

Western Division newsletter

ISSN 0314 - 5352

Number 116

www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/wdn

Mar/Apr 07

Produced for landholders in
the Western Division of NSW



In this issue ...

Dorpers – the big jump!

As told to Sally Ware by Jim Crossley, Tom's Lake, Booligal

Background

The Crossley family has been at the property Toms Lake since 1900. The family has always had merinos and a stud was founded in the 1930s. This stud continues and is now run by Robert, Jim and Alison's son.

What factors made you think about a change to dorpers?

I had the opportunity to buy a next door river block in 2004. It was 15000 acres and mostly subject to inundation. The block was covered in bushy groundsel, Bathurst

burr and lignum. I could not run cattle on this block due to the groundsel (note: groundsel is a small green shrub with a yellow flower that causes liver damage and ultimately death in cattle). I could not run merinos because clean musters were impossible in the flood country, predation was severe and there were no sheep facilities as it had been run as a cattle block.

I am interested in wool shedding sheep and I had seen damaras on a property next door. I had been reading about dorpers and talking to people and I thought I would purchase some ewes and put them on the new block.

Jim Crossley with his young Dorper rams

Continued on page 3



- Dorpers – the big jump!
- Drought update
- Proposed address localities for Western NSW
- Geoff Woods – a farewell from NSW DPI
- Murray Darling Organics grows relationships
- Aquatic ecological communities
- How fish friendly is your property?
- Using fire to manage rangeland vegetation
- Last chance to purchase subsidised Glove Box Guide
- Western Catchment environmental carers deserve awards
- Cobar landholders improve their farming business
- Win for sheep goes way out west
- The Mildool Grazing Pressure Trial
- Breathing life back into Olive Downs
- Governesses, nannies and in-home carers wanted
- Homebush 2007 Field Day

Drought update

by Danny Byrnes, Drought Support Worker, NSW DPI, Hay

Farming families who missed out on emergency household grants distributed by the CWA last year can now apply for a new round of funding.

- An additional \$2 million has been made available to the CWA for the 2006–07 financial year by the Federal Government to be distributed to farming families to meet basic household costs such as food, clothing, fuel, emergency medical and dental costs, rates, electricity and telephone costs.
- If you have already received assistance from the last round of funding, including both Federal Government and CWA, you will not be eligible for this assistance.
- There is a new form for the relief grant. Information is available through the CWA website www.cwaofnsw.org.au or call the DPI Drought Support Workers:

Danny Byrnes (Hay) 0428 973 141
Lyn Leigo (Bourke) 0427 265 810

Western Division Newsletter

Advertising Rates per Issue

18 cm x 25.5 cm	\$500
18 cm x 12.5 cm	\$279
18 cm x 5 cm	\$135
14 cm x 10 cm	\$203
10.5 cm x 12.5 cm	\$190
10.5 cm x 8 cm	\$126
6.8 cm x 10 cm	\$109
6.8 cm x 5 cm	\$61

All prices are GST inclusive; 10 % discount for full year advertising; published Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec

Contact: Sally Ware, NSW DPI, Hay
Ph: (02) 6993 1608
Email: sally.ware@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Delete or change of address details

(please tick one box)

Delete

Change of address

Name:

Address:.....

.....Phone:

Please fax to Sally Ware at the Hay office of NSW DPI on (02) 6993 2177 or post to PO Box 393, Hay NSW 2711 or email typed details through to sally.ware@dpi.nsw.gov.au



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



NSW Government
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Department of
Environment and
Conservation (NSW)

The Western Division Newsletter is jointly produced by NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Natural Resources with funding assistance from the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), the Western Catchment Management Authority, the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Authority and the Lachlan Catchment Authority.

'Dorpers – the big jump' continued from page 1

I knew I could run the sheep completely separate to the merino enterprise. The bushy groundsel was quite extensive and I knew the damaras were doing okay on it next door.

Dorpers were looking very appealing because the lambs can be sold to all markets domestic, export and also go live.

How did you start to make the change?

I was able to source some ewes because a property was being sold. I bought 600 dorper F2, F3 and F4 full shedding ewes that were of a mixed age from a wiltshire horn base. We call these Wiltydorps. These ewes were purchased on the point of lambing.

I was worried for the first few days. I was hoping the ewes would stay in the paddock. The fences were cattle fences and were typical flood plain fences on the property. The ewes did wander a bit but I was able to locate most of them. It probably took a couple of months for them to settle down. Roo holes were a problem.

I started a fencing program by putting ringlock (hinge joint) on fences. This program is continuing. I have since discovered that once dorpers settle down they will stay in the paddock, in fact they are almost territorial.

Two months after my first purchase, I was able to buy 400 young first and second cross merino dorper ewes lambs from the same property. This mob has been run separately to the first mob purchased.

Dorper rams were purchased from the Dubbo ram sale in 2004 and I continue to buy rams from this sale.

What happened next?

I sold my first drop of wethers over the hooks at 6 to 8 months of age. The carcasses weighed 25 kg on average and dressed at 53%. The return per head was excellent. I was starting to get excited as these sheep had been running on ordinary feed. I kept the ewe portion as breeders.



It is only two and half years later – how are things going?

Very well. I am currently fencing and have built two new sets of yards on the property. Over the past two years I have been using make shift yards in the paddock and portable yards in the cattle yards.

I am joining the ewes in February and again in August. I find there is no problem with double joinings. I am currently not weaning the ewe lambs. Family groups are common in the paddock and you will often find a ewe hogget with her mother and both have lambs. The wethers are sold over the hooks at 10 months of age and they average about 27–30 kg; they always dress over 50% which is excellent. The return per head continues to remain exceptional.

Jim has found that Dorpers thrive on very average quality feed in paddocks where other breeds would die.

Continued on page 4

Riverside White Dorpers For Sale

Full shedding

Dorper and Wiltshire-infused Dorper rams

2006 drop ready to work

tops \$750 seconds \$500

Riverside Booligal

Phone Jim (04) 2893 8114 or Dan (02) 6993 8125 a/h

"Dorpers – the big jump' from previous page

An agent asked me to consider selling rams in 2005. I have since started classing, keeping the tops and selling young rams to other landholders. I am very pleased with my sales to date.

What are some of the main advantages of dorpers?

