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vibrant regions, thriving communities

SQNNSW Innovation Hub Newsletter #24 - MAY 2023

Science to Practice 2023

The program for the Future Drought Fund's annual Science to Practice Forum is out now!

Held online 6-8 June 2023, the forum brings together farmers, researchers, government, industry, and the community to explore innovative tools and practices helping our farmers and regions prepare for future drought. ABC Landline's Pip Courtney is hosting this year's three-day forum and will facilitate engaging discussions with feature speakers, presenters and panel members and share with you stories of drought resilience from around the country.

The 2023 Science to Practice Forum is free to attend.

Find us at FarmFest

Do you want to know about the latest research and trials that can help you prepare for the next drought? The SQNNSW Innovation Hub is working with the UniSQ School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences to showcase a range of research activities at FarmFest 2023, including the work being undertaken via the Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program including introducing the next generation of farming technologies (automation-based), and drought preparedness measures such as limiting water loss from farm dams. Find us in Row O, site 06a.



[REGISTER for the S2P >>>](#)

New Roma Node manager

Lorinda Otto is the latest addition to our team, as the new Roma Node Manager with our Node Partner Southern Queensland Landscapes. Based in Roma, Lorinda joins our team with a wealth of experience in stakeholder engagement and community networking, working with government, non-government, community organisations, farmers, small businesses, and apprentices/trainees. "I'm all about connecting land managers and helping them



understand how to become linked with innovation, upskilling, resilience, and cost-saving programs," she said.

"I want our agricultural sector to be strong and healthy and I believe I have a role to play in that!"

Lorinda's team includes Ally Southern, an Adoption Officer based in St George. They will work closely across the SQ Landscapes region to help land managers drought-proof their property and prepare for a more resilient industry.

Please feel free to contact Lorinda on 0456 426 307 or lorinda.otto@sqlandscapes.org.au.

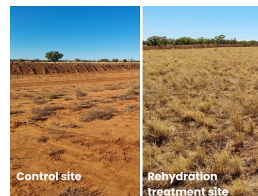
Landscape rehydration and soil health

Visually, the positive impacts of landscape rehydration works implemented in south-west Queensland are clear. But what impact do these works have on soil condition?

Our Regional Soil Coordinator Cameron Leckie has been helping Southern Queensland Landscapes and UniSQ soil microbiologist Dr Elaine Gough in a project to help answer that question.

"In terms of both vegetation and soil structure across each station, it is obvious that the landscape rehydration works have made a substantial positive difference," Cameron says. [Read the full article here](#).

Talk to Cameron: In June, you can chat to Cameron in person at North West Local Land Services soil pit days at [Delungra on June 1](#), and [Warialda on June 2](#). He will also present at the [Soil Science Australia Conference](#) in Darwin on June 25-30.



8 tips for drought-proof stock water

Planning, delivery capacity, storage capacity and knowing the needs of your livestock are the keys to installing efficient, and effective, water infrastructure. GLENRAC recently hosted a [stock water field day](#) at Emmaville NSW, as part of the Armidale Node's Best practice water infrastructure producer demonstration project where 23 farmers attended to learn about designing and building reliable droughtproof stock water systems. The expert presenters and local landholders had a list of eight top tips for planning your infrastructure.



[Read the full article >>](#)

Wellbeing and career services

Employment, education, and overall career decision making support in rural and regional Australia is crucial to the building of strong and sustainable local communities, economies, and wellbeing. Career development enables people to understand and develop their skills and experience, strengthen their adaptability in planning career goals and manage challenges, identify opportunities, and make informed career decisions. Watch Dr Jennifer Luke outline how narrative and demographic techniques should be used in the development of evidence-based career support services for various regional and rural cohorts, in this Career Industry Council of Australia presentation for National Careers Week.



