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## Welcome

### It's harvest time!

Time to reap what you sow and read up on what is happening across the central west in November.



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

### 6 November

[Your energy: Take back the power and get switched on forum - Wellington](#)

### 13 November

[Energy management basics training - Dubbo](#)

### 14 November

[Pig field day - Forbes](#)

### 15 November

[Biodiversity breakfast and river walk - Coonamble](#)

### 2 December

[Practical grazing management day - Mendooran](#)

### 3 December

[Practical grazing management day - Coolah](#)

### 4 December

[Dung beetle workshop - Forbes](#)

## 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.

[View our contact details](#)

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## Do you know who your local district vet is?

Our team of district veterinarians are located across the region to help you with any animal health issues you may have.

District veterinarians are responsible for:

- providing livestock health services to ratepayers within the region
- responding to livestock management and health enquiries
- investigating herd or flock problems such as sick stock, dead stock, stock that won't put on weight and infertility problems
- surveillance and reporting to certify that we are free of certain diseases and able to respond to emerging or exotic disease threats quickly
- working closely with biosecurity officers (animal health), who are currently working on National Livestock Identification System procedures, footrot programs and coordinating the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program, which involves hanging light traps and sampling sentinel cattle herds in the region.

Unlike private veterinarians, we don't provide services to individual animals or carry medications.

Here are the contact details of our vet team:

**Coonamble** - Jillian Kelly phone (0428 334 459 or [jillian.kelly@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jillian.kelly@lls.nsw.gov.au))

**Coonabarabran** - Cecily Moore phone (0407 716 816 or email [cecily.moore@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cecily.moore@lls.nsw.gov.au))

**Condobolin** - Hanna Thomas phone (0428 434 336 or [hanna.thomas@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hanna.thomas@lls.nsw.gov.au))

**Forbes** - Belinda Edmonstone phone (0428 521 699 or [belinda.edmonstone@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:belinda.edmonstone@lls.nsw.gov.au)) and Nik Cronin phone (0427 453 643 or [nik.cronin@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nik.cronin@lls.nsw.gov.au))

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## New barber's pole worm vaccine - Barbervax

The world's first sheep vaccine for internal parasites was launched in Armidale last month.

Known as Barbervax, the new barber's pole worm vaccine was developed by the Moredun Research Institute (Scotland) with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture and Food in Western Australia.

The vaccine gives sheep industries an alternative to drench-based control. This will help manage drench resistance and long-term pasture contamination.

Barbervax is not intended to replace current integrated pest management strategies but to add to the tools available. For more information, please click on the link below and contact your district veterinarian to discuss worm control in your flock.

[Read more...](#)

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## New drought feed calculator app

A new smart phone app has been launched to help you develop a drought feed strategy for sheep and cattle.

An Australian first, the new app helps farmers determine the minimum feed requirement for a range of animals with different nutritional needs.

[Read more...](#)

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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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## Using chemicals

The use of chemicals on farms in NSW is regulated by legislation to ensure minimal negative effects on human health and the environment, and to ensure safe food for Australia and the countries we export to.

All farmers who use chemicals are deemed to be farm chemical users and have to keep records of all chemical usage.

[Read more about using chemicals on your land](#) and resources available...

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## What are PICs and what do they do?

It is a requirement in NSW for owners of livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats and pigs to have a Property Identification Code (PIC) when trading or moving these livestock.

A PIC is a unique eight-character number assigned by Local Land Services to properties with livestock. This property registration system allows for the tracing of livestock to assist with disease and chemical residue management.

[Read more about PICs and how to get one...](#)

## 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 – November 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.

[November 2014 Seasonal Conditions full report](#)

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## Keep looking for locusts

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.

[Call your nearest LLS Office](#) to report your local sightings...

[Read the full article](#)

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## Workshop shows how to take stress out of stock management

Landholders were introduced to the principles and practices of stress free stockmanship at a recent course near Trundle.



