



*"A healthy productive Murrumbidgee catchment and its communities working together – Yindymarra"*

## 2006 HMLG award winner – Peter Cusack

Runners up – Mark O'Connor & Janice & Michael Schulze

our thanks to this years judging panel-

Fiona Leech, DPI Yass, Gavin Pryde, MCMA Queanbeyan, Keith Armstrong Envirofund & Geoff Henderson winner of 2005 HMLG

### **Mine project allocated \$30,000 to restoration projects.**

Blue Circle Southern & Bobbara Pastoral Company are pleased to announce that in conjunction with Harden Murrumburrah Landcare group, Binalong subgroup and the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority \$30,000 has been allocated in 2007 to projects around the Galong Mine. Anthony Guinness, Chairman of Bobbara Station said he is pleased to be part of a project that gives the local community benefits from the expansion of the Galong Mine by funding this extremely important local environmental project. Likewise Peter Richardson, General Manager, Blue Circle Minerals, said Boral & Blue Circle Southern are committed to supporting both the local community and landcare project as the Galong Mine is developed.

In 2005 this Blue Circle Boral – Bobbara partnership provided \$34,500 for land rehabilitation projects that have included earthworks to assist stabilise an actively eroding gully, shelter belts for livestock and habitat birdlife as well as labour to carry out approximately 16.6km of fencing. Again in 2006 the partnership saw the allocation of \$35,000 for similar projects.

The project focus' on the sub-catchments in the Jugiong Creek surrounding the Galong Mine & kiln and aims to reduce high concentrations of salt and sediment entering into the Murrumbidgee River. Eligible projects include fencing to manage stock access along streams and the provision of alternative watering points, replanting and protection of high conservation value remnant and riparian vegetation and labour to undertake these additional works. Please contact Louise Hufton for a 2007 application form; applications will close on 15/12/06

## Types of Programs

### Incentives

The Murrumbidgee CMA may pay for the supply of trees/shrubs and planting or direct seeding, materials for fencing, ripping if required, and up to \$3000 for alternate watering points.

Specifications for materials, labour and equipment apply.

On-ground activities include:

- Protecting and enhancing remnant native vegetation
- Stewardship payments for larger remnant vegetation sites
- Revegetating with local native species or establishing farm forestry
- Establishing wildlife corridors (minimum width of 30m)
- Protecting and enhancing creeks, rivers and wetland sites
- Providing alternate stock watering points where dams or creeks have been fenced out
- Managing saline recharge and discharge areas
- Erosion control and willow removal

### Perennial pastures funding-

- **\$10/ha/pa/10years for perennial grass based pasture payment on establishment**
- **\$15/ha/pa/10 years for lucernes based pasture payment on establishment**
- **this will be randomly audited over the timeframe**
- **Saline pastures - \$300/ha/10years**
- **Grazing management for large native or introduced perennial pasture. \$65.00/ha to help cover the cost of subdividing large paddocks and to provide new water points if required.**

**Training for grazing management for people undertaking the above incentives. Training available from a list of approved MCMA providers for 100% of costs up to \$2500.00/landholder**





**NSW Government invests \$2.5 million in climate research** The State Government will invest \$2.5 million in climate research in an effort to shed light on the management of climate change for the State's primary industries and the environment. The funding has been provided to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) under the NSW Greenhouse Plan to bolster its research capacity to address climate change. The research will look at a range of subjects from soil and pasture management through to educating farmers about understanding climate change predications. The funding will support 10 regional forums in partnership with CMAs, Landcare and **Local Government**, to help farmers and rural communities understand current climate change predictions.

## Profitable Animal Production (Evergraze)

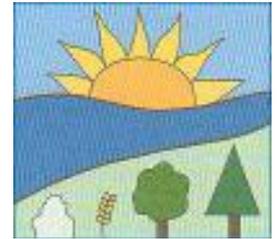
Evergraze is a national project funded by Meat and Livestock Australia and the Salinity CRC, with research sites located in the Murrumbidgee (NSW), Glenelg Hopkins (Victoria and Albany Eastern Hinterland (WA) catchments. Many of the land and water based targets in the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (MCMA) Catchment Action Plan relate to the increase of perennial vegetation in the mid and upper areas of the catchment in an effort to control recharge for dryland salinity remediation. This project aims to assist in the meeting of these targets by highlight to landholders both the production and sustainability benefits that perennial systems can add to grazing enterprises. Currently we have 3 projects underway in the Harden/ Murrumburrah area, these are:

1. An 8 hectare paddock that has an old stand of Lucerne which is approximately 8 years of age. We will be increasing the perennial component of the pasture by complimenting the existing Lucerne stand and increasing the productivity potential of the pasture as a whole. We hope to provide more fodder when the Lucerne is not active and increase the water usage and minimise the bare ground between the Lucerne plants within the paddock. This will be done by trialling several different perennial species and benchmark their growth against the Lucerne. Results will allow us to ascertain which species is most suitable.
2. Improving a pasture which is currently infested with *Juncus acutus* by utilising a perennial base pasture and ensuring productivity can be gained and to test the long term effects of establishing a permanent pasture in its replacement. Cultivars will be trialled as to which has the best capabilities for quick establishment and suppressing potential re-growth of the *Juncus* sp. Increasing the production potential of the pasture with perennials. The paddock is approximately 6 hectares in size
3. The third paddock is a Chicory, Lucerne and sub clover base which was sown in winter 2003. Different rates of chemicals will be applied to measure the decline of annual grasses and the growth of the permanent pasture. Each application will be monitored and the results documented. Each project will have a demonstration day which will be publicised to the local community to encourage landholders to come along and look at the results of each projects and to also gain an insight into the national projects and the data which they are collating.

