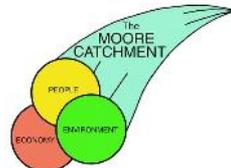


MOORE to the point



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Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 23rd *Moore to the Point* quarterly newsletter. MCC has welcomed the spectacular break to season and hopes everyone's revegetation projects go well this year. We've had lots going on in the last couple of months so enjoy the read. editor *Rachel Walmsley*

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Moore Natural Assets Information Day Well Received

The Moore Catchment's natural assets were the focal point of an information day held in Piawaning on the 6th July organised by the Moore Catchment Council. Over thirty people attended the event at the community hall which featured speakers from around the region talking about the wealth of natural treasures that the Moore River Catchment is home to. The day kicked off with a delicious morning tea catered for by the Yerecoin P&C, and was followed by Cheryl Gole and Claire Bartron from Birds Australia who talked about the Important Bird Areas of the Moore Catchment and the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Carnaby's are iconic birds of the region which need active conservation of its woodland habitat to ensure its survival. Fiona Falconer from DEC then talked about the Land For Wildlife scheme which provides one-to-one on-site advice for best conservation practice for remnant vegetation. Joe Tonga (NatSync) gave an animated presentation on the micro bats of southern WA and the artificial nest boxes he creates for them. Rachel Walmsley of MCC said "his passion for the protection of these critters was apparent throughout his talk and made him one of the highlights of the day for many people."

Ingrid Krockenberger from MCC then talked about the state NRM funded fencing and



Above: Crowd who came to find out about natural assets



Above: Claire talked about Carnaby's Cockatoo



Above: Joe showing the crowd his bat boxes

revegetation project which this info day is part of, and also bird surveys which were carried out on several of the project sites. Kylie Payne and Edna McLaughlin from the Roadside Conservation Committee gave a quick presentation on the upcoming roadside surveys in the Moora Shire of which they are looking for volunteers for the September surveys. An enjoyable lunch followed which included wonderful hot soup which helped warm many chilled bodies on this particularly cold day! After lunch, the presentations continued with Sarah Mason from Carrah Farms who is another passionate person with a long term ecological vision for her farm and is an inspiration for anyone wanting to reinstate native vegetation and farm alongside nature.

As a conclusion for the day, the group set out for a field visit to Vern Bailey's property to look at his past revegetation works. Rachel said "Vern has fenced off and re-planted many of his creeklines over the years including works carried out through the MCC East Moore project in 2008, and it all looks incredible." Rachel continued "The overlying message conveyed throughout the day was about creating connectivity in the natural environment by linking fragments of remnant vegetation to help increase habitat for native flora and fauna. I'd like to thank all the speakers, the Yerecoin P&C, the state government for funding the event and all those who came along for making it a great day."



Guilderton crowd enjoys Coastal Conversation event

Around 35 local community members gathered on Saturday 4th June in the Guilderton community hall to listen to Richard Weller speak about future population growth trends of Australia and its implications closer to home.

Richard, who is a Winthrop Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Western Australia and is Director of the Urban Design Centre of Western Australia, started out by explaining the population growth models of Australia predicted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The upper prediction of 42 million by 2056 is an increase of over 20 million people who will all need to be accommodated somewhere in Australia. Richard said 'this extra 20 million can be visualised by having to build 12 extra Perths or 5 more Sydneys to accommodate an extra 8.7 million houses'.

Coastal Conversations
with
Richard Weller
Future population growth of Australia and the Swan Coastal plain

Come and listen to this interesting talk about how Guilderton and other coastal towns on the Swan Plain will be affected by future population growth

When: Saturday 4th June
Time: 10am - 12pm
Where: Guilderton Community Hall
FREE for all - with morning tea provided courtesy of the Guilderton Community Association
RSVP: Rachel at MCC 9653 1355

Richard Weller:
Winthrop Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Western Australia (UWA) and Director of the Urban Design Centre of Western Australia.



Above: Richard sets the scene by saying there will be 6.5 - 10 billion people in the world by 2050 with most housed in cities

Richard went on to explain how CSIRO concluded in 2002 that there was only food, water, land and energy to provide a moderate lifestyle for 50 million people. Richard added that 'Perth is the most sprawled city on earth. Western Australians living a moderate lifestyle on a half hectare block in suburbia using all mod cons in fact impacts ecologically the equivalent of 14.5ha per person (58ha for family of 4) which is way above the 2.2 ha of the world average'.

