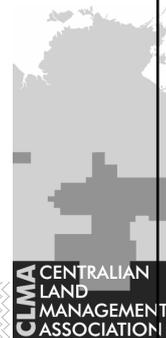


LAND TALK

Newsletter of the 'Centralian Land Management Association' (CLMA)
21 YEARS OF CLMA LANDCARE INITIATIVES

CLMA is the voice of land managers in a climate of change



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Hi All, It's certainly a great start to the year with all the recent rain which I hope you have all managed to receive some of. The year has started out very busy with funding application for small grants having to be in by end of January which wasn't really good timing as a lot of people were still away on holidays and unable to participate. There will be other small grants coming out in mid year I am told, so if there is an on ground project which you require some assistance with please let me know.

We have acquired a new staff member this year. Glenis McBurnie started at CLMA at the end of February and will be sharing the roll of Coordinator/EMU Project Officer with myself and we will each work 4 days a week, which I am looking forward to. When the roads dry out a bit we will be out and about doing station visits and will introduce Glenis to you all then.

Hugh Pringle is working out of the CLMA office but as a consultant ecologist. We are able to tap into his expertise when required. Memberships are due again and we look forward to your support for another year. For those of you who are unsure about being involved with the CLMA please take the time to consider the following points.....

Being involved with Land management is not just about fixing problems, you are all doing "Landcare" every day in everything you do. CLMA is here to support you with all realms of land management issues.

- Help you with accessing technical or legislative information which is often hard to source from Government agencies.
- Promote the benefits of industry within the wider community.
- Represent pastoral interests on numerous government (both territory and commonwealth) committees and groups
- Assist with applying for funding to do on ground works on your property
- Maintain an active voice with media to defend the interests of the pastoral industry that may be under scrutiny.
- Enable use of equipment and access to expertise to help with on ground works – especially rehabilitation, re-vegetation, feral animal and weed control.

Your membership fees help with admin costs and the day to day running of vehicles and equipment. Without your membership support CLMA is unable to attract other funds to carry out projects e.g. (Caring for our Country).

The CLMA believes in promoting the sustainable land management ethics of the Central Australian pastoral industry, so join up and let us help you keep doing what you do best!

We had our AGM and general meeting through a phone conference link up in February and that worked very well so we will probably look at doing this with most of our meetings through out the year. Please feel free to participate.

I look forward to catching up you all in the near future,

Cheers Nat

Camel update

The latest news from Desert Knowledge CRC is that the National Feral Camel Management Project is well and truly underway following the signing of the funding deed between Ninti One Ltd and the Australian Government on the 1st of February. The first meeting of the Steering Committee for the camel project will be held on the 18th of March to go over all the important aspects of delivering effective camel control.

A cull has already taken place in the Docker River area as part of the \$19 million project. It's estimated that about 3000 camels were culled as part of this project, with many more culls scheduled this year for the Pilbra, the Simpson Desert and the SA/NT/WA boarder. SA has announced a \$1.1m project to remove 5000-7000 camels from the landscape in collaboration with the national project and WA has called for tenders to remove camels, horses and donkeys from the Lake Carnegie region. According to DKCRC there is future market potential, with enquiries about purchasing live camels coming in from the Middle East since the project was announced.

For more information check out: <http://www.desertknowledgecrc.com.au/research/feralcamels.html>

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/camel-factsheet.html>

FUNDING NEWS

EMU restoration project funded

We are happy to announce that EMU has gained a grant for on-ground work through Caring for Our Country (CFOC). The \$19, 500 Community Action Grant was allocated to CLMA to eradicate Athel Pine trees on Lilla Creek Station. Lilla Creek station is one of the seventeen stations to undertake EMU property planning in 2009 and is now taking the next step in restoring important parts of the landscape.

Five EMU properties have developed strategic rehabilitation projects to date which require assistance to undertake earth works to plug the drying landscape and improve drought durability. Over the next couple of years funding opportunities are likely to become available to implement on-ground work so we'll let you know as they come up.

NRMB Small Landscape Grants

We've recently put in 3 applications under the NRM Board's Landscape Grants, which closed on the 26th of February. The projects were for various rehabilitation works including erosion control and Athel Pine control. Best of luck to the applicants- we hope your funding is successful.

Get your project funded

CLMA is here to help you with grants and funding applications for restoration, conservation or other environmental projects. This can sometimes be quite involved so here are a few important points that you need to know about this process:

- Projects need to be in line with what the government or funding agency wish to achieve, which can often be quite targeted.
- Funding bodies like to see that you have done thorough planning to come up with the project- this is where EMU process can help
- We need your input in the process to make sure we get the applications right so please give us as much relevant information or planning as possible
- Funding applications have strict deadlines so please help us to get things in on time by giving us information as soon as we start the application

By working together we can get more funding to the region and start to achieve large-scale landscape restoration.

Caring For our Country

The next CFOC round is open and we're in the process of writing an application to continue the EMU project through 2011. The latest business plan has a few targets that we can address through the EMU project:

"Improving management practices-soil condition" and
"Landscape scale conservation".

The NRM Board will be working with us to write the application which is due on the 15th of April 2010.





