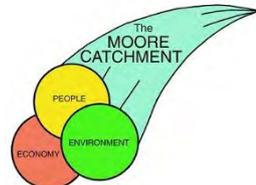


MOORE to the point



Serving the Moore River catchment since 1995

Moore Catchment Council
1 Padbury Street,
PO Box 337, Moora WA 6510
Tel: 9653 1355 Fax: 9653 1366
www.moorecatchment.org



Issue 37 Summer 2015

Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 37th *Moore to the Point* newsletter. We've had loads of positive outcomes recently with new projects funded and great feedback on other projects, unfortunately funding for employing staff & running MCC has become a big issue. Lets hope Santa & NRM elves can sort something out editor *Rachel*

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Successes and looming disappointments

Moore Catchment Council are extremely pleased to announce five new projects that have recently been approved worth just over \$200,000. 3 projects through the State Natural Resource Management Program/Royalties for Regions program, 1 project through the National Landcare Program, and 1 project through Northern Agricultural Catchments Council.



State Natural Resource Management Program/Royalties for Regions

- '1) *Conserving and enhancing the Moore's natural biodiversity assets*' - native revegetation on a number of farms and west of Moora on Shire land; enhancement of Dalaroo Reserve and engagement of Yued works crew.
- '2) *Enhancing Mogumber Town Reserve as a local natural asset*' - creation of 2 walk trails with signage, community revegetation of tracks.
- '3) *Planting food for endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in the Gillingarra important bird area*' - creation of forage habitat on private land at Gillingarra and New Norcia, and around Gillingarra community hall; Carnaby's info event; Carnaby's signage.



Photo: K. Lightbody

National Landcare Program 20 Million Trees Program

4) *Increasing breeding habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in the Moore Catchment*' - creation of breeding/forage habitat on private/public land; engaging a local Yued planting team.

Northern Agricultural Catchments Council Coastal devolved grants program

5) *Rehabilitation of the North Guilderton dunes*' further revegetation to the degraded tracks on the north Guilderton dunes.

2015 ROUND UP - MCC are a major multi tasker. We only have **2 staff** - 1x 0.9fteq and 1x 0.2fteq. In 2015 MCC ran and **completed 6** projects, is currently **managing 10** projects, and has just received **5 new** ones. Phew that's an awful lot of projects !!! In addition at least a **dozen** grant applications were researched and submitted, achieved State **Awards Finals** twice, and fought for **causes** such as the Mogumber Town Reserve. Seriously, how do we do it with 1.1 staff ???!!



And now for the disappointments.....Natural Resource Management (NRM) has been falling out of favour with the Federal and State Governments for some time. Because of this, only small buckets of money are now offered for the sorts of NRM projects MCC does - **revegetation and conservation projects, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo projects, innovative sustainable ag projects, engaging communities including schools, youth & local Yued Aboriginals etc.** Within these projects, only a miniscule amount can be allocated to employing a project officer and administering the projects. MCC already works on a shoestring but **IT IS NOT ENOUGH** !! We have run out of money and need additional funds to survive as an organisation and continue doing the good works. Landcare in WA cannot be run effectively just by volunteers.

Do you value MCC as a local landcare group?

Do you wish to see them continue?

Can you help out financially? We need to raise \$70,000 asap to continue for the next 12 months. We can't reward you with gimmicky prizes and keepsakes but we can certainly recognise you :)



Donate Now

<http://www.moorecatchment.org.au/Donations/DonationForm%20MCC.pdf>

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.

Candy's Bush ecological & Aboriginal project completed

MCC is happy to announce the completion of the 'Conservation of Candy's Bush Reserve through Traditional & ecological knowledge sharing' project funded through the State Natural Resource Management Program. Many achievements have come out of this multi stakeholder project including a new walk trail with signage and accompanying booklet, and a better understanding of Yued and Noongar culture.



