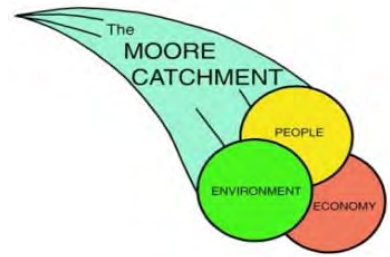


Moore Catchment Council



Annual Report 2012/2013

"To maintain and improve the health of the Moore River environment by communicating natural resource management and encouraging maximum sustainable use of resources."



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities



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1 Foreword

The Moore Catchment Council (Inc) was founded in 1995 as the Moore Catchment Group, with the aim of “working with community groups, local government and the agencies, towards a common goal of system and social sustainability through activities based on managing natural resources within the catchment.”(MCC Constitution - 2012).

The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) is one of four sub-regions of the Northern Agricultural Region, which is represented by the Northern Agricultural Council NACC), NACC is the body that administers natural resource management funding for the Moore Region.

The role of the MCC is to promote integrated catchment efforts in the catchment to get the most effective action on the ground so that our natural resources can be enjoyed by our children in the future.

The Vision of the MCC is that there will be a strong link between people, the economy and the environment.

Our Natural Resource Management officers can:

- Source technical information by liaising between experts in fields such as hydrology and heritage
- Facilitate local and regional linkages with Federal, State and Regional natural resource management programs.
- Assisting in the development and co-ordination of projects and sourcing of funding.
- Facilitate workshops and identify NRM training needs.

2 Staff and Committee:

Moora Office:

1 Padbury Street
P.O Box 337
Moora WA 6507
Phone 08 9653 1355 Fax 08 9653 1366
Website: moorecatchment.org.au



Staff Summary

Over this year we have employed:

Natural Resource Management Officer's (NRMO):



Rachel Walmsley became a NRMO at MCC in early 2008 after emigrating from England in 2007 with her boyfriend Andrew who is employed as Irrigation Manager for Moora Citrus. Coming from a farming family and after gaining a Bachelor of Science honours degree in Earth Science, she then spent six years working in waste management for Biffa Waste Services as an Environmental Control Advisor. During her time with MCC, she has successfully helped MCC obtain funding for a number of projects including working alongside the Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group to plant saltbush on unproductive land, and also funds for farmers to fence off and revegetate their natural assets. Her aim is to help the community become enthusiastic about their local environment.



Ingrid Krockenberger joined the Moore Catchment Council in 2008 after working at Murdoch University in teaching and research roles in the School of Environmental Science for the last 12 years. Her research interests in mine rehabilitation have investigated mine-pit revegetation and soil amendment for revegetating mine tailings. More recently, she has researched tree water relations in plantation forestry. Her tutoring roles have included water and earth science, land management, environmental management, management of aquatic systems, and environmental restoration. Ingrid finished her contract with MCC in Dec 2012



Julia White Julia has recently joined the MCC after graduating from Murdoch University with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Environmental Restoration and Conservation and Wildlife Biology. Julia was born in South Africa and immigrated to Perth when she was a child. Julia is passionate about environmental conservation and restoration, particularly within wetland systems. Julia hopes to use her skills and knowledge acquired at university to help protect the Moore Catchments natural resources.

Administration Staff:

Helen Watkins – Executive Officer



Helen joined the team in September 2008; Helen lives in Dandaragan with husband Paul where they run an Agricultural Contracting Business. Helen has the role of Executive Officer of the Moore Catchment Council and works 12 hours per week. Her key responsibilities are administering the Finances and doing the day to day administration of the group, keeping projects on track, updating the website, keeping data bases up to date and informing members what is happening with the MCC.

MCC Committee:

Chairperson:	Reg Beale		
Vice Chairperson:	Tony White		
Secretary:	Duncan Peter		
Treasurer:	Lawrie Short		
Committee:	John Braid	Don Telfer	Peter Waterhouse
	John Longman	Geoff Erickson	Arthur Tonkin
	Jan Waite	Richard Topham	

Executive Committee

Chairperson:	Reg Beale
Vice-Chairperson:	Tony White
Secretary:	Duncan Peter
Treasurer:	Lawrie Short

Project Management / Human Resources Sub Committee

Reg Beale, Tony White, Lawrie Short, Duncan Peter, John Braid, Reg Beale, Helen Watkins, Rachel Walmsley, Ingrid Krockenberger, Julia White.



Annual General Meeting Friday 28th September, 2013 at the Ballet Room, Moora Recreation Centre; Left to right Duncan Peter, John Longman, John Braid, Bob Wilson, Ingrid Krockenberger, Richard Topham, Cynthia McMorrان, Helen Watkins, Reg Beale, Rachel Walmsley, Tony White, Linda Johnson, Lawrie Short, Geoff Erickson



3 Chairpersons Report:

Annual Report

There continues to be many challenges as funding has been cut and Moore Catchment are making an all-out effort towards the 30th of June 2014.



A new constitution with a reduction in Committee members has the potential for possible restructuring. The endeavour is twofold, one become more self-sufficient by introducing a fee for service and two sourcing independent sponsorship.

We have attained all our milestones for 2012/13 and have a new milestones in place to keep our sole NRMO Rachel very busy.

There have been a number of various forums which have identified the important variety of ongoing environmental issues however funding these are reliant on receiving grants from State Government Departments. The political arena whilst it appears to acknowledge the various environmental issues never seems to be as dedicated when it comes to funding and grants. Unfortunately NACC have also had their funding reduced and so must concentrate on their timetable of environmental issues with the introduction of a new structure for NRMO's that desire to work directly with them.

Where to from here is the new challenge and as already stated future funding will be dependent on how successful we are in the grant area.

Even with the changes our NRMO's have been getting on with their tasks so that MCC met all the various contract project deadlines whilst at the same time conducted community information and site visit sessions.

In closing, I record my appreciation to our EO Helen Watkins for a job well done.

Appreciation is also recorded to our NRMO's Rachel, Ingrid and Julia and members of the Committee for their support and input during the past 12 months.

Regards

Reg Beale.



