

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

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Local Land Services farewells elder statesman

Inaugural Chairman of Central Tablelands Local Land Services Ian Armstrong AM OBE has announced his retirement from the organisation.

Ian was appointed to lead the Central Tablelands board from its inception and has guided the development of a strong and customer-focussed region committed to delivering high quality advice and services to land managers.



Ian has enjoyed working to bed down the organisation and develop its strategic direction over the first two years.

“The time has come for me to pass the baton as Central Tablelands Local Land Services enters its third year. It’s been a privilege to serve the people of the Central Tablelands area for many years, most recently in this role,” Mr Armstrong said.

“Together with my board and the staff, we have made good progress in delivering on the needs of our customers and stakeholders and have contributed positively to the development of Local Land Services through the Board of Chairs.

“Central Tablelands Local Land Services is well placed to continue to grow in value to the people of the Central Tablelands and I leave the organisation in good shape for the future.”

Fellow Board member Ian Rogan has been appointed as Acting Chair until a permanent replacement is put in place.

Tim de Mestre joins Local Land Services

Since my appointment as Chair of the Local Land Services board I continue to hear so many great examples of the team in the Central Tablelands region working with land managers to deliver agriculture services.



I am committed to taking this organisation to the next level in providing a high standard of quality, customer-focused services to ratepayers, investors and communities across the Central Tablelands region.

As Chair, it's my role to steer Local Land Services with greater purpose to ensure the organisation thrives and has the structures in place to deliver the best services for ratepayers and investors. As a key customer in the Central Tablelands region, it's what you deserve.

Local Land Services is a good model, and is well positioned to deliver agricultural production advice, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management services, and I have already met some of your board and dedicated staff doing many great things around the Central Tablelands region.

I am determined to capitalise on the things we are doing right and remove the barriers that are preventing us from doing things better to ensure Local Land Services continues to evolve as an agricultural service provider.

Over the coming weeks and months, I will start to travel around NSW to meet with key industry groups, businesses and communities.

To me, you are the best source of information about how the organisation is going and I look forward to your input as my knowledge about the day-to-day running of the business grows.

I look forward to working with you, our customers, partners, stakeholders and investors over the coming months to build an even stronger Local Land Services in your region and across NSW.

Pest and weed drought funding available

Land managers in drought affected areas throughout NSW are encouraged to apply for up to \$3 million through the 2015-2016 Pest and Weed Drought Funding program.

Based on the Australian Government's priorities land managers in the Central Tablelands, Central West, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, North West, Northern Tablelands, Riverina and Western Local Land Services regions are encouraged to apply before 4 April 2016.

Funding will be used to:

- reduce grazing pressure from pest animals
- reduce stock losses from pest animals
- reduce the spread of weeds.

Individuals, groups and organisations are welcome to apply for funding, which will be allocated through a competitive assessment process.

[For more information and to apply](#)

[Time to check your pulse before sowing](#)

While the dry hot weather for the next few weeks doesn't look like changing, farmers are encouraged to take a break from their busy schedules and hear what's

been happening in local cropping agronomy research. Farmers planning to sow a winter crop this year are urged to attend one of three local Pre-Sowing meetings planned for early March in either Eugowra, Woodstock and Goolma. NSW DPI research agronomist Colin McMaster will be speaking at all three meetings, outlining the latest NVT trial results. Pulse Australia's, Phil Bowden will attend the Eugowra meeting to discuss pulse agronomy and the market outlook, at Woodstock NSW DPI's Helen Burns will present recent findings from GRDC funded research into acid soils impacting on Pulse yields, and at Goolma a presentation from local private agronomist, Phil Stoddart. More details listed in [Events](#).

[Working in partnership to assess seasonal conditions](#)



Each month Central Tablelands Local Land Services biosecurity staff liaise with a dedicated troupe of 40 farmers throughout the region to compile a detailed [assessment of seasonal conditions](#) in the key areas of water availability, pasture quality and quantity, and livestock condition. Senior Biosecurity Officer, Alistair Gordon-Smith compiles and forwards the information onto the State wide unit which is then compiled into a monthly report for conditions across NSW.

