

# Mid Coast landholder newsletter

## Skills boost adding value in community

Mid Coast LHPA is proactive in helping landholders improve their skills so they can better manage pests on their land. This is one way in which we strive to add value to the important work we do in the rural community.

Wild dog identification and trapping is a free two-day workshop where participants are shown how to identify wild dog signs and set traps. Feedback has been positive and some families have reported big wins in relation to reducing wild dog predation on their properties.

Our rangers run a 1080/Pindone course, an accredited and recognised course that provides successful participants with certification and the skills to collect and lay poison baits for the control of feral animals. This half day course costs \$44.

These courses will run again in 2011. For more information contact your local office.

The benefits of the work we do in partnership with landholders goes beyond our on-farm presence. Moving into 2011, our veterinary staff are at the forefront of research into emerging diseases such as Theileria. Our livestock health activities help preserve the disease-free status that secures Australia's overseas markets and our pest control programs create buffer zones to reduce pest incursions from one property to another.

**Rick Matts, General Manager  
Mid Coast LHPA**

## LHPA district vets tackle emerging cattle disease

Over the last four or five years we have seen an increasing number of cases of Theileriosis in cattle across the Mid Coast LHPA district. Initially the disease was predominantly seen in adult cattle introduced from areas where bush ticks are not common. More recently we have been seeing disease in home bred calves, both dairy and beef.

Theileria is a protozoal red blood cell parasite which can be transmitted by the bush tick, although there may also be other vectors. In severe cases, the parasite causes anaemia which can result in abortion in pregnant cows and heifers, depression, weight loss and even death. On examination, affected animals often have a fever, are depressed, and the gums, conjunctiva and membranes of the vulva are pale and may be yellow (jaundiced). Treatment has provided variable results.

The livestock health team of the Mid Coast LHPA have been actively involved in research to gain a better understanding of factors involved in

this disease. We have conducted comprehensive surveys with producers affected by the disease which we hope will shed more light on this emerging disease.

LHPA staff are also involved in a project with Industry and Investment NSW and MLA involving testing small mobs of cattle prior to them developing illness. This work will better enable us to advise local producers about risk factors and treatment options.



Mid Coast LHPA senior district vet Ian Poe testing for Theileria.

## Region pulling together to control wild dogs

Wild dogs are not new to the Mid Coast, but this year there is a new approach to combating them in the Hunter and Maitland areas.

The Mid Coast LHPA has developed a wild dog management plan for divisions E and F, which was signed off by a number of stakeholders in late 2010.

Although wild dog management plans were already in place in other parts of the Mid Coast region, in

the Hunter and Maitland areas each wild dog group was undertaking a separate control program. The new plan takes a single coordinated approach and covers 10 wild dog associations, the Mid Coast LHPA, several coal mines and government agencies. Additional groups are welcome.

Coordination increases the likelihood of success of each baiting

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# Act early to eradicate cattle ticks

In the last few years we have seen a number of detections of cattle tick in the northern part of the Mid Coast LHPA. Cattle tick can carry a disease called Tick Fever, which can cause significant losses in cattle herds.

At a glance these ticks look similar to the bush tick which is common across our district, however upon closer inspection there are some subtle differences. In particular the legs of the cattle tick are pale cream, compared to the dark red/brown legs of the bush tick. The first pair of legs are also set further back from the mouthparts on the cattle tick.

Recent infestations have been eradicated, but lasting eradication depends on early detection.

If you are suspicious of any ticks, place three or four in a jar (with or without methylated spirits) and drop them into your local Mid Coast LHPA office for identification and advice on how to manage them.

There is a legal requirement that for external parasite control in cattle only products registered for that purpose may be used. In the case of bush and paralysis ticks this limits the options for producers, with the only registered products being dips and sprays and one ear tag product for paralysis tick control. The sprays offer only a short period of protection, with regular retreatment necessary if infestations are severe. The ear tag product may provide up to 42 days protection for paralysis ticks.

Use of unregistered products may lead to unacceptable residues being detected in meat at slaughter which could have a devastating effect on our export markets.

