



MOORE to the point



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Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 18th *Moore to the Point* quarterly newsletter. Over the long hot summer, the MCC has been busy delivering the saltbush project with MMPIG, and also helping NACC to roll out their various CFOC programs. It's looking to be a busy few months ahead for everyone!
editor *Rachel Walmsley*

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Successful Saltland Pasture workshop - a winner!

Over 30 people came from far and wide to participate in the 'Good guide to successful saltland pastures' workshop held in Miling on the 12th March. The event was staged by the MCC and the Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group as part of their 2009-10 saltbush CFOC project. The varied agenda held everyone's interest throughout the day and proved a winner. First was Ed Barrett-Lennard DAFWA who gave an animated talk on secondary salinity (using a bowl of water and a salt shaker!), why some plants can't cope and the various farming methods available. A number of field visits followed, with the first stop at Tony White's 2008 saltbush plantings which demonstrated how mounding the saline and waterlogged land can help with plant establishment, followed by a visit to Bruce Topham's property which showed how, with time, saltland pasture can transform previously saline and unproductive land back to something more useful and aesthetical pleasing. Bruce also shared some words of wisdom when involving their wives with

planting - to lie about the number plants until the day before! The field visits concluded at the successful Enrich fodder shrub trial with Hayley Norman CSIRO and Ian Pulbrook, Greenoil Nursery explaining the key aims of the project and showing the species which have performed the best. After lunch, Mike Clarke DAFWA talked about the stabilising groundwater trends for this area followed by Hayley closing the proceedings with a thought provoking presentation on the animal health issues and benefits of saltbush pasture, especially Old man saltbush which has Vitamin E benefits as well as unknowns. Feedback of the event was good and showed continued interest in the area for saltland pastures being implemented in salt affected farms for both economic and environmental reasons.



Above: Mike Clarke explaining bore trends from data collected from all over the NAR



Left: Ed B-L at Tony's property talking about best practice for that saline land



Right: Hayley explains the Enrich fodder shrub trial



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.



NACC has a range of CFOC wind erosion incentives to offer landholders in the NAR - the oil mallees and fodder shrub incentives are aimed at the eastern part of the NAR in the heavier country, whilst the perennial pastures and strategic reveg are aimed at the western sandier country. An overview of payments are below:

Farm Forestry - Oil Mallees

- Oil Mallee establishment - 10c/seedling
- Industry membership to the Oil Mallee association

Max incentive per site of \$3,360

East
NAR

Fodder Shrub Establishment (saltbush)

- Fencing - \$2,300/km for mesh fencing, \$1,150/km for plain wire fencing
- Fodder shrub establishment - \$0.20/seedling, \$90/ha direct seeded
- Industry Membership to Saltland Pastures Association

Max incentive per site of \$4,550

Perennial Pasture Establishment - sub tropical grasses and tagasaste

- Fencing - variable rates for mesh/plain wire or electric fencing
- Perennial pasture establishment \$85/ha, \$140/ha for PP & Tag on same site
- Watering point - \$1,000/point (1 per 80 ha)

Max incentive per site of \$10,600

West
NAR

Strategic Revegetation

- Fencing - variable rates for mesh and plain wire fencing, and dependent on size of area fenced
- Revegetation - site <10ha = \$750/ha, sites >10ha = \$1,000/ha
- Weed and rabbit control incentives available

Max incentive per site of \$16,000

- ✓ The incentives are on a first come - first served basis with only a specific number of land managers in the NAR being eligible for each incentive each year for the duration of the four year project.
- ✓ Each incentive is subject to conditions eg minimum size
- ✓ Each incentive can only be utilised once by each land manger.



Left: Feb 2010 - Les Crane, farmer from Gabalong east of Moora, and Euan Scott, NACC's Farm Forestry Development Officer survey last year's oil mallee plantings

Les took advantage of the NACC oil mallee incentive last year and ended up planting 38,000 subsidised seedlings. His best result has come from an area susceptible to waterlogging that he mounded and then hand planted. He has planted in belt formation to allow the land in between to be utilised in the future.

Euan Scott explains further 'the Cranes decided to experiment in one section with and without mounds. Due to the season and landform the results were marked with complete failure in the scalped section, as compared to the success in the adjacent mounded section. Whilst the season did exacerbate the effects, the use of mounds definitely reducing the compounding effect of salinity and standing water.'

The Cranes are so happy with last year's results that they intend to take part in the incentive program again this year.

If you are interested in any of these incentives, then please phone the MCC office, and either Rachel or Ingrid will be able to discuss them further with you.



Member for Kalgoorlie, **Barry Haase**, officiated at the opening.



