

VOICES

newsletter from ALM Group



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Get Connected - Come to Mitchell, Queensland in February 2013



Our people Muster - **Connect with Land** - is at Mitchell, Queensland on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 February 2013. This is a great opportunity for progressive landholders and others interested in land management to hear and discuss a range of views on trends in land management, to learn about agricultural ecology and biodiversity and, most importantly, to connect with each other and land.

We have a great program, an eclectic range of invited speakers, plenty of opportunity for participation and, of course, for Mitchell in February, air conditioning and swimming options.

Preference and support will be available for landholders who are or have been involved with the ALM Group Certified Land Management (CLM) system, particularly for landholders outside of Queensland.

The Muster is supported by the Biodiversity Fund, Elders, the Maranoa Regional Council and the Queensland Murray Darling Committee.

Early registrations are strongly advised as coal seam gas developments place pressure on accommodation and travel options. To register your interest or for more information, contact Joanne Ryan, phone 07 4664 1656 or [email](#). You can download a Muster program from the [ALMG website](#).

Biodiversity Project off to a strong start

After just four months into a two-year ALM Group project, 15 landholders in the Maranoa Regional Council area have started implementing plans to improve profitability and environmental and animal welfare outcomes.

Project leader Jock Douglas, himself a landholder in the Maranoa, acknowledges the importance of the support from the Biodiversity Fund, the Maranoa Regional Council, the Queensland Murray Darling Committee and Elders, a long-term ALM Group supporter.



‘A key to the preparedness of landholders to adopt the Certified Land Management system is that it provides a robust basis for recognition and on-going support,’ Jock said.

CLM plans are developed using a unique web-based software program that enables landholders to integrate their individual property objectives with council, regional NRM and state and federal government biodiversity and environmental requirements.

Dusty imagines a better future



Our electronic book shelves are full of reassuring evaluations of existing NRM policies and programs. However, the writings of leading academics and many *State of the Environment* reports lead to a more sobering assessment.

In previous issues of *VOICES* Dusty reflected on continuing land degradation and loss of biodiversity. Now, at the start of a new year in a more relaxed and reflective mood (see photo), he imagines a better and achievable future.

His imagined future is better because changed NRM policies and programs enable more effective co-investment with landholders. This fits with his earlier observation that private expenditure positively and negatively affecting land greatly outweighs public expenditure by about 150 to one.

Dusty believes a better future is achievable because since his birth - yes he turns 10 on Valentine's Day - his mates have been designing and pioneering a system to limit degradation and loss of biodiversity.

It is a system that integrates environmental, profitability and other aspirations. It is a system that integrates and gives effect to the requirements of landholders, NRM agencies and all tiers of government. And this happens when it matters, i.e. when land management decisions are being made, rather than after the event.

This system - the [Certified Land Management \(CLM\) system](#) - is a major innovation in how land managers can improve profitability **AND** get recognition and reward for their environmental stewardship. Importantly it is also a major innovation in how the public sector and downstream corporations could co-invest with landholders for the benefit of all. Read [more](#) about this benefit-based instrument.