

NORTHERN Landcare

SUPPORT SERVICES

Richmond Upper Clarence Landcare News

Volume 2, Number 8—May 2012

A project of...



Catchment Management
Authority
Northern Rivers



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Calendar of Events

June 14-16—Primex at Casino,

June 18—NRCMA CAP

Discussion Paper workshop,

June 21—Farming Carbon
Seminar.

Community grant applications are now open

The 2012 Australian Ethical community grants are now open for applications from eligible organisations. We donate 10 per cent of our profits to useful charitable, benevolent and conservation projects. The grants are made from the shareholder profits of Australian Ethical Investment Ltd and not from the returns of our products.

Applications close 1 July 2012.

australianethical
investment + superannuation

Northern Rivers CAP Discussion Paper Workshop

Monday, 18th June

10am, Casino Community Centre

2pm, Grove House Kyogle

RSVP 6632 3722 by Friday 15th.

Northern Rivers CMA Catchment Action Plan

The current review and upgrade of the Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan (NRCAP) is progressing well with release of Discussion Paper #3 planned for late May. The Paper will propose maps of catchment health based on biophysical themes including biodiversity, freshwater, soil, coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems; and the community's capacity for Natural Resource Management (NRM).

Following the Paper's release, a comprehensive public consultation program will be conducted including a written submissions period and an extensive **series of public workshops** over 6 weeks. NRCAP **Discussion Paper #3** will be going live in late May on our **dedicated 'Your Say' website** <http://yoursay.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/> so follow the links there and keep an eye out for it.

Until then, you still have a short time to complete the **Values & Issues Survey (#2)**. The survey has been **extended until late May**, so if you've not completed a survey, take this last opportunity now, to have your say on NRM values and issues. Go to <http://yoursay.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/>

The NRCAP will be a strategic, whole-of-government, whole-of-community plan that will span 2012-22. The new plan will replace the existing CAP and continue to guide investment for regional NRM activities. The review process is an important opportunity for the community to help set Natural Resource Management priorities for the future.

**Submitted by Louise Matthiesson, CAP Communications officer
NRCMA (02) 6642 0622.**



Catchment Management
Authority
Northern Rivers

Your NRM Community Support Team



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Wonderful Wildlife Carers

Unfortunately, many of the animals that are rescued by Wildlife Carers die despite best efforts. This is always heartbreaking so it is important that we celebrate the good news stories of the little native critters that beat those odds and survive.

This little joey fell from it's mothers pouch when she was chased by a dog being walked off a lead.

When this photo was taken he was 278 grams and Wildlife Carer, Cheryl was feeding him 11mls every five hours. Until his eyes opened and his ears started to stand up he was nicknamed 'Alien'.

A few weeks later, he now weighs 512 grams and with his ears up and better colouring he is starting to look more like he belongs on earth!

This is one of the happy, rewarding stories.

This is what those marvellous people called wildlife carers do to assist our wildlife....their dedication never ceases to amaze me. Thank you!

Submitted by Landcarer, Wendy Sibley



More good news...

We have just heard that a large application through the Federal Government's Action on the Ground program has been successful for increasing carbon in our soils. This is a joint project with the Northern Rivers CMA and other Landcare Networks throughout the region.

Farm Day Farm Day



Farm Day is a fantastic program which aims to decrease the city-country divide and promote a better understanding for city dwellers of farming and where their food comes from. Farm Day matches city and farming families together for a great educational experience, based on family ages, location and interests – they contact all families who register, by phone, to get a picture of who they are and how they might match. While we might think that we are too far from any city, apparently there are a number of families who would be prepared to travel this distance for a weekend experience. You do not need to be able to offer overnight accommodation, families are prepared to find their own.

The registration process allows you to provide information about your farm and enterprises as well as your other interests e.g. Landcare. Farm Day have a number of city families who particularly want to know more about sustainable and / or alternative agriculture.

Farm Day is 26th & 27th May 2012 and organisers are currently looking for more farms to register as they have twice as many city families as farms at the moment. Go to www.farmday.com.au for more information and to register.

More weeds on the national hit list

Australia's Weeds of National Significance (WONS) program has been expanded.

The Australian Weeds Committee has added 12 new invasive plants to its original list of the country's 20 worst weeds.

Weeds of National Significance co-ordinator Hilary Cherry says the program will now deliver co-ordinated management for the new 'dirty dozen'.

"Really, the reason is their serious impact to either biodiversity or primary production or things that we value, social or environmental or economic values," she said.

"What we are about is trying to prevent or reduce that impact."

The new Weeds of National Significance are African boxthorn, asparagus weeds, bellyache bush, brooms, cat's claw creeper, fireweed, gamba grass, madeira vine, opuntoid cacti, sagittaria, silverleaf nightshade and water hyacinth.

Managing WONS

Individual landowners and managers are ultimately responsible for managing WONS. State and territory governments are responsible for overall legislation and administration.

The issues concerning WONS are of such a magnitude that they need coordination among all levels of government, organisations and individuals with weed management responsibilities. Each WONS has a strategic plan that outlines strategies and actions required to control the weed, and identifies responsibilities for each action.