A dedicated group braved the blistering February heat to officially open the Stack-Cooper Reserve which had undergone fencing and restoration works by The Friends of Moora Woodlands through a Federally-funded Envirofunds project. Fiona Falconer and Barbara Hussey of Land for Wildlife were on hand to provide advice on woodland rehabilitation.

The reserve has been completely fenced to exclude vehicle and livestock (e.g. horse) access. Old vehicle tracks have been deep-ripped to assist natural regeneration of vegetation. The existing seed bank is being enhanced by brushing using prunings from Shire road maintenance as they become available.



The community can gain access and enjoy the reserve through pedestrian access points in both Stack Street and Cooper Street. Interpretative signage has been installed near both entrances and at various sites within the reserve. The remnant woodland has been registered with Land for Wildlife.



Jim Pond (Moora Shire) and Penny Hussey (Land for Wildlife) discuss interpretative signage beneath a salmon gum thought to be about 50 years



Entrance sign informing people of flora and fauna species that they might encounter

Moore River National park - on the way to recovery

The bushland has sprung to life again since the fire in early January at Moore River National Park. These photos were taken two and a half months later.



Ancient *Eucalyptus tottiana* sprout new growth from epicormic buds in the base and the canopy. Their seeds are protected by woody fruits which open after fire, releasing seeds onto the ashen soil.

Banksia also has the capacity to resprout after fire from epicormic buds protected by thick bark. Their large woody fruits only open after fire, providing another strategy for regeneration in an ecosystem with temporarily reduced competition.



Stirlingia latifolia (blueboy) responds very strongly to the occasional fire and sprouts from a protected lignotuber at its base. This species is in the Proteaceae family, as are the *Banksias*. They share an ability to rapidly regenerate after fire.

Despite having their above-ground parts completely destroyed by fire, new growth can be seen sprouting from at least 13 separate plants in only a few square metres.



Birds, spiders, insects, microorganisms and larger animals will recolonise the 500 ha burnt patch from the surrounding unburnt areas. They will return as ecosystem functions recover and will contribute to recovery themselves, as the place starts to look and feel more like home.

Perennials - Pasture to Pocket course review



Bob Hendry of Gillingarra is justifiably proud of his perennial pastures and he gets a kick out of showing them to people. Bob recently attended the Grazing Management Course organised by NACC, which is a compulsory component of the NACC Wind Erosion Incentive Program perennial pasture incentives, funded by the Federal Government through the CFOC Business Plan.

Many of the landholders were dragging their feet about having to attend this 2.5 day course in order to receive their incentive payments, but the feedback from farmers who attended has been positive and enthusiastic. Bob, for example, said that he “should have gone on a course like this twenty years ago”.



Bob's 18 month old perennial grasses (shown left) have been lightly grazed a month prior to the photo being taken on 9 March, and have had no summer rain. The deep white sands of this paddock can be seen in the foreground and this is a mid- to upper-slope position – quite challenging for most plants at this time of year, especially in such a dry summer.

It is remarkable that there is so much green cover. The soil is protected from wind erosion when the surface is dry, and heavy rainfall has been observed to infiltrate rapidly and is prevented from running off and causing problems with overland flow.

Bob says he learnt from the grazing management course that he could have hammered his pasture a bit harder to take the grasses back to Phase II of growth and so that the less palatable bits were grazed as well. That way he could utilise more pasture and also get the most productivity out of it.

Bob learnt that plants in Phase II have the most rapid growth which is supplied by greater leaf area than in Phase I and higher rates of photosynthesis than in Phase III. In effect, it is the phase in which there are lots of solar panels, and the solar panels are working at their most efficient. Grazing plants only when they are in Phase II maximizes productivity.

The Northern Agricultural Catchments Council presents



Pasture to Pocket

GRAZING MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS
(Farm Ready Approved)



This two day workshop focuses on the interconnectedness between animals, pastures and soils, and the surrounding practices which generate positive environmental results for landholders and the catchment as a whole.

- * How soils operate
- * How animals operate
- * How businesses operate—the 3 Secrets of Profit
- * Grazing Management Systems—the pros and cons
- * Principles of sustainable grazing
- * Property development and planning

Numbers Limited—RSVP essential (by Thursday 18th Feb)

Northampton: Sunday 21 Feb - Tuesday 23 Feb
 Three Springs: Wednesday 24 Feb - Friday 26 Feb
 Dandaragan: Tuesday 2 March - Thursday 4 March

To RSVP or for more information phone Marge Wier 9921 5834 or 0448 839 040
 Email: woc@nacc.com.au Fax: 08 9964 9776





.....and Bob Hendry's perennial establishment



(Left photo - taken on 9 March) Good ground cover protecting fragile soils on both sides of the fence. The cover on the left of the fence is productive throughout the summer-autumn period whereas the cover on the right of the fence must be locked up from December onwards so that it does not blow.

