

What's On in September?



You are invited to the Central Tablelands Landcare seminar on Biochar & emissions trading **Wednesday September 2nd** **Orange Showgrounds**

Special guest speaker Professor Annette Cowie Director of the National Centre for rural Greenhouse Gas Research.

Please book with Marita Sydes on 0429 979 780 or maritasydes@bigpond.com

BIOCHAR has the potential to make a major contribution to climate change mitigation. It is the charcoal-like material produced by heating biomass in the absence of oxygen, and can be made from many forms of biomass, such as urban green waste, sawmill and forest residues, chicken litter and biosolids. The biochar production process converts biomass into a chemically stable form of carbon that is resistant to decomposition, so has a turnover time of hundreds to thousands of years. In addition to biochar, the biochar production process releases volatile gases that can be combusted as a renewable energy source for heat or electricity. When applied to soil, biochar will provide long term increase in soil and biological properties of soil, increasing crop and pasture growth, decreasing fertiliser requirements, and increasing water holding capacity.

Annette Cowie will summarise the potential of biochar to increase soil productivity and make a significant contribution to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Central West Farming Systems 2009 Rural Women's Conference **'Women Making an Impact'** **And 10 Year Celebration Dinner** **September 3rd**

All past, present and non members are invited

The Rural Women's conference is about Moving Forward in Agriculture. Agenda items include: Farm Succession Planning, Rural Mental Health Issues, Carbon Trading, Grain & Wool Outlooks, Farm Risk Management, Water Issues in NSW, Livestock: Recovery after the drought and Farming in Low Rainfall Areas. The dinner will include guest speaker John Ridley, Senior Vice President of NSW Farmers and entertainment by Murray Hartin "Australian Story Teller".
For more information contact the Condobolin Ag Station on 6895 1025

Soil Fertility Balancing **September 1, 2 & 3** **Dubbo RSL**

An intensive 3 day workshop providing for a better understanding of the principles and methods developed by Prof. William Albrecht, tested and proven worldwide. The Kinsey/Albrecht system helps to correct, build, and/or maintain excellent soil fertility – to increase life in the soil, improve crop and pasture quality and increase yields. Providing better nutrition for each crop or pasture by correcting soil fertility needs will set it up for building humus/organic carbon levels, improve water use efficiency in dryland and irrigation and improve drought tolerance. Understand why pH alone can give a false indication of a fertile soil and should not solely be used to determine the need for lime or gypsum to build soil fertility. Learn why and how you need to get the physics and chemistry right in a soil first before the biology will function properly.

Based on 36 years of practical experience in 70 countries working with growers and crops and soils of all types, Neal Kinsey offers valuable information concerning how to improve and manage your farms soil fertility – from the basics of using and interpreting a soil test to learning how to identify and correct the effects of depleted or excessive nutrients in your soil.

This course will cover soil testing and soil fertility, the soil audit, soil pH, neutralizing extreme pH, liming, how calcium and magnesium affects soils and crop/pasture production, soil compaction; phosphate and its availability, potassium, sodium, sulphur, nitrogen, humus, compost and manures; improving water use efficiency and planning to grow crops based on potential – which must include water as well as fertility; trace elements - boron, copper, zinc, manganese, iron and soil biology in relation to soil nutrients and the soil test. Evaluation and discussion of the Kinsey/Albrecht model being used on Australian farms.

When: September 1, 2 & 3

Where: Dubbo RSL

Register at budgalong2@bigpond.com or phone 6846 6285

Cost is \$440 per person and is accepted by Farm Ready Reimbursement. For more information go to the CANFA site at www.confarming.org.au

Secret Men's Business

Little River Landcare
Cumnock September 5th

Places are filling up, so if you'd like to attend the Secret Men's Business Forum at Cumnock book right away. **RSVP** to 6846 4569 or www.littleriver-landcare.org.au

Invitation for Private Conservation Landholders September 23rd

The Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) is seeking to consult with Landholders who have been involved in private conservation. The EDO is also interested in speaking with people who are in the process of investigating or carrying out private conservation or people who have looked at private conservation options and decided against implementing a private conservation program. If you fit into any of these categories please contact us. Your feedback and experiences will be used as part of the research into a new free publication on private conservation.

