

Tablelands Telegraph

April 2015

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[Groundcover incentive project](#)



Applications close Friday 24 April, 2015.

This project will assist landholders to prevent degradation of natural resources by ensuring that adequate ground cover is maintained across their property during drier seasonal conditions.

Funding is currently available to contribute to the construction of controlled stock management areas - carefully selected spaces set up to hold, feed and water livestock at high

stocking rates.



[Agricultural Industry Advisory Committee up and running](#)

Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) Agricultural Industry Advisory

Committee held its inaugural meeting in March. The committee consists of 16 members from across the Central Tablelands region and will meet up to four times per year.

The committee has a diverse amount of practical knowledge and expertise about a wide range of primary industries including sheep, beef, cropping, irrigation, bee keeping, feed lotting, agronomy, wine grape and fruit growing.

Peter Sparkes, Central Tablelands LLS General Manager said that “the committee is an important link between our farming customers and the Board and Management of our organisation.

[Rylstone producers learn about soil and pasture health](#)

Landholders in the Rylstone area had the opportunity to learn more about their soil and pasture health at a workshop held in March.

Central Tablelands Local Land Services ran this popular workshop which increases attendee's knowledge on the importance of soil testing.

The workshop consisted of two half days, 5 to 6 weeks apart. The first day participants receive information on the factors that effect soil health, including the physical nature of the soil and some simple tests.

[Farmers get the dirt on soil nutrients research](#)

Central Tablelands Local Land Services hosted a range of expert speakers at a recent Nutrient Cycling in Soils seminar. Eighty producers attended this event at Blayney.

Dr Richard Simpson from CSIRO headlined the event. His work in the field of phosphorus efficiency in pasture systems is increasingly valuable to livestock producers. Producers desire increased returns on their fertiliser investments.



[Grain and oilseed producers managing frost risk](#)

Mild autumn and early winter temperatures last year accelerated maturity in many cereal and oil

crops. Frost remains one of the many uncontrollable forces that nature deals up year after year. But there are ways of managing that risk.

Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS), held a breakfast pre-sow meeting at the Canowindra Old Vic Inn on 18 March.

Guest speakers include Col McMaster, NSW DPI research agronomist at Cowra, Charlie Aldersey, MSM Milling Commercial Manager, and Jeff Boyd, Property Vegetation Planning (PVP) Officer from Central West Local Land Services.

View Ag Excellence video [here](#).

Actions for NSW Agriculture

The Australian Futures Project is calling for applications from interested individuals to join ACTIONS FOR NSW AGRICULTURE – an Australian first that is bringing together a diverse group of 50 people from country and urban NSW to improve the viability of agriculture in the state.

They are looking for individuals who want to become part of a team designing new solutions for a better future in agriculture. If you have ideas for fostering a culture of innovation, increasing capital investment, or improving trust with the community and consumers, then you are encouraged to apply. Places are limited.

Applications close 24 April 2015.

Natural resource management

Natural Resource Management Awards - nominate yourself or someone else

Applications close Thursday 30 April 2015.

We are calling for nominations for the Central Tablelands LLS Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Awards. We have many dedicated individuals, groups and organizations in our region practicing and promoting NRM and we'd like to celebrate their achievements.

Nominate yourself or someone you believe deserves recognition for their passion and hard work towards our environment.

The winners from each category will be nominated for the 2015 NSW State Landcare* Awards. All finalists from our region will receive tickets to attend the NSW Landcare Conference.

Working together on controlling Wyangala Waters Weeds

Collaboration between three organisations has recently led to over 120 hours spraying of Blackberry thickets throughout [Wyangala Waters Holiday and Recreation Park](#).

The control program was jointly funded by Wyangala Waters and the Kanangra-Boyd to Wyangala (K2W) Grants Program, with Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) providing ongoing advice and support.

Darren Smith from Wyangala Waters explained that contractors started work in the main section of the park last December.

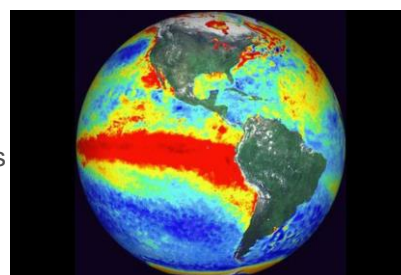
"They have now returned after the peak holiday season to tackle the backwater camping areas, and

harder to access rocky slopes and gullies from Markham's Creek to Gerties."

NRM on Farms

Here's the latest roundup of news on natural resources relevant to agriculture.

- The equatorial Pacific is warming, and most climate models indicate values reaching El Niño thresholds in July. However, model forecasts spanning the February to May period tend to have reduced accuracy.
- NSW DPI has released the 2015 NSW Drought Strategy, and flood ready farming strategies for the north coast dairy and cane industries.
- New apps for smartphones include WaterLive from the Office of Water, NSW WeedWise from DPI Agriculture, and WA's Photomon to make project photomonitoring much easier.



Be WeedWise

The NSW WeedWise app provides key information to help users reduce the impact of noxious and environmental weeds in New South Wales (NSW). The app profiles over 300 weeds, describing their legal requirements under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993, control information and registered herbicide options.

[Get the app here](#)

Biosecurity

Learning about on-farm biosecurity

You've decided that you'd like to improve biosecurity on-farm, but where do you start?



Learning more about biosecurity could involve reading manuals for specific crops or livestock, becoming familiar with symptoms of pests or diseases, attending industry events or field days, talking to biosecurity officers, developing an on-farm biosecurity plan, or undertaking some online training.