Choose your representatives - enrol to vote

Three of the seven Central Tablelands Local Land Services Board members are elected by ratepayers via a voting system open to all rate payers in the region who have enrolled to vote. So that we get a good representation of ratepayers across the region we encourage as many ratepayers to vote as possible. This helps to ensure that our board is



representing the needs of our ratepayers. Enrolment is voluntary, there are two ways you can [enrol](#), it only takes a few minutes.

[Lessons for livestock management during a bushfire](#)

With hot temperatures and no significant rainfall forecast, it's again timely for farmers to be thinking about bush fire risk and taking precautions to reduce the threat to livestock and other assets. "Many landholders who have been through fire emergencies in the past have learnt valuable lessons about livestock management which are worth reviewing in 2016," said Central Tablelands Local Land Services Regional Vet, Bruce Watt. Central Tablelands Local Land Services is supporting the RFS message to landholders to prepare a fire plan that includes a strategy for livestock and pet management. If you have experienced a damaging fire, Meat and Livestock Australia have released a [factsheet](#) outlining the broad principles which apply in managing livestock and rebuilding pastures after a fire.

[Dual purpose Canola under-utilised in the Blayney area](#)

A good crowd of 50 local producers and agronomists attended the High Country Fodder options event in Blayney on 28th January. Farmers were able to hear the latest research on dual purpose crops from CSIRO scientist Dr Susie Sprague, and how they can benefit livestock operations in the high altitude, high rainfall zone.

[Paraboss News - worms, flies and lice in sheep](#)

[Paraboss News](#) provides locally relevant and expert updates on what is happening in the three main animal health problems of sheep: worms, flies and lice. The

website provides detailed management information and regional programs that assist in managing these parasite risks.

[Take care when you vaccinate!](#)



Every year Australian livestock producers vaccinate thousands of animals without a problem, but if you miss and accidentally inject yourself with a veterinary product you could be off work for months and face multiple surgeries, skin grafts, gangrene and even amputation.

Dr Gary Kode, a Tasmanian-based reconstructive and plastic surgeon gave a [presentation](#) recently. He said, "accidental injection is relatively common in the livestock industry and many veterinary products are toxic to humans, on average a patient accidentally injected with the vaccine for the sheep wasting disease OJD will be off work for eight months and have six operations." Click [here](#) for Worksafe guidelines on Sheep Wasting Disease (OJD) Prevention Vaccination Needle Stick Injuries.

[AG Industry Advisory Group drives stronger interaction with Local Land Services](#)

After 12 months in operation, the Central Tablelands [Agricultural Industry Advisory Group](#) (AIAG) continues to build stronger ties between grass roots landholders and the Central Tablelands Local Land Services Board. The Committee has met regularly since its inaugural gathering in March 2015 and is providing invaluable feedback on the perspectives of a broad range of agricultural sectors, including sheep, beef, cropping, irrigation, apiary, horticulture and viticulture.



[Local farmer encourages others to benefit from Local Land Services activities](#)



Bathurst farmer, Jilly Blanch, says she's been extremely impressed with the work of Central Tablelands Local Land Services staff and the valuable information and assistance they provide to farming families and local land managers. Jilly said, "The range of projects and activities offered by Local Land Services has given us the opportunity to constantly broaden our horizons and think about new ideas and strategies we can incorporate on our property."

[Mapping native bushland across the Central Tablelands](#)

Survey work has begun around Orange and Bathurst on a new project to map the last remnants of natural bushland that can be found across the Central Tablelands. Areas of remnant vegetation will be classified and documented, bringing together invaluable information about the type and extent of native plants and ecological systems that have survived in the modern landscape. The surveys will assist in how to plan reconnecting native vegetation across the region.





Soils Are Our Most Precious Natural Resource

The NSW Soil Knowledge Network is an independent group of retired and semi-retired soil specialists which captures critical soil knowledge and experience. The group have released a [series of videos](#) that are practical but also promote just how precious this natural resource is.

