

NEWSLETTER NO. 20  
22 February, 1999

**WHATS ON - AGM 18 March, 1999 7.00pm Harden Bowling Club.**

**HARDEN MURRUMBURRAH & BINALONG LANDCARE GROUP**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER**

**7.00PM HARDEN BOWLING CLUB**

**THURSDAY 18 MARCH, 1999**

**COST \$20/hd**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Deb Tkachenko**

**RSVP&BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:**Louise Hufton,HMLG Coordinator 02 6386 8218 (Ph)  
02 6386 8218 (Fax) by Monday 15 March, 1999

**3 March - GRDC** in conjunction with NSW Farmers & HMLG **Grains Research Update.**

Bookings are required to me for catering purposes, cost \$20/hd. Topics include:  
Cereals in tight rotations, disease factors; N & P for crops - after frosts: Canola, Giving pulse a push, managing weeds in a minimum tillage system, Fertiliser in the right place.

**13 March, Southwest Slopes Farm Forestry Information Day**, S&C Club, Young. Cost \$10/hd 9.00am-3.30pm, bookings essential, you should have received a registration form in the mail, if not please give me a call.

**18/19 March - Farm Chemical User Accreditation Course** to be held in Boorowa, Cost \$120. Bookings with myself or Janelle Jenkins, Boorowa 02 6385 1018

**ACID SOILS ACTION PROJECT - 3 March**

Attached to this letter is a document outlining this project, if you would like to be a part of this please tear of the bottom and fax back ASAP.

**HMLG Sustainable Farming Systems Database - please return forms ASAP for 1998.**

The Final Report for 1997 is well underway and should be returned to you by end of March. The sooner 1998 data is returned the quicker that report will be returned, hopefully prior to sowing.

**19 April - Binalong AGM**, 7.30pm Binalong Hall. *Guest Speakers:* Sari Medway & Fiona Leech, NSW Agriculture. Topic: Results of the Acid Soil Action Binalong Trial Site

**1998 TREE ORDERS**

HMLG has organised a bulk order with Jayfields Nursery again this year. Would you please order your speedlings direct from Noel Passalacqua on 0260 367235, definite orders need to be placed end of March, 1999 for August delivery and please state they are part of the HMLG order. <sup>1</sup>

## **DRUM RECYCLING**

As you would be aware Harden Shire has closed all tips and they are now operating within certain hours. Drum recycling will take place shortly and once in place you will be advised, drums will need to be tripled rinsed and there will be no charge for drums that are recyclable.

DrumMUSTER -

The program will happen around Australia as councils agree to participate. Senator Troeth said drumMUSTER would result in a cleaner environment and safer farming.

"drumMUSTER is the environmentally responsible solution farmers have been looking for so they can dispose of their non-returnable crop protection and animal health chemical containers," she said.

"If each of the 4 million non-returnable chemical containers sold to farmers each year was placed end to end, the line would stretch from Melbourne to Sydney and back.

"drumMUSTER allows for this huge number of containers to be treated as a resource to be re-used and recycled, rather than as a waste product.

"The program is a voluntary initiative of all stakeholders in the agricultural chemical industry. It is an excellent example of an industry taking responsibility for its environment, and will serve as a model for other industries looking to do the same.

"A successful drumMUSTER will produce a cleaner environment and food chain, which will significantly enhance Australia's international reputation as a producer of safe, healthy food." drumMUSTER will be funded by a levy of 4 cents per litre or kilogram on crop protection and animal health products sold in non-returnable chemical containers.

The levy will pay for local councils to establish collection centres and process the empty, cleaned containers brought in by farmers. The program will not accept containers, which are not empty or have not been properly cleaned.

Containers brought into collection centres will be either refilled, recycled into plastic products, burnt to generate energy or shredded for landfill.

drumMUSTER is one of two components of the Industry Waste Reduction Agreement (IWRA), which has been developed by industry as the solution to safe disposal of cleaned chemical containers.

The IWRA also aims to reduce the amount of packaging at source by encouraging manufacturers to adopt alternative containers such as bulk or re-fillable, new packaging technology such as water soluble, and new formulations such as gel packs and granules.

**Holistic Management**, Funding for this course is to be applied for through Farmbiz, if you would like to participate and have not contacted me in the past, please book by 19 March.

Look forward to seeing as many members as possible to the AGM. Should you require any further information on any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Louise Hufton,  
HMLG Coordinator - 02 6386 8218 (ph) 02 6386 8212 (fax)

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<sup>1</sup> HARDEN SHIRE PROUDLY SUPPORTING HARDEN MURRUMBURRAH LANDCARE GROUP