



Tablelands Telegraph

November Edition

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Meet the board

Ian Rogan

Ian brings to the Board a range of skills and experience including a strong commitment to advancing agricultural and other industries in the region while considering the careful management of natural resources, Ian has a background in Rural and Natural Resource Management consultancy, local government and has worked to develop a 10 year plan for Regional Development Australia-Orana. Ian and his family run a nursery and consulting firm from their home town of Millthorpe. Ian is very passionate about the community of the Central Tablelands and has dedicated many years to being an active contributor to improvement of Central NSW.



With experience in dealings with organisation such as Meat and Livestock Australia, Regional Development Australia, and private industry, Ian has built an extensive network of contacts and resources in his career.

With extensive experience on Boards including Catchment Boards and the Central West Catchment Management Authority, Ian is a valuable asset to the Central Tablelands LLS and its stakeholders.

Making News

Cucumber virus alert

Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) was recently detected in watermelon crops in the Northern Territory. This is an exotic plant pest and a national biosecurity response is now occurring.

CGMMV is a plant disease that infects watermelon, cucumber, melons, zucchini, pumpkin, squash, bitter gourd, and bottle gourd. It is highly contagious and

easily spread through a crop by plant contact, contaminated water, mechanical transfer, and even clothing and hands of workers pruning or moving in a crop.

It is really important local growers keep a look out for this, it has been devastating to NT growers.

[Read more](#)



Planning to Sell Fruit and Vegetables at Farmers Markets?

This year a Victorian grower has been prosecuted and fined \$1000 plus court costs for selling quinces at a farmers market that were sprayed with a chemical not registered for quinces.

A food safety hazard is a biological, chemical or physical agent, or condition of food, with the potential to cause harm or an adverse health affect when the food is eaten.

Food safety hazards can be classed as:

- Biological such as microorganisms like E.Coli, Salmonella, etc
- Chemical such as chemicals, pesticides, cleaning agents and allergens
- Physical foreign objects that are not supposed to be in the food, such as timber, glass, packaging material and naturally occurring objects – bones, dust and grit.

This food safety breach was discovered by testing the fruit for a maximum residue limit (MRL).

MRLs are regulatory standards that help to monitor whether an agricultural or veterinary chemical has been used as directed on an approved label. If an MRL is exceeded it usually indicates a misuse of the chemical.

But does not normally mean there is a public health concern.

If you would like to learn more about setting up On Farm Food Safety program or learning more about MRLs in horticultural produce contact karen.omalley@lfs.nsw.gov.au

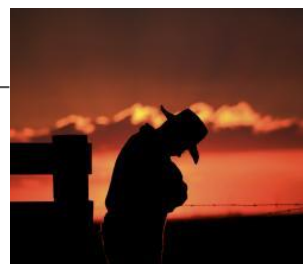
Brown dog of the Bush

There's a sad predicament engulfing rural Australia at present. It is particularly apparent in the parched pastoral and farming lands of Queensland and New South Wales and there are a number of names for it – financial stress, bankruptcy, foreclosure, receivership and loss of livelihood to list a few.

Whatever the terminology, the emotions this predicament incite are the same. Heartache, hopelessness, failure, grief.

Recently, the national spotlight was focussed on mental health and the media made much of the precarious financial situation that many farmers and graziers find themselves in, struggling to service crippling debts amidst the relentless drought conditions and difficult market fundamentals.

[Read more](#)



2014 National Landcare Awards

Gulgong pasture cropper Colin Seis is the winner of the 2014 Bob Hawke Landcare Award for his development of multi species pasture cropping, which produces food while restoring grasslands and soil.

[Read more](#)



Agriculture

Rural Living Handbook

The Rural Living Handbook for new small acreage farmers on the

Central Tablelands was relaunched late last month by the NSW Minister for Agriculture, Katrina Hodgkinson.

The launch was conducted at the Australian National Field Days in Orange and was well received by those in attendance.

Following the formation of Local Land Services earlier this year, the original Rural Living Handbook required significant updating to bring it in line with the new role LLS plays in the community.

The updated version includes information about natural resource management, biosecurity and many of the new functions of LLS that were not covered in the original edition.

Copies of the [Rural Living Handbook](#) are available from your local LLS office.

