



Tablelands Telegraph

December edition - Merry Christmas

Wishing you and your family a wonderful and safe festive season. We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Our offices close on Monday 22nd December and will re-open on Monday 5 January. For urgent enquiries during an emergency please call 1300 077 849.

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Meet the board

Bruce Gordon

Bruce brings to his position as director, a keen enthusiasm to serve the communities of the Central Tablelands and Rural NSW. He has experience in land management, sustainable agricultural business, corporate governance and compliance.

As a mainstream producer with a commitment to sustainability Bruce provides a balanced perspective to the Board. With a long history of community service focused mainly on industry related organisations including NSW Farmers, the Poll Hereford Society, the Simmental Society, the Beef Improvement Association and numerous Landcare groups, Bruce has a diverse network of connections across the region.

Bruce has recently been a Director of the Central Tablelands Livestock Health and Pest Authority and acted as the Vice Chair of the Compliance Committee at the time.

Bruce and his family currently operate Oatleigh Pastoral Company outside Blayney.



Making news

Advisory Group nominations sought

Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) is seeking nominations for the Agriculture Industry Advisory Group, which will consist of representatives from various agricultural industries across the region.

Following meetings held earlier this year across the region, Central Tablelands LLS will form the Group to represent the agricultural community and provide valuable information to the board.

"This group will provide the opportunity for us to gain valuable and practical input from members of our agriculture community, across a broad range of issues associated with the services provided by Central Tablelands Local Land Services", said Mr Armstrong.

[Read more](#)



Congratulations Col Somerset



Colin Somerset, Biosecurity Officer at Central Tablelands LLS was recently awarded the Participant's Prize for outstanding contribution to invasive species management, for his successful delivery of technical vertebrate pest management training courses held by NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) and the Invasive Animals CRC.

Over the past 19 years he has tirelessly assisted researchers based at the NSW DPI's Vertebrate Pest Research Unit in research activities primarily surrounding foxes and rabbits.

His support has greatly assisted all researchers in the important work which has led to providing land managers with new tools and strategies to control these invasive species.

[Read more](#)

Agriculture

Working group for export trade protocols - Cherries



Central Tablelands Local Land Services staff member, Karen O'Malley, is the Central Tablelands representative involved in weekly teleconferences and ongoing communication with DPI, Australian Cherry Growers Association, NSW Cherry Growers and Federal Department of Agriculture Trade and Market Access to develop export trade protocols on the Central Tablelands.

She is also involved with collating the field data collected by the cherry growers in Orange, Mudgee and Young districts.

She is also providing technical support to growers who are trying to meet the QFF interstate market protocols.

Successful development of Native Bee project.

Central Tablelands LLS has joined forces with Beebusiness in a joint project to promote pollinators promote biodiversity and Longer term; to establish which specific Central Tablelands and how to landscape services and help preserve them into the



with Megan Halcroft of awareness on how native support food security. species are important in the farms to benefit from their future.

[Read more](#) about Australian Native Bees

Seminar for Small Landholders - Lithgow

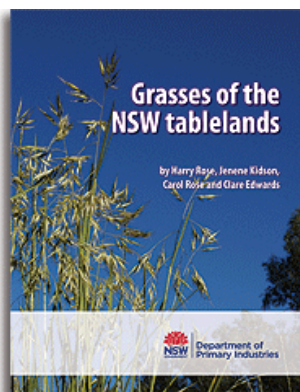
Central Tablelands Local Land Services (Central Tablelands LLS) recently hosted a seminar for small farmers and lifestyle block owners in Lithgow.

The seminar provided knowledge to smaller landholders on what requirements rural landholders have, as well as providing knowledge and information on where they can go for further information and assistance with a range of rural issues.



“Smaller rural landholders are often unsure of the range of issues facing them with regards to owning land, and if they are they often don’t know who to contact,” Peter Evans, Senior Land Services Officer with Central Tablelands LLS, told Tablelands Telegraph.

Paddocks plants highlighted at workshop



Landholders in the Hartley area had the ability to increase their knowledge on local pasture plants at a Paddock Plants workshop held on Thursday 4 December.

“This spring we have seen many pasture plants in their flowering stage. It gives us an opportunity to investigate what these species are and what value they may have in our landscape,” said workshop organiser and presenter Clare Edwards.

Ms Edwards, Pastures Officer with the Central Tablelands LLS said, the workshop was designed to help producers and land managers to recognise some common species and how they might manage them.

“The workshop covered mainly introduced and native grasses with hands on activities, including a paddock walk,” Ms Edwards noted.

Participants received a copy of the new book “Grasses of the NSW Tablelands” (*pictured*).

Mice on the increase

LLS officers 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.

[Read more](#) about what to do if you notice mice.

