



Funded by the Queensland and Australian governments, the Desert Channels Group (DCG) and the Blueprint for the Bush Landholder Support Service Project presents the:

# Mitchell Grass Downs Sustainable Grazing Forum

Wednesday 13 April 2011

Qantas Founders Museum 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Forum Dinner 6:30pm at DCQ office (registered guests only)

# Pastoral Properties Field Tour

Thursday 14 April 2011

Departs DCQ Office 92 Galah St Longreach 7:00 am sharp

Limited places available (registered guests only)

Registrations must be received before Wednesday 6 April

**Register now on 07 4658 0600**

*Achieving sustainable use of our landscape is the key factor to maintaining long-term financial viability*



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



Blueprint  
FOR THE BUSH



Queensland  
Government



desert  
channels  
GROUP



## Qld Commercial Macropod Management Program - Chris Hill DERM

As acting Regional Service Director for the Department of Environment and Resource Management, Chris Hill is responsible for the regional service delivery in the South West Region. The Commercial Macropod Management Program administers the commercial harvest of macropods in Qld, through 3 main aspects: monitoring populations, setting quotas and managing the harvest. Species that can be commercially harvested are as follows: Red kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*); Eastern grey kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*) and common wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*). Annual quotas limit the number of kangaroos that can be commercially harvested thereby ensuring the sustainable management of the kangaroo population.

## Kangaroos & Wallaroos, current state context - Chris Hill DERM

As acting Regional Service Director for the Department of Environment and Resource Management, Chris Hill is responsible for the regional service delivery in the South West Region. Chris will be speaking about how the annual population estimates are calculated from aerial helicopter surveys taken across a number of sample blocks throughout Queensland. These surveys are conducted extensively as a result of the commercial industry and enable effective conservation and sustainable management as a result. Commercial harvesting quotas are set between 10-20% of the annual population estimates.



## Damage Mitigation Permits - Trent Forge QPWS

Trent is new to the Department of Environment and Resource Management and is the wildlife ranger based in Roma. Trent is currently responsible for service delivery of wildlife conservation matters in south west Queensland. Part of his role is to assess and makes recommendations for damage mitigation permits to landholders who are experiencing damage from macropods. The presentation will outline the procedure for application and the considerations that are made when assessing permit applications for the culling of macropods for property protection.

## Managing Total Grazing Pressure - Adam Bradshaw Tomoo Station

In 2005 Adam and Renae moved from the main street of Allora to manage a family owned grazing property 'Tomoo', purchased 12 months previous. The biggest fixable problem was managing Total Grazing Pressure and the pressure was coming from kangaroos and feral goats. In 2007 an extensive fencing program started with the whole boundary replaced with hinge joint designed to slow down the pressure put on pastures by travelling ferals in the hope that their country could get true rest. Their focus is on financial and ecological health and their ultimate dream is to romance grazing properties to the next generation, and encourage their children and their future to further their education and then come back to the bush.



## Grazing Management & Innovation - Graham Finlayson Bokhara Plains

In late 1999 Graham & Cathy bought Bokhara Plains at Brewarrina in northwest NSW and experienced one high rainfall year before one of the driest periods in the district's history. An attitude of dismay towards the property's lack of productive capacity, and feelings of being drought victims were reversed after reading Allan Savory's Holistic Management book, and being involved in the RCS Grazing for Profit school and four years in the Executive Link program. Taking their focus off livestock and shifting it to the land has seen major improvements in carrying capacity and diversification into tourism drives their goal of creating synergistic enterprises that allow smaller family farms to be profitable.

## Landscape change begins with changing ourselves - David Marsh Allendale Station

David Marsh has been farming in the South West Slopes of NSW at Boorowa, since 1971. Since 1999 Allendale has changed from a mixed farming operation to running livestock only. Matching stocking rate to carrying capacity and managing to allow the biotic community to complicate and regenerate itself are cornerstones of farm decision-making. This approach includes planned grazing with large mobs of animals and maximises the capture of solar energy by the plant community, strengthening resilience over time. Improving landscape function has led to a very low cost farming operation. David's presentation will address how landscape change begins with changing ourselves.



