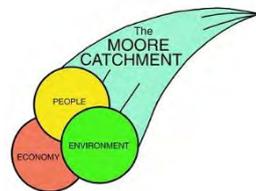


MOORE to the point



Serving the Moore River catchment since 1995

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Issue 34 Spring/Summer 2014

Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 34th *Moore to the Point* newsletter.
The end of 2014 marks the conclusion of a few projects but hot-off-the-press news brings MCC additional funds to carry on conserving the Moore's natural assets into the future. Great news for the Moore & MCC:) editor *Rachel Walmsley*

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Enthusiastic attendance for Guilderton Celebration day

Guilderton has always been a special place to many but its wonderful natural assets are becoming more and more threatened from increasing visitor numbers. The Guilderton Celebration Day on Friday 24th October saw around 80 people from all sectors come together to celebrate three projects that are helping to conserve the fragile dunes and Moore River estuary for the future. The day was organised by the Guilderton Community Association (GCA), Shire of Gingin (SG) and Moore Catchment Council (MCC), and started with the official opening of the Djena Koorl-iny (meaning 'go on foot' in Noongar) walk trail north of town.



Huge attendance at the opening of Guilderton's Djena Koorl-iny walk trail

Rachel Walmsley said "This trail is part of the North Guilderton Dune Restoration Project which aims to reduce degradation from unrestricted 4WD use over a 22ha area of fragile dunes. The project was funded through Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) and the Federal Government, and involved multi stakeholder collaboration between SG, GCA, Yued community and South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council (SWALSC), and Dept of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW). MCC took on delivery of the project in July 2013 and helped coordinate the fencing installation by DPAW, and directional/walk trail interpretive signage design and installation."



Stakeholders of the North Dune project



Welcome by Charlie Shaw



Trail opening by Shane & Rachel

Charlie Shaw – Yued Elder, Jim Laffer (GCA), Michael Aspinall (SG) and Rachel Walmsley (MCC) shared thoughts on the importance of the project and thanked the funders, before Shane Love MLA (NACC Board member) and Rachel officially opened the Djena Koorl-iny walk trail. Rachel continued "After a walk of the new trail, the celebrations headed down to the estuary gazebo where we were Welcomed to Country by Yued Elder Charlie Shaw and entertained by two didgeridoo players. This was followed by acknowledgement of finances received by GCA from Bendigo Bank and SG for a new beach to lookout staircase being built soon to reduce degradation of the dunes."



Information correct at time of printing. While every attempt is made to present accurate information on events, dates etc no responsibility is taken for the accuracy of the information.



Celebrations at the estuary gazebo



Didgeridoo players

The final ceremony was the unveiling of the new estuary interpretive signage which is a MCC project funded through NACC's Coastal Devolved grant program. Rachel said "This was a pet project of mine as I've always thought the estuary was lacking signage to help explain to visitors about the natural processes of the estuary and the importance of not interfering with the sandbar." MCC collaborated with GCA, SG, Yued community and SWALSC, NACC and Dept. of Water to design the signs and the Shire installed them. Rachel and Phil Cook (GCA) explained the importance of the signage and thanked the funders. The signs were officially opened by Shane Love MLA and unveiling of each sign was carried out by Shane, Michael Aspinall (SG), Mary Nannup (Yued), and Rachel and Philippa Schmucker (NACC).



Phil Cook talks about sandbar



Rachel talks about the signage project



Philippa & Rachel unveil the ecology sign



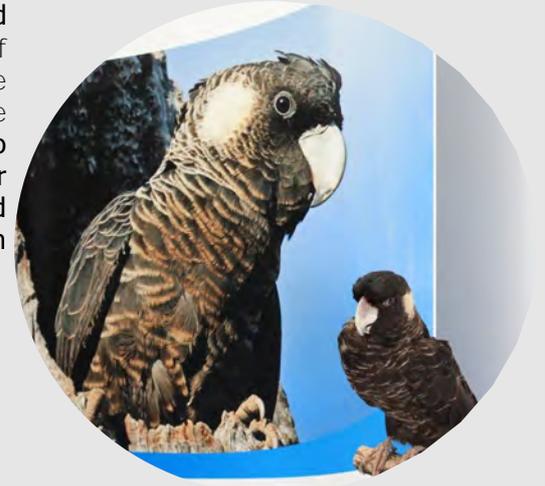
Mary Nannup unveils the Yued sign

Back at the gazebo, the GCA laid on a delicious spread of damper bread, billy tea, wine and cheese. Rachel concluded "Huge thanks to everyone who was involved with the organising of the celebration day and the various projects which have only happened through multi stakeholder collaboration. Especially thanks to NACC and the Federal Government who funded MCC to deliver two of the projects and to Gillian Lamont for being instrumental in the organisation of the celebration day. Check out the MCC Facebook page for photos (on link). Finally thanks to everyone who came along – you really made it a fabulous celebration of such a special place."

