



BARRIER AREA RANGECARE GROUP Media Release

18 June 2008

LANDCARE FORUM FOR ALL WESTERN CATCHMENT PEOPLE

The Western Catchment Landcare Forum 2006 will be held in White Cliffs on August 6 and 7, and all residents of the Catchment are invited.

The Barrier Area Rangecare Group (BARG) and the Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA) will host the forum, whose theme is "*Embracing Change*".

Western CMA Catchment Officer, Louise Turner, says the Forum is being held to encourage people to think about trying something different.

"We've devised a program that highlights the latest practices and technologies available for Western Catchment people to improve the health of their property and farm business," she said.

"People can learn from local landholders, scientists and industry experts in a hands-on learning environment and share their experiences with other landholders from western NSW," Ms Turner said.

People who RSVP by Friday, July 25 will receive a free, wall-sized Spot 5 image of their property. A full program and registration form is available at www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au or by ringing (08) 8082 5200 or (02) 6872 2144.

Guest speakers include Annabelle Homer from ABC Radio's South Australian Country Hour who will provide an observer's view of Landcare initiatives after working as a rural journalist in three states over seven years; Andrew Bubb of the Desert Knowledge CRC who will discuss walk over weighing; and CMA staff who will discuss the latest Invasive Native Scrub research findings.

Local landholders will also showcase changes they've adopted on their properties. They include Graham Turner of Grassmere Station who will discuss his pest exclusion project; Rick Howard of Moonavale Station who will outline his project to reduce total grazing pressure; and Brendan Cullen of Avenel Station who will describe his move into organic production.

Uncle Bill Riley, a Baarkindji man who is also a member of the Western Catchment Aboriginal Reference and Advisory Group will discuss his connection to country in the White Cliffs and Wilcannia area and discuss what 'caring for country' means to him.



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Participants have the choice of two field trips. The rangeland rehabilitation field trip will visit two properties to see the results of past contour furrowing efforts, while the Introduction to GPS on farms field trip will teach basic GPS operations using practical exercises.

On Wednesday night, a formal dinner with live entertainment will be held and the winners of the 2008 Life and Light in the Western Catchment photographic competition will be announced.

Ends

Caption: "Embracing Change: Think about trying something different" Garry Hannigan, Broken Hill, Life and Light in the Western Catchment photo competition 2001.

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