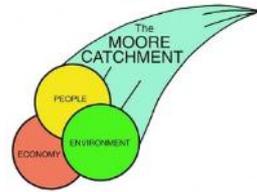


MOORE to the point



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.au

Issue 26 Winter 2012

Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 26th *Moore to the Point* newsletter. This newsletter has a bit of a coastal vibe with MCC organising and helping out with a number of events on the MCC stretch of coast over the past few months. Enjoy the read!

editor *Rachel Walmsley*

Inside this issue:

page

Turquoise coast bus trip review	2
NACC incentives - last chance offers	4
Saltbush 2011 success stories	5
Guilderton bird day flies high	5
Ledge community planting day	6
A unique seeding method !	8
MCC Futures workshop	8

Birds on Farms info day - a real hoot !

On a perfect winter's day, about 20 people gathered at Calingiri Hall on 4th July for Moore Catchment Council's Birds on Farms information day, as part of the State NRM funded project: *Improving Habitat and Connectivity in the Farming Landscape for Birds in the Moore River Catchment*.

Ornithologist, Andrew Huggett*, gave a presentation of his bird work on the project. There was plenty of local knowledge within the audience as well. This was followed by a site

visit to Sarah and Geoff Mason's excellent rehabilitated saline drainage lines, where the older plantings have been shown by Andrew's bird surveys to function in a similar way to remnant vegetation as habitat for birds.



Andrew has four key messages from his work in the Moore River catchment: (1) the high value of remnant native vegetation for bird habitat; (2) local bird communities are still reasonably diverse; (3) revegetation (planted vegetation) is providing important supplementary bird habitat, and; (4) there is good potential for re-connecting bush remnants with strategic plantings.



Andrew was asked the obvious question "but can't birds just fly from one patch of bush to another?" on the previous evening at his talk in Gillingarra. He explained how some species are reluctant to cross open ground due to the danger of predators. Connecting isolated patches of bush with corridors of vegetation allows these birds and other native animals to utilise larger and more diverse areas of habitat to live and breed. He showed real-life examples of how this can be achieved.

**Andrew Huggett has conducted numerous bird surveys in the sub-region through several different projects, including three projects with MCC. Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) paid for Andrew's services for the day, thanks to Greg Burrows and Marieke Jansen. NACC's contribution is greatly appreciated.*



Turquoise bus tour focuses on coastal rehabilitation

What started as a far flung idea discussed at a Ledge Point Coastcare event, soon became reality on Friday 18th May when the Explore the Turquoise Coast bus tour took to the Indian Ocean Road to look at coastal rehabilitation projects at Cervantes and Green Head, and to network likeminded coastal volunteers. Organised by the Moore Catchment Council (MCC) with help from the West Midlands Group (WGM) and funding from Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) through their federally funded Caring For Our Country (CFOC) program, the 45 seater bus didn't take long to fill up with interested coastal community members from Perth, Guilderton, Seabird, Ledge Point, Lancelin, Wedge, Cervantes and Jurien Bay.

Rachel Walmsley, Natural Resource Management Officer with MCC said 'We were overwhelmed with the level of interest for this bus trip with community travelling up from below Perth to come and look at what is happening on the coast up here. We were also fortunate to have Kingsley Dixon from Kings Park Herbarium and Cambridge Coastcare group come along and share his views of coastal ecology and conservation.'

The tour started with the bus picking up community from Guilderton, Ledge Point and was supposed to pick up at Wedge, but due to a slight error (missing road sign and Rachel talking !) the bus missed the turning and couldn't find a big enough turning space to U turn a bus. Luckily Penny Keenan from WGM was on-hand to run the passengers up to Cervantes where we all stopped for morning tea at the Seashell shack.

First stop after jumping back on the bus, was to a sand blow-out in the progress of being rehabilitated. Penny Keenan (WGM), Ashley Robb (NACC), Paul Robb (Cervantes Coastcare group) and Kingsley Dixon all commented on what had been tried already to help stabilise the sand which included jute matting, revegetation and hessian wind breaks. We then stopped at a Pyp grass control trial site which is trialling control methods for the rampant weed Pyp grass which a prevalent in this area. Dave Bright (Regen4 Environmental Services) was on hand to explain his dealings in controlling this weed.



