

Murray Local Land Services June update

Murray Local Land Services <newsletters@lls.nsw.gov.au>

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

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Local Land Services



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 [2 farmers looking down at a clipboard in a shed](#)

Keep an eye on your letterbox

Your Annual Land and Stock Return is on its way this month.

Your information is important to us and helps keep NSW safe. We've streamlined the online process this year to help make it even easier to provide your livestock numbers.

The online portal opens 30 June and closes 31 August 2023.

You can still manually submit if online doesn't work for you.

Even if you don't have any stock, filling out your Annual Land and Stock Return helps us keep your details up to date and guarantees penalties won't be applied to your next Local Land Services rates notice.

Want to find out more? [Visit our website](#) or call our team on 1300 795 299.

NSW Central Murray Ramsar Project

The enhancement of the NSW Central Murray Ramsar Project aims to maintain and enhance the condition of the internationally recognised wetland. Funded by the National Landcare Program, the project partnered with First Nations groups, public and private land managers and other key stakeholders to achieve environmental and social outcomes through engagement, collaboration and the delivery of targeted on-ground works.

Over the last 5 years, the Ramsar Project has:

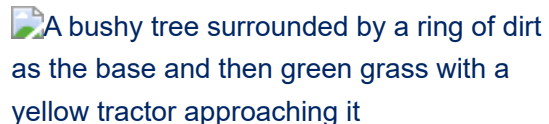
- Controlled pest animals over 175,424 ha (ground & air control)
- Improved 454 ha of aquatic areas
- Revegetated 92 ha of habitat
- Controlled weeds across 3,061 ha
- Partnered with Aboriginal organisations on 23 projects (\$550,000).

This work couldn't have been undertaken without the support of our project partners, participants, and funding providers.

[Find out more about this project](#)

Tackling a prickly issue for plains-wanderer conservation

Above average rainfall and flooding over the past two years have resulted in good growing conditions for boxthorns. This thorny shrub is encroaching into the grassland habitat of plains-wanderers.

A bushy tree surrounded by a ring of dirt as the base and then green grass with a yellow tractor approaching it

Boxthorns are a threat to plains-wanderers and their grassland habitat.

Boxthorns provide perching branches for birds that prey on plains-wanderers such as Spotted Harriers and Black Falcons. Boxthorns also create hiding spots for exotic predators such as foxes and cats and cover for rabbits which compete with plains-wanderers for food resources.

By the end of June 2023, more than 3,000 ha of boxthorns will have been removed from land within and surrounding plains-wanderer habitat within the Murray region.

Squirrel glider nest box monitoring

In 2019 as part of the Burrumbuttock Squirrel Glider LAMP project, Murray LLS implemented a program focused on installing 145 nest boxes on 13 sites (farms, roadsides and public land) to answer the question “Does the installation of nest boxes in areas with low numbers of natural nesting sites result in squirrel glider occupancy?”

 A person standing in a field, holding up a monitor screen

Monitoring of the nest boxes using a pole camera in Autumn and Spring each year, and results have shown that the nest boxes do result in squirrel glider occupancy. Paula Sheehan (Landcare Coordinator) and Lou Bull (Project Officer Squirrel Glider LAMP and Petaurus Education Group) have coordinated the monitoring and have had many volunteers helping and experiencing the thrill of finding a squirrel glider curled up in a nest box.

Now that we know the nest boxes are being used and it appears the squirrel gliders are staying in these sites (an indicator of good habitat quality), it becomes vital that the nest boxes are maintained. Until the trees in which these nest boxes are located are old enough to form natural hollows, the use of nest boxes will be vital for the local squirrel glider population to thrive and persist. In the short term, these nest boxes have meant the local population of squirrel gliders can access new home ranges, food resources and habitat - contributing to their long-term future in this landscape.

[Read more](#)

West Hume Erosion Project

The deadline for expressions of interest has been **extended until the end of June 2023** for the West Hume Erosion Project.  A red dirt cliff face

If you are located within the West Hume Landcare area & would like a technical assessment or funding to help control erosion on your property, please get in touch with Rob Cook at West Hume Landcare on 0427 873 604.

[For more information](#)

Wetland plantings for wildlife

Being outdoors amongst the redgums, planting and restoring wetlands, a clear sunny day, snags on the BBQ, students having fun in the mud. What's not to love?

On Tuesday 9 of May, Andrea Mitchell from Yanco Creek & Tributaries Advisory Council Inc (YACTAC) organised a planting event at a property on the Yanco Creek system north of Jerilderie. With some muscle from the Coleambally Central School agricultural class, the team was able to achieve:

 Five people standing outdoors with a camp table in front

- planting and guarding 120 sedges (Carex sp.)
- transplanting common reed (Phragmites sp.) in stream for bank stabilisation
- adding rock substrate for the southern bell frog to bask; and
- transplanting nardoo (Marsilea sp.) to increase habitat diversity.

The students were able to hear from and talk to representatives from an array of organisations, including Andrea Mitchell from YACTAC, Anna Turner from Charles Sturt University (who has been part of ongoing wildlife monitoring at the site), Lachlan Spalding from Murray LLS (who works on restoring and protecting wetlands on private property), and David Leeds who is the farmer at the property and knows the ins and outs of the wetland as well as anyone.

