

Conserving the Moore River catchment since 1995

In This Issue

Moore secures more funding

Moore Catchment Council is happy in the knowledge that recent acquisition of various funding through the State and Federal Governments will keep this little landcare group going until the end of 2018. Here's the list:

- 1) Protection and revegetation of Moore creek and bush assets on 3 farms.
- 2) Creation of Carnaby's forage habitat. 36,000 seedlings planted around Moora and working on Country with local Yued.
- 3) Revegetation of the Guilderton dunes 2017 including seed collection.
- 4) Mogumber Town Reserve enhancement as a natural asset. New ecology signage.
- 5) Moore review project - what have we learned from 10 years of sustainable agriculture projects in the Moore.
- 6) Creation of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo habitat in Gillingarra and New Norcia.
- 7) Protection of Dalaroo reserve, working on Country with Yued and revegetation of Moore river.
- 8) Malleefowl habitat, threatened species signage and Bunjil Rocks Bioblitz.
- 9) Revegetation of creeks and threatened species habitat at Mallory & Mt Yule farms plus working on Country with Yued.
- 10) Conservation of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo around Moora & Boonanarring through revegetation, artificial nest logs and construction masterclass.
- 11) Pyp grass removal management in Guilderton 1st stage.
- 12) Improving natural resource management capability in the Moore River Catchment - 2 yrs capacity building project including staff employment, vehicle lease, and learning/engagement opportunities.



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4	Community collects seed for future revegetation
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7	Mogumber Town reserve - a real natural asset

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Projects all funded through State Natural Resource Management Program, Royalties for Regions, National Landcare Program, NACC, Gunduwa Regional Conservation Association.

Stopping the spread of invasive Pyp grass

Sections of Guilderton’s primary dune system are currently being degraded by infestations of Pyp Grass (*Ehrharta villosa*) and the biodiversity of surrounding vegetation is being undermined as a result of the spread of this aggressive invasive weed. In response to this threat Moore Catchment Council commissioned a survey of the Pyp grass extent in Guilderton and management actions. The report was presented and discussed at a community workshop held in Guilderton on the 7th November.

Rachel Walmsley MCC’s Community Landcare Coordinator said “Pyp Grass was introduced into Australia for use in dune stabilisation but unfortunately it is now destroying vast hectares of native vegetation by smothering and out-competing the dune plants. It appeared in Guilderton more than 30 years ago and now covers nearly 13ha between the river and the lighthouse which is extensive compared to other coastal towns in the region. It has a fast-growing rhizome system and each plant can spread up to 9 metres per year.”

Western Botanical was commissioned to produce the management report, and project manager Martin took the group through the report and the areas for priority. Rachel said “Lengthy discussions with the community workshop attendees resulted in the priority areas being rejigged, which demonstrates that this consultation was an essential part of producing this report. Estimates put the future herbicide control works at around \$90,000 which shows just how extensive it is and how difficult it is to control.” The next step to obtain some funds to start the Pyp grass control works which will takes at least 3 years to kill off.



Hamish and giant Pyp Gras



Pyp everywhere

The group then visited some of the priority areas to view the Pyp grass infestations. Everyone agreed that the control works need to start soon before more good quality native dune vegetation is damaged. Pyp control projects at Jurien Bay and Cervantes show that it can be overcome and dunes restored long term.



Basket weaving? Grass skirts?

Thanks to Northern Agricultural Catchments Council through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program for funding this project.



Rampaging Pyp grass. How long?!

Funded through:

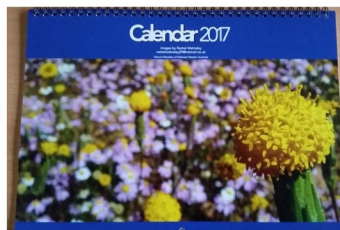


Christmas tree calendar social media competition

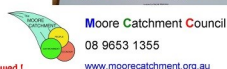
** Competition **

Just how stunning are *Nuytsia floribunda* (Christmas Tree/moojar) this year?!! Let’s celebrate their fabulousness....

Post your favourite 2016 Christmas tree picture



and win a Moore flora calendar



Well done to Gail Reed for winning our Christmas comp !!!