Above: Sand blow-out at Cervantes



Above: Penny explains past works



Above: Kingsley Dixon adds his thoughts

The bus then made its way to Green Head where the group was met by the Green Head Coastcare group who won the prestigious 2011 State Landcare award for top Coastcare Group. The group's volunteers and Penny then took everyone on a tour of some of the rehabilitation works that had been carried out and also explained future projects including upgrading the footpaths for improved access. A fabulous lunch spread was on offer back at the rotunda and everyone filled their plate with salads, sandwiches and savoury bites plus delicious desserts, and then listened to Nic Dunlop from Conservation Council WA talk about the Citizen Science Project followed by Charlie Shaw of the Yued Aboriginal Group who gave insight to the Indigenous heritage of Green Head.



Above: Arriving at Green Head



Above: Penny introduces the group



Above: Fabulous Dynamite Bay

Everyone then reboarded the bus for the return trip which included a stop off at Grigson's Lookout between Green Head and Jurien. This scenic lookout offers fantastic 360 degree views across the dunes and inland lakes. Kingsley talked about the evolution and uniqueness of the Turquoise coast vegetation and Charlie Shaw shared some of the dreamtime stories passed down relating to the formation of the land by the mystical animals.



Above: Charlie Shaw shares stories



Above: Nic Dunlop talks sea wrack



Above: Kingsley talks about coastal vegetation

A second lookout stop took the group to Molar Hill between Cervantes and Jurien. Paul Robb was keen to share the panoramic views with everyone and explained what views could be seen. The tour then officially finished back in Cervantes but for the remaining passengers destined for further south, an additional stop at Wedge Island allowed Penny Keenan and Charlie Shaw to talk about the issues affecting the shack community and future developments. The bus then dropped the final weary passengers off and feedback for the varied and interesting day was overwhelmingly positive

Rachel said 'What a great day ! The tour has been a huge success and brought so many different people together. Many thanks to everyone - both community, speakers and helpers who came along on the tour especially Kingsley Dixon who



Above: Paul Robb points out landmarks at Molar Hill lookout



Above: Penny explains Wedge Island history and issues

made time for us in his busy diary. Special thanks to Penny Keenan, Green Head Coastcare group, Ashley Robb, Charlie Shaw and Paul Robb who helped organise the tour stops, and to the caterers in Cervantes and Green Head who fed us well. Finally thank you to NACC who funded the day through their CFOC Coastal Engagement program and to all the NACC staff who helped out. Please visit the Moore Catchment Council Facebook page for more photos and information, and watch out for the video that was filmed on the day.'



Above: All the happy bus tour participants at Grigson's lookout



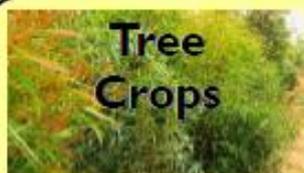
NACC's Wind erosion Incentives - Last Chance !!

The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) have a number of on-ground incentives to offer as part of the Northern Agricultural Catchment's Council (NACC) CFOC wind erosion program. This 4 year program comes to an end July 2013 and future funding for these types of incentives are unknown.

2012 and 2013 are the final planting seasons for these incentives (only 2012 for perennial pastures).

So **NOW** could be your **LAST CHANCE** to receive some financial help to plant perennials, saltbush, and tree crops. We have limited funding so act now before its all gone !

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, or come up with your own idea for a tree crop

What do I get?

- Up to \$500/ha for brushwood, \$250/ha for oil mallees, sandalwood
- Membership to industry group for one year ie Oil Mallee Association



Saltbush

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)



Native Species 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

Other funding available



Hidden Treasures

Overview: Incentives for fencing and protecting priority remnant vegetation

What do I get?

- Up to \$4,000/km for fencing
- \$1,000/site for covenanting

NACC have been successful at obtaining additional funding for fencing off remnant vegetation, and also funding to fence and revegetate rivers and wetlands. This will be rolled out across the region very soon so watch this space !



Right Tim and Andrew Crombie fenced off 113ha of native remnant vegetation north of Watheroo using the NACC Hidden Treasures incentive

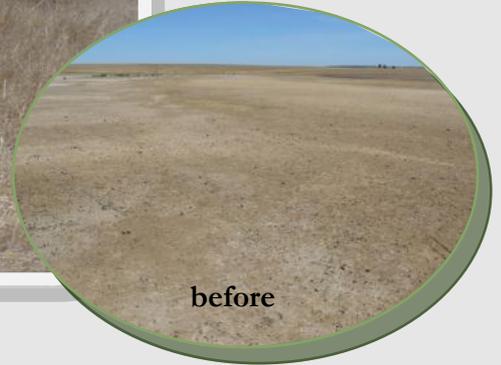


Calothamnus accedens
one-sided bottlebrush
(Priority 4 species)

Above An endangered plant found in the remnant



Rob Keamy, Namban (left) is very impressed with the transformation of this ugly salt scald. He fenced it off and planted 8,000 saltbush using the NACC fodder shrub incentive.



before



before



Aaron Edmonds, Calingiri (right) planted 14,000 Old man saltbush in allies with wide inter rows sown to tall wheat grass and Balansa clover. The land was previously unproductive but now it provides a source of feed for stock at critical times.



