

Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group

Newsletter No. 29 - 8 April, 2002

Annual General Meeting – HMLG Thursday 18 April 2002

Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 18th April 2002 at the Carrington Hotel, Harden.

Guest Speaker:

Robert Prince, General Manager Saltgrow

The presentation will discuss the development of salt tolerant hybrid eucalypts, Saltgrow. Saltgrow hybrid eucalypts have been developed under a research and development program to focus on a salt tolerant tree that can be planted in discharge, non-productive land for commercial farm forestry as well as environmental landscape rehabilitation.

The presentation will outline some of the 80 trial sites Australia wide; specifically low rainfall forestry at Harden, NSW.

PROGRAZE

Prograze is understanding the interaction between pastures and grazing animals. Understanding these principles is the key to improving grazing systems, providing the basis for sound and effective management decisions.

Robert will discuss the impact of the hybrids by environment interaction to salinity, insects and nutrition. The presentation will also cover the hydrological parameters influencing sustainable establishment of commercial plantations in salt affect catchments, extension of the hybrids in low rainfall dryland environments and refinement of silvicultural practices.

All are welcome, as this presentation will provide insight to the sea change of Australian Forestry and Natural Resource Management. If you have a particularly wet site this is an option worth considering.

- Visually assess pasture quality and quantity
 - Pasture Q&Q impact on animal production
 - Matching pasture to livestock requirements
 - Assess livestock fat score
 - Grazing management
 - Pasture species identification
 - Fodder budgetting
 - Pasture assessment for supplementary feeding decisions
 - Grazing management for worm control
- 8 1/2 day field trips, 3-4 weeks apart, course planned to start in June Cost \$197 after farm-bis
Bookings by 10 May, 2002

If you have email would you please forward your address; makes contact much easier & cheaper

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BINALONG Annual General Meeting

Monday

15 April, 2002 at the Binalong Hall commencing at 8pm

- ⇒ Election of Office Bearers
- ⇒ Financial Report
- ⇒ Speaker – to be finalised

Any members planning to plant trees next spring, orders need to be placed asap:-

Remember Greening the Grainbelt species list is a useful tool for correct species selection

www.anbg.gov.au/greening-grainbelt

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Ripper

HMLG has purchased a three point linkage ripper to assist members with their tree planting success. The ripper is being stored at Alcorns Fertilizer

- Cost \$20.00

HMLG GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER RECEIVES FROM HARDEN SHIRE COUNCIL

Douglas Creek & Well Sinkers Creek

As advised in a previous newsletter farmers in the Douglas Creek area have put together a project aiming to reduce the salt loads entering the Murrumbidgee River. Targetting on ground salinity control works in the Douglas creek & WellSinkers (Spring Creek, Galong) areas.

They intend to apply for funding to carry out works on river banks, saline discharge and steep ter-

Wallendbeen/Wombat area

The February meeting of HMLG saw a presentation by David Dent and Peter Baker, Bureau of Rural Science outlining results of satellite imagery they were investigating of the Jugiong Creek Catchment. Potential saline sites have been identified in the Wallendbeen/Wombat area. The farmers in this area are meeting on Thursday 11 April to discuss the groundtruthing of available data and of what use this information is as a management tool

Variation in soil pH across a paddock – Acid Soil Action Funded project

A detailed report of this project is now available, it is anticipated that it will be presented in full at the May/June meeting of HMLG. The executive summary of the project is included for your interest a complete available it required.

Following the electromagnetic survey of four paddocks in the Harden region using a Geonics EM38, soil samples were analysed from three depths at twenty locations within each paddock for pH, EC and exchangeable cation levels.

OUTLINE OF CHANGES TO 2002-2003 NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST GUIDELINES

New local component of the Trust is the Australian Government Envirofund

- targeted at small projects undertaken by local groups or individuals to carry out on-ground activity to target local problems

Significant points are:

- single page expression of interest option
- applications restricted to small community projects seeking from a few hundred dollars up to \$30,000 with a shorter guide and application form;
- limitation of employment costs to a maximum of 15% of Natural Heritage Trust funding; and
- provision of an online application form.

Major Changes to Guidelines

- for projects from a few hundred dollars up to \$30,000
- applicants restricted to community groups and individuals
- agencies cannot access the Australian Government Envirofund and must use the Regional component of the Trust
- shorter guidelines and project application form
- guide has decreased by about 50%)
- weed control is limited to public lands
- an upper limit of 15% to employment costs
- an online application form and guide will be available
- later closing date for applications (5 June) due to later publication of Guide addition of a standard first page seeking organisation information (this now is a requirement for all applications for Commonwealth programs)limits up to \$30,000
- If you have a project you would like to apply for funding please contact me asap

This process identified

- I) a significant range of soil parameters within individual paddocks,
- ii) differences between the three depths analysed indicating significant sub-surface acidity
- iii) identifiable relationships between the EM38 data and soil parameters, particularly when data was assessed between low, medium and high ECa ranges.

While initial analysis of the soil test data has been discussed, further assessment by a suitably qualified person is recommended to identify agronomically significant issues.

The project has identified the need for additional work to investigate the variation in spatial distribution and profile changes to more fully understand the potential for improved acid soil management.