

The latest updates for landholders across the Central Tablelands of NSW.

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## December 2015

### Merry Christmas

*Another year is fast coming to an end.*

*During 2015, the Central Tablelands have delivered projects that have been instrumental in achieving agricultural, environmental and biosecure results for the region. These projects have ranged from wild dog control, agricultural on farm field days, riverine restoration and continued to work closely with partners including Local Government, Landcare and industry groups.*

*Of recent, the Central Tablelands Local Land Services Strategic Plan has been out on consultation, the feedback has been positive, and I thank all those that have contributed to the development of the plan. The coming months will see us begin to implement the activities that will be beneficial to the productivity and sustainability of our region.*

*On behalf of the Central Tablelands Local Land Services board and staff, I would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2016. Please travel safely during the holiday season.*

*Kind regards*

*Pete*

*General Manager,*

*Central Tablelands Local Land Services*



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## [Office closure and emergency contact details](#)

All Local Land Services offices will be closed from Monday 21 December and will re-open on Monday 4th January. During this time if you have any emergency to report please use the following contact numbers:

### **Animal Disease Hotline - 1800 675 888**

For reporting unusual disease signs, abnormal behaviour, or unexplained deaths in livestock.

## Exotic Plant Pest Hotline - 1800 084 881

For reporting suspect exotic and emergency insects and plant pests/diseases.

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### [Spike in outbreaks of Phalaris poisoning](#)



A spike in cases of Phalaris poisoning has been reported in the Central Tablelands. While Phalaris is a highly productive pasture species, alkaloids that are produced during rapid growth can cause sudden death and brain damage in sheep [reports](#) Bruce Watt, Local Land Services Regional

Veterinarian.

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### [Reduce your calving spread and make more money](#)



Reducing the time that bulls are left in with the cows can have a big influence on overall efficiency and profitability. Senior Land Services Officer Brett Littler provides useful [information](#) on joining times, calving and herd management.

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### [Grass seeds can cost producers and their sheep](#)

With pastures drying out a number of plant species can cause grass seeds problems for livestock including Barley grass, Brome grass, Chilean needle grass, Erodium, Silver grass, Spear grass and Wire grass. [Meat and Livestock Australia](#) provides important information on preventing grass seed problems in your farm animals and has produced the “Winning Against Seeds” [manual](#) as part of the National Grass Seed Action Program.



Watch this video to find out more about the impact of grass seeds at processing, what producers can do on-farm and the National Grass Seed Action Plan.

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### [Farm Management Planning Courses](#)

Central Tablelands Local Land Services and RuralBiz Training are running Farm Management Planning Courses in [Bathurst](#), [Canowindra](#) and [Mudgee](#) to develop skills and knowledge to improve properties and increase profits. The course will run over 6 days, non consecutive, beginning in December 2015 and will give landholders the opportunity to map property infrastructure and natural assets including soil types.

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### [Water Resource Plans](#)

Under the Basin Plan, each state is required to develop Water Resource Plans for its water resources. Planning has commenced for the Lachlan Alluvial Water Resource Plan and licence holders, stakeholders and community members are encouraged to attend one of the [public meetings](#) to learn more. Meetings are scheduled for 1st December near Forbes and 2nd December in Gooloogong.

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### [Preparing for Summer - information on pastures, livestock and water](#)



Landholders are invited to attend [information sessions](#) on current seasonal conditions and preparing for the upcoming summer at Cumnock and Goolma. Topics discussed will include water availability, livestock health and nutrition, pastures, management options and pest animal updates.

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### [Cherry Growers - permit to control Carpophilus beetle](#)

Carpophilus beetles are a major vector of brown rot. As they crawl through damaged fruit, the spores of brown rot stick to their bodies and are spread through the tree canopy and from orchard to orchard. As they are able to move several kilometres, area wide cooperation is needed for most effective control. Growers should inspect fallen fruit to assess beetle activity and the potential for damage. A lure trap for both monitoring and management of driedfruit beetles is available commercially. Please also note that there is outstanding data for this permit and the residue trials will need to be undertaken during the life of the permit. Before use, confirm the details of the permits at the APVMA [website](#) for permit number PER82062 and expired permit PER10058 and PER9038.

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### [VitiCanopy - help for grape growers and viticulturists](#)

A new, free app called VitiCanopy, developed by [University of Adelaide](#) researchers, will help grape growers and viticulturists manage their vines by giving a quick measure of vine canopy size and density. The aim is to help manage the required balance between vegetative growth and fruit production as vines with excessive canopy are generally associated with lower quality fruit and hence lower returns.

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### [Central Tablelands Vineyard Statistics](#)

According to the latest release Australian Bureau of Statistics vineyard estimates for the 2014-2015 season, there are 127 viticultural businesses located in the Central Tablelands with a total of 3,254 hectares planted with irrigated grapevines. The total district production last season was 19,056.2 tonnes of winegrapes, and Orange and Cowra are producing larger quantities than Mudgee. A breakdown of production for the 2015 vintage in tonnes:

Orange	7,310.3
Cowra	5,105.2
Mudgee	4,680.9
Others	1,959.7

For comparison, Hunter Valley grapegrowers produced in total 7,516.8 tonnes last season.