Please contact Project Officer Rosemary Bullmore on (02) 9262 6989 or education@edo.org.au
Rosemary Bullmore | Project Officer | Environmental Defender's Office
Level 1, 89 York Street Sydney NSW 2000 | Telephone: 02 9262 6989 | Fax: 02 9262 6998
To subscribe to our free eBulletin, or for more information on fact sheets, publications, subscriptions or on becoming a member, please contact education@edo.org.au

Introduction to Soil Biology Workshop Coonamble

Investment & Industry NSW and Central West CMA are holding a day long Soil Biology workshop with a series of specialist talks, group discussions and hands-on activities to build knowledge, understanding and skills to recognize different types of soil organisms, what they contribute to soil fertility and how to increase their input for sustainable farm production. Participants bring their own soil sample to test for soil organisms using simple methods and will be able to examine their soil for microscopic organisms. Emphasis is given to the role of soil carbon and various farm practices to increase the activities of soil organisms. A workshop manual is provided for each enrolled farm business (1- 3 per business) and all meals and refreshments supplied.

When: September 8th from 8am – 4:30pm
Where: Coonamble RSL Club
RSVP: by Thursday September 3
Who: Peta Holcombe 0400 349 181 or 6847 2923 peta.holcombe@cma.nsw.gov.au

Using Research to Improve Sustainability Programs

September 23rd, Orange Showgrounds
Environmental Learning Facility

Learn how you can use research to improve your sustainability program at this free workshop for sustainability educators and practitioners provided by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW)

At this hands-on interactive workshop, participants will:

- explore how they can use research more effectively to improve their current and/or proposed programs using key concepts illustrated by case studies
- commence a draft research plan for their priority project.

Participants will gain skills in and an understanding of:

- what research is and why it is important
- how research improves programs
- how to fit research into the program management cycle
- types of research to use and when
- how to document and disseminate research
- how to plan research for your program
- tips on preparing a research brief

For further information or registration contact Lynne McLoughlin 8837 6045

Nature Saving Nature Compost Conference

Australian Speakers with Australian Experience

A program that demystifies the use of compost and provides plenty of useful information.

Speakers include:

Dr. Pam Pittaway

Plant, soil and microbial interaction specialist
Darren Fahey Compost NSW Market & Industry Development officer

Overview of the NSW Compost industry, the process, product benefits & future directions.

Ed Turner

Mudgee Composting Services

Thea Ridley

Microherders

Getting started with microscopes and why.

Katie Webster

Katie has been testing the use of composts in vineyards, orchards and vegetable crops over the past ten years and can provide much local knowledge on its use.

The program will also include:

On-site field work and demonstration at our compost area

Panel Question & Answer session

Registration is \$66.00 (incl. GST) includes lunch, morning & Afternoon tea and conference notes.

When: 30th September 2009

Time: 8:30 – 4:30

Where: AREC Cassilis Rd Mudgee

Register visit www.arec.com.au

SMARTtrain AQF3 Chemical Application Course TAFE

Dubbo & Mudgee

TAFE NSW Western Institute will be offering this two-day course at Dubbo (September 3 & 4) & Mudgee (September 15 & 16).

The courses run from 9am – 4:30pm each day, with the full course running over both days and the refresher course running on the second day. The cost of the full course is \$320, and the cost of the refresher is \$210.

On successful completion of the course participants will be issued with an Accreditation Card that is recognised nationally by chemical resellers and regulators.

For more information please contact Esther Walker on 6378 2625 or email esther.walker@tafensw.edu.au

Archaeological Dig Open Day - Cuddie Springs

Cuddie Springs is an internationally renowned archaeological site which contains the only known record from Australia of humans and extinct giant marsupials and birds. Cuddie Springs is an ephemeral lake and as such provides a unique locale in which the record of humans, animals and vegetation is intact. While the human (archaeological) record is only around 40,000 years old, the fossil animal and pollen record extends back hundreds of thousands of years. The forthcoming field season is perhaps the last for some time and the dig team will be tying up the work during the month long field season in September.

Cuddie Springs is about 40km west of Carinda on the newly named Ginghet Road (previously known as the Brewon Road). The excavations are on the property of Wyabray.

