

Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group

Annual General Meeting Thursday 16 April, 2009

**VENUE: Harden Bowling Club
commencing at 7.30pm**

**Speaker: Drue Edwards, Bureau of Rural Science
Topic: Results of the community stream monitoring project**

Winner: Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group – Community Stream Monitoring Project

Congratulations to the members of the Harden Murrumburrah community Stream monitoring team the diligence and persistence that has been shown despite the extraordinary low rainfall and stream flow has won the Murrumbidgee Landcare Community Award announced last Tuesday in Griffith. Many thanks to Mark O'Connor and Donna Reid for making the trip to Griffith to represent you at the Awards.. The Awards were supported by the Murrumbidgee CMA and Peter holding was the MC for the evening.

With the support of the Murrumbidgee CMA, enthusiastic and determined HMLG members have seen the *Community Stream Monitoring Project* develop from a pilot farm-scale salinity investigation into a broad scale water quality project calling on some 40 landholders to collect data on a regular basis. The Jugiong Creek Community Stream Sampling project aims to identify and rank the sub-catchments within the Jugiong Creek catchment with respect to base flow water salinity. This information will enable land managers to target future investment and land management strategies to improve water quality in the Jugiong Creek catchment. The Project has been used as a model for the development of a catchment wide monitoring project currently being managed by the Murrumbidgee CMA. The data has also been used in council environment reports and numerous partnerships to facilitate and promote better land management practices have since been developed. The data has been collated on a web page, which can be accessed by landholders & members of the community. This website provides access for the community monitors to upload their monthly salinity data and for the public to view data maps and reports for the Jugiong Creek catchment the results of this will be part of the Bureau of Rural Sciences presentation at the HMLG AGM on Thursday 16 April, 2009

This has been a collaborative project between Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS),

Murrumbidgee CMA & Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group and the data

collected is available at <http://adl.brs.gov.au/jugiongcass/index.cfm>





BINALONG LANDCARE

Subgroup of Harden Murrumburrah Landcare

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 20 APRIL 2009, 7.30PM

BINALONG HALL SUPPER ROOM

Members and guests are most welcome to attend the Binalong Landcare AGM.

Topic: Noxious plants and their control, including recent mistletoe experiments

Speaker: Southern Slopes Noxious Plants Authority.

Enquiries: David Sargent 6227 2890; Donna Reid 0412 660 057 or 6227 4237

STUBBLE RETENTION AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING SYSTEMS

More and more farmers are realising the benefits of retaining stubble on their cropping area post harvest. Trials under way in the Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group (HMLG) are looking at some of these benefits as well as some of the challenges that farmers face when sowing into heavy stubbles.

This project is being managed by Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc. with funding from the Woolworths Sustainable Farms Drought Program and support from NSW DPI and Murrumbidgee CMA. The aim is to compare a range of stubble management practices for their benefits in conserving soil moisture, providing a protective soil cover and improving crop productivity.

Demonstration sites have been set up across four Landcare districts in the South West Slopes cropping region including the HLMG. A range of typical farming systems have been selected as well as a range of different sowing systems giving the trial meaning to farmers big and small.

Five farmers in the HMLG are participating in this project. In each farmers paddock a range of different stubble management practices or treatments have been implemented comparing normal farm practice with other treatments that each Landcare group selected. Some of these treatments include-

- ✦ High and low cut at harvest
- ✦ Grazed and Ungrazed
- ✦ Mulching
- ✦ Incorporated with nutrients/stubble breakdown products
- ✦ Burnt and unburnt stubble

Stubble baled

An information and demonstration morning was recently held at 'Bobbora Station' Galong, one of the HLMG sites. Farmers were able to view a number of different stubble treatments and some preliminary trial results on stubble loads was presented. As well a representative from K-Line Industries at Cowra was on hand to demonstrate the company's 'Trash Cutter', a machine which lays the stubble to one side and then slices and bruises it with self sharpening discs, into short lengths with minimal soil disturbance

In conjunction with stubble load assessments soil moisture measurements have been taken at all sites post harvest. Following another round of soil testing pre-sowing, differences in moisture conservation levels will hopefully be realised. Further monitoring of these paddock demonstration sites through the year will give an indication of the best stubble management practices that can be adapted to the different areas and to the different farming systems being used. The project will also allow farmers to fine tune their cropping systems to make better use of their stubbles.

For more information contact-Tony Pratt,Conservation Farming Officer,NSW DPI , Cootamundra 69 424957



Land manager training

The Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority is offering land managers the opportunity to register an expression of interest to participate in one of the following training courses:

- Applied Grazing
- Grazing for Profit
- Holistic Resource Management
- Prograze
- Prograze Plus
- Prograze Abridged
- Paddock Plants
- Tactical Grazing management for Semi Arid Rangelands
- Landscan
- Landscan Abridged
- Stockplan
- Drought Recovery Strategies
- Managing Land Capability, Soil Erosion and Groundcover
- Climate Risk and Farm Water Supply
- Managing Climate Risk

Positions for training will be limited, and courses may not be available in all areas (depending on demand). Land managers will only be funded for one course.

Expressions of interest for training are **open between 13 March 2009 and 10 April 2009**. Training courses must be undertaken by 30 June 2009.

'Carbon Myth Busters'

When: Wednesday 8th April , 9am – 12.30pm.
Morning tea provided

Where: Young Services Club, Cloete Street, Young
RSVP: Friday 3 April, Paul Parker, 63801706

David Waters, soil scientist with NSW Department of Primary Industries, will present 'Carbon Myth Busters', a seminar developed by leading soil scientists to help farmers manage their response to the soil carbon debate.

Evergraze Field Day—Feed for nutrition and worm control
'How pasture management links to animal health and production'
Wednesday 8 April, 2009

Rod Blake, 'Illyra' 10km from Boowora on rye Park road
9.30—3.00 lunch provided

Guest Speakers—David Freudenberger (Science Director for Greening Australia) 'Managing pastures to meet the protein & energy requirement of sheep'

Lori Gould (GA) whole of paddock rehabilitation—the role of native pastures & trees

Sue Streatfield (GA) Acacia browse for worm control

RSVP—Christian Wythes, Lachlan CMA, Boorowa 63851018

The most efficient method of communication is email PLEASE send me any changed email addresses to ensure you remain informed of any opportunities as they become available

If undeliverable return to:
Murrumbidgee CMA
PO Box 145
Harden NSW 2587



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For further information:
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Louise Hufton
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Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority
Harden Office: Harden Shire Council, East Street
P.O Box 145, Harden 2587
Head Office: 43-45 Johnston St, Wagga Wagga
Phone 02 6932 3232 Fax 02 6932 3269

www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au

The Murrumbidgee CMA is funding a series of Native Grass Field Days in Yass, Queanbeyan and Cooma. The field days will be presented by Ian Chivers of Native Seeds P/L, who has recently presented similar field days in Braidwood for the Southern Rivers CMA. The titles of the local field days are: Native Grass Pastures and Pasture Establishment – the agricultural application of native grasses, and Site Rehabilitation using Native Grasses. Each field day will begin with a talk by Ian and will be followed by a site visit to see native grasses in situ. Attendees are asked to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat, sunscreen and water bottle.

The field days are planned for the following dates:

Yass 31 March 9am – 3pm: Native Grass Pastures and Pasture Establishment – the agricultural application of native grasses

Yass 2 April 9am – 3pm: Site Rehabilitation using Native Grasses

Queanbeyan 21 April 9am – 3pm: Native Grass Pastures and Pasture Establishment – the agricultural application of native grasses

Queanbeyan 23 April 9am – 3pm: Site Rehabilitation using Native Grasses