[Community Advisory Group meets to guide NRM across the Central Tablelands](#)

Members of the Community Advisory Group came together in Bathurst last week to represent the views of the natural resource management and Landcare community, and provide advice to the Central Tablelands Local Land Services Board. Members were selected to ensure widespread geographic representation across the Central Tablelands and were required to demonstrate knowledge and experience in natural resource management and an ability to engage with broad networks. They will assist in guiding priorities for Local Land Services investment

in activities such as weed management, project development, and the coordination of volunteers and will work with Local Land Services to ensure the Central Tablelands strategic plan can be effectively implemented at the grass roots level to deal with problems such as pest animals and biosecurity.

[Landholder survey request - private lands and conservation](#)

Do you own or manage property with a permanent conservation agreement on the title? If yes, you are invited to contribute to an Australia-wide [survey](#) led by Julie Groce, PhD student, and Dr. Carly Cook from Monash University. The study would like to learn about your experiences with your conservation agreement, including the sorts of management activities that you undertake on the property and how you find information about those activities.

[Domestic cat tracking project - Lithgow](#)

The Central Tablelands Local Land Services will be undertaking a domestic cat tracking project within the Lithgow Local Government Area, with the aim of educating cat owners and promote awareness of the distances that domestic cats can roam and travel. Senior Land Services Officer Peter Evans who will be coordinating the project said “Many people have the opinion that their cat doesn’t leave their back yard. I would like to challenge people to become involved in the project to see where their cats go to after dark or when they are not around”. The Central Tablelands Local Land Services are looking for interested cat owners to participate in the program with an information and registration session for those interested being held at the Lithgow Workmens Club on Tuesday 15th March at 6.30pm. To RSVP please contact Peter Evans on 6350 3111.

[Native bees important for pollination in Central Tablelands](#)



Over 75 land owners, who combined manage more than 21,000 ha of rural land, have indicated that they will take measures to encourage and conserve Australian native bees on their land. A series of workshops has enlightened and inspired landholders on the surprising diversity of native bees and the unsung pollination services that these native insects play in producing our food, pastures and keeping our natural areas healthy. This coming May, Central Tableland Local Land Services will be hosting an important gathering for native bee researchers in Australia. Event participants will be compiling the most scientifically valid, practical and cost effective tools and resources that will help rural landholders and horticultural industries that rely on support from native bee pollination services.

[Plant Quarantine Manual for NSW now available online](#)

Interstate businesses importing fresh fruit, vegetables and plants into NSW also need to meet requirements such as treating produce in certain ways and having it certified before it is allowed to move into NSW. The [NSW Plant Quarantine Manual](#) is an invaluable resource to allow businesses and individuals check quickly and easily if produce is permitted from particular states and territories and if so what the requirements are.

[Hazelnut mite identified in Australia](#)



Hazelnut mite has been discovered in Australia for the first time. Authorities first identified the mite at a commercial hazelnut property in north east Victoria and have traced the mite to another property in the

Dandenong Ranges. Hazelnut and walnut growers, the nursery industry and also the truffle industry (hazelnut trees are a host plant for truffles) need to be wary. The mite feeds on the leaves and creates yellow/white-ish feeding spots reducing tree vigour. Authorities are currently evaluating the pest and undertaking surveys to gauge spread before deciding a course of action. If you suspect you might have hazelnut mite in NSW you can call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881 or email clear photos with a brief explanation and your contact details to biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au. Do not transport any plant material.

[Home gardeners urged to control backyard pests](#)



Frequent rain and hot weather over summer have produced the perfect conditions for fruit fly to thrive, heightening the risk of a Queensland fruit fly outbreak. Home gardeners or anyone with fruiting trees or veggies in the backyard have a responsibility to reduce the spread of fruit fly, and should be taking steps to control these pests in domestic gardens. Queensland fruit fly is a major threat to the Australian fruit and vegetable industry, and failure to control fruit fly in home gardens can cause devastating problems for commercial growers.

Cool Burn Exhibition

An [exhibition](#) of visual and performance art by a group of regionally based artists interpreting traditional cool burning methodologies in Australia with fire as a focus.