Steve Slater, Wannamal (left) has totally transformed this previously bare waterlogged eyesore. He has mounded and planted saltbush (Eyres Green and River) using the NACC grant. He has been experimenting with grasses in the troughs and has found Kikuyu grows well.



before

Bird workshop flies high with Guilderton community

Twitichers and non-twitichers alike attended the Wonderful World of Shorebirds and Carnaby's Black Cockatoo workshop in Guilderton on 29th April. The day was funded by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) coastal devolved grant scheme and was organised by the Moore Catchment Council (MCC), Guilderton Community Association (GCA) and Birdlife Australia.

Rachel Walmsley of MCC said 'We organised this day after talking to members of the GCA who wanted to find out more about the birds which frequent the estuary and coast - in particular the threatened Carnaby's Black Cockatoo which uses the Guilderton and Moore River vegetation for feeding and nesting. The GCA is concerned about the potential Carnaby's habitat destruction that could happen with future proposed residential developments on the southern side of the estuary.'

Sue Mather (Chair of Birdlife Australia) started the workshop by presenting an interesting talk and video on the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, and discussed works being carried out by Birdlife Australia to protect, monitor and conserve the remaining populations. After morning tea, the group proceeded to the estuary and boarded the Moore River Estuary Cruise boat run by Phil Cook. Phil is a big advocate of conserving the estuary environment and his passion showed during the hour long cruise. The boat headed to the sandbar where Phil explain how it regulates the estuary and then up stream where Phil talked about the birds, animals and trees present, and also discussed plans for residential developments which could environmentally impact the estuary.

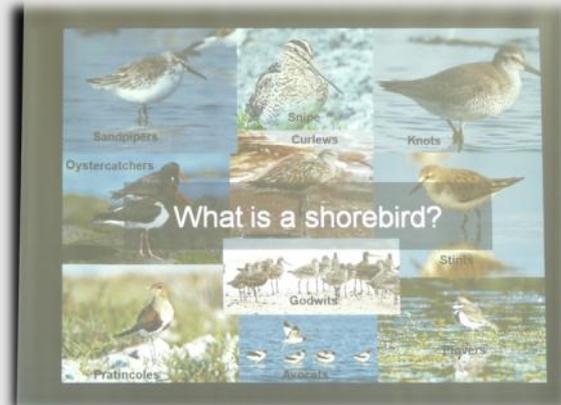


Above: Sue Mather talks about Carnaby's Black Cockatoo



Above: Moore River cruise was a highlight of the day for many

After heading back to the hall for a delicious and generous lunch, Kim Onton (Regional Coordinator of Birdlife Australia's Shorebirds 2020 program) presented her talk on shorebirds and their identification. Many of the group didn't realise the huge number and diversity of migratory birds present in the local area. Kim also shared information on the migratory routes of some of these birds which include flying all the way to the Siberian tundra in the Northern Hemisphere and back – a long route for these tiny birds ! To top off the day, Kim set the group a quiz to identify and count the shore birds on slides showed on the screen. It was harder than it looked but it was a bit of fun ! The overall winner received a bird identification book. Everyone went away with a bag packed full of shore bird and Carnaby's information goodies which was generously put together by Birdlife Australia.



Rachel said 'Many thanks to the GCA for helping to organise the day, to Sue and Kim from Birdlife Australia for coming to talk to us, to Phil Cook for his interesting tour of the estuary, and to NACC for funding the day through their federally funded Caring For Our Country coastal engagement program.'

More pictures available of the Moore Catchment Council's Facebook page – find us and join today !

Below Kim discusses how to identify shorebirds and count for bird surveys



Ledge Point Coastcare group ran their annual community planting day on 24th June and had a great turn out with over 20 volunteers attending despite the chilly weather. The Morley Scout group were invited to Ledge to help the local community volunteers revegetate a sand blow-out in the dunes in front of Key Biscayne Park. Jan Richards, Ledge Point Coastcare coordinator said 'Every year we run a community planting day to revegetate a part of the dunes that has been eroded or over run with weeds. This year we targeted a blow-out which needed revegetating to stabilise the bare sand and increase the habitat for native fauna.'