**For more information on parasite control speak with your local district vet.**

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR RATES NOTICE

The **general rate** consists of a base charge and an amount payable on the notional carrying capacity of your property\*. This funds pest animal programs, TSR management and local administration and service delivery.

The **animal health rate** consists of a base charge and an amount payable on your notional carrying capacity\*. This funds locally delivered livestock health programs and is payable if you told us on your annual land and stock return that you had at least 50 stock units on your property OR if you did not return your land and stock form by the due date.


The **pest insect special purpose rate** is collected for I&I NSW to cover the cost of plague locust control campaigns. LHPAs do not retain these funds. The pest insect rate includes a flat contribution per rate notice, plus a cents per dry sheep equivalent (DSE) amount. This year, the NSW Government provided \$18.5 million towards the spring/summer plague locust campaign.

The **meat industry levy** is collected for the NSW Food Authority. LHPAs do not retain these funds.

The **base charge** is a uniform charge within an authority, similar to a 'flag fall' in a taxi.

\*The **notional carrying capacity** is an estimate, worked out by the local authority, of the number of stock a property would normally carry in an average year and is based on stock units per hectare.

RURAL LANDS PROTECTION ACT 1998 Section 63



**2011 RATE NOTICE**  
 TAX INVOICE ABN 12XXXXX  
 Livestock Health and Pest Authority  
 Guns Gully Rd, GUNS GULLY, NSW

JOHN CITIZEN  
 PO BOX XXXX  
 GUNS GULLY NSW XXXX

Reference No: 12XXXXX  
 Date of Issue: 21 January 2011  
 Payment Due Date: 21 February 2

**Holding Name:** J Citizen  
**Holding Address:** Guns Gully  
**Associated Holdings:** N/A

Area of Land (hectares): 61.75      Notional Carrying Capacity: 545.55      Notional Intensive Carrying C

Particulars of Rates and Charges		Units	Cents per Unit
RATES—GENERAL	BASE CHARGE \$62.90	545.56	13.5000
RATES—ANIMAL HEALTH	BASE CHARGE \$27.00	545.56	9.700
SPECIAL PURPOSE RATE			
- PEST INSECTS	BASE CHARGE \$16.00+	545.56	3.6660
MEAT INDUSTRY LEVY	\$ 5.00+	545.56	0.6000
STOCK MOVEMENT PERMIT RENEWAL	\$ 11.00		

All rates and charges are exempt from GST under Division 81 of the Goods and Services Tax Act 1999 unless otherwise indicated.

The Meat Industry Levy is a statutory levy collected on behalf of the NSW Food Authority. The Pest Insect Special Purpose Rate is collected for I&I NSW to cover the cost of plague locust control campaigns. If a Routine Stock Movement Permit renewal is not required please notify your local LHPA.

*NOTE: The rates and charges amounts shown left are indicative only. Actual amounts will vary according to where you live.*

# Region pulling together to control wild dogs

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round. The baits will be placed strategically across the authority district within a strategic timeframe.

These management plans complement the Aerial Wild Dog Baiting Program which is carried out annually across the authority.

In preparation for the next round of aerial baiting, Mid Coast LHPA has been conducting meetings across the authority district. It is proposed that aerial baiting will be undertaken in May and June.

The best results in the management of wild dogs and other pest animals control are achieved when groups of landholders join together to cover larger areas at the same time.

Land managers have a legal requirement to control declared pest species on their land, such as wild

dogs, rabbits and feral pigs. Control options include laying prepared baits, trapping and shooting. Trapping schools have been held at Putty, Stroud, Kauthi, Coopla and Black Camp.

**For more information on trapping schools and 1080/Pindone training, or to conduct a group baiting program, contact your local Mid Coast LHPA office.**



*Trapping techniques are demonstrated at one of the Mid Coast LHPA's popular trapping schools.*

# On-farm piggery visits help keep our export markets safe

Mid Coast LHPA is at the forefront of a number of important programs that help to protect our vital export markets. Australia is in the fortunate position of boasting one of the healthiest livestock populations in the world. This reputation has helped to open up export markets worth billions of dollars.

An important part of our defence system against exotic diseases entering Australia is constant vigilance by livestock owners, with assistance from the local LHPA.