Vivien Thomson Project Officer Evergraze 0428 264957

## [www.murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au](http://www.murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au)

The Murrumbidgee Landcare Association (MLA) is a grass-roots, umbrella organisation representing the 15 Landcare Networks in the Murrumbidgee catchment. Our role is to represent the voice of landcare to local, state and federal government. The MLA meets quarterly with the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority to discuss landcare issues. The MLA's role includes developing partnerships with other bodies also, including private business and industry and non-government organisations.



The MLA has recently established an office in Wagga Wagga which is staffed part-time.

The new Secretariat Officer, Marion Benjamin, can be contacted at:  
Office 19, Wagga Business Enterprise Centre  
66 Coleman Street, Wagga Wagga;  
P.O.Box 710, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650  
ph. 6925 7718  
fax. 6925 7807  
email. [mlaoffice@murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au](mailto:mlaoffice@murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au)

The MLA website is currently being redeveloped. A valuable tool the new website will be able to offer the landcare community is a discussion forum which we hope will provide a new avenue for discussing and promoting the importance of landcare.

## HMLG 2006 Cereal Stubble Management Trial

Results of work completed after 2006 harvest revealed that throughout the trial, the seasonal conditions consisted of minimal effective rainfall and higher than average temperatures. With the decomposition of stubble largely determine by moisture and temperature, it is apparent conditions were not conducive to a high rate of stubble decomposition.

There was no significant difference between the effects of various treatments on resultant stubble loads. However, it was observed that certain treatments such as grazing, stubble cruncher, low harvest height and Coolamon harrows resulted in more stubble in contact with the soil surface. To maximise stubble decomposition by soil microbes, optimum conditions of close stubble-soil contact plus adequate nitrogen, moisture, temperature and oxygen are required.

The trial conducted by HMLG has attempted to provide producers with alternative options for the management of cereal stubbles, to reduce the need for burning. This grower scale trial has highlighted the variability that can occur with stubble loads across an area, and the implications this can have on assessing the effectiveness of various treatments. It has provided an opportunity for more rigorous scientific work to be conducted on the management options available for cereal stubbles, whereby this variability can be minimised.

Due to the variability of stubble load across a paddock, continuing the trial in its present format would be difficult. In 2006/2007 the HMLG plans to undertake a number of case studies looking at current best management practice of cereal stubbles across the Jugiong Creek Catchment.

The Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group (HMLG) would like to thank Bobbara Station, in particular Rob McColl for hosting the site and his ongoing & substantial support of the project. Thank you to the Department of Primary Industries, Farming Systems Agronomist Guy McMullen and his team for all the technical input, management of the trial site, data collection, analysis and final report. Thank you also to the project management committee including Tim Condon, David Cusack, Hugh Flanery, Kerrie Hammond, Peter Holding, Rob McColl, Guy McMullen & Paul Parker. Further information about the project and a copy of the final report is available from Louise Hufton, MCMA office in the Harden Shire Council.

**Harden Murrumburrah LANDCARE GROUP EXECUTIVE 2005/06:**  
**HMLG Chairman:** John McGrath      **Binalong Chair:** Geoff Henderson  
**Secretary:** Sue Bradford      **Treasurer:** M O'Connor      **Binalong Secretary:** Donna Reid





# Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Newsletter

## Binalong farmer joint winner of Regional Landcare Award

Binalong farmer, Geoff Henderson has been recognised for innovative environmental conservation and sustainable land management at the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) inaugural Regional Landcare Awards, held in Murrumbateman on September 13th.

Geoff Henderson, 'Glenroy' Binalong was nominated for this award as winner of the 2005 Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Award and is the joint winner of the Primary Producer Award. Geoff Henderson manages "Glenroy", a 1217 hectare property on the watershed of both the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan catchments. The property that was devoid of any healthy trees, with some paddocks having no trees at all. Stock shelter was absent. Severe gully erosion had developed through the middle of the property and large areas of dryland salinity were also evident and a major concern to farm productivity. Since the first plantings in August 2000, around 10,000 trees have been established, protecting over 46 hectares of land. More than ten kilometers of fencing has been carried out and around 5,000 tree established by direct seeding to protect the environment. Stock has been excluded from eroding and sensitive gullies and flow-lines. Geoff has a target of 80 per cent ground cover, and is well on the way to achieving this goal.

