

Sir Ivan Fire Recovery Committee Community Newsletter Edition 10, 17 July 2017

Free workshops for getting 'Back On Track'

Central West, Hunter and Central Tablelands Local Land Services, the Department of Primary Industries and agricultural specialists are partnering to get you 'Back On Track' through a series of free workshops focusing on priority issues.

As fire affected landholders, your questions will be answered by specialists from a range of areas of primary production.

The first three workshops will cover livestock health and nutrition, feed budgeting, pasture management, post-fire weed control and biosecurity.

Subsequent workshops will include topics such as innovative planning for new infrastructure, financial options and planning, revegetation methods, restoring and managing your landscapes, keeping your focus and momentum going.

You can also let us know what topics are most important to you.

The first three workshops* in July will answer questions such as:

- What is the best balance of dual purpose pasture & fodder crops for me?
- How do I rebuild productive pastures cost effectively?
- How do I know the best pasture varieties (perennial, annual, native, sub-tropicals, legumes, winter fodder) for my soil types?
- Weeds-weeds-weeds! Identification and management. Can I graze them? What are best management control methods?
- What current stock diseases, health issues and feral animal control initiatives do I need to know about?
- How do I prioritise my priorities? E.g. water layout, stock, pastures, fencing/yard placement equipment purchases?

By attending a workshop you will receive a FREE A1 (60cm x 84cm) colour laminated map of your property/s.

Plenty of time to ask questions, make comments and have one on one discussions with speakers at the end of the workshop.

For further information or to register, please contact Libby McIntyre on 0429 019 309 or email libby.mcintyre@lls.nsw.gov.au

For catering purposes, please register at least two days prior to your chosen workshop.

WORKSHOP SERIES ►

	1	2	3
Leadville	18 th July	8 th Aug	29 th Aug
Coolah		10 th Aug	31 st Aug
Cassilis		9 th Aug	30 th Aug

***More details on workshop dates over page**

Back On Track workshop dates:

Series 1

Tues 18th July – Leadville Hall from 9am-1pm

Series 2

Tues 8th August - Leadville Hall from 9am-1pm

Wed 9th August – Cassilis Town Hall from 9am-1pm

Thurs 10th August – Coolah Sporting Club from 9am-1pm

Series 3

Tues 29th August - Leadville Hall from 9am-1pm

Wed 30th August – Cassilis Town Hall from 9am-1pm

Thurs 31st August – Coolah Sporting Club from 9am-1pm

Recovery Support Service

For more information or to make an appointment with Recovery Support Worker call:

Caroline Hayes on **0407 971 675**
(Cassilis area)

or Sue Freebairn on **0429 212 368**
(Coolah-Dunedoo area)



Caroline



Sue

Rural Assistance Authority

LOANS & GRANTS –

IMPORTANT APPLICATION CLOSING DATES!

A reminder to all fire affected farmers that the Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) Natural Disaster Relief Scheme funding for the Sir Ivan Fire will be closing soon:

- Natural Disaster Relief Scheme **Loans – 14th August 2017**
- Natural Disaster Relief Scheme **Grants (Category C) – 15th September 2017**

Contact your local Recovery Support Worker for advice (details below), or go to www.raa.nsw.gov.au for application and guidelines.

RAA also have available **Transport Subsidy** funds for declared natural disaster areas. These are available for assisting with the cost of transporting fodder and/or water to an affected property, stock to sale or slaughter and stock to/from agistment, following declaration of a natural disaster. Conditions apply. **Transport Subsidy applications for the Sir Ivan Fire affected farmers close on 14th August 2017 also.**

Information and forms can be found on the **NSW Rural Assistance Authority** website at www.raa.nsw.gov.au Alternatively, if you would like to talk to the RAA on **1800 678 593**.

BlazeAid Update

Dunedoo BlazeAid Camp will close

22nd September 2017

Coordinator, Laurie Dawson, would like to announce that a finish date for the Dunedoo Camp has been set as **Friday 22nd September**.

Get in your requests in to Laurie for any fencing assistance ASAP.

Any properties still requiring assistance with essential fencing can contact the **Dunedoo BlazeAid Camp** which is set up at the Dunedoo Showground.