## Mining and Related Activities on Rural Land - Glen Martin Legal Aid Qld

Glen is a solicitor in the Farm and Rural Legal Service section of Legal Aid Queensland Toowoomba exclusively assisting rural landholders affected by mining and related activity. Recent and unprecedented demand for natural resources means that no matter where you might reside in Queensland you are likely to be approached by an exploration, mining, gas, oil, rail, power or similar company wanting to enter your land. This occurrence of this can often be overwhelming and to be forewarned is to be forearmed. The presenter will provide you with an overview of your rights and obligations, an insight into how things might unfold and answer any legal questions you might have on the topic. Questions are encouraged.

## Climate Change & Carbon Farming Initiative - Chris Rosin Landcare Coordinator

Chris has 10 years of NRM experience in the Northern Territory, Central Highlands and Fitzroy Basin. His areas of professional interest include Landcare, significant weeds, aquatic systems and best practice land management, and he recently completed a Bachelor of Science. One of the issues confronting the Desert Channels Region this year will be the introduction of the Climate Change Carbon Farming Initiative. The initiative will establish a carbon crediting mechanism for land based activities and help landholders understand how they will benefit through the trade of carbon credits. Regional Landcare Facilitators will play a major role in the delivery of information relating to the Carbon Farming Initiative.



## The Australian Land Management Group - Ian Perkins

Ian Perkins grew up on a sheep and cattle property in SW Queensland and has a rural background, scientific training and diverse experience combined with a deep commitment to the development of sustainable resource use systems. Ian and his family own and operate a certified organic beef cattle breeding enterprise in the Granite Belt in SE Queensland. As a resource use consultant, Ian specialises in the interface between people and resources. Ian works with the ALM which has developed an internationally recognised certification system that is being adopted by landholders across four States and enables landholders to get recognition and reward for improving environmental and related economic and social benefits.

# Sustainable Grazing Field Tour



## Mitchell Grass Downs, David Phelps Principal Scientist DEEDI Longreach

David grew up on the family beef, wool and grain farm in NW NSW, where he first learnt the value of Mitchell grass, heavy clay soils and flooded pastures. This expanded into a research career in the Mitchell grasslands and channel country of Qld since 1990. David's research focused on improving cattle and sheep production from Mitchell grass pastures by improving grazing quality from wiregrass infested pastures before investigating the long-term impact of different grazing pressures in Mitchell grass country and trying to find the reasons for some areas of Mitchell grass being productive during the 02-08 drought. He leads research into sustainable grazing management strategies in a variable and changing climate.

## Yuruga Station, Cam & Jenny Lindsay

The land and livestock businesses at Yuruga work in harmony with nature to create sustainable ecosystems and profitable business practices. A rotational grazing management system is implemented. Through the use of visual pasture monitoring and grazing charts, the Lindsay's control the areas being grazed and more importantly, the areas being rested. After 11 years following this system, and seven of these during drought, there are visual indicators that the land has benefitted from the rotational grazing system in use. The visit to Yuruga will include a demonstration of the advanced watering system and extensive property development and an inspection of a mob of cattle.



## Bandon Grove, Peter & Raeleen Whip

The focus of the grazing business at Bandon Grove is on efficiency – the adaptations which were originally driven by economic and production benefits are also paying environmental dividends. Rotational grazing and spelling has strengthened the resilience of native grasses which is directly measurable through the improved ground cover levels - more grass slows the flow of water across the landscape, reducing soil erosion and increasing infiltration and reducing runoff resulting in increased production and a healthy landscape. Peter is particularly concerned about how climate change policies will impact the industry and is working to promote adaptations to offset the current consumer perception of the beef industry.



## Upshot Station, Barry & Tanya Dawson

Barry & Tanya Dawson have owned Upshot since 2000 and began a land recovery project in 2007 that is providing a sustainable business and restoring their country to how it once was. By pulling invasive gidgee then stick raking, burning and planting to grass they have been able to increase carrying capacity, reduce the gidgee re-growth and spell Mitchell downs country during the growth season. They are still in the early stages of their long term plan where buffel seed will be collected and planted, and goats will be rotated with sheep to change grazing pressure. The visit to Upshot will include a look at untouched country, country pulled but not raked, country planted to buffel and the stick rake used.



