

They're here! Once nearly eradicated, wild dogs are now back in the Western Division

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Wild dogs have been steadily increasing their range across southern Australia over recent years and are now present in most areas south of the dog fence, and far western New South Wales is no exception.

With support from Australian Wool Innovation, the NSW Department of Primary Industries is tackling the increasing wild dog problem head-on with a series of free wild dog management workshops and on-farm training.

Workshops are planned for each of the major centres in the Western Division over the next 18 months, and on-farm wild dog training will be

available for livestock producers experiencing wild dog problems.

The workshops and training courses are designed to bring people up to date with the current status of wild dogs, discuss what is at risk, and learn about the available tools and strategies for managing wild dogs and protecting livestock enterprises. Because every farm is different, on-farm training will be available to suit the needs of individual livestock producers.

Workshops will include presentations and discussion forums involving a wide range of people, including graziers, wild dog controllers and researchers. Participants can be involved hands-on with practical demonstrations of trapping and management planning. Written and practical materials will be available to take

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Above: Ben Allen from the Vertebrate Pest Research Unit in Broken Hill with a trapped and satellite-collared dingo bitch ready for release on Quinyambie Station in north-east South Australia. *Photo supplied by Ben Allen.*

Spring 2011

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Managing Scanned Ewes and Sheep Health workshops

In passing »

By Sally Ware
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Phone: 02 6993 1608

Aimed at landholders that scan their ewes each year, the main message from the two workshops that were held in Hay and Mossgiel during the autumn lambing period this year was to encourage producers to maintain their pregnant ewes at a fat score of three from scanning to lambing. If ewes can be maintained at this fat score, lamb deaths from low birth weights will be significantly reduced and the ewes will be carrying sufficient body reserves to feed a lamb and be ready for their next joining. Moving ewes from fat score 2 to 3 increases a ewe's body weight by about 7 to 8 kg regardless of frame size, and it can result in about 13 more lambs per 100 ewes. Ewes carrying twins may need to be supplementary-fed to maintain this fat score.

Identifying twins and singles at scanning allows the twin-bearing ewes to be separated and placed in paddocks where more attention can be given to these ewes. Weaning lambs at a maximum of 14 weeks, when the lamb is obtaining only 14% of its daily energy intake from milk, allows the ewes to regain body weight in readiness for the next joining. Ram

health was also discussed at the workshops, as was the feeding of lupins to rams for 6 to 8 weeks before joining to ensure maximum sperm production.

Other sheep health topics discussed by Department of Primary Industries vet Greg Curran at the workshops included the possibility of high temperatures causing reductions in sheep fertility in both ewes and rams. Greg suggested that, if a heat wave occurs during joining (similar to what occurred during joining towards the end of last year), then joining should be extended by at least one ewe cycle (i.e. 16 days).

With national sheep numbers the lowest they have been since 1905, coupled with ongoing high mutton, lamb and wool prices, increasing ewe and ram fertility and reducing lamb deaths has never been a higher priority for producers.

Further details on the workshops can be obtained by contacting Department of Primary Industries staff member Sally Ware in Hay on (02) 6993 1608 or Greg Curran in Broken Hill on (08) 8088 9336.



The Western Division Newsletter is produced by NSW Trade & Investment with funding assistance from:

- » Office of Environment and Heritage
- » Land and Property Information
- » Lachlan CMA
- » Lower Murray Darling CMA, and Western CMA



Above: Producers participating in the sheep fat scoring exercise at the Department of Primary Industries' Managing Scanned Ewes workshop held at the Mossgiel hall. *Photo by Sally Ware.*

Continued from page 1

home, and training participants will receive a free trapping kit, which will include a trap, an instructional DVD, and everything else needed to set traps on their farms.

The aim of the program is to equip livestock communities with the up-to-date knowledge and skills needed to tackle the growing wild dog problem. A range of presenters will appear at the workshops, but the program is being led by Ben Allen from the Vertebrate Pest Research Unit of the Department of Primary Industries.

Ben has been involved with dingo–livestock issues for over 15 years, and he is currently undertaking dingo baiting trials in northern South Australia as part of a national project developing a new poison, called ‘PAPP’, for wild dog and fox control.

‘The workshops and training program to be rolled out across the Western Division over the next 18 months address the growing wild dog problems there, and the recent progress of PAPP, M44 ejectors, and new trap types means that the workshops can provide the latest skills and knowledge to graziers in the region’, Ben said.

‘Because sheep grazing is so important to rural communities in the Western Division, people will need to work together to tackle the wild dog challenge.’

Wild dog numbers have been increasing in south-central Queensland over the last 20 years. In South Australia, wild dogs have been seen on almost every sheep property in the arid lands region at some point in the last 2 years. Eastern Victoria and New South Wales also have growing numbers of wild dogs.

Wild dogs were largely eradicated from western NSW in the early 20th century through a monumental effort involving tens of thousands of kilometres of sheep-netting fences, as well as intensive trapping, poisoning and shooting. The wild dog barrier fence marked the edge of the eradication zone, but wild dogs that have popped up inside the fence from time to time seem to have gotten a firm ‘foot in the door’.

