



Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority

e news

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Special points of interest:

- ⇒ AgFair Broken Hill
- ⇒ Noxious Weeds Act
- ⇒ Projects update
- ⇒ JADE
- ⇒ PVP

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RIS Funding for Mandelman Station

News on the LMD CMA Rangelands Incentives Strategy (RIS) includes the final negotiations between the CMA and Mandelman Station for stewardship funding under the LMD CMA's RIS. A Property Vegetation Plan Agreement will see the protection of over ten thousand hectares on Mandelman, including significant areas of Cypress Pine community and Bimble Box. Bimble Box is a regionally significant species for the Lower Murray Darling Catchment, previously only a few records existed for this species within our catchment. In the next edition of E News there will be further detail about the progression of this agreement. For further details on the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority's Rangelands Incentive Strategy contact either Noel or Jacinta on (03) 5021 9460. 🌿

Data Collection from Local Land Managers

The LMD CMA is currently updating its contact details for Land Managers in our Catchment. The maintenance of accurate data lists is important to the way in which the CMA offers assistance to the land holders and land managers in the catchment. Without the data being as current as possible, the provision of services and advice by the LMD CMA will not be as efficient nor as effective if we don't know who is in our catchment.

The purpose of the survey of land managers is to ascertain:

- ⇒ Their current contact details
- ⇒ How they wish to receive information from the CMA
- ⇒ Whether they wish to raise local natural resource management issues.

This is the first time that the LMD CMA has approached smaller organisations or local community groups to assist in the gathering of this large amount of data. Groups such as Landcare or even the local school Parents & Friends will be involved. The numbers to be surveyed will vary from area to area. It is anticipated that each survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.

As a thank you to these groups for their time, effort and assistance, the LMD CMA will be reimbursing them for their work. This survey will commence in late March.

The more complete our database, the better able are we to serve our catchment landholders and land managers.

If you need further information on this particular survey please contact **Jill French** or **Karen Casey** at LMD CMA on 03 5021 9460. 🌿



Mark King
LMD CMA Chair

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our first e-news for 2006. This year will challenge even the bravest of us but with good management and the expert assistance from the CMA, it will be an easier task. As they say, a problem shared is a problem halved!

Projects that were initiated in 2005 have, at the time of writing, been put through the tender process with the resultant commencement of works. Some projects are a little behind schedule (such as the Wetland Rehabilitation, and fish habitat monitoring) but it is envisaged that they will be up to speed fairly shortly.

The CMA is actively encouraging its communities to be more involved in how its natural resources are managed. I look forward to meeting many of you over the next months at field days and when our Board meets in your area. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in the paper version, call the LMDCMA office and let us know. We will be happy to send it to you via snail mail.

Cheers,



Mark King

**'Approval of
the CAP will
provide
security of
funding to the
catchment ...'**

CATCHMENT ACTION PLAN (CAP) - update

The draft CAP has been submitted to the Minister for Natural Resources, the Hon Ian Macdonald and the Joint Steering Committee (JSC).

The 2006-2008 Investment Strategy was submitted to the Joint Steering Committee on March 10, 2006.

LMDCMA Board

Mark King—Pomona
Stan Dineen—Broken Hill
Howard Jones—Dareton
Paul Dixon—General Manager

Patty Byrnes—Wamberra Station
Gary Doyle—Petro Station
Vin Byrnes—Dareton



Lock Island Canoe Tree

Events calendar

April

LMD CMA Board Meeting (Buronga)12 April
Enviro funding closes28 April

May

Beef Australia, Rockhampton (Qld) 3-6 May
AgFair, Broken Hill5 & 6 May
2006 Banksia Awards—entries close10 May
Saltwatch Week8 May
Mildura Field Days30 & 31 May

Practical Management Training

The Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority is offering subsidised training courses for land managers to develop the skills and ideas for implementing NRM best practice on farm.

If you are interested in

- improving the condition of your property?
- Developing sustainable grazing schemes?
- Increasing ground cover?
- Reducing erosion?
- Managing native vegetation?
- Implementing best practices for irrigation?

Then consider practical management training.

Sustainable grazing management courses are fully funded (except travel and accommodation). Irrigation management courses are partially funded.

Pathway to \$ for on-ground works and stewardship incentives.

Completion of relevant CMA approved courses will provide land managers with the opportunity to access Incentive Funding for on-ground works (irrigation & rangelands), enter into funded sustainable grazing plans and access stewardship payments.

Some courses require as little as two days in practical workshops.

