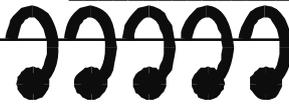


# LAND TALK

Newsletter of the 'Centralian Land Management Association' (CLMA)



## CLMA Meeting & Morning Tea 18<sup>th</sup> June

Cuppa & cake beginning at 10am – CLMA Office (Community Landcare Support Centre) on the corner of Leichardt and Gregory Terrace – looking onto the Todd River.

G'day all, hope you managed to get wet in the last couple of weeks. It's coming close to show time and there are lots of things happening in CLMA over the next couple of months. To take the best advantage of having people in town for other events, we have planned a morning tea and meeting for the 18<sup>th</sup> June starting 10am at the new CLMA office. There are a lot of things to discuss, including new and potential projects in which you may want to be involved. Give me a call if you wish to add anything to the agenda, and I look forward to seeing as many members as possible. Come and meet all of the new crew!! Hope to catch up with you soon, *Andrea* ph. 89534230

### MEMBERSHIPS....

So far only 35 families have paid their yearly CLMA membership, if you have forgotten or haven't had the chance to pay up yet, please send cheque or EFT of \$330 before the end of the financial year. Please call the office if you need more details or are not sure if you have paid up yet.

### NEW PROJECTS happening in CLMA and the faces behind them....

#### A Grazing Land Management package for Central Australia!

CLMA has been awarded \$92,000 through the National Landcare program to develop a **Grazing Land Management (GLM) workshop for central Australia!** The workshop will compliment existing agency research projects and get real answers and information to producers in the Alice region with regard to grazing land management issues.

The GLM workshop is one of Meat and Livestock Australia's Northern EDGE *network* suite of five structured learning workshops, which specifically address the identified needs of beef producers within northern production systems.

Industry experts, in conjunction with researchers, scientists and producers, have developed the following workshops:

- Nutrition EDGE;

- Breeding EDGE;
- Marketing EDGE;
- Selling EDGE; and
- Grazing Land Management (GLM) – an **area specific** three day workshop (with a follow up day) covering:
  - 1) maintenance of native and improved pasture systems;
  - 2) relationships between water, soil, woodlands, biodiversity, fires and weeds;
  - 3) climate variability management;
  - 4) meeting target markets while remaining sustainable in the long term; and,
  - 5) determining the financial implications of grazing management options.

## CLMA's GLM Workshop

CLMA has contracted Joanne Rodney for 12 months to collate existing regional data on grazing land management, develop workshop notes and resources, review these with a steering committee and run a pilot with local producers prior to the publication of our very own, area specific, central Australian GLM package!



### Hello from Jo! The GLM Workshop Facilitator...

*Well, at the end of week 3 in Alice things are starting to fall into place quite nicely! I've met a fair number of the DBIRD, DIPE and CSIRO staff who will help me pull the GLM project together but there are plenty of names and faces that I still have to match up!*

*I've also managed to meet some members on their home turf courtesy of Andrea Johnson Tours! - the Smiths from Teyon Station, the Fullers at De Rose Hill Station and Paula Kilgariff from Erldunda. It was a great drive through fascinating country. (Quite different from southern Queensland where my parents manage a 1200 head Hereford breeder block at Taroom.) It really made me look forward to getting acquainted with the central Australian country and the people that manage it!*

*If you're curious about my qualifications and life experiences here they are in a few short sentences...My childhood was spent on a station in the Gulf of Carpentaria and my family has always been involved in beef cattle production in Queensland. I have tertiary qualifications in Business Communication and Adult Education and look for work opportunities that merge writing, research, education and agriculture. (A combination that usually guarantees a good mix of brain and brawn work!) Some of the projects I have tackled include coordinating a beef producer group in central Queensland and developing a workbook on livestock production in Alberta, Canada which is currently used at high school level there.*

### Jo's Diary...

June will find me flying back to Queensland on the 4<sup>th</sup> for two weeks to attend an RCS "Grazing for Profit" school. This will get me acquainted with the only other grazing course that has been run in central Australia and give me an idea on how the GLM workshop can compliment it.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> I'll be in Katherine for that region's three day GLM workshop (just completed!) to see what a real live regional GLM workshop is like. I'll let you know my thoughts in the next newsletter!

