



Landcarelife

News for western landcare members

Oct/Nov 2016

A message from the Executive Officer

Welcome to the October/November edition of "Landcarelife" which, this month is full of news from around the Region. The Local Landcare Coordinators have been busy with Landcarers around the Region as well as learning and networking to bring up to date information to those of us 'on the ground'! The next big project for all WLNSW members is the Landcare Forum which has been postponed until August 2017. We are all busy looking at ways to engage everyone within the Region, so if you have any ideas relating to the *Save The Date* below, please let us know asap.

Save the Date and Spread the Word

The Western Landcare Forum is our major biannual event and we are developing a very exciting forum line up for 4 – 5 August 2017 in Broken Hill. Please make sure you put this date in your diaries and spread the word. We are hoping all of our groups will join in to make this the best forum we've ever had. As well as offering an excellent chance to network and share ideas, we would love each group to be represented at this forum with a stand to promote their achievements. The forum also provides an excellent opportunity to showcase regional produce and we are currently taking expressions of interest for any producers who would be interested in having a trade stand.

WESTERN LANDCARE FORUM, HEALTHY LANDSCAPES - HEALTHY FOOD

SAVE THE DATE - 4-5 AUGUST, 2017 BROKEN HILL

Western Landcare invites you to save the date for the Western Landcare Forum - to be held on 4-5 August, 2017 in Broken Hill.

The biennial event brings together land managers and groups from all over Western NSW to share success stories about sustainable agriculture and learn of new opportunities and innovations.

The 2017 forum will explore the relationship between healthy landscapes and healthy food and celebrate the diverse range of produce from our unique region.

The 2017 forum will provide an opportunity to showcase regional produce through cooking demonstrations and trade stands.

More importantly, the forum will highlight the unique connection between environmental and production outcomes in our region, and explore opportunities for our dedicated land managers to take advantage of current trends involving food provenance and sustainability, and put the produce of Western NSW on the map.

Forum topics will include:

- tools for marketing options
- brand development
- sustainable management practices
- landscape rehabilitation
- managing for biosecurity and biodiversity
- enterprise diversification.



For more information or to get involved please speak to your local Landcare Coordinator or contact:
Fiona Harris - T: 02 6872 2144 M: 0467 731 824 E: westernlandcareforum@gmail.com



Rural Women's Gathering Broken Hill

The theme for this year's Rural Women's Gathering was *Rocks, Rust Stars and Dust*. Landcare Executive Officer Louise Turner, Local Landcare Coordinators Martha Gounia and Alice Jarrett and RLF Fiona Harris were in attendance to represent Western Landcare. The Gathering saw over 200 women from across NSW come to Broken Hill to discuss issues facing rural communities and solutions to these problems, participate in training sessions to develop skills, and become inspired by an array of interesting and inspirational speakers. Next year's Rural Women's Gathering will be held Narrandera on the 27th-29th of October.

Buckwaroon School Education Days

On the 20th and 21st of October volunteers from the Buckwaroon Landcare Group and Year 6 students from Cobar Public and St John's Catholic schools participated in a two day education program. The students met at St Johns on the 20th and rotated between seven areas looking at grasses, Invasive native scrub, learning about soil erosion, pest animals, farm and kangaroo management. On the second day students jumped on a bus and headed for Nullogoola Station 45km West of Cobar. They once again rotated around seven areas. This time they consisted of a shearing demonstration, learning to use working dogs in the yard, identifying and knocking down Invasive Native Scrub, techniques for managing soil erosion, ways of measuring the weather and climate and trapping gas in balloons as a way of learning about climate change. The year six students involved had a fantastic time and were incredibly thankful for the Buckwaroon Landcare Group for giving up their time.



Groups From Across the Western Region – Ledknapper Wild Dog Action Group

The Ledknapper Wild Dog Action Group was initiated in February 2008, as a direct result of escalating wild dog predation within an area North and North East of Bourke.

westernlandcare.nsw.com.au

This month's Newsletter edited by Alice – Ph. 0431 520 799 E. alice.jarrett@lils.nsw.gov.au

Next month's Newsletter edited by Henry– Ph.0427 861 816 E. henry.gregory@lils.nsw.gov.au

The committee is comprised of committed local graziers, community members and industry stakeholders. The Ledknapper Wild Dog Action Group Inc. provides services to an area covering over 750,000 ha and includes a total of approx. 60 properties.

