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## Ovine brucellosis causing losses in some Central Tablelands sheep flocks, but another form of Brucellosis is also a threat.



Our regional veterinarian, Bruce Watt, has investigated several ram flocks recently because the owners have either experienced lower than hoped for marking percentages or they have noticed rams with testicular lumps. In some cases blood tests have confirmed the presence of brucellosis.

Even though Brucellosis has been around for ages and is relatively easily eradicated from a flock it is still present on the Tablelands and still causes losses for some sheep producers each year. [Read the full story](#)

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## Ag forum - livestock markets plus whole farm economics

Central Tablelands Local Land Services is hosting a series of [regional forums this April](#) in Bathurst and Mudgee to provide expert updates on livestock markets, and also to seek feedback from farmers about priorities and issues for the agricultural sector. Each forum will focus on 'whole of farm' economics with an emphasis on tackling the constraints holding back better returns on investment.

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## Floating island installation at Gosling Creek

In a first for regional New South Wales a [habitat pontoon was installed](#) at the Gosling Creek Reserve in Orange to attract and provide habitat for migratory birds. The Reserve is an environmentally focussed recreation area on Forest Road south of Orange, and the pontoon is part of a joint project between Orange City Council, Central Tablelands Local Land Services, and the Environment and Waterways Alliance, and will be partly planted with sedges, rushes and reeds to create habitat for wetland birds, while the remaining area will be left open as roosting space.

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## Silverleaf nightshade rears its ugly head at Cowra



Silverleaf Nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*) has reared its ugly head again in the Cowra district, costing thousands of dollars in lost income and additional expense for farmers. After recent rain now is the ideal time for herbicide control! In an effort to tackle the

problem more than 20 people took part in an on-farm weed control [demonstration and paddock walk](#) on a property on Darby's Falls Road at Cowra, hosted by Central Tablelands Local Land Services. Bob Thompson, former NSW DPI agronomist from West Wyalong, took part in the Cowra demonstration day, and shared the results from trials he conducted several years ago in an area with a similar climate to Cowra.

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### GRDC GrowNotes for barley, canola and wheat in southern regions

[GrowNotes](#) are your one-stop shop for regional trial results and best practice recommendations for individual grain crops. Presented as an online flip-book, each set of GrowNotes provides an overview of the crop and a range of farm practice reference notes, and backs them up with trial results and best-practice recommendations so you can make informed farm management decisions about your crop.

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### 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.

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### Identifying plants workshop

DPI and Tocal College are delivering a [workshop](#) on Friday 8th April in Bathurst that

will assist land managers to more effectively and confidently identify plants they manage. Topics will include:

- Identify plant structures and the terminology
- Identify characteristics of common weedy plant families and use them in identification
- Use a wide range of resources to identify plants
- Use of photos to identify plants, store and recall information.
- Learn to pronounce and use scientific names

For more information contact Maryke Archbold-Hession on 4640 6333 or email [maryke.hession@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maryke.hession@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

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### New Local Landcare Coordinators hold first meeting at Stockton

Local Land Services and Landcare NSW recently met with [60 part-time coordinators at Stockton](#) as part of the NSW Government's four-year \$15 million Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative. The coordinators have been appointed to help build and support Landcare and community networks across the state in a program jointly managed by Local Land Services and Landcare NSW and facilitated by the Natural Resources Commission.

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### Hollows for Habitat Forum



The [Hollows for Habitat Forum](#) on 28th April aims to bring together a range of stakeholders, including Local Government, Landcare, Indigenous Communities, farmers & landholders and other community members, to learn about the issues of habitat loss in general and in particular, the absence of hollows in the landscape and positive solutions to improve habitat. The event will include a series of technical presentations on a range of topics and will also feature a range of local case studies regarding successful habitat improvement and monitoring projects that may be replicated by other organisations.

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## Taking your horse to the show? You need a PIC!

It's show time across many parts of the Central Tablelands, so if you're [taking a horse off to the local show](#), you will need a Property Identification Code or PIC. Having a PIC is a requirement in NSW in order for authorities to trace back and contain the potential spread of disease outbreaks. PIC's are necessary for owners of livestock such as cattle, horses, sheep and goats when trading or moving these livestock, and is also required for alpacas, llamas, and pigs if they are transported to a show or competition.

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## Apple and pear businesses - improve productivity with an audit

Apple and pear businesses in NSW are encouraged to apply for heavily discounted energy audits focussed on improving energy productivity. The [NSW Office of Environment and Heritage \(OEH\)](#) and [KMH Environmental](#) are working together to offer 10 audits a month from March to June at \$5,000 each. For more information contact KMH Environmental on 9468 9300 to discuss your options for reducing energy bills and improving the productivity and profitability of your business.

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## All apples can be traced back to two trees in Kazakhstan

There are currently 7,500 varieties of apples in the world today – incredibly though, basically every single one of these can be [traced back to a Mother and Father tree](#) in a mysterious Kazakhstan forest. Almaty is a city in Southern Kazakhstan, nestled in the foothills of the Trans-Ili Alatau mountains. Its name literally translates to 'Father of Apples', but now we know that nomenclature is truer than we ever suspected.