They do not get lice, fly strike and they do not need shearing, crutching or mulesing. They thrive on very average quality feed in paddocks where merinos would die. The ewes have a very strong mothering instinct and seem to deal well with predators including both pigs and foxes. The ewes rear their lambs, usually twins and stay fat even during a drought. The lambing percentages average above 150% and with some finetuning I expect to achieve 200% in the future. The wether lambs are very saleable at about 10 months of age. We have achieved fat scores of 3 and 4 on five inches of rain per annum.

Any disadvantages?

I think if the country gets a lot of rain and the feed does start to grow, the lambs will go over fat. We find the Wiltshire horn influence (about 10%) alleviates this problem and gives better structural soundness for pastoral areas. Also, if you do miss lambs at mustering they grow so quickly that they soon become very large. Some of the lambs also need a bit of a clean up i.e. remove

some wool from their backs before sale. We do this with an electric hand piece in the yards.

How does your country look?

The dorpers have chewed the lignum and bushy groundsel right back. They seem to like to browse, selecting a bit of this and that rather than straight grazing on the ground. At the moment the drought is biting hard, the ground cover is mostly shrub and these sheep are thriving by browsing on the shrubs.

Are you happy to talk to others about your experience?

Yes, we receive a call from other landholders asking about dorpers nearly every week, and I have taken many interested people for a drive through the paddocks.

Note: Jim can be contacted after hours on (02) 6993 8114 or by mobile 0428 938 114.

Proposed address localities for Western NSW

The Geographical Names Board (GNB) has proposed address locality names and boundaries for the unincorporated Western area of NSW.

Address locality names and boundaries have never been formalised in this area and nor have road names although many are signposted or appear on maps.

Registering names and the boundaries on the GNB register will help eliminate confusion and improve public services.

The details recorded on the Geographical Names Register are used for publishing maps and directories, and, in the case of localities, are legal addresses recognised by Australia Post.

This system is designed to help with delivery of mail and goods and assist emergency services to reach correct destinations during bushfires or floods.

The GNB has consulted widely on the western lands proposal and it is supported by Australia Post, Broken Hill Council, community groups and many other organisations.

It will create 14 new address localities: Broken Hill, Broughams Gate, Fowlers Gap, Little Topar, Menindee, Milparinka, Mutawintji,

Packsaddle, Pooncarie, Scotia, Tibooburra, Wanaaring and White Cliffs.

Residents of Tibooburra, for example, will have a residential address that reflects the town name, rather than 'via Broken Hill'.

It is also proposed to assign 30 rural place names and 46 road names.

A map of the address localities can also be viewed on the GNB website at www.gnb.nsw.gov.au during the public consultation period between 16 March and 30 April 2007.

The Geographical Names Board (GNB) is seeking public comment on the proposal and will receive written submissions up to 30 April.

Submissions on this proposal should be addressed in writing to the Secretary of the Geographical Names Board, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst 2795.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES ACT 1966

Notice of proposal to determine Address Locality Names and Boundaries within the Western Lands Unincorporated Area

PURSUANT to the provisions of section 8 of the *Geographical Names Act 1966*, the Geographical Names Board hereby notifies that it proposes to define the address locality names and boundaries in the Western Lands Unincorporated Area as shown on map GNB5101.

The fourteen names proposed for address localities as shown on map GNB5101 are; *Broken Hill, Broughams Gate, Fowlers Gap, Little Topar, Menindee, Milparinka, Mutawintji, Packsaddle, Pooncarie, Scotia, Silvertown, Tibooburra, Wanaaring, and White Cliffs.*

Map GNB5101-1-A may be viewed at the office of the Western Lands Commission 45 Wingewarra Street Dubbo, Broken Hill Post Office, Tibooburra Community Centre, Silvertown Hotel, Milparinka Hotel, Packsaddle Road House, Wanaaring Post Office, Woolcunda Station and the office of the Geographical Names Board, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst NSW.

This proposal may also be viewed and submissions lodged on the Geographical Names Board web site at www.gnb.nsw.gov.au during the consultation period which finishes on 30 April 2007.

Any person wishing to make comment upon this proposal may prior to the 30 April 2007, write to the Secretary of the Geographical Names Board at PO Box 143, Bathurst NSW 2795 with that comment.

WARWICK WATKINS,
Chairperson

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES BOARD OF NSW

Notice of Proposed Road Names in the Western Unincorporated Area of NSW

PURSUANT to the provisions of Part 2, Division 2 of the Roads (General) Regulation 2000, the Geographical Names Board of NSW proposes that the following forty six road names in the Western Unincorporated Area of NSW as shown on map GNB6000-A be assigned by the Western Lands Commission who is the Roads Authority in this case.

The forty six road names to be assigned are; *Barrier Highway, Bootra Road, Border Downs Road, Cameron Corner Road, Cobham Lake Road, Corona Road, Glen Hope Road, Hamilton Gate Road, Hawker Gate Road, Hewart Downs Road, Joulmie Road, Jump Up loop Road, Kayrunnera Road, Loch Lilly Road, McDougalls Road, Menindee Road, Middle Road, Milparinka Road, Monolon Road, Mount Arrowsmith Road, Mount Shannon Road, Mount Westwood Road, Mount Woolwoolahra Road, Mutawintji Road, Netley Road, Nine Mile Road, Old Nob Road, Old Pooncarie Road, Pimpara Lake Road, Pinnacles Road, Range Road, Reola Road, Sanpah Road, Silver City Highway, Silvertown Road, Tandou Road, The Cut Line, The Loop Road, Tibooburra Road, Waka Road, Wampah Gate Road, Waterbag Road, Whipstick Road, Wilangi Road, Wonnaminta Road, Yancannia Road.*

