



## 2013 TELSTRA BUSINESS WOMEN'S AWARDS

Nominations are open for the 2013 Telstra Business Women's Awards. Make a difference to an inspiring woman in your life.

[Nominate her today.](#)

This important program honours and celebrates the achievements of deserving and inspiring women.

You'll find more details and information on the various award categories on the [Telstra's Business Women's Awards](#) website - [www.telstrabusinesswomensawards.com](http://www.telstrabusinesswomensawards.com)

## PINDONE AND '1080' SAFE HANDLING COURSE

The Southern New England Coordinated Pest Control program is underway throughout the region. It is a requirement to hold a current chemical accreditation card when using '1080' poisoned baits. This can be AGF3 card gained through a chemical accreditation course or, if you only need this qualification for the use of '1080' and Pindone poison, you can complete a '1080' Safe Handling Course. The '1080' Safe Handling Course is a half day training course delivered by the LHPA. This course costs \$44 & the accreditation lasts for 5 years.

**When:** Thursday 6 June 9am

**Where:** New England LHPA, Taylor Street Armidale

RSVP: by 17th May to LHPA ph. 6772 2366

## SEARCH FOR HIDDEN TREASURES IN RURAL NSW

*Nominating a rural woman for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll is a great way to celebrate rural women from across NSW who give so much of their time to improving our communities and neighbourhoods. You can nominate a friend, family member, colleague, community worker – any rural woman who you believe makes your community a better place to live.*

To nominate a rural woman, complete a form online at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn) or you can request a nomination form by emailing [rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or call the Rural Women's Network on 02 6391 3620. Nominations close Friday 16 August 2013.

## NUFFIELD AUSTRALIAN FARMING SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the 2014 round of Scholarships are now being received.

Nuffield Australia awards 24 scholarships annually to practicing farmers or farm managers.

A Nuffield Scholarship offers successful applicants a six/ seven week global focus program (GFP), after which Scholars will pursue their individual study topic for a further 10 weeks.

The process for being awarded a 2014 Scholarship includes an application and interview process in 2013.

More information can be found on Nuffield website - [nuffield.com.au](http://nuffield.com.au)

## 2013-14 FEDERAL BUDGET

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio's Budget for the 2013-14 financial year is a \$1.9 billion investment in our farmers and our food.

This brings the Australian Government's plan for agriculture to life and prepares our farmers and producers for future challenges, laying the groundwork to make the most of new opportunities.

New initiatives announced through the 2013-14 Budget include National Drought Program Reform, Farm Finance and a produce monitoring system.

Every dollar saved in the agriculture portfolio has gone back into agriculture, which is a tremendous achievement and is a sign of the importance that this government places on agriculture.

## MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND IMPROVEMENT (MERI)

Caring For Our Country is pleased to inform you that the new *Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Improvement Strategy: Caring for our Country and the Biodiversity Fund* (The MERI Strategy) is now available online at - [nrm.gov.au/funding/meri](http://nrm.gov.au/funding/meri)

The MERI Strategy outlines how the MERI process relates to both the Biodiversity Fund (2012-





2018) and the second phase of Caring for our Country (2013-2018). It also outlines the roles and responsibilities of funding recipients and the Australian Government.

The new MERI Strategy outlines how the Australian Government will ensure that progress and achievements at the program level will be monitored and evaluated.

## GROUP SKILLS WORKSHOP

Are you part of a group or committee? Are you keen to learn more about the governance procedures needed or how to write grants? How to use social media to promote your group/committees activities?

Then come along to the Group Skills Workshop in Walgett on the 30th May!

Natalie Bramble will be delivering the Governance and Grant Writing components of the workshop + Glen Dunkley, a certified inbound Marketing Professional.

Please RSVP to Tanya Slack-Smith on 0419 215 998 / 6828 5 3 8 3 or email [tanyam.rlf@gmail.com](mailto:tanyam.rlf@gmail.com) by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

## NATIONAL LANDCARE WEBINAR SERIES – 'REGENERATING AUSTRALIA'S SOIL HEALTH'

This series of webinars (internet based seminars) has been developed with farmers and others with an interest in land management in mind.

It aims to help drive a national

conversation around soil health, share information and ideas from leading figures such as former Governor General and Advocate for Soil Health, Michael Jeffery, leading scientists and importantly farmers from across the country who are implementing changes on their farms.

These free 45 minute webinars will run over three consecutive weeks and will allow people from all over the country to join in without having to leave home.

For more information go to [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

## INVESTMENT BOOST FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE + NRM

The NSW Government will invest \$112 million over four years to fund community-driven natural resource and productive landscape projects, Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson and Minister for the Environment Robyn Parker announced today.

"Catchment Action funding is provided to Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) for farmer-driven projects that underpin sustainable, productive agriculture and community-driven projects to look after beaches, estuaries, regional and suburban bushland," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"CMAs and their community partners such as Landcare, Bushcare and Coastcare are working on hundreds of projects across NSW and today's

funding announcement provides certainty for these groups to continue their good work.

"The allocations for the 2013/14 financial year are an increase of between \$300,000 and \$1.4million per CMA when compared to 2012/13 allocations which is a great result. The funding will be invested in line with regional Catchment Action Plans, which have been developed in close consultation with communities.

"CMAs will become part of Local Land Services from next January and the continuing Catchment Action NSW funding demonstrates the NSW Government's long-term commitment to support natural resource management."

## YAPS SOCIAL EVENINGS

Gwymac will host a YAPS (Young Agricultural Professionals) evening (for farmers under 45 and their families) at Nullamanna Hall, Nullamanna on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May starting at 6.30pm AND 'Riverdale', 406 Bingara Road Bundarra on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June starting at 6pm.

This will be an informal and fun way to catch up with other young farmers and families in the area and also to learn more about Landcare.

Guest Speaker: Geoff Bassett (Nullamanna evening) and Glenn Morris (Bundarra evening) 'FigTrees' Organic Farms'

RSVP or find out more on 6721 1241.