

## [www.clw.csiro.au/fenceline](http://www.clw.csiro.au/fenceline)

[www.clw.csiro.au/fenceline](http://www.clw.csiro.au/fenceline) is the new Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group web site allowing farmers to view five soil moisture meters across the Jugiong Creek Catchment and find out how much moisture is available for their crops and pastures related to specific soil types. These sites are located at Mount View, Moppity Road; Lowlynn, Boorowa Road, Garangula (Jugiong Road) Traralgon (Barwang Road) & Binalong (Bendedine Road)

Traditionally, farmers look across fenceline but with this tool you can now look into the ground, the new web-linked technology that gives farmers real-time information on drainage and available moisture under different land management practices.

Across the Fenceline, a joint project between CSIRO, Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group, Natural Heritage Trust and the Grains Research & Development Corporation.

The project team has developed a new, relatively inexpensive remote sensing instrument that automatically monitors deep drainage on-farm and relays the data direct to farmers. These gadgets are deployed at strategic locations within the catchment with different soil types and land use. The chosen sites have become the regional focal point for farmers and advisors to meet with researchers to discuss water use efficiency, crop rotations and management options, providing possible solutions to the rising water tables, salinity and water quality. If you have any difficulty understanding the data, please do not hesitate to contact your agronomist or Paul Hutchenson, CSIRO Land & Water 69601558 or Louise Hufton 63863954

Louise Hufton, HMLG coordinator encourages farmers to visit the web site and let the group know how useful the information is to their operations. HMLG would like to thank the participants (David Cusack, Tony Flanery, Cameron Fairfield Smith, Jan & Max Giles & Peter Holding) & other committee members being Tim Condon, Fiona Leech, Paul Parker, Jim Wright for the enormous support they have given to bring this project to this point.

Warren Bond, CSIRO Land & Water gave a presentation to HMLG at the launch of this project his comments are reiterated on page 3 of this Newsletter..

## EnviroFund new round closes 18 February, 2005

Through EnviroFund, community groups can carry out effective on-ground work such as tree planting, fencing, weeding and seed-collecting to target local problems such as salinity, water quality, protection of native vegetation and coastal erosion. Grants approved this year include \$87,525 for fencing and plantings across the Jugiong Creek Catchment as part of a totally Australia

wide amount of \$8.4million. HMLG is pleased to have supported these applications and encourage any members of the community to apply for funding to assist with their rehabilitation projects in the current round of funding

The funding limit has been raised to \$50,000 (GST inclusive) for projects where the magnitude, complexity or public benefit of the project is such that additional funding would be beneficial. Applicants seeking more than \$30,000 will be asked to provide reasons why their project merits funding above that amount. The standard rate paid for fencing has been raised to \$2,000 (GST inclusive) per kilometre. A matching contribution that is less than the funding sought will be acceptable, particularly against amounts above \$30,000, provided that the applicant has made a genuine effort to provide a reasonable contribution to the project. For assistance with your application please do not hesitate to contact Louise Hufton, Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group & Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, 63863954 by 10/2/05. Application forms are available by calling 1800 065823 or Louise.

# Successful EnviroFund Applications 2004 –2005:

- Coppabella Biodiversity (T. Reeves) –\$6,695
- 2005 Wallandoon East Tree Project (K Baldry) –\$10,554
- Gooramma Revegetation Project (D Flanery) –\$ 4,454
- Increasing Biodiversity in Kingsvale (J McGrath) –\$8,018
- Riley’s Creek Headwaters Revegetation & Salinity (B Daly) –\$19,382
- Extending the Restoration of the Upper Reaches of the Jugiong Creek (L Erwin) –\$7,272
- Jugiong Creek Catchment Environmental Management (S Murphy) – \$ 11,273
- Revegetation and Ground water interception, Coppabella Range (S Robinson) –\$ 5,272

## Project Agreement signed for Catchment Salinity & Water Quality Project

A contract has been signed between the HMLG and the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (MCMA) on the

27 October. We are now at the stage of finalising the operational details for the project concerning,

- rates of payment for on-ground works such as fencing, trees, salt tolerant pasture, etc,
- the project communication strategy,
- training requirements,
- landholder contracts, and
- monitoring and evaluation procedures.

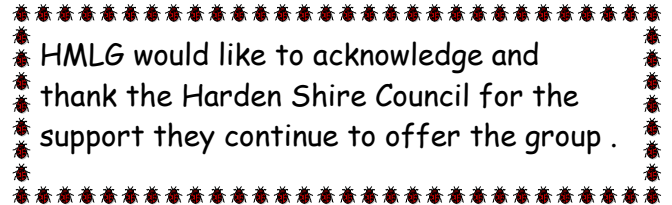
It is anticipated that these operational details will be finalised by the end of December. Then we can move on to the next phase of the project which will involve talking to landholders about the types of works they wish to implement on their properties and developing works plans accordingly. Then we can get on with the job of putting some work on the ground, which will start happening by the end of January with any luck.