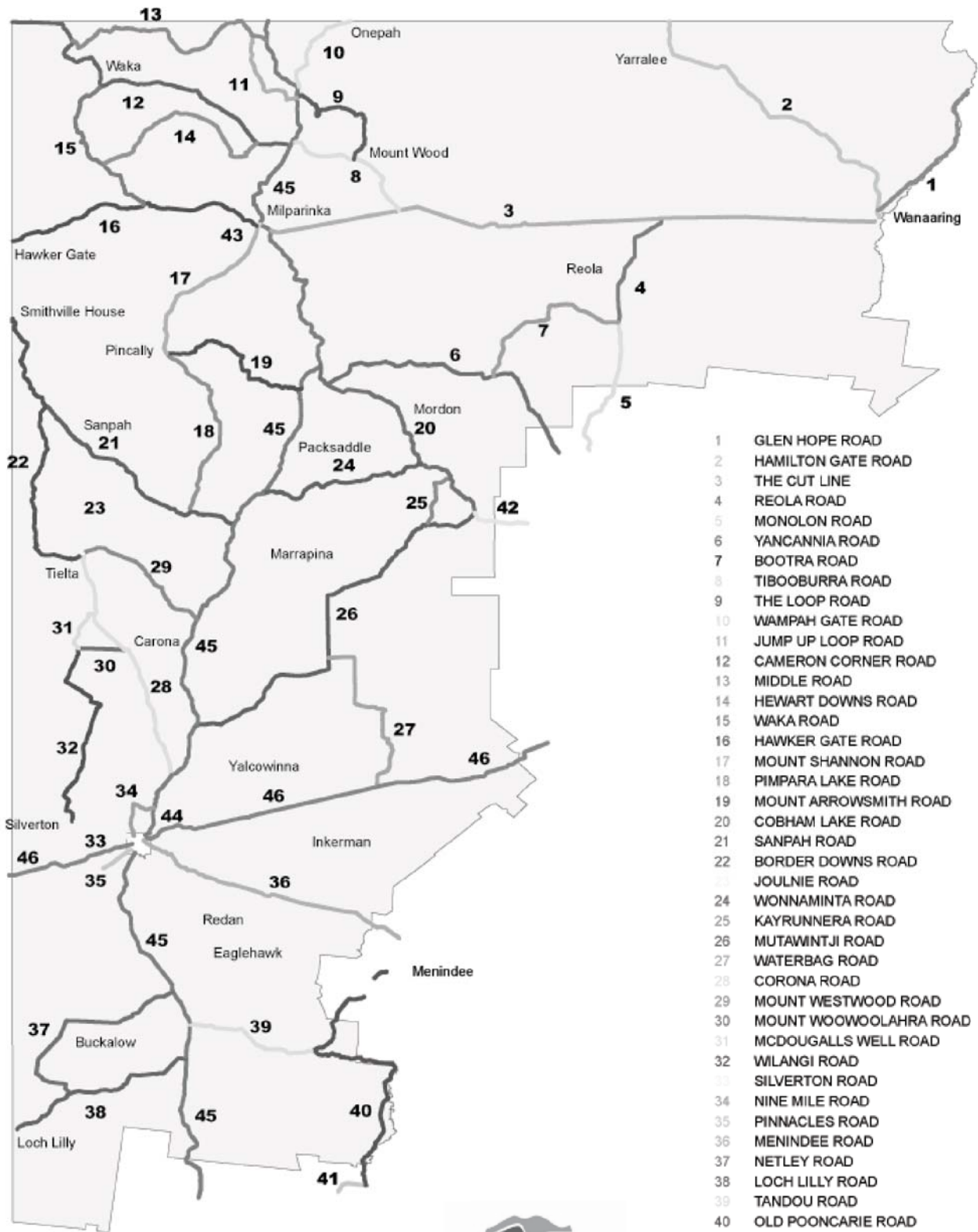
Map GNB600-A showing the location of these roads can be viewed at the office of the Western Lands Commission 45 Wingewarra Street Dubbo, Broken Hill Post Office, Tibooburra Community Centre, Silvertown Hotel, Milparinka Hotel, Packsaddle Road House, Wanaaring Post Office, Woolcunda Station and the office of the Geographical Names Board, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst NSW.

This proposal may also be viewed and submissions lodged on the Geographical Names Board web site at www.gnb.nsw.gov.au during the consultation period.

Any person wishing to lodge a submission regarding this proposal may, by 30 April 2007, write to the Secretary of the Geographical Names Board, PO Box 143 Bathurst 2795 New South Wales with their comments.

WARWICK WATKINS,
Chairperson

Draft Unincorporated Area Road Names



- 1 GLEN HOPE ROAD
- 2 HAMILTON GATE ROAD
- 3 THE CUT LINE
- 4 REOLA ROAD
- 5 MONOLON ROAD
- 6 YANCANNIA ROAD
- 7 BOOTRA ROAD
- 8 TIBOOBURRA ROAD
- 9 THE LOOP ROAD
- 10 WAMPAH GATE ROAD
- 11 JUMP UP LOOP ROAD
- 12 CAMERON CORNER ROAD
- 13 MIDDLE ROAD
- 14 HEWART DOWNS ROAD
- 15 WAKA ROAD
- 16 HAWKER GATE ROAD
- 17 MOUNT SHANNON ROAD
- 18 PIMPARA LAKE ROAD
- 19 MOUNT ARROWSMITH ROAD
- 20 COBHAM LAKE ROAD
- 21 SANPAH ROAD
- 22 BORDER DOWNS ROAD
- 23 JOULNIE ROAD
- 24 WONNAMINTA ROAD
- 25 KAYRUNNERA ROAD
- 26 MUTAWINTJI ROAD
- 27 WATERBAG ROAD
- 28 CORONA ROAD
- 29 MOUNT WESTWOOD ROAD
- 30 MOUNT WOOWOOLAHRA ROAD
- 31 MCDUGALLS WELL ROAD
- 32 WLANGI ROAD
- 33 SILVERTON ROAD
- 34 NINE MILE ROAD
- 35 PINNACLES ROAD
- 36 MENINDEE ROAD
- 37 NETLEY ROAD
- 38 LOCH LILLY ROAD
- 39 TANDOU ROAD
- 40 OLD POONCARIE ROAD
- 41 OLD NOB ROAD
- 42 WHIPSTICK ROAD
- 43 MILPARINKA ROAD
- 44 RANGE ROAD
- 45 SILVER CITY HIGHWAY
- 46 BARRIER HIGHWAY





GNB5101

Unincorporated (Western Division) Area

Showing Perceived Address/Locality Boundaries

- Suburb Boundary
- LGA Boundary
- Cadastral Boundary
- Major Road, Sealed Surface
- Major Road, Unsealed Surface
- Minor Road, Sealed Surface
- Minor Road, Unsealed Surface

Boundaries and Names Approved by The Congregational Council, Broken Hill
Boundaries and Names Included in the 2011 Government Gazette (s1)

Completed by the Congregational Council
 Project Name: Broken Hill 2705
 Telephone: 08 9333 0213
 Email: gnc@gnb5101.nsw.gov.au
 Web: www.gnc5101.nsw.gov.au

Department of Lands
 @ 2011 Department of Lands
 All rights reserved.
 This document is the property of the Department of Lands. It is loaned to you for your use only. It is not to be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the Department of Lands. The Department of Lands is not responsible for any loss or damage to any data stored on, or transmitted through, this system. The Department of Lands is not responsible for any loss or damage to any data stored on, or transmitted through, this system. The Department of Lands is not responsible for any loss or damage to any data stored on, or transmitted through, this system.