When: Sunday September 20th

For more information: Dr Judith Field 02 9351 7412
mob: 0412 605 406 email: jfield@usyd.edu.au

The 2009 NSW Landcare Catchment Management Forum

September 9, 10 & 11th

Port Macquarie

The forum hosted by Northern Rivers CMA, has the theme "Landscapes, Communities and Resilience-Weathering Change." The NSW Landcare Muster will take place on Wednesday September 9th from 8:30am till 1:30pm. Delegates will experience Indigenous Natural Resource Management, Resilient and Productive Ecosystems, Sustainability, Locally-based Food Production and Quality Water Supply. For more information or to register go to www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/newsevents.php

Free PlaceStories Training September 17th & 18th

Orange & Dubbo

PlaceStories is a very user-friendly digital story-making software developed over a decade by a Brisbane-based Non Government Organisation (NGO) called Feral Arts (google either one for more information). For past 12 months Landcare NSW has been working with Feral Arts to implement PlaceStories training.

PlaceStories software enables a storyteller to assemble 20 – 40 of their digital photos (images) and audio tracks into a 2 – 3 minute digital story which can be located on Google Maps and uploaded to the web. This is particularly appropriate for landcarers and other community-based NRM/environmental groups as they can easily document and publicise their project stories

The one-day PlaceStories training workshop being offered by Central West CMA is **free**. You will need to bring a laptop computer, story ideas, 15 – 30 images of a project or issues you are working on to make a digital story.

When: September 17th Orange CMA Office 39 William st.

September 18th Dubbo Cobra & Hampden Sts
(Investment & Industry NSW)

Time 9am start, complete by 5:00 at latest (often by 3:30)

Contact: Liz Davis on 6363 8603, 0427 452 662 or email liz.davis@cma.nsw.gov.au

Yield Monitors Workshop Coonamble September 2nd

Conservation Agriculture & No Till Farming Association (CANFA) members have identified that yield maps are a very important tool for better cropping management. The issue is all modern headers have Yield Monitors but a vast number of headers are not recording data that is collected or the data is not valued. The afternoon will cover:

- Understanding why yield maps are important to the farmer
- Where does yield monitoring lead us?
- Understand what is required to set up
- Data management
- Calibration of a Yield Monitor
- What to do with the data & what services are out there to produce yield maps and help farmers
- Practical sessions with representatives from CASE, John Deere, Agco and New Holland, will demonstrate how to set up and use their yield monitors

When: Wednesday September 2nd from 1pm – 4pm

Where: Coonamble Bowling Club

Contact: Neil McMillan on 0428 953 762 or ngmcmillan@bigpond.com

Diary Dates



September 1, 2 & 3 Soil Fertility Balancing
Where: Dubbo RSL
Contact: budgalong2@bigpond.com

September 2nd Biochar Seminar
Where: Environmental Learning Facility Orange
When: 9:30 – 12:00
Contact: maritasydes@bigpond.com or 0429 979 780

September 2nd: Yield Monitors Workshop
Coonamble Bowling Club
Contact: Neil McMillan 0428 953 762

September 3rd: CWFS Rural Women's Conference & Dinner
Contact: 6895 1025

September 3 & 4 SMARTtrain Chemical Application Course
Where: TAFE NSW Dubbo College
Contact: Esther Walker 6378 2625

September 5th Secret Men's Business Forum
Where: Cumnock
Contact: 6846 4569 or www.litteriver-landcare.org.au

September 8th Introduction to Soil Biology Workshop
Where: Coonamble RSL
When: 8:30 – 4:30
Contact: peta.holcombe@cma.nsw.gov.au

September 9th 10 & 11 Landcare NSW 2009 Landcare Muster & Landcare Catchment Management Forum
Where: Port Macquarie

September 15 & 16 SMARTtrain Chemical Application Course
Where: TAFE NSW Mudgee College

September 17th: PlaceStories Training
Where: Orange CMA Office
Contact: Liz Davis 6363 8603 or liz.davis@cma.nsw.gov.au

September 18th: Placestories Training
Where: Dubbo
Contact:

September 20th Archaeological Dig
Where: Cuddie Springs
Contact: jfield@usyd.edu.au or 9351 7412

September 23rd Using Research to Improve Sustainability Programs
Where: ELF Orange Showgrounds
When: 9:45am – 3:pm
Contact: Lynne McLoughlin 8837 6045