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## Weed management in vegetables

A new resource for how to manage weeds in vegetable crops is now available. This easy-to-read [fact sheet](#) covers important weed species, their impact on profitability, control methods and success factors using an Integrated Weed Management approach.

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**March–May 2016**  
Climate and Water Outlook

**NSW seasonal outlook**

The Bureau have predicted that the weather during March to May will favour above average to slightly above average rainfall in NSW and warmer than average temperatures during the day and night. Climate influences include a very warm Indian Ocean, a weakening El Niño and warm sea surface temperatures surrounding much of Australia.

The Bureau have also reported that NSW experienced its driest February in 38 years since 1978, with the statewide average rainfall 69% below the historical average. Some weather stations recorded their longest hot spell on record above moderate thresholds, including 19 days above 30 degrees at Grafton and 25 days above 26 degrees at Sydney.

## Events

**2nd 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

#### **7th April - Ag production forums, [Bathurst](#) and [Mudgee](#)**

These forums will include expert updates on canola and livestock markets and will also be an opportunity for producers to give feedback about priorities and issues affecting the agricultural sector. The focus of the forums will be on 'whole of farm' economics with an emphasis on tackling the constraints holding back better returns on investment.

Contact: Julie Reynolds on 6378 1706 or Clayton Miller on 6333 2314

#### **6th and 7th April - BusinessEDGE Workshop, Orange**

The [BusinessEDGE](#) was developed by MLA to meet producer demand for improved financial literacy and business skills. The workshops have been run across northern Australia since 2010 with almost 500 participants completing the course so far. This course follows from that experience and has been modified to have specific relevance to southern Australia, while still retaining all the key financial and business principles.

Contact: Dr Phil Holmes on 0427 100 649 or email [prholmes@bigpond.net.au](mailto:prholmes@bigpond.net.au)

#### **8th April - Identify plants workshop, Bathurst**

DPI and Tocal College are delivering a [workshop](#) on Friday 8th April in Bathurst that will assist land managers to more effectively and confidently identify plants they manage.

Contact: Maryke Archbold-Hession on 4640 6333 or email [maryke.hession@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maryke.hession@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

#### **12th 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

#### **22nd April - Small Farmers seminar, Mudgee**

This [seminar](#) is aimed at small area farmers to increase their skills in vegetation identification and management.

Contact: Julie Reynolds on 6378 1706 or 0418 150 167

#### **28th April - Hollows for Habitat Forum, Orange**

This [forum](#) aims to bring together a range of stakeholders including Local

Government, Landcare, Indigenous Communities, farmers & landholders and other community members, to learn about the issues of habitat loss in general, and in particular, the absence of hollows in the landscape and positive solutions to improve habitat. The event will include a series of technical presentations on a range of topics and will also feature a range of local case studies regarding successful habitat improvement and monitoring projects that may be replicated by other organisations.

Click [here](#) to register.

### **28th April - Managing feral animals on rural properties, Chatswood**

Do you live in Sydney but also have a property in the country? Does your rural property have problems with feral animals such as foxes, rabbits, pigs or wild dogs? Greater Sydney Local Land Services is running a free [workshop](#) on managing feral animals on rural properties for absentee rural landholders living in Sydney.

Contact: Angela Maier on 4724 2127 or email [absentee.project@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:absentee.project@lls.nsw.gov.au)

### **29th and 30th April - Regent Honeyeater planting weekend, Capertee Valley**

Come along and participate in an annual volunteer [planting event](#) in the Capertee Valley aimed at increasing habitat for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater.

Contact: Wendy Fox at Birdlife Southern NSW email [southernsw@birdlife.org.au](mailto:southernsw@birdlife.org.au) or call 9647 1033.

### **28th and 29th July - 2016 Agribusiness Today NextGen Livestock Forum, Blayney/Cowra**

This [forum](#) will have expert speakers discussing 'Innovation and Technology in Livestock Management, chains and markets', plus a Field Trip to see first-hand the concepts of innovation on-farm. Farmers and agricultural students will have the opportunity to discuss current markets and trends for red meat, production concepts of on-farm innovation for real-time decision making and future smarter farming.

More details to come.

### **21st - 23rd September - 2016 National Landcare Conference, Melbourne**

Celebrating from the place where it all began, the 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The National Landcare Awards ceremony and gala dinner will this year feature 69 finalists, nominated across nine categories, from all parts of



Australia. Further information about the call for abstracts, event registration, and conference program will be announced shortly.

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## Links to other regions

Not in the Central Tablelands?

If you are in another Local Land Services region, you can also subscribe to their newsletters. Some of our neighbours are listed below.

You can find out which region you belong to at the [State Local Land Services](#) website.

[Hunter](#) | [Central West](#) | [Riverina](#) | [South East](#) | [Greater Sydney](#)

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## Contact us

- [Your local LLS office](#)
- [On the web](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)

## Your contributions

Please [email us](#) any content about events and activities across the region that are relevant to Agriculture, NRM, Biosecurity or Emergency Management.

## Give us your feedback

Feedback is gratefully received.

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

Someone sent



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