



E-newsletter March 2011 Edition

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CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Climate change adaptation research grants

The Australian Government has announced funding for priority adaptation research into preparing Australia for the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The Government will invest \$2 million into research addressing the impacts climate change poses to Australia's primary industries. Up to \$5 million will support research focusing on the social and economic implications of climate change on Australian communities.

To support this funding, two research plans have been prepared by the Australian Government's National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, to identify priority questions to meet adaptation knowledge and information needs.

The National Climate Change Adaptation: Primary Industries research plan addresses key areas for research to provide primary producers and industries with the information they'll need to understand the relative advantages and risks of different types of adaptation.

Application guidelines are available on www.nccarf.edu.au or www.climatechange.gov.au.

Australian Government recovery funding for natural resource management

The Australian Government has committed \$8 million for measures to drive the recovery of Australia's natural resources in the aftermath of the recent natural disasters. This new package is to support the environmental recovery and agricultural activities in flood, cyclone and bushfire-affected areas across the nation. The measures will address impacts on our plant and animal life, support the volunteers who do such a great job in protecting our environment and develop recovery and rehabilitation strategies.

This funding will bring together Conservation Volunteers Australia to work with Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations in disaster-affected areas on the recovery and restoration of regional and rural environments.

The package includes:

- \$4.9 million to regional natural resource management (NRM) organisations in disaster-affected areas to undertake environmental recovery works including the restoration of wildlife corridors, removal of debris spread by flood waters and weed and pest animal control;
- \$1.35 million to Conservation Volunteers Australia to coordinate and deliver assistance from volunteers for on-ground environmental recovery activities;



- \$1.08 million to address immediate impacts of floods and cyclone on the Great Barrier Reef including to on marine habitats and develop recovery strategies. It will also include early detection and eradication of new pests; and
- \$785 000 for restoration activities in the Gondwana and Wet Tropics World Heritage Areas to respond to impacts of flooding and rehabilitate species and areas affected.

Information on Caring for our Country and disaster recovery is available at www.nrm.gov.au.

Next generation farmers grant

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to support activities that improve the leadership and representative capacity of young people entering or involved in primary industries, particularly in the context of the challenges and opportunities in these industries as a result of a changing climate.

The department is now seeking grant applications for eligible projects for young people. The Next Gen Farmers grant supports activities that:

- Build and share knowledge and experience
- Increase access to planning tools and resources
- Develop leadership and management skills
- Develop pathways to increase participation in primary industries
- Develop skills to contribute more effectively to government and industry decision making
- Build networks among rural, regional and remote Australians.

These activities could be conducted via workshops, seminars, conferences of industry events or through other innovative mechanisms.

If you would like to apply for a grant please go to www.daff.gov.au or alternatively phone the Australia's Farming Future hotline on 1800 638 746. Application close at 5.00 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time, 28 March 2011

Recognising Women Farmers Grants

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to support activities that improve the leadership and representative capacity of women involved in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

If you would like to apply for a grant please go to www.daff.gov.au or alternatively phone the Australia's Farming Future hotline on 1800 638 746. Application close at 5.00 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time, 28 March 2011

SUBMISSIONS

Comments are invited on the draft Australian Framework for Landcare Action Plan

The Australian Landcare Council is seeking your comments on a draft of the Australian Framework for Landcare Action Plan. The Action Plan supports the Australian Framework for Landcare which was released in September 2010. The Australian Framework for Landcare builds on two decades of knowledge, experience and achievements to address a range of current and emerging environmental challenges. The Framework is a guide for Landcarers and sets out the vision, main features, guiding principles and key elements of the Landcare approach. These underpin the actions and measures of the Action Plan.



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The Action Plan discusses the seven key elements of the Framework identified by the community, how the key elements will improve Landcare and actions for landcarers to contribute to achieving Landcare goals. The Action Plan has been drafted by the Australian Landcare Council. The Australian Landcare Council (ALC) is the Australia Government's advisory body on Landcare and NRM and was reformed last year.

This draft Action Plan will be open for public comment for three months, from 7 March 2011 to 17 June 2011. The Australian Landcare Council welcomes feedback on the proposed goals and actions and any suggestions on what activities and actions you or your group can take to contribute to the achievement of these goals. Your involvement in the development of this Action Plan will help to strengthen and reinvigorate the Landcare movement into the future. The Australian Landcare Council has proposed actions that it can do to help achieve eight goals it identified in the Australian Framework for Landcare. They seek your input into what you, as an individual or an organisation, can do to also help achieve these goals.

How to make a comment: Read the Australian Framework for Landcare Action Plan. You may also find it useful to read the Australian Framework for Landcare before providing your comments. The two documents are available at: <http://www.daff.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare/council>. Submissions close 5pm AEST 17 June 2011.