Nearly 100 years later, wild dogs are today returning because there are fewer netting fences and less intensive baiting, trapping and shooting programs. Although the national wild dog barrier fence still does an excellent job at preventing wild dogs from getting from the outside of the fence to the inside, and the NSW section of the barrier fence is in exceptional condition, it’s the dogs that are already on the inside in areas far removed from the fence that are of most concern. The Wild Dog Destruction Board believes that these dogs are not getting through the fence but rather are going around the fence and then travelling great distances.

Although wild dogs have been showing up in and near the Western Division lately, including in areas

around Bourke, Wanaaring, Tibooburra, White Cliffs, Wentworth, Ivanhoe, Wilcannia and Broken Hill, this is not necessarily due to the loss of integrity of the fence as a result of the dust storms and floods. Wild dogs have been found in the Pilliga forest just west of Narrabri. A wild dog recently fitted with a satellite tracking collar in Charleville in Queensland travelled and then took up residence on Collymongol Farms, 20 km from Collarenebri in NSW, moving 560 km in just 31 days. Another wild dog from the same place travelled 1300 km in 4 months.

Sheep and goats are very susceptible to wild dog attack. Cattle enterprises can also experience large losses, although they can typically withstand wild dog predation better than sheep enterprises can. Kangaroos are another preferred prey item for wild dogs.

Wild dogs also transmit a variety of parasites and pathogens that can affect you, your livestock, and your working dogs.

Wild dog predation is listed by the NSW Government as a Key Threatening Process for threatened native wildlife species, and at least 14 recovery plans for nationally threatened species identify wild dog predation as a known or potential threat.

Ben said that the wild dog program in the Western Division has been put in place to help local graziers to address the current situation.

‘Whether or not graziers have a problem right now or not, the problem is growing and it is coming back to places that haven’t experienced wild dog problems for decades’, he said.

‘Wild dogs are back in the Western Division, and we need to prepare our farms for their arrival.’

For more information on the wild dog workshops and training program, contact Ben Allen at the Broken Hill office of the Department of Primary Industries on (08) 8088 9300, or by e-mail at benjamin.allen@industry.nsw.gov.au.

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They're back!

Wild dogs in western New South Wales

Wild dogs numbers have increased substantially in many areas inside the 'dog fence' in Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales. There are now few areas in Australia free of wild dogs, and western NSW is no exception. Livestock producers are going out of business and sheep, goat, and cattle enterprises are at risk.

Supported by Australian Wool Innovation and the NSW Department of Primary Industries, a series of wild dog control workshops and on-farm training will be held between October 2011 and December 2012 in each of the major centres in the Western Division. Workshops will cover a range of topics, and livestock producers will have access to on-farm training on their properties at a later time convenient for them.

Workshop topics include:

- the distribution of wild dogs (i.e. where they are already)
- tools to control them (e.g. traps, PAPP/1080 baits, ejectors)
- trapper training and demonstrations

- strategies to control wild dogs or prevent their arrival (baiting/trapping programs, group participation, protecting working dogs)
- hydatidosis and *Neospora caninum*
- integrated vertebrate pest management (wild dogs and foxes, rabbits, and pigs).

On-farm training will cover:

- identifying wild dog hot-spots on your farm
- where, when and how to set traps on your farm
- defending your property against wild dogs
- integrating wild dog control with other on-farm activities.

TRAPPING KIT & DVD GIVEAWAY

Training participants will receive a trap and trapping kit, including an instructional DVD. This program is proudly funded and supported by Australian Wool Innovation and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

For more information on wild dogs or the program, contact:

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**Department of
Primary Industries**

Rangeland Renewal National Bestprac Forum

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The 2011 National Bestprac forum was held on 11 and 12 August at Hawker, in South Australia. This year's forum was funded by Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Making More from Sheep, ANZ and the South Australian Arid Land NRM Board. Bestprac (an AWI network) is a continuous improvement program aimed at producers of arid zone rangeland wool, sheep meat and cattle. Bestprac groups operate in Queensland, NSW, South Australia and Western Australia. The program provides support and coaching for rangeland producers to improve their business and production performance.

Producers and service providers from across Australia were attracted to the national forum, which showcased and discussed wide range of industry issues. The topics focused on innovative practices and techniques that are essential for all rangeland businesses during this time of renewal and reinvigoration.

Sessions included:

- technology in the rangelands
- finance and market updates
- production updates
- succession planning
- environmental updates
- innovations updates.

Attendees were also given the opportunity to hear from the dinner speaker, Doug Avery. Doug has transformed his drought-prone sheep and beef farm in Marlborough, New Zealand, and has greatly improved productivity. He has travelled all over New Zealand delivering his message and has inspired many to look at change proactively. He spoke to forum attendees about the importance of having a positive attitude in agriculture and moving 'beyond reasonable drought'.

Daytime sessions were delivered by industry experts and were well received by all who attended. Market updates from Paul Swan (AWI) and Richard Apps (Meat & Livestock Australia) gave valuable insight into the fundamentals that are having the greatest effects on current markets. Paul said the outlook for the wool market is strong, but that we should 'expect volatility'. The overall outlook for the meat market is 'optimistic for the next 5 years', and Richard explained a number of factors that are boosting market confidence.

