

Hotspots Fire Project

By Julie Woodroffe, RWN State Advisory Committee

Fires are a fact of life across much of Australia. They can breathe new life into our landscapes but can also cause untold devastation.

For many landowners and communities the responsible use of fire represents an ongoing challenge. The occurrence of fire in the bush must be balanced with the needs of those of us who live on and utilise the land. But how?

The Hotspots Fire Project is an innovative pilot project that has a co-ordinated program of research, training and education initiatives

and is linked to on-ground action. The Hotspots team puts together the latest developments in ecological fire management, works with current fire legislation and provides access to materials for landholders through workshops.

Triggered by lightning strikes and traditionally used by Aboriginal Australians, fire has long shaped the diversity and character of the Australian bush and continues to play an important role in our landscapes today. Fire, planned or unplanned, can

have a major impact on your property.

Fire ecology is all about looking at the impacts of fire events and the responses of plants and animals to fire. Differing vegetation types require differing fire frequency intervals. The Hotspots team brings together materials on a regional basis and local Hotspots operators then further tailor their services to deliver what is required by landholders in individual districts. The Bushfire Code for NSW, which came into action on February 1 this year, sets out the regulatory standards.

The Hotspots team works with landowners, members of the community, Rural Fire Service, Catchment Authorities, public land managers and others. The project delivers a one day workshop to landholders on fire ecology and fire legislation and other important information relevant to managing fire on your property. For those who are interested, Hotspots then organises a second day of fire planning with landholders for their own property. This results in an overall plan for fire management, including fire protection measures and planned fire activities such as hazard reduction. The goal is to protect economic, social and environmental assets.

The pilot is currently running over three years across four regions in NSW. In the Northern Rivers region, Hotspots activities have been very popular with over 150 farmers participating so far. The Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority is also now providing additional funding to assist farmers put their fire plans into action.

'Including fire management on my property plan has been a great idea. I now feel a lot more confident about what I can and should do for fire protection from unwanted fire, and also a lot more knowledgeable about what I can and should do with the use of fire in my own property – for hazard reduction, protection of our farm assets and to ensure we keep the diversity of plants and animals that we want,' says David Donnelly a Grazer and Farmer near Glen Innes.

'The Hotspots project allows me to come together with my neighbours to look at fire impacts on a landscape basis and to look ahead – it's a lot better than crisis management.'

The Hotspots Fire Project is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. For more information on the project, Visit: www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au

THIS LAND, SO FAIR, SO FREE

I know you come from another land...
You do not dress or speak like me;
For you bring the ways of the old world...
To this land, so fair, so free!

And as I watch those ways I question...
That our lives could ever be
Harmoniously bound together...
From such diverse humanity.

Then a vision stirs and my mind is eased...
As it embraces the reality:
That same question was asked long ago...
In this land, so fair, so free!

My ancestors came from another land...
They did not dress or speak like me
Yet in time with willing hearts and hands...
They fulfilled their destiny:

To leave the shadows of the old world...
In those lands across the sea
To unite as one and thus become...

AUSTRALIANS

In this land so fair, so free!

© MAGGIE MAY GORDON, TRANGIE

What's happening in Family Law?

By Janet Loughman, Principal Solicitor, Women's Legal Services NSW

The Federal Government is about to introduce significant changes in how parenting matters are dealt with following the separation of a child's parents. Parenting matters are covered by the Family Law Act 1975.

In December 2005, the Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005 was introduced into the House of Representatives. Debate on the Bill occurred in the House of Representatives in March 2006. The Greens referred the Bill to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee to report on the proposed changes. The Bill has not quite finished its final journey through Parliament, so the proposed changes are not yet law.

There are considerable discussions at a political level about the proposals, especially in relation to the potential impact on victims of violence.

SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS

- There are two new 'objects' in the proposals:
 - ensuring children have a meaningful relationship with both their parents, if it is in the best interests of the children; and
 - the need to protect children from physical or psychological harm from being subjected to, or exposed to, abuse, neglect or family violence.
- There will be a presumption of equal shared parental responsibility, unless there are reasonable grounds to believe that a parent has engaged in child abuse or family violence.
- If an order for equal shared parental responsibility is to be made, the Court must consider whether the child spending equal time or substantial and significant time with each of the parents is in the best interests of the child and reasonably practicable.

- There are five criteria the Court is to consider when deciding if equal time or substantial and significant time is reasonably practicable:
 1. How far apart the parents live;
 2. If the parents are able to implement such an arrangement;
 3. If the parents are able to communicate with each other and resolve difficulties that might arise with such an arrangement;
 4. The impact on the child of such an arrangement; and
 5. Any other matters that are relevant.
- There will be less adversarial procedures used by the Family Court in resolving parenting matters (this has already been occurring in the Family Court as a pilot project). Parenting cases will be managed intensively by the same judicial officer from the initial court occasion. There will be a court mediator assisting the parties and the court throughout the process.
- The terminology will change:
 - a residence order will be replaced with who a child 'lives with';
 - a contact order will be replaced with who a child 'spends time with';
 - a specific issues order will be replaced with orders dealing with matters about the form of communications between parents/other persons, communications a child is to have with a parent/other person, steps to be taken before applying to the court to change orders and the procedures about how to resolve disputes about the meaning of orders.
- Parents will be required to attend mediation before taking their matter to Court, except where there is family violence, urgency, breaches of orders, serious disregard for obligations

under orders or inability to participate effectively in mediation (eg. incapacity, physical remoteness or other reason).

- 65 Family Relationship Centres are being set up around the country in the next three years. They will operate as a gateway into the family law system. The first 15 are scheduled to open mid-year in Penrith, Lismore, Sutherland, Wollongong, Mildura, Sunshine, Frankston, Ringwood, Strathpine, Townsville, Joondalup, Salisbury, Hobart, Darwin and Canberra.
- The Government says the Family Relationship Centres are supposed to provide support and assistance to people in all stages of relationships, but will provide information, assessment and screening for family violence, referrals and dispute resolution in parenting matters. An initial three hours of mediation will be offered for free at the Family Relationship Centres.
- There is an emphasis on parenting plans being made by parents rather than going to court and parenting plans will have an impact on previous court orders.
- The Government is setting up a Family Relationship Advice Line and is seeking applications from organisations to operate that service.
- More children's contact services are being introduced (to enable supervised contact and/or supervision at contact changeover).

Women's Legal Services NSW (WLS NSW) is concerned about the potential impact of the proposed changes on victims of family violence. Also, the changes focus on parent's rights, rather than giving priority to the best interests of the child in parenting disputes. WLS NSW is also concerned that the proposed system does not provide the right support for families from rural and remote areas, Indigenous

Continued next page

The State Advisory Committee (SAC) is the RWN's advisory team. It is made up of women from rural, regional, or remote communities, who come from diverse backgrounds and represent the many interests of rural women.

The primary purpose of the SAC is to provide independent advice and strategic direction to the RWN by:

- developing strategies to address priority issues specific to women living in rural, regional and remote communities within NSW;
- promoting and advocating RWN initiatives;
- providing feedback on the effectiveness of the RWN programs;
- being a consultative body for DPI providing feedback on the effectiveness of relevant programs and initiatives; and
- identifying hot and emerging issues for rural, regional and remote communities within NSW.

The SAC is currently Co-chaired by

- **Barry Buffier**
Director-General, NSW Department of Primary Industries; and
- **Margaret Francis**
Rural Lands Protection Board

The RWN and SAC invite you to contact them at any time with your views, ideas and questions.