Note: This map can be viewed at the localities listed on page 5

Geoff Woods – a farewell from NSW DPI staff

Compiled by NSW DPI Western
Division staff



Background

- 1970 Graduated from Wagga Agricultural College with Diploma in Agriculture
- January 1971 commenced with NSW Department of Agriculture
- 1971–78 various locations: Condobolin, Trangie, Cowra, Yanco, Moree
It is widely known that Geoff was in popular demand at the Research Stations, not only for his professional skills, but for his great football skills!
- 1979–1996 Livestock Officer (Sheep/Beef) Broken Hill
Geoff originally intended to stay in Broken Hill for a short 3 year stint, but some 28 years later Geoff is still here!
- 1996 – Dec 2004 Appointed Regional Director of Agriculture, Far West (NSW Agriculture)
- Dec 2004 – Nov 2005 Acting Regional Director Agriculture & Fisheries (NSW Department of Primary Industries)

- Nov 2005 – Dec 2006 Appointed Regional Director, DPI Relations Far West (NSW Department of Primary Industries)
- Dec 2006 – Appointed Western Lands Commissioner (NSW Department of Natural Resources)

Notable as a ‘Sheepo’

Geoff worked closely with pastoralists in the Broken Hill district as well as other districts in the Western Division. He was responsible for organising and conducting 4 successful wether trials, as well as organising and publicising numerous workshops and field days. Geoff was successful in encouraging producers to purchase higher grade rams, fine-up their wool, reduce carrying capacity and undertake sheep and wool classing. Geoff also helped producers design wool sheds and sheep yards. In fact, one producer named his new wool shed after Geoff. (Geoff had his 50th birthday bash in the shed). Geoff was highly regarded and continued to class sheep in his spare time for a couple of Western Division producers. Local extension staff are still reminded of the good old days when ‘Woody’ ran the wether trials, and a fair price was paid for wool.

In 1994 Geoff was presented with a NSW Agriculture Staff Achievement Award for ‘outstanding dedication and contribution to the Department, the sheep industry and the rural community in the Western Division of NSW’.

Notable as Regional Director, 1996–2006

As Regional Director, Geoff was the public representative for the Minister and Director-General in the Far West Region. Geoff’s key responsibilities were to monitor the Far West Region and identify issues through liaison with

rural communities, farmer and industry associations, government agencies, other regional organisations and local government. Geoff's role also included the management of the Department's response to natural disasters occurring in the region.

Geoff was presented with the Department's '30 Years of Service Award' in May 2001.

As Regional Director, Geoff had many commitments and meetings and made every attempt to fulfil his responsibilities. During one hectic week Geoff was dropped off at the local airport, he had been so busy and had visited many locations, remarked to the officer 'I'm not sure where I am supposed to be going today'. As usual he turned up at the right places with the right notes, ready to work for the best outcome for the Western Division.

Such was Geoff's commitment to his role as Regional Director, he has been known as the most travelled member of the Regional

Relations branch in terms of kilometres. To manage the large area which is the Western Division, he could often be found on his mobile phone, while parked under a shady tree, enroute to another meeting in any one of the region's remote locations.

Geoff's knowledge, experience and commitment to the Western Division over the last 28 years has been recognised and in December he was appointed as Western Lands Commissioner with the NSW Department of Natural Resources. The NSW DPI staff in the Western Division congratulate Geoff on his appointment and wish him all the very best in his new role.

LOOKING FOR A TOUGH, HARD WORKING,
RELIABLE WORKMATE TO GO THE LONG DISTANCE



FOR A NO
FUSS,
OBLIGATION
FREE QUOTE,
ON THE FULL
RANGE OF
TOYOTA UTES
AND WAGONS

Talk to IAN LUGSDIN at
Lugsdin Toyota, HAY 2711
Ph: 02 69931661 Mob: 0428 729305

Murray Darling Organics grows relationships

The group of organic lamb producers, buyers, industry representatives and interested persons that formed after the very successful Organic Lamb conference in Balranald in July 2006, is in the process of incorporation and will now be known as 'Murray Darling Organics'.

Broken Hill was the location for the fourth meeting of the group and the format of the gathering was an open forum in the morning, followed by a committee meeting in the afternoon. Guest speaker, Mr Will Jeffries of The Organic Meat Company, gave a brief overview of the company's role in the organic industry and some interesting statistics on organic meat sales, domestically and internationally.

'We see groups such as Murray Darling Organics as a crucial part of the supply chain with consistency being the key – consistency of supply and demand, and of quality of produce,' Mr Jeffries said.

Will explained the company is keen to establish relationships with producers and offers more than an outlet for producers' stock.

'We offer a mentoring-type relationship. We are keen to help you meet our supply standards and grow your business to our mutual advantage,' he said.

A representative of the company visited producers in the area in mid February.

Growers who would like to know more about The Organic Meat Company can obtain more details from Murray Darling Organics Secretary Trevor Ablett.

'We also welcome anyone interested in organic production to contact us regarding our next forum, to be held in Pooncarie in April, and our group's activities. You do not have to be already organic certified or in conversion to get involved. In fact we have a number of people who have maintained links with us as they are interested in getting into organic production,' Trevor said.

For further information, inquires are welcome via phone to Trevor on (0427) 200 820 or by email to margot.organics@bigpond.com

Aquatic ecological communities



LMD CMA
32 Enterprise Way,
PO Box 363
Buronga, NSW, 2739
Ph (03) 5021 9460
Fax (03) 5021 1308
www.lmd.cma.nsw.gov.au

Along a quiet 25 kilometre stretch of the Lower Darling River, between Lelma and Burtundy Weir, a project to enhance the abundance and diversity of native fish species in the Catchment has commenced with funding through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

By implementing a set of aquatic habitat restoration activities such as revegetation and bed rehabilitation, the inhabitants of this aquatic ecological community will gain an improvement in their river environment. A number of the inhabitants have been listed as endangered under the *Fisheries Management Act (1994)* and they include all native aquatic species of worms, insects, worms, yabbies, fish and snails naturally found in the waterways of the Lower Darling drainage system.

