



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Eucalypt Identification Field Day

9.30 – 15.30 Friday 21st September 2007

Venue: Eungai Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Eungai Creek (just off the Pacific Highway between Kempsey and Macksville)

MNCFF is organising with Nambucca Valley Landcare a course on the identification of Eucalypt species – we will spend some time in the “classroom” and then put our identification skills into practice with a forest walk. The course will be led by John Ross a botanist who runs Lacebark Nursery and teaches bushland regeneration. John recently ran a rainforest tree and shrub identification course for us which was excellent.

There will be no cost for the course. However if you do not already have a copy you will need to purchase **Eucalypts & Angophoras Of North Coast Of NSW** by Bale. The book will be available on the day at a cost of \$18.00.

You will also require a ruler and a magnifying lens. Morning tea will be provided but you need to bring your own lunch.

Numbers are strictly limited – so you must register by calling Mid North Coast Farm Foresters on 02 6564 7916 or email mncff@tsn.cc. Please register by 17th September.

Field Day for Master Tree Grower Course Graduates

10.00 – 15.00 Monday 24th September 2007

Sharing Tree Planting Experiences - Wauchope

MNCFF is organising a field day for Master Tree Grower Course graduates to share landholder experiences in planting farm forestry trees and looking after a young plantation. It will be a great opportunity for MTG participants to get together again and to discuss their farm forestry activities. For those who haven't started planting yet it will be an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other land holders.

We will be visiting two properties where the landholders have established small farm forestry plantations – both of these landholders attended the MTG course held in 2006 at Wauchope.



Thor Anson from Hastings Council will be attending from Hastings Council to discuss Council's riparian management programme and how landholders can become involved. Chris Scott will be attending and able to answer your technical queries; and Dawn Thornton will also be there to update everyone on MNCFF's forthcoming events and activities.

Morning tea and a barbeque lunch will be provided. You will need to bring your walking boots and the usual sun (or rain!) protection gear. There will be no charge for the field day, but you must register if you wish to attend by 20th September so that we can organise the catering.

Introduction to Timber Drying on the Farm - Bellingen

We hope to hold this one day event in October. The day will include morning lectures by industry experts followed by a visit to a local timber drying facility. If you are interested in attending please register your interest with the MNCFF office and we will contact you once the date and venue are fixed.

MNCFF Annual General Meeting & Resource Inventory Seminar

The MNCFF AGM will be coming up in October. In conjunction with the AGM we are organising a seminar on the Mid North Coast Private Forest Resource Inventory and Mapping. This will be your opportunity to consider the broader regional opportunities for farm forestry.

Other Events

Nambucca Valley Landcare are running courses related to small acre farming, pasture management and introductory animal husbandry, contact Tim Ryan on 6564 7838 for details.



OTHER NEWS...

Private Native Forestry Code of Practice - Applies from 1 August 2007

Changes to the Native Vegetation Act were made on 1 August 2007 such that the harvesting of timber on private property will require approval through a Private Native Forestry Property Vegetation Plan. The basic aim is to ensure that environmental outcomes are improved or maintained through the harvesting process.

The NSW government has developed a Code of Practice which sets the minimum operating standards for harvesting in private native forests. There is a code specific to the forests of northern NSW – you can obtain a copy from the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) website www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pnf

If you are planning to undertake new private native forestry operations, the new code will apply and you must contact DECC to discuss preparing a property vegetation plan before you can commence forestry operations.

If you have an existing harvesting operation underway, then the code applies, and you will need to have an approved property vegetation plan in place by the 1 November 2007 in northern NSW.

For further information contact DECC on **131 555** and watch out for information sessions which the department is due to run shortly.

Marketing Trial

This Private Forestry Development Committee funded project is currently underway. The aim of the project is to seek markets for timber from selected properties and to return \$600 per cubic metre to the grower. The timber is cut to order when markets are arranged. The final report will be available in the new year.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Group Certification Pilot Project

The Private Forestry Development Committee has funded a project to establish an FSC certified group of Hunter and Mid-North Coast Farm Forestry members. The project and group is being managed by Australian Sustainable Timbers from the Hunter Valley. At this stage 5 MNCFF members and their properties have been assessed as suitable for inclusion in the group certification pilot project.



Mid North Coast Private Forest Resource Inventory and Mapping

The MNCFF Co-ordinators recently attended a presentation of the draft Mid-North Coast Forest Resource Inventory and Mapping project held in Port Macquarie. Alex Jay, an experienced forester and PhD candidate at the Southern Cross University, has developed a GIS and satellite based forest inventory for the Mid-North Coast. This is a Private Forestry Development Committee funded project and the final results will be available to MNCFF. We will hold a copy of the report and the computer files to run the inventory.

