

Still here to help

Welcome to our special edition newsletter "Still here to help". At Hunter Local Land Services we understand that while we may have been in lockdown, pastures are still growing, stock still needs attending to, weeds are still spreading, the birds and the bees are doing their thing and spring is in full swing. We have been busy planning our next round of events and projects designed especially for you and our region, but in the meantime please enjoy this "Still here to help" newsletter full of project highlights from the Hunter Local Land Services team. On each page you will have a cuppa with our staff and see snapshots from our projects with QR codes linking to further information. Just remember, that even though our offices might be operating differently to help protect our community... *we are still here to help!*

A cuppa with Brett

Name: Brett Miners

Role: General Manager

How do you take your tea?

Anyway it comes, especially if accompanied by warm conversation and an opportunity to share stories and perspectives.

Why do you do what you do?

I have always been inspired by the opportunity to make a difference for rural and regional communities.

What's your favourite Local Land Services project

you've ever worked on? Too many to mention – I love the breadth and quality of services which we provide for our more than 17,500 customers and the organisations we collaborate with.



INSIDE MEET OUR:

- ❁ Catchments Team
- ❁ Land Management Team
- ❁ Agricultural Extension Team
- ❁ Community Engagement Team
- ❁ Natural Resource Management Team
- ❁ District Vet Team
- ❁ Biosecurity Team
- ❁ Customer Service Team
- ❁ Quiz Time
- ❁ Rainfall Chart

'Local people, delivering high quality, integrated services for healthy, productive landscapes'

Get to know the local Community Engagement Officer in your district.

Upper Hunter

Kath McLoughlin
0427 151 092
kath.mcloughlin@lls.nsw.gov.au



Lower Hunter

Eva Twarkowski
0437 056 978
eva.twarkowski@lls.nsw.gov.au



Manning Great Lakes

Daniel Trudgeon
0419 436 185
daniel.trudgeon@lls.nsw.gov.au



Hunter Local Land Services

1300 795 299 Monday to Friday

lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter



Catchments Team

We're providing advice on best practice farm management around sensitive waterways.

Post Flood Erosion Advice

The Hunter Local Land Services Catchments Team recently followed up more than 70 erosion enquiries from landholders after the March 2021 floods across the Manning Great Lakes and Hunter. The team visited impacted properties and gave site specific advice to help rehabilitate eroded stream banks, reduce future erosion risk, and better manage the riparian (stream banks) zone.

Observing sudden and rapid bank erosion of stream banks and gullies can be very concerning to landholders, leading to loss of valuable land and threatening infrastructure such as roads, bridges and buildings. Stream bank erosion is the dominant source of sediment and turbidity in many river systems, reducing water quality and impacting industries and stream health.

Erosion Fact Sheet ▶



Yango Creek erosion



Barrington flood erosion



Merriwa River revegetation



Mount Breckin lantana removal

Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme – Upper Hunter River works program

We are working with the Department of Planning Industry and Environment, landholders, Soil Conservation Service and Hunter Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team on the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme. The scheme implements river rehabilitation works including revegetation, to stabilise priority erosion sites and mitigate flood impacts on communities across the Hunter River catchment.

Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme ▶



Mount Breckin Project

The Mount Breckin Project is supported by funding provided through the NSW Environmental Trust and Hunter Local Land Services. Eleven properties have now received assistance to work together as a local landholder network to implement weed control to reduce African olive and lantana infestations.

For more info ▶





The Marine Estate Management Strategy

Hunter Local Land Services has been engaged to deliver on initiatives under the NSW Governments Marine Estate Management Strategy which seek to improve water quality within the Marine Estate.

The NSW Marine Estate is comprised of the State's estuaries, coastline and tidal waters, which are collectively considered one of our greatest natural assets.

The three main components of the strategy that Hunter Local Land Services are implementing are controlling riverbank erosion, improving riverbank vegetation and reducing sediment from roads and tracks.

Staff from Hunter Local Land Services are freely available to provide technical advice on improving riparian vegetation and controlling riverbank erosion, and assistance with applying for incentives funding available from Hunter Local Land Services.