Keep up to date with what's happening by subscribing to the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/moore.catchmentcouncil> or subscribing to our mailing list by contacting MCC on moorecc@bigpond.com "



Carnaby's Black Cockatoo face an uncertain future in WA. This once widespread bird is now reduced to a population of only around 40,000 and continued destruction of its habitat can only mean numbers will reduce further. Fortunately there are people who care enough to help save the bird species from extinction, and some of these carers attended the Moore Catchment Council's Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Information Day in Guilderton on 27th October. Rachel Walmsley MCC's NRM Officer said "This info day was held as part of the MCC's State NRM Program funded project to create 10 ha of Carnaby's forage habitat between Gingin and Guilderton using native plant species."



Left: Carnaby Day speakers I-r Jess Lee Birdlife Aus, Keith Lightbody, Sarah Mason, Nat Vallance & Wally Kerkhoff.

Below: Keith gave a fascinating show and tell on his photography and equipment he uses. Keith is an award winning photographer who champions Carnaby's. Keith was the winner of the threatened species category in the 2014 ANZANG Nature Photographer of the Year with this amazing photograph. Well done Keith !

The day involved five interesting speakers that included Jess Lee from Birdlife Australia who talked about the annual Great Cocky Count, Sarah Mason from Calingiri who talked about revegetation on her farm, Keith Lightbody who shared his fabulous Carnaby's photography, Wally Kerkhoff from Moora who



talked about his Carnaby's conservation group, and Nat Vallance from Muchea Tree Nursery who talked about native plant species to suit soil type and gave away seedlings.



Nat also brought along Bob the rescued Red-tailed Cockatoo who kept everyone awake with his chattering ! To wind up the day, a Carnaby's quiz was held with the winners receiving a signed Keith Lightbody framed photo. Rachel said "the fun quiz tested everyone's new knowledge about how to identify Carnaby's and their habitat. Well done to winners Libby Sturrock, Karen Barfield and Sue Pedrick who all received one of Keith's fabulous Carnaby's photos."



Left: three lucky ladies snapped up fabulous signed Keith Lightbody framed photos after coming top in the Great Carnaby Quiz. Well done Libby, Karen and Sue ! Pictured here with Keith (left) and Wally Kerkhoff - Moora Carnaby carer

MCC recognised at Regional Community Awards

The Regional Achievement and Community Awards selected Moore Catchment Council (MCC) as a finalist in the CSBP Environment Award category this year. The aims and objectives of The Regional Achievement & Community Awards are to encourage, acknowledge and pay tribute to individuals, communities, businesses and groups who are making a significant contribution to regional and rural areas.

MCC is a community driven not-for-profit organisation set up in 1995 to "maintain and improve the health of the Moore River environment by communicating natural resource management and encouraging maximum sustainable use of resources." MCC works at grass roots level to build community capacity in conserving the Moore River catchment against current and impending threats. Achievements include the successful completion of 39 projects to the value of \$4.5 million over the past 19 years, with 8 more projects in progress. Rachel Walmsley NRM Officer at MCC said "it was a great honour to have been selected as one of the four finalists in the CSBP Environment category this year – everybody at MCC was excited to attend the award ceremony on the 14th November at the Perth Exhibition & Convention Centre. We didn't win but we still had a hugely enjoyable night ! Well done to Karratha Enviro Group who took home the \$2000 prize."



Above: MCC on the big screen.
Above right: MCC receives a framed certificate from Trevor from CSBP for being an Environment Award finalist



Above: Cheers to MCC !! L-r Jennifer Bairstow, Peter Waterhouse, Helen Watkins, Rachel Walmsley, Tony White, Reg and Veronica Beale, Lawie and Jill Short

500 native seedlings for Carnaby's given away at Moora show

MCC had plenty of seedlings to give away at the Moora show this year. The 500 seedlings were part of the State NRM Program funded project to increase forage habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in the region. More than 60 people took away seedlings and information on what the seedlings were and how to plant and care for them.