A new climate for farming

In June, Nature Climate Change published a focus issue on climate change impacts on agriculture, the influence of agriculture on the climate, and our capacity to adapt to certain change.

Climate change fundamentally alters the way that farmers need to plan and manage their operations, to avoid the worst impacts of climate change while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting growing demand for food, fuel and fibre.

[Read more](#)

Microbes react more to pesticides in dry warm soil

New laboratory research has found that soil organisms react more sensitively to pesticides when exposed in dry soil and at enhanced temperatures. Low soil moisture and enhanced temperatures can also significantly lower the threshold upon which pesticides may be toxic.

[Read more](#)

MAP wins phosphorus trial

A recent phosphorus trial near Forbes NSW found that monoammonium phosphate was the most profitable phosphorus fertiliser.

There was no significant grain yield gain from rock phosphate fertiliser; rock phosphate with biological additives did not match the MAP yield responses. Liquid phosphate had similar responses to MAP but at higher cost.

[Read more](#)



Saving the pollinators

While beekeeping is a relatively small industry, it is a very important one that plays a highly significant role within the agricultural sector. Beekeeping is essential, not just for honey and other hive products such as bees wax, but also for the pollination services provided by bees. Honey bees and other pollinators are under threat worldwide for a number of reasons.

Are you interested in a 2 day practical beekeeping course for new beekeepers? If there are more than 10 people interested, Karen OMalley will organise for a course to be run in Orange, Cowra, Mudgee or Bathurst. Email karen.omalley@lls.nsw.gov.au to register your interest.

What about the native bees?

Native bees are a hidden treasure. They are beautiful, diverse and fascinating to watch. Although honey bees are the most important pollinators for the majority of our crop species, other insect pollinators play important roles too - and many of these are also facing significant challenges.

Australia has over 1,500 species of native bees ranging from the spectacularly large 24 mm yellow and black carpenter bees down to the tiny 2 mm Quasihesma bees. With their wide array of shapes, sizes and behaviors, Australian native bees are important pollinators of numerous fruit and nut crops, vegetables, our magnificent wildflowers and native plants. The destruction and fragmentation of pollinator habitats have led to significant declines in many populations.

There are simple and inexpensive things you can do to increase the number of native bees living on

your land. Are you interested in learning how to landscape your farm to benefit from the services of native pollinators and help preserve them into the future? Join Megan Halcroft PhD to learn about bees and how they drive biodiversity and support food security.

If there are more than 10 people interested, Karen OMalley will organise for a workshop to be run in Orange, Cowra, Mudgee or Bathurst.

Email karen.omalley@lrs.nsw.gov.au to register your interest.

Managing pesticides to protect bees

Careful timing of pesticide applications is the most basic consideration in reducing harm to bees. For example, wherever possible, pesticides should not be applied to blooming plants or on plants where beneficial insects are active. Similarly, night time spraying, when bees are not foraging, is one way to reduce mortality. The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, has launched BeeConnected, a world-first innovative communication tool to enable collaboration between farmers and beekeepers.

[Read more](#)



Phone app manages pests

It would have been hard, just a decade ago, to comprehend that farmers would be using their mobile phone to manage, research, store data and provide essential business resources to control and simplify the daily operations of pest management. One of these relatively simple, yet immeasurably useful inventions are mobile phone applications. One such application is the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's (APVMA) iPhone app.

[Read more](#)

Biopesticides - what are they?

A pesticide is any product developed to kill or suppress agricultural pests. Pesticides can be subdivided into many more specific groups including but not limited to;

- Insecticides – that kills, control, inhibit feeding or prevent attack by insects.
- Fungicides – used to control or regulate the effect of a fungus or fungal disease.
- Herbicides – that destroys, suppress or prevent the spread of weeds or undesirable plants.
- Acaricides – that control arachnids including ticks, mites and spiders.
- Anthelmintics - internal parasites, worm control
- Bactericides and antibiotics – that destroys, suppress or prevent the spread of bacteria or bacterial disease.
- Baits – that are products used on their own or mixed with food to control a pest.
- GMO's – crops genetically modified to incorporate pest and disease resistance or herbicide tolerance.
- Lures – that attract pests to a pesticide or trap in order to control a pest
- Rodenticides – that controls rats and mice
- Repellents – that deter insects or other pests

[Read more](#)

Natural resource management



Planting day a success

Late last month a planting day took place on Vale of Clwydd Creek in Lithgow between Chifley Road and Mort Street.