Above: Morley Scout group were a great help for the day



Above: Local community help out with the planting day too

The keen volunteers managed to plant 450 native plants including *Scaevola crassifolia* and *Spinifex longifolia* into the blow out and 150 native plants into surrounding areas to help infill gaps from previous works. The seedlings were funded through Landcare Australia and the Mobile Muster scheme and the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC). NACC funded two seed collection days in January and May for Apace nursery and Dave Bright at Regen4 to teach Ledge Point Coastcare volunteers how to collect and process seed from plants endemic to the dunes. This seed was then grown by both nurseries and seedlings planted out as part of the planting day. This has ensured correct provenience of seedlings established.



Above: Karen plants some *Scaevola* into the blow out



Above: Watering in the seedlings—very important !

The scouts then helped water all the plants using recycled milk bottles filled from a tap in the park, and this extra touch will encourage the higher successful establishment of the seedlings. After a few hours of hard work, the volunteers were rewarded with hot drinks and a sausage sizzle funded by the Shire of Gingin. Six lucky volunteers were also presented with family passes to the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre, Hillarys. Jan said 'Thanks to everyone who came along and helped, it makes a real difference having lots of helpers. Thanks to Landcare Australia, Mobile Muster and NACC for funding the seedlings, NMDC for donating the family passes, plus the Shire of Gingin for covering the catering costs. A further 600 seedlings were planted in and around the Key Biscayne dunes during the following week by Ledge Point residents which brings the total of seedlings established in 2012 to 1200 which is a great result.'

Jan concluded 'Remember the last Sunday in June every year is Ledge's community planting day so please put it in your diaries now.'



Please check out Ledge Point's Coastcare Facebook page for more photos and updates on future events, or contact MCC for more information on Coastal Engagement events in the Moore region.

How to seed mounds - the Steve Slater way



Above: Rachel has a go at using the hand seeder
 Right: Steve and his daughter demonstrating how to use the bespoke mound seeder



Steve Slater is a farmer who likes to experiment on his farm near Wannamal. He's been dabbling in ways of increasing his farm's productivity through mounding a lot of his waterlogging prone areas. Frugal Steve wanted to find a way of seeding these mounds with saltbush, other fodder shrubs and grasses so as not to resort to buying expensive seedlings. This is what he has come up with and gave Rachel a demonstration of how it works on a recent visit (and even roped her in with Steve's daughter to do some of the donkey work!) A fabricated piece of recycled corrugated water tank provides a furrow maker whilst a hand seed spreader is mounted on top and drops seed into the furrows behind. Steve then hand chains across the mounds to help implant the seed. Brilliant idea !

MCC's Futures workshop

MCC had a strategic planning day in Moora on 21st May. The aim of the day was to answer the question ***Is financial diversification for MCC a real possibility or just a dream?*** A select panel of representatives from all over the MCC region were invited along with around 15 attending from community groups and government departments. Consultant Carmel Ross from Bindoon facilitated the meeting. The group discussed the environmental, social and economic dynamics of the Moore River catchment and talked about previous projects and funding that the MCC have been involved in. Discussions then turned to the future and how MCC should proceed with securing funding, what activities the group should be involved in, how to raise the profile of the Moore River at both State and Federal levels, and whether the group needs to restructure to work more effectively and efficiently. A comprehensive report is currently being compiled and will be available on our website for review. A summary of finding and actions will be sent to all members.

Upcoming events

- ★ 8th Aug - **Native flora workshop** Moora
 RSVP Wendy 9938 0126
- ★ 22th Aug - **Native flora workshop** Lancelin
 RSVP Wendy 9938 0126
- ★ 22nd Sep - **Moora show** - find us in the woolshed for free trees
- ★ 28th Sep - **MCC AGM**, venue TBA RSVP
 Helen 9653 1355

facebook

Keep up to date !! Find the MCC on Facebook for lots of photos from projects and events.

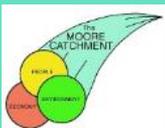
Type **Moore Catchment Council** and ask to be a friend :)

**Moore
 Catchment
 Council**



*protecting the natural resources
 in the Moore River Catchment*

**NOTE NEW
 MOBILE
 NUMBERS**



Rachel Walmsley

NRM officer
 9653 1355
0409 296 264

mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com



Ingrid Krockenberger

NRM officer
 9653 1355
0488 954 664

mcc.nrmo1@bigpond.com



Helen Watkins

Executive Officer
 9653 1355

0428 514 292
 moorecc@bigpond.com