The course was supported by Central West Local Land Services and facilitated by [stress free stockmanship expert Bruce Maynard](#).

Participants used mainly practical livestock exercises as the skills are both physical and technical. They were also exposed to interactive coaching to self guide and rectify difficulties when working on their farm.

[Read more about stress free stockmanship...](#)

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## Funding opportunity for local govt and not for profit organisations

The [National Stronger Regions Fund](#) is now open and closes on November 28.

The [National Stronger Regions Fund](#) is an Australian Government initiative to boost social and economic development in regions by funding priority infrastructure projects in local communities.

Funding will be provided for capital projects which involve construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade, extension or enhancement of existing infrastructure.

Projects selected for funding should deliver an economic benefit to the region beyond the period of construction, and should support disadvantaged regions or areas of disadvantage within a region.

Local Government and incorporated not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply for grants of between \$20,000 and \$10 million.

[More information...](#)

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## 20 million trees grants now open

[Federal grants are available for the community](#) to plant 20 million trees by 2020. The aim of the funding is to re-establish green corridors and urban forests.

Applications close 2.00 pm on 30 October.

Applications for grant funding between \$20,000 and \$100,000 will be accepted from eligible groups, individuals and organisations intending to plant native trees and associated understorey in a range of urban, peri-urban and regional environments across Australia.

[More information...](#)

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## Drought recovery funding for bait, aerial, trapping and education

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.

This project is funded by the Australian Government to help landholders in drought affected areas to recover from drought and minimise the impacts from invasive species.

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

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## Profile: Campbell family revegetating their land

Catherine and Andrew Campbell from Narromine undertook a revegetation project on their Narromine property last year.

"Our revegetation area is growing nicely and will help us protect stock, reduce wind speed and traffic noise and stop stock accessing an eroding gully," Catherine said.



"We recommend anyone interested in doing tree planting to talk to Central West Local Land Services. It is a great way to involve the whole family."

Senior Land Services Project Officer, Andrew Knop, says that multiple environmental benefits can be achieved, reducing wind speed, soil erosion and enhancing wildlife habitat.

"Landholders can get practical assistance with the fencing, site preparation and replanting cost along with advice on design and plant selection," Mr Knop said.

Central West Local Land Services secured funding from the Commonwealth Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund under a nationwide competitive grants program.

[The project helps regional landholders implement practical environmental projects](#) on their land.



[More information...](#)

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## Native regeneration funding available now

Funding support from the Commonwealth Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund is now available to you improve your farming environments through establishing of native windbreaks, shelterbelt and buffer zone corridors.

Central West Local Land Services secured funding from the Commonwealth Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund under a nationwide competitive grants program. The project helps regional landholders implement practical environmental projects on their land.

[More information...](#)

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## What do our biosecurity officers do?

It's now 10 months into Local Land Services (LLS) and we are striving to engage our communities and deliver across our business.

A recent community session with our Board highlighted there are still some unknowns about LLS business. These sessions are part of our regular Board meetings and an essential check with a few of the locals who have a finger on the community pulse.

One point raised was what our new role descriptions mean, particularly biosecurity officers.

Previously known as rangers in the former LHPA, biosecurity officers help with pest animal and insect control. On the ground, this means working with landholders by providing advice, assistance and coordination of control programs.

[Read more about our biosecurity officers...](#)

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## Meet our new biosecurity officer based in Dubbo

### Introducing Nigel Boyce



Prior to working for us, Nigel worked as manager of a beef cattle enterprise in the Gloucester area.

Nigel also worked as a district biosecurity officer/abattoir liaison officer in south east Queensland.

He looks forward to applying his practical rural experience and biosecurity knowledge in his new role with us.

You can contact Nigel on phone 0429 628 430 or email [nigel.boyce@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nigel.boyce@lls.nsw.gov.au)

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## New regional group tackling Indian myna birds

We recently facilitated the inaugural meeting of the Central West Indian myna Action Group in Dubbo.

