 13 October

The workshop will take place in Blayney. Contact Phil Cranney for more information on 0458 745 478.

### Silverleaf Nighshade Info Session - 15 October

The information session will take place at Darby's Falls. Contact Phil Cranney for more information on 0458 745 478.

### Soil Health Workshop - 17 October

This workshop will take place at Hartley. Contact Clare Edwards (0428 435 615) or Peter Evans (0422 735 888) for more information.

### Lunch on Legumes - 21 October

This is a workshop and field walk looking at annual legumes in pasture and why producers should consider hard seededness and which rhizobia species to use, and common pasture legumes in the area. It is being held at Cumnock. Contact Phil Cranney for more information on 0458 745 478.



## Lachlan Valley Horticulture Strategic Plan workshop - 21 October

The workshop will take place at Cowra. Contact Casey Proctor on 0429 110 072 for more information.

## Australian National Field Days (Orange) - 23 to 25 October

Started in 1952, the ANFD is Australia's oldest annual agricultural exhibition where visitors will see a vast range of agricultural machinery, implements, services and ideas. Each year over 600 exhibitors from throughout Australia and overseas display their products and services. Visit the Local Land Services shed, located at C19 - 23. [Read more](#)

## Fish River revegetation corridor design field day - 24 October.

Contact Clare Kerr (6339 4900) or Allan Wray (0447 278 308) for more information.

## Soil Health Workshop - 29 October

This workshop will take place at Hampton. Contact Clare Edwards or Peter Evans for more information.

## Introduction to Grazing Management - 31 October

The workshop will take place in Orange. Contact Phil Cranney for more information on 0458 745 478.

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## Funding Opportunities

### AWMS Practitioner Award - Closes 7 October

The Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) promotes the use of science to identify appropriate wildlife management principles and practices, to develop plans of management and to implement and review these plans within a social, environmental, economic and political context. People involved in this process include research scientists, educators, wildlife managers, and extension, interpretation and policy professionals.

AWMS provides a number of incentives and grants to its members to further their careers and to acknowledge their contribution to the field of wildlife management. AWMS is also very focused on ensuring the continuing training and contributions of students to the field of wildlife management.

The Practitioner Award is one award offered by AWMS to the value of \$2500 for practitioners implementing outstanding wildlife management in their field.

The award closes on October 7.

[Read more](#)

### Funding available for farm projects

Funding opportunities are available now through Central Tablelands LLS to assist farmers, landholders, and community groups such as Local Councils, Landcare Groups and Indigenous

groups to adopt sustainable land management practices.

"We know that farmers place a high importance on improving the health and productivity of their land. It is great to be able to offer help with funding for projects that many farmers have been considering", said Mr Armstrong. Applications close 31 October 2014.

[Read more](#)

## \$5 million worth of Landcare Grants available nationally

Federal Member for Calare John Cobb has announced the latest round of Landcare grants are now available to local environmental groups..

Mr Cobb announce that up to \$5 million dollars, made up of grants up to \$20,000, was available through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Called 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants, the funding aims to support local Landcare and other natural resource management groups care for the environment.

"The best way to celebrate landcare's 25th anniversary is by supporting land carers in Calare to do what they do best, and that's look after the environment," Mr Cobb said.

[Read more](#)

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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.

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