Funded through:

Candy's Bush reserve ready for exploring

A group of people from near and far gathered at Candy's Bush Reserve Moora on Friday 23rd October to witness the official opening of the new walk trail and signage project that Moore Catchment Council has been running. Candy's is an eight hectare Salmon Gum and Wandoo remnant on the edge of Moora which is important to conserve from ecological, heritage and social aspects. The overall aim of the project is to designate Candy's Bush Reserve as a natural asset to look after and for all to enjoy for years to come.

This project has been funded through the WA State Natural Resource Management program and partnered the Shire of Moora, Friends of the Moora Woodlands, Yued community, Department of Parks & Wildlife Land For Wildlife program, and Kerkhoff Carnaby's group. Rachel Walmsley, MCC's NRM Officer said "We started the event with a Welcome to Country by Colin Headland, a Moora Yued member who explained the Aboriginal relevance of the reserve, and then proceeded to unveil a memorial to Jim Pond - founding chairman of the Friends of the Moora Woodlands group and driver of the perimeter fencing project carried out in 2013."

Proceedings moved on to the walk trail and trailhead signage which was officially opened by doing a joint cutting of the ribbon with all the stakeholders. A walk trail companion booklet was also handed out detailing the history of the reserve, Yued heritage, and what flora and bush tucker you can find (additional booklets will be available from the Moora CRC and Shire office). Rachel continued "Talks about the Carnaby's Black cockatoo artificial nests and revegetation efforts followed before Fiona Falconer, local flora guru led the group on a walk through the reserve. On return, a picnic lunch was served and then Vince Candy (who now lives in Geraldton) shared how the reserve gained its name before Father Bernard from New Norcia closed the event by making a blessing." Rachel concluded "Many thanks to everyone who helped get this project finished especially Marie Carter for gathering information, the Shire for installing all the signs and ground works, and to Joley Holliday for taking all the photos on the day."



Huge turn out for Candy's opening event



Ribbon cutting time with stakeholders



New trailhead and walk trail signage at Candy's Bush



Jim Pond's memorial: FoMW & Merrel Pond

Benefits of bush plants shared at workshop

The Australian Bush is full of plants to sustain you – plants to eat, plants to provide water, and plants to make you feel better both physically and mentally. A huge audience from all over the Midwest came to Moora to listen to Brookton **Noongar Viv Hansen and Beyond Garden's Steve McCabe talk about native plants and how to use them.** First up was Viv (and her husband Moort) who took us through local medicinal plants and uses. **Rachel Walmsley, MCC's NRM Officer said "This workshop was designed to be hands-on. We all got busy chopping up Eucalyptus leaves and cooking them in oil to create 'Moora Magic' - a multi-use skin balm. We also bashed up Sandalwood nuts and mixed with other ingredients to make a Sandalwood skin scrub. Finally we made pot pourri and bouquets by chopping and mixing different leaves, flowers and nuts - Eucalypts, Melaleucas, Sandalwood, Verticordias etc. Heavenly scents wafted through the room all morning !!" Viv was also kind enough to give away a door prize. Lucky winner was local Yued Elder Charlie Shaw - well done to Charlie and well deserved after Charlie was the original inspiration for this workshop.**



Boiling up Eucalyptus leaves for the oil balm



Bush day participants busy grinding



Turn sandalwood nuts into scrub



People came from all over to attend the day



Charlie Shaw won the door prize

After lunch, Steve took us through bush foods and introduced us to plants that the Aboriginals used for generations but have been **forgotten about in recent times. Rachel said "Modern palates are only used to a handful of commercial food sources which have had a lot of the goodness bred out. Australia is full of highly nutritious foods - just need to know where to look."** Steve talked about tubers as a food source, and the group were introduced to the Chocolate Lily and Bullrush as nutritious foods. As a conclusion, Steve led some of the participants around Candy's Bush Reserve to see what bush foods could be spotted.