Farmers fence bush for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo received an extra boost to their habitat range with five farmers around the Moore region fencing off nearly 65ha of native remnant bushland as well as recently revegetated land. Rachel Walmsley, Moore Catchment Council's Community Landcare Coordinator said "This was all made possible with funding received through Northern Agricultural Catchment Council's biodiversity program funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Fencing is an expensive job and so to receive a financial incentive from the Government ensures these projects are carried out."

Projects were located at Piawaning, Roundhill, Calingiri and Beermullah and featured the fencing off of breeding and forage habitat mainly aimed at endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. "Carnaby's are having it rough," said Rachel, "Birdlife Australia have just released their 2017 Cocky Count report which shows yet another decline in the total population in WA. With generous estimates of around 11,000 birds left, projects like this are helping towards Carnaby conservation in the Moore region where, unfortunately, could become one of the last remaining sanctuaries for the bird species if Carnaby's habitat clearing continues in the Perth area."



Additional reasons for fencing include preserving chunks of the Moore's

native remnant bush which included a near pristine Wandoo remnant near Calingiri undisturbed by farm animals. Rachel said "With only 14% of the Victoria Plains Shire remnant vegetation remaining, protecting bush from stock damage is important in retaining the Moore's biodiversity for the future. Trees are good but looking after the understory and ground dwelling plants is also very important for biodiversity." Another project allowed help with fencing a newly revegetated paddock buffer at Beermullah planted out to Carnaby's priority species of Marri, Hakeas and Banksias.

Rachel concluded "I thank all the farmers involved and NACC for providing the funds for MCC to deliver this worthy project."



Funded through:



Moore '20 Million Trees' project in full swing

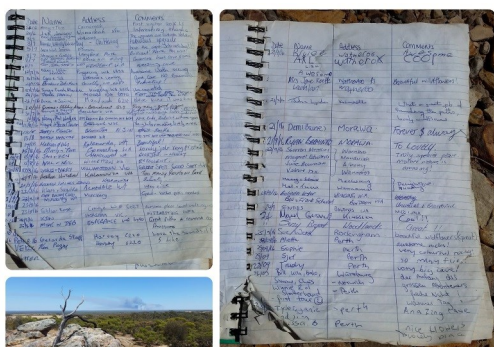
Enjoyed a morning out in the heat just before Christmas inspecting a revegetation site north of Watheroo. The site is part of MCC's latest National Landcare Programme 20 Million Trees project to build up native habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoos. The Crombie's have a long history of carrying out rehabilitation projects and this is the latest on a recently acquired property. The site is a sandy creek line with a bit of salt here and there. The trees and shrubs planted in winter 2016 on mounds are rocketing along. A mixture of Eucalypts, Melaleucas, Casuarinas, Calothamnus and Callistemons were planted. Very pleased to see happy trees and happy farmers :)



Melaleuca thyoides - salt busting native

Andrew Crombie and his dad Richard inspecting some of the new trees

Jingemia Cave a hit with the visitors



Popped to Jingemia Cave just before Christmas as was passing. We'd put a visitor's book there in late June to gauge how many people visit and also what they think of the new signage and upgrade. Was blown away with how many people have been and left comments in such a short time - plus visiting during all months including summer. Around 350 people/groups in 6 months from the local area and from as far away as Finland. Lots of positive comments - makes it all worth it !!

PS Dept of Parks & Wildlife are making up a proper visitors book station soon as our makeshift one has not done well in the elements but will last a few more months.

Community collects seed for future revegetation

The old adage ‘many (hot) hands make light work’ certainly came into effect on Friday 9th of December out on the north Guilderton dunes. 16 local people gathered on what was one of the hottest days so far this summer to learn about native plants and collect seed for future revegetation projects. Rachel Walmsley MCC’s Community Landcare Officer said “It was indeed hot but that didn’t deter local volunteers from Guilderton, Seabird, Redfield Park, Woodridge and Ledge Point giving up their morning to do some manual labour gathering seed.” Cat Williams, an experienced seed collector from APACE nursery, showed the group which plants were ready to be harvested and techniques to gather efficiently. Rachel said “Everyone was given a bucket and a plant to harvest. Some plants such as the *Melaleucas* required branches to be cut off and trimmed to access the year old seed pods. Others including *Threlkeldia diffusa* required a delicate touch and a dustpan to harvest the seed !”

