



National Landcare Conference

The National Landcare Conference 2012 was held in Sydney during September 3rd – 5th. NLSS was there, as were hundreds of other Landcare volunteers, CSO's and chairpersons.

The days were filled with inspiring stories, workshops, and plenary sessions with star-studded panel members such as Mia Freedman, Peter FitzSimons, Tim Flannery, Jock Laurie, Ron Archer, and perhaps most inspiring of all – Dr David Suzuki.



Dr Suzuki emphasised the connectedness that humans have to their landscapes (something Landcarers know all about!) and the importance of recognising and respecting that link. In his words "Whatever we do to the earth, we do to ourselves."

The recording of Dr Suzuki's speech will be made available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry YouTube channel in the upcoming weeks. Keep an eye out on their weblink: <http://www.youtube.com/user/AGDAFF> which also contains other interesting videos.

Catchment Action Plan Update – Last chance to have Your Say

Following on from the information sessions held and subsequent submissions made to the NRCMA in June, the draft CAP for 2013-2023 will be on public exhibition starting mid-October. Due to a reduced time-frame, submissions for this draft CAP will need to be received by the NRCMA by the **9th of November**.

Another round of information sessions will be held in mid-to-late October. **Due to the limited time available for submissions, it is highly recommended that you read through the draft CAP prior to attending the sessions**, so that you can make the most of the time with representatives from the NRCMA. The information sessions will be held:

Bangalow - 25th Oct	9:30 for 10:00 start	RSL Hall Station St Bangalow
Kyogle - 25th Oct	1:30	Kyogle Memorial Hall
Murwillumbah - 29th Oct	5:30	Canvas and Kettle Murwillumbah Civic Centre

Lismore Community Sustainability Forum



New Sustainability database

LCSF is now creating a database of community groups and businesses that fall into the 'sustainable enterprises' category. These directories will enable community members to have a quick and easy way of finding groups they would like to be involved in and businesses from whom they can get services that are sustainability focused.

If you are interested in being listed on this database or for further information, please contact Georgia Foster Eyles from LCSF via email: peorge_8@hotmail.com or phone her on 0403 738 477.

'Soil Biology: Managing Biological Farming Systems'
Another North Coast Roadshow not to be missed

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National Landcare Awards

The National Landcare Awards were also a highlight and the night included well known Aussie star Jack Thompson (who has been a supporter of Landcare for a number of years), Minister Joe Ludwig and former Prime Minister Bob Hawke who was presenting the inaugural Bob Hawke Landcare Award. This award was won by dairy farmer and passionate Landcarer, Lynne Strong from NSW. We were so proud to be sitting with Bob Jarman and although he didn't win it was a great night and he was more than happy to be runner-up to such a deserving winner; Susie Chapman (QLD). Congratulations should also go out to Tweed and Byron Shire Councils and South-West Rocks Dunecare.

Learn more about Biological Weed Control

Far North Coast Weeds Authority and Department of primary Industries are coming together at Lismore showgrounds on the 14th November with updates and distribution of biological agents for control of Giant Parramatta Grass, Cat's Claw Creeper, Madeira Vine, Lantana and Salvinia. Speakers include Jim Willmott, Manager Weed Services Far North Coast Weeds; David Officer, Research Agronomist Department of primary Industries (DPI) Grafton; Royce Holtkamp, Strategy Leader Invasive Species DPI Tamworth; Rod Ensbeby, Invasive Species Officer DPI Grafton; Bernadette Hanley, DPI Grafton. Don't miss out RSVP to 66233847

Calling top farmers

The closing date for the **2012 NSW Farmer of the Year Award** has been extended to 5 October.

Organised by NSW DPI and NSW Farmers, this year's winner will receive \$10,000 including an overseas trip.

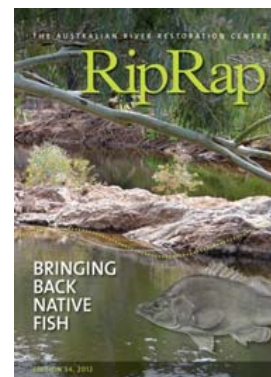
See <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/events/foty/2012> for more information and to apply.



How does your backyard grow?

This exciting new challenge gives children the opportunity to explore what is growing in their very own backyards! We are asking kids to submit a photo or short video, and want to hear about everything from pot plants on apartment balconies to leafy suburban gardens or rural and remote properties, and everything in between.