(Right) Photo taken on 12 April, about three weeks after the good rainfall in March, showing a strong growth response by the perennial grasses.



(Left) A closer look at Bob's perennial grasses 3 weeks after rain. Bob is hoping that his cattle will spread seed to other parts of the farm through their manure.

Saltland Pastures Technical Training Day, Mingenew

NACC's Natural Resource Management Officers and a mix of local farmers attended saltland pasture training put on by the Mingenew-Irwin group and the Saltland Pastures Association on 8th April. The day aimed to allow NRMOs and farmers to make a more informed decision when assessing sites earmarked for plant saltland pasture. Russell Speed & Mike Clarke (DAFWA) explained the geological make up and ground water trends of the NAR, followed by Hayley Norman (CSIRO) who talked about animal health issues associated with saltland pastures. The day concluded with field visits to a number of sites with established pasture, followed by a site yet to be planted which the group discussed possible options.



Hamish Pulbrook at the workshop field visit. He is shown enjoying the shade of a fruiting old man saltbush (*Atriplex nummularia*), busy separating seeds from husks. He told us that his dad, Ian Pulbrook, pays him \$10 a day holiday pocket money for doing this job at the nursery !

What's in flower now in the Moore river catchment?

The few species flowering at the moment really catch the eye. Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) is flowering profusely. Can we predict a wet winter? *Eucalyptus falcata* is much less common than Marri, having few small populations scattered about the region. It is a slender elegant species with beautiful smooth bark (shown below).



Eucalyptus falcata



Eucalyptus falcata

Very conspicuous in the sand-plain country at the moment is the photogenic *Banksia prionotes* (Acorn Banksia) with its spiraling flowerettes. Also from the sand-plain is the yellow *Grevillea* shown below.



Banksia prionotes



Grevillea sp.

Verticordia grandis (Scarlet Featherflower), the floral emblem of Moora Shire, is at the end of its flowering period. Can you identify the eucalypt shown below? It's a mallee that grows on laterite outcrop and has four-cornered white flowers.



Verticordia grandis



NACC Small Grants in by 7th May !

NACC has got two small grants schemes on offer of **\$10,000** each project but you'll have to be quick ! Individual land managers or community groups can apply, and details of applicable criteria that a-line with the government's CFOC targets are below. For further info please go to www.nacc.com.au or contact the relevant program coordinator.

- ⇒ **Wind Erosion** - implementing plans and strategies to reduce wind erosion; increasing community knowledge and engagement; supporting leadership development and demonstrating the long term benefits of sustainable land and soil management. **Margi Weir 0448 939 040**
- ⇒ **Coastal** - Contributing to the implementation of recognised existing local and regional coastal plans and strategies, increasing community engagement, knowledge and skills in coastal rehabilitation, restoration and conservation projects. Assisting in the protection and maintenance of environmental values, aesthetic qualities and biodiversity in the coastal zone. Improving existing public access to the coast, and demonstrating long-term benefits for the coastal environment. **Ashley Robb 9956 6190**

Coastal Workshop soon

PRACTICAL COASTAL REHABILITATION WORKSHOP
LEDGE POINT
Funded by Coastwest, supported by NACC

HOSTED BY DAVE BRIGHT,
REGENA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

FREE EVENT - ALL INVITED

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Site Assessment
- ✓ Sourcing Plants
- ✓ Correct Provenance
- ✓ Planting
- ✓ Weed Control
- ✓ Erosion Control
- ✓ Monitoring

Including site visits

DETAILS:

DATE: Wed, April 21st

TIME: Registration begins 9:30am
Start 10am to 2:30pm

LOCATION: Ledge Point Country Club,
Turner St, Le

LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED

RSVP ESSENTIAL

Contact NACC Coastal Project Officer,
Ashley Robb at cpo@nacc.com.au or on
0427 989 112

Logos: nacc, COASTCARE, Coastwest, and a local council logo.

Upcoming events

- ★ 17th April **Gingin Expo**
- ★ 19th April **Farm Business Resilience workshop**, Moora - Penny 9651 4008
- ★ 21st April **Coastal Rehabilitation workshop**, Ledge Point - Ashley 0427 989 112
- ★ 21st May **MCC OGM**, Bindoon - Helen 9653 1355

Next MCC OGM - Bindoon

The next MCC OGM on 21st May promises to be interesting ! We've had an invitation from Bauxite Resources Ltd to go and look at the rehabilitation of their Chittering site. Anyone interested in coming along, then please phone the office 9653 1355 and register yourself.

Moore Catchment Council



protecting the natural resources
in the Moore River Catchment



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