Kathleen Harvey has been appointed project officer, to work on the three targeted projects between Muttama, Jugiong and Yass commencing 20 December, 2004

The Management Committee for the project consists of David Cusack, Neil McColl & Don Constable– Landholders in each subcatchment, Andrew Baker(HAS) & John McGrath (HMLG), Chris Howarth & Louise Hufton Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority. The group will be the decision-making body and provide direction for the project’s implementation.

Initially work will begin in Well Sinkers, Douglas & Boorowa Flats Catchment and further planning may occur in other Areas including Moppity, Barwang, Bobbara Flat, Bobbara & Spring Creeks. Works to be undertaken will include structural soil conservation works and riverine replanting’s to restore creek banks, fencing to aid in re-vegetation, The planting of perennial pastures and native trees and shrubs on recharge and discharge areas, where water enters the ground-water system, leading to salinity problems.

Contributed by Chris Howarth, Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority Catchment Officer - Cootamundra



HMLG would like to acknowledge and thank the Harden Shire Council for the support they continue to offer the group .

## Bio-control agents in Harden

Onopordum thistles (ie scotch) seem to be showing extensive damage from the lixus car- dui (stem borer) and limited from the Larinus latus(seed weevil), I would be interested to hear if this is your experience. CSIRO are interested in finding un-grazed sites for an autumn re- lease (ie fenced in tree lines where grazing will be excluded for three years) of Trichosirocalus Breisei a new rosette weevil, that attacks the plants during the winter months, will reduce and kill plant when numbers are great enough!

Mathew Smyth, CSIRO Entomology has re- leased new a flea beetle (longitarsus echii) for Patterson’s Curse control that lays eggs into the taproot of the rosettes and the larvae feed on that taproot reducing its ability to grow. Sites where crown weevil (Mogulones larvatus) releases were made 2



## REMINDER:

- Binalong December meeting & Christmas Party
- Monday 20 December, 2004
- Binalong Hotel—8.00pm
- Please bring a plate to share
- All welcome

# MURRUMBIDGEE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (MCMA) NEWS

***A website has also been established [www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au), which provides information on important projects, upcoming events and CMA updates and issues.***

## APPOINTMENT OF NEW OFFICER

Lucy Breen has recently been appointed as a Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator by the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority and is based in Wagga Wagga. She has previously worked for the TOPCROP program in Victoria.

The project Lucy is working on is called 'Profitable farmers, sustainable systems, healthy landscapes', funded by the National Landcare Program. It is one of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority's investment projects that will contribute the Murrumbidgee Grain and Graze consortium; the basic premise being to boost profitability of farmers while helping to protect the natural environment.

### Jugiong Creek Catchment Project — Stubble management options

A committee of Andrew Baker, Jamie Brown, Tim Condon, Kerrie Hammond, Peter Holding, Paul Parker, Peter Webber & Louise Hufton has been formed to support and manage this project.

#### Objectives:

- How do we manage stubble efficiently and cheaply?
- What impacts do various management techniques have on soil moisture, soil structure (compaction) ground water and stock condition?
- What management techniques have been attempted on individual farms and what was the result? For what reasons are these methods still being used or been dropped (ie workload, logistics, economics, environmental, machinery)
- Are stubble digesters effective and are they affected by fungicide-treatments stubble?
- If so to what extent.
- Trials will be undertaken on two farms (one higher rainfall than the other) plus one control.

If you are trialling anything alternate & innovative with your stubble management and would like to have the results monitored please contacted Louise prior to the completion of your harvest.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Watmore—winner of the HMLG prize at Murrumburrah High School 2004 presentation day for her awareness of environmental matters & her initiative.

#### Identifying constraints to increased canola yield in central & southern NSW.

Report compiled by Ashley Mead, Department of Primary Industries and funded by GRDC & DPI has been recently published using some data collected from HMLG Database in 1995, 1996 & 1997. Complete copies available from DPI, Cowra (63499718) or summary from HMLG office

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\* Bunyip Pre-School supported by HMLG successfully \*  
\* gained funding from Landcare Australia & Mitre 10 for \*  
\* a Junior Landcare group and planting project within \*  
\* their grounds during 2004. The children undertook a \*  
\* seed propagation day with Brain Cumberland from \*  
\* Greening Australia and \*  
\* successfully propagated several boxes of native trees & \*  
\* shrubs. \*  
\* I have recently visited their renovated play area and \*  
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