DPI Regional Seasonal Conditions Report – December 2014

The NSW Government is replacing state drought declarations with [Regional Seasonal Conditions Reports](#). The new reporting system helps landholders manage operations and prepare for changing seasonal conditions and drought.

Use registered chemicals or pay the price

The APVMA is on the hunt for illegal and fake chemicals and is urging growers to only use registered chemicals and report the manufacture, supply and use of illegal and fake chemicals.



The [Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines](#)

[Authority](#) (APVMA) is responsible for the evaluation of the safety and performance of pesticides and veterinary medicines. Australian law requires chemicals to be registered by the APVMA to ensure the health and safety of people, animals and crops; and to protect the environment and Australia's trade and export interests.

[Read more](#)

Climate outlook - El Niño risk grows

The Pacific Ocean has shown some renewed signs of El Niño development in recent weeks.

Above-average temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean have warmed further in the past fortnight, while the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has generally been in excess of El Niño thresholds for the past three months.

Climate models suggest current conditions will either persist or strengthen.

These factors mean the Bureau's ENSO Tracker status has been upgraded from WATCH to ALERT, indicating at least a 70% chance of El Niño occurring.

Not all indicators have shifted towards El Niño. Tropical cloudiness near the Date Line and trade wind strength are close to average, suggesting the atmosphere is still not firmly linked with the warmer ocean below.

Natural resource management

New native vegetation codes refined and released

Three self-assessable native vegetation codes which place trust in landholders to manage their land sustainably while protecting the environment has now been released. We are continuing to reform native vegetation management and these codes are an important part of that process.

The codes will cut red tape and help to make life easier for farmers to produce the food and fibre the state relies upon, and at the same time include environmental protections.

These codes are a vital step in the NSW Government's ongoing commitment to deliver a sensible set of changes that strike the right balance between conservation and efficient agricultural management.

Six years of pasture research revealed

Earlier this month, six years of grazing management research was unveiled at Orange property "Glendalough".

Hosted by Local Land Services, the field day and paddock walk discussed soil carbon under different grazing strategies, as well as animal production on native grasses.

Finding the right grazing management system that suits an individual producer and the complex decision needed to run them successfully can be difficult.

Soil carbon levels and microbial respiration were also measured throughout the experiment across the different treatments and were discussed while on site on Tuesday morning December 2.

Phil Cranney, from Central Tablelands LLS, said that "despite there being over half a million hectares of native pasture across the tablelands there are many producers that still have not had a chance to see the site first hand".

Mr Cranney, joined fellow LLS staff member Brett Little and Warwick Badgery from the NSW DPI is hosting the event.



[AdaptNSW website launched](#)

The Office of Environment and Heritage has launched its [AdaptNSW website](#) to help people in the state understand and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The website has information on climate projections for NSW, expected impacts, adaptation techniques and education resources.

Monitoring the effects of water delivery into the Lachlan River

Central Tablelands LLS has received \$290,000.00 in Commonwealth funding (Department of Environment) to be part of the University of Canberra's team of freshwater researchers who are monitoring the effects of water delivery in a critical area within the Murray–Darling Basin.

Titled the Long-term Intervention Monitoring (LTIM) Project for the Lachlan river system, the project funding totals \$2.75 million over 5 years, and will be used to examine fish and vegetation responses to the release of environmental water into the lower Lachlan River system, in south-west New South Wales. The LTIM Project has an annual field data collection schedule which will run over 5 years starting June 2014 and finishing June 2019.

The funding provided to Central Tablelands LLS is for Central Tableland LLS's Dr Joanne Lenehan and Fin Martin to manage all stakeholder engagement activities and products, and be part of the University of Canberra's field research team.

This project is part of a \$30 million contribution by the Commonwealth Government towards a [long term environmental water monitoring programme for the Murray Darling Basin](#).

For more information please contact Dr Joanne Lenehan at Central Tablelands LLS on 6341 9317.

Biosecurity

Alert - Invasive Red Imported Fire Ants

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, has confirmed response efforts at Port Botany have commenced following a detection of highly aggressive and invasive Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA).

To protect your property from RIFA, do not bring onto your property any item that could contain ant colonies.

Items to check are soil contamination on shipping containers and trucks, in mulch, pot plants, turf and other goods. Movement of these items from RIFA infested areas in Queensland is restricted by legislation.

Central Tablelands LLS is supporting the response to this threat. Daniel Cain, GIS and Information Officer at Central Tablelands Local Land Services is among other Local Land Services staff from across the state who are providing their time and expertise to this emergency response.

Feral pig alert - look out for signs of pig activity

Central Tablelands Local Land Services is reminding landholders to keep an eye out for signs of feral pig activity, and to take steps to control pig numbers.