"My involvement in Landcare and the philosophies associated with sustainable agriculture continue to challenge me. It is difficult to quantify the immense satisfaction I have gained from seeing a barren unattractive property being transformed into a highly productive, visually attractive landscape. Much has been achieved but there are still significant improvements to be implemented" said Geoff. "I am delighted to have won this award and look forward to working as part of Binalong Landcare as an advocate of sustainable agricultural practices".

## Farm Forestry at Harden

Peter & Mark O'Connor have established 10 hectares of farm forestry on the property "Oxton Park West" on the corner of Wombat & Kingsvale Roads, with incentive funds from the Murrumbidgee CMA's project "Establish Agroforestry for Groundwater Interception."

The site is located on a less productive portion of a cropping/pasture paddock with sections that often became water logged in "normal" rainfall years. All aspects of the site preparation and planting followed best practices for establishing farm forestry. Ongoing farm forestry advice was regularly given by Rob Kuiper, the Murrumbidgee CMA Farm Forestry Officer. A variety of eucalypt species has been planted that are suited to the site for potential harvest in 25-30 years, providing a possible alternate source of income. In addition the trees will provide shelter for grazing stock, improvements in soils conditions and increased biodiversity.

The CMA funding is from the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust and therefore has to demonstrate a positive salinity outcome for the Murrumbidgee River by lowering salt levels in the river.

At last inspection during early November the survival rate was 98% in one of the most difficult planting seasons ever experienced. This high rate of survival can be attributed to the high standard of site preparation and planting. However, summer has not yet commenced and survival will be monitored closely over the coming months.

## Jugiong Creek Salinity & Water Quality Project

The Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority has received funding from the National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality program (NAP) to encourage landholders to implement best management practises to reduce salinity and sediment entering the Murrumbidgee River.

A Project Implementation Committee has made up of representatives from the targeted catchments plus two independent representatives from HMLG, being Sue Braford (Chair), John McGrath, Neil McColl, Shaun Robinson Ken Clark & Belinda Miller. Within the Jugiong Creek catchment the sub-catchment areas targeted will be Category A Douglas, Boorowa Flats, Corcorans, Five Mile, Four Mile, Rocky Ponds, Limestone, Well Sinkers & Six Mile Creeks. Category B: Trench, Mopity, Riley's, Irish Jacks, Barwang, Bobbora Flat, Bobbora, Stony, Cunningham Creek, Category C: Blind, Currawang, Paddy's Doyle Gully, Cunningham Plains, Walls, Rocky Ponds & Illalong Creek. If your property is within these subcatchments and you have not advised Louise Hufton 63863954 you would like to participate The project provides landowners with financial assistance for fencing materials, ripping, planting, trees & shrubs, off stream watering points and some earth works. Landowners are required to match funding with in-kind contributions such as labour for fence construction, installation of water point, site preparation

## REMINDER:

Any one planting trees in 2007 orders need to be placed in Dec/Jan & site prepared to prevent weed competition.

**Water audit - if you are reliant on dam water for the coming summer it is important that you access your current water stocks to determine if you have enough to get through to the autumn break! DPI have developed a simple method of undertaking a water audit, dam capacity, I have a flier I can fax or mail**



Rural women's Get Together at the Harden Country Club Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2006 10 am - 2 pm

Apart from the opportunity to network & enjoy a FREE morning tea & lunch, the day will include exploring some simple & fun relaxation & stress management techniques & find out More about the Rural Women's Network (RWN) also talk to the range of Drought and Health Professional that will be in Attendance.

Young RLPB & DPI invite you to a drought information session at Harden Country Club on Tuesday 28 November @ 4pm

Topics include

Feeding stock, water requirements & drought support staff

Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority:

Chairman: Lee O'Brien General Manager: John Searson

PO Box 5224 WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650



If undeliverable return to:  
**Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group**  
**PO Box 145**  
**HARDEN NSW 2587**

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For further information:

Murrumbidgee CMA Community Support Officer  
**Louise Hufton**

Phone 02 63863954

Mobile 0428 863594

Email: [louise.hufton@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:louise.hufton@cma.nsw.gov.au)



**Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority**

Level 1, 43—45 Johnston St, Wagga Wagga

P.O.Box 5224 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Phone 02 6932 3232 Fax 02 6932 3269

[www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au)

## Dates for Your Diary

- Binalong Christmas Party Monday 18/12/06 at the Binalong Pub, 8pm bring a plate and enjoy a few beers with your neighbours.
- Rural Womens Get Together Day at the Harden Country Club, Tuesday 28 November, 2006 10am—2pm —enjoy the opportunity to enjoy a free morning tea & lunch, and explore simple relaxation and stress management techniques, talk about a range of drought & health issues with the number of professionals that will be in attendance, RSVP for catering to 63862483 or Megan Beal 63868225
- Young RLPB & NSW DPI invite you to attend a drought information and family gathering Tuesday 28 November, 2006 commencing at 4pm (after the pamper afternoon) topics include feeding stock, water requirements, drought support availability & question times—further info Young RLPB 63821255

Wishing every one a safe and merry Christmas with lots of joy & moisture in the coming year, thanks for the support you have given me over the year, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require advice on anything in this letter.

Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group proudly supported by:  
Harden Shire Council.