‘Prior to the commencement of the project, the LMD CMA commissioned the NSW

Department of Primary Industries to investigate and recommend options to improve fish passage for weirs on the river, survey of aquatic habitat and included recommending the Lelma to Burtundy Weir reach as the preferred area for works,’ said Mark King, LMD CMA Chair.

The fish-way (see photo) at Burtundy Weir will allow fish to migrate to complete essential lifecycle processes such as spawning. The vertical-slot fishway comprises a concrete channel with vertical baffles creating a series of cells through which fish can swim. The baffle has been carefully designed to minimise the speed and turbulence of water flow so native fish can swim up the channel. The changes to the weir will re-establish fish passage to 234 km of the Lower Darling River.

‘The habitat management plan will assess the quality of existing aquatic habitat such as snags and riparian vegetation along the reach and determine the works needed to enable the aquatic ecological community to recover. This plan will serve as the driving document for the implementation of the works and consider other management issues such as river flow within the Lower Darling River,’ he said.

‘The project aims to enhance the abundance and diversity of our native fish species in the Catchment by implementing restoration activities. The benefit to the community is a healthy functioning aquatic ecosystem and sustainable fish population in the Lower Murray Darling Catchment,’ said Mark.

An important aspect of the project is to raise the level of community awareness about the pressures affecting aquatic habitat and native fish species and the actions that can be undertaken to assist the recovery of our native fish populations.

This consultation process will be three-fold. The landholders along the reach as well as schools, anglers, local government and tourism will be kept informed of

Right: Burtundy Weir



Below: A two cell vertical slot fishway



How fish friendly is your property?

by Charlotte Grove
Conservation Management Officer, NSW DPI

When most people think about the link between fish and primary producers they usually picture a farm dam, irrigation storage or aquaculture pond stocked with fish and yabbies and primed for throwing in the odd line or two. However, a new program developed by NSW Department of Primary Industries is ready to change that association.

Fish Friendly Farms is a new innovative program that encourages landholders to protect and enhance natural native fish habitat on and off their properties. Supported by the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers and funded by the Murray Darling Basin Commission and the Natural Resources Advisory Council, the program involves educational field days, information sessions and publications on fish friendly land management techniques, fish habitat, fish species and funding opportunities for landholders.

The health of our rivers and creeks is often influenced by activities on the land, and with primary producers managing nearly 70 % of land in NSW, through which a large proportion of the state's waterways run, landholders are at the forefront of efforts to improve native fish numbers

'Aquatic ecological communities' from previous page

the project's progress by way of media articles, newsletters and presentations. The Barkindji Elders Council will be consulted about any cultural issues associated with the construction of the fishway at Burtundy Weir, the implementation of the habitat management plan and will also be kept informed of the project's progress.

The LMD CMA is also supporting the construction of a fish passage on the proposed replacement weir at Pooncarie.



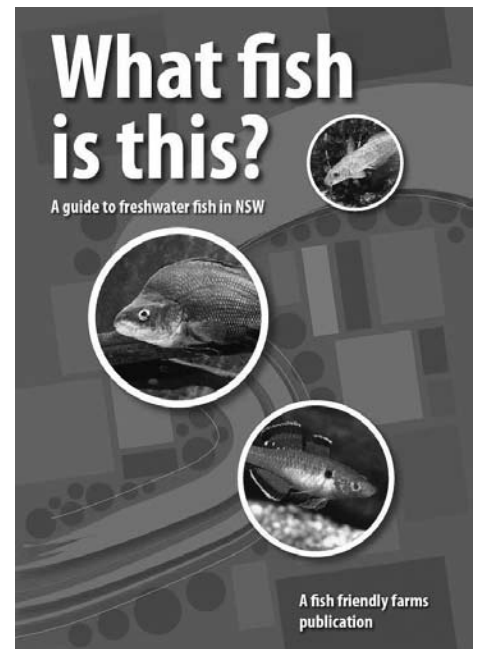
Above: A fish friendly seminar in progress Below: One of a number of free publications available

and enhance the aquatic environment.

There are many ways landholders can help make their properties more fish friendly; such as managing stock access to the riverbanks, protecting and rehabilitating degraded riverbanks with vegetation native to the area; ensuring road crossings and other structures don't block the movement of fish, ensuring that large woody habitat (snags) in the river lie undisturbed and controlling significant sources of sediment input to the river, such as eroding gullies.

The benefits of making properties fish friendly are not only experienced by the fish and whatever else swims, crawls or flies there but also by the landholder. Improved productivity can potentially be achieved through better stock management by installing off-stream water points and riparian fencing, and impacts from wind, heat and cold stress in crops and livestock can be reduced by establishing healthy riparian zones and providing adequate natural protection.

The Fish Friendly Farms team is travelling throughout the state delivering the program to regional communities and providing advice on how landholders can help native fish populations. To find out when an information session will be held in your region or to obtain a copy of the new free publications contact Charlotte Grove on (02) 6626 1107 or charlotte.grove@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Using fire to manage rangeland vegetation

– best management practices for burning

by Russell Grant, Western CMA
and David Eldridge, DNR

Fire has been a part of the Australian landscape for many thousands of years, and much of our vegetation has evolved in the presence of fire. Indigenous Australians managed the landscape using fire, but in the 200 years since European settlement, many of the previous fire regimes have been suppressed. The lack of fire in large areas of rangelands in the United States, South Africa and Australia has been directly linked to the increase in woody plants, a process known as vegetation thickening. The lack of natural fires in the semi-arid rangelands are seen as threatening the landscape and biodiversity values of the rangelands.

Some pastoralists have been using fire to rejuvenate pasture and to control woody shrubs, particularly in Australia's northern savannas. In NSW, agencies such as Department of Environment and Conservation have used fire to alter the vegetation to make it more suitable for endangered species such as the mallee fowl. In the early 1970s, CSIRO and the Soil Conservation Service examined the use of fire to control woody shrubs in the Western Division. Despite their best efforts, we still have little idea about when and where fire is likely to be useful for managing native vegetation. The outcomes of management burns remain notoriously variable.

The Western Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Natural Resources have joined forces to look at best management practices for using fire to manage vegetation in the semi-arid rangelands. This project aims to understand what factors influence pastoralists' attitudes to fire, and to address some of them by developing and applying best management practices.

There are three components to the project: (1) to combine landholder knowledge and experience with existing scientific information from Australia and overseas, (2) to conduct targeted investigations to fill knowledge gaps about the effects of fire on native vegetation and (3) to develop, demonstrate, and communicate best management practice guidelines for using fire in rangelands. Depending on seasonal conditions, we hope to organize a number of field burns, but we are also keen to use existing sites and studies where possible, to value add to the work.