The aim of the project was to provide a reliable and detailed regional inventory of the current and potential timber resource on private property in the region. It is hoped that this work will guide strategic planning and investment decisions.

The presentation was very impressive with the ability to view forest types, topography, satellite photos and ultimately overlays of potential annual forest growth rates across the region. The growth rates are expressed in square metres of basal area per annum. For individual landholders it will provide the ability to consider these factors for their property and region.

MNCFF will be able to run the programme in its Bowraville office for the benefit of members but does not hold intellectual property rights and therefore cannot sell or give away copies of the data. Given expected demand bookings will be required and there will be a cost-recovery charge. The inventory should be running in the MNCFF office by the end of the year.

In the next newsletter we will provide an overview of the findings of the final report.

Mobile Milling Course Participants in the Nambucca and Hunter Achieve National Accreditation

The Private Forestry Development Committee funded MNCFF to run two mobile milling operators courses. These courses were run over four days each and participants were assessed against the National Competency Standard. Courses were held in the Nambucca Valley in May and the Hunter Valley in July.

All of the participants were assessed on their mobile mills by the trainer and achieved the required standard.

Mobile milling contractors who recently completed the course and are available to conduct mobile milling work on your property are listed below with their contact telephone numbers:

Michael Sheather	02 - 6564 7905
Jeff Unwin	02 - 6564 7662
Steve Snedden	02 - 4996 4504
Dallas Rumbel (Hunter and Manning only)	02 - 4992 1847



Farm Foresters Graduate from the Macleay Master Tree Growers

In May, 20 participants graduated from the Macleay Master Tree Growers course. Held over March, April and May, participants learned practical skills such as how to undertake a forest inventory, tree planting techniques, different log grades and pricing. Participants visited properties such as a blackbutt plantation, mature dry sclerophyll forest, a timber yard, Macleay Landcare Networks' rainforest regeneration site, Australian Solar Timbers floorboard manufacturing facility, a cabinet timber plantation and many more. One of the key benefits of the course was the access to land management and forestry experts.

The feedback from the course participants was very positive, and all those who completed the course are now preparing to plant the free farm forestry trees which are part of the overall programme.

Many thanks to all those land holders who allowed our MTG course to visit their properties, to the businesses that took time out of their working days to spend time with us, and the technical experts for sharing their accumulated knowledge and experience. Special thanks to Rowan Reid from the School of Resource Management at the University of Melbourne for sharing his experience and enthusiasm for farm forestry.

And of course thanks to all the participants for making it such a great course. Happy planting!

We are currently planning the next Master Tree Growers course which will be held in the Dorrigo area. If you are interested please contact the MNCFF office.

Rainforest Tree & Shrub Identification Course

In June we held a beginner's guide to identifying rainforest trees and shrubs. The course was based around "Rainforest Trees and Shrubs – A field Guide to their identification" by Gwen Harden, Bill McDonald and John Williams. John Ross was our knowledgeable guide through the sometimes difficult process of identifying rainforest trees. 17 members of MNCFF and Nambucca Valley Landcare attended the day. Farm foresters will be able to use their new found skills to identify species on their properties, which will assist with ongoing management and designing new tree plantings.



Nambucca Valley Vegetation Guide

Nambucca Valley Landcare and the Nambucca Conservation Association have just launched a book to assist land owners with the planning and management of vegetation. It includes lists of native trees, shrubs and ground cover species suitable for the Nambucca, with a guide to their soil preferences, frost sensitivity and so on. The guide suggests suitable replacement species for camphor laurel; includes weed species and protected native plants. Copies of the guide are available from the Nambucca Valley Landcare office in Bowraville (phone 6564 7838).

MNCFF Committee Membership

MNCFF will be holding its AGM in October. If you would like to contribute to the ongoing development of the organisation then consider becoming a member of the committee. The more people who are actively involved, the more activities and information we can provide. If you are interested please contact the office to discuss your area of interest.

Agroforestry News

If you don't subscribe to Agroforestry News you've missed out on some great articles in Issue 59 about growing eucalypt sawlogs, site preparation prior to plantation establishment, and growing mushrooms as part of a farm forestry enterprise! Members of MNCFF are able to receive 4 copies of Agroforestry News for the discounted price of \$15.00. Interested? Contact the MNCFF office for details.

Don't forget...

If your contact details have changed please let us know.

You can fill out the form below and send it back to MNCFF or e-mail us at mncff@tsn.cc

Name:

Postal address:

Telephone:

Mobile:

E-mail: