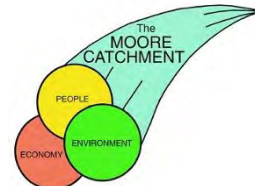


# MOORE to the point



**Serving the Moore River catchment since 1995**

Moore Catchment Council

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## Issue 35 Autumn 2015

Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 35th *Moore to the Point* newsletter. Great news for the MCC with the success of securing new projects. MCC is now juggling a dozen projects which is a marvellous feat considering its limited staff ie one full time NRM Officer & one part time EO. It will be a busy 2015 ! editor *Rachel Walmsley*

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## MCC successful in scoring six new projects

Moore Catchment Council are extremely pleased to announce six new projects that have just been approved. These projects are not only a boost to managing the natural resource in the Moore River catchment, but also a huge boost to ensure Moore Catchment Council continues as an active community NRM group.

WA Natural Resource management program

### "Protecting and enhancing the Moore River biodiversity assets"

- This project partners the Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group (MMPIG) and will help farmers fence off and revegetate natural assets in the eastern Moore. This includes creek lines and native bush on private land which otherwise is degraded by stock. Extension activities include a film and information days.



Dave Isbister fenced and revegetated his creek in 2011

### "Rehabilitation of the North Guilderton Dunes - stage 2"

- This project will rehabilitate degraded dunes north of Guilderton using native species. A community planting day in June organised with the Guilderton Community Association will plant 3,000 seedlings on old vehicle tracks in a newly fenced off area. A propagation workshop in November will teach the community how to ID and grow native coastal species for future projects.

### "Planting food for endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo in the Calingiri IBA"

- This project will plant 11,000 native forage plants for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in the Calingiri Important Bird Area and at a property in Piawaning. This is a continuation of the MCC's long term project to provide more food for Carnaby's in the Moore catchment. Extension activities include a Carnaby's information day.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

### "Moore Eco trails booklet- Moora Shire"

- This project will create a booklet highlighting walk trails around the Moora Shire and informing visitors of ecological and heritage information. The booklet will feature as part of the Shire of Moora's tourism strategy. In addition, the project will allow partnership with Parks & Wildlife to upgrade the Jingemia Walk trail near Watheroo.

NACC Sustainable Agricultural program - funding from Australian Government

### "Demonstration of NyPa Forage to stabilise saline land"

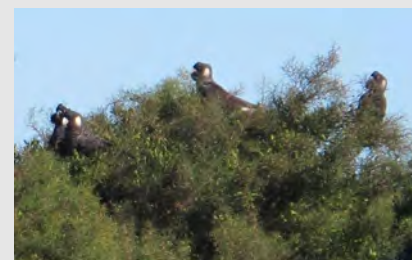
- This project, in partnership with MMPIG, will trial the highly salt tolerant grass NyPa Forage on a property west of Moora. The demo site will cover 10ha around a salt lake. A field day will be held to showcase the project.



On site assessment with farmer & NyPa Aus

### "Identifying cost effective ways to incorporate lime in the Moora-Miling farming district"

- This project, in partnership with MMPIG and Precision SoilTech will trial different on-farm machinery to incorporate lime on to acid soils. On-line video paddock diaries will document and share the project. A field day will be held to share the project's findings.



Carnaby's feeding in the Moore





## Koojan soil improvement trial inspires local farmers

Do you ever wish that your gutless worst paddock on the farm would make some money?? Ian McGillivray at Koojan has been experimenting with various soil conditioners to generate more income from his poorest paddock and shared his trials and findings at a field walk on 25th March. Rachel Walmsley from Moore Catchment Council (MCC) said "Ian's been testing variable rates of chicken manure, organic soil conditioner, clay and Agflow on non wetting sand using a grant obtained by Moore Catchment Council through the Federal Government. He wanted to strategically use the conditioners in strips to maximise effect and reduce costs, and then plant Tagasaste and saltbush as sheep feed."

