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21 October 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

GROW FISH AND PLANTS TOGETHER – A NOVEL IDEA! Friday 30 October 2009

NSW Irrigators and MADEC students will get first hand advice from the experts on growing vegetables and fish in your own backyard using one of the latest developments in the field of Aquaponics.

Aquaponics. Never heard of it, you say? Then you are not alone.

On a domestic level, this self-contained system is the combination of aquaculture and hydroponics where nutrient rich fish water is pumped from the fish tank into gravel beds where plants extract the nutrients from the water making a mutual beneficial environment for both. The commercial aspect will also be discussed.

Murray Hallam, “Practical Aquaponics Queensland”, is a renowned advocate of Acquaponics, and will demonstrate and discuss this new approach to alternative irrigation of crops and food sources.

David Bush, Horticulture Trainer and Assessor from MADEC, will speak about Aquaponics in Sunraysia that raises another option in wise water use in the challenging climate for both horticultural and domestic use. With the emphasis on organic, fresh and healthy food, while treating the environment kindly, this soil-less system measures up well.

For the past 6 years the Beasley Family at “Thurla Farm”, west of Red Cliffs, has been successfully diversifying their property into broadacre, dryland farming, horticulture, viticulture and aquaculture, and has developed an aquaculture business which has resulted in significant improvements in the production of Murray Cod grown in farm dams. Col Beasley will speak about the commercial impact of this new technology.

The LMD CMA’s Irrigators’ Community Forum will also update the audience on LMD CMA financial incentives, Riverina TAFE will show how to get skills recognition, DII will speak on climate change while Western Murray Irrigation will highlight the impacts on the regional community with the new Water Policy. Wentworth Shire Council will be there to discuss rural land use issues relevant to shire residents and landholders.

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 as soon as possible, places still available.

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



Photo courtesy Geoff Gooley DII



Photo courtesy David Bush (MADEC)

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