Current members are:

- **Armidale:** Annette McCarthy
Minister's representative
Ph: 02 6776 9805, Fax: 02 6776 4830
Email: orphan.annie@bigpond.com.au
- **Booral:** Margaret Francis
Rural Lands Protection Board
Ph: 02 4994 9208, Fax: 02 4994 9195
- **Bourke:** Patricia Bates-Canty
Aboriginal women's interests
Ph: 02 6872 3021, Fax: 02 6870 8892
Email: pcanty@fwahs.nsw.gov.au
- **Bourke:** Denise Turnbull
Far Western representative
Ph: 02 6874 7330, Fax: 02 6874 7330
Email: will10@bigpond.com
- **Coonamble:** Susan Ainge-McLeish
NSW Farmers' Association
Ph: 02 6824 2091, Fax: 02 6824 2408
Email: mcleishs@nswfarmers.org.au
- **Gleniffer:** Julie Woodroffe
Natural Resource Management
Ph: 02 6655 1420, Fax: 02 6655 0864
- **Orange:** Linda Duffy
NSW Association of Rural Financial Counselling Groups
Ph: 02 6361 1117, Fax: 02 6361 8866
Email: cwrffcs@ix.net.au
- **Wagga Wagga:** Elaine Armstrong
Country Women's Association of NSW
Ph: 02 6931 7639, Fax: 02 6391 7639
Email: ear86878@bigpond.net.au

Rural women's tele-working research project begins

The Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women (FAAW) will be researching teleworking opportunities for rural, regional and remote women thanks to a grant from the Department of Family and Community Services. Teleworking is working outside the central office, either for an employer or in your own business, using telecommunications to do so. This research is designed to improve employment opportunities for rural and remote women.

The research will identify opportunities and barriers to telework and FAAW will build a database of women interested in, or already teleworking, and promote the research to key businesses and other interested parties.

This work builds on the inquiry conducted by the Commonwealth Government in 2005 to increase the uptake of teleworking in Australia.

'FAAW has taken a lead in promoting the benefits of teleworking for women, employers and their communities by having significant input into the national telework inquiry last year. While the inquiry had a largely urban focus we argued that the benefits for rural women, their communities and employers are as large if not larger,' said Chris Capel, Director on the Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women Board.

Newly appointed researcher, Jane Dowling, teleworks from her home office in Ulladulla in NSW and will be demonstrating the benefits of working from home while actually carrying out the work.

'Employment opportunities are not easy to come by in rural Australia and yet there are skill shortages in some sectors. Combine that with a wealth of skilled and educated women in rural and remote areas and you have a potential win win situation. By promoting the opportunities of teleworking to key employers we hope to raise awareness of the potential contribution to be made by rural and remote women, and the significant benefits to employers,' said Jane Dowling.

Women already teleworking, or who wish to, and who are interested in participating in the research can contact Jane Dowling on Mob: 0402 908 987 or Email: janedowling@shoal.net.au

FAAW is an independent non-profit organisation whose mission is to resource, empower, research, influence and partner for the benefit of rural women. FAAW's mission is 'informed action to value and resource rural women.' For more information on the teleworking project, Visit: www.faaaw.org.au

continued from previous page

communities or for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. We are continuing to push for amendments to the Bill to ensure that the most disadvantaged women and children are protected in the family law system.

Women's Legal Services NSW operates a number of rural legal advice lines. For information and advice call:

■ **General Service**
Freecall 1800 801 501

■ **Domestic Violence Advocacy Service**
Freecall 1800 810 784

■ **Indigenous Women's Legal Line**
Freecall 1800 639 784

DISCLAIMER. It is obviously important to get your own legal advice. The information provided in this column is not a substitute for legal advice. It should not be relied upon in place of independent legal advice given by a solicitor or barrister who is familiar with the particular circumstances of your case. If you have any questions about the law, Women's Legal Services NSW are happy to have a look and will endeavour to provide answers to these questions in the next edition's column. All questions are to be directed to Sandra De Nardi, Women's Legal Services NSW, PO Box 206, Lidcombe NSW 1825.

Australia Wake Up!

By Susan Ainge-McLeish, Coonamble

How long can we afford to ignore our true wealth?

Whilst we on one hand seek to attain a position which enables us to afford the supposed virtues or successes of other remote cultures, we are abusing, or in some cases under-rating, our own unique culture.

