

# NORTH EAST DOWNS NEWS



AUGUST 2014

## NEWS UPDATES



Celebrating 25 years of Landcare. Come along and celebrate with NED on **Friday 17th October 2014** at the Oakey Cultural Centre. We are holding a dinner for our members to celebrate this land mark in Landcare's history.

So mark the date on your calendar!! Everyone welcome.



NED invited members of Gomaren Doctors Creek Landcare Group to attend an information evening on 29th June at the Pioneer Arms Hotel Goombungee. Guest speakers were Richard Armstrong **Terramax** and Greg Plevy- **Wormtec**.



**Terramax** provide premium quality organic fertilisers, soil conditioners, growing media and substrates for use in agriculture, horticulture and landscaping including specialist media for green walls and green roofs.

**Wormtec** produce worm derived organic microbial soil improving products as well as the sale of compost worms for home worm farms or organic waste elimination permaculture. Wormtec Worm Farming and Vermiculture produces Organic Microbial Worm based fertilisers both in liquid form and as a pelleted product plus our high grade worm castings. Our main goal is to succeed in rebuilding the health and vitality of your soil, so you can grow healthy crops and gardens sustainably and chemical free whilst reducing your costs.

The evening was very well attended and we learnt a lot about worms! Greg has some of his product with him and if you wanted some products you had to be extremely quick as some members had used it before and weren't missing out on the opportunity to purchase some more! The evening was funded by Condamine Alliance's Sustainable Agriculture program with funding received from the Queensland and Australian Government. For more information visit - [www.condaminealliance.com.au/sustainableagriculture](http://www.condaminealliance.com.au/sustainableagriculture)

## COMING EVENTS

- **1st - 7th September 2014** National Landcare Week
- **11th September 2014** NED's Annual General Meeting - 6.30pm
- Venue: Oakey Community Centre
- **17th - 19th September 2014** National Landcare Conference at the Crown Conference Centre Melbourne
- **17th October 2014** 25th Anniversary of Landcare Celebration Dinner
- Venue: Oakey Community Centre
- (Invitations to be sent out in September)

## NOTICE BOARD

**Drought Concessional Loans** are now available to assist farm businesses recover from and prepare for future droughts and return to viability in the longer term. Under the scheme, the Australian Government will provide Queensland with \$100 million for the provision of Drought Concessional Loans in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Key features:

- loans are for eligible farm businesses for the purposes of restructuring existing eligible debt, providing new debt for operating expenses or drought recovery and preparedness activities, or a combination of these
- loan amounts will be up to 50 per cent of total eligible debt to a maximum of \$1 million over a 5 year term,
- a variable concessional interest rate initially set at 4 per cent
- a concessional interest period of five years
- interest only payments available for the loan term
- at the end of the loan term, the farm business must repay or refinance the remaining loan balance
- the availability of loans is subject to funds being available. The scheme will close on **30 June 2015**

The Drought concessional Loans are in addition to the existing Federal Government Farm Finance Concessional Loans Scheme which is open for applications again on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014, as well as the ongoing QRAA low interest productivity loans under the First Start and Sustainability programs.

To find out further information you can contact QRAA Darling Downs and Lockyer client Liaison Officer, Zoe Burke on 07 4634 8987 / [zoe.burke@graa.qld.gov.au](mailto:zoe.burke@graa.qld.gov.au) or Brisbane Freecall 1800 623 946/

### People's Common Rights and Provisions

**Bill 2014**, has been tabled in parliament by the people and for the people.

It is an Act to restore certain *Common Rights* to the people of Queensland, to *Rebuild Public Trust in the Regulation and Control of Mining Interests*, and to provide for *Good Health, Fair Livelihoods*, and the *Quiet Enjoyment of Nature's and Society's Goods*.

### Have your say on the National Landcare

**Programme** The survey closes on **29 August**

**2014.** Don't forget to go on line and complete the survey [https://environment.au.citizenspace.com/biodiversity-conservation/national-landcare-programme-survey/consult\\_view](https://environment.au.citizenspace.com/biodiversity-conservation/national-landcare-programme-survey/consult_view)

### 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants 2014-

**15** Grants of between \$5000 and \$20,000 will be available to local groups to enhance their natural resources and engage with their communities when the grants open in mid-September.

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

<b>Chair:</b>	Graham Cooke
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Ashley Volz
<b>Secretary:</b>	Glenys Bowtell
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kimberley Lange
<b>Members:</b>	David Lange, Desley Spies, Cheryl Vonhoff

# WANTED

**By the Oakey State School  
Ag Department**

\*25 mm X 25 mm galvanised mesh  
\*Grow tubes ( these tubes fit into the  
25mm x 25 mm mesh)

If you have any of the mesh or tubes  
( Clean and in good condition second  
hand would be just fine)

can you please contact:-

Debbie Goudie 0413945136  
or  
NED office 0746911499 or  
0409058538  
To arrange delivery.

### Youth Leading the World Congress is coming to

**Toowoomba** 17th December 2014 1.00pm-3.00pm  
Alison Dickinson Lecture Centre USQ For more information  
contact Shelly Purser QMDC. Phone 074637200

### Community Support Officer— Owena Reimers

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