4 Executive Officer Report:

2012-2013 Financial year saw funding various sources as listed below, also the finalisation of the State NRM Project *“Improving habitat and connectivity in the farming landscape for birds in the Moore River catchment”* of \$31,350; NACC 3-MCC projects Wind Erosion, Hidden Treasures and Coastal; Lotterywest IT Program \$5,780

Moore Catchments Council (MCC) was successful in obtaining the following funding:-

- 👉 Northern Agricultural Catchments Council for the *“Rivers & Wetlands”* project \$25,000.
- 👉 Northern Agricultural Catchments Council for the *“Regional Collaboration”* project \$50,000.
- 👉 Northern Agricultural Catchments Council for the *“Hidden Treasures”* project \$15,000.
- 👉 Caring for our country Community Action grant *“Demonstrating elite fodder shrubs for future productive use in the NAR”* of \$13,400.
- 👉 State NRM Project *“Planting feed species for Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoo in the Moora and Koobabbie Important Bird Area”* \$45,000
- 👉 Caring for our Country *“Demonstrating different establishment techniques of perennials in deep sand”* \$10,900
- 👉 NACC North Guilderton Coastal Restoration Project \$52,000
- 👉 Australian Government GVESHO Program \$2,500

This year at the finalisation of the 3-MCC projects unfortunately we had to lose the services of Ingrid Krockenberger due to budget constraints. Rachel Walmsley continued on doing the bulk of the NRMO work as well as working towards the completion of MCC’s State and Federal funding obligations. Julia White came on board in mid-April as an Intern to help Rachel with the making sure all target and milestones were met for all MCC’s ongoing projects. Thank you to Rachel, Ingrid and Julia for all your hard work throughout the year and especially for all the hard work done by Rachel & Julia in putting together numerous funding applications, marathon effort.

NACC will no longer be able to fund the local NRMO positions as their funding has been cut, due to this decision MCC decided at its June OGM that it would continue to employ 1 FTE NRMO and the EO for the same hours in a “do or die” effort to keep funding coming into the Moore region and offer a fee for service contract work with the skills available within the staff and look towards sponsorship from various sources, also to express an interest in hosting the NACC NRMO position.

Thanking all the Committee and staff for all their efforts and support during the past year.



Helen Watkins – Executive Officer



5 Financial Report:

MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC. **Compilation Report to MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC.**

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC., which comprise the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2013, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Responsibility of the Director of MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC.

The director of MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC. is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements and has determined that the significant accounting policies adopted as set out in Note 1 to the financial statements are appropriate to meet the director's needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of the information provided by the director of MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC., we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the significant accounting policies adopted as set out in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315: Compilation of Financial Information.

Our procedures use accounting expertise to collect, classify and summarise the financial information, which the director provided, in compiling the financial statements. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. No audit or review has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the director of MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC.. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.



NORTH MIDLANDS ACCOUNTING SERVICE
PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS
CARNAMAH WA

20 September, 2013



MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC.
Detailed Balance Sheet As At 30 June 2013

	Note	2013	2012
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash Assets			
Cash at bank - Westpac A/C 145544		65,967	9,153
Cash at bank - Westpac A/C 145579		10	6,641
Westpac Term Deposit A/C 148294		59,973	56,596
Westpac Business Reserve A/C 149203		148,445	139,773
Westpac Enfirofund Reserve A/C 158011		6,623	
Cash on hand		80	87
		281,099	212,250
Receivables			
Trade debtors		45,000	52,003
		45,000	52,003
Total Current Assets		326,099	264,253
Total Assets		326,099	264,253
Current Liabilities			
Payables			
Unsecured:			
Trade creditors		7,182	32,891
		7,182	32,891
Current Tax Liabilities			
GST clearing		12,905	(1,420)
Amounts withheld from salary and wages		2,108	1,960
		15,013	540
Total Current Liabilities		22,195	33,431



MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC.
Detailed Balance Sheet As At 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions			
Employees Long Service Provision		17,780	9,000
		<u>17,780</u>	<u>9,000</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>17,780</u>	<u>9,000</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>39,975</u>	<u>42,431</u>
Net Assets		<u>286,125</u>	<u>221,821</u>
 Equity			
Retained profits / (accumulated losses)		286,125	221,821
Total Equity		<u>286,125</u>	<u>221,821</u>



MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC.
Detailed Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Income		
Grants Received	286,417	247,613
GVESHO Funding	2,500	
Interest received	7,244	9,333
Membership Fees	3,000	3,000
Equipment Hire	173	200
Donations		940
Project Income	573	
Project Management Income	34,080	29,860
Publication Income	2,303	
Total income	336,289	290,946
Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	583	301
Audit fees	2,166	1,400
Bank Fees And Charges	185	267
Catering - Meetings	2,580	2,546
Futures workshop	4,310	1,293
Hire - Meetings	405	604
Incidentals	15	144
Insurance	2,600	2,214
Insurance - Workers Compensation	631	761
Internet Fees	503	790
License Fees	61	58
M/V commercial - Lease	4,094	12,407
M/V commercial - Repairs	4,808	7,123
Office Supplies	770	1,167
Office Rental	4,534	4,654
Postage	938	947
Printing & stationery	660	1,314
Project Management Expenses	34,080	33,585
Consultants	15,680	15,400
Fencing Materials	8,798	107,620
Field Days	934	3,552
Printing	4,757	1,362



MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL INC.
Detailed Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Seeds & Seedlings	22,170	8,704
Travel Expenses	2,256	
Equipment Purchase	2,085	766
Planting Costs	10,000	
Repairs & maintenance		236
Secretarial		300
Staff training	667	
Superannuation	9,752	11,330
Telephone	2,809	2,660
Teleconference	170	278
Wages	117,332	125,884
Wages - Finance Contract	21,840	21,612
Total expenses	<u>283,176</u>	<u>371,281</u>
Profit from Ordinary Activities before income tax	<u>53,114</u>	<u>(80,334)</u>



6 Auditors Report:

MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL (INC)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL (INC)

We have audited the Income and Expenditure Books of Account of the MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL (Inc.) for the period ended 30th June 2013. The Executives are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurances as to whether the accounts are free from material misstatement. Our procedures included examination on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects the accounts are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Concepts and Standards so as to present a view MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL (Inc.) which is consistent with our understanding of its financial position and the results of its operation.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

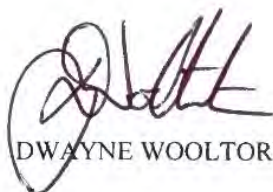
Qualification

Due to the nature of the activities of the MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL (Inc.) our testing of income has been restricted to the amounts recorded in the books of account, but reflect a true and correct record.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion subject to the above qualification the financial accounts present fairly the financial position of the MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL (Inc.) for the period ended 30th June 2013 and the results of its operations for the period then ended in accordance with applicable Statements of Accounting Concepts and applicable Accounting Standards.

