

LAND TALK

Newsletter of the 'Centralian Land Management Association' (CLMA)

Hi everyone,

It feels like I just sent out a newsletter the other day but no, another three months has flown on by. Only 12 weeks to Christmas! Still a lot has been going on around the place and a lot more to happen in the next few months. I have been kept busy with station visits, preparations for the (EMU – Ecosystems management understanding process which was delivered to four properties by Hugh Pringle, David McQuie and myself over a 10 day period and proved to be very successful in these early stages, with very positive feed back from the property managers involved.

Regional Investment Strategies funding closed on the 26 of September so a very busy time preparing applications for further projects for Facilitator, Weeds and Camels. We will know if CLMA has been successful in procuring funding in a few weeks.

NLP funding will coming out in November so will be looking at more applications for that round as well. If anyone has any ideas and thinks it might fit into the National Landcare Programme please give me a call, your input is most welcome.

CLMA AGM is set for the 13th Dec and would be really advantageous for every one to attend and decide the future directions of CLMA. Centralian Land Managements Association will be celebrating 20 years in land care next year and we are looking for ideas on how you would all like to celebrate this memorable occasion, so expect a phone call in the New Year to collect your ideas and suggestions! Napperby field day is being held on the 19th Sept07 and we have a display organized on the day, so look forward to seeing you all there. I have a horse sale coming up in Alice Springs on Sunday 28th October so any one looking for horses come along and bring your cheque book!

There will be 10 Percheron /Thoroughbreds cross horses for sale and one pony mare, plus some out side horses as well. The Auction will be held at Ian Builders block on Ross Highway.

Well that's about it from me. Look forward to seeing you All at the AGM

Hi everyone,

2007 Office Bearers

President: **Jim Napier**
 Vice President North: **Liz Bird**
 Vice President South: **Paula Kilgariff**
 Secretary: **Rod Cramer**
 Treasurer: **Benny Hayes**

Committee Members: **John Kilgariff, Colleen Costello, Robbie Bloomfield, Steve Cadzow, Jamie Evans**

Memberships Outstanding

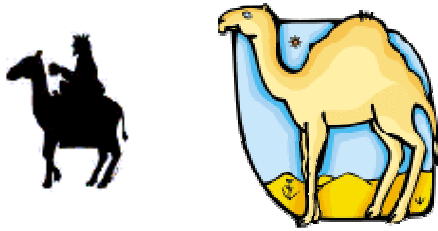
Renew your annual membership for 2007.

**** You can make membership payments via EFT if you have Internet Banking****

Please don't forget to let us know via email, fax or phone if you have paid with EFT so we can identify your payment in our banking records.



- 1 Hire of the CLMA laser truck
- 2 Free hire of CLMA seed harvester quad bike
- 3 Local native grass seed for purchase.
- 4 Access to CLMA staff to write funding applications.
- 5 CLMA staff assistance with weed control, seed harvesting, photo monitoring and plant identification.
- 6 Staff promoting the environmental credentials of the industry far and wide.



CAMEL NEWS

Camel News

Not a lot has changed in this area other than the camels are still coming in on to pastoral land and causing the same problems and of cause still breeding up. CLMA has sent in another camel project to the latest round of RIS funding which closed on the 26 Sept 07 and hope to hear if we are successful in the next couple of weeks.



CLMA Laser truck hire \$350 per day (includes the laser truck and operator)

The Laser system (set up on the back of the CLMA Toyota) marks the correct position for banks and drains, by accurately marking along the contour line.

This minimises the chance of banks and drains busting after rain and maximises the success of the soil rehabilitation works.

The laser truck can mark out 30 banks a day. Even if you don't want to push them up straight away, the marks last several months or more.

Bookings can be made by contacting
CLMA

Phone (08) 8953 4230, Fax (08) 8952 3824 or
Email: clma@clma.com.au



COMING EVENTS:

What	Where	When	Who
Central Australian Camel Industry Assoc AGM	Alice Springs Resort	4th April 2007	Peter Seidel 89536200
EMU "Train the Trainer" soil workshop - Presenter: Hugh Pringle	Alice Springs	14th-20th Apr2007	Peter Armstrong 89534230
Deep Well Field Day	Deep Well	20th April 2007	Peter Armstrong 89534230
Preg testing School	Alice Springs	16th-22nd April 2007	Bryan Gill 89518127

Weeds March 2006

The fifteenth Australian weeds Conference was held in Adelaide last year and I have been reviewing the papers that are likely to relate to the weeds and grazing systems of our landcare region.

Several papers were presented on Parkinsonia. There are developments in bio-control but they are not as yet having a impact.

A seed predating insect released over 20 years ago is widespread (I have collected it on the Sandover) but not having a major effect as the insect only attacks one seed at a time and it is attacked by a native egg parasitic wasp.

