



Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group  
Newsletter – 13 September, 2005



**Murrumbidgee CMA**  
supported by  
**Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group**

**Information Session: Incentives for Landholders**

Keith & Sue Smith, Hillside Shearing Shed  
Bouyeo Road, Harden.  
(1km from Harden on the right hand side)

Thursday, 22 September 2005  
3.00pm to 5.30pm

- 3.00 Afternoon tea & aims of the afternoon outlined by Chairman – David Cusack, Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group
- 3.15 Perennial Pastures Project – walk into adjoining paddock, discussion on weed management and site preparation for Spring, 2005 required if planning to establish pasture in 2006. – Janelle Jenkins & Mike Keys DPI
- 4.00 Detail of MCMA projects & incentives (10/15 minutes each):
  - River Restoration and Gully Control – Tim Loffler/Ted O’Kane (Earthtech/Greening Australia)
  - Benchmarking Soil Chemistry – Jennifer Hardwicke DPI
  - Perennial Pasture Project – Janelle Jenkins & Mike Keys DPI
  - Farm forestry establishment – Rob Kuiper MCMA
  - Jugiong Creek Salinity & Water Quality Project – John McGrath, Committee Chair
- 5.00 Questions

**EACH PROJECT OBJECTIVES ARE BRIEFLY OUTLINED BELOW, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND AND WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU CONTACT LOUISE HUFTON 63863954 TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE INCLUDED IN THIS LIMITED OPPORTUNITY**

HMLG acknowledges with thanks the continuing support it receives from Harden Shire Council.

## Perennial Pastures project

Funding is available to establish and or management perennial pastures to address salinity and water quality issues. Up to \$3,000/property is available for sowing perennial pasture in recharge zones, sowing saline pasture, sowing pasture demons better management of existing perennial pastures and training.

Your commitment if eligible:

- ❖ minimum property size of 80ha and provide a minimum of 2ha for pasture establishment
- ❖ controlled weeds and pests of all sites pre sowing,
- ❖ spray topped or spray fallowed the spring-summer for grass and broad leaf weed control
- ❖ located in Category A or B subcatchments of Jugiong Creek (map in Shire foyer)
- ❖ prepared to enter into an agreement to manage pastures for long term sustainability
- ❖ sow pasture in autumn/winter/spring 2005/2006
- ❖ prepared to update or develop a workable farm plant –aerial photo provided for project
- ❖ pasture assessment & record establishment details.
- ❖ undertake Prograze or Landscan training

### Eligible subcatchments

**Category A** – Douglas Creek, Boorowa Flat & Limestone Creek.

**Category B** - Cunningham, Trench, Moppity, Rileys, Irish Jacks, Barwang, Currawang, Cunningham Plains, Paddy Doyles Gully, Blind, Walls, Rocky Ponds, Jugiong, Stony, Illalong, Bobbara Flat, tributaries of Cooney's, including Rosehill, Duck, Jellambi, Deep & Kyron Creeks.

**Category C** – training incentives are available to all sub-catchments in the Jugiong Creek.

### The River Restoration Project aims to improve water quality by reducing in-stream sediment.

The project will target sites that deliver large quantities of sediment to the stream systems of the Murrumbidgee catchment. The project will also protect high quality riparian vegetation that is at risk and enhance biodiversity. Lower sediment loads result in:

- Reduced nutrient loads
- Improved in-stream habitat
- Improved water quality
- More stable stream shape and size.

Funding will be targeted using a prioritisation approach that considers current and future sediment supply, current riparian condition and the level of landholder and community involvement. The Jugiong/Harden, area is a high priority for the project however sites outside of these areas will be considered for inclusion.

Works which may be supported through the River Restoration Project include:

- Fencing of remnant vegetation in the riparian corridor
- Fencing to control stock access to the stream bank and bed
- Earthworks and structural measures to control stream erosion and incision processes
- Provision of alternative off-stream stock watering points
- Re-establishment of native riparian vegetation including trees, shrubs and grasses

### Stubble Trials

The survey and trials sites are currently being finalised and it is anticipated that results will be forwarded in October, 2005. Funding has been secured to replicate these trials in 2006 through the MCMA Grain & Graze project

Harden Shire Council has successfully negotiated for Telstra to install ADSL broadband into each telephone exchange within the Harden Shire. As part of this deal Telstra have agreed to resolve any problems currently being experienced. This means that if you have any problems at all with your line, the time it takes to repair, lines running along fences, crackling while you are talking, drop outs as a result of weather changes or anything else then we need to talk to you. Telstra have exchange maps to mark your fault on. It is then placed in a list of priorities to ensure the services are working well enough to take the ADSL function. This is an ideal opportunity to ensure that your lines are working to their full capacity. Telstra representatives will be returning to Council Chambers shortly, you can make an appointment at Council to see Telstra by phoning 02 6386 2305 and asking for Carri or by emailing your details to [adsl@harden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:adsl@harden.nsw.gov.au)

*Communication is far more efficient and cheaper if I have your email details please take the time to send them in and ensure that you receive the most current information.*

*Any further information on anything mentioned in this Newsletter please do not hesitate to contact*

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**PROGRAZE course** -this course is conducted by Phil Graham, DPI,Yass, names are currently being taken for another course to commence later this year.