Richard then talked about provision of energy for this increased Australian population. Richard said 'in order to power 42 million people using alternative energy, we would need a 9 million hectare wind farm, or a 255,000 hectare solar plant or 100 nuclear reactors'. He continued 'in addition 3.5 billion trees need to be planted to replace cleared remnant

vegetation and sequester carbon'.

Richard then showed the group models of how the predicted population of 4.2 million by 2056 in WA could be accommodated. One model showed the Australia dream of everyone living no more than 2km (25 minutes walk) from the beach and this resulted in a continuous urban coastal strip between Dongara and Dunsborough.



Above: Richard talking about landscape designs to achieve the most efficient modern cities

Richard also showed a possible scenario for Guilderton's population growth which promoted much debate from the group.

This event was organised by the Moore Catchment Council (MCC) as part of the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) federally funded Caring For Our Country Coastal Engagement program.



Rachel Walmsley of MCC says 'it was great to see so many local people here for this event. Richard 's talk was thoroughly interesting and thought provoking, and feedback from the participants has been extremely positive. I'd like to personally thank Richard for his time and the Guilderton Community Association for helping to organise and providing morning tea'.

Left: Rachel (MCC) thanks everyone for coming to the event



Recovery and Protection of the Moore River Catchment's Threatened Natural Assets – Bird Survey

This State NRM funded project aims to protect original vegetation remaining in the landscape, and aims to enhance the habitat value of natural and planted native vegetation. Habitat value of vegetation at a site can be measured by assessing the way in which certain animals use the site. In this case, birds were used to demonstrate habitat value.

Ornithologist Andrew Huggett conducted bird surveys for this project at 13 sites on 11 farms during autumn 2011. Andrew provided survey results that were presented by MCC at the "Value your Natural Assets" information day on 6 July – a comprehensive report will be available soon. Andrew observed the following during the autumn 2011 surveys.

Type of Vegetation	Birds Supported by that Vegetation
larger and/or better connected remnants	Core group of woodland-associated insect-eating and nectar-eating bird species (Inland Thornbill, Western Thornbill, Grey Shrike-thrush, Splendid Fairy-wren, Red-capped Robin, Grey Fantail, Rufous Whistler, Western Spinebill, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater)
remnants and older revegetation	Migratory and nomadic species (Grey Fantail, White-winged Triller, Western Gerygone, Western Spinebill, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Yellow-Plumed Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, White-backed Swallow and Little Button-quail)
medium and large-sized woodlands and shrublands	Woodland-dependent small insect-eaters, nectar-eaters, and hollow-nesting seed-eaters (Tree Martin, Red-capped Parrot, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo)
older (9 to 20+ year old) revegetation	Ground, shrub and canopy insect-eaters, ground seed-eaters, nectar-eaters, nectar-/insect-eaters, and omnivores (Western Gerygone, Grey Fantail, Rufous Whistler, Weebill, Splendid Fairy-wren, Red-capped Robin, Brown Honeyeater)
younger (4-8 year old) & structurally simpler revegetation	More resilient group of mostly insect-eating birds (Weebill, Willie Wagtail, Magpie-lark, Australian Magpie, Welcome Swallow)

The results link well with bird surveys conducted by Andrew in previous Moore River Catchment projects, including the MCC Revegetation of Natural Drainage Lines and Protection of Remnant Vegetation in the East Moore Catchment project and the NACC West Koojan-Gillingarra Catchment Demonstration Initiative project.

These surveys showed that remnant (uncleared native) vegetation supported more bird species than revegetated (planted) areas because remnant areas provide greater diversity in foraging, nesting and refuge opportunities. Furthermore, fenced remnant vegetation supported more bird species than unfenced remnants because fenced vegetation is protected from stock damage, so that understorey and groundcover remains intact.