Lismore Node hears from farmers at Primex

Attending the Primex Field Days in Casino was an excellent chance to hear directly from primary producers and network with fellow extension officers for the Lismore Node's Luca Peters, Gavin Tinning and Amanda Scott. "Given the recent events, our local growers are more focussed on flood recovery so it's important the work of our Node boosting skills and capacity, for example through the Regenerative Agriculture Mentoring Program, can help build resilience in all conditions," Node Manager Luca Peters said. Luca said Primex also meant a host of the Hub's members and partners were in one place, allowing them to meet and begin planning further events and collaboration.



Living with drought – who can help and how

Drought is just one of the many risks facing Australian agriculture. Knowing what services and support is out there to assist farmers and farming businesses is important.

The Australian Government has developed resources to make it easy to find out who can help and the kind of services and support that is available.

A range of people and organisations can provide farmers and farming businesses with advice and support. Accountants, financial advisors, financial planners and bankers are just some of the people who can provide valuable assistance and advice to help farmers and farming businesses prepare for, manage through and recover from drought.

Visit bit.ly/3JCjYHl to watch a short video and animation to find out who can help and how.



Coming up



Forecasting for Decision Making Workshop

Forecasting for decision making
Longreach Q, June 2
Join the Northern Australian



Ag Innovation Hub



Holistic decision-making
June 6, online
Would you like to have more

Climate Program to find out more about what drives rainfall in the region, how El Nino might impact, and what forecasting tools are available and how to use them. Bring your laptop or other device and follow along!

[Register today >>>](#)



Seasonal Outlook

Bingara 2023, June 23

What does the climate have in store for the Northern Slopes & Tablelands? What tools can help you make better decisions? Join us to find out with experts from NSW DPI, Local Land Services and more.

[Register today >>](#)

Muttaborra Q, June 3
This special agtech showcase at the Muttaborra Stock Show features drone mustering solutions, property management, greenhouse gas calculators, and carbon farming project services.

[Find out more >>](#)



Farming for Climate Resilience

"Banyula" Clunes NSW, June 16

A unique field day to inspire farmers, industry and teachers to implement changes to create positive impacts. Speakers include filmmaker Damon Gameau, Casino Food Co-op CEO Simon Stahl, the Regenerative Ag Alliance's Lorraine Gordon, and NSW DPI soils expert Dr Lukas Van Zwieten.

[Register today >>](#)

clarity about what you want to achieve, and confidence about what the management tools will do to your land short and long term? Join us for a pre-event online session (June 6) and then for a two-day in person workshop at Lismore (June 14-15). Details and costs via the link below.

[Register today >>](#)



Regenerative Rangelands

Longreach Q, August 30-31

This two-day event features internationally known regenerative farmer Alejandro Carrillo from the arid heart of the Chihuahuan Desert. Alejandro and a host of local, state and national speakers will help Western Queensland graziers boost their rehydration and grazing management practices.

Quick bites from your Hub stakeholders

Customising weather index insurance offerings

University of Southern Queensland's Jenny Wang has been awarded a \$431,000 Australian Research Council fellowship to help customise weather index insurance offerings, and will work in partnership with CelsiusPro on the project. Dr Wang will identify a machine learning algorithm which can detect drought events using satellite image data, and then develop location specific drought indicators which can be used to provide more accurate coverage. [Read more in Insurance News.](#)

Working together for a drought-proof future

The Australian Government is leading the discussion on drought preparedness and response, with consultation underway on a new national drought plan. Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Murray Watt said the review into the national drought plan—which means fresh ideas and new voices have explored hands-on approaches to managing drought. [Read more.](#)

\$11m in grants to enhance ag credentials

Australian farmers will be assisted to prove the premium quality, sustainability, and First Nations credentials of their produce through \$11 million in grants from the Australian Government. "(Traceability) helps Australia to access valuable international export markets which are increasingly demanding evidence of sustainable, climate-smart practices. It also assists our biosecurity systems through detailed data and tracking of produce and supports the move to cleaner, greener agriculture," Federal Ag Minister Murray Watt said. [Read more.](#)

Returns not sole driver for ag tech

There were many panels at evokeAG 2023, including one that discussed the peripheral value drivers producers should consider when digitising their business. As way of example, one speaker pointed to an early stage startup using off the shelf drone technology and software to monitor stock location, numbers and condition all from the front porch. The founder was looking for a way to allow an injured family member to keep "doing what he loves". [Read more in Landcarer.](#)

Queensland: How do you manage climate variability?