Hi everyone, my name is Glenis and I'll be sharing the role of Coordinator/ Emu officer with Natalie. I was born and raised in Alice Springs and spent a great deal of time going on adventures out bush. I have very fond memories of rolling down red sand dunes, swimming in refreshing waterholes, climbing through rocky gorges and brushing ice off my swag after star-lit winter nights.

I went off to Darwin and north Queensland to study science for a few years, but after my tropical escape I felt compelled to head back home and apply my studies to our fantastic rangeland environment.

I've been back in Alice for a few years now working on all sorts of environmental projects for Greening Australia, then the opportunity to learn the EMU process came up and I decided to make the change. My main expertise is in wetland ecology and botany so I look forward to expanding this knowledge to a different scale through EMU.

Most of all I'm looking forward to meeting all our members and working with you on EMU and other projects. I'll be travelling through the area with Nat over the next couple of months, so I hope to catch up with you soon.

Ecosystems Management Understanding

EMU UPDATE: by Natalie Turner Project Officer Feb 2010

The Ecosystem Management Understanding (EMU) Project commenced in January 2009 with Project Officer, Natalie Turner working with Rangeland Ecologist, Hugh Pringle delivering the process to Pastoral Land Mangers through out Central Australia. Natalie and Hugh have been working with participants recording their knowledge of the landscapes through a baseline mapping exercise using satellite imagery with overlays to record important information. Recognising the drivers of landscape change and the movement of water throughout the landscapes is pivotal in allowing land managers to see their stations as a whole land system of interconnections and the power to make small changes to see long term outcomes.

By the 31st Dec 2009 17 properties in Central Australia and 3 in SA have been visited and the following processes delivered:

- Systematic overlay mapping of key issues to do with the resource and its ecology
- Synthesis of the over lays to distil the information into key issue areas
- Flights over each station, with the emphasis on identified key issues
- On ground visits to key issue areas
- Discussion of station-level grazing strategies(where/when to rest /graze)
- Discussion of infrastructure issues (e.g. tracks, fences and waters)
- Discussion of monitoring and flying stations annually
- Final reviews of key issues in terms of priority for future management planning.

These activities represent the initial baseline mapping and assessment of issues and priorities, with some preliminary planning in order to demonstrate how to make use of the mapped knowledge. Key issues were also assessed and discussed at length to bring focus to them and provide some suggestions as to how they might be addressed. However, this is just the start; EMU is an ongoing planning, acting and learning process designed for lifetime learning and inter-generational continuity of management experience and knowledge.

An important aspect of EMU is that it is about helping managers make better use of their own knowledge, rather than turning up to “teach” managers. Existing managers’ knowledge is the basis of the EMU approach and proves to be a very solid foundation for ongoing improvement in landscape productivity, beef production and better businesses. The combination of local managers’ knowledge and the EMU knowledge acquired through years of working with pastoralists is a potent mix!

The EMU project is COMPLETELY confidential; nothing is taken off property and no reports are filed. The only people who can release the information are the managers themselves. We refuse to answer **any** questions about places unless the managers ask us to do so for them. The Government has no access to EMU information except through the managers themselves.

The feedback so far has been very positive with most participants seeing their problems with new clarity and their opportunities based on what will have greatest impact for invested time and money. In particular, several pastoralists have changed their views of what areas need urgent attention from the worst degraded areas to the best country that has problems that can be nipped in the bud (before they get too messy, costly and difficult to fix).

Our plan for 2010 is focused on delivery of the EMU process to 10 new properties. Follow up visits and ongoing support to land managers who have completed the EMU process. During the follow up visits we help pastoralists build their own priority projects and broader land management plans, including helping make sure there is adequate monitoring of identified priority areas and issues. We will also help with funding applications that might come out of the priority projects and connect managers to additional particular expertise as needed.

If you are interested in the EMU process or just want more information please contact CLMA office on 89534088 and talk with Nat or Glenis or we can come and visit you.

The National Landcare Forum

The NLP Forum will be held on the 22-24th of March in Adelaide. The theme of the Forum is ‘Landcare celebrates – 20 years of achievements and future challenges’.

The forum will bring together Landcare and community groups, regional bodies and industry and government representatives from across Australia. We will have the opportunity to learn about the latest research developments in Natural Resource Management and sustainable agriculture, and we’ll also develop new networks and new skills.

The program for the Forum will include presentations on the latest scientific research from leading scientists, plus networking and communications, how groups function and work together, succession planning, and the achievements of award winning Landcare groups and various current issues.

We will also have the opportunity to visit a range of Landcare projects and restoration sites in the Barossa Valley, the Lower Lakes and urban areas

NT Cattleman’s Association AGM and Conference

The NTCA’s annual conference will be held on the 25th and 26th March in Darwin. The conference will cover cutting edge industry issues, markets and emerging opportunities in Asia, while exploring the role of future leaders and succession in the rural sector.

This will be a great opportunity for CLMA to promote the good work that pastoralists’ in central Australia are doing to make their properties sustainable well into the future. We’ll be talking about the EMU process and various restoration efforts that are being undertaken in the area.



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If you have ideas for projects, please contact the staff at the CLMA and we will
develop the applications.