Over the coming months LHPA vets and rangers will be carrying out property visits to properties running pigs to ensure that owners are aware of their obligations in relation to swill feeding.

These visits are an important part of our defence against FMD entering the country. These visits are also an opportunity for pig owners to discuss animal health concerns with LHPA staff.

Most major outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in recent years have been associated with contaminated meat products (commonly referred to as "swill") being fed to pigs. The virus can rapidly multiply in pigs and subsequently spread to other livestock including cattle, sheep, goats and deer.

Swill feeding is illegal in Australia and heavy penalties can apply. "Swill" includes anything that contains meat, meat products or meat scraps, any parts of animal or bird carcasses, and household scraps which contain or have been in contact with meat, including pizzas, pies etc.

If you are unsure about what constitutes "swill" or would like more information on foot and mouth disease and swill feeding contact your local LHPA office.

## Money for your brains

Australia has the world's highest status in relation to freedom

from BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, often called Mad Cow Disease) and we need to keep it that way to protect our export markets. To demonstrate our freedom from BSE Australia has a requirement to examine a set quota of brains from sheep and cattle showing nervous signs each year.

If you have an adult animal showing nervous signs including staggering, blindness, unable to stand, circling or twitching, which is unsaleable and has to be destroyed in the paddock you may be eligible to receive a payment of \$300 for cattle and \$50 for sheep. Contact your local LHPA office who will be able to organise the job to be done for you.

If you observe any unusual signs of disease, abnormal livestock behaviour or unexplained stock deaths, contact your local LHPA district veterinarian, your local private vet or phone the emergency disease hotline number on 1800 675 888.



## Latest on biosecurity at field days

Landholders at this Mid Coast LHPA stand, at the Tocal Field Days, came away with the latest information on pest control methods. For dates of coming field days visit [www.lhpa.org.au](http://www.lhpa.org.au)

# Protect your herd and farm when introducing stock

The introduction of new stock can bring with it the introduction of new diseases or weeds. An example of this is the recent detection of a new weed in the authority. Tropical Soda Apple (pictured) has been identified in parts of the upper Macleay Valley west of Kempsey, with isolated plants also located at Grafton, Nambucca Heads, Bellingen and Wingham. As the fruit of the plant may be eaten by cattle this plant may be unknowingly introduced to your property with stock introductions.

When buying stock it is recommended to keep them isolated from your herd in a "quarantine" paddock for 7-10 days and feed the animals some hay. This will allow monitoring for any signs of disease, allows them to settle down and get used to handling, and also allows them to pass any weed seeds they may be carrying.

This quarantine period allows for vaccination and drenching treatments also. The "quarantine paddock" can then be monitored for new and invasive weeds, and if detected suitably dealt with, rather than spreading across your entire property.

If you have purchased cattle from the upper Macleay in the past two



*Tropical Soda Apple. Photo courtesy of Bec Miller, Industry and Investment NSW.*

years you should be especially vigilant.

If you are aware of Tropical Soda Apple in your area, contact your local council weeds officer.

Taking these simple steps can save considerable time and money in the long term.

**Your district veterinarian is available to discuss plans with you on how to protect your herd.**

## NCC explained

Although there are specifications on weight, lactation etc, the basic rule of thumb is 10units = 1 dry beast & 1 unit = 1 dry sheep or goat. For instance, if a rates notice shows a NCC (Notional Carrying Capacity) of 545.55 units, this equates to the property being assessed to be able to carry approx 54 head of dry cattle or 545 sheep.

**For more information see the back of your rate notice, or contact your local office.**

## Contacting us

### Wingham

15 Isabella St (PO Box 76)  
WINGHAM NSW 2429  
Ph: 02 6553 4233

### Kempsey

83 Belgrave St (PO Box 108)  
KEMPSEY NSW 2440  
Ph: 02 6562 7822

### Scone

196 Kelly St (PO Box 250)  
SCONE NSW 2337  
Ph: 02 6545 1311

### Singleton

98 John St,  
SINGLETON NSW 2330  
Ph 02 6572 2944

### Tocal

CB Alexander Agricultural College  
815 Tocal Rd, PATERSON NSW 2421  
Ph 02 4939 8967