Rachel said "Many thanks to the speakers, the State Natural Resource Management Program for the funding, and to everyone who came along. It was a delightful workshop to be a part of and we hope to run a follow up one next year subject to funding - **watch this space !!**"



Looking for bush foods in Candy's Bush Reserve

Stabilising unproductive land using NyPa grass

The Cudoralcarra lake west of Moora was a hive of activity on 27th August, as a team of twenty planters with shovels embarked on planting 8,000 stems of NyPa Forage grass for the Hamilton family. The project was initiated by Jim Hamilton as he sought a way to stabilise the degraded soil around the lake and provide stock feed if needed.

Moore Catchment Council (MCC) are running this innovative project in partnership with the Hamiltons, NyPa Australia and Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group using funding through the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council's (NACC) Federally funded Sustainable Agriculture demonstration sites program. Rachel Walmsley, MCC's NRM Officer said "NyPa Forage is a perennial salt loving native American forage grass that has been selectively bred over the past 20 years. The NyPa plants have an exceptional capacity to move salt out of the water that it takes up in respiration, this is due to its deep root structure and it's very efficient salt gland." NyPa Forage has featured in a remediation project at Gillingarra and has showed a considerable ability to stabilise a bare salt affected paddock.



John Leake, NyPa Australia, and Raymond Matthews from Wickepin, an experienced NyPa grower, delivered the seedlings and also instructed the planting crew on how to plant into the pre-prepared rip lines. Rachel said "Jim also wanted to have a go with planting using a tractor and tree planter to see if that was an effective planting method. Unfortunately it just wasn't as efficient as the hand planters. Hand-held tree planters also didn't work because the plants are bare rooted and have no weight." The planting team, whose normal job is picking local oranges, planted all the seedlings in less than 3 hours.

The demonstration site has been split into 3 densities – 1, 2 and 4 metres as an experiment. A follow up field day in Autumn 2016 will show off the project site and also be an opportunity for local farmers to investigate NyPa for their own properties.

A video of the NyPa site with interviews with the farmer, NyPa Aus and Raymond Matthews can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/kfqmZDGryIA>



Hand planting team - made easy work of planting 8,000 NyPa tillers



Hand planting the NyPa tillers

John Leake and Jim Hamilton



NyPa - the answer to the extreme salt problem??

Funded through:

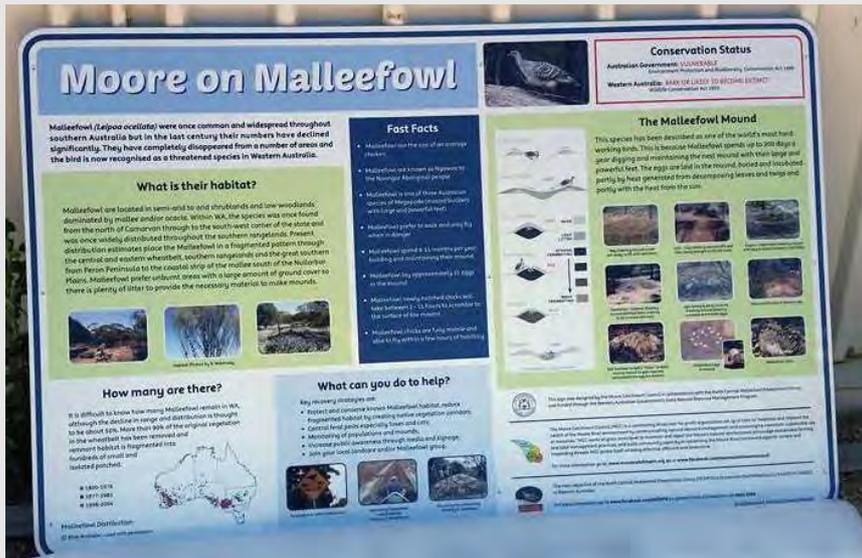




New Malleefowl habitat

MCC are happy to announce the completion of the 2014/15 State Natural Resource Management Program funded Malleefowl project. Outcomes include 50,000 native seedlings planted (40ha) as a Malleefowl corridor on Maya property by a farmer. A large mix of seedlings (27 species including 6 Acacias, 4 Eucalypts, 2 Allocasuarinas, 10 Melaleucas and 2 Hakeas) were planted to ensure variety of habitat. Additional outcomes included helping to finance the North Central Mallee Fowl Preservation Group's September training event and creating interpretative signage.

