

# VOICES

newsletter from ALM Group



## Number 23 December 2014

### Landcare and other NRM support workers support verifying environmental and animal welfare credentials

More than seven out of ten Landcare support people believe a national voluntary system for improving and verifying natural resource and animal welfare management would be valuable for landholders and for individuals like themselves, whose charter is to support better outcomes.

This significant finding comes from a national survey of Landcare and NRM support people whose responses also emphasise the importance of the verification tool having features that together address the many factors influencing improvement.

These survey results support the need for voluntary farm certification as advocated by a broadly representative group at a **Symposium** in Brisbane in June 2014 and more recently in **reports** by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and by WWF-Australia.

Read the survey **summary report**.

### The profitable ecologically sustainable improvement jigsaw short just one piece

There is just one piece missing but it is within **reach**.

### This year

Maybe it is just part of my ageing process but this year peaks and troughs for the ALM Group seem to have occurred more often and have been more exaggerated.

Peaks included persistent support from progressive landholders, starting work with the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services in NSW, the Symposium in June in Brisbane on NRM and Animal Welfare Management—Agricultural Competitiveness, increased uptake of CLM by landholders in

the Maranoa region of Queensland (CLM workshop participants in the photo), support for the sort of innovations represented by CLM from the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, from WWF Australia and from Landcare and other NRM support people, an accelerating interest in CLM from agricultural industry organisations and individuals, and an upgrade of our widely accessed website.

The troughs teach us lessons but otherwise they are forgotten.



*Participants in the CLM workshop in the Maranoa, Queensland.*

## And for next year

Shout yourself a copy of Don Watson's *The Bush*. It is a slow but easy read with deep insights into the culture and practices of those who have transformed Australian landscapes. Not recommended for those with delusional inclinations.



### End of year advice from Dusty

**Have a thoughtful end of year—and don't embarrass your friends**

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