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## Welcome



You'll love reading the news and events for February 2015.

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

### 11 February

[CSIRO plant available water and soil workshops - Condobolin \(email for more information\)](#)

### 12 February

[CSIRO plant available water and soil workshops - Parkes \(email for more information\)](#)

### 12 and 19 February

[Feeding pastures for profit program - Forbes](#)

### 14

**February**

[Centenary of the Trangie Agricultural Research Station](#)

### 20

**February**

[Community Support Skills Workshop - Wellington](#)

### 25 - 26 February

[GRDC grains research update - Coonabarabran](#)

**27 February**

[GRDC grains research update - Warren Dubbo Bushcare Group meeting \(email for more information\)](#)

**5 and 6 March**  
[Low stress stock handling course - Nyngan \(email for more information\)](#)

**11 March**

[Business of farming workshop - Dubbo](#)

[Nutrient cycles in soils - Dubbo/Narromine \(email for more detail\)](#)

**12 March**

[Business of farming workshop - Forbes](#)

**16 March**

[Explore Online Soil Resources Workshops - Temora and Grenfell \(email for more info\)](#)

**17 March**

[Explore Online Soil Resources Workshops - Canowindra and Wellington \(email for more info\)](#)

## Key open and closing dates

**30 January**

[Horizon Scholarship](#)

**30****January**

[Global Food Summit essay submissions close](#)

**1 February**

[Norman Wettenhall Small Environmental Grant Scheme](#)

[Norman Wettenhall Leadership Development Grants](#)

**2 February**

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

**3****February**

[Aussie Farmers Foundation grants](#)

**6****February**

[NSW Dairy Industry Fund submissions close](#)

**9** [Arts and Disability Project funding](#) **February**

**16** [Regional theatre project funding](#) **February**

**28** [The IMB Community Foundation](#) **February**

**Now open**

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

[Arts and disability project funding](#)

## Direct contact details for our 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.

[Find your local contacts](#)

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## Report locust sightings

Be vigilant about reporting locust activity in your area.

We have had 35 reported sightings in January and the two hot spots are north of



Collie heading towards Armatree, west Tooraweena and Curban areas.

Swarm activity would have been seen in these areas around mid-December.

Continuous ground and aerial inspections will take place to confirm reported sightings. Upon

inspection, biosecurity staff recommend the best way to control locust bands.

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

To make it simple and easy, you can use [our new online form](#), [call your local biosecurity officer](#) or [visit one of our local offices.](#)

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## Rates reminder

Annual rates notices will be arriving in February.

Your rates contribute to a wide range of biosecurity, agricultural production, emergency and natural resource management services delivered within your region.

[More information..](#)

[Contact our customer service staff for enquiries...](#)

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## Great rain = great weeds

With good rain comes good plant growth, including weeds, so keep your eye out and remain vigilant.

Noxious weeds are a individual's responsibility, so make sure you identify and manage the weeds that are encroaching on your land.

Check out the [Weeds Australia website](#) to help you identify your weeds.

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## Time to update your National Vendor Declaration forms

Did you know that some Livestock Production Assurance National Vendor Declaration forms will be redundant as of 1 February?

Check out the link to make sure you are using the right version, as buyers are able to refuse purchase where old versions are being used when presented for sale.

[More information...](#)

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## Brucellosis information

Brucellosis is an emerging disease in dogs throughout NSW.

It has been diagnosed in Moree and Gunnedah and is yet to be diagnosed in the central west.

Department of Primary Industries have developed fact sheets about Brucellosis in dogs, pigs and sheep for your information.

[Check them out here...](#)

[For further information, talk to your local district vet.](#)

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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.](#)

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

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## Will feedlotting pay webinar

We recently partnered with Sheep Connect NSW to present the webinar [Will Feedlotting Pay?](#)

This webinar, presented by Geoff Duddy from Sheep Solutions, provided participants with helpful information about feedlot rations and demonstrated the use of the sheep CRC feedlotting

calculator.

[Listen to the webinar...](#)

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

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## Nutrient cycling in soils workshops

A range of guest speakers will look at the most economical and sustainable ways of increasing soil fertility in cropping and pasture systems.

**11th March - Dubbo/Narromine** (venue to be confirmed)

**12th March - Blayney** Community Centre - 9:30am till 1pm

**13th March - Temora** Agricultural Innovation Centre

Contact Phil Cranney for more information (6363 7888 or [phil.cranney@lils.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phil.cranney@lils.nsw.gov.au)).

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## Explore online soil resource workshops

Face to face workshop exploring the information and functionality of the following:

- [Soilquality.org.au](http://Soilquality.org.au)
- eSpade
- other useful Soil Apps.

**16 March - Temora** 11am till 1pm - Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre

**16 March - Grenfell** - 3pm till 5pm - Grenfell TAFE

**17 March - Canowindra** - 7:30am till 9:30am Canowindra High School

**17 March - Wellington** - 1pm till 3pm - Wellington

Contact Phil Cranney for more information (6363 7888 or [phil.cranney@lils.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phil.cranney@lils.nsw.gov.au)).