Learn more about the Marine Estate Management Strategy ▶



◀ Watch the Marine Estate Management Strategy videos

Myall River Pastoral Company Land Management Case Study ▶



◀ Planting your patch - A guide to revegetation on your property

A Beefy Jumble Answers: Santa Getrudis, Murray Grey, Belmont Red, Jersey, Poll Hereford, Simmental, Limousin Belgian Blue, Holstein, Shorthorn.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and we'd love your feedback in this quick survey. Thank you! ▶



A cuppa with Kirby

Name: Kirby Byrne

Role: Land Services Officer for the Marine Estate Management Program

How do you take your tea? Black tea with milk is my favourite, nothing beats it really!

Why do you do what you do? I feel very lucky to be able to do this job, it excites me to help landholders develop projects on their properties that are going to improve and protect native habitats on their land. I love the outdoors, when I'm not working you will most likely find me in the ocean, river or bush. There really is something special about nature, there's always something new to see, feel, smell and listen to. Even though our seasonal changes are pretty minimal around here compared to other latitudes it's nice to watch things change through the year.

What's your favourite Local Land Services project you've worked on? There are so many satisfying projects I have been involved with over the 10 years I have been with Hunter Local Land Services, be it bush regeneration and weed control along rivers and creeks on small properties or the big jobs including hectares of tree plantings through some of the biggest landholdings on the Midcoast.

Currently I am really enjoying working on the Marine Estate Management Program - planning bank remediation works and helping to protect and improve rivers and creeks on private property. I continually learn things, be it about erosion control or native vegetation.



Climate ready aquaculture

Hunter Local Land Services is delivering the Climate Ready Aquaculture project funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Hunter Local Land Services is helping oyster farmers plan their adaptation to climate change and then implement in-water changes through small grants. Projects in Wallis Lake, Manning River and Port Stephens estuaries to date have reduced the use of tar-treated timber, reduced waste generation and helped protect seagrass habitats.

Uniquely, the Climate Ready Aquaculture project is helping the oyster industry and fishing industries co-adapt by monitoring how changes to infrastructure affects fish habitat values and by creating new habitat. Both industries have been working with Hunter Local Land Services, MidCoast Council and Taree Indigenous Development and Employment (TIDE) to construct an oyster reef in the Wallamba River to protect the riverbank on Gereeba Island. Oyster reefs have been decimated across the world by destructive harvesting practices, poor water quality, diseases and pests and there are now many projects across the country and the world restoring these ecosystems.



Find out more about the Oyster Reef Restoration ►

◀ Watch the oyster regeneration in Wallis Lake



Oyster reef bank stabilisation



Oyster reef bank stabilisation

Crossword Answers: ACROSS 5. Catchment. 7. Filter. 8. Horeetail. 9. Oyster. DOWN 1. Macquarie. 2. Estuary. 3. Manning. 4. Stockton. 6. Rivulet. 9. One.



Marine debris rubbish collection punt

Marine Debris Monitoring Program

The Marine Debris Monitoring Program provides a framework to support the design and implementation of monitoring debris by individuals and community organisations in the Hunter region.

The ultimate aim is to reduce the impact of marine debris on our environment, especially the death and injury of vertebrate marine life. Individuals and organisations are very welcome to participate in the program.

The Marine Debris Program is tackling marine debris in bulk quantities in the Hunter Estuary, which is made easy with the barge style Clean and Cruise events open to the community. Volunteers are transported up and down the river to various sites, collecting rubbish. So far, we have successfully removed 18 tonnes of rubbish.

Contact Alissa Rogers on 0400 995 360 for more details.



Land Management Team

We're helping landholders understand the vegetation management pathways available to them.

Koorogang Island Project

One of the largest active coastal rehabilitation projects in Australia, the Koorogang Wetland Rehabilitation Project was initiated in 1993 to prevent further loss of fish, shorebird and other wildlife habitat in the Hunter estuary. The project was highly collaborative, and involved the three levels of Government, the Worimi and Awabakal People, Industry and countless community volunteers. In 2007, the area became Hunter Wetlands National Park and is now managed by National Parks and Wildlife.

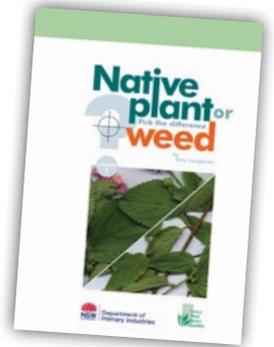
This video details how the project began and evolved to 2008 ▶



Native plant or weed?

Total College has a range of publications available, many of which you can also get through your Local Land Services Office. A particularly helpful one for native vegetation management is "Native plant or weed – pick the difference" and features side-by-side photos of weeds and native 'look alikes'.