Caring for Our Country Review – Make A Submission or Comment

On the 7 March the Australian Government announced a review of the C4oC initiative. In reviewing C4oC, the efficiency, effectiveness and appropriateness of the initiative and options for future delivery will be assessed. The C4oC discussion paper is available at www.nrm.gov.au/thereview.

To have your say, join the online forum at www.caringforourcountryreview.com.au; email your submission to thereview@nrm.gov.au or call 1800552008. It is important that all those who have an interest in this area participate by making submission before the 20th of May and/or participate in the online forum.

Australian Government has released Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) detail

Early this month, the Federal Government has released draft legislation and methodology guidelines for the CFI scheme.

The government is making these early drafts available now to give stakeholders more information on how the proposals described in the consultation paper released last November would work in practice. "Potential participants in the scheme will be able to gauge how they might get involved and help to identify any gaps or unintended impacts of the legislation. "They will also be able to see the type of information that independent experts on the Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee (DOIC) will be assessing in draft methodologies and the evidence DOIC will require to recommend a methodology to the government for approval."

Further information on the Carbon Farming Initiative is available on the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website at: <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi>.

ENVIRONMENTAL INCENTIVES AVAILABLE AT NACC

NACC Wind erosion and Rabbit control incentives

NACC has recently reviewed and updated their incentives program. Tree crops now have further options on top of just oil mallees that include sandalwood and brushwood. The fodder shrub (saltbush) incentive has been doubled to a maximum incentive of \$8,000 which could help plant up to 47 ha of saltbush. There are also other incentives available: perennial pastures, strategic revegetation and rabbit control.

The incentives funded through the Australian Government's CFOC Program, will be offered on first come first served basis. Sites will be assessed against specific guidelines and criteria to ensure that on-ground works funded through the project deliver landscape-scale change and value for money.

Farmers and land managers undertaking on-ground works will also be offered 12 months membership to appropriate industry groups to enable them to access the latest technology and management information available. In addition to offering incentives, the project will also provide training and information dissemination opportunities to farmers and land managers involved in the project.

For more information regarding NACC's wind erosion incentives contact your local NRMO or phone Sarah Jeffery, Sustainable Farming Coordinator on 9938 0110 or Marieke Jansen, Acting Biodiversity Coordinator on 9938 0108.

OUTCOMES OF LANDCARE PROJECTS IN THE NAR

Would you like to be kept abreast with landcare projects outcomes in the NAR?

The West Midlands Group Red Card 4 Red Fox shoot

35 West Midlands Farmers spent two balmy nights shooting foxes, rabbits and feral cats as part of the WMG Red Card for Rabbits & Foxes community shoot. 137 foxes; 4 feral cats and 89 bunnies were counted at the tail count breakfast held in Warradarge on Sunday (27th February). This means that Stockbrands will donate \$705 to the RFDS thanks to the WMG shoot.

During breakfast shooters were presented with prizes- the skilled winners being:

- 1st Prize- with 57 foxes and 1 cat was the Dandaragan team of Leigh Neethling, Hendrik Rheeder, Jack Wilson & Ron Wilkinson.
- 2nd Prize- Warradarge team of Will Browne, Gilby and Chooky who shot 23 foxes and 9 rabbits.
- 3rd Prize- there was a draw between Ian Falconers' team and the Judeen Team who each scored 30 points.



The winning team: Leigh Neethling, Hendrik Rheeder, Jack Wilson & Ron Wilkinson



Hellene and Jen with the Judeen team with their prize



The Clayton Park team represented North Eneabba



Ian Falconer, Pete Smallwood & Tom Cullen shot 28 foxes and 2 cats

Other teams included the Abbey boys from Badgi, Ash Cooper and mates from north Eneabba and Glenn Spencer and his team.

WMG would like to thank all the shooters, drivers and spotlight operators that participated in the shoot. Not only have we given a big boost to the environment but also raised much needed funds for the RFDS.

For more info and to provide feedback about the WMG Red Card 4 Red Fox shoot Red contact Hellene McTaggart at 9651 4008 or hellene@wmgroup.org.au

The Moresby project

Moresby Ranges Plan Implementation Phase 1 and engagement project funded under the State NRM Community grant administered by the Department of Agriculture and Food is progressing well. So far 7.5 km of fencing has been installed protecting 95 ha of remnant vegetation, surface water management plans have been

prepared for four properties and feral animal control activities will be occurring from March to May 2011. Construction of surface water structures will occur as soon as there is reasonable rainfall.

The Shire of Chapman Valley administers this project under the guidance of a NRM management committee. For further information, please contact Jim Gales or Nicole Siemon on 9920 5011.

UPCOMING LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

The Northern Agri Group Autumn Field Day

The Northern Agri Group will run an Autumn Field day for landholders and interested audiences on 6th April 2011. Registration will start at the new Binu Hall at 9am. Non members are required to pay \$20 for registration.

To RVSP your interest and for more info please contact Todd Henville on 99361015 or Karl Suckling on 99362060.

