

## Staff Update:

In the past couple of months we have had a couple of staff leave us. Catherine Crowden, who has been working out of Melbourne for some time has decided to pursue other interests down there. A big thank you must go to Catherine for her efforts with the cluster fencing projects, and establishing monitoring of these CAM sites. We wish her well for her future.

Additionally, Carol Burgess has resigned, and we thank her for her valued contribution to South West NRM and wish her all the best for the future.

We also welcome two new staff members to the South West NRM team; Holly Kajweski and Emma Turner. Read more about Emma below, and Holly on the following page.

## Introducing Emma:

Emma Turner is a local girl to the Wyandra region and a fresh face to South West NRM for 2017. She has recently joined our team as a Project Officer and looks forward to marking her mark in the region.

Emma's love of the bush was engrained in her from a young age when she would frequent her family's sheep property, south east of the Wyandra district. In pursuit of education, life led her away from the bush where she completed tertiary education at the University of Queensland in Gatton. Studying a Bachelor of Applied Science majoring in Production Animal Science allowed her to get back in touch with the industry she loved.

Emma has since taken on many challenging roles within the industry. It is through these roles that she has developed a heavy appreciation for sustainable grazing practices which support the natural ecosystems that allow our industry to exist and flourish.

Outside of work, Emma enjoys fishing with her partner, helping out on his family's property and volunteering within the community. She particularly enjoys being able to travel and experience what life has to offer.

Emma is enthusiastic about entangling natural resource management into her knowledge of sustainable agriculture and livestock nutrition to benefit graziers within the South West region.



Above: Emma Turner, one of two new Project Officers to the South West NRM team in 2017.

## Staff Update Continued...

### Welcome Holly:

Holly Kajewski has recently joined the South West NRM team in the New Year as a Project Officer for 2017. Locally born and raised, Holly completed her primary and high school education in Charleville before her yearning for further education relocated her to Brisbane in 2016. Here, she attended the University of Queensland at St. Lucia, studying a bachelor of psychological science. Following this, Holly's desire to experience life away from the schooling system and to return home (especially to her mother's cooking) saw her return to Charleville.



Above: Holly Kajewski, who joined the South West NRM team in January 2017.

Outside of work, Holly is passionate about dancing, health and fitness. She spends her spare time indulging in these hobbies and socialising with friends. While her position at South West NRM is a whole new area for Holly, she is eager to broaden her knowledge and see what is in store for 2017 at South West NRM. She is enthusiastic about meeting and building relationships with landholders, and seeing the beauty this country has to offer.

### Rabbit Virus Release

Regular *Three Rivers, Three Creeks* readers may remember articles published last year relating to the release of the new rabbit virus RDHV1 K5 - well folks, the time has now come! (In case you missed it, [click here](#) for a great article and video clip published by the Invasive Animals CRC). The virus was released here in the South West in early March within the Ward River CAM cluster area (approximately 20 km west of Charleville) and at *Glentuckie* in the Cuttaburra Channels south west of Cunnamulla. A further release date has been scheduled at the remaining location at *Bulloo Downs* south of Thargomindah.

From here on in, more spotlight transects will be carried out, as well as collections taken of liver samples from expired bunnies to determine the efficacy of the virus. All data that is collected can be found at the Rabbit Scan website: <https://www.feralscan.org.au/rabbitscan/default.aspx>

Hopefully this concerted and collaborative effort for rabbit control will have great results - these little critters create huge amounts of damage to the landscape, and eat an unbelievable amount of pasture - which often goes unnoticed!



Above: Cameron Wilson from Biosecurity QLD placing carrots 'dosed' with RDHV1 K5 at a pre-feed site in the Ward River CAM cluster.