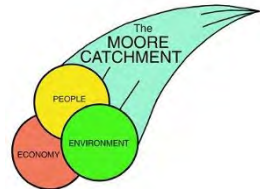


# MOORE to the point



**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](http://www.moorecatchment.org)

**Issue 32 Autumn 2014**

Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 32nd *Moore to the Point* newsletter. Planting time has started with MCC coordinating mass native habitat planting for Carnaby's and Malleefowl in the region; plus leading the investigation into the recent tree decline along the railway. editor *Rachel Walmsley*

Inside this issue:	page
<b>Turquoise bus tour report</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Plant feed trees for Carnaby's</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Moora roadside veg surveyed</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Creating a bush asset in Moora</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Guilderton projects update</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Tipping Point conference</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Moore River health ignored</b>	<b>8</b>

## MCC leads investigation into railway tree decline

Railway bush reserves are highly important both as ecological corridors and as community assets. With the recent extensive tree decline noticed along the railway between Wannamal to Geraldton involving York Gums, Salmon Gums and Wandoo, investigations led by MCC have followed.

Rachel Walmsley, MCC's NRM Officer said "MCC has organised two stakeholder meetings in the past few months. The initial meeting with Brookfield Rail in January discussed the issue and the community's concerns on why thousands of trees along the railway suddenly becoming sick in Spring 2013. Outcomes included leaf/soil sampling of affected areas and further investigation by Brookfield Rail."

A follow up meeting was held in March in Moora between Brookfield Rail and even more concerned stakeholders than the first meeting. Rachel said "Leaf/soil samples results concluded that the residual herbicide chemical Metribuzin is to blame for the tree decline. This has been used by Brookfield Rail with Glyphosate to control weeds including resistant rye grass, and had been used for the previous two years prior to 2013 without ill effects. It is thought the rain events/wet spring may have unfortunately allowed the chemical to infiltrate the soil and reach the tree roots.



Above: Sick York Gum trees along the railway line in Moora

The long dry summer has also not helped with tree recovery. "Lengthy discussions were held on Brookfield Rail's weed spraying protocol including chemicals used, technique and timing. Brookfield Rail said they are reviewing their procedures and that Metribuzin would not be used again on the line. Chemical selection is made in conjunction with the Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group to avoid weed species developing glyphosate resistance.

Rachel said "Actions to be taken by Brookfield Rail include using a proven nutrient injection technique to bring back a number of prominent sick trees including those through Moora and Coomberdale." This happened in April with 180 trees being injected. Monitoring by Brookfield Rail will be long term to gauge success. Recovery of a large number of trees is expected over the autumn/winter but this will be reviewed in the spring. Brookfield Rail will also commit to a wide scale planting program if necessary. This will be discussed at the next meeting in the spring.



Above: York Gum leaf showing the poisoning.  
Right: Nutrient injections should help with recovery



Rachel concluded "I'd like to thank everyone who has attended the meetings, and to Brookfield Rail for being open and honest. This has helped get this issue dealt with in a prompt manner."

Anyone who wishes more information, please phone Rachel Walmsley at Moore Catchment Council on 9653 1355.



## Bus tour explores Turquoise coastal conservation

Ever wondered what people are doing to conserve the Turquoise coast and how to get involved? This was the theme for **Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 'Explore the Turquoise coast' bus tour on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March**. The event was funded by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) through the Federal Government and aimed to network like-minded coast care volunteers and showcase rehabilitation projects between Cervantes and Guilderton.

Rachel Walmsley, MCC's tour organiser said "first stop was Lake Thetis where Charlie Shaw (Yued Elder) gave a traditional 'Welcome to Country' followed by Brad Rushforth (Dept of Parks & Wildlife) who explained the ecological significance of the hyper saline lake which contain stromatolites – colonies of cyanobacteria around 3,500 years old. Brad also showed us the boardwalk walk trail project which is helping to protect the stromatolites from being damaged."



Welcome by Charlie Shaw



Stromatolites



Brad Rushforth talks about Lake Thetis

Back on the bus, Philippa Schmucker (NACC NRM Officer) talked about NACC coastal projects including one focusing on long term beach photo monitoring, followed by Jan Richards (Ledge Point Coastcare) who gave a potted history of the **Coastcare group and projects to date**. "The next stop was Ledge Point" said Rachel, "where the group had a guided tour of the Key Biscayne coastal dune rehabilitation project with Jan Richards and Dave Bright (Regen4 Environmental). To help reduce degradation, an 800m stretch of dunes was fenced off, weeded and revegetated in 2010 using a Coastwest grant. **Keen Ledge volunteers have continued on with the weeding/revegetating and it's making a positive impact.**"



Jan Richards welcomes group



Key Biscayne rehabilitation project, Ledge Point



Dave shows pyp grass weed

It was a quick hop to the next stop in Guilderton where the Guilderton Community Association (GCA) greeted the group with a wonderful lunch on the banks of the Moore River estuary. After being refreshed, the group was welcomed formally by Gillian Lamont (Chair GCA), and then by Charlie Shaw and members of the Yued who talked about the cultural relevance of Guilderton (or Gabbadah – its original Aboriginal name) and then demonstrated a water ritual to announce **the group's presence to the country and allow safe travel**. The Yued ladies threw sand into the river and spoke their names.