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### [Attention Fruit Growers - important workshop coming up!](#)

An upcoming [workshop](#) will aim to assist and inform growers in managing fruit flies in their crop from the experiences of world class Area Wide Management practitioners. Special guest, Dr Roger Vargus, from the United States Department of Agriculture in Hawaii, will present about relevant overseas research in fruit fly and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Dr Vargus has 33 years experience in insect ecology, biological control and IPM. The roadshow will provide an opportunity for growers to gain insights on successful control programs from international and domestic experiences and will be stopping in **Young on Tuesday 8th December from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm at the PCYC 45 Lachlan Street.**

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### [Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program](#)

As part of the NSW Government's \$300 million Drought Strategy, a \$45 million [Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program](#) has been developed to support farm business in all conditions, but particularly in relation to preparing for and responding to drought. In the second stage of the program, farmers will be able to complete pre-approved courses, or apply for consideration to attend another course which they have identified as meeting their particular requirements, with costs reimbursed at course completion. Three professional development priority areas have been identified:

- Risk management
  - Financial and business management
  - Farm business planning/drought prepared
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### [Rural properties with established native vegetation areas sell for more](#)

A newly released Australian [study](#) of rural land values found that farmers and other rural landholders, on average, pay more for land that includes a proportion of native vegetation on it compared with land that is fully cleared. For a small hectare property, land value is highest when it includes about 45% woody native vegetation and is about 25% more valuable than fully cleared land. For large landholders conducting commercial agriculture land value is highest when it includes about 20% native vegetation.



Watch this video and find out why farmer Mike McFarlane maintains his native vegetation.

### [Felled trees used as important fish habitat](#)



Twenty five massive [trees removed for road works](#) have just been delivered to a fish rehabilitation site on the Abercrombie River at Tuena. ‘Snags’ are an important part of the natural in-channel habitat of several large-bodied native fish species including Murray cod, trout cod and golden perch, and will be placed at a site identified as a critical drought refuge and

biodiversity hotspot.

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### [Community monitoring of Superb Parrots at Gooloogong](#)



Kangaroooby Catchment Landcare Group based in Gooloogong recently invited Damon Oliver from the Office of Environment and Heritage to visit the area and [speak about](#) the beautiful but threatened Superb Parrot. Superb Parrots are seasonal visitors to the area and the group intend to undertake [community monitoring](#) to help collect important population and distribution information.

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## [Events](#)

### **1st December - Farm Management Planning, Bathurst**

This course will give landholders the opportunity to map their properties infrastructure and natural assets including soil types, develop skills and knowledge to improve their property and increase profits. Topics will also include soil composition and characteristics, water management, vegetation identification, budgets and financial planning, succession planning.

**Contact: Tim Nalder on 6363 7873**

### **2nd December - Farm Management Planning, Canowindra**

This course will give landholders the opportunity to map their properties infrastructure and natural assets including soil types, develop skills and knowledge to improve their property and increase profits. Topics will also include soil composition and characteristics, water management, vegetation identification, budgets and financial planning, succession planning.

**Contact: Tim Nalder on 6363 7873**

### **1st and 2nd December - Water Resource Plans Public Meetings, 4 - 6 pm**

Licence holders, stakeholders and community members are encouraged to attend public meetings for the Lachlan Alluvial Water Resource Plan.

1st December - Forbes, 2nd December Gooloogong

**Contact: David Bishop at DPI Water on 6024 8872 or email**

[david.bishop@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:david.bishop@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



### **1st and 8th December - Preparing for summer information sessions, 5.30 - 7.30 pm**

Topics include water availability (animal requirements and quality), livestock health and nutrition, pastures now and future, management options including early weaning, local pest animal update

1st December - Cumnock (Bowling Club, 44 Obley St), 8th December - Goolma (Goolma Hall)

**Contact: Brett Littler on 0427 007 398 or Clayton Millar on 0409 656 585**

### **4th December - Paddock Plants Workshop Hartley, 10.15 am - 3 pm**

This one day workshop will help landholders to identify plant features in order to recognise local pasture plants, in particular grasses, and understand their value in terms of animal production and land management. Participants receive a copy of Grasses of the NSW Tablelands.

**Contact: Clare Edwards on 0428 435 615**

### **8th December - Soil and Pasture Health Workshop**

This two day [workshop](#) over 6 weeks covers information about soils, specifically on soil fertility.

- Learn how soil fertility influences other factors of soil health
- Learn more about your soils and how soil fertility can influence your soil health, production and profitability
- Understand how to take a simple soil test and sampling for laboratory analysis
- Find out about what the numbers mean on your soil test
- Discuss the impacts soil health on pasture and landscape health

**Contact: Clare Edwards on 0428 435 615**

### **9th December - Farm Management Planning, Mudgee**

This course will give landholders the opportunity to map their properties infrastructure and natural assets including soil types, develop skills and knowledge to improve their property and increase profits. Topics will also include soil composition and characteristics, water management, vegetation identification, budgets and financial planning, succession planning.

**Contact: Tim Nalder on 6363 7873**



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