Catchment Management Authority Central West

Landcare Central West

Proud Supporter Australian Year of the Farmer 2012

MEDIA RELEASE

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BATHURST PRODUCER SHOWS INNOVATION IN FARMING

To celebrate the *2012 Australian Year of the Farmer* the Central West CMA in partnership with Central West Landcare will be showcasing some of our catchments most impressive examples of sustainable farming throughout the year.

The Year of the Farmer provides us with an ideal opportunity to recognise the great work our farmers do, tell some of their stories and share their experiences as they move toward an ecological approach to food and fibre production for our country.

Regional Landcare Facilitator, Danielle Littlewood said, "February's *Farmer of the Month* is Michael Inwood. Michael runs a farming enterprise near Bathurst and is renowned for using innovative practices to carry out his operations".

The Inwood's farm "Toulon" is a third generation, 840 ha superfine merino grazing and cropping enterprise. His farm is a fine example of how Central West farmers are "thinking outside the square" and developing ways to be more environmentally friendly in their farming practices.

Michael supports the sustainability of their farming business with the use of a solar powered 'tractor', renewable energy sources, low impact cropping techniques, advanced grazing management and biodiversity conservation practices.

Michael converted his Mitsubishi Triton ute to electric-power with help from the Central West CMA. Now it not only runs on green energy but is capable of pulling a modified Agrowplow disc seeder, resulting in zero-emissions and carbon neutral cropping.

Michael said, "Our landscape management is driven by our natural resource management plan. This allows us to strategically improve our environment and make sure our production and enterprise is sustainable and viable".

"By using zero-till no-kill cropping and pasture-cropping techniques we can crop with minimal impact on groundcover and soil health. We have definitely noticed an increase in the diversity of our native pastures and reductions in our fuel costs."

For more information on the Inwoods farm and other examples of sustainable farming in the Central West, or to find out how you can get involved to celebrate the *Year of the Farmer* visit www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

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