The importance of genetics and selective breeding was highlighted in sessions given by Luke Stephen, project officer for MERINOSELECT Sheep Genetics, and Lu Hogan of the Sheep CRC (Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation). Luke explained to attendees how both environment and genetics have an impact on the performance of each animal. He explained different genetic traits and how they can be used to help producers select stock to achieve their performance goals. Lu gave attendees the tools and information needed to develop a flystrike management plan for their businesses. In smaller groups during the round-table discussions, Lu explained the FlyBoss tool that producers can use to decide on management strategies for minimising their risk of flystrike. This interactive session sparked a lot of interest from the groups, who were interested to see how their current management systems affected their flystrike risk.

John Squires of Rural Directions Pty Ltd spoke to attendees about planning for succession in their businesses. John highlighted the importance of understanding that succession planning is a 'process and not an event'. His session provoked a lot of questions and conversation among audience members.

Steve Lapidge of the Invasive Animals CRC gave the audience an entertaining look into the new invasive animal management tools that will soon be available. He pointed out to attendees the importance of remaining proactive with their pest management, rather than waiting for the damage to occur. Steve pointed out 'there are no silver bullets' when it comes to pest management—instead, multiple tools should be utilised.

A number of successful rangeland producers also spoke at the forum, providing a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the audience. Susan Carn, a producer from Quorn and a member of her Bestprac group for 8 years, spoke to the audience about the electronic resources available to help them to understand climate in their businesses. Susan's ability to collect a whole range of climate data and use it to help with management decisions on their properties sparked a lot of interest with the audience. By explaining weather systems to the group in a language that they could understand, Susan gave many attendees a valuable tool they can now utilise on their properties when making decisions.

A number of producer speakers have made significant improvements to their productivity through a range of changes. Ben Forsyth is the production and environmental manager of his family's 513 000 ha Three Rivers pastoral lease in Western Australia. His session focused on how he plans to continue a process of correcting erosion and restoring natural water flows in order to maximise the grazing potential of his property. Ben's aim of 'turning red to green' on his property gave many landholders who attended the forum confidence that similar processes can be undertaken on their own properties. James Robertson, a 2010

Nuffield Scholar, also gave the message that 'if you are not happy with part of your business, be prepared to change something'. James has done this by implementing a small-scale feedlot on his property, which is used for weaning and to finish stock for sale. This system change has resulted in improved animal efficiency and performance.

Marketing of rangeland products was at the centre of both Garry Hannigan's and Jamie McTaggart's sessions. Garry's property 'Churinga', located 130 km east of Broken Hill, is a fully certified organic enterprise that supplies lamb into the domestic organic market. With minimal changes to his business management, Garry is now able to gain a premium return for his product, and he encouraged other producers to consider doing the same. Jamie McTaggart, who also runs an organic enterprise (Spear Creek Dorper Lamb is one of their brands), gave an insight to attendees about what is involved with marketing your own product.

To learn more about these innovations and topics, please visit the Bestprac website (<http://www.bestprac.info/>) and register as a member. All members receive the free monthly e-newsletter, and in coming months there will be follow-up information from the forum.



Left: Paul Swan, manager of Market Intelligence and Trade Reporting for AWI, providing a wool market update at the Hawker Bestprac Conference in August. Photo supplied by Rural Directions Pty Ltd.

Demand for goatmeat continues to rise

By Blair Brice
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The Australian goat industry has experienced a remarkable period of growth over recent years. This has been fuelled by strong prices in response to unprecedented demand for goatmeat (particularly from the US market) and for livestock (from the Malaysian market). Growing demand from the domestic market for goatmeat is also helping to support prices.

Some of the gloss has come off recent prices owing to the high Australian dollar and the uncertain trading environment, but rates remain about 10% above those reported at the same time last year.

Goat numbers remain high and quality good, thanks to consecutive good years across the major rangeland production areas.

Demand for larger, high-quality, well-muscled Boer and Boer-cross carcasses is limited but is expanding through an increasing number of retail butchers. Although such goats rarely attract a premium compared with rangeland goats when produced in extensive production systems, the females are

keenly sought after for the livestock export trade. This is because their higher growth rates than those of rangeland goats and the potential for hybrid vigour have allowed inventive producers to produce more kilograms of goatmeat per hectare, all other factors being equal.



Above: Using a Boer billy over rangeland goats can result in the production of more kilograms of goat meat per hectare. *Photo supplied by Meat & Livestock Australia.*

Discover the Far West



Above: Homestead Creek Gorge, Mutawintji National Park. *Photo: B.Norman*



Above: Tanya Charles leads a Discovery Tour at the Walls of China, Mungo National Park. *Photo supplied by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.*

As locals know, the Far West is looking fabulous at the moment, with rainfall over the last 12 months bringing a flurry of flowers and wildlife.

If you've got relatives and friends coming out to get a glimpse of the glorious outback, why not also send them on a Discovery tour of a local national park? Tours are running from late September into October, with a few different experiences on offer.

