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Welcome

On behalf of our Board and Staff, we'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2015!



Enjoy the festive season and read up on what is happening across the central west in December.

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

1 **December**
First aid course - Coolah - [email for more information](#)

2 December

[Practical grazing management day - Mendooran](#)

First aid course - Blnnaway - [email for more information](#)

3 December

[Practical grazing management day - Coolah](#)

First aid course - Coonamble - [email for more information](#)

4 December

[Dung beetle workshop - Forbes](#)

First aid course - Carinda - [email for more information](#)
[Macquarie 2100 annual general meeting - Narromine](#)

5 December

First aid course - Collarenebri - [email for more information](#)

6 December

Malleefowl monitoring in the Goonoo - [email for more information](#)

6-7 December

[RiverSmart Macquarie River Fishing Classic](#)

Key closing dates

28

[National](#) [Stronger](#) [Regions](#) [Fund](#) **November**

4

[NSW/ACT](#) [Young](#) [Achiever](#) [Awards](#) **December**

8

[The](#) [RAS](#) [Foundation](#) [Community](#) [Futures](#) [Grant](#) **December**

9

[Green](#) [Army](#) [Grants](#) **December**

12

[Philmac Project Local Water Grants](#)
[Agricultural Green Paper Submissions](#) **December**

15 December

[Growing Community Energy Grants](#)
[Rural Research and Development for Profit](#)
[2015 Peter Westblade Scholarship](#)

31 December

[Landcare Hero Honour Roll](#)
[Native Vegetation Restoration 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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Feeding during dry times

With current dry conditions across much of the central west, many



landholders are feeding stock and looking at supplements.

There are a few areas people need to consider when planning a feeding strategy in dry conditions.

[Read the article written by District Veterinarian, Dr Jillian Kelly...](#)

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Watch out for cowpea weevils infesting field crops

Growers are advised to inspect their pulse crops after reports of cowpea bruchid (weevil) activity in Queensland and northern NSW.

These pests infest pulse crops in the field prior to harvest.

Look for any signs of seed damage in the field and sieve the seed at harvest.

[Read more...](#)

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Wheat harvest 2014: high yields and low protein

With harvest almost complete in the north of our region and in full swing in the south, it seems that high yield and low protein is the trend this season.

For every 1 tonne/ha of wheat you've produced, approximately 20kg/ha of nitrogen has been



removed. This is the equivalent of 40kg of urea.

Perhaps it's time to invest in some soil tests ahead of the next crop season. [A simple soil test can provide the knowledge](#) to make more profitable decision for next year.

For more information, read the [GRDC Soil testing for Crop Nutrition fact sheet](#) or contact our Agricultural Advisory Officer, Neroli Brennan (0428 692 713 or neroli.brennan@lils.nsw.gov.au).

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Native vegetation codes of practice released

Native vegetation self-assessable Codes of Practice have been released and are now on the [Office of Environment and Heritage website](#).

Three codes have been released including:

- clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area
- thinning of native vegetation
- clearing of invasive native species.

Any questions about the codes can be directed to Land Services Officer - Native Vegetation Management, David Scadding (0427 004 747 or david.scadding@lils.nsw.gov.au) or Senior Land Services Officers - PVP, Christian Wythes (0407 063 864 or christian.wythes@lils.nsw.gov.au) or Paul Nicholls (0428 973 194 or paul.nicholls@lils.nsw.gov.au).

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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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Mesquite identified on Nyngan travelling stock route

Two mature mesquite plants have been identified by local council weeds officers on the Bogan



stock route downriver between Dandaloo and Nyngan.

Subsequently, we are restricting stock movement along the travelling stock route in this area 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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Grazing management workshops - Mendooran and Coolah

Want to know more about grazing planning and management during the summer season?

We are giving livestock producers the opportunity to visit a local property and hear from Dick

Richardson, renowned grazing management educator.

[Mendooran - 2 December](#)

[Coolah - 3 December](#)

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Need poison and chemical handling training?

If you are a landholder in the Bogan, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Warrumbungles and Narromine local government areas, you can access free 1080/Pindone and AQF3 re-accreditation training funded by the Commonwealth Government's Drought Recovery Program.

Central West Local Land Services have partnered with Landcare to implement this training and will identify training locations and dates based on the level of interest in each area.

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

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Balancing harvest and storage

Storing grains, pulses and oilseeds can be a difficult task and needs to be done with careful planning, preparation and regular monitoring and management.

For information on grain storage and maintaining seed quality, talk to our Agricultural Advisory Officer, Neroli Brennan (0428 692 713 or neroli.brennan@lls.nsw.gov.au) or call the Grain Storage Information hotline (1800 Weevil or 1800 933845) to speak with your regional grain storage expert.

