

# LAND TALK

Newsletter of the 'Centralian Land Management Association' (CLMA)

*Greetings everyone,*

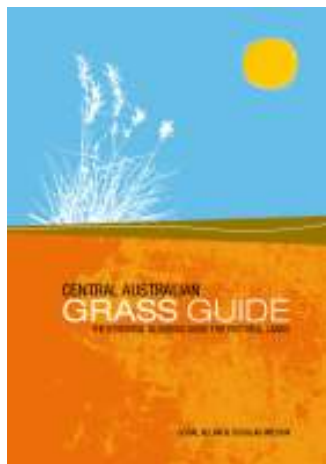
*Well, there have been a few changes in the staff situation at the CLMA (see inside for who's who in the zoo). Adrian left the CLMA in early June to go and work for the Desert Knowledge CRC on the Water Smart project. Dionne Walsh (EMS/monitoring officer) and Peter Armstrong (the laser truck operator) are your CLMA Coordinators for the next 18 months. Peter will be doing the "bush" work and Dee will be doing the admin side of things. Give us a call if you need help with any landcare projects or funding. The CLMA has taken delivery of a new Landcruiser which is currently being fitted with the laser equipment. The old Cruiser will become the Weeds vehicle.*

*Cheers, Dee & Peter*

## NEW GRASS GUIDE OUT NOW!

Very soon every central Australian pastoralist will receive a copy of the Central Australian Grass Guide. This was a joint project between the CLMA and the Dept of Primary Industries, Fisheries & Mines (Pastoral Group).

The idea for the book came from Chris Connellan from Narwietooma. Chris felt that there was some information about pasture grasses around, but it was hard for pastoralists to lay their hands on it.



The grass book describes the most common pastoral grasses in central Australia and their grazing value. Each grass has a colour photo to help identify it.

**Extra copies can be purchased for \$25 (incl GST) from the CLMA.**

## MEAT PROFIT DAY

**"Beef, Buffel & Biodiversity"**

**29<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**ALICE SPRINGS  
CONVENTION CENTRE**

A local committee has joined forces with Meat & Livestock Australia and the NTCA to create a thought-provoking program that will provide red meat producers with an insight into latest research, global trends and marketing initiatives as well as an opportunity to discuss the latest issues.



For more information, contact Ian McLean (MPD Project Manager). 8952 5122 or 0401 118 191. Email [ian.mclean@ntca.org.au](mailto:ian.mclean@ntca.org.au).

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CLMA ZOO?

### PETER ARMSTRONG BUSH-WORK COORDINATOR



Position funded by the Natural Heritage Trust.

Contact Peter for:

- ⇒ Help with soil rehabilitation.
- ⇒ Laser truck hire.
- ⇒ Bulldozer hire.
- ⇒ Seed harvester quad use.

### DEE WALSH OFFICE COORDINATOR

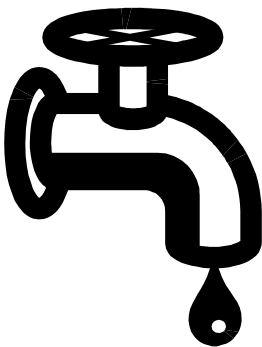


Position funded by the Natural Heritage Trust.

Contact Dee for:

- ⇒ General CLMA enquiries.
- ⇒ Funding applications.
- ⇒ Help with photo-monitoring sites.
- ⇒ Help with EMS.

## GOT A WATER SAVING IDEA?



Round 2 of the Community Water Grants programme will fund projects to help local community organisations save, recycle or improve the health of their local water resources. Community Water Grants are open to community-based organisations that want to do practical, on-the-ground projects that help solve local water problems to the value of \$50,000. Give Dee Walsh at the CLMA (8953 4230) or Peter Barker at Greening Australia (8953 2882) a call if you have an idea or want a hand to apply.

**Applications close 25<sup>th</sup> August.**

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CLMA ZOO?

**JILLIAN FISHER**  
**GRAZING STRATEGIES**  
**PROJECT OFFICER**



Position funded by the Desert Knowledge CRC.

Contact Jillian for:

- ⇒ Information on the Mt Riddock, Idracowra and Old Man Plains grazing trials.

**PETER MCDOWALL**  
**WEEDS OFFICER**



Position funded by the Natural Heritage Trust.

Contact Peter Mac for:

- ⇒ Anything weeds related.
- ⇒ Updates on the Sandover weeds project.

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### CLMA LASER TRUCK HIRE

**\$350 PER DAY (INCLUDES THE LASER TRUCK AND OPERATOR)**



The Laser system (set up on the back of the CLMA Toyota) marks the correct position for banks and drains, by accurately marking along the contour line.

This minimises the chance of banks and drains busting after rain and maximises the success of the soil rehabilitation works.

The laser truck can mark out 30 banks a day. Even if you don't want to push them up straight away, the marks last several months or more.

