

Media Release



32 Enterprise Way,
PO Box 363
Buronga, NSW, 2739
☎ 03 5021 9460
☎ 03 5021 1308
www.lmd.cma.nsw.gov.au

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MEDIA RELEASE

REMINDER – IRRIGATORS' FORUM A MUST Friday 30 October 2009

Irrigation forums give everyone a chance to catch-up with the latest research and development needs for the future. With technologies in improved metering and automation developing so quickly, it is important to bring people together and share experiences on what is working best and alternative ways of tackling common problems.

The Lower Murray Darling CMA will hold a forum specifically targeted to the local irrigators of the catchment on Friday 30 October 2009 at the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens, Buronga.

Speakers have been gathered for the day who will update the local scenario and encourage irrigators to utilise best management practices on their properties.

“With the continuing drought and more severe weather conditions, it is essential that support with information on technology trends and latest data is provided to irrigators. This forum will give some of the answers and some alternative methods to be considered” said Mr Mark King, Chair LMD CMA.

Wentworth Shire Council will discuss the options of subdividing irrigation properties for housing, the zoning and minimum size land areas that can be built on rural land.

Mrs Cheryl Rix from Western Murray Irrigation Ltd, will inform the audience on the latest updates for irrigators.

An alternative method of growing crops is via Aquaponics which is a new wise water use in our challenging climate for both horticultural and domestic use. It is a system where both fish and plants are produced in one system for the mutual benefit of both. Mr David Bush (Horticultural trainer from MADEC) will explain how this system works with its emphasis on organic, fresh and healthy food while impacting lightly on the environment.

Mr Col Beasley of Thurla Farms (Red Cliffs) has been involved with aquaculture for many years and has developed a business by growing Murray cod in the irrigation waters of his farms that are both environmentally responsible and sustainable and ethically sound in terms of animal welfare. He will provide more information on the day as well as introducing Murray Hallam (Practical Aquaponic, Qld) to the Sunraysia area.

Irrigators and interested community members are invited to attend the forum from **1.30pm** at the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens, Buronga. The program is available on the website at www.lmd.cma.nsw.gov.au A community bbq will be provided to all attendees at the conclusion of the forum. RVSP to Susan Walla by Friday 23 October 2009.

If you have any queries, please contact Susan on 03 5021 9459 or 0429 035 961.

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For media comment and further information:

Mr Mark King (after 19.10.09)
Chairman
Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority
Mobile: 0427 272 207
Telephone: (03) 5021 9460

Mrs Lesley Palmer
Manager Corporate Support
LMD CMA
Mobile: 0428 620 090
Telephone: (03) 5021 9460