

Media Release

Thursday, 13 June 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ants, wild dogs and weeds named big issues at Lismore Biosecurity Forum

Invasive species and wild dog trapping were just some of the topics to capture the attention of more than 150 people at the inaugural Biosecurity Forum held at the Lismore Showgrounds yesterday, Wednesday 12 June 2019.

Regenerative agriculture and Indigenous land care practices topped and tailed the day to set the tone for the forum, which was described by many as ‘thought-provoking’ and ‘down to earth’.

Hosted by Rous County Council, the forum attracted people from all over the Northern Rivers, from urban residents to landholders working up to 2,000 acres who are all passionate about the environment and, for some, whose livelihoods depend on it.

Event organiser, Kim Curtis from Rous County Council, said the forum was relevant to people with ranging interests, but that care had been taken to include specific topics essential for those working the land.

“Since everyone has a general biosecurity duty, we believe it’s important to equip people with the right information so they can fulfil their obligations.

“Learning about unique wild dog trapping techniques, updates on animal diseases and how to identify red fire ants and yellow crazy ants were popular talks.

“People were also really interested and inspired by what they learned from the Ngulingah Aboriginal Land Council rangers about traditional burning practices for regeneration and for promoting biodiversity.

“And they were equally impressed by the views of our keynote speaker Lorraine Gordon on regenerative agriculture. Lorraine spoke on the importance of farming practices that reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity.”

More than 10 speakers had the opportunity to present their ideas at the forum.

“The feedback we’ve had is that with such a variety of speakers and topics there was something for everyone. We really look forward to hosting the next biosecurity event.”



Rhett Patrick, Rous County Council Weed Biosecurity Team Leader



Ngulingah Aboriginal Land Council Rangers; left to right Denzel Dangerfield, Brandon Harrington, Laine Charles, Jamie Saunderson, Hezekiah McKenzie, Gwendoline Laurie



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For further information and to arrange interviews, please contact Keri Algar, Communications and Engagement Officer, on 0428 471 730.