How many of us even in rural parts see wealth as synonymous with travel? Some people might think of this as commonplace as they plan their summer holiday in Phuket or their winter break in the Amalfi or Rio for Carnivale. How many have seen the beauty of the sun sinking on the red horizon of western NSW or the magnificence of the star-studded sky which exists outside?

This wealth is abundant and unique in our culture as are the people who populate the vast areas west of the great divide.

A friend of mine makes a comfortable living picking up overseas tourists at Sydney's five star hotels and for three to five days lets them experience the untold wealth of our rural culture west of the mountains. He says in the first few minutes he ascertains their comfort levels and phones ahead for accommodation at country pubs or farm stays for the more elderly. The secret is (according to the operator), to find a pub that the locals support then they do the entertaining for you! People that we might think of as commonplace in our lives in their relaxed drawl entertain with their ability to talk all night about the weather with accompanying anecdotes with reference to other inhabitants of these communal meeting places. 'Hey John, remember when the flood of '98 kept deliveries away, and we were forced to drink...' and so on.

My father, an enlightened New Zealander, saw the beauty in these characters and situations and every school holidays

packed his family up and took us on an unplanned holiday in some direction or other depending on the weather, always within NSW and always without the cities. In these sojourns we explored the delights of the Bulladelah Hotel and its inhabitants who served us pink lemonade and regaled us with stories about the district. We saw the beauty of the sunrise across Jervis Bay and the fun of climbing down a forty-foot ladder to mine for opal. My Dad was unique though, because he saw these situations as an outsider and awakened in us the wonder of the commonplace outside our comfort zone.

Comfort or perceived comfort is what limits us in our appreciation of our unique heritage. We cannot be blamed for aspiring to Porsches and truffles because these are the received trophies of this generation. Is this a generation which sees the globe as its playground and supermarkets corroborate this in their endless displays of the

pickings from that playground.

What Australians must do to create an awareness of our uniqueness is to be as triumphant in our attainments, our culture and our methods as our overseas counterparts. Our food production standards are legendary, but who compares this when purchasing peeled prawns. Did the person that peeled that prawn wash their hands? Was that asparagus washed sufficiently to remove the 'fertilizer' or chemical containments that are allowed in its country of origin?

We have to get away from the culture which regards wealth as synonymous with being able to choose to ignore our own to one that rejoices in itself, only then will we be able to withstand the threats of globalisation and profit by them. ■

WEB WATCH

www.partykids.com.au

Not sure where to begin when planning a birthday party for your child? This site includes lots of great ideas for easy party games as well as great ideas for kids party food. They have lots of great theme ideas, and, if you're stuck for time, you can order special theme packs straight from the website.

www.mshc.org.au

Sexual Health – Check your Risk, is a new online service from the Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic. People concerned about their sexual health can anonymously enter information about their sexual activity to generate a report outlining tests they should have. They can then take this report to their GP for follow-up and treatment.

<http://kids.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rsvp>

A new interactive web adventure for kids focusing on recreation and cultural heritage management in State forests. Mountain bikes, watersports and more, this wild party adventure has it all. Ten games, one story, to explore – all at once or come back for more. To meet party girl Flo, and join in the fun, simply sign in and begin.

www.auseinet.com/toolkit

The Mental Illness Recovery Toolkit is an online toolkit of information and resources to help people affected by mental illness during their recovery. Developed by Auseinet, the Australian Network for Mental Health, it includes examples of recovery-based activities, resources, practical tools, protocols and an online discussion forum.

what's on, what's new?

New subsidy scheme for NLIS reading devices

A new subsidy scheme to assist cattle producers in the uptake of reading equipment for the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is the latest in a series of measures to support the ongoing implementation of NLIS across the State. To date, eight million NLIS devices have been sold to nearly 50,000 producers in NSW. Under the new scheme, a subsidy of \$300 (excluding GST) will be available for each producer or producer groups that purchase reading equipment such as a wand or panel readers. To download an application form visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/reader/nlis-reader-subsidy or contact your local Rural Lands Protection Board or NSW Department of Primary Industries office. To be eligible for the subsidy, producers must provide a copy of the receipt for reading equipment along with their Property Identification Code and Australian Business Number. Funding for the subsidy is part of three million dollars of Federal support for NLIS (cattle) in NSW.