Training courses include:

- Planning for Profit
- Biodiversity Assessment for Landholders
- Holistic Management
- Grazing for Profit
- Tactical Grazing Management
- Irrigation Management Training (Introductory)
- Irrigation Management Training (Advanced)

Contact the LMDCMA on 03 5021 9460 for more details on Rangeland and Irrigation topics.

Holistic Management Training

Training hours: 72 hrs over 9 days (in 1 & 2 day sessions).


Aim of course:

To develop a decision making framework with holistic goals that can be used to make economically, socially and environmentally sound decisions. To develop land management skills that enhance the sustainability of natural resources and use decision making tools which support an holistic approach to grazing and financial planning.

Key learning outcomes for improved management skills:

- Implement sustainable land use & monitoring.
- Budget for farm production & develop budgets.
- Implement a property improvement plan.
- Design and layout of property improvements.
- Biodiversity monitoring.
- Manage farm finances.
- Review the strategic direction of business.
- Monitor your business.
- Evaluate business performance.

Other courses in the Accredited sustainable grazing scheme include:

- Tactical Grazing Management
- Grazing for Profit 



Training Day at Tarcoola



CMA Officers carrying out a site assessment

“The methodology and software has evolved as a result of field trials ...”



Collecting soil samples.

Property Vegetation Plans—PVP

The *PVP Developer 2.0* is a software package that the NSW Government Agencies are developing to support Catchment Management Authorities (CMA's) in making assessments for clearing, incentives and for preparing property vegetation plans (PVPs), as required by the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

The *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, requires CMAs to assess proposed native vegetation development applications to determine whether the clearing will improve or maintain environmental outcomes.

The *PVP Developer 2.0* has been designed to ensure native vegetation clearing or incentive proposals are:

- *transparent* – the landholder knows what decisions are being made and why;
- *repeatable* – entering the same information twice will give the same answer; and
- *practical* – applies complex scientific knowledge to on-ground action.

The methodology and software has evolved as a result of field trials, public submissions and review by panels of independent scientists with farming and environmental interests.

Once a landholder has made an enquiry to the CMA regarding clearing of native vegetation and/or obtaining incentive funds to manage native vegetation, a CMA officer will use *PVP Developer 2.0* to assess some environmental outcomes. These outcomes are water quality, salinity, soils and biodiversity (which includes threat-

ened species and invasive scrub). The CMA Officer will work with you to determine the most suitable land management option, then assess a series of site plots using the PVP methodology to determine the environmental values.

Using the results of this assessment and a high resolution photomap, *PVP Developer 2.0* will be used to generate a property vegetation plan (PVP).

Want to know more? Call the LMD CMA—Noel Hayward 03 50219435 or Jacinta Cain, 03 50219426. 🇺🇸



Tussock Trivia

New serrated tussock information and resources are soon to be available on the Weeds Australia website. It will include better whole-farm management to prevent serrated tussock invasion; managing competition between serrated tussock and native grasses; Tussock Terminators Forum proceedings November 2005; and a financial study of serrated tussock management in the Upper Lachlan Region of NSW. 🇺🇸

[Http://www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)



NEW MAPPING TECHNOLOGY AT CATCHMENT AUTHORITY

The Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority (LMD CMA) recently acquired a new global positioning system (GPS). The new GPS unit is a high grade *Trimble GeoExplorer XM* and features a fully integrated handheld receiver, antenna, and data logger. This effectively means that LMD CMA Officers can leave their pencil and paper at the office when they go out in the field to map out particular land features. In the past the Officers would record the attributes of mapped features on a notepad. They would then return to the office and manually enter the relevant data into a spreadsheet against each geo-referenced feature.

This painstaking task was not only labour intensive it was also potentially erroneous as it was very easy to make mistakes. Now with this new high grade GPS unit data is quickly and easily entered whilst in the field while positions of land features are being recorded. Land features can also be mapped to a positional accuracy of around 1-3 metres thanks to the processing power of the handheld GPS device.

The unit has already been put to great use by a number of the officers, including Catchment Officer Michael Gilby (Aboriginal Communities) who has quickly identified the benefits of the technology particularly for mapping areas of cultural significance. Up until now areas of cultural significance have not been mapped, or recorded by the CMA with any degree of accuracy, or consistency. However with this new handheld device it is now possible to create a reliable mapping regime that is easy to follow while achieving a high degree of accuracy. 🌿



CMA staff using GPS for cultural vegetation project.

“Thousands of Australians are set to save around 18 billion litres of water a year ...”

Australian Government’s Community Water Grants

A joint media release has indicated that 1750 community groups will share in \$61 million in funding to undertake water saving projects across Australia under the Australian Government’s Community Water Grants programme was announced on 13/3/06.

