



This month...

- [Have you met our new Nyngan Vet?](#)
- [New Local Land Services leader visits Central West](#)
- [Better understand Aboriginal cultural heritage on your farm](#)
- [1080/Pindone training, animal health and PVP information day](#)
- [Healthy farm dams workshops](#)
- [Forbes stud pig sale](#)
- [Seed collection workshop](#)
- [Aboriginal community advisory group](#)
- [Local agronomy updates](#)
- [Scholarships available for primary producers](#)
- [Australian future cotton leaders 2016](#)
- [Faces of Australian cotton](#)
- [Canola](#)
- [read more...](#)
- [Soil and plant nutrition is king!](#)
- [Soil testing for crop nutrition - North Soil testing for crop nutrition - South N-rich strips show if your crop needs a boost this season](#)
- [GroundCover](#)
- [Bureau of Meteorology outlook \(April-June 2016\)](#)
- [Latest parasite news with Paraboss](#)
- [Financial assistance to rural businesses](#)
- [Direct contact details for our staff](#)
- [Not in the Central West? Links to other regions](#)

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Have you met our new Nyngan Vet?

I'm Erica Kennedy (pictured), the friendly, bubbly Nyngan District Vet for Central West LLS. I moved to the Central West at the start of February to take up the position of DV based in Nyngan.

I'm a bit of a gypsy with most of my early childhood was spent in Ocean Grove and Geelong in Victoria until I finished primary school when my Mum, Dad, brother Patrick and I moved to Timaru in the South Island of NZ for two years. Following the stint in NZ we moved to tropical, humid Townsville, where I finished secondary school. I had always wanted to be a forensic scientist (since age 8 according to school yearbooks) but in year 11 a family friend (who is a small animal cardiologist – yes there is such a thing) highly recommended Vet instead! The varied caseload, the ability to work outdoors and the many areas of the veterinary science field were certainly very appealing to me. But before starting university I took a 'gap year' to the UK where I worked as a teacher's aide/sports coach for the year at a school in the midlands, it was a wonderful opportunity to travel around Europe as well. Returning to Townsville to complete a 5 year course in Vet Science at James Cook Uni was really fun and exciting and where I developed an interest in increasing farm productivity by improving animal health and management. I also thought it was important to practice the small animal side of veterinary science and so for the last two years I worked at Stanthorpe Vet Care, a mixed practice (mostly small animal though) in southern inland QLD, I had a wonderful time there in a small but highly efficient and productive team.

So why the move to Nyngan??? Well after 4 years at uni and then 2 years long distance, I wanted to be closer to my partner Andrew, who is also a vet and who works in the local private veterinary clinic in Warren and Nyngan (and beyond!). The opportunity came up to focus on the production animal side of things which was certainly less emotionally driven (compared to small animal practice) but also innately improves the lives of hundreds of animals compared to just the one, whilst creating an opportunity for families to make a livelihood from livestock production. So here I am! I am currently living in Warren and working in Nyngan (still open to bribery as to which footy team to support) and loving the lifestyle, people and the opportunity to see so many interesting cases.

[back to top](#)

New Local Land Services leader visits Central West

Newly appointed Chair of the Local Land Services Board of Chairs Tim de Mestre (Pictured centre) visited Central West NSW recently to meet staff and better understand the region.



Mr de Mestre was welcomed in Wellington and Dubbo by Local Land Services staff and Central West

Chairman Tom Gavel.

The visit proved worthwhile for the newly appointed head of 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 West region working with land managers to deliver agriculture services,” Mr de Mestre said.

[Read more...](#)

[back to top](#)



Better understand Aboriginal cultural heritage on your farm

Farmers across Central West NSW can better understand the Aboriginal cultural values on their land through a Local Land Services grants program.

The program helps farmers understand how Aboriginal people historically used the landscape and any indicators that remain.

This information will give farmers more context to managing their land, said Local Land Services Aboriginal Communities Officer, Mike Nolan.

“Cultural heritage is just another layer of values across the land. Just like a natural resources or soils layers, there is also a cultural layer across the landscape,” said Mr Nolan.

“Landholders shouldn’t be afraid of Aboriginal cultural heritage on their land. The more people know about their land, the better they can manage it for future generations.

[Read more...](#)

[back to top](#)

Workshops and field days

1080/Pindone training, animal health and PVP information day

welcome to a 1080/ Pindone training and canid pest ejector course in Warren on **Tuesday 12 April**.