There are three phases of national management for WONS. In phases one and two, each WONS has a Management Coordinator and a National Management Group/Steering Committee to oversee implementation of the goals and actions of the WONS strategic plans and to develop and coordinate priority actions. In phase three state and territory governments take responsibility for national coordination within their jurisdictions. State agencies report to the Australian Weeds Committee on progress against any remaining actions under the strategic plans.

There is now funding available for weed & feral animal control on Crown Lands. For more info contact Frank McLeod on 02 6640 3416 email frank.mcleod@lands.nsw.gov.au. Applications close 25th June.



Madiera Vine Photo: DPI Qld



Cats Claw Creeper Photo: DPI Qld



Fireweed Photo: B.Trounce DPI NSW



Water Hyacinth Photo: P. Sullivan DPI NSW



Asparagus Weed, DPI NSW



An Australian Government Initiative



Brindle Creek, Photo Tara Patel

Federal Governments Biodiversity Fund—Round One successful grants have been announced!

The Northern Rivers CMA have been successful in attracting funding for three great projects:

- ◆ Protecting & enhancing the Macleay River riparian zone;
- ◆ Floodplains for the future: Restoring & rehabilitating wetlands & riparian areas in which 718 ha will be protected and enhanced in the Clybucca Creek Wetland Complex on the Macleay River estuary floodplain;
- ◆ The Jaliigirr Project, which aims to restore, manage & enhance biodiversity conservation, increase carbon stores & build resilience to climate change by reconnecting & rehabilitating fragmented & degraded corridors; protecting & enhancing existing native vegetation & managing biodiversity threats in the region. The area extends from higher altitude escarpment (& World Heritage Gondwana Rainforests) through to coastal plains within Bellingen & Coffs Harbour LGA's.

The Minister for the Environment, Tony Burke and Minister for Climate Change, Greg Combet announced the grants and said 317 projects would help to revegetate, rehabilitate and restore around 18 million hectares of the Australian landscape over the next 6 years.

“Across Australia, farmers and other land managers already do a great job through Landcare work and the Biodiversity Fund will build on this work. A number of projects announced in this first round also align with the intent of the draft National Wildlife Corridors Plan helping to improve connectivity in the landscape through the establishment of landscape scale wildlife corridors.

“This program has received overwhelming support from land managers right across the country with the Biodiversity Fund encouraging an additional \$207 million in in-kind or financial contributions,” Minister Burke said.

And congratulations to the folks just up the hill...

Upper Clarence Combined Landcare were successful with their grant application for over \$1.3 million for their project, “Controlling invasive species & restoring health & resilience to vegetation”. This project will assist 11 landowners adjacent to Gondwana World Heritage area to protect & manage unique biodiversity and carbon storage assets, contribute to landscape connectivity and resilience by controlling invasive weeds. Professional bush regeneration & weed control will return 582ha to health and resilience manageable by owners into the future. Threats to key Gondwana assets by invasive species moving across a connected landscape and inappropriate fires will be reduced. Awareness of biodiversity and carbon management will be raised amongst landowners and the broader community.

Environment Minister Tony Burke and Agriculture Minister Senator Joe Ludwig last night announced \$2.2 billion to continue the Caring for our Country natural resource management (NRM) initiative from July 2013 to June 2018.

This ensures a continued commitment to the work being carried out by a broad range of groups under Caring for our Country to protect and conserve the environment and increase the adoption of sustainable farming practices.

The announcement follows an extensive review of Caring for our Country, which found that the initiative was on track to exceed its goals for its first five years.

More than 4000 people and organisations contributed to the review to help shape future Australian Government investment in NRM.

The next five years of Caring for our Country will draw on the findings of the review and build on the achievements of the first period, while also addressing emerging priorities in NRM and the marine environment.

Caring for our Country will be delivered through two streams – one dedicated to sustainable environment and one to sustainable agriculture – and will continue to offer a range of investment approaches and delivery mechanisms.



Australian Government announces funding for a second five years of Caring for our Country

Further information will be available soon on the Caring for our Country website www.nrm.gov.au

21st NSW Coastal Conference

“NSW Coastal Management - Coming of Age?”

6 - 9 November 2012

The Pavilion, Kiama, NSW

Hosted by Kiama Municipal Council

Call For Abstracts NOW OPEN!

The Conference Committee is now calling for papers and presentations

2012 NSW Coastal Conference Topics Include:

- ◆ **Innovations in the management of coastal hazards**
- ◆ **Marine and estuarine environments** – science and management
- ◆ **Outside the box** – multidisciplinary approaches to coastal management
- ◆ **The fine print** – planning, legal, policy issues
- ◆ **Getting the message across** – innovative approaches to education, media and engagement
- ◆ **Acting local** – people making a difference on the ground

A prize will be offered to the most outstanding poster presentation

www.coastalconference.com





Farming Carbon Seminars

Carbon Farming Initiative Communications Program

Proactive farming to build carbon in your paddocks.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOUR FARM?