The community grounds funded include schools, environmental groups, rural organisations, sporting associations, natural resource management regional bodies local governments and non-government organisations. It is envisaged that community will donate about 350000 volunteer hours to implement a huge range of projects and highlights the Australian Government’s commitment to working with local communities to deliver real, on-ground environmental outcomes.

As well as saving water, Community Water Grants projects promote wise water use and community engagement and awareness about water efficiency and conservation, water re-use and recycling and water health.

Congratulations to the successful projects in the LMD CMA which are:

- ⇒ Broken Hill Happy Day Pre-School—irrigation & native trees
- ⇒ Broken Hill Public School—waterwise project
- ⇒ Balranald Central School—watering system
- ⇒ Aust Inland Botanical Garden (urban efficiency demonst proj)
- ⇒ Wentworth Public School—(project unknown)
- ⇒ Broken Hill CC—public amenity block
- ⇒ Pomona Public School—auto sprinkler system for grounds
- ⇒ Menindee Central School—watering system for oval
- ⇒ Balranald Shire Council—sprinkler system for race course 🌿



PROJECTS UPDATE



Mr Yamada (left) and Dr Mikami working on equipment on-site.

Japanese Australian Dust Experiment (JADE)

The JADE experiment moved into full swing in late February early March in the hot and dusty environment of "Petro" Station, about 90 km north-east of Buronga.

Three DNR scientists, Dr John Leys, Mr Stephan Heidenreich and Michael Case along with four Japanese scientists, Dr Masao Mikami, Associate Professor Masahide Ishizuka, Mr Yutaka Yamada and Mr Tobita continued their investigation into the dust emissions and wind erosion within the catchment on behalf of the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority. They have been at Petro undertaking field work, and endured a month of dust and flies.

Whilst both sets of scientists require dust for their investigations, Dr Leys' work involves the effect of erosion, how significant it is, and if better land management may facilitate dust reduction, the Japanese are interested in the wind erosion mechanism, including dust size characteristics, which will be helpful for understanding dust impact on the climate, and the ability of dust to affect global weather patterns.

Petro Station is owned and managed by the Doyle family (John, Gary, Mike and Peter) and they have been involved in wind erosion research with various groups for more than 20 years. They say that "one person's misfortune is another person's gain" and this is the case for JADE. Because of the late break and lack of moisture at sowing time in 2005, the paddock was now sown and left fallow. The result was a very bare paddock and as such, a prime candidate for the JADE experiment.

With the sophisticated equipment developed by the Japanese, sensors detect and measure the number and size of particles moving in a dust storm. Why you may ask do they want to know that? Well size of particles influence how far they travel. Really big particles (100 microns) don't leave the paddock. Large particles (40 microns) travel hundreds of kilometers and settle as dust, but the small particles (less than 5 microns) can travel around the globe and it these particles that have an influence on global warming.

The more dust that is in the upper atmosphere the greater the effect it will have on reducing the sunlight on the earth's surface thus reducing global warming. Another positive benefit of blowing dust is its affect on the oceans. It has also been shown that the iron in the red soils of the catchment can be blown out to sea as dust. When this dust settles on the ocean waters, it feeds the plankton for sea creatures.

But there are negative effects of dust too. Human health issues are obvious but lesser know impacts include that dust that lands on New Zealand's glaciers can reduces the reflective ability of snow in cause it to melt at a faster rate. There goes the long NZ ski season!

Closer to home, all this interest in dust is also aiming to keep the homestead cleaner, the soil in the paddock and to highlight the benefits of good land management. Soil loss is a financial burden to farmers and if soil erosion can be reduced and groundcover increased then the benefits back to the community is substantial. Showing the benefits of improved farming practices promoted by the CMA and outlining practical methods to avoid soil erosion are other aims of the project.

The results of the JADE experiment will have resounding impact on future farming practices within Australia as well as far reaching ramifications to the international scene.

'Dust is a must for this experiment.'



JADE site at night February 2006.

Fish Habitat Improvement – Aquatic Ecological Communities

This project includes the construction of a fish passage at Burtundy Weir, the development and implementation of management plans for priority fish habitats and monitoring of sites to determine any improvement in the species and abundance ratio.



One project will involve the construction of the fish passage and this contract has been signed by DPI (Fisheries). The fish habitat rehabilitation and the fish habitat monitoring is still to commence in the near future.

Irrigation incentives

Irrigation incentives are now available from LMD CMA and are managed by Jeremy Giddings of the Department of Primary Industries. Incentives are being offered (dollar for dollar except training) for Irrigation Management



Training (\$120 per person); Part A Irrigation Drainage Management Plans (max \$7,500 per irrigator), Part B Irrigation System Upgrade (max of \$15,000 per irrigator); Part C Irrigation Scheduling- to a (max of \$7,000 per irrigator).