Gillian Lamont welcomes group



Yued water ritual



Moore River estuary cruise was popular

The group then split into two concurrent sessions. Rachel said "On offer was the highly popular Moore estuary boat cruise run by Phil Cook, a local environmentalist passionate about the protection of the Moore River, or an informative town tour with 'Secret no longer' author and long-time resident John Prince. Both trips were well received."



Turquoise bus tour participants at the Moore River estuary



Quiz winners & Rachel

Then it was time to leave for the trip back north. To keep everyone entertained, Rachel had devised a quiz about bus trip. Prizes on offer included two framed Guilderton themed photos and a selection of goodies featuring free Moore boat cruise tickets and NACC garden guides. Rachel said "After quizzing the participants with a variety of easy and taxing questions, the highest scorer and overall winner was Shane Love with runner up Jan Richards. Well done to both !".

The bus had a quick stop at Hangover Bay to look at the new signage and then continued on to drop off the weary passengers back in their home towns. Rachel said "Huge thanks to everyone that came along and made the day a success including the speakers, the GCA, West Midlands Group for the microphones, and Philippa for all her help. I hope everyone took something useful away from the day to help conserve their patch of the Turquoise coast."

*Check out this 4 min video of the day on the below link:*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PX89EGRNUQg&list=UUb1wgM4ujwXi94p0HQRD5Kw&feature=share>

financially supported by



supported by



## Beyond Gardens workshops help create sustainable gardens

MCC recently helped the Perth based Beyond Gardens team organise two of their garden events in Coorow and Calingiri at the beginning of May. MCC has worked with this team before back in 2009 when, in partnership with Yarra Yarra CMG, they organised two full day gardening workshops in Moora and Dalwallinu under their old name Great Gardens.

This time it was just two hours of interesting and simple money saving ways to create and maintain gardens in the Midwest delivered by garden guru John Colwill. Both workshops were well attended with over 30 green fingered residents at Coorow and 25 at Calingiri.

Top tips included:

- ☉ New plants - dig hole no more than 30cm deep as feeder roots are shallow.
- ☉ **Improve your soil's health with organic material. Healthy soil = healthy plants.**
- ☉ Use only one fertiliser for all plants. NPK with rate 5:1:3 with complete trace elements
- ☉ Be wary of using bought animal manure. Very potent.
- ☉ Install drip irrigation to all planting beds to reduce wasted water
- ☉ Mulch using something coarse such as rocks or bark chippings - not lupin straw
- ☉ Create compost to recycle nutrients - never send away green waste !

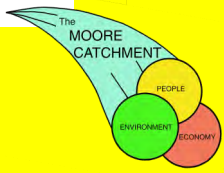


Above: John talks tips and tricks to successful gardening



For more info:

<http://www.beyondgardens.com.au/>



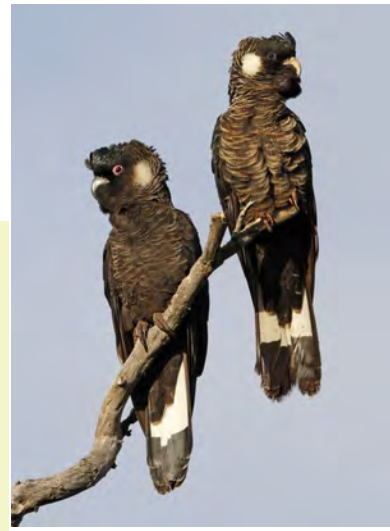
# Plant feed species for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo are endemic to WA but are rapidly in decline. Estimates put total population to be below 60,000.

The Northern Swan Coastal Plain Important Bird Area (IBA) supports up to 15,000 Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo in the non-breeding season and a small number of breeding pairs. The birds are attracted to this area because of the presence of feed species in remnant vegetation containing *Banksia* heath and woodland, scattered marri (*Corymbia callophylla*) and tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) trees and *Pinus* spp.