MCC has received additional funds to increase the Maya Malleefowl habitat in 2016 through a joint project with Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group funded through the Gunduwa Regional Conservation Association. Information on Malleefowl and Carnaby's Black Cockatoo was presented on a poster at the September State NRM Conference in Mandurah.



New Malleefowl signage for Latham and Maya



Rachel & Helen at the NRM Conference

Moora Shire eco trail booklet project update

MCC have been working on a project to help encourage visitors to the Shire of Moora to get out and enjoy nature. There really is so much to appreciate around the Shire but people just don't know where they can go. This project, funded through the Wheatbelt Development Commission, involves the creation of a walk trails booklet which will map where there are walks and places to visit in the Moora Shire. It also has enabled a joint project with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, funded through Lotteryswest, to upgrade the visitor facilities at Jingemgia Cave, north of Watheroo. Currently there is no signage at Jingemgia explaining its presence in the landscape. It will be up mid 2016.



Above: Brad Rushforth (DPAW) checking out the Acacia at the cave site.

Fact: Did you know that 20,000 tons of guano was removed from the cave ??



Left: Jingemgia Cave is a collapsed Chert doline. It is situated on the edge of the Watheroo National Park

Funded through:



Guilderton grows native plants for dune restoration

Local provenance is vitally important in revegetation programs. On Friday 13th, 20 local people attended a native plant propagation workshop in Guilderton as part of the Moore Catchment Council's State Natural Resource Management Program funded project to help rehabilitate the degraded tracks on the dunes north of Guilderton. Rachel Walmsley MCC's NRM Officer said "The aim of the day was to equip the participants with the skills and knowhow to grow seedlings from local plant cuttings and seed. In addition, we hope that the community will grow some seedlings for the planting day in June 2016, which will not only save a few \$\$\$ on seedlings but will also ensure 100% local provenance."

Dave Bright of Regen4 Environmental Services led the group through how to select and take cuttings, and grow native seeds. An excursion out on to the dunes ID'ed plants and gathered material for a practical session on planting. Each participant went away with a mini greenhouse of cuttings and pots of planted seed. Rachel said "Hopefully in 4-6 weeks they'll be lots of new plants which will be potted on and looked after until the community planting day in June 2016. Huge thanks to Dave for running a really interesting and engaging workshop, and thanks to the Guilderton Country Club for allowing us to make a mess !!"



Out on the dunes collecting plants to propagate



Dave showing how to prepare cuttings



Bob Johnson & Phil Cook show off their pot



Linda Johnson busy dibbing to plant cuttings



Show us your pots !!

Funded through:



More seedlings for the Guilderton dunes

MCC has been able to secure extra funding for more seedlings for the Guilderton North Dunes through NACC's Coastal Devolved scheme. The seedlings will be used to help revegetate the degraded tracks. The 2015 plantings have worked well so these additional plants will complement those. The community planting day is earmarked for **Sunday 12th June 2016**.

Funded through:



The three Carnaby's Black Cockatoo projects that MCC are running at present in Moora, around Calingiri, and between Gingin and Guilderton are ticking along. The really wet start gave way to a dry spring and now the seedlings must endure a long hot summer. Hopefully a few summer storms will provide a much needed drink.