Incentives are available for works in areas that have not previously received funds by a government incentives project. This incentives program is also only available to irriga-

tors outside of the Western Murray Irrigation Area as a separate incentives program. Please note that completion of the Irrigation Training Management Course is a prerequisite for application for other incentives.

Australian Government EnviroFund

Round 8 Now Open but applications close at 5pm Friday 28 April 2006. Community groups and individuals across Australia are invited to apply for grants up to \$50,000 from the Australian Government Envirofund. Applications are encouraged for local projects aimed at conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable resource use.



Examples may include fencing to protect river banks and waterways, and planting native vegetation to improve habitat or manage erosion. Projects that increase the communities skills and knowledge to undertake on-ground projects are also eligible, as well as activities to raise awareness of local natural resource management issues.

Assistance with the your application can be received by contacting **Jill French at the LMD CMA**. Examples of eligible activities are in the application form available from www.nht.gov.au/envirofund or call 1800 065 823.

Environmental Trust Annual Grants Program Workshop

Broken Hill Musicians Club, 276 Crystal St Broken Hill, Tuesday 4 April 2006 at 2.00pm



One of the objectives is to support environmental restoration. If you are interested to attend the workshop at Broken Hill contact DEC on 02 8837 6081.

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm



River Murray

**“increasing
biodiversity on
the Murray
River system”**

RISK ASSESSMENT—IRRIGATION DRAINAGE

Following on from the report completed by Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) regarding its estimations of current and future drainage rates at various horticultural locations in the LMD catchment, the meeting to consider this report was held in late November 2005. The final project report was delivered to CMA at the end of December 2005. Recommendations from the project have formed the basis of a project brief that has been developed to enable the implementation. 🇦🇺

WETLAND REHABILITATION

This project is aimed at reinstating a wetting and drying cycle to an estimated 3000ha of freshwater ephemeral wetland systems within the Lower Murray Darling Catchment. The overall objective is to improve the health of flora and fauna and biodiversity values of the Murray and Darling River systems. Tenders have been received for this project and will be finalised shortly. 🇦🇺

GOL GOL LAKE & SWAMP


Stage 1 of this project is assessing and costing the re-instatement of wetting and drying regimes for Gol Gol Lake and Swamp and increasing biodiversity on the Murray River system. This will also include management of groundwater and salinity impacts on the local area. The tender has been awarded. 🇦🇺

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TO BETTER BUSINESS

The following is taken from Brian Tracy’s “Success Secrets”. Their relevance applies to any business whether rural or corporate.

1. Your product must satisfy an immediate need. When considering any new product, it must solve a problem for the customer.
2. Offer good quality at a fair price. It must have a unique selling proposition that makes it stand out from your competitors.
3. Be careful with your money. Tight financial controls and good budgeting are paramount. Successful companies use accurate bookkeeping and accounting systems. These systems are in place at the very beginning and carefully record all expenditure.
4. Cash flow is essential. You must hold onto your cash, as a drowning man holds onto a life preserver. Cash is the lifeblood of your business. Install careful financial controls and monitor them every day. Consider every bit of expenditure and take the time to analyse the use of every dollar. Only spend money to earn money.
5. Guard your cash carefully. One key to business survival is “frugality, frugality, frugality”.
6. Maximise your marketing. A strong momentum in your sales area and that permeates the entire staff will generate an image of satisfied staff and customers. The true purpose of a business is to “create and keep a customer”. Profits are the result of creating and keeping a sufficient number of customers in a cost-effective way. All emphasis has to be on creating and keeping customers.
7. Selling is a core skill of a successful business. The key is “sell, sell, sell”. Sell yourself and your product to your customers. 🇦🇺

AGFAIR, BROKEN HILL—5 & 6 MAY 2006

It's on again .. AgFair 2006—a field day not to be missed! It will be held at the Broken Hill Racecourse (Tibooburra Road). All your favourite exhibitors will be there, including LMD CMA. Our staff will be on hand to assist attendees with their questions and queries on Rangeland and Irrigation Incentives, upskilling and development training courses, vegetation fact sheets and lots more. LMD CMA will be occupying space with Western CMA, DPI and DNR. It will be an opportunity to have all your questions answered in the one place at AgFair. While you're there, enter our "identify that prickly bush" competition. 