Oil Mallee industry conference in Perth

Oil Mallee Australia will host a Carbon and Biomass Research Seminar on 14 April, 2011 which will be followed by an Oil Mallee Industry Conference on 15 April, 2011.

To register your interest go to www.oilmallee.org.au or alternatively contact Karen Hunter at 9433 1244 or by email: omainfo@oilmallee.org.au

Farm Forestry Workshop

29 March 2011, MIG Office, Mingenew

Learn about the advantages of farm forestry in the Mingenew area, the potential for entering the carbon market, and opportunities for diversification. Euan Beamont, Mike Clarke and Mike Kerkmans will take us on journey to discover the advantages and the future of farm forestry.

Further information: Donna Rayner on 9928 1646 or 0427 281 001

Farm Day 2011 is back

28/29 May 2011

FarmDay is when a farm family hosts a city family for a day of real hands-on experiences and a greater understanding of the farming environment.

If you are interested in hosting an urban family, please contact Deb Bain at deb@farmday.com.au. Further information: Visit www.farmday.com.au or contact the Farm Day Team on 1300 36 70 36

If you do decide to be a host on FarmDay, please let the MIG office know. We'd love to document your experiences as hosts and those of your urban guests.

5th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture incorporating 3rd Farming Systems Design Conference

Registration is now open for scientists and practitioners to participate in the 5th WCCA and 3rd FSD conference in Brisbane on 26-29 Sept 2011.

The co-location of WCCA and FSD provides a great opportunity to explore the application of conservation agriculture practices and principles in a systems context. The common objective is the design of more productive, economic, and sustainable farming systems to meet the challenges of expanding population, global change, and environmental degradation.

Conference program options and tours will cater for different interest groups, and take advantage of Brisbane's proximity to intensive, extensive and sub-tropical farming, as well as to world leading research groups and facilities.

Close of Early Bird registrations is 30 April 2011, while the registrations will go until 30 Aug 2011. To register your interest go to www.wcca2011.org

AWARD: Landcare award

Groups or individuals with a story to tell should submit it to the State and Territory Landcare Awards. In the next 2 months, a cycle will kick off that will culminate in 2012 with the national Landcare awards.

This year, it is the states and territories that have the task of selecting their winners, which will then go onto the national awards in 2012. There are 12 categories in total covering aspects such as primary producers, local government, indigenous, education, youth and coastcare.

For more information go to www.landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=2930.

SOME INTERESTING STUFF

Garnaut's climate change update – transforming rural land use

On March 1st, Professor Garnaut released his updated paper as part of the climate change review called "Transforming Rural land Use". This paper outlines issues associated with carbon sequestration and emissions mitigation associated with rural land use. Professor Garnaut, while supportive of the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI), suggested that the requirement for financial additionality be reconsidered and that a link between the CFI and an emissions trading scheme be established to assist in the purchasing of non-Kyoto offsets. Professor Garnaut also noted that co-benefits such as biodiversity should be encouraged. Importantly Professor Garnaut also outlined the challenges for global development due to the linked issues of climate change and food security. For a full copy of the paper go to www.garnautreview.org.au/update-2011/update-papers/up4-key-points.html.

Coles and Junior Landcare celebrate 1000 school garden grants

March 2011 marks an exciting milestone for Coles and Junior Landcare who are celebrating funding 1000 school and community group garden projects since the program commenced in 2008.

To celebrate, the 1000 schools and community groups who have received a grant have been invited to participate in a fun photography competition called "My favorite thing in the garden".

The competition opens on 15 March and closes on 1 May 2011 and is open to three age categories – up to 7 years old, 8-12 and 13-18 year olds. There is also a People’s Choice Award and the Australian Geographic’s Choice Award. Competition entrants have the chance to win fantastic prizes, including a digital camera and printer, Wii, iPhone and iPad.

How to enter: to enter, students/community group members take a photo of their favorite thing in the garden and upload it to the competition website with a brief description of their photo. Students, friends, parents, teachers and others can also get involved by voting for their favorite photo (People’s Choice Award). For more information, visit the competition website at www.1000gardens.com.au

About the Coles School Garden Grants Program

The Coles School Garden Grants Program launched in conjunction with Junior Landcare in 2008.

The program is funded through the sale of reusable shopping bags sold at Coles, and in March the number of schools and community groups to receive a Coles Junior Landcare grant reached 1000.

Successful grant recipients receive up to \$1000 to help establish a community garden and learn more about the environment. The program encourages students to get involved and get their hands dirty by helping to prepare soil for planting to harvest their garden’s crop.

So far many schools have established native and water-wise gardens and many of the fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs that have been grown are used in school kitchens and cooking classes.

Schools, kindergartens, day care centres and youth groups looking to start their own garden program can apply for a Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant by registering with Junior Landcare. Visit www.juniorlandcare.com.au or www.coles.com.au for more information.

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