September 30th Nature Saving Nature Conference
Where: AREC Cassilis Rd. Mudgee
When: 8:30 – 4:30
Contact: www.arec.com.au

Money Matters

Farm Ready Reimbursement Grants

FarmReady is the Australian Government's \$26.5 million program that boosts training and provides opportunities for industry, farming, and natural resource management groups to develop strategies to adapt and respond to climate change. The four year program offers two types of support to the agricultural, fishing and forestry sectors:

- FarmReady Reimbursement Grants for individual primary producers and Indigenous land managers to attend approved climate change training activities.
- FarmReady Industry Grants for industry organisations, primary producer and natural resource management groups to undertake projects to enable their members to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

FarmReady is a key component of Australia's Farming Future, the Australian Government's \$130 million flagship four-year initiative to improve productivity and help farmers manage climate change and climate variability.

How can I get involved?

To find out about courses registered with FarmReady, visit www.farmready.gov.au or phone the administrator on 1800 087 670. You can also register to receive free updates on the program through the FarmReady subscription list at www.farmready.gov.au.

Coles Community Support

Coles is committed to supporting causes that are important to our customers and communities. Through the Store Community Support program, we aim to aid local charities and organisations whose cause addresses issues and activities relating to health, education and the environment. To apply for support, visit this site and fill out application form and hand it in to the store manager of your local supermarket store. <http://www.coles.com.au/about/community/support/>

If you have an event, workshop, field day or forum you want announced in What's On please send to liz.davis@cma.nsw.gov.au

Vibrant communities...healthy landscapes

Junior Landcare Grants Program

Junior Landcare is Landcare Australia's youth program, which aims to get kids actively involved in their environment and enable them to develop sustainable habits from a young age. It is a great, hands-on way to get kids connecting with and learning about nature, as well as encouraging them to get outdoors.

Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant

Up to \$1,000 - Schools and youth groups can apply for grants of up to \$1000 (ex GST) to create gardens in their school or community such as bush tucker gardens, waterwise gardens or vege gardens.

Yates Environmental Management Planning Grant

Up to \$1,000 - Schools and youth groups can apply for grants of up to \$1000 (ex GST) to undertake School Environmental Management Plans (SEMP) or to undertake works identified in an earlier SEMP

Closing Dates:

Round 4: Friday, 23rd October

www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=6

Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program

A small grants program for small rural Australian communities will offer about \$850,000 to benefit people in rural and remote communities. Currently applications that support the following areas of interest will be given preference: Community development involving Youth, Resettlement of immigrants in rural Australia, Community Infrastructure and Community hardship in drought effected areas. There are two rounds of Small Grants per year.

Closing Date: 30th September 2009

Further information: www.frrr.org.au

Norman Wettenhall Foundation

An environmental organisation, the Norman Wettenhall Foundation's objective is to support projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment. Your project has to be primarily about the preservation of Australian biodiversity. The Foundation has funded projects ranging from supporting local communities to maintain or restore habitat; to the production of education kits; and the publication and widespread dissemination of research information essential to species preservation. Projects that involve collaboration with a number of partners across a region are of special interest.

<http://www.nwf.org.au/index.html>

Closing Dates: Wednesday 30th September 2009.

Other sources of Support and funding

Check out Community Builders NSW for sources of support and funding for your group or community.

http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding_funds/accessing/

Central West Catchment Management Authority Offices

Wellington

40 Warne Street (PO Box 227)
Ph: 6840 7800 Fax: 6840 7801

Bathurst

140 William St (PO Box 1480)
Ph: 6339 4905 Fax: 6339 2949

Dubbo

Level 1, 211 Macquarie St (PO Box 2105)
Ph: 6881 3400 Fax: 6881 3401

Gilgandra

23 Warren Rd (PO Box 181)
OhL 6847 2923 Fax: 6847 2997

Mudgee

90 Market St. (PO Box 174)
Ph: 6372 4044 Fax: 6372 6719

Nyngan

91B Pangee St. (PO Box 121)
Ph: 6832 1303 Fax: 6832 1031

Orange

39 William St (PO Box 1344)
Ph: 6363 8600 Fax: 6363 8601

Trangie

Trangie Research Station (PO Box 181)
Ph: 6880 8028 Fax: 6888 7201

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

