

WESTERN CATCHMENT LANDCARE FORUM STEERING COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

1 August 2007

2007 LANDCARE FORUM FOR WESTERN CATCHMENT

All residents of the Western Catchment and surrounding districts are invited to attend the Western Catchment Landcare Forum to be held in Cobar on September 1.

The forum will be hosted by the Buckwaroon and Mount Boppy Landcare Groups and the Kergunyah Rangecare Group.

Cobar Community Support Officer for the Western CMA, Suzie Bunting, says the Steering Committee, which is made up of representatives from the three Landcare groups and herself have been working hard on this year's program.

"The theme 'Soil Sustainability in the Western Catchment' recognises that soil condition directly impacts on vegetation and ecosystem health. The focus of this year's forum is to make people aware of sustainable soil management practices and encourage them to implement these to ensure the long term productivity of our region," Ms Bunting said.

"We aim to discuss what the future holds for the people and natural resources of our region and the role of Landcare in achieving these goals," she said.

Guest speakers include Don Bourke, Chairperson of the Australian Environment Foundation, who will officially open the forum.

Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute, Mick Keogh will outline carbon sequestration, carbon trading and future developments in this area. Also featured is Colin Seis of Stipa Native Grasses Association discussing pasture cropping and soil health, and Ray Thomson of the Central West Catchment Management Authority who will discuss rangeland rehabilitation.

In the afternoon participants will have the choice of four field trips including a tour of the Peak Gold Mine & Cobar township, conservation farming at Osterley Downs owned by Robert and Donna Chambers or a tour of Mt Drysdale Conservation Area which showcases unusual native vegetation and Aboriginal and European Settler sites.

Delegates will come together for a dinner and the presentation of the Country Energy Western Catchment Environmental Care Awards, which recognise environmental achievement within the Western Catchment.

Winners of these awards will go on to represent the Western Catchment at the State Landcare Awards to be held in October.

After dinner entertainment will be provided by Andrew Hull, who will present some bush poetry.

Due to the high demand for accommodation in Cobar, the WCMA has made a group booking at local motels which will be held until Friday 3rd August (attendees must confirm their own bookings). Registrations for the Forum close on Monday, 20th August. Registration forms and information may be found at www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au. or by ringing 1800 032101.

ENDS - For further information contact:

Suzie Bunting, Community Support Officer, Western CMA on (02) 6836 2575 or
Stuart Mosely, Chair, Western Catchment Landcare Forum Steering Committee on
(02) 6837 3750 or 0429 362614.

Caption: The Landcare Forum Steering Committee: L to R back: Simon Nott, Alistair McRobert, Robert Chambers, James Gardiner, Megan Nicholson.
L to R front: Rhonda Mitchell, Stuart Mosely, Suzie Bunting, Marsha Colbran.