We are keen to make contact with landholders who would be interested in sharing their ideas on fire with us, or have used fire in the past 10 years, or are perhaps interested in hosting a controlled burn on their property in the next 12 months.

For further information contact Russell Grant, Western CMA (02) 6836 1575 or David Eldridge, Department of Natural Resources (02) 9385 2194.

Preliminary Notice

White Dorper Information Day

To be held in Ivanhoe in April
Final date and venue to be advised

Expressions of interest currently sought from
parties wishing to attend and/or display.



Rawlinson & Brown – Hay

78 Lachlan St

(Ph) (02) 6993 1055



WANTED

Agistment

Sheep and/or Cattle

Top rates. Negotiable terms

Rawlinson & Brown – Hay

78 Lachlan St
(02) 6993 1055



Grant Kelson



Ah: (02) 6993 2122 Mob: 0429 6910 555

Last chance to purchase subsidised Glove Box Guide

by Leah Arnold, Community Education Officer, Western CMA

Supplies of subsidised copies of *The Glove Box Guide to Plants of the NSW Rangelands* are dwindling and Western Catchment landholders are urged to pick up a copy when they are next in town.

The Western Catchment Management Authority are selling the well-known Department of Primary Industries publication at a subsidised price of \$10, a saving of \$15 from its usual price.

The guide is an invaluable resource for landholders and offering the books at this price is a very practical way of helping landholders to improve their land management.

The Glove Box Guide is a compact, easy-to-use booklet that enables quick identification of 127 common and important native and introduced plants with information on their lifecycle, habitat, palatability and/or toxicity to livestock.



Western CMA Natural Resource Management Facilitator, Chris Higgins, using the Glove Box Guide.

The booklets are available at all Western CMA offices, located at Cobar, Walgett, Broken Hill and Bourke or by ringing 1800 032 101.

Western Catchment environmental carers deserve awards

by Leah Arnold, Community Education Officer, Western CMA

All Western Catchment residents involved in caring for their environment are encouraged to enter the Country Energy Western Catchment Environmental Care Awards.

Entries will be accepted until 4 pm on Monday, April 30.

We're scouring the region to find the Western Catchment's unsung heroes – people who look after land, vegetation, rivers, groundwater or biodiversity in the Western Catchment.

Throughout the Catchment, people from all walks of life are rolling up their sleeves to tackle our environmental problems and deserve recognition for their efforts.

Whether they're part of an established Landcare group or not, I urge everyone

to consider nominating themselves or people they know who are making a difference in our Catchment.

The awards provide an opportunity to share information and solutions with people in a similar situation, so that others can learn from your experience.

There are seven categories: Individual; Rivercare; Nature Conservation; Community Group; Business/Industry; Environmental Education; Indigenous Community.

The winner of each category will receive a trophy and \$500 in prize-money. Runners-up will receive a framed certificate.

Entrants in the Country Energy Western Catchment Environmental Care Awards are then eligible for the NSW Landcare Awards and the possibility of going on to become finalists in the National Landcare Awards.

Information packs and entry forms are available from all Western CMA offices and from the website www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1800 032 101.

Cobar landholders improve their farming business



The course participants

by Russell Grant, Operations
Manager, Western CMA

Seventeen landholders from Western NSW learnt to run better farming businesses through a training course held in Cobar recently.

The landholders from the Cobar, Nymagee, Ivanhoe, Coolabah and Girilambone districts undertook the five-day 'The Business of Farming' training.

They undertook the training through a grant provided by the Western Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) 2006 Incentive Program to encourage sustainable agriculture.

Participants learnt to analyse their farm performance, identify drivers of profit and

the weakest link in their current operations and improve their ability to work with natural ecological processes to reduce costs and improve landscape productivity.

They left the training with a strategic plan for themselves and their farm business which incorporates a balance between work and home-life.

They gained the skills to facilitate teamwork within their family and staff and create time for family activities and personal development.

Karen Viant of Cable Downs near Cobar and her husband enrolled for the course after hearing of its success for other landholders.

'You can never be too informed. My husband, Steve, had heard good reports, so we were hoping it would be repeated,' Ms Viant said.

'We already knew how to do cash flows, etc. but this gives you the confidence that you're doing it right,' she said.

Gina Rogerson of Buckwaroon near Cobar is keen to apply the skills learnt.

'I'm going to go back and do my gross product analysis. The accountant may come up with a negative net profit, however, if you split the business into products, for example, sheep or cattle, some are making a profit and some are making a loss. I'll be going home and concentrating on those things that are making us a profit,' Ms Rogerson said.



Pooncarie Field Day Saturday May 5, 2007 Pooncarie Race Course

- Tri-State Blade Shearing Title
- Sheep and Goat Dog Trials
- Fleece Competition and Pastoral Wool Show
- Pen of 4 Lambs
- Property Invented or Improved Innovations
- Entertainment + more events

Contact: Gus Whyte
ph: (03) 5027 0230
or Rachael Strachan
ph: (03) 5027 9209

Win for sheep goes way out west

by Fiona Wragge, Peppin-Shaw Ewe Flock Committee

It's a competition like no other.

Judges travel hundreds of kilometres and see thousands of sheep in just two days – but that is all just part of the Peppin-Shaw Ewe Flock Competition held this week.

The final results saw Ian MacLachlan's Tupra Station at Oxley judged overall winner, taking out the title after entering for only the second time.

Tupra manager David Rankin said it was a great honour for the operation to be judged the best of the region.

'We've had two goes at it (entering the Peppin Shaw) and to win on the second occasion is a very great honour,' he said.

Tupra is a 95,000 ha station north-west of Hay, and their sheep initially won the northern section of the competition before taking out the overall award.

The owners aim to breed a flock of sheep which are large-framed, highly fertile with good wool. They use principally their own bloodline, with infusions of Leachim and Centre Plus Poll.

Overall runner up went again to the north, with Graham and Helen Morphett's Yamba Station at Booligal taking this award after running second to Tupra in their section.

The winner of the central section was Twynam Agricultural Group's Mungadal, Hay, while the southern section was taken out by Geoff and Jill Chapman from Nyangay, Hay.

Peppin-Shaw Ewe Flock Competition president Greg Rogers said this year's event had been a huge success despite the drought.