NORTH MIDLANDS ACCOUNTING SERVICE



DWAYNE WOOLTORTON MIPA



7 Projects:

7.1 *Improving habitat and connectivity in the farming landscape for birds in the Moore River Catchment*

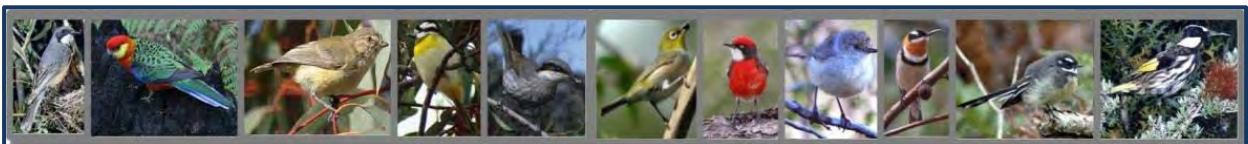
State NRM funding \$30,300 Project 100223 Time frame November 2011 – December 2012

The State NRM funded project 'Improving habitat and connectivity in the farming landscape for birds in the Moore River catchment' concluded in December. The project achievements include:

- ☺ Extensive bird surveys (report below). For the first time, two 'conservation-reliant species' (Western Thornbill and Grey Shrike-thrush) were detected in 11 year-old mixed eucalypt/shrub planted areas. These revegetated sites were structurally complex and floristically diverse enough to provide foraging, roosting and, in some cases, nesting opportunities for these species. This is a significant finding.
- ☺ A video series has been produced to engage and motivate landholders to include biodiversity considerations in their land management decision-making.
- ☺ Three important ecological linkages established on private land, by protecting or revegetating corridors to connect isolated remnant patches to larger areas of remnant vegetation, such as nature reserves.
- ☺ Community information day and field trip in Calingiri on July 4th to discuss project findings.

Bird Survey Results – bird numbers

The bird surveys were conducted by ornithologist, Andrew Huggett, in spring (October 2011) and autumn (April 2012) at 15 sites on 6 farms across the catchment. Eight of the sites were remnant (original) vegetation and seven were revegetation (planted vegetation) sites. The remnant sites varied from ridgetop wandoo woodland and breakaway shrub- and heathland, to lower slope salmon gum woodlands, to sandplain heath and banksia-coastal blackbutt-nuytsia woodland. The revegetation sites included tagasaste, sandalwood and saltbush plantings, and revegetated saline creeklines. The following is a summary of part of Andrew Huggett's detailed report, which is available from Moore Catchment Council.



A total of 1,167 individual birds from 68 species were recorded during the surveys. Most of these were terrestrial species and some were aquatic species. Greater bird numbers were recorded in autumn than spring. There are several probable causes for this difference:

- more ground granivores (ground foraging seed eaters) from neighbouring areas seeking food (e.g. Australian Ringneck and Elegant Parrot)
- presence of nomadic species seeking seasonally available food (e.g. Silvereye)
- presence of new season young birds (e.g. Red-capped Robin, Splendid Fairy-wren and White-fronted Chat)
- resident birds being more visible following completion of breeding (e.g. Red-capped Robin and Splendid Fairy-wren).



Above. Types of revegetation (planted) sites.

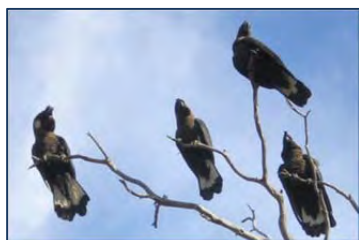
Although greater bird numbers were recorded in autumn than spring, fewer bird species were present in autumn than spring. Summer breeding migrants (e.g. Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher and White-winged Triller) and nomadic honeyeaters (e.g. Western Wattlebird and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater) contributed to the greater number of species in spring.

More birds and more species were recorded in remnant (original) vegetation than in revegetation (planted vegetation).

	remnant		revegetation	
	spring	autumn	spring	autumn
no. of birds	378	422	183	184
no. of species	48	36	37	30

The most abundant species in remnant vegetation and revegetation were the resilient and adaptive birds usually found in farming landscapes, including Australian Ringneck, Galah, Brown Honeyeater, Weebill and Silvereye. Low numbers of White-winged Fairy-wren, Western Thornbill, Striated Pardalote, Singing Honeyeater, Inland Thornbill and Rufous Whistler were recorded in woodland and shrubland habitats in good condition. The least abundant birds included Peregrine Falcon, Red-capped Parrot, Spotted Pardalote, Scarlet Robin, Golden Whistler, Western Spinebill and Yellow-plumed Honeyeater.

Bird Survey Results – birds of conservation significance



The study area provides habitat for 45 bird species of global, national, WA state or local conservation significance. Seventeen of these are significant at national and state levels, including rare and endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (shown at left). The remaining 28 species are locally significant because of the amount of loss and fragmentation of their habitat across the catchment, which may have resulted in decline in population and decline in areas where these species occur, or other threats.



Many of these species were recorded during this and previous studies (e.g. Peregrine Falcon, Scarlet Robin, Elegant Parrot, Crimson Chat, Western Thornbill, Inland Thornbill, Golden Whistler and Grey Shrike-thrush).



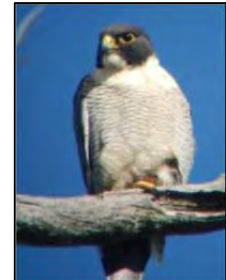
Scarlet Robin
(birdforum.net photo)



Elegant Parrot
(ibc.lynxeds.com photo)



Western Thornbill
(Brian Jenkins photo)



Peregrine Falcon
(Joe Tonga photo)

Videos

Join ornithologist, Andrew Huggett, on his visits to farms in the Moore River Catchment to see how birds use areas of planted and original vegetation on farms. Here are the YouTube links to videos discussing the bird habitat value of planted and remnant vegetation in the farming landscape of the Moore River Catchment, as well as the perspectives of several landholders who have protected areas on their farms for the conservation of flora and fauna.

Remnant Vegetation	Link to YouTube
Flora Downs	http://youtu.be/ARy78eEyePA
Wensleydale	http://youtu.be/7YAKX5MbPa8
Waalidjap	http://youtu.be/f_EEvoFM0gQ
Sammon Hills	http://youtu.be/3ZOIWncugf8
Gillingarra	http://youtu.be/g1HskZIQkUk
Moore River at Homewood Farm	http://youtu.be/MQxfhafgBkA
Homewood Farm	http://youtu.be/AFzrdqROjaQ
Planted Vegetation	Link to YouTube
Flora Downs tagasaste	http://youtu.be/ILbUkJmCslc
Wensleydale saltbush	http://youtu.be/cbB5IVQrjw4
Damara Downs brushwood	http://youtu.be/ZseKfxUSxIk
Carrah Farms saltland	http://youtu.be/oOrQkQWIVSY
Sammon Hills sandalwood	http://youtu.be/xMekgtS1jgk
Landholder Perspectives	Link to YouTube
Carrah Farms	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpGeo4UW7eU
Sammon Hills	http://youtu.be/EhFD_Ba6f_U
Flora Downs	http://youtu.be/sg7115dXQwU





Above. Some of the remnant vegetation sites surveyed in this study.