Bookings can be made by contacting the CLMA office in Alice Springs.  
 Phone (08) 89534230, Fax (08) 89523824 or Email: [clma@clma.com.au](mailto:clma@clma.com.au)

# THE CLMA WEED REPORT

**Peter McDowall, CLMA Weeds Officer**

The 3 months since the project commenced have been interesting and fruitful. The majority of my time was spent in the lower Sandover and Bundy River areas with weed mapping and treatment being the main activities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The first Sandover floodout has been surveyed with 18 km of river and an area of about 800 ha at the SE end of the floodout to be treated for Parkinsonia and Rubber bush.
- Outside of the main river banks, around 400 sites have been treated with Access herbicide (basal bark treatment mixed 1:60 with diesel).
- Weed surveys of the Lower Bundy/Sandover river were commenced with high infestations of Rubber bush, Parkinsonia and Noogoora burr being found.
- The sites treated in the upper Sandover in 2004 were visited in mid June. Over 400 sites were checked and only 38 required re-treatment.

## LESSONS LEARNT

- Not all plants were killed in 2004 and some (1.5%) were able to re-shoot from below-ground buds.
- New plants germinating from seed beside or around the previous treatments were surprisingly few. One reason could be the mass of herbage that grows when protected by the thorny fallen branches. This provides moisture, nutrient and light competition for any emerging Parkinsonia seedlings. My congratulations to the previous spray teams for a job well done.
- Parkinsonia is beatable.
- Follow-up is needed to check for misses, regrowth and seedlings within 2 years.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

In the next month I will finish mapping the weed infestations in the Sandover/Bundy rivers. We will then decide on where to target commencement of treatments in August/September and on until spray uptake in the plants is reduced by heat and dry conditions. We are funded this round for 18 months and will have 2 treatment windows to use for maximising our efforts.

## WEEDS SOUTH OF ALICE

Peter Armstrong has been visiting southern properties following up on previous weed work in conjunction with landholders. We are especially worried about containing saffron thistle and although it is dry, people need to be vigilant around any wet areas (bores, tank overflows, leaking pipes etc). When it rains keep an eye out for new saffron seedlings and treat them as soon as possible. Call us, we can help in many ways. They can be dug up with a mattock, hoe or rake. The toe of a boot does the job on isolated plants. The quicker we can treat or advise on treatment, the less risk there is that the plants will flower and seed set.

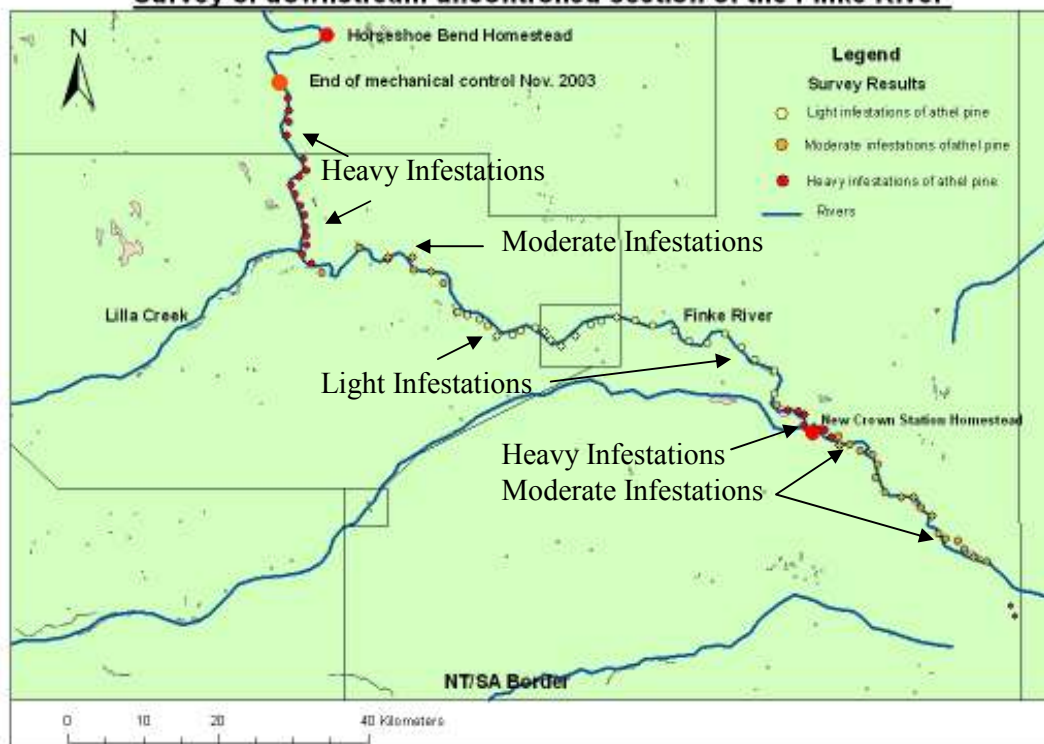


# MORE \$ FOR ATHEL PINE KILLING

**Chris Brown, Government Weeds Officer**

- The Weed Management Branch (Department of Natural Resources, Environment & The Arts) has been successful in obtaining \$420,000 to continue downstream control of Athel pine along the Finke River.
- This new funding will enable a major expansion of control work into the lower untreated sections of the Finke River catchment.
- The program has successfully treated 400 kms of the upper catchment over the last 10 years.
- The majority of the new funding will be used for the mechanical removal of a 23 km core infestation of Athel pine located on Horseshoe Bend and Lilla Creek Stations.
- The removal of this last section of this major core infestation will allow chemical control to occur in the lower catchment area without the threat of reinvasion from large core infestations upstream.