## Contacts

### The Desert Channels Group

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### DEEDI (Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation)

Landsborough Highway Longreach 4730

Phone: 07 4650 1900

### DERM Kangaroo information

[www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife\\_permits\\_and\\_licences/kangaroo\\_harvesting.html](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife_permits_and_licences/kangaroo_harvesting.html)

### Damage Mitigation Permits

[www.derm.qld.gov.au/register/p00928aa.pdf](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/register/p00928aa.pdf)

### Planning a Life-changing Business - Jenny Lindsay, Yuruga

[www.rcs.au.com/news/year\\_2011/month\\_2/article\\_127/index.htm](http://www.rcs.au.com/news/year_2011/month_2/article_127/index.htm)

### Graham & Cathy Finlayson, Bokhara Plains

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### Glen Martin, Solicitor Farm & Rural Legal Service

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### Peter Whip PRW Agribusiness

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### Longreach Grazier Moves with the Climate

[www.qcl.farmonline.com.au/news/state/agribusiness-and-general/general/longreach-grazier-moves-with-the-climate/2085877.aspx](http://www.qcl.farmonline.com.au/news/state/agribusiness-and-general/general/longreach-grazier-moves-with-the-climate/2085877.aspx)

### The Australian Land Management Group

Web: [www.almg.org.au](http://www.almg.org.au)

### A regenerative approach to agriculture - David Marsh

[www.abare.gov.au/interactive/Outlook08/files/day\\_1/Marsh\\_SoilsSustainability.pdf](http://www.abare.gov.au/interactive/Outlook08/files/day_1/Marsh_SoilsSustainability.pdf)

## Mitchell Grass Downs Sustainable Grazing Forum Wednesday 13 April

- 8:30 am Introduction Qantas Founders Museum Longreach Airport
- 8:45 am QLD Commercial Macropod Management Program - Chris Hill DERM
- 9:15 am Kangaroos & Wallaroos Current State Context - Chris Hill DERM
- 9:45 am Damage Mitigation Permits - Trent Forge QPWS
- 10:15 am Panel Session
- 10:30 am Smoko break
- 11:00 am Managing Total Grazing Pressure - Adam Bradshaw Tomoo Station
- 11:45 am Grazing Management & Innovation - Graham Finlayson Bokhara Plains
- 12:30 pm Landscape Change Begins with Changing Ourselves - David Marsh Allendale
- 1:15 pm Panel Session
- 1:30 pm Lunch break
- 2:00 pm Mining and Related Activities on Rural Land - Glen Martin Legal Aid Qld
- 2:45 pm Open floor for questions
- 3:30 pm Smoko
- 3:45 pm Climate Change Carbon Farming Initiative - Chris Rosin Landcare Coordinator
- 4:15 pm Australian Land Management Group - Tony Gleeson Avondale
- 5:00 pm Panel Session
- 5:30 pm Close Forum
- 6:30 pm Forum BBQ Dinner at 92 Galah Street Longreach (registered guests only)

## Pastoral Properties Field Tour Thursday 14 April (Registered guests only)

- 6:30 am Meet at DCG office 92 Galah Street
- 7:00 am Travel Longreach to Yuruga, Managing Mitchell Grass, David Phelps DEEDI
- 8:30 am Presentation Cam & Jenny Lindsay
- 9:00 am Field Tour of Yuruga
- 10:00 am Smoko
- 10:30 am Travel Yuruga to Bandon Grove
- 12:00 pm Presentation Peter & Raeleen Whip
- 12:30 pm Rehabilitation Field Tour of Bandon Grove
- 1:30 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm Travel Bandon Grove to Upshot
- 3:30 pm Presentation Barry & Tanya Dawson
- 4:00 pm Restoration and Sustainability Tour of Upshot
- 5:30 pm Travel Upshot to Longreach
- 7:00 pm Concludes at the DCG office 92 Galah Street Longreach