Amount Received as at 30 th June 2013	\$30,300.00
Amount expended as at 30 th June 2013	\$ 30,000.00
Balance of funds in project as at 30 th June 2013	\$0.00

7.2 Working together to ensure the long-term sustainability of water resources in the greater Gingin Area

NACC funding \$15,000 Project 08005-02 Time frame June 2011 – September 2012

Strong community concern over decreasing water resources in the Gingin area realised a \$15,000 project with NACC/State funding and sponsored by Moore Catchment Council; with the Gingin Water Group Inc to implement the project .

The funding enabled the GWG to research relevant reports and explore community concerns on the proposed Department of Water’s Groundwater Allocation Plan for Gingin. The project encouraged



collaboration with DoW officers preparing the plan and a guided bus trip provided the opportunity for both DoW officers and Gingin Water Group committee members to interact and exchange views on the issues facing the water resources in the Gingin area. The degree of interest in water resource allocation in Gingin was evident by the attendance at a public forum held by the GWG in March. In excess of one hundred people attended this forum and heard updates from the GWG, Image Resources and a representative of the vegetable growers association. The meeting also provided the opportunity for community members to voice their concerns on the perception of a dwindling water resource.

Continual collaboration with DoW officers gave the GWG an understanding of how the groundwater allocation plan would be prepared, short circuiting any surprises. Community concerns were also documented and together with a literature review of relevant reports, a document was prepared that would guide the GWG in preparing its response to the Gingin Groundwater Allocation Plan once released.

The Gingin Groundwater Allocation Plan was released for public comment in August 2013, 2 months after the project concluded.

Amount Received as at 30 th June 2013	\$15,000.00
Amount expended as at 30 th June 2013	\$15,000.00
Balance of funds in project as at 30 th June 2013	\$0.00

7.3 **Grant to Volunteer Environment, Sustainable and Heritage Organisations**

GVESHO funding \$2,500 Project Assist with Admin Time frame June 2012 – July 2013

Moore Catchment Council (MCC) has been successful in being awarded a single year grant of \$2500 under the 2012-13 funding round for the Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO) program to assist with the everyday Finance/Administration wages and the increased cost of having to insure the organisation for Volunteers and Committee/Directors Insurance. Being able to retain the services of an Executive Officer who is focussed on the administration/promotion of all projects frees MCC's Natural Resource Management Officers to utilise their time entirely engaged with facilitation of the project on the land, significantly improving outcomes for the project and reinforcing MCC's public representation.



7.4 Demonstrating elite fodder shrubs for future productive use in the NAR

Community Action Grant funding \$13,400 Project CAG11-001292 Time frame June 2011 – September 2013 and NACC Devolved Grant funding \$6,300 Project 38N10-09-45 Time frame Oct 2011 – August 2012

The MCC obtained funding through the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) Caring For Our Country (CFOC) devolved wind erosion grant scheme and CFOC's Community Action Grants scheme to carry out this project. In partnership with the Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group (MMPIG), three different project sites were chosen at Miling, Namban and Calingiri to ensure widespread testing of the shrubs.

CSIRO has been running the project funded through Future Farm Industries CRC to find an Oldman Saltbush cultivar with higher digestibility and palatability than the average Oldman saltbush on offer at nurseries. The project has involved narrowing down the original 80,000 cultivars to just 12 and has relied on sheep to do the majority of the selection through their grazing preference at the research sites. These 12 remaining cultivars will be trialled at ten sites across WA including the three in the MMPIG region.

The MMPIG and MCC have had a long involvement with promoting saltbush as a sustainable fodder shrub. As well as providing energy, protein and vitamin E, they also have a great environmental role in rehabilitating saline lands and provide habitat for native animals. CSIRO will monitor the sites over the next couple of years to measure growth and adaptability in the paddock, and also rate preference by the local sheep.

The three sites were planted during early August after the late seasonal rains. Photo points were established for future visual monitoring. Hayley Norman and her team have visited the sites a number of times since planting to check on growth, and also released a research update to the MCC to pass on to networks. Future findings will be sent to the networks also. A sign was created and placed at the Miling site due its proximity to a road.

A workshop called the 'Practical uses of saltbush' was held on Monday 3rd September in Bindi Bindi to learn about the benefits of saltbush as a fodder shrub. The day was organised in conjunction with the MMPIG.

The afternoon started at the Bindi hall with Hayley Norman (CSIRO) talking about the uses of saltbush in the farming system both for fodder and environmental benefits. She also talked about the elite oldman saltbush project funded through Future Farm Industries CRC to find a strain of oldman saltbush with better digestibility and palatability. Phil Vercoe (UWA) then spoke about the importance of the rumen and how to make it more efficient to reduce wastes including methane.

Field visits followed with a trip first to Les Crane's property at Gabalong to look at his allies of saltbush alongside oil mallees to create belts of food and shelter for stock across his property. Les has been experimenting with design and now has settled on paddock edge belts of 16m of saltbush and mallees which also act as great wind breaks. The group then moved on to Rob and Maria Wood's Te Rakau property at



Bindi where the couple have used saltbush to extensively rehabilitate all their creek lines over many years creating habitat for native fauna as well as feed for their sheep. The results are magnificent and are much more aesthetically pleasing than bare salty creeks. Rob and Maria's hospitality continued back at their house with beers and steak rolls, and the events concluded just as the first spots of rain started to blow in.

Amount Received as at 30 th June 2013	\$19,700.00
Amount expended as at 30 th June 2013	\$18,500.00
Balance of funds in project as at 30 th June 2013	\$1,200.00

7.5 **Planting feed species for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo in the Moora and Koobabbie Important Bird Areas.**

State NRM funding \$45,000 Project 12082 Time frame December 2012 – December 2013

The State NRM office funded the MCC project 'Planting feed species for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo in the Moora and Koobabbie Important Bird Areas' in November 2012. This project will run until December 2013 and will see 12,500 seedlings planted in the selected areas. MCC had the funding cheque delivered personally from Terry Redmond (former Minister for Agriculture).