The field day attracted over 20 people and started with egg and bacon rolls in the woolshed before moving on to the trial. Rachel said "Ian was brilliant at sharing every aspect of the trial including costings of each treatment and homemade machinery to spade the soil and plant/cut the tagasaste. Some of the plants were huge - including the biggest 8 month old saltbush ever seen !!!" Next stage for Ian is to monitor the trial site for the next few years to see changes and plan which application is the best - both cost effective and beneficial.



Ian shows the group his seeding and cutting equipment



Out in the field, Ian explains the trial to the group



Ian explains why he deep ripped twice at different depths



Row 34 - high rates of chook poo and compost

Take away messages included:

- deep rip twice at 350mm and then 600mm
- spading non wetting sand definitely helps with establishment
- adding clay is good, but not on its own, need organics
- improving poor soil with organic material massively improves establishment and vitality of plants
- cut tagasaste regularly, and crash graze both saltbush and tag to get the most out it

Rachel concluded "Huge thanks to Ian (and family) for being a diligent trial manager and allowing the field walk, to Phil Barrett-Lennard for sharing his perennials words of wisdom, to Elders for the use of their BBQ, and to the Australian Government for funding the trial."

4 min video interview with Ian here:

<https://youtu.be/pGc-Hxklq80>

Further information, contact MCC on 9653 1355



Ian with some of his huge river saltbush





# Carnaby's Black Cockatoos forage habitat projects

MCC is currently running four projects involving Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Carnaby's are endemic to SW Western Australia but now endangered with populations estimated between 11,000 and 60,000. Their breeding and feeding habitat has been extensively cleared leading to their downfall. All hope isn't lost yet, and projects like the below have allowed new habitat to be created and raised public awareness of ways to identify and conserve this iconic bird species before it becomes extinct.

## Moora

In Moora, MCC is managing a small project, in partnership with the Shire, Friends of the Moora Woodlands and the Wally Kerkhoff Carnaby's group, to help with Carnaby's breeding. Funding obtained through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program is been used to construct 10 nesting logs, fence a shire 1ha bush block containing Salmon Gums with hollows, and obtain 5,000 native forage and nesting plant species for planting around Moora.

MCC is working alongside Wally Kerkhoff, legendary Carnaby's carer, to construct and locate the nesting logs around the Moora townsite. Wally has spent many years perfecting his log design and has had great success in helping to raise the Carnaby's population. MCC also plans to organise a 'masterclass' information day with Wally to inform interested people on how to build and erect nesting logs.

The Shire has given permission to fence a 1ha bush block on Drummond St in Moora. The block contains many mature Salmon Gums - some with hollows, which are used by the Carnaby's. The block also contains a range of feed species including Hakea species. 5,000 native seedlings will be used around Moora to help boost food available for Carnaby's. Some of these will be made available for the public to use at their Moora properties. See Ad right.

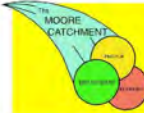
## Calingiri

This project, funded through the WA State Natural Resource Management Program, will plant 11,000 native forage plants for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo on private property in the Calingiri Important Bird Area and at a property in Piawaning. This is a continuation of the MCC's long term project to provide more food for Carnaby's in the Moore catchment. So far over 25,000 native feed species by over 100 landowners have been planted in the past two years, with an additional 36,000 seedlings being planted in 2015.

A media release calling for expressions of interest was sent out early 2015. The response was almost immediate and now all seedlings (and small amount of fencing) have been allocated. The property in Piawaning townsite with have 3,000 seedlings planted by a local Yued planting contractor. This will help engage local Yued youth and connect them to country.

The seedlings will include 20 species of Banksia, Hakea, Eucalypt, Grevillia and Acacia, which are all high to low priority for Carnaby's as designated by Parks & Wildlife research.

The project will also include a Carnaby's information day hosted by local Carnaby's carer and farmer, Sarah Mason. Birdlife Aus, Muchea tree nursery and the Wally Kerkhoff group will be involved in the informative and interesting day.