Order your hardcopy or ebook from Total College ▶



Understanding the land management framework

Check out our website for more information about the Land Management and Biodiversity Reform Framework ▶



A factsheet around many land and native vegetation management issues is: "Managing native vegetation on a rural property". Download it here ▶



A cuppa with Karina

Name: Karina Glover

Role: Land Management – Regional Services Officer

How do you take your tea? I take it white and no sugar – just a dash of milk.

Why do you do what you do? I grew up hiking and snorkelling and fell in love with the natural environment and became fascinated by the huge and complex relationships that make up an ecosystem. Then I ended up at the University of Queensland, St Lucia doing ecology and botany, which I blitzed.

A lot of our landscape is managed by rural landholders and farmers, and there are so many unique landscapes that no-one accesses beyond the farm gate. It's a favourite part of my job – seeing these landscapes with the landholder and helping them at the same time.

What's your favourite Local Land Services project you've worked on? That would be the Koorogang Wetlands Rehabilitation Project. I started off as the volunteer coordinator, so I was involved in coordinating the restoration, farming activities, community garden and the weekend volunteering efforts. When our farm manager moved on to another role, I jumped into managing the farm and the cattle program. Then I branched out into engagement and communicating messages around sustainable grazing management with other estuary farmers also on the floodplains. That was one of those projects that I think back on now and love. It was how I ended up in public service actually, I volunteered there at Koorogang when I finished University.





Agricultural Extension Team

We're connecting primary producers with support and advice to help grow their business productivity while contributing to healthy environments.

Beyond the shed

Hunter Local Land Services in partnership with Mid Coast Council is working with local poultry producers in the Karuah, Myall and Wallis catchments to improve practices for pasture management on their farms. Topics include litter storage and composting for improved production in the poultry industry, and nutrient management options for their beef paddocks.

More info can be found on page 5 from a recent Agricultural Extension Newsletter ▶



◀ Sign up for the newsletter

Take the Spring Challenge

It's time for a spring fling into our Ag Extension officer Albert Mullen's latest Challenge Sheet for beef producers, hot off the press!

This edition sets you up for all the planning you need to consider to make the most out of these fantastic spring conditions. Albert walks you through some of our existing resources to tackle a particular issue on your property, in spring it's everything from kikuyu poisoning to pink eye!

To access the Spring Challenge ▶



A cuppa with Albert

Name: Albert Mullen

Role: Sustainable Ag Extension

How do you take your tea? Black, no sugar!

There's a bit of a story behind that actually. Me and Dad used to go out to get cattle in from another property, and Dad didn't carry milk. Even though we ran dairy cattle at the time. We'd be out working, marking calves and the rest of it, then we'd stop for a cuppa. Dad would make a black tea for me, then reach into his pocket for a saccharine tablet. It could have been there for a week, who knows, but my tea would end up with overall fluff, and bits of the day's work. I learnt very quickly to take my tea black, without ANY of the 'extra' bits.

Why do you do what you do? It suits my background. I grew up on a dairy and beef cattle place, but then when the dairy deregulated, we couldn't dairy on that hilly country, it wasn't like the river flats. We decided we weren't going to do it long term and went out to get jobs in agriculture.

What's your favourite Local Land Services project you've worked on? I've enjoyed doing my current poultry project – Beyond the Shed it's called.

It's an industry I didn't know a lot about and I enjoyed meeting up with all those farmers and seeing how it worked. It's an interesting and intensive industry and they came on board really well with the nutrient management and were all keen to do what they can around monitoring their farm nutrient profiles and options for their poultry waste.

I've also enjoyed working on the Challenge Series Program, using our online resources in response to COVID restrictions, it's a different way of doing things but it works really well.



Paddock book

At Hunter Local Land Services we understand that not all our landholders are online. Sometimes, you just want a phone number in your notebook. Well, we are here to help with that too. Get in touch and we'll get you a copy of our Paddock Book. Designed to fit in your top pocket with all the essential ag production and protection contact details inside. Contact your local Ag Production Officer to get a copy.



Farming Forecaster

Farming is a risky business at times, and with uncertainties we can't control around the weather and commodity markets, it pays to really understand what is in play in your paddock. Local Land Services have been working with a consortium of landholder groups and Industry under the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund to develop an online tool that brings together local soil moisture monitoring, local weather forecast and CSIRO pasture modelling to create the "Farming Forecaster".