Contact:

Laurie Dawson on 0418 349 317
blazeaid.dunedoo@gmail.com

Cassilis BlazeAid Camp work totals:



<u>FINAL TOTALS</u>	
FENCES CLEARED:	167.3 Km
FENCES REBUILT :	177.2 Km
VOLUNTEERS :	261
VOLUNTEER DAYS :	2261
MEALS PREPARED :	8,682
VOLUNTEER LIFE SKILLS:	15,180 YRS
AV. AGE :	58.1 YRS
MEDIAN AGE :	63 YRS
AGE RANGE :	15 - 81 YRS
NSW - 202	TAS 4
QLD - 28	VIC 19
SA - 1	WA 7

Thanks from BlazeAid Cassilis

From Brian Carr, BlazeAid Cassilis Camp Coordinator – posted on Merriwa Connect Facebook page on 28th June 2017.

After a stay of 4 months at Cassilis, BlazeAid is moving on. The final Totals Board will show a few statistics and our achievements over the life of the camp.

As the Coordinators from day one, my wife Chris and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the many wonderful members of the community, not only in Cassilis but also in the Merriwa and Coolah districts who made us feel so welcome from the day we arrived. The assistance we received was unbelievable considering the population of the local area. So many people came in at night, week after week, to cater for us and as you can see from our final totals, almost 8,700 meals were prepared for the volunteers by those community members and our own kitchen staff.

Also I cannot go without a special thank you to the business houses in Merriwa who went out of their way to help us during our stay. To the Cassilis Bowling Club - I don't know what we would have done for a 'home' for 4 months without your generous offer to use the Club facilities.

It's difficult to live in an area for 4 months without feeling a part of the local community. We have made some wonderful friendships. Again, a very big THANK YOU to everyone.

Merriwa Sir Ivan Fire Appeal

Don't forget to complete your application form to apply for the Merriwa Sir Ivan Fire Appeal.

Go to

www.nswfarmers.org.au/home/2017/bushfire_appeal to download the Application Form, fill it in and post to Merriwa Sir Ivan Feedlot Bushfires Committee - PO Box 102 Merriwa NSW 2329

Girls Day In to 'Simplify Your Life'

Wild Wacky Wonderful Women will present a one day workshop on 'Simplify Your Life' on Friday 11th August 2017, hosted by Coolah district Development Group in conjunction with fire affected community agencies. Topics covered will be:

- The power of 'NO'
- Discover your core values
- Understanding yourself and others
- Discover the fastest way to let go
- Bust through old habits
- Declutter your wardrobe & life
- Hush the inner negative inner critics
- Apply the THINK principle to all your communication
- Laugh & have a great time!

For a **Girls Day In**, that is fun, interactive & informative, register with Sal Edwards on 0458 774 519

www.wildwackywonderfulwomen.com.au

20 Million Trees Funding - Interested in revegetating native shelterbelt corridors?

Landholders around the Sir Ivan fire region interested in receiving support to revegetate shelter-belts and wildlife corridors on their properties should contact Central West Local Land Services at Dubbo.

'We would like to hear from any landholders in the region who would like to re-establish native shelterbelts and corridors on their land.' said Andrew Knop Senior Lands Services officer with the Central West LLS.

'We are looking to co-ordinate an application to the National Landcare 20 Million Trees Programme. If successful we will be able to supply seedlings and financial support for landholder to prepare and establish the trees'.

'Well-designed tree corridors can have tangible on-ground benefits for your farm and farming business - reducing wind exposure, soil erosion, animal and pasture stress as well improving the general environment and look of a property.'

If you are interested in establishing native vegetation corridors on your land in 2018/19 please call Andrew Knop on 0407 937 610 or 6841 6523.

Pasture Bushfire Recovery Update

by Bob Freebairn, Agricultural Consultant

TROPICAL GRASS ESTABLISHMENT THIS COMING SPRING?

A number of tropical grass pastures have recovered well following the Sir Ivan and four years ago the Warrumbungle bushfires.

When combined with winter annual legumes they provide a pasture that can respond to rain almost any time of the year. Tropical grasses grow from September through to often mid to late May. Annual legumes grow from mid-March through to the end of spring.

