

EMS Group Gossip and Gatherings

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Issue 2. Page 1



NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the second EMS newsletter. The CMA are committed to maintaining the connections we have with all of you who have developed an EMS and we are doing this through a variety of ways to ensure that we keep you up to date and in the loop.

Firstly there is the newsletter which you will receive on a monthly basis full of interesting snippets of information. This is your newsletter so please send through any information or requests that you would like to see in future issues. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated and can be forwarded to Chris Reid on 02 6043 7600.

Secondly we have a new member of the team who will be dropping in to see you occasionally or giving you a call to see how things are going. He will also be eagerly waiting by the help desk to answer any of your I.T and eFarmer queries. More about him later!

And of course there is still the driver of the programme, Chris Reid, who is more than happy to help you out should you have any queries.

Farewell and Hello to our latest team member... We were all very sad to see the lovely Rom Reilly leave, but fear not we have found a replacement to fill her big shoes. Granted he does not have long blond hair and blue eyes, but he is a GIS and computer guru and an all round friendly and Knowledgeable person. Geoff Holoway currently works for DPI but will also be working with the CMA on a part time basis. He will be coordinating field days, and group get together for the EMS participants and delivering training refresher courses to ensure that your skills are maintained. His focus will be on existing EMS participants but if there is enough interest generated he may provide training to new comers. Geoff can be contacted on his mobile on: 0428 668 970.

eFarmer Update

E farmer is a web based Whole Farm Planning and mapping tool that was used by many of the EMS participants. It allows Landholders to map their Action Plans and to report on actions and outcomes of EMS. Suzanne Johnstone who we introduced in our first newsletter is now busy co-ordinating a trial to see whether you can also use eFarmer for planning, mapping, priorities and applying for funding to implement proposed on ground environmental works. Proposed sites are mapped as Action Plans and assessed against a set of defined high priority catchment information contained in the government data layers in eFarmer.

Having access to this data should allow landholders to design their sites with maximum catchment benefits and maximise their prospects of receiving funding. The trials will be carried out in the Lower Kiewa Area where staff and community members have completed eFarmer group training sessions. It is now moving into an implementation phase. It is hoped that many of EOI works mapped will be implemented and funded immediately to allow further analysis of the process. Want more information? Contact, Suzanne Johnstone, Project Manager NECMA, 02 6024 9104.

Did you know:

According to the latest results from the Rabobank Rural Confidence Survey, the continuing drought conditions combined with increasing costs is eroding confidence among Australian farmers. The results showed that during the winter months, farmers across all states showed that income expectations and investment intentions had declined, particularly among beef and sheep producers and that 37% of Australian producers indicated an intention to change their enterprise mix over the next 18 months

Emissions Trading — What the???

Emissions trading has been the approach for international efforts to control and eventually reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Several emission trading schemes are already in operation in different regions and countries but not many people are very familiar with how it works, the types of trading schemes or the details of existing and proposed schemes. This link will provide you with a brief overview of the ins and out of emission trading

http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/results.shtml?filena_me_num=226529

FARM SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD

The CMA still has copies of the “Farm Sustainability Dashboard” which is a software application that can be used by farmers to generate a visual report of key indicators of the condition of their land and associated business. It takes into account the triple bottom line. For a free copy contact Chris Reid on 02 6043 7600. Its a useful tool designed by farmers for farmers!

Climate Change Adjustment Programme Grant

The Climate Change Adjustment Programme is aimed at assisting primary producers who are likely to be affected by climate change, including those experiencing hardship caused by drought. The programme assists farmers in obtaining professional advice, training and re-establishment assistance, and provides support to farmers to adjust their businesses to manage the impacts of climate change. Targeted training activities focus on areas such as whole farm planning, business and risk management, and understanding the implications of climate change.

An advice and training grant of up to \$5,500 is available to eligible farmers and their partners, and may be used to receive advice and training from recognised professional advisers, registered training organisations, TAFE and universities. Grants of up to \$150,000, are available to eligible farmers who have considered their options and have made the decision to sell the farm and leave farming. The Climate Change Adjustment Programme commenced on 1 July 2008. For more Info contact the Advice and Training Grant contact number: 1800 050 585. Targeted training activities number: 1800 638 746

Meeting online

The ALM Group now has an online forum that can be accessed from its website. Log in and "chat" to ALMS members across Australia, to swap notes on your experiences with EMS and alert each other to upcoming events

<http://www.alms.org.au/wb/index.php>

Climate Change

Climate change presents new challenges for the Australian agriculture sector. Concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are continuing to increase as a result of human activities. The future Australian climate will be warmer, mostly drier, and is likely to be subject to more extreme weather events such as storms, droughts and floods. These changes to Australia's climate have implications for the way that we manage our natural resources. While Australian farmers are already among the most efficient and environmentally aware in the world, adaptation to climate change will still require further innovation.

For an insight into climate change in Rural and Regional Australia follow this link...

[Climate Change in Rural and Regional Australia](#)



FUNNY CORNER

A set of jumper leads walk into a bar. The bartender says, “I’ll serve you, but don't start anything”.