

MEDIA RELEASE

1 August 2008



Trees and climate change to be highlighted at community dinner

The role of trees in land management, and how we can mitigate the impacts of climate change at home, will be just two of the topics showcased at the Discovering Landcare Community Dinner, being held on Tuesday, August 19, in Goondiwindi.

The dinner, which is being organised by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) as part of the 'Science to the Rescue' Discovering Landcare Forum, is an opportunity for community members to listen to a range of interesting and inspiring guest speakers present on topics of sustainability.

One such speaker is Carol Neal, from Forest Management Services Queensland.

In addition to running a small business, Carol manages a small property in southeast Queensland, which she said gives her a full understanding of the difficulties faced by landholders in making their land pay while also providing environmental services.

Event organiser, Renee Fletcher, said that Carol's presentation at the community dinner would change how we view native vegetation in the rural landscape and the environmental, economic and social benefits that can be achieved by including trees in farm enterprises.

Carol said that these benefits ranged from market-based incentives for environmental services, such as rebates, funding, grants and partnerships, to eco-system services.

"We are all aware of current climate change concerns, and the attempts by governments to encourage lifestyle and land management changes. I will explain the concept of carbon trading, and offer people some take-home ideas to assist them in mitigating some of the environmental challenges that are currently emerging," she said.

"I am an optimist and believe that, if we all take a pragmatic approach, look to the future with renewed focus, and make small incremental changes towards solving our environmental challenges, we can all take responsibility for improving the condition of our land, waterways and local climate."

Renee Fletcher said that the dinner would be a great opportunity for community members to learn about these very topical issues. "It is always valuable to hear new perspectives on how to achieve a more holistic approach to property management," she said.

Other speakers at the community dinner will include Theresa Kunde, from Queensland Partners in Grain, who will be speaking about the opportunities for women and young people in the grains industry, and Westmar landholder, John Coggan, who will be speaking about his personal experiences with organ donation.

John and his family recently raised awareness for organ donation by breaking a world record for the greatest area of wheat planted in 24 hours, raising money for the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation.

The Discovering Landcare Community Dinner will be held at the Goondiwindi Cultural Centre, starting from 6pm. Tickets cost \$25, which includes a buffet dinner, and a bar will be operating. Bookings are essential and places are limited, so please contact QMDC on 07 4671 7900 for bookings.

ENDS

Media contact/s

Released by: Pip Bagshaw, QMDC Education and Communication Officer, 07 4671 7940

More information: Renee Fletcher, QMDC Education Officer, 07 4637 6224

Carol Neal, Forest Management Services Queensland,