



Local Land
Services
Central West



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The festive season is upon us and we would like to wish you and yours a safe and joyous Christmas and a productive and prosperous New Year.

Our offices will close at 4:30pm on Friday December 19th, reopening 8:30am Monday January 5th.

In the event of emergencies, please contact:

Animal disease:

Emergency Animal Disease Hot line
1800 675 888.

Ag and Animal Services:

Andrew Mulligan 0428 721 861 or
Lisa Thomas 0427 465 634.

Travelling Stock Routes:

Mick Ryan 0428 218 938 or
Garry Sutton 0409 933 426.

Merry Christmas!



This month...

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Welcome

Merry Christmas and happy New Year!



In the final days of 2014, we'd like to thank you for your interest and support in Local Land Services over the year.

Enjoy reading the news and events for January to kick off 2015.

We look forward to working with you again in the new year.

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

15**January**[Wyangala Junior Carp Fishing competition \(email for more information\)](#)**22 January**[GRDC Fetcare Level C training - Dubbo](#)**12****and****19****February**[Feeding pastures for profit program - Forbes](#)**25 February**[GRDC grains research update - Coonabarabran](#)**27 February**[GRDC grains research update - Warren](#)**11 March**[Business of farming workshop - Dubbo \(email for more information\)](#)**12 March**[Business of farming workshop - Forbes \(email for more information\)](#)

Key open and closing dates

31**December**[Native vegetation regeneration grants](#)**12 January**[Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship \(RAMUS\) Scheme](#)**16 January**[NSW Environment and Aboriginal project grants](#)**30****January**[Horizon Scholarship](#)**30****January**[Global Food Summit essay submissions](#)

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February

[Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation \(RASf\) community kitchen](#)

16

February

[Regional theatre project funding](#)

Now open

Nominations for [Women of the Year awards](#)

[Arts and disability project funding](#)

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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Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) events link

The following events are scheduled in the central west:

- [Fetcare Level C training - Dubbo - 22 January](#)
- [Adviser grains research update - Coonabarabran - 25 February](#)
- [Grains research up date - Warren - 27 February](#)

[Find out more on the GRDC website...](#)



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Feral pig alert - now time to control

We're reminding everyone to keep an eye out for signs of feral pig activity and to take steps to



control pig numbers.

Despite recent rain in some areas, many farmers across the region are facing dry conditions, representing an ideal time to control feral pigs. For feral pig numbers to remain static, 80% of the population needs to be destroyed annually.

[Read more about pig control...](#)

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Native regeneration funding closes 31 December

Applications for native regeneration funding will close at the end of the month.

The funding is a great opportunity for you to improve your farming environments by establishing native windbreaks, shelterbelt and buffer zone corridors.

We have secured funding from the Commonwealth Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund under a nationwide competitive grants program. The program helps regional landholders implement practical environmental projects on their land.

[More information...](#)

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Have you seen Mesquite in your area?

Mesquite plants have been identified by local council weeds officers on the Bogan stock route downriver between Dandaloo and Nyngan and on the travelling stock route at Carinda.

We are restricting stock movement along the travelling stock route in these areas until a thorough inspection has taken place.



Mesquite is classified as a notifiable noxious weed because it is an invasive plant spread by livestock, birds, kangaroos, pigs and foxes after eating the seed pods.

If you see this plant, please contact your local council weeds officer or contact Senior Field Officer, Mick Ryan (0428 218 938 or mick.ryan@lfs.nsw.gov.au).

[Read more about Mesquite and how to identify it...](#)

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Webinars for sheep producers

Our Senior Land Services Officer David Trengove has partnered with Sheep Connect NSW to develop a series of webinars for sheep producers.



The first of these was held this week and will soon be available [from the Sheep Connect website](#). The topic was on making feedlotting pay.

To find out what else is coming up, [have a look at the Sheep Connect calendar...](#)

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Are you a member of Sheep Connect NSW?

Sheep Connect NSW is an industry-focused network committed to:

- connecting you to information, events, technical expertise, producer groups and other Sheep Connect NSW members
- supporting knowledge and skills-based education programs and events.

[Read more...](#)

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Protecting native remnant vegetation on TSRs

Teams from the Indigenous Concepts and Networking (ICaN) group are working with us on three Dubbo travelling stock routes as part of a native remnant vegetation project funded by



the Commonwealth and NSW Governments.

The teams get back on country to identify native plants, noxious and environmental weeds, learn about control methods and how to use chainsaws.

Participants have already removed large amounts of dumped rubbish and will be installing interpretive signage early in the year.