The Farming Forecaster website brings all that information together and presents it in an easy-to-understand way so that farmers can use it to manage stocking rates and feed budgets with real time data. ▶



Challenge and Change – A field day on your computer

Ever wished that field days were held on those rainy days when you can't get into the paddock? The Agricultural Extension Teams' Challenge series may help address this problem. These sheets are designed for watching in your own time. Yes, that's right – watching. They are interactive and contain many links that you can choose from relating to what interests you and your business. The word "Challenge" is used as a prompt. The idea is that producers have many challenges to work through. Changing what we do, or the way we do it can alleviate the challenge. If changes aren't made, then the challenge will continue.

Check out the Challenge Series

Stock water ▶



◀ Singleton virtual field day

Weather ▶



◀ Pasture planning

Kikuyu ▶



◀ Winter feed gap

Giant parramatta grass ▶



A Beefy Jumble

Rearrange the letters in these jumbles to find out the various cattle breeds they represent. *If you get stuck, the answers are located somewhere in the newsletter.*

nadst esautgri

uygmea rrry

melodbn rte

olrr dholeopf

ailentsmm

imilsuno

nubegli able

olihetns

ryejes

horsntroh





Community Engagement Team

We're helping you connect with Hunter Local Land Services and supporting community events for your projects.

Hunter Cultural Burn training

The Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management Course and Cultural Burn training course is currently being delivered in partnership by Tocal College, Firesticks Alliance and Hunter Local Land Services.

This pilot course is the first of its kind in Australia and currently has 30 Aboriginal students enrolled. Certificate IV and Diploma will be offered in the next two years.

The course builds on the skills of Aboriginal land management students in both Aboriginal fire knowledge practices and western science to understand the positive ecological impacts of cultural burning and the Traditional fire management practices and techniques.



Cultural Burn Training Program video ▶



◀ Supporting Aboriginal Land Management Resource

Aboriginal Community Advisory Group

The Aboriginal Community Advisory Group (ACAG) consists of motivated and driven community members who want to contribute to shaping the future of Local Land Services. ACAG representatives provide strategic advice to assist Hunter Local Land Services in its delivery of services and functions, representing the needs of their community.

For more info, and to see who our representatives are ▶



A cuppa with Toby

Name: Toby Whaleboat

Role: Senior Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer. I have been working in this role for about nine years, servicing Aboriginal communities within the Hunter Region.

How do you take your tea? Not too hot, just the right temperature - with milk, but no milk with herbal tea.

Why do you do what you do? It has always been a passion of mine working in the environment. I learnt about the environment from my parents, Uncles and Aunties. My parents taught me about traditional bush plants and this sparked my passion in land management. At that stage I was not familiar with western science, but I had the traditional knowledge – so that was the start of my training. I did a traineeship in horticulture, one with forestry and a cadetship with National Parks and

completed my degree in Environmental Science, before I started working with Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). That brought me back to working with community which is what I love - working with Elders and students.

What's your favourite Local Land Services project you've worked on? Our Conservation and Ecosystem Management and Cultural Burn Training Program. This is the stand-out program for me because it's connecting young people to culture and the knowledge systems - it is that old knowledge that has been passed down and which has not been lost. This knowledge is special for all Australians – and it is unique to Australia.





Every Bit Counts

Small farms and lifestyle properties play an important role in managing the patchwork of natural environment across the landscape. As many large properties are divided into smaller farms and lifestyle holdings, they remain a key piece in the puzzle to ensure large scale healthy environmental systems are maintained.

The Every Bit Counts program has been developed to provide access to the best available resources and networks designed especially for small farms and lifestyle properties.

Every Bit Counts - small farms and acres ▶



Hunter schools program

Through our school's program, we are growing our future land managers to become land management champions. The support of our many partners is vital, including Hunter Water in particular.

Adventures at Your Place and **Biodiversity Blitz** is a way for kids to explore their piece of the landscape puzzle by taking part in a series of challenges to discover the variety of living things in their own backyard.



Adventures at Your Place ▶

◀ Our School Engagement Program videos



Hunter volunteer program, Kooragang

The Hunter volunteers work on multiple projects supporting landholders and community groups with their tree planting, working bees, clean-ups, weed control activities and native seed propagation.

Luskintyre Landcare tree planting project has involved volunteers assisting Luskintyre Landcare, Hunter Region Landcare Network and Hunter Local Land Services' Natural Resources Management Team in site preparation and planting of 1200 trees along the river front across multiple properties to create a wildlife corridor in the area.

