



Invasive Animals CRC

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NRM Notes

Issue 1 ~ December 2009

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- The Border Rivers – Gwydir tackling Invasive Species
 - RHD Boost
 - Lachlan Carp Cleanup

Welcome!

My name is Jessica Gibson and I am the NRM Liaison Officer for the Invasive Animals CRC. Welcome to the first edition of *NRM Notes*, a newsletter designed to keep all Australian NRM regions up to date with the latest developments and current projects associated with invasive animal research. This newsletter will be distributed every 2-3 months and will be filled with key contacts and links to information regarding current and completed research and educational resources. The main goal of the newsletter is to encourage communication and establish a network among NRM groups that will help fill the gap between on-ground management and scientific research.

My role as NRM Liaison Officer for the Invasive Animals CRC extends across Australia and to all species of pest animal. If you have any current or upcoming work with pest animals, contact me to see how I can assist you, whether it be help with communications, education & training, funding applications, specific project information, or access to a range of experts in any particular field.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Diploma of Conservation and Land Management specialising in Vertebrate Pest Management

This course is delivered over 30 weeks by experts from the Institute of Applied Ecology and Invasive Animals CRC through the University of Canberra. It covers principles, strategic approach, working with the community, monitoring and evaluation, project implementation and management, identifying and obtaining funding resources. You get to do your own project!

There are many benefits for doing the course including:

- Flexible on-line delivery including 3 short term workshops held at the University in February, July, and November.
- All you need is basic skills in Microsoft word to complete the course
- You can pay in instalments
- Price includes cost of text resources and reference materials.

"The case studies and networking opportunities are some of the best aspects of the course so far"

– Senior NRM pest coordinator

"The content is informative, beneficial and the format works" – Government Pest Officer

"The exercises really get you thinking" – NRM Weed and Pest Animal Technical Officer

***Course applications close mid January 2010 – hurry before the course fills!!!**



Links: <http://www.invasiveanimals.com/about/training-project/index.html> to download the course brochure
Contacts: Steve Dalla Costa: (02) 6201 5728 or Stephen.Dalla.Costa@canberra.edu.au
Mike Braysher: (02) 6260 8112 or Mike.Braysher@canberra.edu.au



Helping the Border Rivers – Gwydir Tackle Invasive Species

The Border Rivers- Gwydir CMA is actively engaging landholders and community members in the control and management of pests within the catchment through the support of local control authorities, Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA), Landcare and community groups. The Invasive Animals CRC is working with the CMA to help develop a plan to address the gap in information and provide a direction and focus for future activities and funding within the catchment.

Pest prioritisation workshops were held in Guyra, Glen Innes, Warialda, and Moree during late 2009. The workshops were attended by agency, local government staff, and private landholders. The PESTPLAN toolkit was used as a guide to measure outcomes and help set priorities for pest animals, and the NIWAC (Northern Inland Weeds Advisory Committee) prioritisation strategy was widely supported by workshop attendees to identify key weed species to target for control.

The pest animal species that were commonly identified as high priorities at all workshops included feral pigs, foxes, rabbits, goats and deer. The weed species that were commonly identified as high priorities were Coolatai Grass, Harrisia cactus, Chilean Needle Grass, St Johns Wort, Pattersons Curse, African Lovegrass, African Boxthorn, and Parthenium Weed.

STATUS OF REPORT: All milestone progress reports have been completed. The final draft will be completed by the end of 2009, with the report released early 2010.

Links: PESTPLAN available for download at <http://adl.brs.gov.au/brsShop/data/PC12809.pdf>
Contacts: Jessica Gibson (IA CRC): (02) 6391 3907 or jessica.gibson@industry.nsw.gov.au
Jonathan Lawson (BRG CMA): (02) 6757 2556 or jonathan.lawson@cma.nsw.gov.au



RHD Boost

WHO? The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre has received \$1.5 million in funding from the Commonwealth's Caring for our Country Fund with additional support from Australian Wool Innovation, Meat & Livestock Australia, and Rabbit Free Australia. The work will be carried out at various locations including the Vertebrate Pest Research Unit (VPRU), the Elizabeth MacArthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI), and the CSIRO.

WHY? RHD Boost is a research project developed in response to the apparent rising genetic resistance of rabbits to the RHDV Czech351 strain of Calicivirus and its limited effectiveness in temperate regions due to the endemic RCV-A1 which protects many rabbits from the RHDV strain. If successful RHD Boost has a calculated Net Present Value of \$1.4bil over 15 years and the ability to significantly reduce rabbit impact on Australian vegetation and ecosystems.

HOW? The project evaluates new candidate RHDV strains. Up to 10 RHDV strains will be investigated and up to 5 selected for importation into secure facilities for research purposes. The strains will be screened and tested on wild rabbits and non-targets such as native fauna. The project aims to: find 2 strains that are highly lethal to wild rabbits currently immune to Calici and Czech351 strain that perform well in temperate and semi arid regions, inform the decision for optimal release of identified strain(s), and update a pre and post RHD Boost monitoring and evaluation plan.

