

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

## Annual General Meetings

### HARDEN MURRUMBURRAH LANDCARE GROUP

Tuesday 30 March, 2010 @ Harden Country Club

**BBQ @ 6:30pm to celebrate 20 years of HMLG**

Meeting commences 7:45pm

### Guest Speaker: Greg Butler, South Australia No-till Farmers Association

**Topic:** If farmers are to be held responsible for their carbon emissions then shouldn't they be rewarded for the carbon they sequest in the food crops they cultivate? And should the food consumer be at least be made aware of the carbon they emit when wasting food products? These thought provoking questions along with others will be explored as part of Greg's presentation.

### BINALONG LANDCARE

(Subgroup of Harden Murrumburrah Landcare)

**Monday 19 April, 2010 @ Binalong Hall  
(Supper Room)**

Starts 7:30pm - members and guests welcome

**Guest Speaker & Topic:** To be advised closer to the dates

### Enquiries:

Libby Elliot - 02 6227 4289

Donna Reid - 0412 660 057 / 02 6227 4237

## Managing Crop Risk

### A Managing Crop Risk by Monitoring Soil Moisture Workshop will be offered at Harden Country Club Tuesday March 30, 2:45pm – 7.00pm

A number of benefits can be gained from monitoring soil moisture in broad-acre cropping and primarily these include improved post-emergent nitrogen strategies and better grain marketing forecasts.

### Topics include:

What is Water; Soil Porosity and Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC); Soil Moisture Monitoring Tools; Water Holding Capacity; Infiltration Rates and Soil Constraints; Recharge and Drainage; Plant Available Water; Diurnal Root Activity and Crop Water Use; Seasonal Demands and Templates; Applications and Forecasting

Upfront course cost is \$330 inc GST with 100% of the cost reimbursed to primary producers via FarmReady. Only 15 places available

Contact Louise Hufton (02)6386 3954 for more details.

Bookings by Wednesday 24 to enable Farm Ready funding SANTFA would like to acknowledge the support of Sentek Sensor Technologies and our co-operating grower members in developing the data used in this course and the Commonwealth FarmReady Programme for making funding available to primary producers.

## Stubble retention & farming systems

More and more farmers are realising the benefits of retaining stubble on their cropping area post harvest. Trials are under way again in 2010, with Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group looking at these benefits as well as some of the challenges that farmers face when sowing into heavy stubbles anticipated from the great start to 2010.

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. Three 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.

It is anticipated that the final report for the 2009 project will be presented in April, 2010.

For more information contact-Tony Pratt, Conservation Farming Officer, NSW DPI , Cootamundra 02 69 424957

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## Monitoring Project Success

**Landholders who engage in a Property Vegetation Plan with Murrumbidgee CMA are provided with a Landholder Log to keep track of the project, contract and additional material, including photos.**

Its important to document the success of activities such as tree planting and any influences on the health of sites, such as rainfall, fire, preparation techniques etc. so together we can continually learn and improve our understanding of these practices.

If you haven't recorded the details of your site and taken some photos, we'd encourage you to pull the Landholder log off the shelf update so your ready to go with any questions when we call! These project diaries are important for us all to come back to when guiding management and to put in extra steps to get the right outcome when necessary.

If you require assistance with your record keeping please call Murrumbidgee CMA Natural Resource Officer Louise Hufton

## Binalong Alternative Fertiliser Trial

**Binalong Landcare and Industry & Investment NSW Yass**, will be holding a field walk and free BBQ on Tuesday 23 March, 2010 as part of the Bookham Ag Bureau's monthly meeting. We will be presenting the pasture and soil data collected during Year 1 of the **Alternative Fertiliser Trial**.

**Agenda:**

5.30-6.30pm

Assemble at Bookham Hall

Visit TeKooti trial site (approx 6km along Childowla Road)

6.30pm

BBQ at Bookham Hall

7.00-8.00pm

Presentation of Year 1 Trial Results

8.00pm

Bookham Ag Bureau monthly meeting

**RSVP: Fiona Leech 6226 2199 or 0427 201805**

## New Community Partnerships Forged

Local community groups successful in attaining funding through the Murrumbidgee CMA's newly launched *Community Partnerships* program, have today been officially announced by Murrumbidgee CMA Chairperson, Mr Lee O'Brien.