Luskintyre Landcare in focus 2021 ▶



Enviro-Stories is a program that gets kids researching and then writing and illustrating their own story books. Some books have been recorded as story time videos.

Read along with your kids ▶



Hunter Regional Pest Animal Committee

The committee is made up of community members, councils and state agencies and is responsible for the implementation of the Hunter Regional Pest Animal Plan.

For more information about the committee ▶



Hunter Regional Weeds Committee

This committee sets the regional direction and is a forum for information sharing to ensure there is a consistent approach to weed management.

Learn more about the committee ▶



Small grants and education scholarships

Hunter Local Land Services Community Engagement Officers deliver an incentive program for community groups, networks or associations and individuals in building knowledge and skills to support active participation in sustainable land management practices. We encourage community groups, Aboriginal groups, schools, industry associations, farmer networks and pest animal networks to apply.

For more info, check out our Incentives Page ▶





Natural Resource Management Team

We're delivering programs supporting management of native flora and fauna recovery and conservation programs.

Threatened species and habitat

The Natural Resource Management Team deliver a number of programs and services across the Hunter. We support landholders and communities to protect and enhance habitat on their property, provide advice and training, such as revegetation planning, weed control or habitat restoration.

For more info, check out the threatened species and habitat project details on our website ▶



Bringing back the regent honeyeater

This project will implement recovery actions for the regent honeyeater (pictured below) and other woodland birds, in priority breeding and foraging habitats of the Lower, Central and Upper Hunter. We are working with landholders, Landcare, BirdLife, DPIE, and the community to improve the extent and quality of habitat, increase our knowledge of wild populations and maintain and increase community awareness and involvement in our recovery activities.



Box gum grassy woodlands

The project 'In good hands: Landcare and farmers restoring box gum grassy woodlands' aims to protect and improve the condition of Box-Gum Grassy Woodland vegetation in the Upper Hunter (pictured below).

Understanding the Australasian bittern

This project will improve habitat for Australasian bitterns (bittern) in Cattai Wetlands, Myall Lakes and Hunter Estuary: Hexham Swamps, Tomago and Kooragang Wetlands and Shortland-Wallsend corridor.



The Australasian bittern (pictured below) is Endangered in Australia, and specialise in living in dense beds of reeds and rushes, where they are surprisingly difficult to see, as they are particularly well camouflaged. It is hardly surprising that the species is seldom recorded. The bittern is a regular, but seldom seen, visitor to the Hunter region, including an important species to the Hunter Estuary Ramsar wetlands.

Bushfire recovery for threatened species

Bushfire recovery in the Mid Coast and Lower Hunter will assist in the recovery and resilience of priority species, ecological communities, and natural assets in areas within and adjoining bushfire regions of the Greater Blue Mountains, Gondwana Rainforests World Heritage Area.



Regent honeyeater, M. Roderick



Merriwa box woodland



Australasian bittern, P. Merritt



Fairy bells

Partnerships with Landcare

The Landcare community encompasses all community members interested in managing natural resources in our region. Many individuals, groups and organisations form part of the extensive Landcare community, with each offering diverse skills and valuable time to improving local environments and building our communities.

The Landcare community is active in a variety of landscapes across the Upper and Lower Hunter and Manning Great Lakes, and work in close partnership with Hunter Local Land Services. ▶



◀ Watch our video about Landcare in the Hunter Region

Priority weed management in Box-Gum Grassy Woodland on the Merriwa Plateau

The project will deliver services to landholders in the Merriwa Plateau, supported by MACH Energy Australia. The project aims to deliver high priority weed activities for up to 9 years that are consistent with the recovery actions identified in the National Recovery Plans for the White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland Ecological Community.

Halls Creek catchment health improvement

Hunter Local Land Services and Glencore Australia are working with Landholders in the Upper Hunter to improve the health of Halls Creek and it's catchment and building on work with Glencore in previous years in the adjoining Wybong Catchment.

Landholders in these catchments have been supported to improve the health of native vegetation and reduce soil erosion on river-banks, manage stock and reduce sediment or runoff entering the catchment, and enhance pockets of vegetation for native wildlife.

Paxton (Quorrobolong and Congewai) catchment improvement

For the past five years, Hunter Water and Hunter Local Land Services have worked together to provide small grants and advice to landowners to complete creek protection works on their properties to protect and enhance creek banks and adjoining lands. This work has been complemented by the Hunter Catchments Contributions erosion and stream bank stabilisation works in several locations within the Catchment, supported by Hunter Local Land Services staff and Soil Conservation Service.

