

Protection with early prevention

LAST week I raised the question, 'what do we mean by biosecurity?'

This word is used more often these days and yet is a bit forbidding and is not always understood.

Biosecurity means protecting our farm, community, environment and nation against animal and plant pests and diseases.

Whether we formally plan it or not, we all consider biosecurity. Whether we spray that small patch of blue heliotrope in one paddock to stop it spreading across our farm, or whether we fund Australian veterinarians to assist with foot and mouth disease eradication in south-east Asia, we are all engaging in biosecurity.

However, from the level of our paddock or farm to the level of our community or our nation we need to plan and to prioritise our approach.

One of the most important principles in biosecurity is that it is vastly more cost-effective to combat agents in the first stages of an outbreak or invasion than as numbers build up and especially as the population stabilises. It is even better to keep pests and diseases off our farm, community, environment or nation in the first place.

Therefore at the level of your farm it pays to plan not to introduce footrot, lice, drench-resistant parasites or bovine Johne's disease rather than to try to eradicate these diseases after they become established.

As it has turned dry most producers are considering selling rather than buying livestock. However, when the wheel turns and it does rain, it is important to re-stock from trusted sources. Sheep Health Statements and National Vendor declarations provide an important assurance. Recently-purchased stock should be quarantined then isolated from other mobs to observe for developing problems.

However, the dry weather has increased the risk of importing weeds or pests on purchased fodder. I have spoken to a number of farmers over the years who first introduced weeds in hay or grain during a drought. Again can I

Watt's What

Veterinarian Bruce Watt



suggest buying from a trusted source and consider a commodity by-product vendor declaration (for more information Google commodity vendor declarations for stock feeds).

At the regional level we can make best use of scarce resources by looking out for new incursions of a particular weed or pest while continuing to provide some help to landholder groups battling established populations of pests such as rabbits or foxes.

At the national level, quarantine is an important priority, preventing devastating agents such as foot-and-mouth disease virus from entering our country. Even better to combat the disease away from our borders. Not only are we training our people to deal with exotic diseases but we also help our neighbours deal with them and reduce the risk of the disease entering Australia.

This brings me to 2014 and the newly formed Local Land Services. How might we best use our limited taxpayer and ratepayer-provided resources to help you deal with biosecurity at the farm, local and regional level? We consider that biosecurity is a shared responsibility and I would appreciate your thoughts on this.

I think that we will be most cost-effective and efficient if the LLS staff with their diverse range of skills work with existing community groups, whether they are Landcare groups, stock breeders associations or bushfire brigades. Our role should be to assist these groups and in some cases perhaps encourage the formation of new groups.

It is only by maintaining a rapport with the rural community that livestock owners will feel confident to report unusual problems to us. This gives us all our best chance to deal with emerging pests and diseases when our collective efforts are likely to be most effective.



Dawn Carruthers, Chris Stanger, Anne Peters and Marcia Pries with (seated) Wendy Brown and Margaret Fisher.

Rewarding year for Evening VIEW Club

ORANGE Evening VIEW Club finished the year with a festive Christmas dinner on Thursday and a visit from Santa.

It was the final dinner meeting for 2013, which has been another busy year supporting three learning for life students.

The group has also raised funds for The Smith Family, a national charity helping young Australians in need to build better futures for themselves.

An energetic demonstration of Zumba and Zumba Gold was provided on the night by the girls from

Studio Fitness.

The first meeting for 2014 will be held on Thursday, February 27, at Orange Ex-Services' Club at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

RSVP to Isobel on 6362 9943 by Friday, February 21.

Photos: CONTRIBUTED



Back: Bev Holland, Brittany Maloy-Armitt, Kate Maloy-Armitt, Elaine Hinchcliffe and Jenny Sams. Front: Maxine Kinghorne and Sandy Taylor.



Glenys Grimmatt, Maureen Yates and Dorrie Ryan.

FRIDAY

- Orange and District Amateur Radio Club meets at the rear of 79 Kite Street at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome, contact Peter Carter on 0418 721 035.
- National Servicemen and Vietnam Veterans Association barbecue, Ex-Services' Country Club, noon.
- Chronic Fatigue Support Group meets at the HACC Centre, 10.30am.
- Empty Nesters Walking Group is looking for new members to join for exercise, fun and a brisk walk. Meet on the corner of Panpande Crescent and Wiare Circuit at 6.45am.
- Music for Little Ears at Orange City Library, 10am. Conducted by Orange Regional Conservatorium. Bookings essential 6393 8132. Free session.

The Diary

Nadine Morton



- Grow Mental Health Group meets every Friday at 2pm in the Senior Citizens' Centre. Call Sharon on 0406 796 017 for information.
- Fusion Australia and Anglicare Orange lunch, craft, fun and friendship, Anson Street Uniting Church, 11am to 2pm. Gold coin appreciated. Contact Bev or Mal on 6361 0014.
- National Servicemen and Vietnam Veterans Association meets at the Ex-Services' Country Club, 10am. Contact Ben Cooke on 6362 5398 or

Bill Penrose on 6362 3820.

- Orange Playgroup, Five Ways Uniting Church, 10am to 12pm.
- West Orange Playgroup, Girl Guide hall, 10am to 12pm.
- Christian Lending Library, 560 Cecil Road, 9.30am to 2.30pm. Contact 6362 2391.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at Salvation Army Hall on the corner of Kite Street and McNamara Lane at 10.30am for a daily reflections' meeting. Contact Brett 0439 257 350 or Allan 0401 216 468.
- For free and confidential tenants' advice, call the South West Tenants Advice Service on 1800 642 609.
- Orange Family History Group meets at Orange City Library from 10am to 12.30pm to help people with their family history research. Contact Orange City Library on 6393 8132.

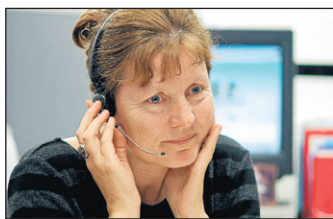
Are you interested in becoming a VOLUNTEER?

A positive difference

TODAY is International Volunteer Day, and this year Lifeline Central West is taking the opportunity to highlight its amazing volunteering community.

Lifeline Central West is an organisation that relies on the volunteering community to provide crisis support, suicide

www.centralwesterndaily.com.au



Lifeline volunteers make a positive difference to people's lives.

prevention and mental health support services through the national Lifeline 24-hour telephone crisis support service.

Lifeline Central West has

highly-skilled telephone counselling volunteers who donate their time to help people in crisis. Lifeline simply could not provide their services to the community without the support of our wonderful volunteers.

International Volunteer Day is a great way to acknowledge the generosity and thank the volunteers.

Lifeline Central West is always looking for new volunteers to help continue the vital service to the community.

A new six-week training

course for the Bathurst and Orange areas will be commencing early in the new year.

Please contact Lifeline Central West on (02) 6331 7344 or email info@lifelinecentral-west.org.au if you are interested in training to become a Lifeline telephone counsellor, or in assisting with the running of the 2014 Lifeline Central West Mega Book Fair.

Become a Lifeline Volunteer – learn new skills and make new friends, while making a positive difference to the lives of other Australians.

Connect with someone who cares...

24/7 telephone crisis support

13 11 14

- Problem gambling counselling
- Financial counselling

(02) 6332 3456 business hours

A big thank you to our volunteers – the work you do is appreciated!

Lifeline
Central West

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