Inspection of the seedlings at the Maya State NRM Program project Malleefowl site in early November proved very encouraging. Rachel went along with Fiona Falconer to check on the seedlings progress, see what species was doing the best, and work out what to order for additional planting in 2015 using remaining funds. The site had received a good start but hot spells during August and a dry spring could have caused issues. But it was a pleasant surprise to see the success rate so far and rate of growth. 25,000 more seedlings are ordered for 2015 to strength this new corridor and encourage movement of malleefowl in the region once again.



Eucalypt sp



Hakea recurva



Allocasuarina sp (Tamma)



Dodonaea inaequifolia (Hop Bush)

Moore mellow yellows for the festive season



The Moore sandplain is a vibrant sea of yellow at the moment.

Left: Christmas Tree - *Nuytsia floribunda*

Right: Morrison featherflower - *Verticordia nitens*



Farewell to long serving committee member at AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the MCC was held on Friday 31st October, 14 people attended the meeting. It is with regret that John Braid did not re-nominate for the committee, his wealth of knowledge has been greatly appreciated by the staff and Committee and he will be greatly missed.

The newly elected committee is Reg Beale (Chairperson), Tony White (Deputy Chair), Jennifer Bairstow (Secretary), Lawrie Short (Treasurer) and committee members Sarah Mason, Kay Reid, Duncan Peter, Peter Waterhouse and Kaye McGlew. Welcome Kaye McGlew to the committee.

Following the AGM Shane Love MP addressed the meeting with what was happen with Natural Resource Management within the State Government and also what is happening at the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC). Following Shane's presentation, Paul Lowney, General Manager Infrastructure and John Morrell, Environmental Advisor from Brookfield Rail gave an update on what is happening re the tree decline and chemical poisoning of trees on the railway system in the Moore Catchment Region.



Photo: V Beale

Above : Members of the MCC committee and Member for Moore Shane Love.
Top l-r - Lawrie Short, Reg Beale, Peter Waterhouse, Shane Love, Helen Watkins
Bottom l-r - Duncan Peter, Sarah Mason and Jennifer Bairstow

Carnaby's and Clean ups in Candy's Bush Reserve

Candy's Bush Reserve is a small but important patch of remnant Salmon Gum/Wandoo woodland on the edge of Moora. As part of a Moore Catchment Council's State NRM Program project to protect and promote the reserve, a small but dedicated group of volunteers from Friends of the Moora Woodlands and MCC got together on December 10th to remove rubbish. Rachel Walmsley MCC's NRM Officer said "The group spent three hours ridding the reserve of old car batteries, a pram, a fan, a microwave, car exhausts, and hundreds/thousands of bits of glass from broken beer bottles. All this rubbish was discarded before the reserve was fenced in 2013. Before then it was a dumping ground and place to hoon about and smash bottles but now it is a clean and safer place to visit."

Additional thanks to the Shire of Moora for allowing a free tip pass and also for installing picnic tables near the reserve's eastern entrance.

Below: Clean up volunteers Frank, Harry and Marie remove a ute load of rubbish from Candy's Bush



One of the unexpected and exciting outcomes of the Candy's project so far came after two artificial nesting logs for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo were erected in the reserve in September 2013 by local Carnaby's carer Wally Kerkhoff. There are no trees old enough with hollows in the reserve to offer natural breeding so these artificial hollows provide a much needed alternative. There is also a shortage of hollows around Moora due to lack of suitable trees and competition from other birds and bees. Moora townsite is a designated Birdlife Important Bird Area for the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo with around 60 pairs coming to breed every winter.

"A pleasant surprise came in August this year when both boxes in Candy's became occupied by Carnaby's hens," said Rachel, "this is great news for both the species recovery and for Wally's design of nesting boxes. He uses natural hollow logs which he 'burns' the middle out to enlarge them. I accompanied Wally and the Shire on a nest check in late November and two healthy chicks were observed."



Above: Two nesting Carnaby's hens in the artificial nesting logs in Candy's Bush Reserve

Cont.....

There are a forty or so of Wally's nesting logs around Moora and most are occupied by Carnaby's year after year, although Wally has stated that no more should be erected due to the lack of forage habitat around town for the Carnaby's and their new chicks. Unfortunately success has to be scaled back sometimes which is no fault of Wally's. The Wally Kerkhoff Carnaby's Group's next plan to roll out more nesting logs in Coorow, Mogumber and Wannamal to help with breeding there.