Activities are occurring in national parks from Sturt, in the far north-western corner, down to Mungo in the south and everywhere in between. From Billy Tea with the Barkindji Elders at Kinchega to tag-along tours to see the birdlife at Peery Lake, there's something on offer for all ages and fitness levels.

Mutawintji National Park is also a wonderful place to visit. The rainfall took its toll, but Mutawintji Board of Management Chair William Bates was pleased to announce the reopening of the park in July, after flooding had caused significant damage.

'Entire sections of roads were washed away, creek crossings were destroyed, and walking tracks and the camping area all suffered significant damage', he said.

'NPWS staff members and Aboriginal community members from Wilcannia were busy for 6 months undertaking road and walking track maintenance works and repairing infrastructure and visitor facilities.

'Homestead Creek Campground, Homestead Creek Gorge walking tracks and Mutawintji Gorge Walking tracks are all open to the public. The Mutawintji Historic Site is open for guided tours only.

'Several areas within the park still have restrictions or are still closed. We ask that all visitors observe any posted signs within the park.'

After wet weather, make sure you contact the region's visitor centre to check on local conditions before you embark on trips into the national parks. For information about tours to Mutawintji Historic Site see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/touoperators.aspx

For full details and a brochure of Discovery activities, contact the Far West Region National Parks and Wildlife Service on (08) 8080 3200, or find details on the internet at: www.wildwildworld.com.au

Legal Roads Network Project

The Legal Roads Network Project team has now completed and lodged 39 plans identifying over 8000 km of road and 1500 km of restricted easements to landlocked properties in the Western Division.

The project team has completed the roads and easements in the Unincorporated Area, Central Darling Shire and in 75% of Bourke Shire. The project team is currently compiling plans for the Louth–Cobar Road and for Davidson, Mulgaroon, Ben Lomond and Wilgareena Roads and part of the Kidman Way. Work has also started on the Curranyalpa and Bourke–Louth Roads.

Landholders whose primary access is via these roads should have received paperwork outlining

the actions required to ensure the provision of legal access. Landholders that have not returned their paperwork should do so as soon as possible to ensure that their requirements are addressed.

It is important to remember that it is the Department's policy that legal access should be in place before any consent to transfer will be granted.

The project will be moving into Cobar Shire by the end of the year. In anticipation of this, landlocked Western Lands Lease property holders within this local government area should give some thought to their preferred primary access locations.

By Rex Miller and Maurice Cenzat
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Western Division Range Condition Assessment Program

The vast majority of the Western Division is Crown land, held as perpetual Western Lands Leases for pastoral or agricultural purposes and administered under the *Western Lands Act 1901*. A critical objective for the Western Lands Commissioner and his staff when administering these lands is to ensure that all Western Lands leases are managed sustainably, in accordance with lease conditions and within the provisions of the Act.

On 1 July this year, the Crown Lands Division, Far West Area, started the Western Division Range Condition Assessment Program to ensure that all Western Lands leasehold properties become part of a planned program of property inspections.

This new program aims to track the changing condition of the rangelands, whilst also providing an opportunity for regular property inspections of Western Lands Leases by the seven district Rangeland Management Officers.

The Western Division Range Condition Assessment Program will gather vital information each year on pasture biomass, vegetative cover and palatable species over a range of land types and seasonal conditions from across the entire Western Division. It will also establish a series of photopoints on every property inspected.

Every year, 140 different properties will be inspected as part of this program; this equates to 20 properties to be inspected per Rangeland Management Officer District. Ten properties are purposely selected for inclusion in the program, whereas the remaining 10 will be inspected as part of other requirements such as lease transfers, changes in land use, and cultivation consent renewals.

The information collected from these inspections will give an indication of how the rangelands are doing as a whole, while also taking into account conditions within the local area. It will also help landholders to recognise the grazing thresholds applicable to the condition of their particular pastures.

All landholders whose properties are scheduled to be inspected as part of this program will be notified in advance of the inspection; if possible, they should accompany the Rangeland Management Officer to discuss and share the information being collected.

Policy and procedures have been implemented to support this program. Their aim is to outline the planned program of property inspections; develop standard field-based methodologies to ensure consistency; provide a framework for reporting on the number of inspections completed each year; and allow spatial and textural data to be captured for annual reporting purposes. These policies were recently endorsed by the Western Lands Advisory Council at its last meeting, held on 27 July 2011.

For any further information regarding the Western Division Range Condition Assessment Program, please contact your local Rangeland Management Officer:

- Anthony Azevedo – Bourke, Phone: (02) 6872 2144
- David Gee – Balranald, Phone: (03) 5051 6204
- Geoffry Cullenward – Wilcannia, Phone: (08) 8082 5202
- Ian Kelly – Wentworth, Phone: (03) 5051 6205
- Jacqueline Mills – Cobar, Phone: (02) 6836 3018
- Peter Smith – Walgett, Phone: (02) 6828 0111
- Tiff Brown – Broken Hill and Unincorporated Area, Phone: (08) 8082 5203.