### Plant feed species in 2015 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 Moora Important Bird Area (IBAs - yellow on map) support up to 60 breeding pairs of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo. The birds are drawn to this area during the breeding season because of the presence of suitable nesting hollows in some remaining salmon gums within Moora township and road-rail reserve. 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. This project will increase the area of suitable feed habitat for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo to enhance the breeding prospects of this rare and endangered species.

**We need your help to plant 5,000 native forage plants for the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo**





Thanks to Keith Lightbody for his Carnaby's photos

- Do you live in and around the Moora townsite??
- Would you like some **free** trees and bushes (Hakeas, Grevillea, Acacia, Salmon Gums, Wandoo & York Gums) to plant in 2015 for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo?

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

**9653 1355 or 0409 296 264 or [mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com](mailto:mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com)**



This Moore Catchment Council project is being funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program





# Cont....

## Gingin to Guilderton

MCC were extremely fortunate to obtain funding through the highly competitive Australian Government 20 Million Trees National Landcare Program. This project will plant 20,000 high priority native forage species on private land between Gingin and Guilderton within the Swan Important Bird Area. This project builds on the 2014 Carnaby's forage habitat project funded through the State NRM Program which allowed 80 landholders to plant 11,500 forage plants. The seedlings available will include Banksias, Hakeas and Eucalypts which are all designated high priority by Parks & Wildlife. MCC also has funding to supply tree guards and financial help with weed control in the planting area. Monitoring of the planting sites will be carried out using a smartphone monitoring app. This will make capturing and recording information about the seedlings success a lot easier to manage. Anyone interested in seedlings - check out the below ad.

**Plant feed species in 2015 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 20,000 native forage plants for the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo**

*In 2014 you helped MCC plant 12,500 plants for Carnaby's - please help us again!*

**Do you live in the Shire of Gingin between Gingin and Guilderton ??**  
Preference given to properties on the above map.

**Would you like some free trees and bushes (Banksias, Hakeas, Marri & Tuart) to plant in 2015 for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo?**

*If yes - then contact Rachel at the Moore Catchment Council to register your interest:*  
**9653 1355 or 0409 296 264 or [mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com](mailto:mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com)**

**Tree guards and weed control treatment also available**

*This Moore Catchment Council project is being funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program*



Tony Ruse and his 2014 Carnaby's project plantings

## Great Cocky Count

The Birdlife Australia Great Cocky Count took place on Sunday 12th April. This count gives a snapshot of the number of Carnaby's around WA. MCC took part in the count which takes place between Moora and Dandaragan. 4 volunteers set up camp in the designated spot shortly before dusk poised with pen and paper ready for the birds to fly over (last year we counted 460 and it was crazy in the skies !!) We waited and waited and in the end only 2 were observed. Not hard to count ! We figure that the recent wet weather had changed the pattern of Carnaby's movements as we know from other observations that there are plenty around. They just weren't where they were supposed to be :) Thanks to Marie, Harry and Tim for braving the mozzies.

## Volunteer's dedication to rural community

On of the MCC's committee, Peter Waterhouse, was nominated in the WA volunteer of the year awards earlier this year and has made it through to the final 20 in the People's Choice Award. Peter is actively volunteering with several community organisations which all contribute to the sustainability of the environment and community in his rural wheatbelt location. They include the Moore Catchment Council, the North Central Malleefowl Group, the Gunduwa Regional Conservation Association, and Perenjori Council and for the last 28 years he has also volunteered with St John Ambulance. Now that is dedication!



The People's Choice Award recognizes the thousands of unsung heroes who through their volunteering have enhanced the lives of others and the community. They are the wonderful people who do not seek reward and are rarely recognized for the extraordinary contribution they make through volunteering. Now is the time to recognize them. Awards to happen during National Volunteer Week, 11 - 17 May 2015. Good luck !

## Guilderton projects and up for an national award !

A project to create more interpretative signage for Guilderton is progressing well. MCC obtained a grant through the NACC Coastal Program (funded through the Australian Government) to create some new signs to indicate where walk trails are located around the town. A new town map has been created in collaboration with the Guilderton Community Association (below) to be located at the Visitors Centre and Visitors Layby. It will also feature in the new town visitors brochure.