Several fire affected farmers already have these pastures and generally these have recovered extremely well. For those that don't they are worth considering. Maybe greater areas are worth considering on some properties. For example on our light soil property east of Coonabarabran we have 40 percent tropical, 40 percent native grass (improved native) and 20 percent winter fodder crop. Everyone will have a different goal for a given pasture type, including Lucerne, depending on soil type, enterprises etc.



Premier digit grass (tropical perennial grass) post fire. Early May 2017.

Weed control critical for reliable establishment

Provided summer weeds have largely been eliminated via fallow or summer crop management in the previous two or three summers and provided there is good stored soil water the probability of summer grass pasture sowing success is highest from early sowing.

Date for early sowing is season dependent with most species needing soil temperature of around 16°C or higher, much the same as is needed for sorghum. For the fire affected area that's around early November onwards but in some years can be earlier.

This past year well below average summer rainfall occurred. Success has generally been excellent on lighter soil paddocks from early sowing this past November despite a relatively dry and hot summer and where weeds had previously been controlled and seed was placed close to the soil surface.

Lighter soil establishment generally occurs, even in a dry summer, following rainfall events greater than 10mm. In this past summer despite staggered germinations grazing has been possible from early May onwards from early sowings. In a wetter summer grazing can commence when plants begin flowering, often after three months post sowing.

The App ClimMate Australia (www.australianclimate.net.au), using past rainfall records for most parts of Australia, notes that for most parts of the fire affected area the probability of receiving 20mm of rain, within a five-day period, between early November and mid-March is 99 percent. That's generally sufficient rain on light country for good establishment. If sowing is delayed the probability of good establishment recedes.



Stock grazing early May 2017 on a new tropical pasture sown early November 2016.

Early sown stands can be fully established and fully productive within three to five months of sowing. Commonly they have built a good body of feed that provides valuable late summer autumn feed, much appreciated in years like this one. Even after the fire they have commonly provided good late autumn early winter feed. Adding annual legumes into them in autumn (generally a one-off operation) can routinely proceed.

A major part of early sowing success is that if soil weed seed banks have been largely depleted in the preceding two and preferably three summers. Commonly fallow weed control is part of winter cropping. In the last year leading into pasture sowing the winter crop (commonly an early sown one) can be terminated early to preserve and or allow for better sub-soil moisture.

If one sows late and receives a late summer early autumn tropical grass germination, the new pasture requires greater grazing care going into winter as plants will commonly be poorly anchored and vulnerable to grazing, even into the following spring early summer, especially if spring summer is below par for rainfall.

Note the big advantage light soils have over heavy soils for probability of receiving sufficient rain for establishment. Commonly heavy soils require double or more rain for an establishment event, especially after a prolonged dry period.

Bob Freebairn is an agricultural consultant. For more information please email robert.freebairn@bigpond.com or call 0428 752 149.

Useful contacts

Recovery Support Workers

Caroline Hayes on 0407 971 675
Sue Freebairn on 0429 212 368

Financial Counselling

RFCSCR – 1800 940 404
RFC Mudgee
Elizabeth Brown – 0427 726 660

RFC Servicing Coolah
Susan Kelley – 0439 323 443
Website: www.rfcscr.com.au
Email: ceo@rfcscr.com.au

Newsletter Suggestions

If there is information that you would like to see included in the **Recovery Committee Community Newsletter** contact Ingrid via ingrid@envirocommconnections.com.au working on behalf of DPI Rural Resilience Program and Sir Ivan Fire Rural Recovery Service.

We would sincerely like to thank Louise Johnson of Warrumbungle Shire Council who has been writing and circulating the newsletter to date. Many thanks for the great job Louise!

Newsletter Subscription

The Newsletter can be emailed or posted out. with your email / postal address, or send an email to info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au with the title **Recovery Committee Community Newsletter Subscription**.

This Newsletter is produced by the **Sir Ivan Fire Recovery Committee**, with contributions from support agencies whose services are featured. Past editions of the Community Newsletter can be accessed via Warrumbungle Shire Council's website. Click on the **Sir Ivan Fire Information** icon at www.warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au