**Rural news**

**Landcare grants up for grabs**

APPLICATIONS close faster than the grass between $1000 and $5000 to assist landcare and natural resource management activities in northern Tasmania.

The money is distributed by NRM North's Landcare and Community Grants program, which promotes small grants for not-for-profit community groups and community care groups and not-for-profit organisations.

Its program is funded by the Federal Government and up to $50,000 is available.

Eligible activities include:
- Seed collection and propagation.
- Weeding and revegetation.
- Fencing.
- Purchase of tools and equipment.
- Contractor and short-term project offer.
- Action planning and review of existing plans.
- Interpretative signage.
- Field days and activities which engage local community and schools.
- New group start-up.

NRM North chief executive officer James McKee said that the program would be a great resource for local groups to remain active and vibrant.

"NRM North remains committed to supporting grass roots efforts and hopes the grants can help these groups to reach their goals," he said.

Participants must be incorporated, not-for-profit organisations, and their care group or be supported by an organisation that is incorporated.

Applications from individuals will not be considered.

Projects must aim to develop the group or community's longer-term capacity to address natural resource management issues, increase community participation in natural resource management and encourage partnerships and the sharing of resources.

Information kits, including grant application forms and guidelines, are available on the NRM North website at www.nrmnorth.org.au.

Kits can also be requested by contacting NRM North administration on 6333 7777.

---

**Bernard’s dog takes top spot at trials**

BERNARD McGlashan, of Hamilton, won the Tasmanian Working Sheep Dog Association open trial at Agfest, but only after surviving a scare from daughter Taylor.

McGlashan and Mocara Ice scored 89, 92 and 94 for a total of 272 from their three runs.

The pair beat Greg Skegg’s and Meander Gaye’s, whose 83, 83 and 96 left them 10 points behind on 262.

McGlashan’s Murph, with 83, 82 and 62, finished equal third on 246 points with Taylor and McGlashan’s Swift, who started their account with a 94 and 92, but suffered a poor final run of 62 to drop top spot.

Association publicity officer Lance Clifford said that the four-tier competition enjoyed perfect weather over the three days.

"We also had good trial sheep and it was a very keen competition watched by many spectators," he said.

---

**Sale prices: a stamp of approval for murray greys**

THR top-priced murray grey bull at Charles and Janet Wallace’s annual sale at Woodbourn, Cressey, on Monday fetched $9000.

Lot 8 was a son of Jynadra Warrior out of Woodbourne Miss Heather Y6 and went to Paul and Denise Seward, of Rodpa, in Tasmania’s North-West.

Mr Wallace said that the sale’s success reflected the confidence in the breed and the stud’s breeding program.

The 50th annual on-property sale saw 33 bulls and 35 females sold to Tasmania and 14 lots sold to South Australia, Victoria and NSW.

“We thought it was a wonderful sale given the current tough economic conditions,” Mr Wallace said.

And to get a total clearance of stock at such high values shows a great deal of faith in Woodbourn cattle and the murray grey breed.”

A total of $44,510 was sold to $9000 at an average of $1415, 13 mature stud females sold to $4000 and averaged $3615, six led stud heifers sold to $2710 and averaged $4570, with 16 unled stud females selling to $2250 and averaging $1940.

The $4500 for the highest-priced female was paid by Alex and Kit Tray, of Greenhills, in Hawkesdale, Victoria. The highest-priced led heifer brought $2750.

Volume buyers at the sale were Peter Bowling, of Surprise Bay Pastoral on King Island, who bought four bulls for $5500 for an average of $1375 and Wayne and Lyn Lovell, of King Island, buying four.
AGFEST WRAP-UP

Weed hygiene the aim of action plan

The covered slasher promoting a weed hygiene plan at Agfest last week attracted a lot of interest, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association weed committee member Tom Shacklock said.

"The primary guard shields the corkscrew or flight mechanism and the secondary guard is mounted above or around the primary guard," she said.

"Like any employer, a farmer has a duty of care to provide a safe working environment for themselves, their workers, visitors and contractors," Mrs Taylor said.

Mrs Taylor handed out copies of the industry standard which can also be downloaded from the Internet at www.workcover.nsw.gov.au and entering "industry safety standard" in the search engine.

Information about PASS is available at www.pasa.org.au/105.