The launch on Saturday April 23rd at 11.30 am will include traditional dance, a COOL BURN demonstration and sky story interpretations.

Guest speakers

Larry Towney (Central Tablelands Local Land Services) - Fire Workshops

Diane Nicholls (Traditional Owner) - Traditional Practices in Cape York

Exhibition dates: Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th April 2016

Time: 11 am to 3 pm daily

Where: 2997 Darby's Falls Road Wyangala - the CORRIDOR project

Contact: Phoebe Cowdery on 0413 910 697

Bring a picnic as the event is 30 km from Cowra

Book [at Eventbrite](#)

Events

1st March - Silverleaf Nightshade demonstration trial walk, 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Cowra

This walk will be examining the different control methods for Silverleaf Nightshade and how climate variability is affecting noxious weeds.

Contact: Phil Cranney on 6363 7888 or 0458 745 478

1st March - Blue Heliotrope small plot trial walk, 5 pm to 6.30 pm Billimari

This walk will be examining the different control methods for Blue Heliotrope and how climate variability is affecting noxious weeds.

Contact: Phil Cranney on 6363 7888 or 0458 745 478

2nd March - Pre-sow Meeting, 2.30 pm Eugowra CWA Hall

NSW DPI research agronomist Colin McMaster will be outlining the latest NVT trial results along with Pulse Australia's Phil Bowden, who will discuss pulse agronomy and market outlooks.

Contact: Phil Cranney on 6363 7888 or 0458 745 478

3rd March - Pre-sow Meeting, 1.30 pm Woodstock Memorial Hall

NSW DPI research agronomist Colin McMaster will be outlining the latest NVT trial results along with NSW DPI's Helen Burns who will present recent findings from

GRDC funded research into acid soils impacting on Pulse yields.

Contact: Phil Cranney on 6363 7888 or 0458 745 478

8th March - Climate variability and adaptation in the Central Tablelands, Orange

Presentations on relevant spatial tools and topics to help staff and stakeholders plan for and adapt to climate variability.

Contact: Clare Kerr on 6333 2319 or 0429 545 590

9th March - Pre-sow Meeting, Goolma Hall

NSW DPI research agronomist Colin McMaster will be outlining the latest NVT trial results along with a presentation from local private agronomist, Phil Stoddart.

Contact: Clare Edwards 6378 1709 or 0428 435 615

15th March - Ag Production Forum, Canowindra

This forum will feature guest speakers on Whole farm Economics (return on investment) and grains. CT LLS will be gathering input into future programs and projects.

Contact: Julie Reynolds on 6378 1706 or 0418 150 167

15th March - Cat Tracker Community Information Meeting, Lithgow

An information event to inform Lithgow rural and urban residents about the Cat Tracking Project and how they can get involved.

Contact Peter Evans on 6350 3111 or 0422 735 888

15th March - Vertebrate Pesticide Induction Training, Bathurst LLS Office

Vertebrate Pesticide Induction training and Canid Pest Ejector training.

Contact: Scott Sullivan on 6392 3008 or 0428 710 001

16th March - Soil Biology Information Session, Cumnock

This session will provide the latest research in soil biology.

Contact: Phil Cranney on 6363 7888 or 0458 745 478

17th March - Soil Biology Information Session, Bathurst

This session will provide the latest research in soil biology.

Contact: Phil Cranney on 6363 7888 or 0458 745 478

22nd March - Soil and Pasture Health Workshop

Day one of two days - biological, physical and chemical properties of productive soils, along with soil test interpretation.

Contact: Clare Edwards 6378 1709 or 0428 435 615

2 April - Vertebrate Pesticide Induction Training, Freemantle Fire Shed

Vertebrate Pesticide Induction training and Canid Pest Ejector training.

Contact: Scott Sullivan on 6392 3008 or 0428 710 001

12 April - Vertebrate Pesticide Induction Training, Bathurst LLS Office

Vertebrate Pesticide Induction training and Canid Pest Ejector training.

Contact: Scott Sullivan on 6392 3008 or 0428 710 001