This area of foraging habitat has, however, been greatly reduced as a result of clearing, mainly for agricultural and residential development purposes.

**We need your help to plant 12,500 feed species plants for the endangered Carnaby's. Over half have been allocated - get in before they're all gone !!**



Photos above: courtesy of Keith Lightbody



- Do you live anywhere on the above map between Guilderton and Gingin?? (southern extent is Gingin Shire boundary)
- Would you like some **free** trees and bushes to plant in 2014 for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo?

If **yes** - then contact Rachel at the Moore Catchment Council to register your interest:

9653 1355

0409 296 264

[mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com](mailto:mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com)

- MCC can also provide \$\$\$\$ for fencing off the revegetated areas



This Moore Catchment Council project is being funded through the State NRM program



As the sun set on April 6th, lots of volunteers throughout southern WA were looking to the skies waiting for Carnaby's Black Cockatoos to fly overhead. The Great Cocky Count is coordinated by Birdlife Australia as a way to gauge just how many Carnaby's there are left in WA. Several counts happened throughout the Moore region including a site on the Dandaragan rd half way between Moora and Dandaragan. Here the Carnaby's gather and feed/water before roosting north of the road. A group of 7 volunteers conducted the count which was frantic !! The concluded result was **460 Carnaby's** which is way more than 2013 when only 228 Carnaby's were counted. This is an encouraging result for a bird declared as endangered.



**Left:** How many can you see ?? Counting the birds at the site between Moora and Dandaragan was made much easier by multiple eyes watching the sky !

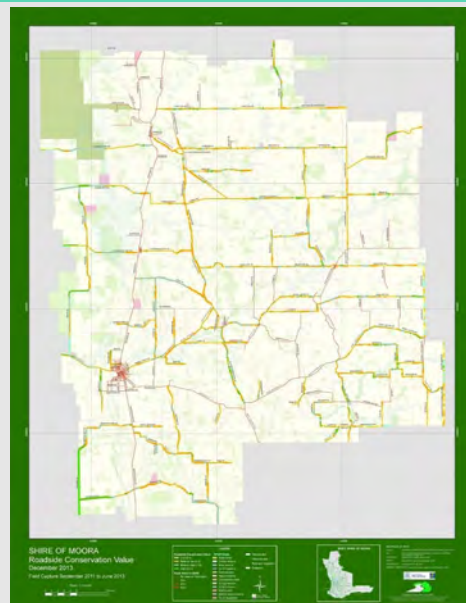
## Moora Shire roadside vegetation surveying completed

The RCC, or Roadside Conservation Committee, is responsible for assisting road and rail managers to enhance and maintain the conservation value status within their roadsides. They assist through training, creating roadside vegetation management plans, and giving advice on roadside issues.

Weed control, management of special environment areas and threatened flora & fauna, roadside clearing and fire management are some of the issues they aim to address and provide information on.

RCC's roadside survey and mapping program was developed to provide a method of readily determining the conservation status of roadside vegetation. Using this method, community volunteers are able to participate in a 'snap-shot' survey of roadside vegetation to identify a range of attributes that, when combined, give an overall indication of the conservation status of the vegetation.

The results of the Shire of Moora were presented on 16 April in Moora. This project has been undertaken over the past 2.5 years and the majority of the rural roads in the shire have been surveyed using a hand held survey device. The data has been analysed and the report prepared by the RCC. The Roadside Conservation Value Map (right) has been produced in conjunction with the Department of Parks & Wildlife's GIS section.



**Above:** Map produced. Come to MCC office to see full size one and see how your road rates !

Summary of results:

Moora Shire does have some high conservation value roads that need protecting. These include Kiaka, Koojan West, Masons, Namban West, Prices and Watheroo West Road. These could be nominated as Flora Roads. Currently Moora Shire has no designated Flora Roads.

Recommendations include:

- Weeds: target and remove the six main troublesome weeds - Paterson's Curse, African Lovegrass, Fountain Grass, Spiny Rush, Veldt Grass and Wild radish
- Enhance: Re-vegetate degraded areas on the high value roads including Airstrip, Koojan West, Kiaka, Old Geraldton and Prices Roads
- Conserve: Protect endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoos - retain all large Eucalypt trees for breeding habitat

Further information about the Roadside Conservation Committee can be found at the following link: <http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/rcc>

Or contact: **Kylie Payne** Technical Officer Roadside Conservation Committee Phone: 9219 8762

## Creating a bush asset at Candy's Reserve Moora

Stage 2 of a project to conserve Candy's Bush Reserve, Moora has started through funding from the State NRM program. Perimeter fencing to keep out vehicles and revegetation was part of Stage 1 which has now been completed. This new project aims to make the reserve into a local biodiversity asset by formalising a walking trail through the 8ha reserve with interpretative signage, and linking it in to the Moora Carnaby town walk trail.