INTERIM RANGELAND PROJECTS

Cultural Vegetation Project

This project, based in Mutthi Mutthi country to the east of the catchment, provides increased opportunities for traditional owners and the broader indigenous community to pass on cultural knowledge between generations through recording biodiversity and places of spiritual, cultural, economic and social significance. This 12 month project is in its final stages with the final review of the report by the Mutthi Mutthi participants to be undertaken during March 2006.

LMD Cultural Biodiversity Project

This project targeted a cultural biodiversity strategy with participants of Barkindji (Paakantji) communities in NRM to implement actions for effective land and water management policies. The plotting of tribal boundary lines and recording sites of significance was part of the process. The updating of vegetation references in the language of the local indigenous people and the removal of references to other tribal groups was an important step. This project is nearing completion with the assistance of the Barkindji participants.

Threatened Species

This project is now complete. The basis of the project was to survey the South Bell Frog population, fire history mapping, the mallee fauna and their habitat as well as the *Casuarina obesa* protection. The initial project achieved outcomes of intensive recording of mallee faunal habitat requirements of threatened mallee passerine birds in the LMD CMA as well as rabbit-proof fencing around the *Casuarina obesa* population. This culminated in the Threatened Species Recovery Plan implementation funded under the 2004-2007 Investment Strategy.

NSW Weed Strategy

In 2004, after a number of consultations, the "Lower Murray Darling Regional Weeds Strategy" was distributed to the community. The Strategy clearly outlines the definition of weeds and their priorities in various land use areas of the catchment. From this document, ongoing activities that link LMDCMA with other catchment management Boards will be the prime focus for this Weed Strategy, and will provide land holders and land managers with the ability to make informed decisions on how best to invest funds in weed control in their local area, which will provide a benefit the community as a whole. Other CMAs are now looking at producing a similar document.

Amendment to Noxious Weeds Act

In March 2006, an amendment to the NSW Noxious Weeds Act came into effect. The most significant changes include a new list of weeds (increased from 42 to 89) and a new set of "categories" replacing W1, W2, W3 and W4 with control classes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The new Act requires local control authorities to adopt management plans for all their Class 4 weeds and these management plans will be the new legal control measures for those weeds.

The *Lower Murray Darling Regional Weeds Strategy*, developed in 2004, will soon be updated to reflect the new set of categories. The Strategy clearly identifies priority weeds for the catchment and provides a framework for local operational plans.

A copy of the current *Regional Weeds Strategy* is available to download from the LMD CMA website. For further weeds information, contact your local Shire Council. 



LOWER MURRAY
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**“Working
together for a
healthy and
productive
Catchment”**

BITS & PIECES

Surf'n the Net

- ⇒ LMD CMA have an NRM funding information e-mail list that goes out about every eight weeks or so, if you would like to be on the list send an email to us (karen.casey@cma.nsw.gov.au) with “NRM funding info list” in the subject line and we will add you to our contact list.
- ⇒ For funding opportunities and other information and links, visit the Australian Government website: www.nrm.gov.au.
- ⇒ Australian Agriculture and Natural Resources Online: www.aanro.net
- ⇒ Novel bait for Feral Cats: www.abc.new.au/science/nsws/enviro/EnviroRepubolish_1429383.htm
- ⇒ Australian Government EnviroFund—Round 8 : www.nht.gov.au/envirofund or phone NHT info line 1800 065 823.
- ⇒ Recreational Fishing Community Grants—close 17 March 2006: visit www.daff.gov.au/recfishinggrants
- ⇒ NSW DPI Weeds Publications: bookshop@dpi.nsw.gov.au or via the Toll Free number: 1800 028 374
- ⇒ Greening Australia: www.greeningaustralia.org.au
- ⇒ Native Vegetation Act: www.nativevegetation.nsw.gov.au
- ⇒ Kids LandCare: “LandLearn” <http://landlearn.netc.net.au>
- ⇒ LandCare Online: www.landcareonline.com
- ⇒ National Chemical Ref Guide—www.deh.gov.au/chemicals-guide 

Shaping Our Futures Together (SOFT)


Women are the backbone of the family—this is a course for them!

Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 April 2006 at Hatfield Hall.

SOFT includes a wide range of learning activities to assist women to shape their own futures by exploring practical skills, expanding their knowledge and developing their confidence, networking opportunities and ideas. Emphasis is also on having fun while they learn.

Farm-based child care will be provided by Hay Mobile Children's Services.

The cost for the entire two days is \$40.00pp and includes a workbook, all course materials, food and childcare. All participants completing the course will receive a SOFT participation certificate.

REGISTER by 10 April 2006 to secure your place in this very beneficial course. Contact Suzanne Nield on (03) 5020 6868 or nieldark@bigpond.com 



SHAPING OUR FUTURES TOGETHER