**Survey of downstream uncontrolled section of the Finke River**



The Weed Management Branch, NRETA gratefully acknowledges funding and support provided by the Federal Government's "Defeating the Weeds Menace Initiative".

## Desert Knowledge CRC launches Pastoral Projects in Central Australia

**Adrian James, WaterSmart™ Officer**

The WaterSmart Pastoral Production™ and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pastoralism™ telemetry projects have opened in Central Australia, with information packs and application forms already in the mail. Both projects are designed to give arid-zone pastoralists useful information on how to reduce their production costs, including time, and improve sustainability.

A small number of interested, local pastoralists will be offered a test and demonstration contract, which includes lots of new water and telemetry infrastructure. We don't know which properties will take part, so get those application forms in!

The WaterSmart Pastoral Production™ project is about developing producer driven water management solutions, so we have to take advantage of local knowledge and find out what people really want. Of course, to do this, you have to let us know! The packs you'll receive include a questionnaire about your property's water issues. Getting these back to us is essential for making the projects work for the region.



WaterSmart™ staff include Colleen James, who is running the project in Queensland and South Australia's arid lands, and Adrian James, who is working in the NT (and just south of the SA border), both on WaterSmart™ and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pastoralism™.

The real nuts and bolts of the Centralian operation is installing a range of new gear on the selected properties, then monitoring the situation for a few years to see which ones work better than others, are easier to use, and pay for themselves the soonest. The test properties will be required to collect some data, and hold a demonstration field day.

So look out for those info packs, complete them, and mail them back to AZRI. If you've got any questions, call me on 8951 8155, or email [Adrian.James@nt.gov.au](mailto:Adrian.James@nt.gov.au).



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



Northern  
Territory  
Government

Department of  
Primary Industry,  
Fisheries and Mines



DESERT KNOWLEDGE  
CRC

## HEY KIDS - ART & PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

ENTRIES CLOSE 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

THEME - Threatened species, their habitats and their threats in the Northern Territory



Black footed rock wallaby – photo by Will Dobbie

### CATEGORIES

- Best photo
- Best drawing
- Best painting
- Best other medium
- Best overall adult work
- Best overall school or community group
- People's choice

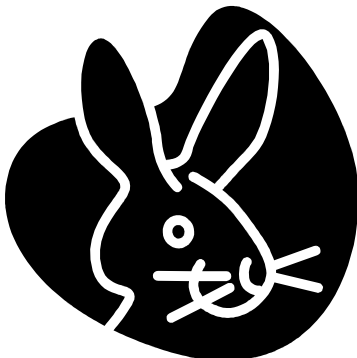
### PRIZES

Include sketch set, book vouchers, tickets to Territory Wildlife and Desert Parks, cinema tickets, \$100 gift vouchers + more! A digital camera donated by the Menzies School of Health will be awarded to the best overall school or community group effort.

The competition is being run by the Threatened Species Network to coincide with National Threatened Species Day. Winners announced 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Contact Linda at TSN Alice Springs on 8952 1541 or [rangelands@wwf.org.au](mailto:rangelands@wwf.org.au)

## RABBIT LIVERS WANTED FOR CALICIVIRUS STUDY!



Word is that rabbit numbers have been on the rise a bit lately. We would expect a wave of calicivirus to sweep through in August and September.

Ron Sinclair from the Animal & Plant Group in South Australia wants some livers from dead rabbits to test whether the virus is still active and whether it is changing. If you find a rabbit that may have died of calicivirus, collect its liver and freeze it immediately. Call the CLMA on 8953 4230 and we'll arrange to get it to Ron. For more information you can ring Ron on (08) 8303 9506.

**COMING EVENTS:****HART'S RANGE RACES & SPORTS  
WEEKEND 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> August**

Contact Liz Bird, Indiana 8956 9779.



CENTRALIAN LAND MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION  
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PAID  
AUSTRALIA**

For general enquiries & to contact Dionne Walsh or Peter Armstrong [clma@clma.com.au](mailto:clma@clma.com.au)  
For info about the Sandover weeds project, contact Peter McDowall [weeds@clma.com.au](mailto:weeds@clma.com.au)  
For info about the Central Australian Grazing Strategies Partnership, contact Jillian Fisher [cagsp@clma.com.au](mailto:cagsp@clma.com.au)

**CLMA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:**

- ⇒ Cheaper hire rate on the CLMA bulldozer.
- ⇒ Hire of the CLMA laser truck.
- ⇒ Free hire of CLMA seed harvesting quad bike.
- ⇒ Local native grass seed for purchase.
- ⇒ Access to CLMA staff to write funding applications.
- ⇒ CLMA staff assistance with weed control, seed harvesting, photo monitoring, plant identification and EMS.