The Moora and Koobabbie Important Bird Areas (IBAs) support up to 60 and 32 breeding pairs of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, respectively. The birds are drawn to these areas during the breeding season because of the presence of suitable nesting hollows in some remaining salmon gums within Moora township and road-rail reserve, and conserved in

remnant woodland within farmland at Koobabbie (near Coorow). However, breeding pairs struggle to rear chicks to fledging and beyond, due to shortage of food plants remaining in the landscape as a result of clearing for agriculture. These IBAs, in particular, form small islands of nesting trees within a largely cleared landscape.

This project will increase the area of suitable feed habitat for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo in these small isolated IBAs to enhance the breeding prospects of this rare and endangered species. The planting areas will be located close to the breeding sites to enable efficient foraging during the breeding season, and will include salmon gum seedlings to increase the number of suitable nesting trees in the long term. Seedlings were ordered in December and include *Eucalyptus salmonophlora* – Salmon Gum, *Eucalyptus wandoo* – Wandoo Eucalyptus, *loxophleba* – York Gum, *Grevillea petrophiloides* – Pink Poker, *Hakea lissocarpha* – Honey bush, *Hakea scoparia* – Kangaroo bush, *Hakea trifurcate* – Two leafed Hakea, *Hakea preissii* Needle Tree and *Hakea recurva* – Djarnokmurd.



Private sites around Moora have been identified through an expression of interest format and through one to one contact with landholders. Community planting sites have also been identified around Moora in conjunction with the Shire. Planting of all sites will occur during July.

MCC will organise a Carnaby food and general awareness day in July and will feature presentations from Wally Kerkhoff from the Kerkhoff Carnaby Group, Sarah Mason - local Carnaby enthusiast, and representatives from the Karaakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre.

7.6 ***“Demonstrating different establishment techniques of perennials in deep sand***

Community Landcare Grants funding \$10,900 Project CLG-1206222-828 Time frame June 1013 – March 2015

The Moore Catchment Council is delighted to announce that they were successful in obtaining funds through the Caring For Our Country (CFOC) Community Landcare Grants for their ‘Demonstrating different establishment techniques of perennials in deep sand’ project. This small project was the brainchild of a Koojan farmer who visited the MCC office on the off-chance that there was funding available for his idea. Luckily, it was the day before the application closing date so MCC NRM officer Rachel Walmsley helped draft out the idea and wrote up the project quickly before the deadline.

Establishing perennial plants in deep white non-wetting sands is problematic. This is due to poor water and nutrient holding capacity of the soil at the root zone, and ensuring the plants survive their first summer in the NAR.

This project will investigate and demonstrate a variety of proven soil amelioration techniques to improve the soil quality at the root zone. This will include applying organic matter, clay spreading, and spading and deep ripping. A field walk at the Koojan farm will help communicate results and key learnings in Spring 2014.



Good establishment methods will improve production (Coomberdale perennials on white sand 2011)



7.7 “Ocean to Estuaries Workshop” Project

NACC funding \$1,917.50 Project Oceans to Estuaries Time frame Nov 2012 - March 2013

The Moore estuary is a much loved asset of the Mid West, and that’s why over 35 people gathered in Guilderton on the 6th April to learn about its natural processes and also discuss issues which are threatening its future. The Northern Agricultural Catchment’s Council (NACC) and the Moore Catchment Council (MCC) organised the day as part of NACC’s Summer Estuary workshop series funded through Caring For Our Country. The day kicked off with a Moore estuary cruise. Local resident Phil Cook runs these boat trips which help to show and explain to visitors the importance of protecting the Moore estuary. Phil is particularly concerned with the artificial breaking of the sandbar which can cause devastating consequences to local fauna further upstream. Phil’s passion for the estuary is obvious and everyone on board appreciated his talk.

Back on land, the presentations started with Mic Payne (NACC) talking about estuary processes and the ecology estuaries support. This was followed by Bev Port-Louis from the Yuat (Yued) Group who gave the audience an Aboriginal perspective of the Moore River and the importance the river/estuary holds to the Traditional owners. Finally, Dr Malcolm Robb (Dept of Water) gave a fascinating presentation on the estuaries throughout the southwest. Malcolm compared each to water quality testing results, human impact and issues. The Moore River ranked high in



most tests which again demonstrates why the river should be protected for the future. Click on link for in-depth look at the Moore estuary <http://www.water.wa.gov.au/PublicationStore/first/41141.pdf>

MCC and NACC wish to thanks everyone who came along, the speakers, and the Guilderton Community Association for their help organising the day.

Up Stream – tranquil, but for how long?



8 Workshops & Field Days

8.1 MCC Ordinary General Meetings Round Up

MCC OGM and meeting Round Up

MCC held their Annual General meeting on the 28th September at the Ballet room in Moora. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer were up for nomination and Duncan Peter (Secretary) and Lawrie Short (Treasurer) were both re-elected.

John Braid gave a presentation on NACC's progress and future focus. John has been a board member of NACC for a few years now. John Holley from the State NRM office gave an informal presentation on future funding opportunities and then held a discussion on what's happening around the state.



MCC held a number of Ordinary General Meetings including one in Latham on February 15th. We were fortunate to have Sally Cail from the Northern Mallee fowl Group come along to explain what they do and why Malleefowl need protecting. After the meeting, the group were invited out to Peter Waterhouse's property to look at an active mound.

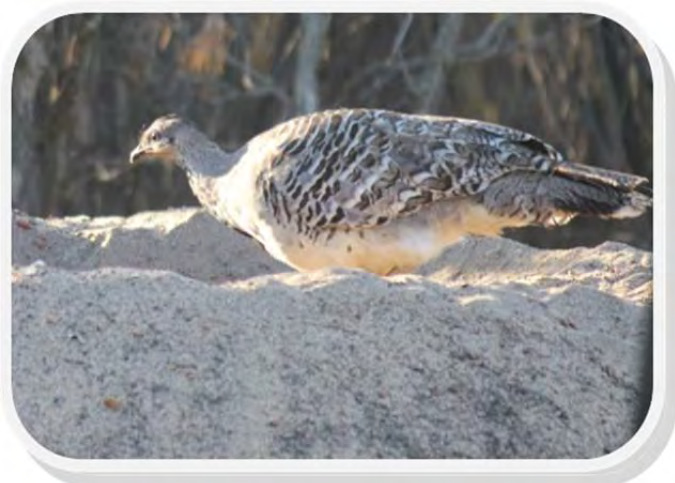
Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) are large ground dwelling birds somewhat larger than a domestic hen. Once common, their numbers have seriously declined over the last 100 years. Malleefowl are classified as "fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct" under the Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950-91. Nationally, the Malleefowl is listed as a threatened species in need of national conservation efforts (National Recovery Plan for Malleefowl, Dr Joe Benshemesh 2000).