Bird Survey continued:

The surveys showed that revegetated (planted) areas supported greater bird numbers, but fewer species, than remnant (uncleared native) vegetation. Older and more diverse revegetation sites with trees and shrubs forming canopy and understorey layers supported greater bird species diversity than younger, less layered revegetation.

Planted sites are less mature than remnant vegetation and can therefore have greater productivity, which supports greater bird numbers though fewer species due to lower diversity in the vegetation. Diversity in the structure and species composition of the vegetation supports diversity in the animals using the habitat.

Habitat value can be improved by protecting existing vegetation to allow greater structural complexity to develop, and by planning for diversity in revegetation by using a variety of species in plantings. Consideration must also be given to connecting vegetation through the landscape to allow movement and greater use of different parts of the landscape by animals. These areas on farms have an important role to play in the protection and conservation of wheatbelt animals such as birds.



Above. Proteaceous species, located at one of the surveyed sites in Gillingarra, are an important food source for Carnaby's Black cockatoo.



Improving Habitat and Connectivity in the Farming Landscape for Birds in the Moore River Catchment

MCC is pleased to announce success in their application to the State NRM Program 2011-12 Community Grants. Funding has been made available for "Improving Habitat and Connectivity in the Farming Landscape for Birds in the Moore River Catchment".

Recent projects in the Moore River Catchment have contributed to protecting habitat and improving habitat condition through fencing of remnant vegetation and revegetation, as part of a wider landscape design objective to enhance ecological connectivity. The new project builds on previous work by demonstrating, through bird monitoring, the effectiveness of fencing of remnant vegetation and revegetation for enhancing habitat value. Bird surveys provide information to develop conservation strategies for the birds themselves and for the habitat (sources of foraging, nesting and refuge) used by the birds, as well as serving as a proxy for other less noticed but equally important animals.

The project will provide new baseline data for alternative areas of revegetation such as fodder shrubs, as well as follow-up data from previous studies to demonstrate the effectiveness of efforts to protect habitat and improve habitat condition through fencing of remnant vegetation and revegetation. Incentives will be provided to landholders for fencing and revegetation of strategic sites identified through the project.

Important Bird Areas in the Moore River Catchment

Birds Australia has identified seven Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the Moore River Catchment. IBAs are places that are critical for the survival of special birds, such as birds that are vulnerable because they are rare and threatened e.g. Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.

Of the 23 IBAs designated for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, 7 are wholly or partly in the Moore River Catchment, making the catchment an



extremely important place for this Endangered bird. Feeding and nesting habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo occurs on public land such as nature and road reserves, and on private land such as farms, and even backyards in the town of Moora.

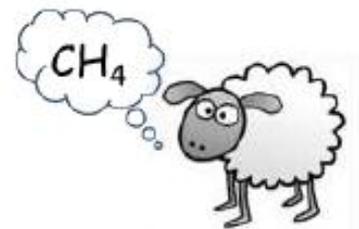
Left. Salmon gums (just outside Moora) provide nesting hollows.

There was quite a lot of interest in NACC's Carbon Farming Workshop conducted in Moora recently. Ben Keogh (Australian Carbon Traders) and Euan Beamont (Carbondiversity) were on hand to explain the Federal Government's Carbon Farming Initiative and opportunities for landholders to create carbon credits for the domestic and international carbon markets.

Phil Vercoe (University of Western Australia and Reducing Emissions from Livestock Research Program) amused and informed the audience on the perils of livestock emissions and the research into reducing rumen methane production. Particular attention was paid to plant bioactivity and the potential for multi-purpose grazing systems which include Australian native perennial shrubs to reduce methane emissions from livestock. (more info: <http://www.mla.com.au/Research-and-development/Research-programs-and-projects/Environment>)

Carbon and Farming

Although agriculture accounts for 15-20% of Australia's emissions, the agricultural sector has been excluded from having to pay for their emissions.



The **Carbon Farming Initiative** is a carbon offsets scheme that provides new economic opportunities for farmers and land managers, who will be able to generate credits that can then be sold to other businesses wanting to offset their own carbon pollution.

Credits can be earned from activities such as:

- reforestation and revegetation
- reduced methane emissions from livestock digestion
- reduced fertiliser pollution
- reduced pollution or increased carbon storage in agricultural soils (soil carbon)
- native forest protection
- reduced pollution from burning of stubble and crop residue

Detailed information: <http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Consolidated-Final.pdf>

NACC's CFOC On-ground Incentives - Out Now !