The objective of the group is to actively work in unison and collaboratively, to control pest animals, primarily wild dogs through various control programs within the Ledknapper Area. This objective is met through:

- ✓ Supporting the delivery of current, relevant, impartial information. This may be through regular emails, phone calls, newsletters, group training and regular meetings.
- ✓ Supporting the delivery of effective, flexible and responsive group projects in the Ledknapper Region. We currently undertake two large coordinated ground baiting programs within the area and continually respond to member's needs and requests for other initiatives.
- ✓ Empowerment of the individual and rural business to make informed decisions. Provision of mentoring, advice, sounding board and counsel to new and existing producers within (and out) of our area, allows for relevant area appropriate information to be heard and acted upon as necessary.
- ✓ Identifying enterprise issues relating to change and adjustment with relationship to feral pests. Regular contact, intel and meetings with other pest management groups, particularly to the north of our area gives us the reality of the damage dogs have already done to Queensland producers (economically and emotionally) and allows us the opportunity to be continuously vigilant to eradicate and prevent wide scale invasion.
- ✓ Responding to member's needs.
- ✓ Reporting to members, stakeholders & Government as required whilst protecting confidentiality of members details.

The LWDAG Inc. is a proactive Pest Management working group striving towards effective wild dog management by all producers in our area.

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Western Landcare Strategic Planning Meeting

On the 26th and 27th of October members of the Western Landcare Executive Committee, Local Landcare Coordinators and Local Land Services Regional Landcare Facilitator met in White Cliffs to discuss the future of Western Landcare and Develop a 5 year Strategic Plan. All involved in the meeting were pleased with the outcome and look forward to what the future holds. The *DRAFT Western Landcare Strategic Plan* is currently being developed and will be distributed soon for public consultation. Members of Western Landcare and the public are encouraged to review the DRAFT plan and provide feedback for the development of the final plan.

Life and Light in the Western Region Photo Comp

There were more than 150 entries for this year's Life and Light in the Western Region Photographic Competition themed 'Rocks, Rust, Stars and Dust' to coincide with the Rural Women's Gathering held in Broken Hill. Winners were announced at an awards event on the eve of the gathering. There was an impressive range of photos



entered into the competition displaying the diversity and uniqueness of the Western Region and showcasing the talent of its residents. Western Landcare NSW sponsored the Sustainable Agriculture category and looks forward to being part of the competition again in 2017.

Wild Dog Update

The seasonal LLS Predator Program was undertaken during spring as part of a long-term campaign to manage wild dogs and foxes in the Western region. The program included combined aerial and ground efforts across multiple pest management and Landcare groups in a co-ordinated approach. This was a massive task for LLS staff and the groups (organisation, logistics etc) and co-operation was greatly appreciated.

Surveys were also distributed on baiting days to introduce a mechanism for feedback from landholders in regards to the success of these targeted programs. The damage these predators cause can be hard to measure at times and because of this questions were designed to attempt

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to capture quality information. Some groups and individuals have undertaken training in other pest control strategies, including the use of ejectors and soft-jaw trapping. It is about having a tool-box of options and not relying on one singular means of control. In recent months landholders have increased reporting of wild dog observations to LLS biosecurity staff, which aids us greatly when developing and modifying future efforts. On the back of a wet winter, it can be expected that there will be a substantial increase in feral pigs.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Southern Tactical Grazing Management Workshop – Hatfield Curragh Station

23rd and 24th of November 8am start

Contact: Kade Small – M:0477 325 418 E:kade.small@lls.nsw.gov.au

Plant Id Course – Naree Station via Fords Bridge

1st December 7:30am start

Contact: Kyra Roach – M: 0438 695 755 E: kyra.roach@lls.nsw.gov.au

Funding Available

Local Land Services Western Region Small Land Management Grants

Grants of up to \$5,000 addressing training, education and community activities and weed management activities are now available. <http://western.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/financial-assistance>

More information

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louise@westernlandcare.com.au

Nov/Dec Newsletter

Please contact Henry Gregory if you wish to include anything in the next edition of the newsletter. All stories and suggestions are welcome.

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