

EMS Group Gossip and Gatherings



NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. We trust that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and we want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a productive and safe 2009. As usual we want to encourage you to send us your stories so that we can celebrate all the wonderful things you are doing. So any thing you feel may be of interest to others involved in EMS in Australian agriculture please send them in to Chris Reid. Enjoy this months edition of Gossip and Gatherings.

Throw another roo on the bar-b-que

Roo meat is experiencing steady growth with 58.5% of respondents saying that they had tried kangaroo meat. Kangaroo meat is lean, iron rich, is a low greenhouse-gas meat and roos do less damage to the environment than animals with cloven hooves. So exactly why is eating kangaroo 'good for you AND good for the environment' as the current marketing slogan states? Follow the link and read why...

[Kangaroo the sustainable choice](#)



Rudd Government to invest \$8.9 million in important Land care projects

The Rudd Government has announced \$8.9 million for 46 Land care projects across Australia, as part of a major investment in land management and sustainable farming projects under Caring for our Country.

The Landcare projects are among 137 community initiatives to receive grants of between \$80,000 and \$400,000 through the Open Grants funding round.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke said the Landcare projects covered all states and territories.

"The Rudd Government recognises the Landcare movement is responsible for decades of invaluable environmental work across Australia," Mr Burke said.

"The Landcare work funded today directly involves farmers or farming industry groups in improving the productivity of their land.

"By investing now in productivity gains, the Government will help to ensure our farming industries are resilient in the face of climate change."

The funding is part of the \$2.25 billion earmarked for the first five years of Caring for our Country, launched in July this year. To read the full article visit <http://www.getfarming.com.au/>

North East Website

The North East Catchment Management Authority launched their new website earlier this year. It is a valuable resource that is user friendly and is loaded with useful information about up and coming events, our programs, news, jobs and tenders.

As part of the new website a section has been dedicated to grants both regional specific and also grants available at a state and National level. In each newsletter you may have noticed that we try to at least share with you one grant that may be useful to the EMS community. However why not have a look at the new website and scroll through the many other current grants on offer at the moment. <http://Grants/>

Sustainable Industry Initiative Grant

Aims to increase the adoption of best practice in agriculture, fishing and forestry industries so that they are widely recognised as sustainable, and efficiently managing our natural resources and promoting nationally consistent approaches. More information contact <http://www.daff.gov.au>



Rudd's Emissions Target: A Policy Analysis

Anna Rose gives a detailed report on what the Government's White Paper will mean for industry, the public and the climate

Protests are kicking off all around the country as ordinary Australians react to the Government's White Paper on climate change. If you are interested in reading a summary on what exactly is in the White Paper, instead of the original 850 pages of complex jargon then visit new-matilda.com

If you still need convincing that the world needs to act urgently on climate change I would encourage you to spend 10 minutes watching this clever animation.

<http://www.wakeupfreakout.org/film/tipping.html>



Australian consumers are starting to understand the true cost of the food they buy, and that particular choices can significantly reduce environment and health impacts. To read the full article follow the link below.

 [Download Article](#) (463 KB)



Sustainable Supermarkets

Australian Supermarkets freely admit they are a long way behind the sustainability standard of leading organisations such as UK-based Tesco. The UK has the most highly developed fresh food market in the world, with sophisticated, innovative retailers competing aggressively for consumer dollars. About 50 per cent of UK supermarket shoppers are seriously interested in the sustainability criteria of the food they buy, with many unconcerned about price.

Supermarket giant Tesco saw that not only could they cater to this highly discerning market by ramping up their own sustainability credentials, reducing water and power consumption, they also recognised that becoming greener was a real growth pathway.

Tesco CEO said in a 2007 speech that the 'huge growth in sales of organic food is testimony to the fact that people will make a greener choice if given the right information, opportunity and incentive.'

The competitive pricing of organic products means that, for many, they are no longer luxury items. By transforming its business model so that the reduction of its carbon footprint became a central business driver Tesco has achieved a 39per cent year-on-year growth in sales.

Funny Corner

A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says: 'A beer please, and one for the road.'



The biodiversity Action Plans have all been finalised and are available on C.D now. For your FREE copy please phone Greta Quinlaven on 60249103 or email greta.quinlivan@necma.vic.gov.au