

# Murray Local Land Services May update

[Murray Local Land Services <newsletters@lls.nsw.gov.au>](mailto:newsletters@lls.nsw.gov.au)

Thu 11/05/2023 5:17 PM

To: Cooperative Secretary <secretary@dte.coop>;

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## Local Land Services



### **Murray | Local news and events**

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### **Water for livestock & the landscape at Lowesdale**

On their Lowesdale mixed farming property, Elise Weden and Ian Cocking have embarked on a process of wetland rehabilitation whilst securing livestock water supply.

This video shows the contrast from before the rehabilitation work to the 2022 spring condition. Inundation has enabled bird species to flourish, frogs to breed, and ground cover to explode and protect the previously denuded dam banks.

Ian and Elise describe how they solved the problem of managing this tricky block by working with the landscape and the natural water flow.

*Murray Local Land Services support this project through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.*

## Climate tools for on farm decision making

The Bureau of Meteorology, in collaboration with industry partners, has developed and released a set of 5 new Climate Forecasting tools in a project 'Forewarned is Forearmed'. These tools have been developed to provide further intel for tactical on-farm decision making and better prediction of extreme weather events.

Tools include:

- climate outlook maps for extreme rainfall and temperature
- location-specific decile bars for rainfall and temperature
- timeline graphs; probability of exceeding (rainfall only)
- three-day burst outlooks (rainfall only - particular amount within a 3 day period).

As part of the project, workshops are being offered to gain feedback for improving the tools and workshop delivery. Information presented will assist farmers in interpreting forecasts and probability and utilising these tools for practical on-farm decision making around extreme weather events.

For further information or to express an interest in a workshop, please contact Rebecca Stacey, Mixed Farming Officer, Deniliquin on 0436 342 086 or email [rebecca.stacey@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.stacey@lls.nsw.gov.au).

## Managing your stock feed gap

Coming into the cooler months and shorter day lengths, pasture and legume growth will slow. We are encouraging Murray farmers to consider what the 'stock feed gap' might look like this year, and what steps you can take to minimise the issues arising from this.

 healthy brown and white cattle on pasture

A stock feed gap typically occurs when feed quality (pasture, grain, supplementary, etc) does not meet the energy requirements of livestock. If not identified and addressed early, stock may start to decline in condition and

production losses may be seen. With widespread flooding throughout the Murray region in 2022, there may be a shortage of hay, silage and potentially feed grain. If you haven't got feed on hand, it could be difficult to obtain, and be a reduced quality or higher in cost.

[Read more on reducing the winter feed gap](#)

## Soil sampling & pasture establishment workshops

Our in-depth series of free workshops started this week across the region at Bunnaloo and Rosewood, with landholders hearing from experts in their field on a range of topics including:

 A high angle view of paddocks with lines marked in them

- best practice soil sampling
- plant growth constraints to monitor in your area
- pasture species selection
- post-establishment management and pasture production
- Farming Forecaster and soil moisture probes – uses and opportunities

Additional workshops are running at:

- Culcairn: 12 May 2023, 8 am
- Koraleigh: 16 June 2023, 12:30 pm

[Register here](#)

## Grazing & animal nutrition workshops

Are you interested in learning more about pastures and grazing management in your area? Would your operation benefit from expert advice on assessing feed availability and animal nutrition requirements?

 A high angle view of a paddock

Join us and guest presenters Phil Graham (Koraleigh/ Booroorban) and Jim Shovelton (Culcairn/ Rosewood) for sessions covering:

- Assessment of available pasture & quality
- Animal nutrition and feed budgeting (stocking rate, feed available, requirements)
- Grazing systems and matching suitability to your operation.

These sessions will be delivered by technical experts in the field and are offered to producers free of charge. Additional sessions covering Soils, Pasture Selection and Farm

Business Essentials are also being offered at locations across the region.


