

# Sir Ivan Fire Recovery Committee Community Newsletter Edition 14, 9 November 2017

## Upcoming workshops and important dates for local farmers

### Back on Track Workshop No. 4 “Bouncing Back”

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Leadville  
Hall - Arrive 9am, for 9:30am start.**

This workshop’s presenter is well known business coach, Chris Morrison of Action Coach. An interactive planning day is on offer, which may help to get some of your business questions answered.

Come along to get some help to develop your knowledge and plan of what you may want to achieve in the future, and how this can contribute to your family, property, business and legacy.

Learn some tools for making choices and decisions that could help turn things around and investigate some strategies on how to achieve all of this in a set time frame.

Please arrive on time at 9am to start right on 9:30am. The session will finish at 1:30pm with lunch.

Morning tea and lunch supplied, courtesy of the NSW DPI Rural Resilience Program and prepared by the wonderful ladies of the CWA Dunedoo branch.

Chris is very generously donating his time for this workshop for the people affected by the Sir Ivan Fire.

**RSVP by 5pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup>  
November** to either Rural Support  
Workers - Caroline Hayes 0407 971 675  
[caroline.hayes@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:caroline.hayes@dpi.nsw.gov.au)  
or Sue Freebairn 0429212368  
[sue.freebairn@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sue.freebairn@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Lions Recovery Grant



Lions Recovery Grants are currently available for vouchers for items to assist businesses to back on track sooner. Forms are available from Leonie Hutchinson at Coolah Stitch and Repair or email at [coolah33@bigpond.com](mailto:coolah33@bigpond.com)

Alternatively you can contact  
Caroline Hayes or Sue Freebairn



## Register your place for some Farm Army help!

If you are thinking of accessing some help on your farm, you can apply to **Farm Army** which is run by the team at Rural Aid.

You can apply for volunteers but you will need to be able to provide some accommodation or access to power for a caravan and potentially assist with meals or similar.

For more details, and to place an ad on the Rural Aid website at no cost at [www.farmarmy.com.au](http://www.farmarmy.com.au)

All jobs are vetted before posting and distributed via email to the Farm Army members.

## Big congratulations to Coolah Sporting Club!

A big congratulations to Coolah Sporting Club for being the **winner of the Clubs NSW Emergency Services Award** at the 2017 Clubs and Community Awards earlier this month.

The award was in recognition of leadership and resourcefulness of clubs in times of community need, including bushfires, floods and other major disasters and disaster recovery. Well done and thank you!



Photo source: Clubs NSW and Coolah Community Diary Facebook pages



## 2017 Rural Women's Gathering - Narrandera

Ladies, if you couldn't make the NSW Rural Women's Gathering this year at Narrandera from 27-29 October, you can keep up to date with gathering news via the [Narrandera Rural Women's Gathering Facebook](#) page or [Narrandera Rural Women's Gathering Blog](#).

## Pasture Bushfire Recovery Update

by Bob Freebairn, Agricultural Consultant

### WHY HARD SEED AND EARLY MATURITY ARE IMPORTANT

A dry late autumn/winter/early spring experienced in 2017 in much of the Sir Ivan bushfire impacted area, reinforces why it is important for annual legumes like sub clover and serradella to be early maturing and hard seeded varieties. It is the second driest on record since 1900 for much of the region.

This year we've experienced good germination conditions in March for much of the area, when the annual legume component of native and introduced pastures germinated. Unfortunately, follow up winter and spring rains have been severely lacking this year.

Early maturing varieties of many introduced and naturalised clovers (like burr medic) begin flowering from late July-early August onwards for our region. Except in total drought conditions, where plants die before late July, commonly varieties flowering this early can set at least replacement seed for next year's autumn regeneration.

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Early maturity and high levels of "hard seed" are features required in winter legumes for long term persistence and ability to recover strongly after cropping phases and droughts.

Even for so-called reliable late winter-spring rainfall, seasons can be erratic and sometimes consecutive dry late winter-springs can occur. Mid to late maturing annual legume varieties fail to set much if any seed for future years in these situations.

Older introduced annual varieties (typical for up until the 1960s) were commonly mainly “soft” seeded types. Soft seeds are vulnerable to germinating “off season”, which for winter legumes means in summer as a result of summer storms or other significant rain events.

For most areas germination “off season” results in relatively early seedling death as conditions are too hot for these plant types. Soft seeds germinating from false breaks quickly result in total loss of soil seed reserves.

Pasture plant breeders from the 1960s onwards sought out winter legume species and varieties with both early maturity and high levels of hard seed to ensure long term persistence - even in drier environments, but also for medium to better rainfall areas.

“Hard” seed is defined as protected from germinating in the “off season”. In the case of winter legumes from summer early autumn rain events. Various types of “hard” seed mechanisms exist in various species and varieties and typically mean seeds are impermeable to water and will not germinate until the seed coat becomes permeable.

Often permeability occurs over summer, in time for the mid to late autumn break, as a consequence of hot day and cool night conditions that breaks down or degrades the seed coat.

Many varieties of some species have their “hard” seed break down gradually over several years, which means some viable soil seed reserves can live dormant for several years. These species and varieties are capable of regenerating even if several consecutive dry late winter and springs occur. Also these can often survive a few years of cropping where legumes would be destroyed by various herbicides used to control in-crop weeds.

Sub clover (most varieties) after flowering buries a lot of its seed, a good drought avoidance feature when combined with early maturity and “hard” seed. While overgrazing can reduce seed set sub clover’s burying ability helps ensure some seed set even in difficult conditions.

Many of the newer species like serradella, biserrula, gland, woolly pod vetch, arrowleaf and bladder clover are aerial seeders. So are many older species like barrel medic and rose clover. Aerial seeders need to be periodically carefully grazed, especially in the initial seed soil build up phase after establishment, and after droughts, to ensure a return to a solid soil seed reserve.

Soil fertility and ensuring adequate levels of rhizobia bacteria are other aspects of persistent productive pasture legumes. Grazing management that ensues aerial seeding species are able to set seed is also especially important.

**Bob Freebairn is an agricultural consultant. For more information please email [robert.freebairn@bigpond.com](mailto: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

### Rural Financial Counselling Service

Phone: 1800 940 404

Website: [www.rfcscr.com.au](http://www.rfcscr.com.au)

Email: [ceo@rfcscr.com.au](mailto:ceo@rfcscr.com.au)

Mudgee - Elizabeth Brown

Ph: 0427 726 660

Coolah - Susan Kelley

Ph: 0439 323 443

## 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](mailto:ingrid@envirocommconnections.com.au) working on behalf of DPI Rural Resilience Program and Sir Ivan Fire Recovery Support Service.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au)