Surveys in one of the homelands of Parkinsonia (Central and South America) have identified several promising bio-control agents. One being a leaf eating moth and another, a fungus that attacks the leaves and stems. These agents are not yet imported in Australia as they require host specificity testing before import

A locally isolated fungus is being further tested at the University of Queensland (Gatton Campus). It has proved so far that the fungus can be transferred from one plant to another by stem inoculation. Early days yet with further work needed.

The effect of camels on the ability of Parkinsonia to set seed was investigated. Under heavy continuous grazing seed production per plant was reduced in some cases to one per tree compared to 3000 in the ungrazed area with similar reductions in pods on the ground. Seeds however found in camel dung which would mean that a low level infestation would be spread away from present areas of infestation. It was also noted that under the heavy continuous grazing pressure damage to some native plants was severe.

Summaries of the catchment management approach such as we are attempting in the Sandover were presented. In the Cape river catchment in Qld., 14 previously infested properties are free of Parkinsonia and subject to yearly monitoring. Seventeen properties in the in the mid and lower catchment are continuing with control. The main point is that the collective work of the graziers concerned is enabling the eradication to progress.

The effect of climate change on weed encroachment is being studied. It is predicted by modeling the effects of increased sunlight and rainfall that the range of the plant Prickly acacia (*Acacia nilotica*) will spread below Alice Springs, across the Tanami and along the Plenty highway by 2080. At present this noxious weed is present on the Barkly and down the Rankin River. Satellite imagery is also being used to map the extent of encroachment of this weed.

Athel Pine work in the Finke River region was summarised. It is stated that the program commenced in the 1990's and to date 400 km of the river catchment have been treated. There remains 23 km of severe infestation below Horseshoe Bend and a further 70 km of lighter infestation below that site awaiting treatment after the heavy infestation is eradicated. Mapping and control work in Karinga Creek is ongoing.

Weed Control Summary

Sandover River Project: Contracts have been let and work commences in mid April on the remaining 18 km of the Sandover River and approximately 800 ha of flood out. The work will then move to the Bundy River and progress along that river till the funds are exhausted. Further weed mapping of the flood out will progress through Ooratippra, Argadargada and Georgina Downs.

Currently we are working on control of Rubber Bush in The Garden and Alcoota on the headwaters of Gillen Creek.

South of Alice Springs weed control of Athel Pine and Parkinsonia were undertaken in February. Control of Devils Rope in the Todd River flood out is ongoing.

CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN LAND MANAGEMENT

CAGLM workshop exceeds producers' expectations.

The Central Australian Grazing Land Management workshops continue to build a reputation of providing valuable information and tools in a user-friendly manner, with the aim of assisting producers to meet production and land health outcomes.

Eleven people from nine businesses took part in the most recent workshop, held in Alice Springs this month.

Grazing land management issues were outlined and explained and possible solutions identified. Producers were able to indicate how they would apply these solutions to the issues they face on their own properties.

Most of the plans they intend to implement involve determining the carrying capacity of their paddocks using tools demonstrated in the workshop.

CAGLM officer Ellena Hannah said: "This information is used to balance the number of animals grazing with the land condition, land types and distance to water found in the paddock. It can also be applied to calculate the expected returns as a result of improvements to infrastructure."

Meanwhile, pastoralists who had taken part in the first CAGLM held last November gathered at Narwietooma Station to review the topics covered at their workshop. They also visited to Napperby and Tanami Downs stations as part of their road trip.

If you would like further information on the CAGLM workshop, or would like to speak with a past participant:

Contact Ellena Hannah, CAGLM officer, on 8951 8143.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry
National Landcare Program



Northern Territory Government
Department of
Primary Industry,
Fisheries and Mines



**Aileron Bush Weekend
Easter Weekend
7th & 8th April 2007**



CENTRALIAN LAND MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
 PO BOX 2534
 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
 Phone: 08 89534230
 Fax: 08 89523824

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For general enquiries contact: Natalie Turner - Coordinator Ph 08 89534230 clma@clma.com.au
 Laser Work ,DEBE Project Deep Well Field Day , Contact Peter Armstrong ph: 08 89534230
 For info about the Sandover weeds project, contact Peter McDowall weeds@clma.com.au
 For info about the Central Australian Grazing Strategies Partnership, contact Jillian Fisher
cagsp@clma.com.au

Current and upcoming funding opportunities

What?	Deadline	Types of projects
Envirofund	26 th April 2007	Weeds, fencing for conservation, soil erosion etc on individual properties, up to \$50,000.
Natural Heritage Trust	Probably June 2007	The CLMA may tender for projects if they are relevant to our members. This is also where we normally apply for coordinator funding.

If you have ideas for projects, please contact the staff at the CLMA and we will develop the applications.