The reserve is predominately Salmon Gum and Wandoo woodland and houses some impressive wildflowers including at least 15 orchid species. A real sight to see during the Winter/Spring months!

Collaboration with the local Yued Group will share biodiversity significance of the native plants within the reserve and also the traditional use of the reserve. MCC will also collaborate with the Friends of the Moora Woodland group and also the Shire of Moora to plan and carry out this project.

Some problems have arisen with individuals cutting the fence on the northern end near Gardiner St so they can ride their motorbikes through the reserve. This has been repaired, and the Shire Ranger and Police are watching the area for future break-ins. Modifications may have to be made to this section of fence to prevent reoccurrence.



**Above:** Candy's Bush Reserve - Parking will be available along Gardiner St (west side) with two pedestrian entrances (yellow arrows) allowing access into the reserve (additional pedestrian access is available from Saleeba Rd and Lee Steere street). Interpretive signage (blue) will mark the start of the walking trail (yellow dotted) with the circular trail taking walkers through the 8ha reserve and back. The aim is to incorporate this trail into the Moora Carnaby town trail as well as a stand alone attraction.

**Far left:** Damaged fence - action will be taken !

**Left:** Fabulous Spider Orchids at Carnaby's reserve



## Value your paddock trees alive - not dead

Unfortunately paddock trees all over WA are feeling the 'burn' at this time of year. They are 'inconvenient' to drive around with modern GPS machinery, and so are removed and burned. With the recent change in law, it's legal to remove paddock trees deemed as 'isolated' - more than 50m away from other native vegetation, and also up to 5 ha of native vegetation per year. More information on the native vegetation clearing guidelines:

[http://www.der.wa.gov.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=49&catid=21&Itemid=138](http://www.der.wa.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49&catid=21&Itemid=138)

Paddock trees have great value not just as habitat for native animals (food, hollows for breeding & shelter) and carbon sequestration, but as useful tools for continued productivity on the farm.

For example:

1. Big old trees play a great role in maintaining healthy soils at a microbial level resulting in healthy crops and pastures.
2. They have deep roots which can keep control of waterlogging and salinity issues.
3. They can help reduce annoying pests such as mice decimating crops by acting as a platform for owls/raptors to land and sight their prey.



MCC is currently running two projects in Guilderton - one on the North Guilderton dunes, and one at the estuary.

The North Guilderton Coastal Restoration project's on-ground component is near completion:

- \* Dept of Parks & Wildlife have been contracted to install the fencing that will help protect 22ha of dune vegetation currently being trashed by 4WD vehicles. They will also install directional and interpretative signage that MCC has designed to help dune users to understand where to drive and why the dunes should be respected.
- \* A new walk trail through the protected area has also been created called the Djena Koorl-iny North Guilderton trail. Djena Koorl-iny (pronounced jena koorling) means 'go on foot' in the Yued language.
- \* Fencing and signage will be completed in June with the walk trail opened soon after.

The estuary project is in full swing:

- \* has involved creating some interpretative signage for the estuary foreshore to help explain to visitors about estuary ecology and natural processes such as the opening and closing of the sandbar. This has involved stakeholder consultation on what should be put on the signs. The signage has just gone for printing and will be installed by July.

## Creating native habitat for endangered Malleefowl

Also funded through the State NRM Program is a project called *Reconnecting fragmented Malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata) habitat near Maya, WA* which will help create and connect native habitat suitable for Malleefowl, a Vulnerable listed native bird species, on a property near Maya. So far in this project, 30,000 number of seedlings have been ordered for planting late autumn/winter by the land manager as well as 1080 baiting for foxes and rabbits.

MCC accompanied Fiona Falconer from Dept Parks & Wildlife on a Land For Wildlife assessment of the property. Although no malleefowl were observed, a whole array of birdlife were noted using the remnant vegetation on site. Birds are an excellent indicator of bush health and we were lucky to see both common and less seen species frolicking in the bush. Even the poorest patch can support birds and other native animals.



**Above:** Yellow Robin - excellent indicator of bush health  
**Left:** Rainbow Bee Eater with Zebra Finches

## Moore on display at the Tipping Point conference

Moore Catchment Council's Rachel and Helen had the opportunity to attend the State NRM Conference in Busselton in May thanks to funding through NACC. MCC also designed and submitted a poster to be featured in the poster parade which highlighted the effects that reduced State and Federal funding is having on Moore Catchment Council and its continuing efforts to conserve the Moore River's health.