By Sharon Hawke
Assistant Western Lands
Commissioner
Crown Lands Division
Department of Primary Industries

Annual inspection of the dog fence

By Andrew Bell
Western Lands
Commissioner
Chairman, Wild Dog
Destruction Board

Right: Typical section of the wild dog fence along the Queensland–NSW border, between Hungerford and Hamilton Gate. *Photo: Andrew Bell*



The Wild Dog Destruction Board has recently undertaken its annual inspection of the dog fence. Tony Mayo, Operations Manager based at Smithville, accompanied the Board members and Chairman on the inspection.

The fence inspection started at Hungerford on 21 August and continued through to 24 August. The Board was able to inspect the Queensland border fence from where it starts 16 km east of Hungerford to a point west of Hamilton Gate, where the Bullo Overflow intersects with the fence. Floodwaters in the Bullo continue to inundate the fence but are receding at a steady pace. As the floodwaters recede, employees of the Board remain vigilant in their efforts to repair any damage as it becomes apparent. The most obvious damage to the fence to date is rust in the foot netting as a consequence of the lengthy period of inundation.

The Board rejoined the fence at Wompah, located immediately north of Tibooburra, and continued the inspection through to Cameron Corner, then along the South Australian border fence to where it terminates (257 km south of Cameron Corner).

The Board, as a whole, agreed that the fence remains in very good condition, despite the

natural disasters that have affected the Western Division in recent years, including sandstorms and flooding. These events have challenged the Board to maintain the integrity of the fence as an effective wild dog- and dingo-proof barrier. The Board is in agreement that the staff have met this challenge. Staff and contractors have been recently focusing on the repair and upgrade of the apron adjoining the fence; this includes the removal of vegetative material that has built up against the fence and the replacement of rusted foot netting.

Board staff also engaged in approved aerial and ground baiting programs along both sides of the fence. A particular focus during the last 12 months has been those sections of the fence where flooding has occurred. Although there has been an increase in the presence of wild dogs and dingoes in the Western Division in recent times, the Board considers that this can be largely attributed to dogs entering NSW from the exclusion zones of the adjoining States.

Right: Tony Mayo, Operations Manager, repairing a small hole in the foot netting on the flood-affected section of the Queensland fence. *Photo: Andrew Bell;*

Far right: Wild Dog Destruction Board member Neil Leigo inspecting a section of the recently erected pre-fabricated wild dog fence on the South Australia – NSW border; this fence uses the new style of materials. *Photo: Andrew Bell*



Lamb production field day at Kallara Station, Tilpa

By Trudie Atkinson
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Justin and Julie McClure, in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries, are holding a 'Market-focused Lamb Production' workshop and field day on Friday 28 October at Kallara Station, Tilpa. Lamb producers looking to improve production and profit should note this date in their diaries.

Producers will be able to get the latest information on lamb markets and discuss management options to optimise returns by producing lambs that best meet market requirements. The workshop will focus on enhancing meat quality and the potential to increase the amount of lamb produced in western NSW. The aim is for everyone to take home at least one new idea for improving production and profit.

Practical information on lamb assessment, selecting rams, managing reproduction and flock structure will be presented by Department of Primary Industries staff. Information presented will be relevant to Merino, terminal sire, cross-bred and fleece-shedding enterprises.

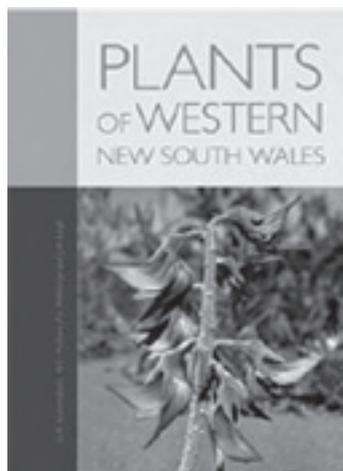
Justin and Julie McClure's property 'Kallara' is an ideal location for the field day. Their business is focused on growing meat: they produce organically certified White Dorper lambs and Boer-infused goats. Justin and Julie and other local producers will present their

experiences and discuss the key management decisions they have made since focusing their business on lamb production. The McClures have invested in upgrading their infrastructure to be able to manage their livestock to meet processor specifications. New technologies such as auto-drafting and water management systems will be demonstrated at the field day.

An update on goatmeat markets and emerging opportunities will be presented by Blair Brice from Meat & Livestock Australia. There will also be discussion about the current status of wild dogs in western NSW and approaches to future management; this will be led by Ben Allen, a new Project Officer based in Broken Hill with the Department of Primary Industries.

Agricultural product and information displays will be presented on the day. Companies and organisations wishing to participate need to contact Sally Ware at the Department of Primary Industries Hay office on (02) 6993 1608, or call 0429 307 627.

The workshop will be held on 28 October at the Kallara Woolshed, 12 km north of Tilpa on the western side of the Darling River, and will start at 8.30 am. Contact Trudie Atkinson at the Department of Primary Industries office in Trangie on (02) 6880 8041 for more information and to reserve your place.