Entries due 16th November.
<http://www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au>



The North Coast Regional Landcare network has been successful in gaining Commonwealth Governments Caring for our Country funding to run a series of field days that bring Dr Bernard Doube to the north coast from 23rd to 27th October to discuss managing biological farming systems

Dr Bernard Doube was a Principal Research Scientist with CSIRO for 29 years and has had extensive research experience with dung beetles in South Africa and Australia. Bernard is also an international expert on earthworms and the biological basis of soil health and co-edited the books "Soil Biota: Management in Sustainable Farming Systems" and "Biological Indicators of Soil Health".

Bernard is now Principal of Dung Beetle Solutions Australia, which collaborates with water authorities, federal agencies, universities and other organisations to research the influence of dung beetles on water quality, grazing systems and carbon sequestration in southern Australia.

Dr Doube also has experience researching buffalo fly and in conjunction with Livestock Health & Pest Authority District Vets will answer many questions about the control and management of buffalo fly. Once thought to be a coastal and QLD problem only, buffalo fly have increased their range in recent years causing issues for producers across our region.

Pestivirus is the disease on every cattle producers mind at the moment, with many concerned about the possible impacts on their herd. LHPA Vets will present the facts on pestivirus and talk about how cattle producers can begin to look at tackling the problem.

The day is funded through Northern Rivers CMA, North Coast Regional Landcare Network and the Commonwealth Governments Caring for our Country program. It is also supported by the Livestock Health & Pest Authority in some areas.

To find out times and locations of the field days visit www.nlss.com.au

Bungawalbin Main Camp Hotspots Fire Project

With near zero rainfall recorded over the last two months, and predicted warmer and drier conditions for the next few months, this is an ideal time to think about how you will manage fire on your property. Fire is part of the Australian landscape and can have positive and negative effects on our plants and animals. Different vegetation types and individual plants and animals respond differently to fire.

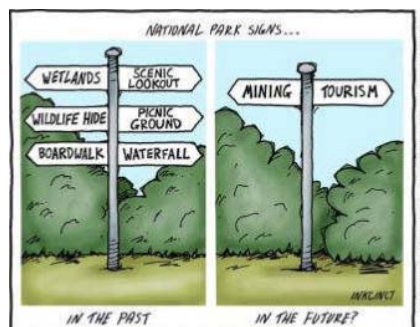
Hotspots is a project that focuses on fire ecology, fire management planning and biodiversity conservation. An end product for landholders participating in the project is having your own individual property fire management plan. By preparing property fire management plans in conjunction with others in the local community, fire can be addressed at a landscape scale, reducing bush fire risk whilst improving and maintaining biodiversity. A focus of the Bungawalbin / Main Camp Hotspots Fire Project will be the Endangered Population of the North Coast Emu. There will also be representation from the local Aboriginal community with the opportunity to discuss connection to country and the importance of fire in Aboriginal culture.

The Hotspots Fire Project is jointly managed by the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, in conjunction with other key supporting partners from government and non government agencies and organisations. The Hotspots Fire Project is free of charge. Workshop 1 will be held on Tuesday 23 October 2012 and Workshop 2 will be held on 20 November 2012. Please contact John Allen, Environment Officer (Hotspots) on 6655 7002 or on email john.allen@rfs.nsw.gov.au if you want to know more. Registration is required before 16 October 2012.

It's BACK

RipRap a magazine that collates and synthesises science and practice around river management themes and presents this knowledge in ways that make it relevant and applicable for policy-makers and practitioners alike. The magazine started in 1997 and has a large following amongst those in the Australian community with shared interests in river and riparian management. After a brief lapse, we are now delighted that *RipRap* is back with a new look and approach to sharing knowledge.

The latest edition of *RipRap* is on 'bringing back native fish', and contains 60 pages of great articles featuring fish related science, on-ground works, oral history and community engagement from across Australia. To download a copy go to <http://australianriverrestorationcentre.com.au/riprap-magazine/>



Message from the Minister

Today I announced the establishment of *Local Land Services* – a new approach to delivering services to farmers and landowners across rural and regional NSW.

One of the clear goals of the Government's NSW 2021 Plan is delivering quality, customer-focussed services. *Local Land Services* will deliver this goal with a modern, efficient and flexible approach.

Local Land Services will link productive primary industries to sustainable catchment management by bringing together Livestock Health & Pest Authorities (LHPAs), Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and agricultural advisory services within Agriculture NSW to deliver services including:

- Agricultural advice;
- Plant and animal pest control and biosecurity;
- Natural resource management; and
- Emergency and disaster assessment and response.

The time is right to reinvigorate the way the NSW Government connects with farmers and landowners.

The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business

A project of



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