A total of 24 groups were selected by an evaluation panel from over 35 submissions from across the Murrumbidgee catchment, with projects selected based on their suitability in meeting the selection criteria to tackle important local environmental issues.

In the Harden Murrumburrah district, five groups have been successful in obtaining funding for local projects:

**Harden Murrumburrah Junior Rugby League Football Club:** this project will see the creation of a WaterWise garden around McLean Oval and surrounding streetscape in Harden as a demonstration and resource to community members

**Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group:** this group will undertake a series of workshops to increase landholders understanding and adoption of better land management practices

**Binalong Landcare Subgroup of Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group** will investigate the effects on soil microbial status of different fertiliser regimes

on perennial native grass pastures

**Murrumburrah - Harden Show Society Inc:** a project to restore and protect the Cunningham Plains Creek through weed control and revegetation activities to prevent erosion and sedimentation of the creek

**Murrumburrah Public School:** will restore 2ha of remnant grey box woodland in the school grounds through weed control and revegetation activities

Mr. O'Brien said the *Community Partnerships* program has been developed as part of the Australian Government's *Caring for Our Country* and is designed to increase community confidence and ability to manage environmental issues in the Murrumbidgee catchment.

"The response to this new program was excellent and community groups are to be commended for their hard work and commitment to the genuine interest in managing natural resources in their local areas," said Mr. O'Brien.

"Supporting practical community activities that tackle biodiversity loss, a decline in river and stream water quality and soil degradation is fundamental in achieving long-term interest and action in protecting our natural heritage and productivity."

## Landcare facilitator appointed

Rachel Eats, has been appointed as the Australian Government's Landcare Regional Facilitator for the Murrumbidgee Catchment.

Rachel's role will be to:

- promote the uptake of sustainable farm practices including soil, vegetation management and farming systems
- establish, support and develop Landcare and production groups and to help them link together and with regional NRM bodies
- promote opportunities for groups and networks to access public and private funds to improve on-farm NRM
- provide feedback to the Australian Government

Landcare networks have received a letter from Rachel outlining her role in further detail.

Rachel can be contacted at Murrumbidgee CMA Wagga Wagga Office on: (02) 6932 3273 or email Rachel.eats@cma.nsw.gov.au

## National Landcare Forum

**Adelaide 22—25 March, 2010**

'Celebrate, Communicate, Invigorate'

The theme of the Forum is 'Landcare celebrates – 20 years of achievements and future challenges'.

The Australian Government invites individuals, community groups, farmers, Indigenous land managers and researchers who are interested in protecting the environment and creating sustainable landscapes, lifestyles and livelihoods for the 21st century to attend the Forum. The program for the Forum will include presentations on the latest scientific research from leading scientists, plus networking and communications, how groups function and work together, succession planning, and the achievements of award winning landcare groups and current issues including climate change, carbon sequestration and food security.

David Cusack has been invited to speak on the first day of this conference as a community Landcarer

## Crop Water Use Efficiency Workshop

The Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority invites you to:

**Crop Water Use Efficiency - "Healthy Soils, Healthy Crops"** workshop conducted by Industry & Investment NSW (formerly NSW DPI).

- *Free Workshop*
- *2 Free Soil Tests*
- *Local Soil Pits*

(2 soil tests (0-10 & 10-20 for each test package = @ \$400)

This workshop is designed to assist farmers and land managers to improve soil and water management, and maximise water use efficiency. Topics covered include: Improving general understanding of soils and soil properties

Estimating water use efficiency

Maximising stored moisture & estimating stored moisture and expected yields

Budgeting Nitrogen applications

### HARDEN

**Where:** Newington Shearing Shed, Harden

**Directions:** from Harden - Burley Griffin Way turn left onto Newington Road

**When:** Thursday 25 March 2010

**Time:** 8:30am – 3:30pm

### BINALONG

**Where:** Mechanics Institute Binalong Hall

**When:** Wednesday 31 March 2010

**Time:** 9:00am – 4:00pm

### RSVP:

Paul Parker 0427 401582 or 63801706  
(Harden workshop)

Fiona Leech 6226 2199 or 0427 201805  
(Binalong workshop)

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