### The GLM Project and You!...

Paul Smith and Steve Cadzow are both on the Steering Committee and I will be looking for at least ten producers to take part in the pilot workshop prior to publication. However, every member's input into the GLM package will be valued and sought over the coming months so please feel free to contact me to ask questions and give opinions! Cheers!

### Jo's Contacts...

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4048Mobile: 0428 981 026

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### Sandover Weeds Project



Peter (left) & Michael (right) looking at Mexican Poppy on the banks of the flowing Todd!

#### Peter Barker – Project Manager

G'day all,

I feel privileged to be working with such an active group of landholders. I'm looking forward to getting out and meeting as many of you as I can.

I came up to Alice Springs from Melbourne over a year ago to work on exactly this sort of project. I have been working at CAT (the Centre for Appropriate Technology) on the Bushlight project providing solar systems to Aboriginal outstations right across the Top end (from Broome to Cairns) and in the Centre. Before that I worked for quite a few months at Bowerbird Tip Shop- which was one of the best ways to meet quite a few pastoralists- who were always out for a good price on fencing gear, timber and other odds and ends.

Before I came to the Centre I worked in numerous environment related fields many of which involved working with farmers and Indigenous peoples predominantly in the North and North East of Victoria.

#### Michael Wood - Technical Officer

Hi there everyone,

Over the years I have developed a growing interest in the natural resources and conservation issues, beginning with a period of six years work on a thoroughbred racehorse stud and sheep grazing property in Kilmore, north of Melbourne. Since that time I have undertaken a Bachelor of Natural Resource Management degree with the University of Adelaide. It was whilst undertaking these studies that I picked up employment for the Universities of Queensland

and Adelaide, and Flinders University in South Australia, which involved flora and fauna surveying.

I look forward to being involved with the Sandover Project, which will take us both into much of your unique countryside. No doubt this will provide us with an excellent opportunity to speak and meet with many of you, get to know each other and embark upon the quest of controlling these weeds together.

#### What we will be doing.

Our positions are funded through the National Heritage Trust to work in the Sandover catchment to facilitate the control of two of the most significant weeds in this region, Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) and Rubber Bush (*Caltropis procera*).

These species are threatening to reduce biodiversity and productivity on Aboriginal and pastoral land in the Sandover catchment region. Both species threaten to invade large areas of existing habitat along the Sandover and Bundey rivers. The nature and location of existing infestations (on the main watercourse), and the ease of seed dispersal by wind, water and birds drastically increases the risk of spread further down the catchment if strategic control is not undertaken soon. Existing infestations are confined to manageable areas of plants in and along the main river course.

The project aims to identify, map and eradicate all existing living infestations of Rubber bush and Parkinsonia in the Sandover catchment (or die trying). Then we will be implementing a follow-up control program for management of regrowth and regeneration.

We will also be engaging Aboriginal and pastoral land managers in the region to work co-operatively in developing an integrated weed management strategy. In addition to this on ground training in weed awareness, identification and control measures during the project will ensure that you, the stakeholder, in the entire Sandover catchment region will be better able to follow up weed control beyond the life of the project, to maintain and control further infestation of weed species in the catchment.

### Conservation Initiatives on Pastoral Lands

**Are you undertaking land management activities on your property that are aimed at protecting special areas, plants or animals? Or would you like to but are unable to due to lack of time, funds or knowledge?**

Areas may be special due to their scenic characteristics or the plants and animals that exist there. Activities may include fencing, exclusion of cattle, removal of feral animals, control burning, weed removal, or preventing or allowing access by visitors.



In the near future, you will be given the opportunity to identify these activities as part of development of the Parks and Conservation Masterplan and the Natural Resource Management Plan for the Territory. Similar information has been collected for the non-pastoral land and will be collected together to develop an action plan for conservation initiatives within each region of the Territory.

For further information contact: Kay Bailey (89518237) or Andrea Johnson (89534230).

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#### **Field Day at Newcastle Waters**

Andrea, Peter & Michael traveled up to join the Barkly Landcare group in late May to look at Rubber bush and Parkinsonia control projects occurring on Newcastle Waters. Large stands of Parkinsonia on Black soil country have been dying (without any form of control) and tests are being run to work out what it is that it affecting Parkinsonia – in hope to spread it to other infestations. The CLMA hope to develop relationships with other groups and station managers to share ideas and resources – in aim to better manage weeds that are becoming a problem in the Alice region.