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## Trangie agricultural research centre centenary

Plans are underway to celebrate the centenary of the Trangie Agricultural Research Centre on Saturday 14 February.

The centenary celebrations will include activities and displays to highlight the research centre's contribution towards agricultural research and support over its 100 years.

A reunion dinner and a special forum to mark the research centre's rich history will be the highlight of the weekend.

Contact Toni George (6880 8000 or [toni.george@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:toni.george@dpi.nsw.gov.au)) for more information and to book a place at the dinner.

[Read more about the Trangie Agricultural Research Centre's history...](#)

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## Helpful handbook to control weeds

The Department of Primary Industries recently released their latest [Noxious and Environmental Control Handbook](#).

Refer to it for the most up-to-date information on controlling weeds.

[Check it out...](#)

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## National crop varietal trial data now available

If you are wondering about new crop varieties or just want to include the best performers in your cropping program this year, check out the results from the 2014 variety trials from across the state.

You can also access the National Varietal Trial database on individual sites to gain more information about that location such as crop inputs, soil test data, nutritional inputs and any scores that may have been recorded.

[Read more...](#)

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



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

Dairy NSW, Dairy Australia, Bega Cheese Company and 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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## Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) events link

The following events are scheduled in the central west:

- [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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## What is the Sheep Cooperative Research Centre

Some 38 organisations, covering the full length of the sheep supply chain, form the Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation (Sheep CRC).



This is the most comprehensive group that has ever been assembled to work cooperatively to shape and deliver a livestock research and development program with whole-of-industry benefits.

[Check out their website for events such as the upcoming Ramselect workshops...](#)

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## Board and staff meet to set regional priorities

On 16 January our Board and key staff met to discuss how we can work to to meet regional needs.

On the agenda were our goals, developing marketing and engagement plans and identified priorities to set a clear direction for what we do.

At the end of the day we want to make sure we are delivering relevant services to the region.

[More information about our Board...](#)

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## Applications for Dairy Industry Fund close 6 February

Project proposals for the [NSW Government's Dairy Industry Fund](#) must be submitted by Friday 6 February 2015.

The \$1 million fund has been established to support projects that will contribute to the growth and efficiency of the NSW dairy industry.

[Funding applications are open](#) to individuals, consultants, not-for-profit organisations, universities, research organisations, state and local Government organisations, and farmer and community groups. Joint applications are welcome.

[More information...](#)

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## Community support skills workshop - Wellington (20 Feb)

Would you like to know how to recognise when someone may not be travelling well? Would you like more information about how and where help is available for mental health concerns?

This workshop will cover:

- signs that someone may not be travelling well
- understanding services and how to access them
- how to have a conversation with someone you're worried about and encourage them to seek help
- how to provide simple and helpful support
- how to help someone at risk of suicide
- how to look after your mental wellbeing.

When: Friday 20th February 2015, from 7pm

Where: Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club, Corner Swift & Arthur Streets, Wellington

RSVP: Chris Driver (0427 890 848)

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## Real time biosecurity data system to support emergency management

The Biosecurity Information System was launched by the Minister Hodgkinson at the Red Imported Fire Ant Local Control Centre in Sydney.

This new cloud-based tool allows staff in the field to log in to the system and submit crucial, real-time data, including photos.

Staff in labs and control centres can be continually updated and resources deployed.

[Watch the video for more information...](#)

[Read more...](#)

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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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## 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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## Spotlight on Landcare

### Dubbo Macquarie River Bushcare

The Dubbo Bushcare Group are a small devoted volunteer organisation focused on improving the river condition of the Macquarie River in and around Dubbo.



This has been achieved by a small group of people who donate two hours of their time once a fortnight. This adds up to 1090 hours of volunteer time devoted by the group for the good of the local environment. A great effort!

If you would like to get involved in the Dubbo Macquarie River Bushcare Group, find out how by contacting Land Services Officer, Libby McIntyre (0429 019 309) or Rod Price (0428 891 969) or [dubbobushcare@yahoo.com.au](mailto:dubbobushcare@yahoo.com.au)

[Check out their Facebook page...](#)

For more information about regional Landcare activities, contact Krissy Long phone (6881 3400 or [krissy.long@lfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:krissy.long@lfs.nsw.gov.au)).

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

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## Green Army installs educational signs at Narromine

On 29 January, Federal Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton, met with Green Army participants at Narromine Rotary Wetlands to install educational signage.



The six signs were funded by Central West Local Land Services with a small grant Mr Coulton encouraged Riversmart and Narromine Rotary Club to submit, as part of the first Green Army program in the central west.

The team is supporting Riversmart's ongoing work along the Macquarie River by controlling weeds and revegetating public lands along the Macquarie River between Narromine and Warren, as part of their on-going NatureLinks program.

The Green Army is a practical, grassroots environmental program that supports local environmental and heritage conservation projects across Australia. Each Green Army team comprises 10 people, a team leader and 9 others. Team members have to be between 17 and 24 to participate and sign up for 26 weeks.

For more information about the Green Army, check out what is happening at [RiverSmart](http://www.riversmart.org.au).

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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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