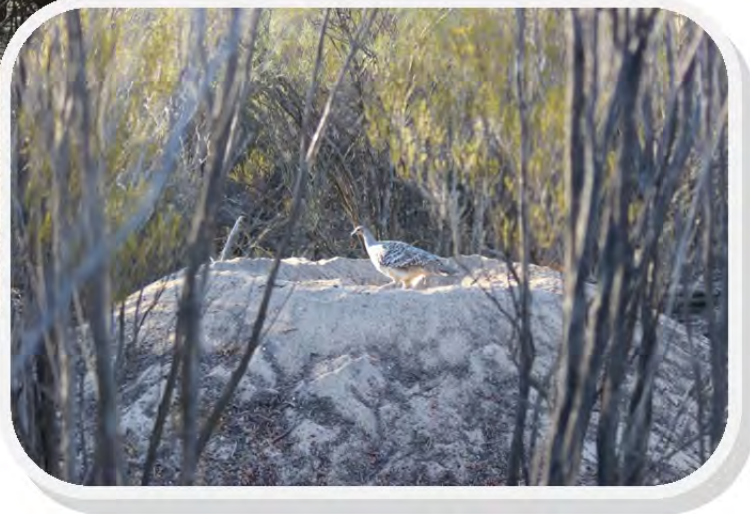
Malleefowl dedicate 9-11 months per year building and maintaining a large incubation mound of soil, leaves and twigs. The eggs are laid in the mound, buried and left to incubate by heat generated from composting litter. Malleefowl mounds may be used over many generations and can attain an impressive size of 22 metres in circumference and one metre high.

Threats include:

- Loss of habitat (clearing, fires)
- Remnant vegetation decline (salinity, grazing)
- Introduced animals (e.g. foxes, cats, rabbits, goats)
- Isolated remnants
- Lack of greater Community awareness

Exert from: <http://www.malleefowl.com.au>





8.2 Agricultural Shows

Agricultural Show displays

The MCC had a display at the Moora show (September) in the Woolshed. MCC again had lots of trees to give away which helped draw in the crowds from outside. There was various native species including Salmon Gums, One sided Bottle brush and Lemon scented Gums. Specific planting advice was provided for each species. All were extremely popular and MCC had no problems giving them away to approx. 30 local residents. MCC have gained a reputation for giving away tree at the show and will continue this tradition into the future.

Rachel helps a local resident pick out trees for her Moora property



Lots of interesting information on the display



8.3 *Regional Team meeting*

Regional Team meeting

It was MCC's turn once again in April to organize and host a NACC regional team meeting. These two day meetings bring together members of staff from NACC and the other sub regions in the Northern Agricultural Region to discuss current and future projects, talk about issues, and showcase project works in the chosen area. Last time MCC hosted a regional team meeting was in 2008 when the team went to New Norcia and looked at agricultural projects, so this time MCC chose to host it in Guilderton and show off some of what the Moore estuary has to offer.

MCC booked Tuppin House as the one stop venue and it suited the team perfectly. After the main meeting, Jim Laffer from the Guilderton Community Association took the group to the northern dunes and showed them the problems associated with 4x4 driving and multi tracks. The GCA and NACC are in the process of implementing a project to close off tracks and provide signage to encourage drivers to stick to the one path and respect the dunes. To conclude the day, MCC took the group on a late afternoon Moore estuary cruise. Phil Cook was on hand as ever to talk the group through the estuary processes and issues. The weather was perfect for the cruise and the group saw lots of birdlife settling to roost.

For the second day, the team were entertained for a few hours by Mic Payne from NACC who showed the group a new smartphone app for beach photo monitoring followed by a 'weed' walk on the local beach. Unfortunately there wasn't a lot of weed on the beach but that didn't stop Mic giving us a fascinating talk about the wonders of weed on the beach. To finish the day, members of the Lower Moore River Working Group showed the group rehabilitation works around Silver Creek. This has involved creating a canoe launch point, fishing platform and bird spotting signage and benches. Everyone was impressed with the dedication of the volunteers in this community

Thanks to everyone that was involved to make this regional team meeting a successful two days.

Jim Laffer shows the group dune issues



Left - Looking at Silver Creek rehabilitation project

Right - Afternoon Moore River cruise was enjoyed by all.



8.4 Coastal Activities

Coastal Activities

The Moore Catchment Council is contracted by NACC to deliver their federally funded Coastal Engagement program on the MCC's section of coastline that encompasses Guilderton, Seabird and Ledge Point. This has involved organising extension events, liaising and providing funding information to the various coastal groups, and helping to coordinate community conservation activities. Some of these activities are detailed below:

Guilderton community cleans up beach and estuary

A good number of community volunteers turned out for a beach and estuary rubbish pick up in Guilderton on the 12th October which ran in conjunction with Tangaroa Blue's state wide annual clean up event. Tangaroa Blue aims to improve the health of the marine environment of WA through monitoring marine debris and education events. A big part of this annual clean-up is not only to rid the beach of rubbish, but also to audit the waste collected to feed into Tangaroa Blue's database so to highlight types of rubbish discarded.

The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) in collaboration with the Guilderton Community Association organised the clean-up with funding through the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) Federal Caring for our Country Coastal Engagement program, and equipment supplied by Tangaroa Blue. Rachel Walmsley of MCC said 'We had a good number of volunteers help with the two hour clean up including lots of children. These volunteers picked up a huge amount of rubbish from around the lookout, beaches, Silver Creek and the estuary car park.' 60kg of rubbish was picked up in bags, and a trailer helped bring back a lot of discarded wood, rope and a car battery from the southern beach which weighed an estimated 120kg.



Analysis of the waste revealed a lot of the regular offending items like plastic wrappers, straws, cigarette butts and bottle caps as well as clothing, dirty nappies and broken camping equipment. The most artistic find of the day was a 'scarecrow' made of old bits of rope, wood and foam buoys. This might not have ended up in the skip due to its charm!

would put their rubbish in a bin or take it home with them instead of dumping it on the beach.'

Rachel concluded 'The volunteers did a great job of cleaning up Guilderton's beaches and estuary, and I thank them for giving up their time to help. I just wish people



Photo's

Left: Neil & Gillian Lamont with the scarecrow

Middle: A trailer load picked up from the beach

Seabird beach walk highlights importance of seaweed

It may have been a bit windy with a few friendly flies but that didn't deter a group of keen local community members participating in a guided beach walk at Seabird on the 11th October which was dedicated to boosting the profile of beach seaweed (or beach wrack as it's properly known). Many people are put off by the sight and smell of the weed when it covers beaches during the winter/spring months and after storms. The morning walk was organised by the Moore Catchment Council (MCC) and funded through the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) Federal Caring for our Country Coastal Engagement program.