The project is part of Murray LLS's "Wetlands for Wildlife" program, which aims to improve wetland habitat for threatened species across the Murray region.

The project was done in partnership with YACTAC and the land managers and was funded through the NSW government.

[Read more](#)

Sustainable Ag

Stock Management Areas

Stock Management Areas (or Stock Containment Areas), have long been recognised as a management tool to enable retention and feeding of stock through dry periods in a confined area. Allowing 'locking up' of broader paddocks across farms to maintain groundcover can also enable improved recovery of country following a break in seasonal conditions and return of stock to paddocks.

 a group of sheep gathering around a feeding trough


SMA's are also recognised as useful during other times including; joining to improve bull/ram contact with cows/ ewes to improve pregnancy rates; containment following or during emergency events such as floods or bushfires; quarantine of new stock arriving on property; or even as a hospital paddock for treating sick or injured stock. While use of SMA's may not be front of mind while seasonal conditions are favourable, it is always a good idea to consider forward planning and be prepared if seasons become dry. LLS and

DPI have resources available to help farmers in getting the best use from their SMA's and in establishing suitable design, location and setup considerations. For more information, contact SLSO Rebecca Stacey at rebecca.stacey@lls.nsw.gov.au.

Read more on confinement feeding stock

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

Development of the Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework (AASF) is a unique piece of work which enables a central source of information about Australian agricultural sustainability. It provides a translation layer between farm practices, markets, and community from a whole-of-agriculture perspective.

 Long grass being harvested by machinery


The current iteration of the AASF identifies 17 overarching principles for the industry under the themes of environmental stewardship, people, animals, community, and economic resilience. [More information can be found here.](#)

The Australian Rice Industry Sustainability Framework, 'The Ricegrowers' Promise' is collaborating with the National Farmers Federation to ensure the final version will fit cohesively with the AASF.

The project is supported by Murray Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government National Landcare Program.

Do you want more profitable and sustainable grazing systems?

Join like-minded farmers in attending PROGRAZE, an industry-lead and recognized training course based on proven principles of pasture and livestock production.

 Brown grass paddock with black cattle grouped together

Murray LLS is currently taking expressions of interest to participate and will develop groups across the region to reduce participant travel following close of registrations. PROGRAZE consists of 8 x 12 day workshops held 4-6 weeks apart, on participants properties, with in-paddock activities and discussion for hands-on learning and skill development.

Thanks to a heavy subsidisation from the NSW Government, participant cost is \$400, with two or more members able to participate for this fee. **Registrations close on the 30 June**

2023. Contact Rebecca Stacey, Senior Land Services Officer on 0436 342 086 or rebecca.stacey@lls.nsw.gov.au for more information.

[Register here](#)

Animal biosecurity & welfare

Prohibited pig feed

Did you know that it is illegal to feed some things to pigs? This is because of the potential disease risks, to both your pig and other animals.



Known as prohibited pig feed (and traditionally referred to as swill) items such as pies, sausage rolls, deli meats, bacon and cheese rolls and tables scraps which contain or have been in contact with meat must not be fed to pigs.

[More information](#)

Mark Corrigan is back as team leader of the animal biosecurity and welfare team and can be contacted using mark.corrigan@lls.nsw.gov.au or 0428 256 431.

Major projects


Rural Assistance Authority Grant closing dates

A reminder to flood and storm impacted primary producers and landholders, that a number of Rural Assistance Authority grants will close to new applications on 30 June 2023.

This includes the Special Disaster Grants and Rural Landholder Grants made available in response to storm and flood disaster events that occurred throughout 2022. Primary producers and landholders impacted by these disasters are encouraged to apply for financial assistance before 30 June to support recovery.

[For more information and to apply](#)

Upcoming events

 [Stock image of someone ticking off a checklist](#)

Getting back to basics workshops | 9 May - 29 June

Join us for an Introduction to Farm Business Management Basics with Paul Blackshaw and Soil Sampling, Pasture Establishment and Production with John Fowler across various locations.

[Find out more and register](#)

 [Brown long grass in a paddock](#)

Chemical control of weeds in a post-flood environment | 7 June, 15 June & 22 June

Join agronomist Eric Koetz for a morning discussing the control and management of a variety of agricultural weeds, chemical controls and the new herbicide MoA alignment.


[Find a location and register here](#)

 [Salami stick with a knife through it](#)

Salami making for pig owners | 3 June & 14 June

These 2 - 3 hours salami making demonstrations are delivered in conjunction with local experts and our Animal Health team. As well as seeing the salami making process, you will learn about keeping pigs and key regulations you need to know. Workshops are in Deniliquin and Jindera.

[Book your spot](#)

 [A person standing in a paddock with a tablet in hand and a gadget in front](#)

Farming Forecaster Webinar | 15 June

Farming Forecaster brings pasture production, soil moisture, local weather, and livestock performance information to your fingertips. This webinar will be presented by our guest speaker - Matthew Lieschke (Agricultural Advisor, South East LLS).

[Register here](#)

Irrigation Insights 2023 | 21 July

Irrigation insights is a collaborative, cross industry event which addresses the needs of grain, rice, cotton and dairy farmers in Northern Victoria and southern NSW. As a cross industry event, we bring

researchers, experts, key thinkers and primary producers from multiple sectors together to explore irrigated agriculture.

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

See all events



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.

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

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