

NEWSLETTER NO. 17 27 MAY, 1998

ERIC SATELITE PRESENTATION - 17 JUNE, 1998 - MURRUMBURRAH COURT HOUSE

SPEAKERS: Rob Gouley (ERIC), Mark Barber & Peter Holding

All members are invited to the final presentation of the satellite mapping project that HMLG and the Harden Shire Council began in February, 1996.

This project has developed a way of remotely sensing large areas and identifying different vegetation types eg. Wheat, canola, native vegetation. Those members who were actively involved in the ground truthing need to be thanked as it is due to their input that this method of environmental monitoring may finally become a cost effective reality. These maps will now provide a very good base line from which future changes can be accurately measured.

It is hoped that the work to date can now be taken further to provide an ongoing monitoring system for individual HMLG members. At this stage we have been given 2 free satellite fly-overs for this season to do further monitoring in 1998. Those Landholders who would like to participate in this should attend the meeting to discuss further developments and future of this project. We hope to be able to offer farmers the opportunity to monitor their property with 2/3 satellite maps/year enabling monitoring of potential crop yield, moisture stress, weed infestations, nitrogen application etc.

Remote sensing has already demonstrated enormous potential to focus crop monitoring on problems areas on a large scale, this has not previously been available to farmers.

Remote sensing goes well beyond simple GPS yield monitoring though yield monitoring is incorporated into the total crop monitoring system being developed.

The success of this project is critically reliant on broadbase grower participation and your attendance at this meeting is highly recommended.

Meeting commencing 1.30pm at the Murrumburrah Court House. Further information on this project please contact either Peter Holding 6386202 or Mark Barber 63862570

WHATS ON - Further information on anything mentioned below please do not hesitate to call

16 June - Database Field Inspection No. 1, commencing 2.30pm, Argyle, Galong

17 June - Final report from ERIC Satellite Mapping of the HMLG area, Murrumburrah Court House, commencing at 1.30pm

26-27 June Murrumbidgee Landcare Association AGM - Wagga. The second Decade of Landcare, Guest speakers include Professor Gordon Grigg, The Kangaroo Industry, John Davies, Real Estate & Property Values & Landcare, Neil Inall "Landcare in the Community"

29 June - Binalong Subgroup - Introduction to managing Acid Soil in a Grazing Enterprise, speakers to include Greg Fenton, Mike Keys, Bill Schumann and Fiona Leech.

16 September - Canola Conference, Young Details P. Parker, NSW Agriculture. Topics include herbicide resistance issues, health & QA of canola oil, handling & storage, rotations

16-18 October - Women of the Land Gathering, Cooma

1998 BUDGET provided a tax rebate for landcare works of 34c in the \$.

"Primary producers & businesses using rural land will be able to claim the rebate for works such as fencing to exclude animals from an area affected by land degradation(*Subdivision 387-A of Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*), levee or contour banks to control soil erosion, drainage works to control salinity or drainage(*Subdivision 387-B*) and the eradication of plant or animal pests"

"An annual limit of \$5,000 will be placed on expenditures that are eligible for the rebate under each of the Subdivisions, allowing annual rebates for up to a total of \$10,000 in eligible landcare expenditure" The rebate is also limited to taxpayers with taxable incomes of up to \$20,700/pa.

Farmers who do not fully use the rebate because it exceeds their tax bill, will be able to carry forward the rebate to future years.

I am having difficulty getting any more details but I understand that the rebate covers nothing that wasn't already claimable last year. Please check your individual positions with your accountant it may help if you quote the above subdivisions from the Tax Act.

1998 TREE ORDERS - Jayfields Nursery, Holbrook are still taking bulk tree orders to be delivered to Bobbara in late August. Contact direct 02 6036 7235.

HARDEN MURRUMBURRAH LANDCARE GROUP PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY HARDEN SHIRE COUNCIL

RURAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY - DROUGHT PROOFING ASSISTANCE

Water Storage Grants for on-farm initiatives to improve the drought preparedness of NSW farms. The grant is available for 50% of the first \$10,000 or expenditure and 10% of subsequent expenditure on eligible works up to a total ceiling grant of \$10,000/farm business.

Eligible Works - Dams (desilting, enlarging or construction of dam for livestock), Bores (deepening or sinking of bore for livestock) commenced after 1 March, 1997. Farm water reticulation works (pumps, pipelines, tanks, tank stands, troughs and similar infrastructure for livestock) commenced after 7 April, 1998. I have some application forms but for further information please contact Phil Wells or Chris Howarth, DWLC Cootamundra 02 6942 4977. Although this funding has apparently been spent, if you are considering applying complete forms so that if the Federal Government does match state money your application is ready for immediate action.

MCMC FENCING INCENTIVES PROGRAMME - GREENING AUSTRALIA

Objectives - to achieve greater long term protection of existing remnant vegetation & natural regeneration by removing grazing pressures from domestic & feral animals, encourage the integration of vegetation management into farming systems. **Conditions**- Not for new tree planting's, additional materials, labour and on-going management are land holders responsibility, total stock exclusion from site, application will have a site visit from Greening Australia. The value is \$1,200/km for standard cyclone 6/70/30 or 7/90/60 ringlock fence and plain or barbed wire with steel post every 10m. I have application forms and further information Bindi Vanzella 02 6921 8202

ANNUAL MEETING - New Office Bearers

Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group - Chairman - Peter Holding
Senior Vice Chairman - David Cusack Vice Chairman - John Roles
Secretary - Mark Barber Treasurer - Mark O'Connor

Binalong Landcare Group Chairman - Ian Giles
Secretary & Treasurer - Glenyse Ings

Thanks go to Neil McColl & George Elliot for the contribution they have made over the past two years as Chairman of respective groups & Stephen Woodhead who stepped down as Treasurer.

ACID SOIL ACTION - 2ND ROUND OF FUNDING CLOSES 22/6/98

Projects which contribute to better management of acid soils, ie increase community and industry awareness of soil acidity, define and assess the impact of soil acidity on farm productivity, develop techniques to better manage soil acidity, increase adoption of methods already proven to better manage acid soils. General liming of farmlands will not be funded.

Further information Greg Fenton, 02 6938 1906, I have application forms.

TELEPHONE SURVEY - The Committee would like to thank all members telephoned for the time they gave to answering the recent telephone survey. It would appear that most members are generally satisfied with the direction of the Group with an emphasis on the need for sustainable and profitable farming essential. HMLG initiatives and information needs to be presented in this context with the constant reinforcement that there is often a financial constraint to rapid adoption of technological advances. The information generated will be used by the Committee to give limited time and resources more focus. HMLG is a source of information and assistance in specified areas, and as such the expertise of each member is greatly appreciated by other members. Perhaps this is a time to consider your involvement with HMLG and possibly what you can give to other members in HMLG and the community in general.

HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT- Several members have requested that this course be run again later in the year, I will apply for more RAA funding if there is sufficient interest.

DATABASE 1998 - Field Inspection No. 1 details enclosed, if you have not received this years form and would like to please call. The Committee have been able to enlist Charles Kidd, a research agronomist with IAMA, South Australia to analyse the data and a much better report will be available this year. The Committee urges all members to participate.

DRUM RECYCLING - *Ensure that you only leave drums listed on Field day agenda, it is unfair to expect Wesfarmers-Dalgety/Kennett to dispose of your unwanted drums. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.*

Louise Hufton, Harden Murrumburrah landcare Group Co-ordinator.
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