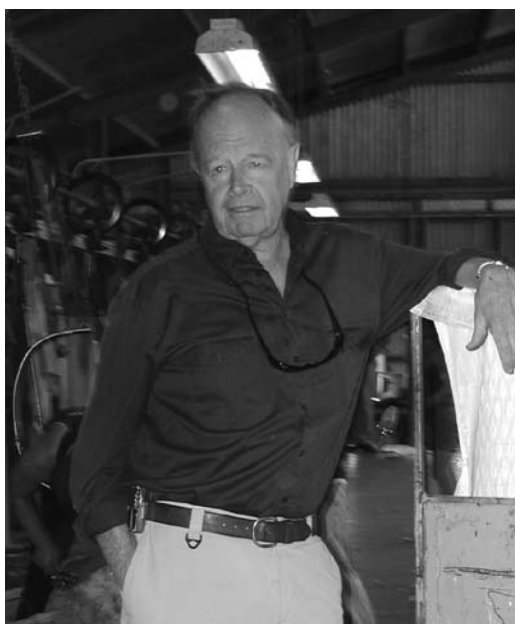
'I think the attitude of everyone was just incredible given that it is such a tough season,' he said.

'But people looked beyond that to take advantage of the input of two excellent judges (David Kellock from South Australia and Andries Pienaar from South Africa) who spoke at each of the 11 properties.

'We always promote this competition as a forum in the sheeyards but this year, the forum was the best I had heard and it is great to see such enthusiasm from commercial Merino breeders.'



Above: David Rankin with the winning flock. Below left: Owner of the winning flock and one of the guest speakers, Ian McLachlan. Below: Second placegetter, Helen Morphett speaking to the crowd at Yamba.



The Mildool Total Grazing Pressure Trial

– Grazing management to build the resource

by Dick and Kate Bucknell,
Calooma Station, Dirranbandi
Trudie Atkinson (Livestock
Officer) NSW DPI, Broken Hill

Dick and Kate Bucknell conducted a Western TGP trial (a WEST 2000 plus funded project), to compare the effects of planned grazing and continuous grazing on landscape function, vegetation and animal production.

The trial was conducted on Mildool, a 2963 ha portion of the Bucknell's property, located south of Hebel on the NSW-Queensland border, and commenced in May 2001.

Dick and Kate identified a need to change their grazing management as they believed the resource base had been gradually depreciating. Conservative but continuous grazing of large paddocks was resulting in uneven grazing distribution, leading to areas of overutilisation, while the paddock as a whole was being under stocked.

Practicing planned grazing has required a number of changes. Firstly, to adopt a grazing philosophy of focusing on the pasture and growing as much grass as possible. Secondly, significant infrastructure (e.g. fencing and waters) has been established to improve grazing distribution.

There is no single set of rules for planned grazing management. Planned grazing

involves using resources for the best result. Resting country is critical and this is a management priority.

Mildool was split into 19 paddocks. Generally, stock are rotated through the paddocks at higher stocking rates for short durations, allowing adequate rest and recovery of pastures after grazing. Animal impact from the high stocking rates is also used to increase disturbance of capped soils.

The infrastructure can also be used in alternative ways to manage the landscape and stock condition. For example, under drought conditions in 2002–03 rotating large mobs of sheep through paddocks was ineffective when plants were not growing. Hence, a different approach was taken, stock numbers were reduced and the remaining sheep were spread out evenly into the different paddocks and the edible scrub was cut to feed the sheep. During this time the largest mob consisted of only 60 sheep. This reduced dusting and the pasture response was good following adequate rainfall.

Three of the 19 paddocks on Mildool were the focus of the Western TGP trial. One paddock was continuously grazed as a control, while the other two paddocks were the focus sections of the planned grazing area. All three paddocks were stocked to ensure that they received the same number of animal unit days per hectare each year.

A number of important findings and observations have been made during the trial period, both within the focus paddocks and on other areas of the property subject to planned grazing. Dick and Kate have observed that:

- Rotating large mobs of sheep through paddocks is ineffective when plant growth is zero. During dry times, this strategy would only cause landscape damage and dusting.

Dick and Kate Bucknell at the junction of four paddocks, part of the infrastructure used to implement planned grazing at Mildool Station.



- Focusing on improving the pasture base has been accompanied by changes to the livestock enterprises. This has meant shifting from breeding high quality stock to a livestock trading system. The climate is becoming increasingly variable and production systems have to change to be more suited to this change. A trading operation can be set up to take advantage of the flushes and manage the troughs.
- Sheep may not be sufficient to generate enough hoof impact to break up capped soils, and better results are being seen in other areas of the property where cattle have been running. Cattle need to be a part of the system to get the best response from planned grazing. Sheep are also not suited to rotation when they are lambing, hence the rotation has to cease during lambing. A complex complementary joining program in the Merino enterprise at Mildool exacerbated this problem. A recent decision was made to sell all Merino sheep, as cattle are better suited to building the depreciated resource. It is likely sheep will be used again once the resource has been restored sufficiently.
- The monitoring sites established in the focus paddocks are not reflecting the sorts of changes observed elsewhere on the property. For example, there has been a marked species composition change from spinifex (*Triodia* spp.) to grasses such as Mulga Mitchell (*Thyridolepis mitchelliana*) in sand hill country outside the trial where cattle have been stocked.
- If the continuously stocked treatment was maintained over the longer term, continuous degradation of the landscape and pastures would occur.

During the trial staff from NSW Department of Primary Industries collected botanical composition, ground cover and biomass data from monitoring sites in each of the three focus paddocks. Grazed areas in the paddocks were compared with

enclosures to investigate the impact of the grazing treatments. By May 2005 these observations indicated that:

- Change in the frequency of major pasture species provided no evidence of any response to planned grazing over the period of the study.
- Ground cover trends showed no evidence of any consistent difference between the grazing treatments.
- There were some significant differences between the grazed and ungrazed sites, with a higher occurrence of palatable species such as Katoora/Ray Grass (*Sporobolus actinocladus*) and Copperburrs (*Sclerolaena* spp.) in the ungrazed areas.
- Ungrazed sites had a significantly higher cover of cryptogams (the black crust on the surface of the soil made up of lichen, fungi and algae). This suggests that these surface crusts may regenerate rapidly in the absence of trampling. These crusts contribute to ground cover and protect the soil from erosion.