For more info about these NRM projects, visit our website ▶



A cuppa with Catherine

Name: Catherine Conroy

Role: Senior Land Services Officer – Natural Resource Management (Upper Hunter)

How do you take your tea? I don't really like tea, so I have hot chocolate.

Why do you do what you do? I like working with landowners to improve the environment we live in. After all, most land is privately owned and managed and getting good environmental outcomes with landowners gives me a great sense of achievement. I always wanted to study environmental land management but did a gap year in the legal industry and kept doing it for over 20 years. I eventually got burnt out working in the legal profession, but have some great stories, and decided to finally do what I wanted to do in the first place. I quit my job and went back to study and eventually got a job in the environmental land management field in

Queensland which then led onto joining Hunter Local Land Services in Scone.

What's your favourite Local Land Services project you've worked on? I have several projects I am proud of, but one particularly good one is the threatened plant Fairy Bells (*Homoranthus darwinoides*) that grows in woodlands of the central tablelands and western slopes of NSW. The project involved working with private landowners, Landcare, Aboriginal groups and other government agencies to check known populations and find new areas of Fairy Bells. A great outcome of the project was going from a seed bank of six seeds that had been collected, to a stockpile of more than 600 seeds.





District Vet Team

We're providing advice and information to protect animal welfare, improve herd health and productivity, and protect our industries from the introduction and impact of animal pests and diseases.

Hunter District Veterinarians

The District Veterinarians play a crucial role in identifying and investigating livestock diseases and are frontline in Emergency Management response. They play an important role in providing the most up to date information for farmers to ensure livestock health is maintained.

As District Vets, we have a range of responsibilities including:

- emergency animal disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to keep Australia free of diseases that could severely impact trade and market access and devastate our animal production industries and regional economies
- assisting producers with disease investigation and preventative measures
- managing endemic diseases and assisting producers with notifiable diseases like Johne's disease and footrot

- encouraging best practice of livestock management and assisting the RSPCA with animal welfare issues
- responding to livestock welfare issues in natural disasters such as flood, bushfires and drought
- issuing certificates allowing interstate and export movement of livestock
- regulatory duties as inspectors under the Biosecurity Act, which involves dealing with residue detections, NLIS compliance, swill feeding inspections of pig producers, and providing national surveillance data for emergency animal diseases
- our overarching objective is to ensure humane production of safe food from healthy livestock.

Watch some of our videos ▶



◀ Connect with us via our newsletters: Animal Health Newsletter, Brower's Bulletin and Pig Owners Newsletter



A cuppa with Kylie

Name: Kylie Greentree

Role: District Veterinarian – Lower Hunter Region

How do you take your tea? I don't drink tea – I drink coffee – usually a Soy Latte. I even completed a barista course so I can make good coffee.

Why do you do what you do? Fortunately, I fell into this role. Before working for Hunter Local Land Services, I was a private veterinarian for seven years. We moved out to Bourke in 2007 and a friend of mine was working for the DPI as a field vet. I filled in while she was on maternity leave and then we job-shared for four years. We eventually wanted to come back to the Hunter Region, where I grew up, and I became the District Vet based out of Maitland.

I can assist producers with improving livestock health and their profitability, plus we are providing important

regional and state surveillance information, which helps to protect livestock health, livestock industries and market access for NSW and Australia.

What's your favourite Local Land Services project you've worked on?

Over the last five years, I have completed extra studies on goat medicine and have built an ever-growing network of goat producers. As properties in the Hunter have been subdivided into smaller parcels of land, I have found that the number of goat producers has been increasing. Australia is the biggest exporter of goat meat in the world, so this is a very important industry to support, and I enjoy learning more about it every day.





Biosecurity Team

We're reducing the impacts of pest animals and weeds on public safety, primary production, culturally significant areas and biodiversity.

Spring Pest Control

In the upcoming months, Hunter Local Land Services will coordinate the spring wild dog group control programs throughout the Hunter Region. These strategic, cross tenure programs help to reduce the impacts of wild dogs and foxes on livestock, native animals and domestic pets. Landholders wishing to participate in these group programs, or who would like more information should contact us on 1300 795 299. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there have been a number of changes to the way the programs are delivered, which include contactless bait delivery/collection. Those involved in these programs will be advised of the new process and any changes.

