

## CHITTERING LANDCARE CENTRE

The Chittering Landcare Centre has been functioning for 12 years as a support and information service for landholders as well as a demonstration site for environmental improvements.

25Ha of land for the centre is leased by the Chittering Landcare Group from TiWest who also provide financial support for administration. Federal and State Government funding has also been a key factor in the continuation of the Centre. Most important to the success of the Centre however is the dedicated team of volunteers and Natural Resource Management employees who have provided energy, enthusiasm and knowledge to the development of Centre and its surrounds. The Landcare centre has office space plus a purpose built Training/Meeting Room plus nursery infrastructure and sheds.

Over the years demonstration projects have been undertaken although some have had setback due to drier seasons and the impact of kangaroos. Examples of fodder trees have been planted and a bush foods garden established with several species such as Lillypilly and native spinach doing well.

The native plant nursery provides seedlings for farmland revegetation, using seeds obtained as locally as possible.

A permanent pasture has been established as a good example of land management options for grazing operations and a wetland was built to demonstrate good water management practices.

Renae Thorpe has worked at the Chittering Landcare Centre for seven years. In her role as Natural Resource Management Officer, Renae has participated in the establishment of a community nursery for local native species plants, a wetland, revegetation areas, perennial pastures and a bush food garden. As well as these on site activities Renae has provided support, education and information for local landholders.

Earlier this year Renae completed a BestFarms Environmental Management System (EMS) Workshop with the aim to record all Chittering Landcare Centre achievements to date, to manage potential environmental risks on site and to plan for future improvements.



*The CLC team preparing for action*

**“The BestFarms EMS workshop is a great course for all landholders,”** says Renae. “...hopefully in the future (EMS Workshops) can be established in the Ellen Brockman Sub Region in partnership with BestFarms and the Blackwood Basin Group.

Sadly with the Action Plan almost completed Renae has moved on to other employment. BestFarms applauds Renae for her efforts over seven years with the Chittering Landcare Centre, and wishes her all the best for her future endeavours.

The Chittering Landcare Centre provides a dynamic example of positive community action. The BestFarms Environmental Management System provides a chance to review successes and to plan for future development.

To learn more about Chittering Landcare projects and services contact (08) 95710400 or email [chitteringlandcare@iinet.net.au](mailto:chitteringlandcare@iinet.net.au)

To learn more about BestFarms Environmental Management Systems contact Kirsten Skraha on 08 97651555, email [bestfarms@westnet.com.au](mailto:bestfarms@westnet.com.au) or check out the website [www.bestfarms.com.au](http://www.bestfarms.com.au)