These findings do not reflect the positive changes that Dick and Kate have seen under planned grazing in other areas of the property. The main reason for this lack of response is probably the severe drought conditions that occurred through much of the trial period. In addition, areas outside the trial have been subject to planned grazing for longer and have been stocked with cattle rather than sheep. The open red soil plains of the focus paddocks, in which the monitoring sites are located, may also take longer to respond than the sandier soils where the best response has been observed.

The effect of planned grazing will continue to be monitored at Mildool during the second phase of the western TGP Project until at least 2008.

Mallee Sheep Nutrition Workshop



Grain and Graze (G&G) Mallee are holding interactive Sheep nutrition workshops at Balranald and Wentworth in June 2007.

Farmers will have the opportunity to listen to, and interact with the highly regarded speaker, San Jolly from 'Productive Nutrition Pty Ltd' who will be addressing a variety of livestock issues including sheep nutrition, feed lotting, complementary feeding, critical nutrition periods, ewe and lamb feed requirements plus much more.

These nutrition workshops will be highly farmer interactive and should not be missed by anyone carrying out a livestock enterprise.

For more information contact
Zubair Shahzad
(03) 5021 9103 or
Graeme McIntosh
(03) 50198404



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



Breathing life back into Olive Downs

by Jacki Roberts, Senior Public Affairs Officer, Department of Environment and Conservation

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is breathing new life into the homestead and single men's quarters at Olive Downs in the Sturt National Park.

Once part of the Olive Downs pastoral property, owned at one time by cattle king Sidney Kidman, the buildings have been undergoing renovations in preparation for their opening for accommodation.

NPWS Area Manager Ingrid Witte said being in the central section of Sturt National Park, the renovations should prove popular with tourists and students.

'The campground at Olive Downs is our most popular and having more accommodation available in this section will complement other facilities such as at Fort Grey, Dead Horse Gully and the State Heritage Listed Mt Wood Homestead Complex.

'There are some interesting research projects underway in Sturt National Park and we often have students, from as far away as Germany or France, carrying out all sorts of surveys on our flora and fauna.



Homestead at Olive Downs, a former Kidman property and now part of Sturt National Park, before renovations

'Having more accommodation options available will suit our students as well as our mum and dad tourists.

'We are very conscious of the important cultural heritage of Olive Downs and have completed a conservation management plan on the homestead complex.

'The next part of the renovations will be having grid power connected, which will increase the reliability of electricity supply and enable us to reopen the doors of the homestead, hopefully by mid-year,' Ms Witte said.

Anyone wanting further information about Olive Downs can contact the Tibooburra NPWS Area office on (08) 8091 3308.

Governesses, nannies and in-home carers wanted

More information can be obtained about some of the positions through www.governessaustralia.com or Far West In Home Care, Cobar ph: (02) 6836 1156 or through advertisements in local papers or through Distance Education Schools.

Many families in the Western Division are looking for responsible people to be employed as governesses, nannies and in-home carers.

Life on the land is busy and at times it is very stressful for the parents. Husbands are asking their wives to come and help in the paddock, young children want to play dress ups, the teacher is asking where is the completed school work, the taxation office is after the BAS statement, the agent arrives for a cuppa and a chat and you haven't thought of dinner. The house work will just have to wait.

Unlike people living in more populated areas, families can not access child care centres and the children are not dropped

off at school. Children of farming families often have to work alongside their parents, at times being placed in situations that may become dangerous.

The drought is causing extra pressure on young families and for some families the pressure of having to 'do it all' becomes too much, in extreme cases families pack up and leave the bush or marriages fall apart.

There are many families offering good wages and working conditions for people to be employed as governesses, nannies or in-home carers. The biggest problem facing these families is there are very few people wishing to be employed in this area,

Homebush 2007 Field Day

Homebush Field Day

25 km north of Balranald
on Ivanhoe Road
Friday, April 13

9.00 am – 4.00 pm
All major agricultural exhibits

Contact: Alison Linnett, (Secretary)
ph: (03) 5020 1934

The inaugural Homebush Field Day was held in April 2006 and following such positive responses to that event, the committee decided to hold another field day on Friday 13th April, 2007.

At the 2006 Field Day, exhibitors showcased a wide range of large, medium and small farming machinery and equipment, livestock, rural merchandise and clothing as well as information about government services. Homewares, craft products, plant nurseries and the varied general interests of field day patrons were also catered for in both our outdoor and indoor venues along with displays of older machines that were once at the forefront of agriculture.

from page 18

possibly due to the lack of awareness that these positions exist.

One recruitment website alone currently has 37 families searching for a governess or nanny. Far West In Home Care based at Cobar has 6 families searching for carers.

These positions are ideal for young people who have completed school and are considering a career in teaching, someone wishing for a career in early childhood, people wishing to save money, someone needing a job that enables them time to study or people just wanting to take a break from a city lifestyle and have a career change.



Afternoon gatekeepers Travis Linnett (beanie) and Danny Morgan (cap) standing in mud following 50 points of rain that fell last year at the inaugural Homebush Field Day

Homebush 2007 is shaping up to being bigger and better. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Homebush 2007 and trust both exhibitors and patrons will make the most of the opportunities that will be presented to them during the day, and the contacts made for the future.

Our venue

No, it isn't in Sydney! Homebush is situated 29 km north of Balranald on the Ivanhoe Road. The area boasts an historic hotel with adjacent caravan park/camping ground and of course, the Homebush Recreation Reserve, the site of the field day.

The Homebush area comprises a diverse range of agriculture including sheep, cattle, irrigation, cropping, forestry, horticulture and viticulture. Our committee comprises local farmers – some live up to 100 km from the field day site, and towns people from Balranald who look to demonstrate what a small rural community can achieve.

We look forward to receiving your booking for the day and receiving information about your business to include in our promotion of the Homebush 2007 Field Day.

For further information contact
Alison (secretary)
ph/fax (03) 5020 1934 or
0427 502 019 or
homebush2007@hotmail.
com.au

If unclaimed please return to:
NSW Department of Primary Industries
PO Box 865, DUBBO NSW 2830

To the Landholder



Western Division newsletter

The editors of the WDN welcome contributions

Issue No.		Deadline for articles	Editorial Office
115	Jan–Feb	1 December 2006	NSW DPI
116	Mar–Apr	1 February 2007	PO Box 393, Hay 2711
117	May–June	1 April 2007	Fax: (02) 6993 2177
118	Jul–Aug	1 June 2007	Phone: (02) 6993 1608
119	Sep–Oct	1 August 2007	Email: sally.ware@dpi.nsw.gov.au