For more information, contact Libby McIntyre (0429 019 309 or libby.mcintyre@lls.nsw.gov.au).

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Feeding dairy pastures for profit - Forbes (12 and 19 February)

Want to learn efficient ways to improve pasture utilisation, reduce costs and reliance on supplements?

Dairy NSW, Dairy Australia, Bega Cheese Company, Central West, South East and Riverina Local Land Services have teamed up to deliver two day workshops and follow-up farm sessions across the state.

[Find out more and reserve your place...](#)

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Mice on the increase

We are receiving feedback that numbers of mice are growing and demand for mouse bait material is increasing.

This is unusual for this time of year and a reminder that you must ensure safe, clean and effective storage of grains now that harvest is underway.

Monitoring for mice can be as simple as noting:

- population increases around all domestic and storage areas
- damage to storage facilities in the home (mice eating into cereal boxes)
- damage to stored grain and hay reserves.

Correct use of bait material is important, so non-target species such as domestic pets or wildlife remain unharmed.

Our biosecurity officers need to know about any population increases to prevent potential local mice plagues and to provide professional advice and access to resources.

[Contact our biosecurity officers](#)

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Record and monitor mice via MouseAlert

You can now use a new resource called [MouseAlert](#) to monitor and record mouse activity in your area.



[MouseAlert](#) is produced by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), CSIRO and several other partners.

This website provides a quick and easy-to-use method of recording mice activity and enables landholders to see what others are recording in their local area.

It also has fact sheets and management recommendations about controlling mice during key periods in the cropping cycle: prior to sowing, during crop emergence and prior to harvest.

For further information contact Peter West, Invasive Animals CRC (6391 3887 or peter.west@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

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DPI Seasonal Conditions Report

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.

[Seasonal Conditions full report](#)

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We've made it easy to report locust activity



We encourage you to [report any locust activity on your property](#).

To make it simple and easy, you can use [our new online form](#).

Simply call 1300 795 299 or [visit one of our local offices](#).

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Look out for pests

With the current fire ant outbreak in Port Botany, be on the lookout for any unusual pest insects, especially in and around stored grain or within summer crops and pastures.

If you find something unusual and you are concerned please contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881.

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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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Feathertop Rhodes Grass

Feathertop Rhodes Grass is becoming an increasingly difficult weed to control in the Central West NSW grain growing region.

A new Integrated Weed Control Manual has just been released to help you combat this emerging weed problem.

[Check it out...](#)

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Climate change resources now available

The Office of Environment and Heritage has launched its [AdaptNSW website](#) to help people understand and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The website has information about future climatic projections, expected impacts, adaptation techniques and educational resources based on your region.

[Read more...](#)

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Spotlight on Landcare

Landcare launched into the school curriculum

Celebrity chef Matt Moran and former governor-general, Major General the Hon. Michael Jeffery, have recently launched Landcare in the Curriculum at Beauty Point Public School in Sydney.



An Australian-first, these curriculum resources were produced by the Primary Industries Education Foundation (PIEF) and Landcare Australia.

[Read more...](#)

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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Weather the storm kit - support for disaster preparation

The National Rural Women's Coalition has prepared a free Weather the Storm kit to help women to prepare for disasters and emergencies.

The kit is designed to be used with groups of between 5 -15 people and contains three downloadable manuals for an appointed facilitator to use.

Topics include:

- preparing evacuation and stay-at-home kits
- using weather forecasts wisely
- psychological preparedness
- developing your personal plan including food menus
- ensuring safety of your important documents and keepsakes
- examining recovery options.

[Download them here...](#)

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Window on the wetlands wins more funding

RiverSmart Australia's Window on the Wetlands Centre has received \$50,000 funding under the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program.



Although a hefty amount of money has already been raised by the community to relocate the old timber church to its new home beside the Tiger Bay Wetlands, RiverSmart's Dr Bill Phillips said further funding will go towards refurbishing the church and adjacent toilet block so it can open in early 2015 as a wetland education and cultural centre.

Check out more about this news and see what else is happening at [RiverSmart](http://www.riversmart.org.au).

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Weed management fact sheets

The Grains Research and Development Corporation have created three new fact sheets on weed management:

- [Group A Herbicides in fallow](#)
- [Pre-emergent herbicide use](#)
- [Pre-harvest herbicide fact sheet](#).

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Smart apps for smart farmers

The south-Australian-based Ag Excellence Alliance has compiled a publication called *Smart Phone Apps for Smart Farmers* comprehensively listing the latest smart phone apps for farmers to use in their business.

[Check out this handy resource...](#)

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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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Local Land Services, Central West
13/36 Darling St
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