

Program: Thursday 25 October 2007

8.30am – 4.30pm

Tours:

1. Dryland Farming System

A mixed farming tour in the central part of the Namoi Catchment

2. Irrigated Farming Systems and Rivercare

A tour that showcases the management of rivers and waterways and takes in the cotton industry with examples of best practices in irrigation

3. Cultural Heritage in the Namoi

A cultural tour that shows both Aboriginal and European heritage

4. Biodiversity in Wool and Beef production

A grazing management tour that travels northwards to the New England Tablelands

Tours depart from & return to:

Visitor's Information Centre,
Corner Peel & Murray Streets
Tamworth

5.30pm

Forum Registrations Commence:

Tamworth Regional Gallery
466 Peel Street Tamworth
(Between White and Hill Streets)

6.00pm – 8.00pm

Registrations & Welcome Reception:

Tamworth Regional Gallery

**Forum to be held at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre (TREC),
Greg Norman Drive, Tamworth NSW**

Program: Friday 26 October 2007

Forum MC:

8.30am – 9.00am **Welcome to Country: Neville Sampson**

Introduction & Official Opening:

Jim McDonald, Chairman, Namoi Catchment Management Authority

9.00am – 10.00am

Opening Address

Confronting Our Future:

**Bobbie Brazil. Bobbie is the Chair of the Australian Landcare Council and
Chair of the Land & Water Resources Research and Development
Corporation. Bobbie was recently appointed Chancellor of the University of
Southern Queensland**

As Chairperson of the Australian Landcare Council, Bobbie Brazil will draw on her
extensive experience and knowledge to present her views on the challenges of
managing Australia's land, water and biodiversity issues into the future.

10.00am – 10.30am

Morning Tea and Trade Displays

Session: Land & Water

10.30am – 11.15am

Keynote Address: Challenges and Issues for Future Management

Dr Graeme Pearman AO, Former Chief of Atmospheric Research CSIRO

This session will raise the question of climate change and look at the impact this
change is expected to have on the NSW landscape.

11.20am – 11.55am

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

LAND - Star Room of TREC

WATER – Auditorium of TREC

1A. Managing Land Use Conflicts:
Neil MacLeod, Principal Research
Scientist, CSIRO Sustainable
Ecosystems

1B. Water Efficiency: Bernie Hobbs
ABC Science writer and broadcaster

A session discussing peri-urban land use conflicts between production, conservation, urban lifestyles and community well being.

This session will focus on the newest technology for water management and the issue of desalination and discuss opportunities for reductions in water usage, waste and re-use initiatives.

11.55am – 12.30pm

2A. Managing Integrated Rural
Landscapes: Dr Jann Williams,
Ecological Society of Australia

2B. Sharing the Water: Shahbaz Khan
Lead researcher of the Irrigation
Systems research stream, within the
Agriculture, Water and Environment
research theme and Rural Water Use
Stream of CSIRO's Water for a Healthy
Country

In this session, the key findings of recent national research into soil, water and biodiversity in the wool industry will be presented with a further look at the challenges ahead for this industry.

This session reviews the often controversial issue of water use. Who uses what and where? It also asks the question surrounding allocating deficits – who will cop the cuts?

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Lunch and Trade Displays
Session: Social & Economics

1.30pm – 2.10pm

Keynote Address: Insights into Cross Sector-Partnering for Sustainable
Development
Sean Rooney, Director of CSIRO Sustainable Communities Initiative

Reflections from CSIRO's Sustainable Communities Initiative on working in partnership in Australian communities to develop and deliver solutions to local sustainability challenges and opportunities.

2.10pm – 2.40pm

Volunteerism in Rural Communities:
Professor Allan Curtis, Integrated Environmental Management Director,
Institute for Land, Water and Society, Faculty of Science, Charles Sturt
University

An overview of the latest information on volunteers in rural communities – who are they, what do they do, how are they doing and their challenges for the future?

2.40pm – 3.10pm

**Government Intervention – Paradise lost or found:
 Bruce Brown, Namoi CMA**

Policy and legislative directions for the future based on learnings from the past plus a look into the future with and without the Regional Model. Includes discussion on public and private benefit.