Where and when:

- Koraleigh: 23 May 2023, 12.30pm (lunch catered)
- Booroorban: 24 May 2023, 8.00am (breakfast catered)
- Culcairn: 31 May 2023, 10am (lunch catered)
- Rosewood: 1 June 2023 10am (lunch catered)

[Register here](#)

## Farm business management basics workshops

Farm Business Management is an essential part of any farm business. However, getting your head around some of the key concepts is often confusing, especially if you're new to farming, or in need of a refresher.

 A person with a pen in their hand and a notebook plus tablet with a tractor in a field in the background

Murray Local Land Services is hosting a series of Farm Business Management Basics workshops throughout June across the Murray LLS region. These one-day workshops will help participants develop a greater and clearer understanding of some basic principles of Farm Business Management. It will also develop skills to help manage the farm business now, as well as planning for the business into the future.

Participants will be provided with a range of take-home tools and have the time to begin to apply them to their own business. A maximum of 15 participants per workshop has been set to ensure a great learning environment.

Paul Blackshaw is a farm business consultant with Meridian Agriculture in North East Victoria and will present each of the workshops, covering the topics:


- Best practice farm business management
- Planning (incl. intro to succession)
- Budgeting – strategic, operational
- Introduction to understanding and interpreting the financial performance of a farm
- Informed decision making
- Managing risk

[Register here](#)

## Return your cereal crop tests

In December 2023 we asked farmers to participate in a new program to get their retained cereal, such as wheat, durum and barley, tested for potential disease free of charge.

Our staff worked with NSW Department of Primary Industries to bring lab tests to the farm gate to help growers identify and stamp out cereal diseases such as crown rot, with more than 300 test kits distributed.

 A brown paper bag with a letter attached and dried crops next to it

We are now asking farmers to return their kits to enable testing to take place and provide you with an in-depth report to assist with next season's plantings.

**Tests can be returned to your Local Land Services Office by the end of the month.**

This program is supported by the [Grains Research and Development Corporation](#) - project code DPI2207-04RTX.

## Yabbies & yarns

Author: Kahlea Spiby, Aboriginal Ranger Trainee.

 A group of people standing around in a field

Yabbies are found in rivers, lakes, swamps, and other wetland environments. They are a vital food source for many native species, such as Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Cormorants and Ibis. Yabbies also play an essential role in breaking down decaying plant and animal matter.

In partnership with Murray Local Land Services, Western Murray Land Improvement Group provided a free community event to celebrate World Wetlands Day on Sunday, 26th February 2023. The event attracted 44 attendees, including Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council members.

A community bus was provided to visit Pollack Lagoon. At the Lagoon, attendees learned about the importance of restoring our wetlands, the significance of keeping water in Aboriginal Heritage sites, recreational fishing compliance and the best way to catch and cook yabbies!

After exploring the aquatic life in the nets, learning of the yabby lifecycle, and visiting the Barapa Barapa mounds and ponds, the community returned to Murray Connect to have salad rolls, sample freshly caught yabbies and have a yarn together.

The feedback to improve the day was to have more events and to be able to catch more yabbies!

[Find out more about Pollack Lagoon here](#)

## Good time to drench for liver fluke

For livestock grazing fluke-prone areas, control can be achieved through strategic testing and drenching. It is worth factoring in some routine monitoring tests with your vet, particularly during the late summer and early autumn, to help determine the presence of liver fluke on your property and guide drench decision making.

 [Black brown and beige cattle grazing in a paddock](#)

Late autumn, after the first few frosts, is an ideal time to drench for liver fluke. Colder temperatures generally kill off the host snail and is an ideal time to break the life cycle of the parasite. Burdens may be heavy and made up of both adult and immature fluke, so at this time of year be sure to use a drench which is effective against all stages of liver fluke (ie. a triclabendazole-based drench).