NACC have a number of Caring for Our Country funded incentives to help mitigate wind erosion and control rabbits. The tree crops incentive now has three options - oil mallees, sandalwood and brushwood. The fodder shrub (saltbush) incentive has a maximum incentive of \$8,000 which could help plant up to 47 ha of saltbush ! The rabbit control incentive is available in the Gingin and Woodridge target areas, and also to groups of farmers willing to take a strategic approach in controlling rabbits on a number of neighbouring properties.

If you're interested in any of these then give us a call to discuss on **9653 1355**.

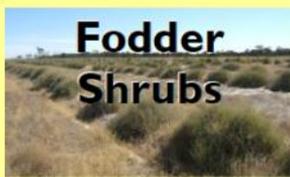


Tree Crops

Overview: Incentives available for Sandalwood host species, oil mallees and brushwood

What do I get?

- Up to \$500/ha
- Membership to industry group for one year ie Oil Mallee Association



Fodder Shrubs

Overview: Incentive available for saltbush and rhagodia sp. Also plain and mesh fencing

What do I get?

- Seedling - \$0.20 each
- Fencing - \$2,000/km (mesh). \$1,000/km (plain)



Perennial Pastures

Overview: Incentives available for sub tropical perennial grasses, tagasaste, fencing and watering point

What do I get?

- Pasture - \$85/ha
- Fencing - \$1,725/km (mesh), \$1,150/km (plain), \$575/km (electric)
- Watering point - \$1,000 each (max 1)



Strategic Revegetation

Overview: Incentives available for fencing, weed and rabbit control, and seedlings

What do I get?

- Fencing - between \$1,150 & \$3,450/km depending on size of area
- Re-veg - \$750 - \$1,000/ ha
- Weeds - \$30/ha/yr. Rabbits - various rates



Rabbit Control

Overview: Incentives for fencing, 1080 baiting, fumigation and warren ripping

What do I get?

- Baiting - \$20/km/yr. Phostoxin fumigation - \$20 per warren
- Warren ripping - \$50 per warren
- Exclusion fencing - between \$4,500 - \$6,700/km dependant on size

Farmer
focus

Who: Bob Hendry

Where: Flora Downs, Gillingarra

What: Cattle, sheep & crop

Env problems: wind erosion, rising ground water, salinity

NACC funded projects: CFOC Fodder Shrubs and perennial pastures, CDI perennials

MCC funded projects: Remnant vegetation fencing



Above: One of Bob's 2010 planted perennial paddocks

Bob's comments: 'I used to be a sheep and cattle farmer but now I see myself as a grass farmer. Setting up rotational grazing has enabled me to utilise my pasture better and these incentives have helped me to do this. I'm excited to show visitors the perennial pastures as they look fantastic. I also feel it is important to analyse failures to question where we went wrong.'



The MCC had an Ordinary General Meeting on the 20th May at the bowling club in Moora. After the formalities of the meeting, the MCC drove out to AgCorp Moora Citrus on Prices Rd to have a tour of the orchard. The weather was very blustery with intermittent heavy showers but that didn't dampened our enthusiasm for the tour. Ross Milne, Orchard Manager and Andrew Hinton, Irrigation Manager met us on site and explained the orchard overview during lunch. The site is 210ha in total with about 2/3 already planted. There will be 170,000 number of trees when fully operational. The majority of fruit will be for export as table fruit as opposed to juice, but they will also supply to the local market. They have already supplied oranges to the local supermarkets which was met with high praise.



Then, dodging the rain, we set out to have a look at the various blocks of citrus - Navels (Lanes late, Washington, Newhall, Leng, M7, Navelina, Caraerea), Midnight Valencias, Imperial and Afourer Mandarins. Ross showed us some orange fruit and offered it to try to show that it wasn't ripe as yet. The farm has been set up in blocks surrounded by wind break trees. They have also recently installed perennial grass (Rhodes) in the allies between the citrus to help control wind erosion and also reduce summer temperatures and reduce evaporation around the trees. Ross utilised the NACC incentive scheme

Above: Ross cuts up an orange fro Cynthia to try

for part of their perennial establishment.