Anyone wanting to find out more about Candy's Bush Reserve or Carnaby's then please phone Rachel Walmsley at Moore Catchment Council 9653 1355 or mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com

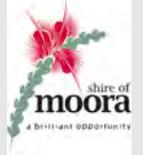


Above: Wally gets elevated thanks to the Shire



Above: a healthy Carnaby's chick

photo: W Kerkhoff



Concern for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in Mogumber Reserve

Concerns have been raised recently amongst the local community about expansion plans carried out by the Mogumber Outback Club for the rodeo events held in the Mogumber Reserve adjacent to the Oval. Permission was given by the Shire of Victoria Plains for the rodeo to be set up in remnant vegetation which needed shrubs and a certain number of trees to be removed and then covered in wood chip.

Unfortunately these expansion activities should have been passed through relative stakeholders before taking place due to the Shire run Reserve containing around 60 pairs of the endangered and Federally protected Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, as well as being a important site of Aboriginal Heritage. Members of MCC, Wally Kerkhoff Carnaby's Group, Yued Group and Friends of the Moora Woodland were mortified to see the rodeo equipment set up around an active Carnaby's nest containing a chick. This prompted an onsite meeting to be held with stakeholders and the Shire on why the rodeo is located at this site and what consultation procedures should have been carried out, followed by attendance of a Shire Council meeting in November by eight concerned community members to further voice concerns over control measures being implemented for the New Years rodeo and possible damage to surrounding bushland. Fencing and new control measures in place will hopefully allow only minimal impacts on the surrounding bush. Also by then, the Carnaby's chick will have left the nest (hopefully by flying out and not because it has died from all the noise and interference).



Photo: K Reid



Above: Active Carnaby's nest



Good news - new projects funded to help secure MCC

There is celebration in the MCC camp as three of the many projects submitted have been successful in receiving funding. This funding will not only help with getting more money on-ground to help with conserving natural assets in the Moore, it also helps secure MCC's future (for now) as an active community NRM group in the region.

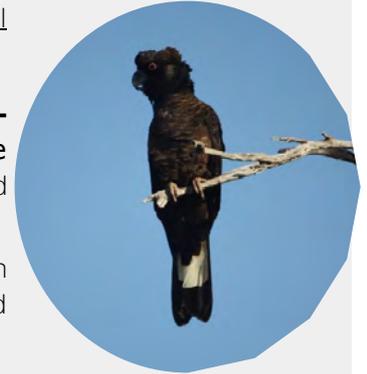
Two Carnaby's Black Cockatoo projects worth \$80,000 funded through the Federal Government's 20 Million trees program and 25th Anniversary Landcare grants program:

Increasing forage habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in Swan Coastal Plain IBA - this is a continuation project of MCC's mission to increase native forage habitat in the Moore region. This project will plant 20,000 seedlings on private land in-between Gingin and Guilderton .

Conservation of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in Moora IBA - this project focuses on building 10 artificial nesting hollows, planting 5,000 native forage plants along the river and fencing a 1ha remnant.

NACC coastal devolved grant program \$9,020

Interpretative signage for Guilderton - this grant will fund 9 signs to stop artificial sandbar breaching on the Moore estuary and show visitors Guilderton walk trails and what they might see. A unveiling event will open the new signage.



Awaiting confirmation on funding

MCC is awaiting decision on a number of project applications. Projects include:

State NRM Program

- "Further demonstration of NyPa Forage to stabilise saline land"
- "Protecting and enhancing the Moore River biodiversity assets"
- "Rehabilitation of the North Guilderton Dunes - stage 2"
- "Protecting Beermullah, Gillingarra and Miling biodiversity through invasive pest control"
- "Planting food for endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo in the Calingiri IBA"

Perpetual

"Conservation of the Moore River Catchment's threatened natural assets"



Above: Guilderton dunes - Geraldton Wax

Upcoming events

- ★ 30th January **MCC Ordinary General Meeting, Moora - all invited to attend.** Call MCC 9653 1355 for more details
- ★ 16th February **NyPa Grass field day, Gillingarra.** More details John Longman 9653 1672



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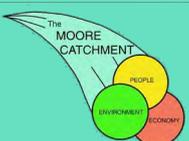
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All photos within this publication have been taken by Rachel Walmsley, unless indicated otherwise