

MOORE to the point



Natural Resource Management Update Issue 11 Winter 2008

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Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 11th *Moore to the Point* quarterly newsletter. This quarter we have extended the newsletter to allow us to include even more stories on present NRM projects, available grants and useful information. If you have any articles or updates that you would like to see in future newsletters or wish any additional information, please contact the MCC in Moora.

Editor, Rachel Walmsley

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Brush wood project | 2 |
| 2008 WA NRM conference | 3 |
| Grants - funding for your project | 3 |
| Boneseed - threat to native plants | 4 |
| Local NRM leaves MCC | 4 |

Watheroo Farmer Puts Salt Scald Back into Production

With the increase in salinity in a low lying area and the dying of native York gums on Vicki and Chris Martin's property in Watheroo, something needed to be done. In two short years, even with the drought conditions, they have transformed a barren salt scald with nothing growing but spiny rush into productive pasture as well as reducing groundwater and providing habitat for native fauna. This project was funded through the Commonwealth Government's Envirofund program with the assistance of Moore Catchment Council and equally matched by the landholders. Vicki stated that without the assistance of the Envirofunds funding, this project would never have been undertaken. It involved planting saltbush, oil mallees, and privately funded rhagodia to increase groundwater use in the area. Ten kilometres of fencing was also installed to protect the creek from stock, allowing native bluebush and grasses to flourish. Fencing has also been erected around native bush stands and in the future the Martins' aim to link these blocks with corridors of native vegetation. On doing this project, Vicki remarked "you can have your land looking bad or you can do something about it!"



Before: Salt scald two years ago - bare & unproductive

Pic: P Martin



Now: Site as it looks today with year old river saltbush in rows

Pic: R walmsley

Moore River Sub-region Strategies and Action Plan



Northern Agriculture Integrated Management Strategy

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 any of the information.

Get Your Tree Planters Ready for Broombrush

Now is the time to start thinking about planting your broombrush seedlings for 2008. For those of you who have been lucky enough to have a good start to the season, congratulations, and to the rest of you, we will keep our fingers crossed. To help you get the most out of your trees this year Georgie Troup, Brushwood Project Manager has planned two workshops that are aimed at giving you some new skills to increase the survival rate of your tree planting.

These workshops entitled **'Tips & Tricks for Successful Planting'** are to be held on the **26th June** at Miling and Coorow. To register your interest in attending one of these workshops please contact Georgie Troup on 0408 675 787 or Moore Catchment Council on 9653 1355.

Brushwood project update;

This year we have 430,000 broombrush seedlings growing in nurseries for the brushwood project. All of these seedlings have been allocated to landholders across the Northern Agricultural Region. Over 70 people have been directly involved in planting broombrush in 2006 & 2007 in the Northern Agricultural Region. The past two years of the project has resulted in specific areas of broombrush established in a 30km radius of the following towns:

1. Moora
2. Coorow
3. Morawa
4. Dalwallinu
5. Kalannie
6. Bindi Bindi
7. Calingiri



Melaleuca plantation near Yerecoin

Hand tree planting



Pics: G Troup

In 2008 there are 16 farmers planting broombrush on unproductive land.

- ◆ 50% of these farmers are new to this project, and have never planted broombrush previously.
- ◆ 90% of project sites in 2008 are affected by salinity, and farmers are planting broombrush to stop the spread of salinity.
- ◆ One farmer is planting broombrush on Wodjil sands to prevent wind erosion.

To monitor the water use capabilities of broombrush Georgie has been conducting a bore monitoring program which checks the 25 bores for water level at 12 properties throughout the region every 6 weeks since September 2006. This data can be used to compare the water table levels of the plantations with that of the surrounding land use.

Of the 1.25 million seedlings planted on more than 185ha of salt affected land, we had an average survival rate of 80% during 2 of the harshest tree planting seasons. From these survival rates we now have the knowledge of where the broombrush grows best in the medium rainfall zone (MRZ) and low rainfall zone (LRZ) of the Northern Agricultural Region.

If you are interested in planting broombrush on your property, or would like some support in managing your plantation contact Brushwood Project Manager - Georgie Troup on 0408 675 787 or Georgie.troup@bigpond.com

2008 WA Natural Resource Management Conference, 'Bridging the Barriers to Better NRM' Bridgetown 31st March - 3rd April

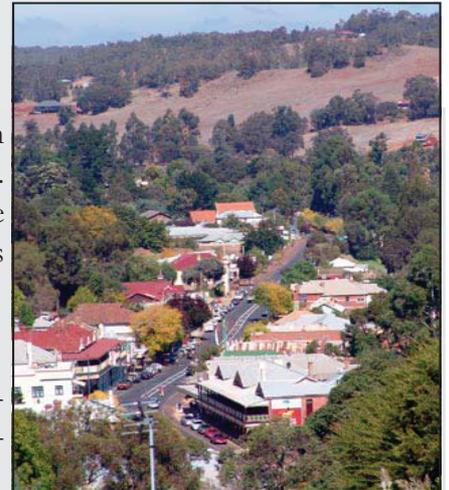
The Moore Catchment Council's NRMOs and Project Officers travelled down to Bridgetown at the beginning of April to attend the state NRM conference. It was a very enjoyable and hugely informative few days hosted by the Blackwood Basin Group which involved seminars, networking and discussions on all things NRM related.