Talking to people who are leading the way in biosecurity within your particular industry can be a good way to learn. Such people can often provide you with really practical solutions to improving your on-farm biosecurity.

Anthrax case prompts awareness

A case of anthrax recorded in northern Victoria late last month, which is the first in the state since 2009, is a reminder for livestock producers to be on the lookout for signs of the disease in their livestock and report any signs immediately.

Anthrax is an acute infectious bacterial disease that can affect a wide range of domestic and wild animals, and even humans, which is caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*.

It can affect an animal's lungs, skin and digestive tract and death often occurs within 24 hours after clinical symptoms are visible. The disease is known to occur in the 'anthrax belt' which stretches from north-west Victoria, through central NSW, to southern-central Queensland. Call one of our [District Vets](#) if you are worried about the health of your livestock.

NSW DPI Biosecurity Information Management System

NSW Department of Primary Industries has released a video showing the new Biosecurity Information Management System which has given the department greater capacity to report, diagnose and manage emergency events, including the recent detection of red imported fire ant in Sydney. [View the video](#)

[Knocking weeds over on Travelling Stock Reserves](#)

Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) are a valuable asset to our region. They have an important role to play in the connectivity of our native landscape and are home to a large number of culturally significant sites as well as many native plants and animals.

Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) is working closely with Local Councils, private landholders and public land managers to ensure TSRs across the region are effectively managed to reduce weeds and pest animals, while also improving the native grasses and health of the water ways.



[Better biosecurity at shows](#)

Exhibiting animals at shows is steeped in tradition. However, there are some disease risks associated with placing animals from various properties together in confined spaces. Better biosecurity measures increases confidence, and encourages more producers to exhibit their livestock to shows.

Animal health

[What not to feed your pigs](#)

Some food materials are "prohibited substances" and it is illegal to feed them to pigs. The feeding of food wastes to pigs has traditionally been called swill feeding.

"Feeding "prohibited substances" to pigs has been implicated in major outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in overseas countries including the devastating outbreak in the United Kingdom in 2001.

"The regulations prohibiting the feeding of this material exist to keep Australia free from FMD and other exotic diseases", said Lucienne Downs, District Veterinarian with Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

Forum kick-starts new way forward for BJD



More than 100 people from around Australia participated in a forum last month to discuss the future of Bovine Johne's disease (BJD) management in Australia, as part of the National BJD Review, which is being coordinated by Animal Health Australia (AHA).

The forum is just the beginning of the consultation process which is integral to the development of the National BJD Strategic Plan, due to be implemented by January 2016.

[Are poor performing ewes holding you back?](#)

Poor reproduction efficiency in your flock can be due to 'wastage' at one or more stages of the reproduction cycle.

A low weaning percentage could be due to a big hit at a particular point (e.g. low conception rate or bad weather during peak lambing) or it could be a case of small losses at a number of points, which adds up to a disappointing end result.

For those producers that haven't been happy with the reproduction performance of their flock over the years, 2015 presents a great opportunity to do some investigating and pinpoint where things might be falling over.

[Managing Pestivirus](#)

Pestivirus infection in cattle is a complex, potentially expensive disease.

Both trials and modeling indicate that despite the often hidden nature of the infection, it appears that doing nothing is a more costly option than doing something to manage the disease.

Biosecurity (keeping the disease out), vaccination, risk management and monitoring are all valuable ways of managing this disease. Using a combination of these management strategies may be more cost effective and effective than vaccination alone.

Funding opportunities

[Concessional Loans - close 30 April](#)

There are concessional loans currently available to eligible primary producers. In actual fact there are a number of concessional loans available and to avoid any confusion regarding the eligibility criteria for each of the loans a table, which outlines the essential points of each loan, is provided as a matter of clarification.

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What's on

[Capertee Wildlife Workshop - April 18](#)

Would you like to know more about the wildlife of the Capertee Valley?
Join us for a workshop focusing on mammals, reptiles and frogs of the region, including local threatened species.

[Weeds & Pest Animal Management Field Day - April 27](#)

Central Tablelands Local Land Services (supported by funding from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund) is holding a field day on maintaining farm biosecurity through improving management of weeds and pest animals.

Held at Tarana.

[ProFarm courses - April](#)

PROfarm is the training program developed by NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) to meet the needs of farmers, primary industries, agribusiness and the community.
Courses are delivered locally by highly skilled and respected Department of Primary Industries staff.
Many of the courses are subsidised to reflect the public benefits provided by the adoption of more sustainable farming practices.

[Biological control of weeds \(Dubbo\) - April 29](#)

If you are involved in weed control, you may wish to participate in the NSW DPI PROfarm Biological Control of Weeds Course which is being held in Dubbo on 29 April 2015.

Successful participants will be awarded with a Statement of Attainment for the following national units of competency - AHCPMG303A Maintain biological cultures and AHCPMG304A Release biological agents.

Contact us

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- A map of the Murrumbidgee region in New South Wales, Australia. The map shows the Murrumbidgee River and its tributaries, including the Castlereagh, Bogan, Castlereagh, and Bogan rivers. Towns marked include Mudgee, Cummock, Molong, Orange, Lucknow, Bathurst, Lithgow, Canowindra, Blayney, Cowra, and Oberon. The map is colored in shades of green and yellow, with black lines for roads and blue lines for rivers.

Feedback is gratefully received.
[Please let us know](#) how we can
make this newsletter more useful.

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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