

EMS Group Gossip and Gatherings



NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

Welcome to another EMS newsletter. We encourage contributions from you, including information or articles on stakeholder activities and events, publications and resource summaries, dates/events, and other things you feel may be of interest to others involved in EMS in Australian agriculture. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated and can be forwarded to Chris Reid on 02 6043 7600. We hope to keep you informed and inspired to continue the positive on ground works you are all busy managing. Enjoy this months edition of Gossip and Gatherings.

Today's Farmers Meeting Tomorrows Climate Challenges

Australia's farmers are our climate change 'warriors' and many of them are already meeting the challenges of climate change, with major modifications to the way they produce our food. Download the CSIRO's podcast to learn how farmers are dealing with challenges such as lower rainfall and irrigation allocations

[Broadband](#) 4552 KB

Landmate Program

The Landmate program has a long history of successful projects, both state-wide and around the Beechworth area. It has produced many examples of positive outcomes for the prisoners, landholders and local environment.

Contact details

To request assistance, or further information, please contact DSE's Landmate Co-ordinator for the North East in Wodonga, Native Vegetation Management Officer on (02)6043 7900

Catchment Management Authority Drought Employment Program 2008-2009.

The \$10 million program in 2008-09 continues last years CMA Drought Employment Program, in which more than 1,600 people took part. Many were employed on a part time basis so that they could also continue with farm and other work. This years program will operate until June 2009 and will include activities such as weed and pest control, stock exclusion fencing, land and waterway protection works, revegetation and soil conservation. The program is eligible to people directly affected by drought, including farmers and farm workers. Through the project, farmers, farm workers and rural Victorians can have a regular income and remain in their communities during the drought. Their work directly contributes to natural resource management, with real regional benefits. For more information on what activities are available in your area contact **Chris Reid on 02 6043 7600.**

Bamboo—Is it the plant of the Future???

A recent find by Southern Cross University explained the benefits of Bamboo far beyond its traditional uses such as scaffolding, cloth and paper. Amongst the thick mulch which occurs with the accumulation of organic matter with the shedding of the bamboo leaves are thousands of time capsules of carbon known as plant stones. Plant stones are invisible to the naked eye but are almost indestructible. The stones are like glass jars with carbon inside and they get deposited in the soil when the plant dies. These stones are very stable and can remain in that state for thousands of years. The carbon is enclosed in a silica coating which protects it from being decomposed in soils. Sugar cane also produces plant stones which hold even more carbon. With the issue of global warming and the world desperate to capture and store carbon, these scientists believe they have hit something big. Until now people have mostly concentrated on forests for carbon capture but trees seldom make plant stones and they release carbon when they are cut down. By contrast plants stones made by crops and grasses are secured for thousands of years, and if the crops are harvested and regrown, more new plant stones are created, and they are easy to measure. To read the full article follow the link

<http://www.envirojean.com/2008/09/page/2/>



A Word from Geoff...

During my visits last week I attended the Tallangatta Valley Landcare Group meeting where the main topic of discussion was farm water supplies with a presentation by Craig Turton from DPI Wangaratta. Several members that were present have done eFarmer training and shared their views on the program – thanks for the information.

eFarmer would be very useful for planning a farm water supply reticulation layout, especially calculating distances from dams or tanks to troughs. It will also provide a rough guide to the elevation of different parts of the farm, probably more accurately than a GPS. If you are interested in reviewing your farm water system please contact me (02 60249101), or Craig (03 57238682).



eFarmer Refresher

A series of one-day eFarmer sessions are being scheduled to provide participants with an opportunity to brush up their skills. Sessions will be limited to about eight participants to ensure plenty of one-on-one help and will run from 10am to 4pm.

At this stage we have scheduled Thursday 4 December at Wangaratta and Tuesday 9 December at Tallangatta. In both cases if there are more than eight starters we will run a further session the next day. A session is being planned for Corryong, but the date is not yet set. eFarmers in that area will be contacted when dates are available. Please contact Geoff on 20 60249101 or geoff.holloway@necma.vic.gov.au if you would like to attend or to get further information.

Fuel Schemes

Fuel schemes provide grants to reduce the costs of some fuels or to provide a benefit to encourage the recycling of waste oils. For further details phone the Australian Taxation Office (ATO)

Contact Details

Postal: PO Box 900 Civic Square ACT 2608.
Phone Details: 132866. Website [Fuel schemes essentials](#)

BIOECONOMY– The word of the future!

The bioeconomy (the sustainable production and conversion of biomass) is increasingly important in dealing with challenges, such as meeting the growing demand for food and finding replacement sources of fuel and industrial products. Australia has the expertise to lead developments in areas such as sustainable biomass systems, high value agriculture production and improving food security. To see CSIRO's work on the bioeconomy visit: <http://www.csiro.au/science/>

Interesting Facts

- 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4kg CO2 in the atmosphere
- 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water
- By recycling one aluminium can, you can save enough energy to run a television set for three hours
- By recycling one tonne of paper, you save 13 trees, 2.5 barrels of oil, 4100kWh of electricity, 4 cubic metres of landfill and 31, 780 litres of water

Rural Skills Connect

Rom Reilly is now co-ordinating the rural Skills Connect Project connecting industry to skilled labour. For more information contact Ms Rom Reilly on 0408 288 003 or email rreilly@indigoshire.vic.gov.au

Funny Corner

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.



The biodiversity Action Plans have all been finalised and are available on C.D now. For your **FREE** copy please phone Tracey Robinson on 60249103 or email tracey.robinson@necma.vic.gov.au