The course will cover:

- baiting techniques
- toxicity
- storage
- transport requirements
- legislation
- WH&S.

Upon completion, the accreditation will last for five years.

Other speakers on the day include:

- our Animal Health Biosecurity Officers giving a talk on brucellosis.
- our PVP Officers talking on changes to the *Native Vegetation Act*, codes of practice and Routine Agriculture Management Activities (RAMAs).

To find out more and RSVP contact Angie Kelly on 0428 221 588 or via email angie.kelly@lfs.nsw.gov.au

[back to top](#)

Healthy farm dams workshops

We're holding workshops in April and to help you manage your farm dam using practical methods to:

- create resilient and healthy farm dams and waterways
- improve your farm productivity with higher water quality
- improve biodiversity outcomes without losing productivity
- improve soil moisture profiles alongside your dams
- assess the health and quality of your dams and waterways
- identify useful native plants and animals in your waterways.

During 18-22 April, workshops will be held on properties around Parkes, Forbes, Grenfell, Condo and Trundle.

During 9-13 May, workshops will be held on properties around Dubbo, Wellington, Narromine, Gilgandra and Dunedoo.

To find out more contact Libby McIntyre on 02 6881 3429 or via email: libby.mcintyre@lfs.nsw.gov.au

[back to top](#)

Forbes stud pig sale

Come along to the Bedgerabong Showground on 27 and 28 April for the Youth Pig Show and Forbes Stud Pig Sale.

Have a yarn to our Biosecurity Officers about all manner of things regarding pigs, including feral pigs in the central west and disease spread.

To find out more about the events visit the [Forbes stud pig sale and Bedgerabong youth show Facebook page](#).

[back to top](#)



Seed collection workshop

We're working with Central West Lachlan Landcare to deliver a free seed collection workshop on **Thursday 28 & Friday 29 April** at Cnr Thomas St & Newell Hwy (Central West Lachlan Landcare building), Parkes.

Practical and hands on, the workshop will cover:

- basic species identification
- picking seasons - when is the best time to collect seed?
- equipment - what tools will you need?
- drying, cleaning and storing seeds.

For further information or to RSVP, please contact Marg Aplebee on 6862 4912.

[back to top](#)

Aboriginal community advisory group

Nominations are now open to fill a vacant position on the Central West Local Land Services Aboriginal community advisory group.

The group assists our Board ensure that all parts of the Aboriginal community are able to contribute to our business and that cultural heritage matters are being addressed.

The goals of the group:

- provide advice and strategic support to our Board on matters relating to Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage issues within the normal operations of Local Land Services
- improve customer service in relation to these functions by creating networking opportunities and partnerships to address local and regional issues

- provide a forum for a positive exchange of ideas between Central West Local Land Services and the wider community in relation to strategies, policies, projects and best practice
- maximise opportunities to increase relevant skills and knowledge, and build capacity with the Central West region.

[Find out more...](#)

[back to top](#)

Local agronomy updates

Grains Orana Alliance (GOA)- GOA are conducting Local Agronomy Updates across the northern region from April 5th -8th. Key topics being discussed include

- Pre-Em options for Annual Ryegrass- alternate options
- Clethodim damage in Canola - key trigger to damage
- Nitrogen in Wheat and Canola - economics in rotations
- Pod Guard Canola - does it work?

[Find an update in your area...](#)

[back to top](#)

Scholarships available for primary producers



Nuffield Australia awards Scholarships to farmers annually. The process for being awarded a 2017 Scholarship includes an application and interview process in 2016. For example, applications are required by 30, June 2016, interviews are held in July and August 2016, Scholarships are awarded in September 2016 and the Scholarship travel commences in 2017.

[Find out more...](#)

[back to top](#)

Australian future cotton leaders 2016

Applications are now open to participate in the Australian future cotton leaders 2016 program.

Want to develop your leadership knowledge, skills and experience? Are you committed to the future of the cotton industry? Then why not apply to join the Australian Future Cotton Leaders program?

Applications close on May 6, 2016.

[Find out more...](#)

[back to top](#)

Faces of Australian cotton

The faces of Australian cotton photography competition is now open!

Cotton Australia has launched its latest photography competition aimed at capturing striking images of the industry's greatest assets: Its People. Prizes to the value of \$8000 are on offer and entries close on June 24th 2016.