Rachel Walmsley local Natural Resource Management Officer with MCC said 'Dr Mic Payne from NACC led the walk which started with everyone gathering bits of weed and beach debris. Mic then divided up the finds into categories to show everyone what the weed is made up of which surprisingly is actually mostly seagrass and not sea weed.' Other groups included sponges, algae and of course human caused debris (in this case a pair of sunglasses which were snapped up by one of the participants!) A great find turned up in the shape of a Port Jackson shark egg case which was fascinating to look at.

Mic then made a couple of sweeps of his net in the weedy water and turned out its contents into a tray. Thousands of critters known as Amphipods were swimming around as were other bugs. Great food source for the small fish!

Finally, Mic promised the group they would go away with three significant reasons why the weed is highly important to the coastal environment and why everyone needs to respect it more.

1. The weed actively protects the beach and dunes from storm damage
2. The weed provides a habitat for the critters that small fish eat, which in turn bigger fish eat which supplies the fishermen with something to catch
3. The weed is full of nutrients and acts as a natural compost heap which break down and nourishes the ocean

'It was an interesting and captivating couple of hours ' said Rachel, 'Mic did an excellent job of engaging the group especially the children. Thanks to everyone who came along and made it a great morning. We all went away with a better appreciation for beach wrack.'



Seabird beach walk participants



Mic shows us weed



Thousands of critters in the weed



9 Moore Catchment Council Activities

9.1 NACC Incentives Delivery

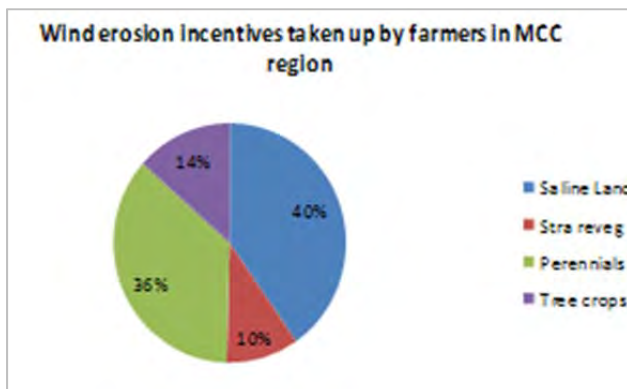
NACC Incentives Delivery

Over the past 12 months, MCC have continued to be the main delivery agent for the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's on-ground Sustainable Agricultural and Farm Biodiversity incentive programs.

Wind erosion

June 2013 marks the end of the four year long Caring For Our Country funded NACC wind erosion program. The past twelve months has seen the final push to get the remaining money out on the ground. This has involved an increased workload for the MCC NRMO's but the final result are worth it. 119 agreements to carry out projects involving saline land, perennial pastures, strategic revegetation and tree crops were signed up between 2009 and 2013. 31 of these projects cancelled for various reasons.

The saline land and perennial pastures incentive programs proved to be the most popular due to farmers being convinced of the multiple benefits of fencing and revegetating salt land, and planting sub-tropical perennial pastures on poor sands.



Wind erosion projects 2009-2013 completed	No. of sites	Area to be planted (and/or protected) (ha)	Length to be fenced (km)
Perennial Pastures	31	1812	50
Tree Crops	13	148	-
Saline Land	37	504	55
Strategic Revegetation	7	59	16
Total	88	2523	121

NACC wind erosion project successes



2009 Tree Crops

Les Crane, Gabalong checks on his oil mallees with NACC's Euan Scott



2011 Perennial Pastures

Brad Tonkin, Coomberdale was extremely pleased with his perennial establishment

2011 Saline Lands

Aaron Edmonds, Calingiri planted allies of saltbush



2011 Saline Lands

Rob Keamy, Namban fenced off and revegetated a salty eyesore with saltbush



2011 Saline Lands

Steve Slater, Wannamal planted mounded saltbush on a waterlogged site



2012 Tree Crops

Tony Ruse, Gingin planted belts of Sugar and Spotted Gums for potential timber use in the future



2012 Strategic Revegetation

David Glasfurd, Walebing planted native species improving biodiversity



2012 Perennial Pastures

John Isbister, Moora planted perennials on his poor sands after first improving his soil through spading

