

# We can never be too careful

**H**ELLO and welcome to the 2012 edition of the Rural Guide published by the *Goulburn Post*.

This year, we have a particular focus on farm safety, with farm-related injuries causing 60 deaths and many hospital admissions in Australia every year.

Quad bikes, tractors and farm machinery are the biggest causes of death for people working on farms (source: FarmSafe Australia).

On page 21 there's a rundown on safe quadbike operation, while on page 22 there's information on how to store guns and ammunition safely and legally.

We must also take measures to ensure farms and properties are kidsafe.

When it comes to protecting our future farmers, we can never be too careful.

Dams, rivers and creeks pose extreme risks to kids. We implore readers to download the advice and checklists from [www.farmsafe.org.au](http://www.farmsafe.org.au).

This year's guide also has a handy phone number listing and rainfall chart.

We hope you'll find this little publication big on handy information.

Here's hoping to a bumper growing season – and safe farming.

Gerard Walsh – editorial

Joanna Croker – project co-ordinator

# Riverbank law

DO you live or undertake works on the banks of a waterway?

If you do, NSW DPI has released two new brochures to help you comply with the laws aimed at protecting our native fish and their habitat.

Rivers and other natural waterways are vital habitat for a range of species including fish, shellfish, frogs, platypus and water birds. They are also an important part of our way of life, providing water for livestock and domestic use, and supporting industries such as tourism, recreational and commercial fishing and aquaculture.

However these habitats are under pressure from further development, increasing demand for water use,

and inappropriate land management practices.

Combined, these have resulted in loss of aquatic habitat, sedimentation, erosion and other water pollution issues.

The new brochures outline ways to manage important fish habitats, including riverbank and in-stream vegetation and snags (large woody debris) in freshwater waterways and salt-marsh, mangrove and seagrass habitats on the coast. They also identify the sorts of works which require approvals before they are implemented.

To download the brochure visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat) or ph (02) 6626 1269.

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