The planting of native trees introduces native vegetation to the creek and provides screening and bird habitat after LLS conducted willow control works in September.

Willow removal works have been done to protect downstream Lake Pillans from re-infestation from willows. Lake Pillans is a high value community asset that has previously had willow control works taken out to improve water quality and native flora and fauna diversity.

Vale of Clwydd Creek also eventually drains into Sydney drinking water dams, so willow control on Vale of Clwydd Creek helps protect the quality of Sydney's drinking water.

Central Tablelands LLS, alongside Lithgow and Oberon Landcare Association, Lithgow City Council, and local residents helped put in plants and water in the plants.

El Nino still possible

There is at least a 50% chance of El Niño developing over the coming months, despite most ocean and atmospheric indicators falling short of El Niño thresholds. The Southern Oscillation Index has now remained negative for several weeks, and some renewed warming has occurred across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Both support the possibility of El Niño becoming established in the months ahead.

The latest approximate 30-day SOI value to 3 November is -9.3 . Sustained negative values below -8 may indicate an El Niño event.

[Read more](#)

NSW Government adopts NRC weeds recommendations

The NSW Government has adopted most of the recommendations of the recent Natural Resources Commission report on weeds, including improving prevention measures and response to incursions; requiring landholders to meet requirements and agreed obligations; and introducing more substantial penalties for people who do the wrong thing.

[Read more](#)

Ecosystem Enhancement project

The Ecosystem Enhancement project delivers financial incentives to help landholders protect and restore ecosystems across the Central Tablelands LLS area.

The project focuses on remnant and riparian on-ground restoration activities, prioritising works that protect and restore EPBC Act listed species of national environmental significance.

We currently have approximately 60 Expressions of Interest (EOI) from landholders to be involved in the project. Local case officers are allocated to each landholder who then carry out a site visit and assess projects using a rapid assessment process. Individual projects are ranked using an Environmental Service Ratio that is used for ranking as well as cost sharing.

Currently there are three field days planned.

The first is an evening in the Rockley area to identify frogs within the Sewell Creek catchment area on 19 November.

Two native vegetation identification field days are planned for Mudgee (28 November) and Orange (3 December). They will look at key species of Eucalyptus and Acacia and give participants the tools to identify these on their own property. The days are designed to be interactive so we would encourage participants to bring their own samples of trees to work on. Speakers for these days are Marita Sydes for Mudgee and Bill Josh for Orange.

For more information on the Ecosystem Enhancement project, ring Bruce Christie on 6372 8909 or email bruce.j.christie@lfs.nsw.gov.au

Biosecurity

Top 5 Biosecurity tips for small livestock farms

Biosecurity on your farm involves all the activities and practices you undertake to minimize the impacts of animal diseases, pests and weeds. How you approach your on-farm biosecurity can make a difference to the overall profitability of your enterprise.

Responding to diseases, pests and weeds ultimately costs money, so investment in keeping your farm free of these problems can help improve productivity and profitability.

[Read the top 5 tips.](#)

Help needed to control fruit fly following fenthion ban

Most products containing the chemical fenthion, which has been used to control the pest fruit fly, have been cancelled by the Australian Government agency APVMA.

According to the CEO of Apple and Pear Australia Ltd (APAL), John Dollisson, fenthion was the last product available to fruit growers to control fruit fly, which remains a major pest of apples, pears, stonefruit, mangoes, other fruit and even vegetables.

“Fruit fly is found in pockets* on mainland Australia and is a management concern for growers, but it is also a concern for consumers, who don’t want to find fruit fly maggots in their fresh produce,” John told Tablelands Telegraph.

[Read more](#)



Farm biosecurity essentials: farm inputs video



Farm Biosecurity has produced another short video in the series based on the ‘biosecurity essentials’. It provides a practical overview of some measures you can implement as part of your daily routine to minimise the risks associated with moving anything onto your property.

The video features interviews with farmers about why biosecurity is important to them.

Information in the video suggests that to avoid diseases, pests and weeds coming onto your property, buy your farm inputs from trusted sources and wherever possible, inspect newly arriving planting material and livestock before they are mixed with your existing

stock.

Greg Meaker is a sheep producer who was interviewed in the video about on-farm quarantining of animals. [Watch the video.](#)

Water biosecurity warning

With summer just around the corner, plant and animal producers are being encouraged to create a biosecurity plan for water on the property.

Duncan Rowland, Animal Health Australia’s Executive Manager Biosecurity Services said many pests and diseases can survive for a long time in water until they find another host, so it is important to ensure water remains uncontaminated.

“There are a number of actions producers can take to reduce the potential biosecurity risks in all water sources on the property.

Producers should regularly clean water troughs to avoid contaminant build up and cover water sources to protect them from disease carrying insects like mosquitoes and don’t allow water to stagnate,” he told Tablelands Telegraph.



Animal health

Theileria warning

A range of issues have been seen across the Central Tablelands LLS recently.

In cattle, veterinarians have seen a number of *Theileria* cases as the tick season commences. We have also investigated ill-thrift and failure to grow in yearling cattle which has been shown to be selenium deficiency in some cases and a combination of fluke and worms in others.

A number of separate sudden death investigations in cattle have shown the causes to be bloat, pulpy kidney, respiratory disease and septicaemia due to bacterial infection.

Unusual numbers of still born calves have continued to be reported this month, with Pestivirus being shown to be the cause in a number but not all of these cases.

In sheep, a number of producers are investigating for possible causes of lower lamb marking percentages such as Ovine Brucellosis.

Flocks that have a significant unexplained wastage between scanning and lamb marking or those flocks where the maiden ewes have a significantly lower lamb marking percentage than their older ewe cohorts can participate in a funded research trial looking for evidence of two infectious diseases, campylobacter and toxoplasmosis.

For more information contact Bruce Watt on 6333 2303 or email bruce.watt@lls.nsw.gov.au

Avoiding dark cutting beef

Now is the time each year we see a spike in *Dark Cutting* or high pH beef. This is caused by the decline in the quality of pasture and this leads to a lower level of muscle glycogen or sugars. If you are trading over the hooks then there are a few things that you can do to minimise the risk.

Don't decide to sell cattle the day before. Correct preparation minimises the risk of dark cutting.

It is recommended that cattle are:



- Gaining more than 0.8kg per day in the weeks prior to slaughter
- Directly consigned to minimise the number of 'new' environments prior to slaughter
- Drafted for slaughter 2 or 3 weeks prior to trucking to allow the re-establishment of pecking order
- Yard weaned or feedlot finished so cattle are well adapted to human contact and changes in environment
- Mustered carefully with no vigorous exercise or use of electric prodders, minimal stress and minimal use of dogs
- Avoid heifers in oestrus and cattle with HGP's which are still within the 'pay-out' period to avoid changes in behaviour
- Consigned in mobs greater than 60 head where possible to reduce individual animal stress
- More muscular as they have higher concentrations of glycogen and a lower susceptibility to stress
- Fed magnesium oxide powder at a rate of 1% for four days prior to marketing where possible as this reduces the impact of stress on muscle glycogen. Ensure all cattle have adequate magnesium levels.
- Not transported during very hot, very cold or stormy weather
- Provided access to clean fresh water as thirst and dehydration exacerbate the impacts of stress

For more information contact Brett Littler on 0427 007 398.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

Clean Energy Forum Farming into the Future

5-7pm Friday 14 November, Flannery Centre, Bathurst

This event has been rolling out all over the Central West and is coming to Bathurst this Friday. It is a unique opportunity to have all of your questions answered about the renewable energy market, products, services, how to save money, and how to align your energy supply and demand into the future. Don't miss it.

The Clean Energy Forum will be facilitated by Grant Christopherson, Regional Clean Energy Co-ordinator with the Department of Environment and Heritage. Commencing at 5pm. Each speaker will have 10 minutes. The crux of the evening is on the question and answer session where you have your say.

Please RSVP to centraltablelandslandcare@gmail.com

Roadside Environmental Management Award

The Excellence in the Environment Awards recognise outstanding achievements by Local Government in NSW in managing and protecting the environment. The Awards include a Roadside Environmental Management Award, sponsored by the REC.

This Award recognises excellence and innovation in roadside environmental management planning and implementation.