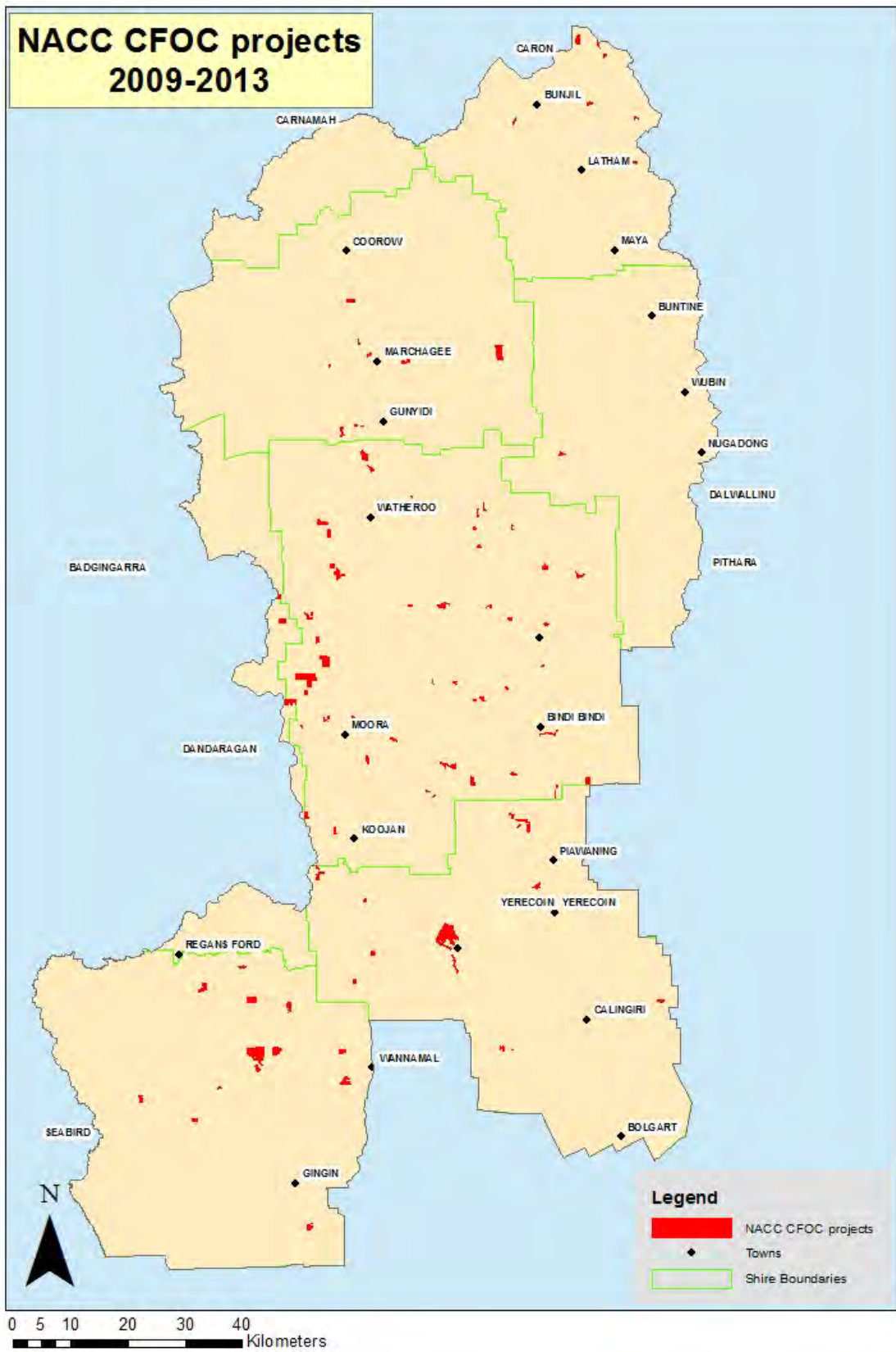


Hidden Treasures

MCC has also been delivering the successful Hidden Treasures program to landholders in the Moore region. Over the past twelve months 12 projects were negotiated with landholders with 11 going ahead. The total area fenced off and protected in these projects was 1394 hectares. Many of these sites contained 'Priority' woodlands and also are known habitat and feeding sites for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.

Hidden Treasure projects 2012 - 2013 signed up and completed	No. of sites	Area protected (ha)	Length to be fenced (km)
Hidden Treasures	11	1394	38





NRMO 3-MCC Wind Erosion, Coastal & Hidden Treasurers Project funding

Amount Received as at 30 th June 2013	\$167,500.00
Amount expended as at 30 th June 2013	\$167,501.70
Balance of funds in project as at 30 th June 2013	\$ 0.00

NRMO 4-MCC Rivers & Wetlands, Regional Collaboration, Hidden Treasurers Project funding

Amount Received as at 30 th June 2013	\$90,000.00
Amount expended as at 30 th June 2013	\$90,000.00
Balance of funds in project as at 30 th June 2013	\$ 0.00

9.2 MCC Grant Applications

MCC Grant Applications

State NRM Projects – Pending

Project 1

Conservation of Candy's Bush Reserve through Traditional and ecological knowledge sharing

This project will result in documenting and sharing traditional plus conventional ecological and heritage knowledge regarding Candy's Bush Reserve. This will be a partnership project between the Yued Group, Friends of the Moora Woodland and the Shire of Moora. Activities include designating and producing interpretative signage, Candy's trail construction, a Traditional Ecological booklet and workshop, and trail opening event.

Funding Requested = \$32,450

Project 2

Enriching native forage shrubs in the Moore Catchment

This project aims to trial across five sites (10ha total) in partnership with FFI and MMPIG, the top five suitable native forage shrubs (including elite *Atriplex* sp. cultivars) that have been identified for that area, soil type and rainfall from the Enrich project to date. Project will involve a workshop and field walk highlighting the project, benefits of forage shrubs, and key findings

Funding Requested = \$50,000

Project 3

*Reconnecting fragmented Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) habitat near Maya, Western Australia*

Moore Catchment Council, together with the North Central Malleefowl Preservation Group and a private landholder, will conduct a project to reduce:

- Isolation by revegetating 15 ha of strategic corridors to link fragmented Malleefowl habitat;
 - Grazing pressure by reducing rabbit numbers around Malleefowl habitat remnants through the use of 1080 baits; and
- Predation by reducing fox numbers in and near Malleefowl habitat remnants through the use of 1080 baits.

Funding Requested = \$36,325

Project 4

*Planting feed species for the endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) in the Northern Swan Coastal Plain Important Bird Area*



Moore Catchment Council is currently running a project to increase the area of foraging and nesting habitat for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo in the Moora and Koobabbie IBA's. The great success of the project, combined with interest from private landholders to run a similar project in the Northern Swan Coastal Plain IBA, has led to the development of this project to increase the area of foraging habitat for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo in the Northern Swan Coastal Plain IBA. With support from Birdlife, Moore Catchment Council, together with the Shire of Gingin and private landholders, will achieve this by revegetating 10 ha (i.e. 12,500 plants) of the Northern Swan Coastal Plain IBA and adjacent land, including the Gingin town site, with feed species. Moore Catchment Council and the Shire of Gingin will also encourage the public to participate in the Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo counts coordinated by Birdlife and host a field day in Gingin to raise awareness of the plight of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo and show residents how to identify feed species.

Funding Requested = \$45,000.00

Caring for our Country - Innovations Grant Application – Pending

Demonstrating efficient use of limesands by strategic management of soil pH

This project aims to better manage pH issues within broadacre farming in the NAR by promoting more efficient use of lime to address soil acidity. This will be achieved by using Precision SoilTech soil sampling technology over five farms in the MMPIG region to identify 3 pH zones per paddock. Correct lime amounts can then be applied to each zone through modified multispreaders.

Increased adoption and knowledge of this innovative practice will be achieved by hosting 2 practical lime multispreader demonstration days, and 2 workshops on creation of paddock prescription maps and GPS data. Publicised case study videos will help further adoption in the MMPIG region alongside project promotion and key findings through the appropriate networks.

Timeframe

Sep 2013 – June 2015

Funding Requested = \$307,450

DAFF - Community Food Grants – Pending

Bridging the city and country food production knowledge divide

This project will bridge the knowledge divide between the urban consumers and the primary producer by the Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group (MMPIG) 'adopting' a school. This will be achieved by school presentations by farmers, farm blog videos and a multi farm tour in the MMPIG area.

Timeline

Aug 2013 – March 2014

Funding Requested = \$8,800

Unsuccessful Grants

Clean Energy Futures Fund – Biodiversity fund Round two

Forging links between Gumnut Babies & Banksia Men on the Moore River

Funding Requested = \$3,500,000.00

Protecting and enhancing the Moore River biodiversity corridors

Funding Requested = \$ 929,610.00

Adopted by resolution at the Annual General Meeting 4th October, 2013