3.10pm – 3.40pm

Afternoon Tea and Trade Displays

3.40pm – 4.00pm

**Market Drivers: A Clean, Green Image
 David Wallis**

Quality assurances and EMS are pathways to sustainable production but this session will look at how producers ensure they capture more of the financial benefit of meeting consumer demand.

4.10pm – 5.15pm

Forum Café: Three Facilitated Themed Discussion Groups

This structured workshop will take place in a café setting, where every participant will have the opportunity to contribute ideas to one of the following topics:

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| 1. Confronting our future – what can individuals do to progress better management of land and water resources? | 2. Building excellent partnerships between CMAs and Landcare – Ways forward | 3. The sustainability of volunteer groups – what are the essential ingredients? |
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Focus questions within each session will result in action plans for the future, which will be summarised in the plenary session on day two.

6.30pm – Midnight

NSW Landcare Awards Ceremony and Dinner

This year's NSW Landcare Awards Ceremony and dinner are being hosted by the Natural Resources Advisory Council and the NSW Landcare Committee, with the support of the NSW Government and Landcare Australia Ltd. Held every two years, the NSW Landcare Awards offers NSW landcarers an opportunity to celebrate their achievements and demonstrate how their community efforts are making a difference in the broader global challenge of sustaining our landscapes for future generations.

Ten awards will be presented during the night, in the following categories:

- National Landcare Program Individual Landcarer Award
- Murray Darling Basin Commission Rivercare Award
- Landcare Australia Nature Conservation Award
- Alcoa Landcare Community Group Award
- Leighton Holdings Local Government Landcare Partnerships Award
- Australian Government Coastcare Award
- Rural Press Landcare Primary Producer Award
- Westpac Landcare Education Award
- Alcan Landcare Indigenous Award
- Australian Government Landcare NRM Region Award

Program: Saturday 27 October 2007

9.00am – 9.50am

Landcare Award Winner Presentations

State Landcare Award Winners present their case studies.

Session: Farms of the Future

10.00am – 10.40am

Keynote Address: Dr John Williams, Commissioner for the Natural Resources Commission

Dr John Williams will present his views on conservation and farms of the future.

10.40am – 11.10am

Morning Tea and Trade Displays

11.10am – 11.30am

**Biodiversity Outcomes from Farm Forestry:
Dr Rosemary Lott/David Carr**

A presentation of results from recent Greening Australia Programs with local examples.

11.30am – 11.50am

Carbon Trading:

Ben Keogh, Manager of Australian Carbon Traders

Ben has a detailed and contemporary understanding of the issues presented to all participants by the growing carbon market

This session will look at how landowners can participate in carbon trading – what are the legalities and realities of this process?

11.50am – 12.10pm

Biofuels:

Clara Cuevas, Research Economist for Energy Projections and Analysis, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE)

Are biofuels a real option for alternate fuel supplies? A look at how biofuels could work for farmers and who is making the profits.

12.10pm – 12.30pm

Sustainable Limits to Growth:

Associate Professor Darryl Low Choy, Associate Professor in the School of Environmental Planning and the Urban Research Program at Griffith University. Darryl also chairs the Queensland State Government's Regional Landscape and Open Space Advisory Committee that is associated with the Queensland State Government's SEQ regional planning initiative

A review of the South East Queensland regional planning process and a discussion of how this relates to NSW. Why was Queensland able to limit Brisbane's urban growth and why is this not happening in NSW?

12.30pm – 1.20pm **Insight Forum Facilitated Discussion**

Facilitated discussion

Representatives from key state Natural Resource Management organisations will take part in discussion regarding the interaction between the various organisations responsible for NRM. Questions from forum delegates will be addressed in this session.

1.20pm – 2.00pm *Lunch and Trade Displays*

2.00pm – 2.30pm **Plenary Presentation:
Coral Love, National Landcare Facilitator**

A presentation of the discussions and outcomes from each Café discussion group.

2.30pm – 3.00pm **Concluding Session**

Dr John Williams will sum up the Forum outcomes and report on recommendations for future directions.

3.00pm *Afternoon Tea and Depart*