The newly-formed group will be raising awareness about the feral invader, including ways to stop it from establishing in the central west.



Group spokesperson from the Cudgegong Field Naturalists Society, John McCrea, said Indian Mynas have become well established along the eastern coast of NSW and have recently been spotted in the central western region.

[Read](#) [what](#) [John](#) [had](#) [to](#) [say...](#)

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## Spotlight on Landcare

The Landcare group congratulates Pip Job from Little River Landcare for being announced as National Rural Women of the Year. Pip has raised the profile of Landcare within the community and has expressed passion for the impact that rural life can have on farmers.



Congratulations also goes to Gulgong farmer, Colin Seis, who has been named the winner of the 2014 Bob Hawke Landcare Award.

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

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

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## Kids *amazed* at WaterWatch

Students from St Mary's Catholic High School and Wellington High School were interested by their hands-on water quality testing experience, as part of the WaterWatch SnapShot event implemented by Central West Local Land Services in Wellington, Dubbo, Narromine



and Warren on 22 October.

Thirty one enthusiastic Wellington students participated in the program at Oxley Park, where they conducted water quality testing activities to understand the importance of water quality for maintaining healthy aquatic and riparian environments.

[Read what the students found so interesting...](#)

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## Would you like to join the army?

### The green army that is!

If you are aged between 17 and 24 and would like to make a difference to the environment in your local community, the green army is for you.

You will be paid an allowance while gaining skills, training and experience that can help you enter the workforce, improve your career opportunities or further your education and training.



Phone 6247 7770 or visit [www.environment.gov.au/green-army](http://www.environment.gov.au/green-army) for more information.

Check out what else is happening at [RiverSmart.org](http://RiverSmart.org).

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## Weddin Community Native Nursery



The Weddin Community Native Nursery is a not-for-profit organisation managed by volunteers and is a sub-committee of the Weddin Landcare Steering Committee.

They specialise in propagating plants native to the Weddin Shire. The nursery is able to provide plants for revegetation projects, farm tree plantings and encouraging native habitat.

For more information, phone (0426 879 48 or email [weddincnn@outlook.com](mailto:weddincnn@outlook.com))

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## Our Board seek feedback from the community in Dubbo

Community representatives met recently with the Central West Local Land Services Board to give their thoughts on the organisation's performance.

The group let the Board know what is working, what is not and where future opportunities may lie for the 10 month old organisation.

These informal community sessions are held monthly around central west NSW after Board meetings. They are a good opportunity to check in with people who have a strong interest in what the organisation does.

Central West Local Land Services is encouraging all customers and stakeholders to let us know where things are working and can be improved.

To have your say visit [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/feedback](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/feedback)

[Read more...](#)

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## Minister announces post grad scholarships

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, has announced the NSW Government will provide two \$12,000 scholarships for students conducting rural or agriculture-based post-graduate research in 2015.

Ms Hodgkinson said the popular NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) Higher Degree Research Scholarship Program will return in the 2015 academic year.

“The RAA Board is seeking highly motivated and talented post-graduate students studying at a NSW university to apply for one of the scholarships.” Ms Hodgkinson said.

Applications close 7 November 2014.

[More information...](#)

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## Agricultural Green Paper: it's time to have your say

The Australian Government has released the Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper today and is asking everyone in agriculture to have their say on a range of new proposals and policy suggestions.

Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, said that the Green Paper outlines fresh ideas on a range of vitally important issues for the future of our nation including infrastructure, drought support, trade and finance.

“The Green Paper is a reflection of the Coalition Government’s commitment to maintaining family farming as the cornerstone of Australian agriculture and to support those on the land who engage

in food and fibre production, an inherently noble and good occupation." Minister Joyce said.

[Click here to read the Green Paper and to make a submission.](#)

Submissions to the Agricultural Green Paper can be made until 12 December 2014.

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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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