We also had a look at the irrigation system which is centred around a huge 28 mega litre capacity dam. The orchard is set up using two irrigation systems - Galcon and Auto Agronom. The first one is a standard irrigation system and the second uses a tensiometer which decides when the tree needs water and nutrients by measuring how much moisture there is in the soil.

The afternoon proved very informative and we shall certainly go back when the orchard is in full production. Thanks to Ross and Andrew for showing us around.



Above: Andrew talks about the irrigation system at the orchard

Tree Planting equip

Moora roadside veg survey need you !

The MCC has five Pottiputki tree planters that are available for members to rent at **\$10** a day each. They are light and easy to use, and may save many a sore back from the planting of a large number of trees and shrubs!



We also have a moulder (3 point linkage), tree planter and seeder for hire at **\$50** each a day for MCC members. If you're interested in any of these items, then please phone the office for further details.

Have you got a few hours to spare in September to help map the roadside vegetation in the Moora Shire? The MCC and Roadside Conservation Committee are looking for volunteers to do just that. You will receive some simple training to help you identify key species and learn how to use the recording device. Then we would like you to adopt a road or two in the Shire and get recording ! We are also in talks with the Shire of Moora to rebate some of the fuel used by the volunteers.

These surveys will record the quality of roadside vegetation across the Shire and help plan future projects to protect and enhance it. Ring the MCC on 9653 1355 to find out how you can be involved.



Above: Map depicting that Moora has yet to carry out any roadside surveys compared to neighbouring Shires

Community weeding and planting day at Ledge Point

The last weekend in June is Ledge Point Coast Care Group's annual weeding and planting weekend - this year the 25th/26th June. Jan Richards, Ledge Point Coast Care group coordinator, rallied support from locals and weekenders to come and volunteer for a few hours Saturday and Sunday morning. Jan said "Saturday was spent tackling the weeds growing up amongst the natives on the dune system between the lookout and the beach access below Key Biscayne Park. Onion weed and pelargonium are a particular favourite of mine to remove." Many bags of these weeds were dug up and disposed of which made way for the new seedlings to be planted.

Planting day was on Sunday morning which attracted several volunteers to come and dig some holes. Jan said "seedlings funded through the recent Coastwest project and provided by NACC through their Caring for our Country funded Coastal Engagement program, were planted which included Olearia, Scaevola, Rhagodia, Eremophila and Threlkeldia." Jan continued "the Coastwest funding allowed some seed collecting to be carried out on the dunes last year and plants propagated by a local nursery. These included the Rhagodia, Eremophila and Threlkeldia being planted." The areas being planted this year included infill planting on an old pathway which was revegetated last year, and planting over an old beach access. This old access is being fenced off and revegetated to help guide people along the correct path to help reduce erosion on the dunes.



Above: Putting tree guards around the plants to help protect them



After planting, tree guards were put around the seedlings to protect them from the elements. These will be removed when the seedlings are well established. With the promised wet weather on the way these seedlings will hopefully get their roots down quickly and flourish.

A photopoint of last year's revegetation on an old pathway shows many plants have thrived and also that lots of self sown ones have filled in the gaps. Rachel Walmsley of MCC said "it's great to see last year's seedlings doing so well, it's made a real difference filling in the bare patches."



Jan rewarded all the hard working volunteers with a cuppa and chocolate biscuits which was much appreciated. Jan says "thanks to everyone who came along and helped out, and we look forward to next year's weeding and planting weekend."

Further information on Ledge Point coast care contact Jan Richards at ledgeptcoast-care@hotmail.com

Above: Yearly photopoint shows good annual growth

Upcoming events

- ★ 22nd July - MCC OGM, Moora 9653 1355
- ★ 28th July - Bugs & Boreholes workshop, Waddi Forest 9952 3255
- ★ 29th July - MMPIG winter party, Miling 0488 954 664

**Moore
Catchment
Council**



*protecting the natural resources
in the Moore River Catchment*



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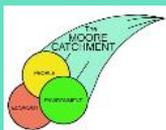


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FOR
OUR
COUNTRY