2006 Mungo Festival

The 2006 Mungo Festival will run from 2-17 September and will incorporate the 2006 Mungo Youth Conference. The festival celebrates 25 years of World Heritage and more than 40,000 years of Indigenous Culture. Festival highlights include workshops, walking and driving tours, concerts, an archaeological dig, arts events and landholder events including a historic photo exhibit, working dog trials and sheep shearing. Special Indigenous events will also be spread over the two weeks.

For more information visit: <http://www.mungofestival.com.au>

GRANDPARENT CARERS

Being a grandparent can be immensely rewarding. Grandparents can play an important part in their grandchildren's lives, providing them with strong role models, lots of understanding and love.

To help grandparents who have a child in their care, the NSW Department of Community Services (DOCS) has prepared an information sheet with handy tips.

The information sheet provides answers to some of the frequently asked questions that grandparent carers may have about assessment procedures, financial support, training and support from caseworkers.

The information sheet is available on the DOCS website at: www.community.nsw.gov.au

Write in the Heart

The inaugural festival of writers, readers, and lovers of literature will be held in the Heart of NSW from 10-11 June 2006. The festival will include workshops, trips to bush pubs, food and wine, local's stories, author readings, and more. So mark your diary now and take some special time out to enjoy this truly wonderful experience. Program details will be available soon. In the meantime you can contact Helen Dalton, Festival Coordinator on Ph: 02 6895 7636 or send an email to: daltonh@westserv.net.au For those with internet access, you can find out where the Heart of NSW is by visiting: www.heartofnsw.com.au



2006 Grafton Women's Gathering

The 14th Annual NSW Women's Gathering to be held in Grafton from 20 to 22 October this year is shaping up to be a great North Coast event.

Mandy Nolan, a well known local comedian is providing entertainment along with Grafton's local all-women band, La Bia La Zuli, and a plethora of workshop topics, and tours on the mighty Clarence River and to special places for Aboriginal women have been planned.

The theme *Big River Dreaming* is guiding the Gathering development and there will be plenty of dreaming, and river opportunities, and examples of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women working together for the benefit of the community.

The Gathering is occurring the weekend before the Jacaranda Festival and the City of Grafton will be in its annual purple splendour. So if you want to join in the oldest floral festival in Australia stay a little longer.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Vicki St Lawrence, Chair 2006 Grafton Women's Gathering

The Gathering website: www.womensgathering2006.org.au is currently under construction and will be live soon. For accommodation and other attractions of the Clarence Valley, Visit: www.clarencetourism.com For specific Gathering enquiries, contact Vicki St Lawrence on, Ph: 02 6642 9742 or Mob: 0409 035 433 or Fax: 02 6642 9799.

Keeping Heart: Stories of hope in hard times

When hard times hit people in the bush, the consequences can be emotionally and financially devastating. Fires, floods, plagues and droughts can stretch the resilience of everyone living and working in rural Australia.

Keeping Heart introduces people who have survived enduring crises. Their stories highlight the benefits of accessing help and offer hope to others who are facing tough times.

Produced by Centacare, the Video runs for approximately 38 minutes and is available by phoning: 02 6331 8944.

Reminiscing kit

We all have moments when we reflect on our memories and reminisce about the past – we think about old friends, hear an old song or come across old family snapshots.

The Benevolent Society's Centre on Ageing has found that reminiscing can be a particularly effective tool for communicating with people with high needs, particularly those with dementia as it is a way of communicating which uses all five senses. Reminiscing affirms life stories, skills, and experiences and can help to remove barriers to interaction with carers.

A series of themed 'Reminiscing kits' have been created using donated photos, books, scraps of clothing and other items. The kits are used to train new volunteers and as an additional resource for those who already care for people with high needs. The kits can also be helpful for family members who are struggling to cope with the effects of dementia on their loved ones.