Watch some of our pest control videos ▶



For more info on pest control ▶



Vertebrate Pesticide Induction Training

To acquire and use 1080, Pindone, RHDV, or PAPP baits in NSW, you must be accredited (or under the direct supervision of an accredited person) with an AQF3 Chemical Accreditation or Vertebrate Pesticide Induction Training (VPIT) course accreditation.

Historically, Local Land Services has delivered VPIT training face-to-face in a three-hour training session. Whilst a number of Local Land Services regions still conduct face-to-face training for small groups, landholders can also choose to undertake this training online.

The Local Land Services course takes you through the legal responsibilities, safety requirements and practical considerations for an effective use of baits and pesticides.

For more info about the training course ▶



A cuppa with Kirstin

Name: Kirstin Bisley

Role: Senior Biosecurity Officer (Manning Great Lakes)

How do you take your tea? I take my tea white no sugar – no fuss, no favourite cup, I just use whatever cup is on hand.

Why do you do what you do? I like to help people. I have a customer service background and I enjoy coming up with solutions when people come to me with a problem. I have been with Local Land Services since 2009 and I love what I do now as a Biosecurity Officer.

What's your favourite Local Land Services project you've worked on? The programs I am most proud of being a part of are the pest animal control programs Local Land Services run or are a part of. I really enjoy our strategic programs working with landowners and other

government agencies across different land tenures. I like that I work across the landscape in a planned strategic way which has a better outcome and reduces the need for as much reactive control.

My work has a two-pronged benefit. By reducing pest animal numbers in the landscape, there is a conservation value to the natives that are threatened by them, and an agricultural benefit for reduction in predation on landholder's livestock.





Customer Service Team

We're making it easier for our customers to do business with us
Contact us on 1300 795 299

5 reasons why your return is important



As recent events have shown, it helps us respond quickly and accurately in emergencies and biosecurity events



Helps keep our 'clean and green' reputation by protecting NSW against pests and diseases



Builds a statewide picture of agricultural land use and livestock numbers



Assists us to monitor flocks and herds for emergency animal diseases



Helps keep domestic and international markets open

Annual Land & Stock Return

Each year, NSW landholders who are liable to pay rates or have a Property Identification Code (PIC) are required to submit an Annual Land and Stock Return to Local Land Services. Annual returns are essentially a 'farm census' on 30 June each year and provide us with important information on land use and livestock numbers across the state.



◀ Lodge my annual return of land and stock.

Tell us your thoughts about this newsletter. Thank you! ▶



Rates

Your Local Land Services rates help us put boots on the ground to protect NSW communities against pests, weeds, diseases and help maintain vital market access. The rates you pay fund our biosecurity, animal health and emergency work. It helps us to:

- coordinate and support pest control for a healthier and more productive landscape
- support our animal health programs
- support agriculture and animals during emergencies
- support stock identification systems.



For more info ▶

Quick Trivia Answers: 1. 31 August. 2. Ellenborough Falls. 3. Property Identification Code. 4. 2. 5. 100. 6. the Awabakal People.

A cuppa with Jacqueline

Name: Jacqueline Myhill

Role: Senior Customer Service Officer. I'm a trouble-shooter – I'm support, both for our Customer Service team internally, and for our customers. The Customer Service Team is the frontline, we're the people you talk to on the 1300 number, and the first person you see when you come into one of our offices.

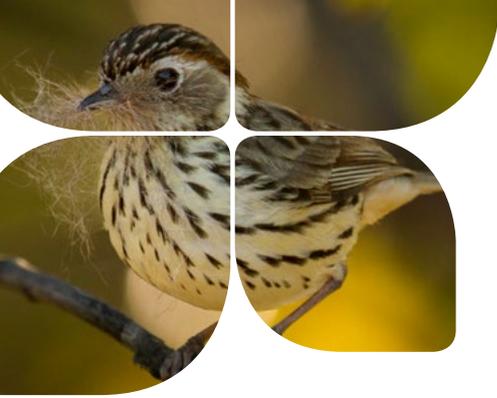
How do you take your tea? No milk and one sugar for me please.

Why do you do what you do? I came from a livestock administration background with a stock and station agent and had only heard good things about Local Land Services. I used to work alongside Local Land Services and particularly some of the other Customer Service Officers. A position came up and it was too good of an opportunity to pass up. I guess I'm the sort of person that

is always keen on projects that improve the customer experience, so Customer Service is a really good fit for me.