If you're a producer in Queensland, the Northern Territory or Western Australia, please take part in this short [benchmarking survey](#) from the Queensland Government's [Drought and Climate Adaptation Program](#). This survey will help inform future program planning and help map climate variability management and drought trends. As a thank you, you can opt to receive the latest rainfall posters or be in the draw for one of three new rain gauges. You can also request a copy of the survey summary report when it's available. To find out more contact [Program Manager Neil Cliffe](#) or phone 13 25 23.

Events calendar

*This calendar includes events from the Hub, its Members and Partners and Supporters, and events supported by the Australian Government. Please contact organisers for more information. Events in **bold** are organised or supported by the SQNNNSW Innovation Hub, or include a Hub speaker.*

June

- 1 – [Soil pit day](#), North West LLS, Delungra NSW
- 2 – [Soil pit day](#), North West LLS, Warialda NSW
- 2 – [Business growth in challenging times](#) (#2 of 2), Gwydir Shire Council, Bingara NSW
- 3 – [Business growth in challenging times](#) (#2 of 2), Gwydir Shire Council, Warialda NSW
- 3 – **Ag innovation showcase, Muttaborra Stock Show, QLD**
- 5 – [Business EDGE workshop](#), MLA, Barcaldine Q
- 5-7 – [Hort Connections](#), Adelaide SA
- 5 – [Sheep Supply Chain Tour](#), NSW LLS, Tamworth NSW
- 6 – **Holistic decision making, welcome webinar, Lismore Node**
- 6 – [Productive & persistent legume pastures](#), DAFQ, Taroom QLD
- 6-7 – **Sheep Droughtlot Tour, Armidale Node, Coonamble NSW**
- 6-8 – **Science to Practice**, online/various locations
- 8 – [Feeding grass, grain & silage](#), NSW LLS, Mt George NSW
- 8 – [Productive & persistent legume pastures](#), DAFQ, Goondiwindi QLD
- 13 – [Is pasture enough?](#), NSW LLS, Gloucester NSW
- 14 – [Emergency animal disease workshop for vets](#), NSW LLS, Dubbo NSW
- 14-15 – **Holistic decision making workshop, Lismore Node, Lismore NSW**
- 15 – [Traditional Knowledge sharing workshop](#), NSW LLS, Bottle Bend Reserve NSW
- 15 – [Grazing management & production through winter](#), NSW LLS, Singleton NSW
- 15 – [Sheep genetics workshop](#), NSW LLS, Trangie NSW
- 16 – **Farming for climate resilience and productivity**, Lismore Node, Clunes NSW
- 16 – **Barcaldine Beef Producers Forum, Barcaldine QLD**
- 20 – [Beef genetics workshop](#), NSW LLS, Trangie NSW
- 23 – **Seasonal outlook workshop**, Lismore Node, Bingara NSW
- 25-30 – **Soil Science Australia Conference**, Darwin NT

July

- 13 – **GroWQ Ag Innovation Expo**, Longreach, QLD
- 17 – **Community pest management workshop**, Stanthorpe QLD
- 24-25 – **Agmentation 2023**, Armidale NSW

August

- 9 – [Vertebrate Pesticide Training](#), NSW LLS, Moree NSW
- 30-31 – **Regenerative Rangelands 2023**, Longreach QLD

September

- 1-2 September – [Alejandro Carrillo Grazing Workshop](#), Longreach QLD

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