For more information about the project contact Amanda Godbold on Ph: 02 9339 8064.

Community Harmony Helpline

Have you suffered abuse, insults or harassment? The Community Harmony Helpline can provide you with referral and information in a variety of languages. Call the Helpline on 1800 804 141 or Email: help@crc.nsw.gov.au

Network for women in the seafood industry

The Women's Industry Network Seafood Community (WINSOC) began in 1996 in South Australia and is now the only national organisation in Australia that strives to represent women within the seafood industry, while establishing strong partnerships with industry.

WINSOC mission is to support the Australian seafood industry by developing, capitalising on and promoting the strengths of women. Through the provision of a newsletter and email links, the group provides support, encouragement and dissemination of information to members, and an annual conference provides personal and professional development opportunities as well as extensive networking opportunities.

For more information, or if you would like to join the network, Ph: 08 8537 0047, Fax: 08 8537 0054 or Email: yabby@hotmail.net.au

Rural Law Online

Rural Law Online (RLO) Victoria is a free and independent website run by the Victorian Law Foundation. RLO provides plain language information across a broad range of areas of law, specifically for rural communities.

The site is managed by a small Reference Group which includes representatives from the Victorian Law Foundation, Victorian Rural Counsellors Association, Deakin University, and the Victorian Farmers Federation.

RLO also runs a national online forum as part of the website, with the last Forum focusing on 'Farm Succession Planning'. The current Forum focuses on 'Rural Young People and the Law'. RLO is asking young people to visit the website and have their say about laws affecting them. Lawyers from around Australia will be online to respond to your questions. Visit: www.rurallaw.org.au to have your say.

RLO received over 10,000 visits in its first twelve months of operation and currently averages over 500 visitors per day. While the website is Victorian focused there is also some generic information that may be helpful for NSW residents.

PROMOTING AGRICULTURE TO THE COMMUNITY

The Australian Promotion of Agriculture to Schools Network (APASN) has recently released its Scoping Report and National Workshop Outcomes.

The report brings together knowledge gathered at the workshop and other meetings and identifies a great range of educational activities and initiatives promoting agriculture from across the country. The aim of gathering the information is to produce an effective national strategy for education about agriculture.

The report includes successful program case studies and pinpoints key success factors for these program.

To view the report online go to: www.tocal.com/agsch1205.pdf



FAMILY HISTORY ON THE WEB

The NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages has extensive family history services which can make research into your ancestors much easier. The registry holds more than 17 million birth, death and marriage records from 1788. Many of the records can be searched for free using the online Historical Indexes. Dates available for searching include:

- Births: 1788 to 1905
- Deaths: 1788 to 1945
- Marriages: 1788 to 1945

To access the indexes, visit the Birth, Deaths & Marriages website at: www.bdm.nsw.gov.au

Me, my kids and my Ex

School holidays can be a difficult time for separated families. Most parents want the best for their children, and there's no doubt that children benefit from a co-operative relationship between parents.

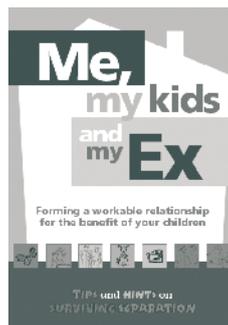
One of the toughest challenges families can face during separation is sorting out new living arrangements, finances and parenting responsibilities.

Me, my kids and my Ex is full of practical tips and hints to help parents build a workable relationship with their Ex and to minimise the harmful impact of separation on their children. It incorporates real life experiences of separated parents and outlines some roadblocks to communicating clearly, including hot-spots such as 'button pushing'. The special pull-put parenting plan will be particularly useful to assist parents to sort out arrangements for their children.

The booklet will also help parents to: develop a workable relationship with their Ex; identify the psychological games they sometimes play that hurt their children; deal with emotions and establish future goals; plan for their children's future; and seek extra help.