### Community Water Grants

Through the Australian Government's Water Fund, grants up to \$50,000 are available to community groups for projects which save, reuse or improve water.

Eligible projects include:

- ❖ Water saving & efficiency such as installing water saving devices in community facilities, improvements to town water supply infrastructure to reduce losses from evaporation or leakage, improving water efficiency of community buildings such as school and implement best practice irrigation systems.
- ❖ Water Reuse & recycling such as harvesting rainwater and using rainwater or recycled water to maintain community grounds and sporting fields.
- ❖ Improving water quality such as erosion control, creek and riverbank repair, cleaning up water waterways and reduction in pollution in rivers or groundwater.

Applications close 4/10/ 2005. Application at <http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au> for 1800780 730

*Remember you can check soil moisture:* [www.clw.csiro.au/fenceline](http://www.clw.csiro.au/fenceline)

### *Upcoming events:*

- ❖ **Binalong Landcare Group**, Farm walk & meeting at Janice & Michael Schultz looking at erosion management & the use of earthworks in some areas – *Monday 17 October, 2005*
- ❖ **YLAD Living Soils** The future of Agriculture Seminar & workshop, "Milgadara" Young 5 October, 2005 bookings with Rhonda Daly (02) 6382 2165
- ❖ **Binalong Landcare Group**, bird identification morning walk, Bobbara Creek speaker Nicky Taws, Greening Australia, Friday 4 November, 2005
- ❖ **Binalong Landcare Group** – November re-visiting pasture trials sites established by Belinda Hackney, Department of Primary Industries in 2004 at 'Glenroy'
- ❖ **HMLG** – re-visiting Mount Bobbara native grasses trial site with Jim Virgona, Charles Sturt University prior to a second grazing.
- ❖ **Galong Mine Revegetation Project** – 2006 applications will be available & close in October, 2006. This project aims to provide farmers in the vicinity of the Galong Lime Kiln with an opportunity to carry out land rehabilitation and water quality restoration works. Blue Circle Southern-Minerals and Bobbara Pastoral Company provide the funding for this project.

## Benchmarking and understanding soil chemistry to better manage acidity, salinity, sodicity and soil structure.

**The Benchmarking and Understanding Soil Chemistry Project offers land-holders the opportunity to improve their soil management.**

- ❖ Learn how to interpret soil tests -
  - ❖ no longer rely on others to tell you what you need to spend!
  - ❖ Match your production to your soils
  - ❖ Improve productivity by understanding the influence of soils and matching your farming activity with soil and land capability
  - ❖ Recognise soil health problems and get the skills and knowledge needed to deal with them.
- A series of 4 workshops that will be held for local small groups based on LANDSCAN™ and PROGRAZE™ learning formats. Workshops will be tailored to fit local soils and farming practices.

### **What you can expect to learn:**

- ❖ How to sample paddocks for representative soil tests
- ❖ How to interpret soil tests
- ❖ Understand plant nutrition
- ❖ Understand the physical and chemical properties of soils
- ❖ The production limitations of soil health problems and how to manage them
- ❖ Understand how to prioritise expenditure on soil health activity to maximise return.

### **What you can expect to gain:**

- ❖ Information booklet on how to interpret soil tests
- ❖ Up to 8 low cost dual depth soil tests.
- ❖ The project will subsidise soil tests for the first
- ❖ Up to 4 paddocks at \$35 per pasture paddock or \$40 per cropping paddock. An additional 4 paddocks can also be tested at a reduced cost of \$70 per pasture and \$80 per cropping paddock
- ❖ Soil test will be taken at 0-10cm and 10-20cm depths
- ❖ Benchmarking data to compare your paddock against other local paddocks
- ❖ Best Management Practice information to maximise soil health and production
- ❖ Information on how to best match fertiliser needs to production
- ❖ Information on soil problems on your farm and how to address them.

### **Soil health problems dealt with:**

- ❖ Acidity
- ❖ Sodicity
- ❖ Salinity
- ❖ Fertility decline
- ❖ Dispersion and soil structural problems
- ❖ Low organic matter content.

### Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Award 2005

congratulations to this years winners

Winner: Geoff Henderson, Glenroy, Binalong  
Runners Up: Ruth Lovisolo, & Laurie Erwin, 'Restalig'  
Rod Madgwick, "Watershed"

Our thanks to the judges:

Alison Archer, Director, Envirofund, Canberra  
Kel Landfield, Catchment Officer, MCMA, Wagga  
Phil Bowden, DA, Dept. Primary Industries, Cootamundra  
Neil McColl, winner 2005

and the Sponsor:

Murray Darling Basin Commission who donated "The Darling" as a memento to each entrant