Four addition signs are being created for the Estuary lookout car park, North Groyne car park, Silver Creek reserve and Riverside Trail. These signs detail walk trail options at each location and also interesting snippets about local ecology and history. They will be installed in June to coincide with the judging day (see below). The aim of this signage project is to enhance the experience of the thousands of visitors who come to Guilderton every year, and also to ensure they understand why Guilderton needs conserving for future generations to enjoy.



Above : main town map sign



Above : one of the 4 interpretative signs

### Guilderton Named National Finalist for Australian Clean Beaches Award

The Shire of Gingin is very proud to announce that Guilderton has been selected as the WA finalist for the Keep Australia Beautiful's Australian Clean Beaches Award 2015. This program celebrates and awards communities who actively work for a cleaner, more sustainable coastal environment. The small but stunning coastal town situated at the mouth of Moore River was selected for its outstanding achievements in coastal and waterway conservation, and will now be competing against other iconic beach locations such as Bondi Beach in NSW and Richardsons Beach in Tasmania for the crown of having Australia's cleanest and sustainably responsible beach.

The Guilderton Community Association (GCA) has been the driving force behind a number of Guilderton's Keep Australia Beautiful successes, including the Midwest-Gascoyne Tidy Town Award which it won in 2013, and will be the submitting body for Australian Clean Beach Award 2015 on behalf of the town. GCA President Gillian Lamont, who is now busy preparing the national award submission, credits Guilderton's success to its high level of volunteerism and the community's genuine passion for the pristine Moore River estuary and coastline. "Although the GCA is putting forward the submission, it will include the whole community and we'll be reaching out to them for their input," Ms Lamont said. "We are very proud to be representing WA, however the fact that we are so small with such limited resources, and given who our competitors are, taking out the national title will be a huge challenge."

Two initiatives in Guilderton's state entry that impressed Keep Australia Beautiful award organisers include the construction of a timber stairway leading from an outlook gazebo at the top car park down to the ocean which will provide safe access to the beach and help defend the fore dunes from further degradation, as well as the North Guilderton Coastal Restoration Project which was created to help protect native vegetation unique to the area.

Gingin Shire President Michael Aspinall expressed his admiration for the result. "It just goes to show what a small community can achieve when faced with the challenge of conserving their sensitive coastal environment as well as making it an attractively sustainable place to live and visit," he said. "The level of commitment by local residents has been truly outstanding and we wish the Guilderton community every success with its national submission." Judges from Keep Australia Beautiful National Association will visit Guilderton on 19 June 2015 to tour the area and discuss Guilderton's national submission with stakeholders. Further details about the visit will be made available to the public closer to the date. The national awards will take place in Sydney on 21 July 2015.

*Shire of Gingin media release*



Above : members of the Yued community and Rachel (MCC) help unveil the new Moore estuary signs



# Candy's bush reserve project update

The WA NRM funded project for creating signage for Candy's Bush Reserve in Moora is progressing well. A dozen different signs sharing the history, ecology and Yued heritage significance of the reserve have been designed and are in production. These will be placed at the main pedestrian entrance on Gardiner St and along the new 1km walk trail through the reserve. The signs have been designed with input from the Shire, Friends of the Moora Woodlands, Wally Kerkhoff Carnaby's group and the Yued community.

Once they are installed, an opening event with guided walk of the reserve will take place. There will also be an accompanying booklet with the ecological information detailed with reference to Aboriginal significance.