Other titles available in the Me and My series include: *What About Me?*; *Taking Care of Yourself*; *Me and My Kids - Parenting from a distance*; and *Me and My Money - Practical money ideas*.

Parents can order free copies of the booklets by calling 1800 040 972 or visit the Child Support Agency website to download your free copy at: www.csa.gov.au



INDUCTION PACKAGE FOR NEW ADMINISTRATORS

If you are a new treasurer, office bearer or employee involved in the administration of a not-for-profit organisation, this package introduces you to the information and services that the Australian Tax Office (ATO) has available to assist you in your role.

To access the information, visit the ATO website at: <http://ato.gov.au>

WIRES Wildlife Awareness Week

3-10 JULY 2006

WIRES Wildlife Awareness Week (WAW) is an opportunity for all of the community to show support for our native animals and their environment.

The event is an initiative developed by the volunteer members of WIRES and is supported by many other wildlife and environmental charities across Australia.

The awareness campaign is a dedicated week where individuals, schools and community groups can become actively involved in caring for our native animals and their environment.

For more information or to find out what's happening in your area, Visit: www.wires.org.au Alternatively you can Ph: 02 8977 3333, Fax: 02 8977 3399, or Email: info@wires.org.au

WIRES (The NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service) is the largest wildlife organisation in Australia. They have a network of volunteers who rescue, rehabilitate and release sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife. Each year WIRES receives over 100,000 phone calls and rescues over 50,000 native animals.



Postcard from Junee post January fires

A special Garden Recovery day was held at Junee on 25 February with approx. 35 people attending. As part of the day we visited three properties, one in town and two farm gardens. Many trees and shrubs were showing signs of recovery, some were obviously not going to recover and others were badly affected and will need severe pruning or replacing. Our two guest speakers, Adrian Podmore (Wagga City Council & ABC Radio Garden Presenter) and Sue Chapman (Fernleigh Road Nursery, Wagga) were well accepted and offered lots of helpful hints.

The Junee AgNChat group also ran a plant propagation day on 23 February to get some plants struck that can be shared amongst the affected gardens. We did two ute loads of tubestock on the day, of plants that are both drought tolerant and fire resistant. These plants are being looked after at the Junee Correctional Centre Nursery and will be ready to plant in a few months in time for spring planting.

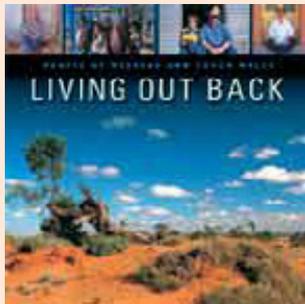
Phil Bowden, District Agronomist, NSW DPI , Cootamundra

We'd love to hear from you, so why not send us a postcard or photo from where you live, and share your news and views! Post to: *The Country Web*, Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800.

Visit the Rural Women's Network internet site at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn



Living Out Back is a beautiful hardcover book providing a glimpse into the diverse lives of people living in outback NSW. There's the farmer who flies his plane as often as most landowners drive a ute; the women who took up life – and careers – in some of the State's most isolated country; a dog trainer, a nurse, a politician. Their stories are as varied as the rich colours of this stark, yet beautiful, country. What they have in common, however, is a deep love of the land and the communities they have made their homes.



\$27.50 plus p&p. To order your copy, call freecall 1800 028 374, Fax 1800 642 065 or Visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/bookshop



If you are a NSW resident and would like *The Country Web* sent free to your home please PRINT your details on the form below and return to: RWN, Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800. *The Country Web* is now available on the RWN website. If you have Internet access please help us lower our production costs by cancelling your hardcopy subscription.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

P/CODE _____

PHONE: _____

- I am from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background
- I am from a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- Teenage 20's 30's 40's 50's 60's 70's 80's+

The Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 obliges the Rural Women's Network to make you aware of the purposes for which we might use the contact details you have supplied us with. This information will be used by RWN for the purposes of disseminating information (including mailouts). Any information supplied by you to RWN will not be disclosed to any other person unless prior consent has been given.