Keynote speakers included :

Ian Kieran - *Clean up Australia*, John Dee - *Planet Ark*, Peter Andrews - *Natural Sequence Farming*, Peter Dingle - *Murdoch Uni*, Graham Marshall - *Institute of Rural Futures & CSIRO & IPCC.*

A number of different concurrent sessions were attended on various subjects including: Regional tools for grassroots natural resource management, Improving the link between a healthy land and a healthy life, NRM & the Nyungar cultural landscape, Alternative industries: cash cows or white elephants, Climate change & carbon, Wheatbelt future models.

Field trips were undertaken to the Greenbushes tantalum mine and Eco Discovery centre, and the Blue Ridge Marron farm. Both proved highly interesting and demonstrated the diverse range of enterprises happening in the south west of WA.



Above pics: Picturesque Bridgetown and the GNK Aboriginal dance group who opening the ceremony

Pics: NRM conference website

Grants

The Federal Government has announced the 'Caring for our Country' NRM program but specifics have yet to be decided apart from the Coastcare grant. An updated status will appear in the next newsletter.

Grants currently available that may be of interest to NRM projects:

- ⇒ Community Coastcare Grant - apply by 25th July - up to \$250,000
www.nrm.gov.au/funding/coastcare
- ⇒ Gordon Reid Lotterywest Grant - ongoing - up to \$15,000
www.lotterywest.wa.gov.au
- ⇒ Green vouchers for schools - ongoing - up to \$50,000
www.environment.gov.au/greenvouchers
- ⇒ Indigenous Protected Areas Program - due to open in 08 - no figure at present
www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/funding
- ⇒ Coastwest Community Support Grants - ongoing - up to \$3000
www.wapc.wa.gov.au
- ⇒ Helping Hands (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal) - next rounds 6th Aug & 27th Oct - up to \$50,000
www.frrr.org.au

If you are interested in finding out more about any of the funding that is mentioned here or others that are available then don't hesitate to phone or visit the MCC office.

We need your ideas - with new government NRM funding, MCC is looking for project ideas in your area. Feel free to phone for a chat to discuss options.

Local Natural Resource Management Officer Amelia Glass is leaving the Moore Catchment Council after two years with the organisation. She is off on a years working holiday to the UK and Germany starting in June. On working for the MCC, Amelia says "I will be sad to leave as this job has allowed me to learn a lot about natural resource management and working with community groups as well as meeting a lot of great motivational people. Its exciting for me to have seen the various projects develop over the time I have been here and I am grateful to have worked on projects such as the Red Gully and the Creating Productive Saltbush Pastures on Saline land project. I look forward to working with everyone again one day in the future". Good



bye and good luck to Amelia. She will be missed.

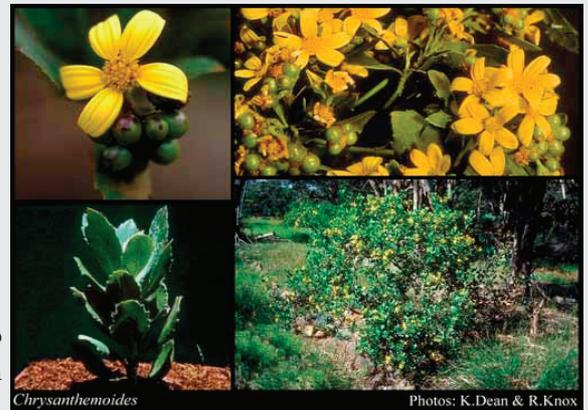
Local NRM staff at Amelia's leaving party at Gillingarra (l-r Bronwyn Williams, Amelia Glass, Philippa Schmucker, Rachel Walmsley, Jo Manning & Lana Kelly) Photo: R Walmsley

Upcoming Events in 2008:

- * 19th June - *Maximising benefit from your soil test workshop* (64883827 Tim Lardner)
- * 22nd June - *Ledge Point Coast Care workshop* (0409885574 Jan Richards)
- * 26th June - *Tips & Tricks for Successful Tree Planting Workshops* (Georgie Troup 0408675787 or 96534355) Miling & Coorow
- * 26th June - *Evergreen Pastures for Profit workshop* (94750753 Charlene Kolman) Dandaragan
- * 14-18th July - *Fundamentals of Groundwater science course* (82015632)
- * 25th July - *What Next to Stop the Water meeting* (0438924208 Bronwyn Williams) Gillingarra
- * 20th Aug (Dandaragan) & 21st Aug (Wongan Hills) - *Plant pathology identification course* (93831997 Julianne Hill)
- * 16-24th Aug - *National Science Week event at Gingin Observatory* (95757740 Carol Redford)

Invasive Weed Poses Threat to Native Vegetation

Boneseed is a weed of national significance that poses a threat to over 37 million hectares of Western Australia's remnant vegetation in the south west. With no natural enemies it grows quickly, colonising coastal and inland sites, shading out native seedlings and displacing native vegetation. Mature bushes can produce up to 50,000 seeds a year that may be spread by birds and other animals, through water, garden waste, and on vehicles, making boneseed exceptionally invasive. It is widespread in bushland in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, causing problems for reserves and bushland, agriculture and our communities. Boneseed is an erect woody shrub growing to 2-3m tall. It has fleshy, oval-shaped leaves with a toothed edge and green berries that ripen to black. It has bright yellow flowers that cluster at branch tips in August to October. In WA we still have the opportunity to control and eradicate this weed. If you see boneseed, report it to your local council or DAFWA. For further funding opportunities for weed removal in coastal areas, see page 3.



Chrysanthemoides Photos: K. Dean & R. Knox

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Australian Government