Right & Below: Large entrance signs to be located at main access point

**Welcome to Candy's Bush Reserve**

Candy's Bush Reserve is an eight hectare Salmon Gum & Wandoo remnant and an important natural asset of Moora. The vegetation at the western end was originally cleared for residential development but no development occurred and the area was allowed to regenerate. It was designated a Shire reserve in 2006 after intervention from the Friends of the Moora Woodland group. Prior to 2013, Candy's was ungrazed from vehicles and this open access led to damage from vehicles and illegal tipping. In 2013, local bush carers from the Shire of Moora, Yued community, Friends of the Moora Woodlands and Moore Catchment Council met to decide on the future of the reserve. Perimeter fencing was installed in the winter by volunteers from Friends of the Moora Woodlands and Moore Catchment Council using WA Natural Resource Management Program funding. Candy's Bush Reserve has also been awarded Land For Wildlife status in 2014.

Of the nearly 1.4 million hectares of the Moore River Catchment around 75 per cent has been cleared. The more fertile soils associated with eucalypt woodlands were preferentially cleared, and because these woodlands occur predominantly on the valley floors they are more at risk of salinity from rising groundwater. For example, only 7% (14,156 ha) Medium woodland York Gum and salmon gum remain in Moore River Catchment compared to a pre-European extent of 234,280 ha.

The local Aboriginal (Yued) significance of the reserve is important. Historically, the site was used as a tracker camp. The site contains many plant species regarded as bush medicine plants which possess healing qualities as well as bush tucker plants such as Quanshang.

**Can you hear the Black Cockies?**

Winter through to late summer is the time you'll hear the distinct call of the Carnaby's Black (Shorn-Billed) Cockatoo around here! Carnaby's Black Cockatoos (*Calyptrorhynchus adrostris*) are rare and endangered in WA and estimates put their total population to be between 11,000 and 60,000. The low numbers are due to past and continued clearing of their natural habitat for agriculture, and competition from feral and Western Cattlebirds.

Moora is an important area for Carnaby's as they come here to roost in the hollows of old Salmon Gums and Wandoo trees. Although not actively used hollows are in Candy's at present, there will be in years to come when the trees age. The reserve contains lots of fringe plants for the Carnaby's to eat, including the seeds of Proteaceous plants including Hakeas and Greivellias.

Near the entrance you will see the artificial nesting logs placed here by the local Carnaby's carer Wally Kerkhoff in 2013. These logs create somewhere for Carnaby's to lay their eggs and have demonstrated to be a successful way to help raise the population.

**Flora of Candy's Bush Reserve**

**What will I see?**  
The vegetation in Candy's Bush Reserve comprises of Wandoo and Salmon Gum Woodland with Melaleuca at the east end. The vegetation is in very good condition, plants are healthy, all vegetation layers are present and there are few weeds.

Past surveys by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Land For Wildlife and the WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group reveal many reasons why the reserve is important for flora species including being designated as the best known location for the Moora Spider Orchid, Brown-veined Shell Orchid and Green-veined Shell Orchid. Both survey reports note the reserve being rich in biodiversity but also state that continued threats from humans is starting to have an effect on its health. Recent and future fencing rehabilitation efforts will hopefully halt further decline. It is important that Candy's Bush Reserve be preserved and managed for its significance as a woodland remnant and for its ecological, cultural and heritage values for the benefit of present and future generations.

Although Candy's can be enjoyed all year round, winter to spring is arguably the best time to visit when the reserve bursts into bloom. From vibrant wattles and aromatic honeybush to delicate fringed lilies and carpets of yellow and purple daisies, it's a feast of flora. We hope you enjoy your visit.

**See if you can spot any of the below on your walk**


**Orchid Spotting**  
Candy's has a good number of orchid species that can be spotted between June and September. Keep an eye out for them!


**Weed Watch**  
These weeds are common in the reserve and affect the quality of the native vegetation. Please don't help to spread them!


**Carnivorous Plants**

Drosera species are fascinating plants which lure, capture and digest insects for food to supplement their diet. You'll find them in the damper spots around the reserve during autumn and winter.

They all have sticky tentacles which trap their prey. Death occurs within 15 minutes and the insect is absorbed into the plant.

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Above & below: some of the smaller interpretative signs which will be located along the new walk trail

**Salmon Gum Eucalyptus salmonophloia**

Salmon Gums are majestic trees which can grow to 30m. The Noongar name for Salmon Gum is Weerluk or Wuruk.