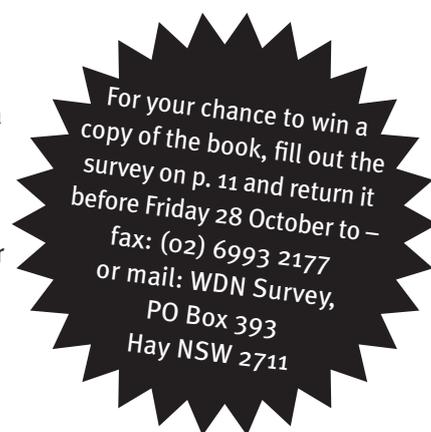


Plants of Western New South Wales

The 1992 edition of *Plants of Western New South Wales* has been reprinted and published by CSIRO Publishing complete with a new cover and a one-page appendix giving website addresses of various herbaria in Australia where the reader can readily access up-to-date information on botanical name changes.

Costing \$180, the book can be purchased online at www.publish.csiro.au or by contacting the customer service team ph: 1300 788 000 or email: publishing.sales@csiro.au

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Market Focused Lamb Production Workshop and Field Day

Justin and Julie McClure in conjunction with NSW Department of Primary Industries are holding a 'Market Focused Lamb Production' workshop and field day. The day will provide information on lamb markets and managing production systems to meet market specifications.



Date
Location
Start Time

Friday 28th October 2011
Kallara Woolshed
8:30 am



Topics Covered:

- Lamb Production
- Lamb Market Update
- Meeting Market Specification
- Managing Flock Structure
- Selecting Meat Rams
- Managing Reproduction
- Goat Meat Markets
- Wild Dog Management



Presented by:

NSW DPI staff: Brent McLeod, Geoff Duddy, Trudie Atkinson, Sally Ware and Ben Allen

MLA staff: Blair Brice

Local Producers: Justin & Julie McClure, Garry & Tracy Hannigan and Andrew & Megan Mosely

Information presented will be relevant to merino, terminal sire, cross bred and fleece shedding enterprises

Demonstrations: Auto-drafting, Water Management Technology and Fat Scoring



Companies and organisations are invited to display products and information –

Please contact Sally Ware: 02 6993 1608



**Primary
Industries**

Making More From Sheep

Directions:

The Kallara woolshed turn-off is 12km north of Tilpa on the western side of the river. Field day signs will direct you to the woolshed.

Airstrip Available: Kallara Station -30.53; 144.31

Other Information:

- Smoko will be provided
- Lunch will be available to purchase
- Please BYO chair

For Further Information or to Register Please Contact

Trudie Atkinson p: 02 6880 8041

f: 02 6888 7201

e: trudie.atkinson@industry.nsw.gov.au

The Rob Seekamp Memorial Trust

How would you remember one of the great achievers of the Western Division? This is about Rob Seekamp, whose tireless efforts and achievements should not be forgotten and should be continued.



Above: Rob Seekamp. Photo supplied by the Pastoralists' Association of West Darling.

One of Rob's last ideas discussed at the various forums he attended was the initiation of a scholarship for young people from the bush for tertiary education. A small group of his friends from organisations he participated in have decided to endeavour to fulfil this idea, in memory of Rob.

Rob strived to achieve better educational opportunities for rural students. With this in mind, a management group has been formed, an account has been opened for tax deductible donations, and guidelines for a scholarship are being drawn up.

- Applicants for the scholarship will be assessed by an independent panel made up of an educationalist, a social worker, and a professional person drawn from Rob's community.
- The scholarship will be presented annually, to a different recipient each year.
- The scholarship will be available to students from the Western Division of NSW and surrounding areas and will be awarded at the discretion of the selection panel.
- The scholarship will be for the sum of \$2500.
- The scholarship will be means tested.
- The course will need to be relevant to the area (not just agriculture).
- All sponsors will be recognised. This is not only for tax-deductibility reasons —

businesses may wish to advertise their support of this trust. There will be various levels of sponsorship:

- Platinum (\$10 000 or more)
- Gold (\$5000 or more)
- Silver (\$2500 or more)
- Bronze (\$1000 or more).

- Donations of less than \$1000 will still be recognised and will be most welcome.

A bale of wool, a sheep or two, a cow, or even a ute-load of goats would be a very welcome donation. Details can be arranged by phoning the PAWD (Pastoralists' Association of West Darling) office on (08) 8087 3322. Or phone Sue Andrews on (08) 8087 2125, Jim Maynard on (03) 5024 0248, Ken Turner on (08) 8091 2571 or Kevin Taylor on (08) 8088 2988.

The donations may be made either one-off or spread over a number of years. The management group already has financial support from the Broken Hill Agfair Committee, NSW Farmers, the PAWD and a number of businesses and individuals with whom Rob worked and who recognised Rob's dedication to education in the Outback. The aim of this management group is to build the capital to an extent where the scholarship can become scholarships and the scholarship amount can be increased to match the ever-increasing educational costs of outback students.

Applications and information will be available from the PAWD office in Broken Hill, phone (08) 8087 3322.

Deadline for articles for the next Issue 139 of the Western Division Newsletter is Tuesday 1 November 2011. Please send articles to Sally Ware, NSW DPI, PO Box 393, Hay 2711. email to sally.ware@industry.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 6993 1608.

Rob Seekamp Memorial Scholarship Guidelines and eligibility criteria

Outline

The Scholarship is being funded by the Rob Seekamp Memorial Trust Fund and has been set up to commemorate the name and work of the late Robert Seekamp.

