

NORTHERN Landcare

SUPPORT SERVICES

Richmond Upper Clarence Landcare News Volume 2, Number 4—June 2011

A project of the



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Calendar of Events

June 28th

Drake PNF Field Day

July 7th

Cattle Production Farm Walk,
Tuckurimba

August 30th

Community Action Grants close



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www.nlss.com.au

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Sunrise or Sunset for Local Renewables?

Two big energy issues facing the north coast, solar and coal seam gas, featured at a regional energy forum on Friday 3 June.

According to Mark Byrne, from the Environmental Defenders Office and one of the forum organisers, "Over 90% of our electricity comes from outside the region, and about 90% of that is coal-fired."

"The coal seam gas industry has pitched itself as a greener alternative that will be good for the local economy, but there has been widespread community concern about the potential impacts on farming land and the environment. And recent reports from the US have cast doubt on just how much cleaner gas is than coal."

What about renewables? "Figures released by the Clean Energy Council reveal that the North Coast has the highest

uptake of rooftop solar systems in the country. But Mark notes that rooftop solar is unlikely to ever generate enough energy to power households, businesses and industry on its own.

"Because conditions aren't right here for large-scale solar or wind farms, we face a challenge in order to avoid becoming a brown energy backwater as the rest of the country and the world move to a low carbon economy."

The north coast may, however, have lots of potential for bioenergy, wave energy and small scale wind and solar to create a greener economy.

According to Mark, "The north coast looks well placed to play a leading role in bioenergy generation in particular. But it's going to take a lot of ingenuity, hard work and cooperation to make it happen."

If you missed the recent Land for Wildlife forum...

The presentations from the Forum are on the LFW Website www.cen.org.au/landforwildlife/landforwildlifeforumpresentations/ and the information on Frog Hotels will be added this week. Thank you to all those who participated - I hope all the presentations were helpful.

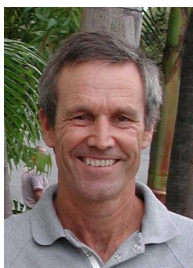
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16th—18th June
Bruxner Hwy,**



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Funding Opportunities

Caring for our Country

Community Action Grants 2011-12

Community Action Grants are a small grants component of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative that aims to help local community groups take action to conserve and protect their natural environment. The grants are targeted towards established local community-based organisations that are successfully delivering projects to support sustainable farming and/or protect and enhance the natural environment.

Investment proposals are sought from environmental, Indigenous, Landcare, Coastcare and sustainable agriculture community groups for grants of between \$5000 and \$20 000 (GST exclusive) to take action to help protect and conserve Australia's natural resources and environment. Projects must be completed within 18 months or less. **Up to \$5 million is available for the 2011-12 round.**

The grants are available to groups currently operating in the environmental and sustainable land management arena, as well as to established and emerging Indigenous organisations. Individuals are not eligible to apply for Community Action Grants.

Community Action Grants support local activities such as tree planting, revegetation, dune rehabilitation, field days, improving land management practices and the recording and use of traditional ecological knowledge.

Environmental Trust grants now open

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program (R&R) commencing 1 July 2011. The aim of the R&R program is to facilitate projects to prevent or reduce pollution, the waste stream or environmental degradation of any kind, run by community organisations and State and Local Government organisations. Through these projects, we also aim to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect restore and enhance the environment.

For more information go to the [Environmental Trust website](#)



Office of
Environment
& Heritage



FarmReady Program re-opening July 2011. The Australian Government's FarmReady Program aims to boost training opportunities for primary producers and Indigenous land managers and enable industry, farming groups and natural resource management groups develop strategies to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change.

Wild dogs



Experience has shown that the best results for wild dog control are achieved when a coordinated approach is taken, with landholders, LHPA field staff and other agencies working together across the region.

A common method used to control wild dogs is 1080 wild dog baits, best done in a group baiting program that involves as many local landholders as possible. This is the most cost effective and efficient method available.

Legislation now requires that all users of 1080 products must have chemical training to AQF3 standards or have completed the 1080/Pindone training course conducted by LHPA rangers.

Anybody living in an area that is known to contain wild dogs or finds wild dogs moving into the area should contact their local ranger and enrol to complete the 1080/Pindone training course.

There are distance restrictions that must be complied with for the use of 1080 products and this can mean that it is not always possible for landholders to use 1080 wild dog baits. This makes control in some areas, particularly where there is a conglomeration of small landholder, difficult.

Generally, if 1080 can't be used, shooting can also be ruled out as it is also unlikely that high powered firearms can be used. In these cases soft jaw trapping is an alternative but can be time consuming and requires some expertise to be effective.

Landholders can help minimise the impact of wild dogs by ensuring that they adequately control their own domestic dogs. Domestic dogs will form a pack with wild dogs and interact with them as a group which may involve hunting livestock as well as native animals. The responsibility for control of wild dogs rests with landholders. LHPA rangers are available to provide you with advice and assistance.

North Coast Livestock Health and Pest Authority has offices, 79 Conway Street Lismore 02 66212317, 147 Barker Street Casino 02 66623166 and 54 Victoria Street Grafton 02 66423699.

Reproduced from NC LHPA February Newsletter.

NSW Coastal Conference

With the NSW Coastal Conference coming up and yet again being held within the NR region (on the Tweed), you may wish to consider submitting a paper, encourage others to do so, or nominate or encourage others to nominate for one of the Coastal Management Awards? More info: www.coastalconference.com/

Cattle Production from Pastures - Farm Walk

Thursday 7th July, at
Tuckurimba

NSW DPI Soil Health for Floodplain Graziers Project are holding a farmwalk. NSW's Trevor Rose, district beef cattle officer and Bede Clarke district agronomist will present the general principles for animal production from pasture for optimal production. Trevor will present results from a local, Rhodes Grass evaluation conducted in February 2011. Abigail Jenkins will discuss soil mapping for better pasture production and soil monitoring.

Morning tea and lunch provided- Bookings essential Lyn 02 6626 1215 or lyn.andersen@industry.nsw.gov.au

Private Native Forestry Field Day

Tuesday 28th June, at
Drake—no cost, lunch,
morning and afternoon tea
provided. RSVP essential.

The Department of Primary Industries, with support from the Department of Environment and Climate Change and Water (DECCW) are holding a field day to outline the opportunities and regulatory obligations of good private native forestry (PNF) management on farms. Please contact Lynn Everingham Primary Industries - Industry and Investment NSW 02 66722770 or lynn.everingham@industry.nsw.gov.au

Your opportunity to help plan priorities for Natural Resource Management in the Northern Rivers region



The Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan (CAP) will soon be updated. This is your opportunity to participate in the planning process and help develop a new CAP that will set strategic direction for Natural Resource Management (NRM) in the Northern Rivers region for 2012–2022.

How can you be involved?

From mid-2011, the Northern Rivers CMA will be seeking community input into the development of the new CAP. There will be several opportunities to participate including online and written submissions and community workshops hosted by the Northern Rivers CMA Board. Information about these opportunities will be posted on the Northern Rivers CMA website as it becomes available.

More information?

- Go to www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au
- Phone the Northern Rivers CMA on (02) 66420622
- Register your interest by emailing CAPreview_northern@cma.nsw.gov.au

Accessing the current CAP

To download a copy of the current Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan go to www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/region_catchment_action_plan.php

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The articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Northern Landcare Support Services or Northern Rivers CMA.

If you would like to receive a free electronic copy, please contact:

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