Salmon Gums are named after their trunks which turn a salmon colour in the summer months. You can identify Salmon Gums by their glossy leaves and umbrella shaped crown.

Salmon Gums are important breeding trees for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo as they use the hollows of older trees.

**Bush Foods and Medicine**

The WA bush is full of plants which the Noongar people have learned to use for sustenance and medicine. Candy's Bush Reserve has lots of useable plants from trees and bushes to herbs and creepers which include:

- Acacias or wattles are abundant and offer nutritious seeds which are high in protein and can be stored;
- Tjunganui or Fringed Lily *Thysanotus patersonii* tubers can be eaten raw or roasted;
- Ruby saltbush *Enchlyaena tomentosa* has juicy salty red or yellow berries;
- The Maroon bush *Scaevola spinescens* is a native Australian bush, long used by the Aboriginal people for its natural healing properties.

**Plight of the Carnaby's**

If you look up, you can see the two artificial nesting logs that were installed by Wally Kerkhoff in 2013 for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. These logs replicate a natural hollow in an old Salmon Gum or Wandoo. Both nesting logs have raised healthy chicks and should continue to do so into the future.

Carnaby's face a bleak future if we don't help them. Populations have halved in the last 50 years and some estimates say only 11,000 remain in WA. Continuing to clear Carnaby's habitat, and competition from other birds and bees have all contributed to their demise. Help save them by keeping old Salmon Gums and Wandoo, and planting native forage species such as Hakeas and Banksias.

# Maya Malleefowl project update

The 30,000 seedlings planted for Malleefowl at Phil Nicolaou's Maya property in 2014 are ticking along nicely - especially after excellent summer/autumn rains. Phil is gearing up for the next wave of seedlings that will be planted this winter. An additional 25,000 seedlings will be planted to complement last year's planting through funding from the WA NRM program.

This autumn MCC will join forces with the North Central Malleefowl group to conduct an assessment of remnant bush on the farm to locate malleefowl nests. MCC are also seeking additional funds for malleefowl through the Gundawa Association in partnership with the Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group.



Above : Adult malleefowl on mound  
Photo: G McNeil



# Community planting day



Help repair the North Guilderton dunes.

We need your help to plant 2,000 native seedlings and protect them with tree guards.



**When:** Sunday 7th June 2015  
**Where:** Meet at car park above North Groyne  
**Time:** 9:30am onwards. Light lunch and refreshments provided  
**RSVP:** Rachel 9653 1355 / 0409 296 264 or [mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com](mailto:mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com)

- Please be sunsmart - bring hat, glasses and sunscreen
- Please bring gloves, own shovel or trowel and bucket
- Wear boots and suitable clothing



Degraded tracks on the dunes - soon to be revegetated

# Help plant the dunes !

As part of the new WA NRM Program funded Guilderton dune project, a planting day is happening on the 7th June in conjunction with the Guilderton Community Association and the WA 4WD club. The day will involve planting 2,000 native coastal seedlings and placing tree guards around them along degraded tracks on the north dunes. The 22ha area was fenced off from vehicles in 2014 and now needs a little help with rehabilitating the old tracks.

The Shire of Gingin are contributing by funding some native brushing (placing cut branches of native plants) to be carried out Dept of Parks & Wildlife.

Since the area was fenced off, some native species are starting to colonise the tracks naturally.



This Holly Leaf Tail-flower was spotted on one of the tracks in January. Its known as a colonising pioneer species so was good to see.



This photogenic Bobtail was happy sunning itself on one of the old tracks. Happy in the knowledge that it won't get run over !

## Upcoming events

- ★ 7th June **Guilderton Planting day**. See above advert
- ★ 31st July **MCC Ordinary General Meeting, Moora - all invited to attend**. Call MCC 9653 1355 for more details

# 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



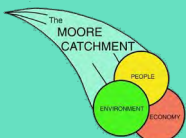
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All photos within this publication have been taken by Rachel Walmsley, unless indicated otherwise