[Read more](#)

Willow and Blackberry Control Field day

A three-hour field day to demonstrate the various methods of WONS (Weeds of National Significance) control to both Cowra and Orange Local Aboriginal Land Councils to build capacity for works on public lands for the Kanangra to Wyangala project and future 'Green Army' opportunities. 'Ingleburn', Cowra, Monday 17 November from 10am - 1pm.

Contact [Casey Proctor](#) for more information.

Aboriginal Advisory Network Meeting

The Central Tablelands Local Land Services seeks to engage with Aboriginal people and communities across the Central Tablelands. The LLS is looking to build an ongoing relationship to provide input on Cultural Heritage and Aboriginal Cultural values.

The formation of Aboriginal Networking Groups will allow various nations, clans, organisations and individuals in community to provide input into, and develop partnerships with the Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

Aboriginal Networking groups will be established in the Mudgee, Lithgow, Orange, Bathurst and Cowra communities.

Next meeting will be held on 19 November - Orange Aboriginal Lands Council Building, Dalton Street. If you or your group or organisation would like to register your interest please contact [Larry Towney](#), Central Tablelands LLS Aboriginal Communities Officer on 0438 489 830.

[Tropicals pastures - 20 November \(Mudgee\)](#)

Landholders are invited to come along to the next Central Tablelands Local Land Services short seminar about tropical pastures in the Mudgee area.

With introduced tropical pasture species having the ability to provide increased feed and higher water use efficiency during the summer months, they may have a significant role to play in the landscapes around the Mudgee area.

For further information or to book in please contact [Clare Edwards](#) on 0428 435 615.

[Paddock Plants Workshop - 25 November \(Rylestone\)](#)

Contact [Clare Edwards](#) for more information.

Soil health workshop - 26 November (Oberon)

Contact [Clare Edwards](#) for more information.

Healthy Dams workshop - 28 November (Lithgow)

Contact [Peter Evans](#) on 6350 3111 for more information.

Native vegetation identification course - 28 November (Mudgee)

Contact [Bruce Christie](#) for more information.

Best practice grazing management for native pastures - 2 December (Panuara)

Contact [Phil Cranney](#) on 0458 745 478 for more information.

Native Vegetation ID Day - 3 December (Orange)

Contact [Tim Nalder](#) on 6363 7873 for more information.

Native Vegetation ID Day - 6 December (Lithgow)

Contact [Huw Evans](#) on 6350 3117 for more information.

Funding opportunities

Biodiversity offsets funding opportunity for landholders

The NSW Government is developing an interim biodiversity offsets fund that will assist landowners to set up stewardship agreements in areas forecast to have a high demand for offsets in the future.

This may enable landowners to receive income for managing biodiversity on their own land. Under this approach, landowners will have opportunities to receive stewardship payments for managing biodiversity on their land from the commencement of the policy, rather than waiting for the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Fund to be established. Further information, including how landowners can become involved, will be available around November 2014.

[Read more](#)

Central West LLS Funding: Native vegetation revegetation incentives project

The native vegetation revegetation project helps landholders re-establish native vegetation and ecosystems on their property. Project sites can be planted for wildlife habitat, windbreaks, buffering and/or shelter belt purposes, achieving multiple environmental benefits for your property. Project proposals which link areas of existing vegetation, buffer natural waterways and other environmentally sensitive areas will be given highest priority. This project is available to land managers with properties located in a target area.

[Read more](#)

The Philmac Project

This exciting funding initiative offers \$30,000* in cash grants per year to help community groups – such as schools, sports clubs, landcare groups and show societies – roll out water-related community projects. So if you have a great idea, like a new bore, a rehabilitation site or a better use for rainwater, we'd love to know. It's easy to enter. Just fill in the brief form online, and then rally your local community to drum up votes.

[Read more](#)

Small Environmental Grant Scheme Round 5

Norman Wettenhall Foundation Small grants to support Australian biodiversity concerned with: monitoring and recording community capacity building or research.

[Read more](#)

National Stronger Regions Fund Closes on November 28.

The National Stronger Regions Fund is an Australian Government (Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development) initiative to boost social and economic development in Australia's 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.

Grant funding must be matched in cash on at least a dollar for dollar basis, and the funded part of the project must be completed on or before 31 December 2019.

[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.

CENTRAL TABLELANDS



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