The conference was entitled the Tipping Point - the little things matter and can make a big difference. Focus was on raising awareness through interesting stories, engaging the public through all mediums, and working from grass roots up. Highlight presentations included Luke Bowen (former NT Cattleman Ass) who discussed the issues surrounding the Live Export debacle, and Peter Stone (CSIRO) who discussed shale fracking - hot topic in WA.

Some good news came from Paul Rosair (Director General Department of Regional Development) who announced NRM funding from Royalties for Regions of \$19.2 million over 3 years from 2015/16. Details of the program are yet to be released and could be too late for Moore Catchment Council who only has funding until the end of the year.

Closing keynote speaker was 84 yr old legend Dr Harry Butler of 'In the Wild' TV fame. He spoke passionately of his involvements in the environment sector over the many years, and also of his views of environmental issues facing us today. He also talked about his project on Barrow Island to remove feral pests and weeds and recover native species. What a career ! We salute you Harry on making a difference :)



**Above:** Rachel and Helen represented MCC at the NRM conference

# Moore River Health ignored

The Moore River and its catchment is to become a victim of State and Federal natural resource management budget cuts unless the public voice can be heard.

Moore River Catchment Council Chair, Reg Beale stated that **"since year 2000, the MCC has attracted over \$4 million worth of funding from State and Australian Governments for projects focusing on the protection and enhancement of the Moore River and its catchment. This protection will disappear overnight if the budget cuts become a reality."**

**Mr Beale further appealed to the community "If you care about looking after the Moore River catchment, now is the time to express your strong support". The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) strongly encourages communities from Perenjori and Coorow in the north, to Guilderton in the south to ring your local MP, Federal and State, to protest cuts and emphasise the importance of continuing funding to protect and enhance the Moore River.**

### Federal

Hon Christian Porter LIB Member for Pearce  
9294 3222

[christian.porter@wa.liberal.org.au](mailto:christian.porter@wa.liberal.org.au)

Hon Melissa Price LIB Member for Durack  
9964 2195

[melissa.price.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:melissa.price.mp@aph.gov.au)

### State

Mr Shane Love MLA Member for Moore  
9921 4818

[shane.love@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:shane.love@mp.wa.gov.au)

*If anyone has any ideas on funding avenues or would like to donate to keep the Moore Catchment Council (MCC) active, then please contact us.*

# New committee elected

MCC recently elected a new and smaller committee during a Special General meeting on Friday 21 March.

MCC would like to thank the efforts of our previous committee - Reg Beale Chair (Shire of Gingin) Tony White Vice Chair (Dandaragan Community) Duncan Peter Secretary (Coorow Community), Lawrie Short Treasurer (Shire of Dandaragan), Jan Waite (Shire of Coorow), Arthur Tonkin (Shire of Moora), Peter Waterhouse (Shire of Perenjori), Geoff Erickson (Shire of Victoria Plains), Alan Barnes (Dalwallinu Community), John Braid (Gingin Community), Richard Topham (Moora Community), John Longman (Victoria Plains Community).

MCC welcomes the new committee consisting of: Chair Reg Beale, Vice Chair Tony White, Secretary Jennifer Bairstow and Treasurer Lawrie Short, with committee members Duncan Peter, Sarah Mason, John Braid, Kaye Reid and Peter Waterhouse.



**Above:** Some of the new MCC committee. I-r Reg Beale, Jennifer Bairstow, Sarah Mason, John Braid & Lawrie Short

## Upcoming events

- ★ 3rd June, **NyPa grass for saline land info evening**, Gillingarra hall 7:30pm. Call John 9653 1672
- ★ **NACC regional strategy workshops** - Moora 23rd June, Dalwallinu 30th June, Gingin & Calingiri 1st July. Phone 9339 8917

# facebook

Keep up to date !! Click on above link to join us online, or find us on Fbook at **Moore Catchment Council** .

Please **LIKE** us to have regular info on your feed :)

# Moore Catchment Council

*protecting the natural resources in the Moore River Catchment*



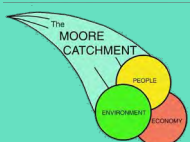
**Rachel Walmsley**  
NRM officer  
9653 1355  
0409 296 264

[mcc.nrm@bigpond.com](mailto:mcc.nrm@bigpond.com)



**Helen Watkins**  
Executive Officer  
9653 1355  
0428 514 292

[moorecc@bigpond.com](mailto:moorecc@bigpond.com)



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

*All photos within this publication have been taken by Rachel Walmsley, unless indicated otherwise*