It is a 1-year scholarship that will be awarded each year to a different recipient. The aim of this scholarship is to promote further education by helping with the expenses of tertiary education. Applications will open on 5 March 2012.

The objective of the Scholarship is to encourage a person from the Western Division of NSW and surrounding areas to pursue a course of study in a field that will benefit the area. The successful applicant may not necessarily be a recent school leaver, but a person wishing to upgrade their qualifications. Tertiary study will not be limited to on-campus study.

The first recipient of the Scholarship is Stephanie McKenzie, who is currently studying a Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Physiotherapy at Flinders University.

Selection

Applicants must:

- have completed their schooling
- intend to continue to University or TAFE studies and be committed to these studies
- live in the Western Division of NSW or surrounding areas
- be prepared to have their personal financial constraints and needs assessed, as the scholarship is income tested.

The scholarship applicants will be assessed by an independent panel made up of an educationalist, a social worker, and a

professional person drawn from the community. The decision of the selection panel is final.

Value

The Scholarship will be \$2500. This will be awarded as a lump sum.

How to apply

Please complete the application form on page 16 and submit it to:

The Rob Seekamp Scholarship
PO Box 279
BROKEN HILL NSW 2880.

Provide a copy of:

- school report and certificate, showing most recent school achievements
- acceptance letter from a University or TAFE College.



Left: Stephanie McKenzie, the first recipient of the Rob Seekamp Scholarship. *Photo supplied by the Pastoralists' Association of West Darling.*

Western Division Newsletter

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The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (Sept 2011). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services or the user's independent adviser.

Application for the Rob Seekamp Scholarship

1. Surname _____ First Name _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____ Sex M/F _____

Address _____

Telephone () _____ Mobile _____

2. School currently attending/last attended _____

Year last attended and level _____

Please supply a copy of school report and certificate showing most recent school achievements.

3. A copy of your University/TAFE offer and acceptance must be included with your application.

4. Details of other scholarships and financial assistance expected to be received in 2011. (Including Austudy)

5. (a) If currently enrolled in a University/TAFE course: _____

University/TAFE Course Title _____

Please include a copy of course results.

(b) For applicants not attending school in the year preceding application.

Occupation in 2010 _____

Employment situation in 2010 _____

6. What do you think makes you a suitable recipient of the Rob Seekamp Memorial Scholarship?

7. Name two people who may be contacted to provide additional information about you and your application.

Name and position _____ Phone _____

Name and position _____ Phone _____

8. I confirm that the above information is accurate, and I undertake to inform the Trust of any changes in relevant circumstances.

Signature _____ Date _____

A visit to 'Bokhara Plains' by Allan Savory and Jody Butterfield

On Saturday 1 July we travelled out to 'Bokhara Plains' (home of Bokhara Hutz), which is owned by Graham and Cathy Finlayson. We arrived by about 9.45am for what was going to be a fantastic day listening to Allan Savory and his wife Jody Butterfield. We were part of a group of extremely enthusiastic land managers, consultants, educators and other interested people, and the energy and ideas were infectious. In fact, landholders or managers made up about one-third of the audience—out of 120 people this was a very good result.

For those that haven't heard of Allan Savory, he is considered the 'father' of a land-management system called 'holistic management', which originated in South Africa and is now used around the world. His wife Jody Butterfield comes from a journalistic background, and together they are pressing for what they call the 'brown revolution'. This is the revitalisation of agriculture through improved soil health, which comes about through the adoption of holistic management. Both Allan and Jody were in Australia for only about 3 weeks, and they were very much in demand to present and meet some of the many holistic managers in Australia. I could go on for pages about Allan and Jody, but even then I would leave something out, so it's best if you visit the website yourself and find out about them: see <http://www.savoryinstitute.com/>

Graham and Cathy had met Allan and Jody a few times and had even had Allan help with their business personally. With a friend's help, Allan and Jody were able to be flown out to Brewarrina, and with further help from the Western CMA the day at Bokhara went ahead.

Allan Savory's presentation outlined the opportunities for, and the importance of, changing land management if landholders are to deal with the very real impact of climate change. Allan pointed out strongly that 'Agriculture shouldn't adapt to climate change when it is a major cause'. He stated that we need to significantly change our land practices; only then will we have the capacity to reverse climate change and desertification. Allan really rammied home the point by saying that 'Poor land means poor people, and poor people cause war'. Under holistic management, a landscape could run about three to four times the stocking rate—mainly cattle or, better still, horses. A more productive rural community means that the overall community could be more viable and healthy. These opportunities—certainly the extra rewards that come from multiplying your stocking rate—are open especially to rangeland producers, and they

are limited only by your thoughts. The reward of simplifying their businesses should encourage large numbers of landholders to take a positive approach and be part of the solution. What is both upsetting and empowering is that if these changes are to take place then we can expect no help from outside bodies—it will be up to every individual or group to make the change and make it work. Only then will the snowball start to roll.