The Australian Government has approved the import of selected RHDV strains into secure facilities for research purposes so work is already underway on this project.

Links: www.invasiveanimals.com
Contacts: Glen Saunders (project leader IA CRC): (02) 6391 3890 or glen.saunders@industry.nsw.gov.au
Chris Lane (IA CRC): (02) 6391 3987 or chris.lane@industry.nsw.gov.au



Subscribe to Feral Flyer!

Feral Flyer is the regular (usually fortnightly) e- newsletter of the Invasive Animals CRC.

You can subscribe by clicking on a link found at the IA CRC homepage:

www.invasiveanimals.com/publications/feral_flyer/index.html

The Feral Flyer includes short summaries of current projects and keeps you up to date with all things feral that are happening across Australia. You can even download previous issues and there are links to follow if you require more information.



Lachlan CMA – Cleaning up their Carp

The density of carp in the Lachlan is one of the highest of any catchment in NSW. Recent studies have found that carp dominate fish communities throughout the catchment, making up 76% of the fish biomass in the Lachlan River alone.

River Revival – Lachlan River Carp Cleanup is a multi-partner project initiated by the Lachlan CMA in response to calls from the community to reduce the overall numbers of carp in the lower Lachlan Catchment. The project has recently concluded its benchmarking stage, and now entering the implementation phase. A successful launch of the River Revival Lachlan River Carp Cleanup was held at Forbes, NSW in September 2009. The day included an address from the launch ambassador, Ian Kiernan AO from Clean Up Australia, and a presentation from Adrian Wells from the Murray Darling Association. Primary school students were engaged in activities that showed them why carp are regarded as villains in our water ways. Students participated in Streamwatch activities, visited the River Revival trailer and viewed carp cooking demonstrations.

There are numerous ongoing carp projects associated with the Invasive Animals CRC and the research topics include the following:

- Identifying carp spawning hotspots & movement and migration patterns
- Age validation in the northern Murray Darling Basin
- Daughterless fish technology & Koi herpesvirus research
- Sensory, environmental & acoustic attractants
- Engagement of communities in freshwater pest fish research and education



Links:

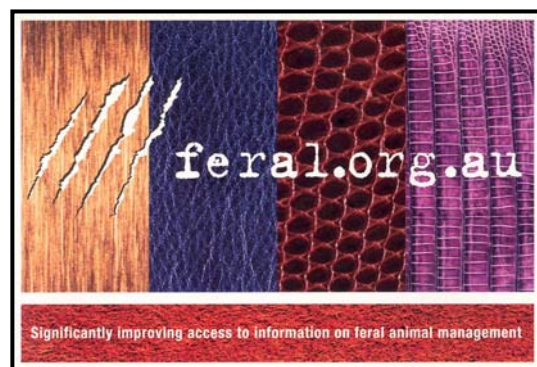
www.invasiveanimals.com

Contacts:

Wayne Fulton (program leader IA CRC): Snobs creek research centre, Private mail bag 20, Alexandra, VIC 3714
Kylie Hall (IA CRC): (03) 5770 8022 or kylie.hall@dpi.vic.gov.au

Have a look at www.feral.org.au

Feral.org.au is a website and database that contains information on vertebrate pest animal species in Australia and New Zealand. You can easily browse the site to find general information, pictures from the image gallery, education resources and more.



Significantly improving access to information on feral animal management



Looking to 2010

Future newsletters will keep you updated with the latest outcomes from all IA CRC sponsored projects and any relevant interactions between myself (NRM Liaison officer) and NRM groups. The Border Rivers- Gwydir Invasive Species Plan will be finalised in early 2010 which will enable the CMA to seek specific funding opportunities and target a set of prioritised issues in the future. Also, pest animal distribution and abundance maps are currently being uploaded to a website and they will become available for you in early 2010. I will be attending a range of conferences and workshops and aim to engage with NRM regions across the country and help them with their specific needs.

If you require more information on any of the topics covered here, or have any specific questions, please contact me on the details provided throughout this newsletter. Also, any suggestions or project updates for future newsletters would be very welcome- let me know what you are doing!

The Invasive Animals CRC 2008-09 Annual Report is now available for download, as is the Research Portfolio Summary which highlights some of the major project achievements that have occurred in the last 12 months and also outlines a suite of new projects to help achieve our goals over the next 3 years. The annual report and portfolio summary are available at: http://www.invasiveanimals.com/view/3197/iacrc_sub/annual-reports-index.html

Thanks for your interest and I look forward to meeting many of you and working with you to effectively manage your pest animal issues, I will be in touch soon ~ Jessica

The Invasive Animals CRC has many partners which include the following:



www.invasiveanimals.com.au
www.feral.org.au