

LAND TALK

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

Are your stock getting the ass end of the paddock?

Although donkeys mostly hang out in the hilly country, they are still really successful at competing with stock for pasture.

DONKEY SCENARIO....

Let's say you have 200 donkeys on the place, each eating 6kg of dry grass matter per day (PLUS browsing shrubs and non-grasses.) This means you are looking at about 8,400kg of pasture being eaten a week. Over a year this means almost 2000 tonnes of feed that could be otherwise utilized by your cattle, or used as drought reserve.

Can you really afford to do nothing about your donkeys?



GLM Steering Committee meets in town

Jo Rodney

The Grazing Land Management project has hit the 6 month mark!

Mindful of the fact that time is marching on, the GLM Steering Committee met for a day and a half at the CSIRO Conference Room on the 1st and 2nd of November.

So far the information is starting to roll together and it is amazing to see the amount of information about native pastures and grazing management that has been researched in central Australia. A new list of tasks and deadlines have been divvied up to various committee members and I have every confidence that 13 May, 2005 (my contract deadline) will see me looking less like a rabbit caught in the headlights and more like a girl heading off to Canada for some R&R!

A big thank you to Paul Smith, Steve Cadzow, Trudi Oxley (Katherine DBIRD) and Chris Chilcott (Qld DPI) who traveled to make the meeting! It's great to see the enthusiasm and optimism that this project is generating amongst both pastoralists and agency staff.

GLM Steering Committee entry wins DBIRD Cup!

All work and no play makes for a cranky steering committee! With that in mind two entries were fielded by CLMA for the Annual DBIRD Cup (the race that is run in conjunction with the lesser known Melbourne Cup somewhere interstate!)

The GLM Steering Committee called on some out of town talent and the gamble paid off with our horse "Shifting Sands" (aka Trudi Oxley) streaking over the line under the steady hand of her jockey, Patch Grazing (aka Chris Chilcott, Queensland DPI).

A contentious second was the CLMA entry - a pregnant mare whose test results are still being analysed!!! The judge's decision is pending! [See pics on Page 3]

CLMA's War on Weeds

Peter Barker & Michael Wood

Mission Accomplished so far....

After six months covering over 2500 kms of country in the Sandover region, the axis of evil "Parkinsonia and Rubberbush" and many of their weedy associates have been eliminated on the properties that have been at the front line in the Sandover weed battle.

Using precision weapons to date we have neutralised over 5000 individual insurgent Parkinsonia's, and over a thousand Rubberbushes, others in the evil weed network also eliminated include: Castor Oil Plant, Common Thorn apples, and coffee senna.

We will be continuing our fight next with our "coalition of the willing" members Murray Downs & Amaroo.

Be alert and alarmed Weedecks are here

We don't have fridge magnets but that doesn't mean you shouldn't "be alert but not alarmed!" We have Sandover catchment weed guides for any properties in this catchment that see any suspicious weed activity on their property. Call Peter at CLMA if you want one.



One of the CDEP blokes pulling out Castor Oil bush from an outstation on Angarapa Homelands

Weed Control in the Angarapa Homelands (Utopia)

The CLMA has been working with the CLC, Urapuntja and Engawalla Indigenous CDEP workers. The last 4 weeks has seen the successful eradication of some of the key environmental weeds in Angarapa.

The success of this work is mainly due to the assistance of the CLC and the community in being so open with their local knowledge, hospitality and understanding when we were riding through their communities and killing and cutting down some of their shade trees.

Thanks also to the great CDEP mob that worked so hard to control weeds in Utopia. **Thankyou Sammy, Clint, and Derek from Engawalla.**

Greening Australia and DIPE Weeds Branch are running a **Weed Awareness** course that gives people an introduction to the identification of weeds of Central Australia. The course will be run on Wednesday the 24th Nov at Charles Darwin University in the large lecture room of the Horticulture Dept from 9AM to 12:30. The Uni usually runs an abridged version of the treat weeds course straight after lunch on the same day. Cost of the morning session is \$15. Can interested people please register their intention by Fri 19th Nov by ringing 8953 2882 or email to sunil.dhanji@nt.greeningaustralia.org.au

People who are interested in doing the afternoon session as well should ring Wayne Treaega on 8959 5446.

EMS Project Update – Water Management

Dee Walsh (08) 8953 4230

What is good water management? Here are some opinions from some of the EMS participants (and boy, do they vary!). Have a read and see whether you agree or disagree with the opinions below. Do you have your own views? Let us know! We'll have similar articles on soil, fence line and fire management in future newsletters.

Agree	Disagree	
		Site new troughs in areas away from flood risk and on soils that won't drift.
		Site new troughs in open areas with stable country that has good access.
		Fence off dams and catchments to prevent stock from having direct access to the dam. This reduces silt in the dam and improves water quality (and thus possibly animal performance).
		Pump water from dams to troughs rather than allowing cattle direct access to dams.
		Don't over pump bores.
		Use pipelines to spread and rotate grazing pressure.
		Use pipelines to divert cattle off of river country and to utilise all the country.
		Turn pipelines off when there is water in dams.
		It is more cost effective to pipe from a good existing bore than trying to find good water by drilling a new bore in difficult country.
		Pipe the overflow from tanks back down the bore/well to minimise wastage.
		Pipe the overflow from tanks down an adjacent bore hole if you have one. Don't put it back down the equipped hole because it can't get back to the water table fast enough and also corrodes the bore casing.
		Pipe the overflow from tanks to trees, buffel or couch or into small turkeys nests rather than putting it back down the hole.
		Don't pipe overflow from tanks back down the bore/well because this can damage windmill columns.
		Don't allow too much water to overflow – this will reduce waste.
		Turn windmills off when cattle are not using bores in order to conserve water.



*Winners are grinners!
GLM Steering Committee
members at the DBIRD Melbourne
Cup lunch at AZRI after their entry
romped home in the DBIRD Cup!
L-R Andrea Johnson, Helen Neave
(Parks & Wildlife), Dionne Walsh,
Trudi Oxley, Chris Chilcott, Jo
Rodney, Chris Materne (DBIRD
Pastoral Production).*

**** Positions up for grabs at the CLMA AGM ****

Are you interested in representing your industry, and having some input into where and how works are funded through the CLMA?...then get some action happening on the committee. Being a committee member is not hard, you have a team of dedicated CLMA employees on the ground and waiting for your input! Ring Andrea or Chris Nott if you are interested in being more involved with CLMA in 2005.

Positions being called: **President, Vice President** (one North & one South of Alice Springs), **Secretary, Treasurer** and **general committee members**.

CLMA
Annual General Meeting

12pm 9th December,
Join us for a BBQ lunch and Xmas Beer,
followed by the AGM @ 2pm
venue to be advised at closer date

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For general enquiries, & to contact Andrea
For info about EMS, & to contact Dionne
For enquiries about weeds, & to contact Peter or Michael
For enquiries about Grazing Land Management, & to contact Jo

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NT Legal Information

Some of you would have seen recent articles in the Queensland Country Life about prosecutions for illegal tree clearing. It's a fact of life that most of us just don't know whether we might be breaking laws or not. Unfortunately ignorance isn't a defence that will stand up in court. If you are interested in knowing about the different laws in the NT, the following website has all the Acts and regulations on it:

<http://notes.nt.gov.au/dcm/legislat/legislat.nsf?OpenDatabase>

The NTCA is currently compiling a summary of each of the environment related Acts relevant to the NT pastoral industry. A booklet containing these summaries will be available from the CLMA in December. Call us if you would like one sent to you.