There were countless great tips from Allan and Jody on the day. One that I liked was a comment about the 'pathetic' mob size of 'only' 800 cattle in Graham's 'large' paddocks—they were 50 to 65 ha in size! Ideally, Allan was looking for mobs approximately three times that size on about a quarter of that paddock size! Despite 'Bokhara' looking much healthier than the surrounding land, Allan reckoned that it had a long way to go. He would like to see different sorts of grasses with broader leaves, the ground much softer (we thought the ground was already soft!) and the earthy smell that decaying vegetation brings. While we were out in one of Graham's and Cathy's paddocks listening to and interacting with Allan, our son Mitchell, who is aged 8, was just sitting at the feet of Allan, seemingly taking it all in. Allan is truly a great person and was so respectful of others' opinions, but at the same time he made it very clear that he has had enough of people putting up 'barriers' or reasons why his management won't work: he wants landholders to just do it!

Allan pointed out that good groundcover and perennial grasses are only just the start, and that we can achieve so much more. How exciting is that? Maybe when it comes to groundcover and grass species, if we set a target that we know we can reach then we aren't reaching high enough! Just think: if we set a goal of 100% groundcover and we get to only 90%, have we failed? Another comment that

By Gus Whyte
Wyndam Station
Wentworth

Below: Graham Finlayson, Jody Butterfield, Allan Savory and Cathy Finlayson. *Photo: Gus Whyte.*



I liked was the one about cattle and how in our society we think that the best meat is grain fed. Allan says that if 'cattle were meant to eat grain then God would have given them beaks', so as a society we need to grasp the fact that grass-fed beef is better for us and the environment. Imagine the amount of carbon that can be contained in the soil if we were to shift to the environment that Allan is talking about, with the extra benefits of healthy communities and the production of truly organic food and fibre—all good!

On Saturday night we were treated to a fantastic meal in a wonderful facility that is Graham and Cathy's farmstay, 'Bokhara Hutz'. We were also lucky enough to find ourselves staying in a brand-new hut; this made made for a very happy Whyte family! We met some great people, and sitting around the fire drinking 'Crownies' was a great way to encourage some 'robust' discussion on probable or possible land-management changes. The fact that there are still plenty of 'knockers' of holistic management means that a lot of people are really challenged by it. This adds credence to Allan's theory that the biggest impediment to change is so-called 'vested interest', which Allan explains is 'the knowledge of scientists and so-called educated advisors that feel their pride and ego are at stake'. It would be very sad if we were to allow such an excuse to stop the sort of positive change that can happen. The fact that change needs to be brought

about by communities is extremely empowering, and for those willing to take the plunge there are some wonderful rewards on offer.

We were extremely lucky that Graham and Cathy chose to share the day with so many others. We were lucky to be part of hopefully the 'herd effect' of that day and to take the energy and enthusiasm forward. What was interesting is that we came away from the day feeling good, not just 'punching the air', as we had thought Allan might have left us feeling. Moreover, on reflection of the content of the day and the 'lessons' we now feel really enthused. I feel that this long-term effect is much more important than to walk away from a talk and 'feel fantastic' for just half a day. It was also great to see the Western CMA, which had also sponsored the day, have a good turn-up of staff and Board members. Congratulations to them for being on the front foot and out there actively helping landholders who may wish to bring about a positive change.

For more information on holistic management you could try some of these websites:

<http://www.savoryinstitute.com/>

<http://www.principlefocus.com.au/>

<http://www.rcs.au.com/>

<http://www.holisticresults.com.au/>

<http://www.holisticmanagement.org/>

Bokhara Hutz

Brewarrina

Phone: 0268744921

Email: bokharahutz@bigpond.com

www.bokharaplains.com

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Kars Pastoral Co. is holding a Wiltipoll Field Day & Sale

To be held at Kars Station Menindee Road Broken Hill NSW on Saturday 26 November 2011 at 10.00 am *(Please notify Fred and Pip by 16 Nov if you are attending)*

- Wiltipoll ewes and rams for inspection
- Guest speakers
- Barbeque lunch
- Art display
- Ram and ewe sale – Sale start 2.00 pm
- Kars Wiltipoll flock ewes and flock and registered rams (all full wool-shedding)

- Composite Wiltipoll/Dorper rams from Wonoka Kapunda SA



Annie Hughes: (08) 8536 2890
E-mail: wiltipoll@bigpond.com

Fred and Pip Hughes: (08) 8091 9404
E-mail: karsstation@bigpond.com

Web: www.wiltipoll.com.au



Are you aware of what's happening in your industry? Do you ever miss out on the events that could make a difference? Would you like to influence what type of events are held in your area?

Sheep Connect NSW will make sure you don't miss out!

Industry & Investment NSW and Australian Wool Innovation have joined forces to launch Sheep Connect NSW, an industry-wide information network for sheep producers and service providers.

Sheep Connect NSW provides a comprehensive listing of sheep-related events. The listing is available on-line, by email or by fax and can be filtered according to individual preferences so you are only notified of events in your area, that suit your needs.

Sheep Connect NSW – the easy way to get connected...

To get involved or for further information, log on to www.sheepconnectnsw.com.au OR Contact Sheep Connect NSW:
T: 02 6391 3954
E: sheep.connect@industry.nsw.gov.au
www.sheepconnectnsw.com.au

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new south wales

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Industry & Investment

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