**For more information on liver fluke**

## Maccas returned to Mannus!

 [Two people scooping water into a bucket on a riverbank](#)

Katie Doyle (CSU's Gulbali Institute) and Susanne Watkins (Local Land Services) releasing juvenile Macquarie Perch into Mannus Creek.

Photo: Luke Pearce

The future of the endangered Macquarie Perch, or 'Maccas', in the NSW Upper Murray is looking brighter, with the reintroduction of juvenile and adult fish into Mannus Creek following the 2020 bushfires.

Mannus Creek contains one of 4 remaining populations of Macquarie Perch in NSW Murray Darling Basin, and the only population in the NSW Murray region. It is highly significant from a genetics perspective and was the focus of much ongoing research and management to secure the population prior to the January 2020 bushfires. The fires were followed by heavy rainfall which increased ash, sediment and debris in creeks, and reduced oxygen which devastated waterways and led to fish kills.

In February this year over 2,000 juvenile Macquarie Perch and several adults were released into Mannus Creek, near Tooma, by NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries, Charles Sturt University's Gulbali Institute and Local Land Services. The juveniles were bred by Victorian Fisheries Authority at Snobs Creek and were released to boost the numbers of Macquarie Perch in Mannus Creek and increase the genetic diversity of the local population.

**Read more on the project**

# Supporting Our Neighbours bounding fencing

## Closing soon!

Supporting Our Neighbours is a grants program helping landholders with the cost of rebuilding boundary fences adjoining public lands following the 2019/20 bushfires.

The program achieved some great outcomes including 4,561 applications received and 3,473 funded, with nearly 8,500 km of fencing bordering public lands re-constructed.

Due to a number of challenges encountered by landholders completing fencing, including COVID-19 impacts, severe storms, floods and prolonged wet weather and conditions, the administration of the program was extended by 12 months allowing landholders additional time to complete their fencing and submit documentation.

**This extension period will be closing on the 31 of May 2023.**

New applications for this program have closed, however, landholders who received funding and have not submitted their documentation should do this by the 31 of May 2023. This includes returning a signed copy of Schedule C acquittal documentation and 2 photos.

Supporting our Neighbours Program staff are available to discuss submitting your application and contractual obligations at [fencing@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fencing@lls.nsw.gov.au).

## Upcoming events

### **Autumn Murray Ag Roadshow | 9 May - 29 June**

Murray LLS Sustainable Agriculture team is hosting a series of workshops throughout May and June across the region. Topics to be covered include grazing management and animal nutrition, soil fertility and pasture species selection, and farm business management basics.

[Find out more and book your spot](#)

### **RFCS NSW: Navigate Your Farming & Small Business Natural Hazards Workshops | May 2023**

Natural disasters are becoming more frequent and their financial impacts on farming and small businesses more severe.

This interactive workshop will provide you with the knowledge & skills to identify, evaluate your risks, as well as developing your business risk action plan

## [Register online](#)

*The Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) is jointly funded by the Australian and New South Wales governments.*

### **22nd NSW Weeds Conference - Dubbo | 7 - 10 August**

Registrations are now open so book early to take advantage of early bird pricing. Registration includes access to conference sessions, a choice of field trips and all three social functions.

#### **Why should you attend?**

- Develop skills: The NSW Weeds Conference is regarded as the premier event to discuss weeds and related vegetation and production issues
- Recognition: Three awards are announced at the conference which acknowledge the work of NSW state and local governments and community weeds professionals for their outstanding contribution towards protecting NSW from the impact of weeds
- Return on Investment: The ability to network, get training, stay at the cutting edge of weeds management will enable your organisation and people to invest efficiently and effectively to manage weeds and their impacts

It will be a fabulous four days in Dubbo!

[Find out more and book your spot](#)

[See all events](#)



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*Local Land Services acknowledges that it stands on Country which always was and always will be Aboriginal land.*

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging.*

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**Our mailing address is:**

PO Box 61, Deniliquin NSW 2710

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The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser. For updates go to [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)

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