[Read more...](#)

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MAP found to be most profitable source of phosphorus

A local trial, conducted by NSW Department of Primary Industry's Research and Development Aronomist, Colin McMaster at "Duran" west of Parkes, has found that Monoammonium Phosphate (MAP) to be the most profitable source of phosphorus.

Part of the GDRC funded More profit from Crop Nutrition program, the trial compared MAP with rock phosphate, Easy NP, and a polyphosphate liquid over three consecutive winter seasons.

[Read more...](#)

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Native regeneration funding closes 31 December

Funding applications for native regeneration 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.

Central West Local Land Services 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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Congratulations Ray!



Our Nyngan Senior Land Services Officer, Ray Thompson, has won a Regional Achievement and Community Award for his work in waterponding, restoring and revegetating thousands of hectares of scalded semi-arid rangelands in the Marra Creek region.

Ray has shared his waterponding technique throughout Australia and all over the world by guest speaking at Australian National University, field days and conducting bus tours.

[Read more about Ray and his achievements.](#)

Well done!

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Collecting and preserving soil information

The recently established NSW Soil Network of Knowledge has brought together retired and ex-NSW Government soil experts to:

- collect and preserve critical soil information
- create new ways of extending soil information in NSW.

They have links to archived soil conservation videos, informative YouTube clips and much more.

[Check out some of their YouTube resources](#)

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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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Summer weed control trial conserves soil moisture

Recent trials in the central west highlighted the importance of controlling summer weeds to conserve nitrogen as well as moisture.

This trial, conducted at Forbes as part of the Central West Farming System's Rain and Grain project, assessed four different summer fallow treatments:

- nil spray

- first miss spray (first fallow spray missed)
- full spray
- a delayed spray (24 days after rainfall event).

The full and delayed sprays were found to conserve the most moisture over the summer fallow period.

[Read more about the trial...](#)

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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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DPI Seasonal Conditions Report – December 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.

[December 2014 Seasonal Conditions full report](#)

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Talking pork

Central West Local Land Services held its first pig field day at the Forbes Central West Livestock Exchange on 7 November.



Our veterinary staff and representatives from the Department of Primary Industries and Australian Pork Ltd discussed issues such as feral pig identification, traceability, PigPass, pig brands and identification with producers.

Based on the success of the event, more field days are planned for 2015.

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Grains Research and Development Corporation (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.

[Access the GRDC events page](#)



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Summer livestock workshops a success

Our [Livestock Officer, David Trengove](#), was pleased with the response from recent workshops held in Coonamble, Quambone and Bugaldie.



Livestock producers were given the opportunity to visit a local property, speak to an expert, ask questions and get some practical answers about livestock nutrition, animal health, reproduction, feed costs, early weaning and any other issues.

It was great to see a number of landholders participating in these workshops to access advice and assistance in livestock management during dry times. Working with landholders for long-term planning is key priority of our work.

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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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New BeeConnected phone app



The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council and CropLife Australia have launched BeeConnected, a world-first innovative communication tool to enable collaboration between farmers and beekeepers.

[Check it out...](#)

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Tools, tucker, totem books are now available

Stories and artwork by children around the region have been produced into books exploring Aboriginal culture.

Part of the Tools, Totems and Tucker Enviro-Stories program, this project gave students the opportunity to write and illustrate what they have learnt about Aboriginal culture, significant places and people and the importance of getting back to Country.

Five stories out of 100 entries were chosen from the program, funded by Central West and Central Tablelands Local Land Services. Hard copies of the books will be available at schools throughout the region and online.

[Check out some of these beautiful Aboriginal stories and artworks by talented kids in our region...](#)

For more information, contact Education Officer, Catie Guise on (0429 982 197 or catherine.guise@lils.nsw.gov.au)

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Spotlight on Landcare

The Coonamble Environment Group hosted a Biodiversity Breakfast on 15 November where 15 local participants were guided by key staff from Central West Local Land Services and National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The group enjoyed a walk looking at plants and animals and dipnetting in the waterholes. Interesting plants, including NZ spinach, were discovered and indicated no overgrazing.



Do you know anyone who should be on the Landcare Hero Honour Roll? The honour roll promotes, acknowledges and celebrates groups or individuals who have been involved with Landcare for over 25 years.

[Nominate someone here...](#)

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

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

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Macquarie River Fishing Classic

I caught a fish and it was thisssss big!

The Macquarie River (catch and release) Fishing Classic is on again on 6-7 December.



The event also includes a carp muster, river clean up and Cod of Origin Challenge. Does your town have the biggest Murray Cod?

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

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Important bird and biodiversity areas in danger

At the World Parks Congress in November, Australian Government Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews, launched a report which details the plight of five of Australia's most threatened Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs).

These five sites are among 356 IBAs identified around the world at high risk of being lost forever according to a global review carried out by BirdLife International.

[Read more...](#)

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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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