

April, 2014

News Updates



Happy Birthday Landcare! It's been 25 years since a joint submission from the National Farmers Federation (NFF) and the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) to the Federal Government resulted in the launch of Landcare as a National program with bipartisan support.

Share your vision for our Region

Create the future you want!

The Condamine Catchment Natural Resource Management Plan is being updated and you're invited to be involved. Our region's natural resources are our community's greatest asset. That's why we need a thoughtful plan that guides how we look after and use these resources now and in the future.

So, what's the plan...

The Condamine Catchment Natural Resource Management Plan (the Plan) describes our community's plan for our catchment's future. It identifies the priorities and targets for the region's natural resources focused on four central themes: People, Water, Land and Wildlife.

Why is it being updated?

Our lifestyles, businesses and health depend on the condition of our natural resources. Every five years we update the Plan to make sure it is relevant, reasonable and responsible, to manage and protect our natural resources in the best way possible. The challenges and opportunities for our natural resources are always changing. As a living document, the Plan will account for these and include the latest scientific knowledge and community aspirations.

The updated Plan is part of a long term vision for our region's health and productivity and will reflect local and state government priorities too.

How will the Plan be used?

The updated Plan will encourage local action in priority areas to manage and protect our natural resources. It will inform local and state government planning and help private landholders and industry make important resource decisions. It will also provide a framework for the Australian Government to distribute regional investment.

Who should be involved?

Everyone benefits from a healthy environment so we all have a stake in how our region's natural resources are managed. The good news is that every day more and more people are becoming aware of the importance of these resources and what we can do to protect them. This is an opportunity for you to have a say on our region's future. Your vision is important and we want to know your values and ideas for managing our natural resources in the best way possible.

<http://www.condaminealliance.com.au/NRMplan2015>

Email: NRMplan2015@condaminealliance.com.au

Coming Events

- **17 April & 23 April** Drought Assistance Information Sessions to assist for primary producers (See page 2 for more information)
- **26th April** Start date for South Myall Catchment Landcare Group computer courses
- **12-18th May** National Volunteer Week
- **1st June 2014** Toowoomba's World Environment Day at Lake Annand Park
- **3rd - 5th June** Farmfest at Kingsthorpe Park, Warrago Highway
- **19th & 26th June 2014** Chemical Accreditation training Toowoomba & Quinalow
- **1st - 7th September 2014** National Landcare Week
- **17th - 19th September 2014** National Landcare Conference at the Crown Conference Centre Melbourne

Notice Board

“Spray Safe” Chemical Accreditation Training. Graham Matthews has been conducting chemical training courses since 1992. Norco Rural Customers receive a 10% discount. Course dates Toowoomba 19th June and Quinalow 26th June. To book and for more information. **Call:** 1800 872 462 or 02 68952102 or **Email:** enrol@trainerservice.com.au For more information contact your local Norco Rural Store

2014 -THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING

The 2014 **International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)** aims to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.

WHAT IS FAMILY FARMING? Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of rural development. Family farming is a means of organising agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women’s and men’s. Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector.

Drought Assistance Information Sessions to assist producers

Thurs 17 April, 9.30am - 1pm, Western Downs Regional Council Corporate Office Dalby

Wed 23 April, 9.30am - 1pm, All Seasons Function Centre Toowoomba

Topics to be covered:

- Drought Relief Assistance Scheme - DAFF
- Financial counselling - RFCS
- State and Federal loan schemes – QRAA
- Farm Household Allowance - Centrelink
- QMDC - Energy audit for primary producers

Other service providers in attendance:

- Lifeline

RSVP for catering purposes to

DAFF Toowoomba 4688 1231 or

Thomas.callaghan@daff.qld.gov.au



Clean up Australia Day NED was invited to host a Clean Up Australia Day breakfast on Saturday 1st March at Bowenville Park. The breakfast was attended by Hon. Andrew Powell, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Cr. John Gouldson Chair of the Water and Waste Committee, Toowoomba Regional Council. Minister Powell was assisted in picking up roadside rubbish by members of the local community, Queensland Murray Darling Committee and NED members.



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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