“Feral pigs eat and destroy grain crops, compete with stock for feed, predate on young lambs, and damage water sources, fences and pastures,” said Tim Seears, Team Leader Invasive Species at Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

“They also act as vectors for diseases that affect both livestock and humans such as leptospirosis and brucellosis.”

Feral pigs continue to impact significantly on agriculture across the Central Tablelands.

[Read more](#) on this issue.

Increasing risk of new diseases

A nationwide outbreak of foot and mouth disease; an invasion of a devastating wheat disease; our honeybees completely wiped out.

These are just three possible disastrous scenarios facing Australia; they're considered in the Australia's Biosecurity Future report published today by CSIRO and its partners.

Intensifying and expanding agriculture, biodiversity loss, and more people and goods moving around the world are the “megatrends” driving what we have called “megashocks” — new outbreaks of diseases and pests.

These three events alone could not only cost Australia's economy billions of dollars, but would also devastate our agricultural industries and environment and severely alter our way of life.

[How well prepared is Australia, and how would our biosecurity system cope with such a situation?](#)



Biosecurity cuts put ag at risk

Australia's biosecurity is at risk from what the CSIRO has called "the efficiency era", which could hit the country's ability to protect itself from external threats such as highly contagious human diseases and agricultural pests.

In a comprehensive report released recently, "the efficiency era" is one of five "biosecurity megatrends" identified as having the potential to compromise the country's economy, health and environment in coming decades.

Of primary concern is that Australia could be left under-resourced to respond to outbreaks, according to the [Australia's Biosecurity Future Report](#).

Read more about the [Biosecurity of Australia](#).

Reduce biosecurity risks

Farm Biosecurity have created two short videos to help producers reduce the potential risks of diseases and pests coming onto their farm.

[Watch the videos](#)

Animal health

[Dangers of feeding waste products to livestock](#)

Using plant-processing wastes, reject fruit and vegetables and other food wastes as livestock feed may seem to be a practical and economic way of using or disposing of such materials.

However, people producing stock or animal products intended for human consumption should be aware that feeding any material that has not been produced specifically for use as stock feed can cause unacceptable chemical residues in animal products.

Quality control systems are essential to ensure that any materials fed to stock, and the final livestock products, meet stringent residue standards.

There are legal restrictions on materials that may be fed to certain livestock, including ruminant animal (cattle, sheep, goats, etc.), and to pigs. These laws aim to prevent the development and/or spread of several serious animal diseases.

[Which vitamins and minerals do livestock really need?](#)

At a glance:

- It is essential to address the dietary energy and protein needs of animals first when supplementary feeding.
- Minerals such as calcium, sodium and sulphur may need to be supplemented to livestock under certain conditions.
- Vitamin deficiencies are rare but may occur during drought or in animals fed high grain diets for more than two months.



As the generally dry season continues, many livestock producers may be considering supplementary

feeding their stock.

It is essential that the dietary energy and protein needs are addressed first when feeding livestock, and consumed in quantities appropriate for the class of stock being fed.

Upcoming events

Chilean Needle grass field day

Fish River Picnic Ground - O'Connell - 17 December

This is a joint field day with upper Macquarie weeds

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

Kalare Willow School excursion

Cowra Showground - 18 December

The day is designed to demonstrate the various methods of WONS control and advertise the volunteer Adventure Conservation tours in early 2015 to address instream willow infestations.

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

Wyangala Junior Carp Fishing Competition

Wyangala Dam - 15 January

This event will raise awareness of the impact of carp and redfin on local waterways and is a great day out fishing for the family. It is sponsored by Central Tablelands LLS.

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

GRDC events link

The GRDC events link for the region is featured in every newsletter. Follow the link below and click on the blue markers on the map for events in your area.

[Read more](#)

Funding opportunities

[Growing community energy grants - closes 15 December](#)

Growing Community Energy is a program to build the community energy sector in NSW through grants, market development and capacity building initiatives. It represents the NSW Government's commitment to empowering communities to develop and own renewable energy projects.

[Rural research and development for profit - closes 15 December](#)

The Rural Research and Development (R&D) for Profit programme aims to improve farm-gate productivity and profitability and deliver real outcomes for Australian farmers.

To be eligible for grant funding, RDCs must partner with one or more researchers, research agencies, RDCs, funding bodies, businesses, producer groups or not-for-profit organisations, and the partnership must provide funding (cash or cash plus an in-kind contribution) at least equal to the requested Australian Government grant funding.

[2015 Peter Westblade Scholarship - closes 15 December](#)

The Peter Westblade Scholarship exists to promote the practical skills associated with the sheep and wool industry and aims to deliver hands on experience, practical skills training, mentoring and

establishing industry networks to young people aspiring for a career in this dynamic industry.

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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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