[Find out more...](#)

[back to top](#)

Canola

As we look to the skies for rain, it is timely that we consider the canola varieties and planting windows we are selecting for ourselves and how this may impact of disease as we enter a season predicted to have higher than average rainfall through the winter months

*Reference GRDC Canola Diseases 2016 Update

[read more...](#)

[back to top](#)

Soil and plant nutrition is king!

With a wet winter predicted across much of the Central West this year getting your nutrition right will be the difference between a good year and a great year! take the time to do a nutrient budget on your paddocks, be prepared to increase your current fertiliser rates in order to meet your desired yields and if in doubt try some test strips in your paddock. For more information on getting your soil and plant nutrition right or how to carry out test strips head to these handy links

[Soil testing for crop nutrition - North](#)

[Soil testing for crop nutrition - South](#)

[N-rich strips show if your crop needs a boost this season](#)

[back to top](#)

GroundCover

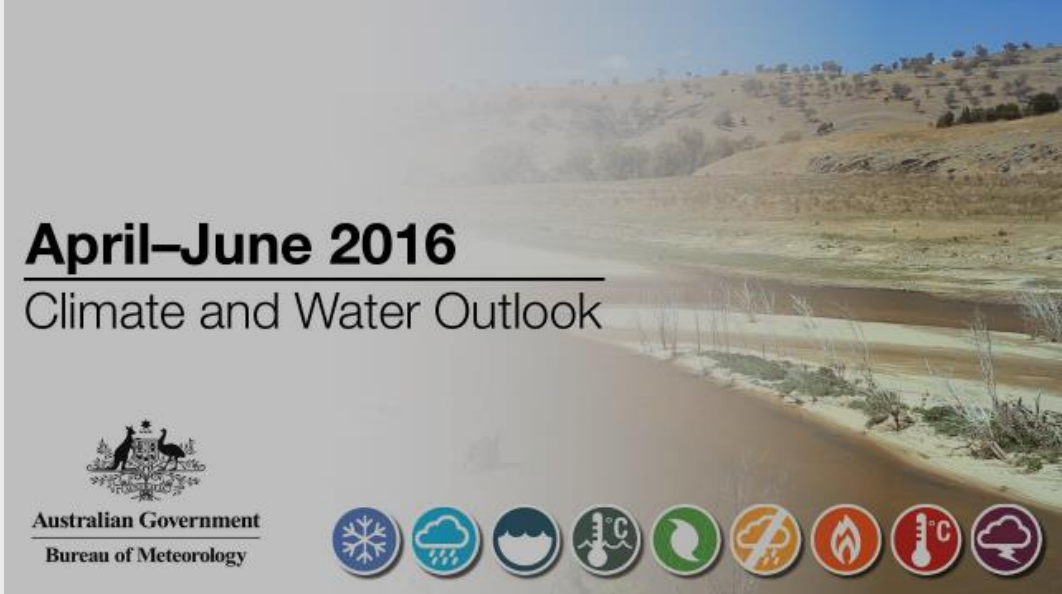
Have you checked out the Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC) bimonthly newsletter?

Some great practical and relevant information contained within.

To subscribe visit their [website](#) or alternatively view the latest edition [online](#).

[back to top](#)

Bureau of Meteorology outlook (April-June 2016)



The thumbnail image shows a dry, hilly landscape with a riverbed. Overlaid text reads "April-June 2016" and "Climate and Water Outlook". The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology logo is in the bottom left, and a row of nine weather icons (snowflake, rain, sun, thermometer, leaf, lightning, fire, thermometer with 'C', and cloud) is in the bottom right.

April-June 2016
Climate and Water Outlook

Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau of Meteorology has released their latest monthly climate and water outlook video – covering rainfall, streamflow and temperature for the next three months and beyond.

[back to top](#)

Latest parasite news with Paraboss

The January issue of Paraboss is out, covering:

- Worm pressure
- Don't forget liver fluke
- Be prepared for an increase in blowflies

[Read more...](#)

[back to top](#)

Financial assistance to rural businesses

The Rural Financial Counselling Service provides free, impartial and confidential financial counselling to assist farmers, fishers and agriculture dependent small business in their decision making.

[Find out what services and support are available.](#)

[back to top](#)

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...](#)

[back to top](#)

Not in the Central West? Links to other regions

If you are in another Local Land Services region, you can also subscribe to their newsletters.

Links to some of our neighbours below. You can find out which region you belong to [at the State Local Land Services site.](#)

- [Central Tablelands](#)
- [Riverina](#)
- [Western](#)

[back to top](#)

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