What's your favourite Local Land Services project you've worked on? When I first started, our PIC Register (Property Identification Code) was a hard copy card system in each office – it wasn't even a book, it was just bound cards sitting in each office. We've taken them online, and now you can register a PIC from anywhere across our region. It changed the game for our Team. Those are the sorts of projects that the Customer Service Team are involved with, to improve the processes and enhance the customer experience for our landholders.



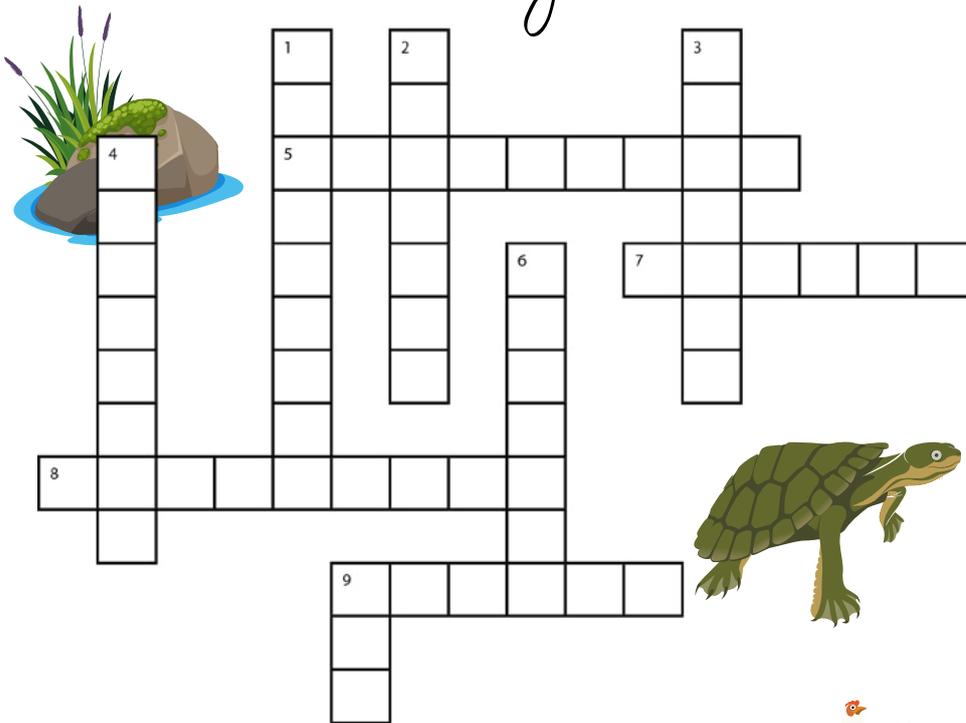


Quiz Time

We've created a few brainteasers to think over while having your cuppa.
If you get stuck, the answers are located somewhere in the newsletter.



Marine and Waterways Crossword



ACROSS

5. Area of land where a river captures water.
7. Mangroves help do what to water.
8. What type of waterfall is Ellenborough Falls?
9. Edible saltwater animal that changes sex.

DOWN

1. Largest permanent salt water lake in the Southern Hemisphere.
2. Another name for the mouth of a river.
3. The only double delta river system in the Southern Hemisphere.
4. What is the longest beach in NSW?
6. The name for a small stream of water.
9. The Manning River Helmeted Turtle lives in how many river catchments in the world?

Animal Health Match-up



Match each clue with the correct animal health word/condition.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Animal diseases that can infect people. |  |  Biosecurity |
| Affects all animals with a cloven foot and is a notifiable disease. |  |  Notifiable |
| Affects domestic and feral pigs and is a notifiable disease. |  |  Zoonoses |
| Type or classification of animal disease which legally requires an owner to report it to authorities if it is suspected. |  |  African swine fever |
| Protects the Australian economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds. |  |  Neosporosis |
| Protozoan parasite known as <i>Neospora caninum</i> causing abortion in cattle and spread by foxes, wild dogs and domestic dogs. |  |  Foot and mouth disease |

Quick Trivia

1. What date is your Annual Land and Stock Return due by each year?
2. What is the tallest single drop waterfall in NSW?
3. What does PIC stand for?
4. The Hunter Local Land Services Region is home to how many Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)?
5. You need to have a PIC if you have 1 cow, how many chickens can you have before you need a PIC?
6. Who are the Traditional Custodians of the Newcastle region?





RAINFALL CHART

Year:

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