Between winter and summer, the Carnaby's head to the wheatbelt to breed in the hollows of old Salmon Gums and Wandoo. There isn't many of these hollows left, and those left can be taken over by bees, other birds or possums. Luckily around the district people are erecting artificial hollows to help out the Carnaby's. Lots of people do it, and they can be made of wood or more recently plastic. Wally Kerkhof, from Moora, has been making them out of fallen trees for what seems like forever !! MCC has been following and helping Wally and the Kerkhof Carnaby's group as they erected new nesting logs, and monitored new and existed logs. Two new nests were installed in the newly fenced 1ha Drummond St remnant. They were installed on Wednesday 16th September and occupied by Saturday 19th September !! Unbelievable speed of uptake. This means that there is a demand for these nesting logs.

Monitoring of the nests has happened in December. This is useful to find out whether the logs have been successful or not. There are around 50 artificial nests in Moora. The hen will lay 2 eggs (one as back up) and normally 1 hatches after about 28 days incubation. A selection of babies are below including twins found in 3 nests - which is very rare. One set did not survive due to possums. Wally estimates around an 85% success in healthy chicks which is great news.



Above: 2 new nesting logs on Drummond St. Both occupied by hens. One healthy chick, one dead chick - unknown reason for death



Loads of new Carnaby's chicks in Moora this year including 3 sets of twins.

Males have black beaks, females have white beaks

They only leave the nest when fully formed and don't return

Successful breeding programs are great but the Carnaby's still need food. They feed on understory scrub - Banksias, Hakeas, and Grevilleas which all too easily gets dismissed as 'rubbish' or 'pointless' by landowners. This is the important stuff to keep!!!! MCC, along with a number of concerned community, have been raising awareness of Eucalypt woodlands and retaining the understory scrub at the Mogumber Town Reserve which was set to be removed. The 'greenies' have been in consultation with the Victoria Plains Shire to help elevate the need in conserving remaining remnants as there are so few left. The Federal Government has just announced that the WA Wheatbelt Eucalypt Woodlands to be classed as 'Critically Endangered' under the EPBC Act. Hopefully this will help boost conservation projects throughout the wheatbelt.

Videos of Carnaby's nest log monitoring with Wally's commentary can be found here on You Tube links:

Moora Twins (1min) - https://youtu.be/h8Ivgrfi_8o

Mogumber monitoring (1min) - <https://youtu.be/D1IhzPmjXsY>

More accolades for Moore Catchment Council

Moore Catchment Council (MCC) is extremely proud to be finalists of not one, but two prestigious awards this year. These accolades reflect the hard work and on-going dedication that the MCC has in helping to manage natural resources in the Moore River catchment. MCC reached the final of the WA Landcare Awards in September in the Fairfax Media Community Group category, and was a finalist in the WA Regional Achievement and Community Awards for the second year running in the Landcorp Sustainability category. Members of the committee attended a packed gala dinner on 6th November in Perth to find out the winner. Rachel Walmsley, MCC's NRM Officer said "MCC were thrilled to reach the final of two awards this year. We missed out on the Landcare Award title and unfortunately also lost out to City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder in the WA Regional Achievement and Community Awards. But to get down to the last four out of two dozen nominees is pretty amazing and for that we are extremely proud".

Now in its 20th year, Moore Catchment Council is a 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." A community driven natural resource management (NRM) group, MCC works at grass roots level to build community capacity in conserving the Moore River catchment against current and impending threats.



MCC's staff & committee Rachel Walmsley, Peter Waterhouse, Helen Watkins, Reg Beale & Kay McGlew



Keep up to date !! Click on above link to join us online, or find us on Fbook at **Moore Catchment Council** . Please **LIKE** us to have regular info on your feed :)



Huge thanks to the below who have helped MCC financially in 2015



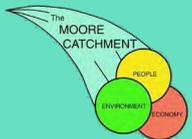
Moore Catchment Council



Rachel Walmsley
NRM officer
9653 1355
0409 296 264
mcc.nrm@bigpond.com



Helen Watkins
Executive Officer
9653 1355
0428 514 292
moorecc@bigpond.com



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