Time: 9.30 am—1.00pm

RSVP by Friday 15th June 2012

Nambucca Wednesday 20th June

Where: Nambucca Heads RSL Club

3 Nelson Street, Nambucca Heads

RSVP: Nambucca Valley Landcare Inc.

(02) 6564 7838 tyan@nvlandcare.org.au

Wollongbar Thursday 21st June

Where: Hudson Room, NSW DPI

1243 Bruxner Highway, Wollongbar

RSVP: Soilcare (02) 6628 1788 info@soilcare.org



Session 1: Mick Keogh will share with us his understanding of greenhouse gas emissions and the Carbon Farming Initiative. ‘Mick is well placed to interpret government policy and legislation for farmers. This is an opportunity for farmers to learn the facts from an expert in a non-political setting.’

Session 2: Mick will talk about farm management practices we can implement to reduce our carbon footprint and put money in our pockets in the process. Mick has worked with farmers and researchers to develop and trial farm management practices that are both profitable and carbon efficient.

Session 3: The Australian Farm Institute recently launched the FarmGAS Scenario Tool that allows registered users the opportunity to investigate the effect of different options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the potential to generate carbon credits and offers flexibility to tailor calculations to individual situations. FarmGAS allows greenhouse gas emissions to be estimated at the farm enterprise and whole farm scale.

Mick Keogh

His career has included periods of employment as a farm manager, a University researcher, an agribusiness consultant and an agricultural lobbyist and policy advisor. Mick is Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute, an independent policy research institute that conducts research into strategic policy issues of importance to Australian agriculture.

Mick has been involved in research into a wide range of issues impacting on the agricultural sector both in Australia and internationally, and has authored a large number of papers and reports on these subjects. He also appears regularly in the media and as a speaker at Australian and international agricultural conferences.



This event and all associated material is supported by funding from the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative Communications Program, Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the North Coast Regional Landcare Network.

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CARING
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Regional Landcare Facilitator

Hosted by North Coast Regional Landcare Network Incorporated for the Northern Rivers region

New Carbon Farming Initiative Handbook Available Now

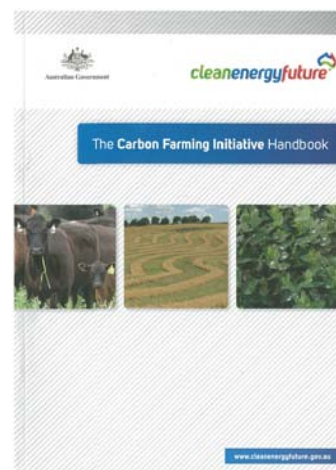
The Carbon Farming Initiative will give farmers and landholders access to carbon markets, providing a new source of revenue for those who undertake projects to restore degraded soils and landscapes or adopt farm management practices that build carbon stores and reduce harmful greenhouse gases.

Farmers and landholders can generate carbon credits from these actions and sell the credits in carbon markets.

All farmers and landholders are encouraged to find out more about this important initiative and get involved. This handbook will help explain the Carbon Farming Initiative and how you can participate.

To view the handbook on the web go to:

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/handbook.aspx>



Pick up a copy of the new handbook from NLSS resource centre at Kyogle or from our display at Primex.

Are Indian Mynas the Major Bird in your Garden?

Have you noticed a decline in native bird species particularly parrots, rosellas, lorikeets, dollar birds and small birds such as wrens in your garden?

This is partly the result of the increase in numbers and spread of Indian Mynas throughout the Northern Rivers.

Indian Mynas are aggressive feral pests. They take over nesting hollows from native birds and small mammals. They kill the chicks of other birds or destroy their eggs. They even take over and defend extra nesting hollows, but they only lay eggs in one of them.

Indian Mynas drive away the small birds which would normally eat the insects that live on native trees and shrubs. This means the trees themselves can become unhealthy from too many insects.

What can people do?

Clear away food scraps after eating outdoors.

Feed pets indoors, or clear away when they've finished.

Plant native shrubs to reduce open areas in gardens. Avoid planting trees with dense foliage, such as pencil pines, in which Mynas will roost at night.

Block holes in roofs or eaves to stop Indian Mynas from nesting – make sure you don't accidentally trap a possum or bat.

On farms, feed stock only as much as they need, cover the feed bins and clean up any spills.

Get involved with a Community Trapping Program. Traps are available through Northern Landcare Support Services in Kyogle as well as through local councils in Lismore, Casino, Byron, Tweed and Ballina.



Indian Myna nest



Indian Myna trap

Catch us out and about!

We will be setting up our mobile Landcare information display at the Casino Farmers Market on Thursday 24th May, at the Casino Saleyards on 22nd June and of course at Primex 14-16th June.

Bring in a weed that you'd like identified, have a chat about the Carbon Farming Initiative or just come and say g'day!



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*A project of the
Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority*



Richmond Upper Clarence Landcare News May 2012

Prepared by Northern Landcare Support Services for Landcare Groups & landholders in the Richmond & Upper Clarence Catchments. **All contributions to the newsletter are welcome.**
This Newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper.

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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