Hamish using the dust pan technique to gather seed Ten species of plant seed was gathered

Ten different species of native dune plants were collected: *Spyridium globulosum*, *Melaleuca systema*, *Carpobrotus virescens*, *Hardenbergia comptoniana*, *Acanthocarpus preissii*, *Conostylis candicans*, *Melaleuca huegelii*, *Lepidosperma gladiatum*, *Calothamnus quadrifidus* and *Threlkeldia diffusa*. Rachel said “Cat was most impressed with the group’s huge seed haul and determination to beat the heat. These seeds will now be grown into plants at the APACE nursery for the community planting day in June 2017.” The weary seed



Many hot hands !



Cat gave everyone a species to collect

collectors were then treated to a delicious lunch at the Guilderton Club to re-energise them after their hot morning. Many thanks to NACC and the Australian Government for funding the day.



Happy seed collectors



What a good haul of seed !

Funded

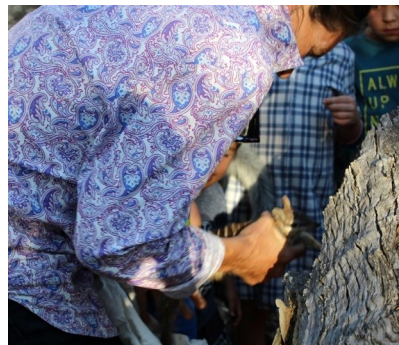


Numbat releasing at Dryandra

Rachel got invited along (thanks to MCC committee member and Numbat ‘nut’ Sarah Mason) to the Numbat releasing at Dryandra Woodland. 5 Numbats bred at Perth Zoo got a new home roaming the forests and hopefully increasing their numbers as they’re pretty endangered as a species - around 1,000 left. They used to exist up as far as Northampton but now only left in a few pockets. Habitat destruction and feral pests (mainly cats) have caused their demise. Dept of Parks & Wildlife have successfully been using ErdiCAT baiting to get rid of the cats here so the Numbats should live happily ever after. All the Numbats are fitted with radio collars so they can be tracked and monitored. It was a real privilege to be witness to this event.



Tony - chief DPAW releaser



Super excited Sarah releasing her Numbat

In addition to these 5, a dozen more were released at Mt Gibson reserve for the first time. Hopefully this reintroduction will be as successful as Dryandra and Numbats will increase in numbers.

3 Numbat facts:

- An adult Numbat requires up to 20,000 termites each day.
- Their bushy tail is about 17 cm long.
- The Numbat is Western Australia’s mammal emblem.



Green Army team get a Carnaby surprise



Twins ! What a fabulous sight to see



****Update Jan 2017**** the male of the twins still hasn't left the nest even though he was the elder of the two. Wally has deemed him a 'bloody lazy male !'

Moore Catchment Council invited a Green Army team from Geraldton down to Moora on 16th November to learn more about Carnaby's Black Cockatoo from legendary Carnaby carer Wally Kerkhof. The group were extremely lucky to see and hold a set of Carnaby twins from one of the artificial nesting logs at Wally's place. They also viewed Carnaby's feeding from Wally's new bird hide. This bird hide is available for general public use to view the nightly Carnaby feeding spectacular where up to 120 Carnaby's come every night at approx. 5:30pm for their dinner.

Wally has done this for many years to help supplement feed during the breeding season and has helped raise the breeding pairs in Moora from a dozen to over 92 pairs in the last 30 years.

Anyone wishing to come and view the feeding free of charge please contact MCC for more details 9653 1355.



120 Carnaby's enjoying their dinner



Australia Day award nominations for Wally and his group

Volunteers and Landcare go hand-in-hand. If it wasn't for volunteers, all our Landcare projects just wouldn't get done. This year, MCC thought it would get some of these volunteers recognised and so nominated them in the Shire Australia Day awards. We nominated the Wally Kerkhof Carnaby Group in the Victoria Plains Community group category for their nesting log work in the Mogumber Town Reserve and helping to educate the Shire on Carnaby's and their responsibility to conserve them. MCC also nominated Wally Kerkhof as Volunteer of the year in the Moora Shire awards for his ongoing tireless work over 40 years to help conserve Carnabys around Moora. Good luck in both awards !!



Upcoming events in 2017

March

- ☺ 10th March: Bush Medicine workshop in Guilderton
- ☺ TBA: Clearing laws workshop, Moora
- ☺ TBA: Muehea tree nursery and Chittering revegetation project tour
- ☺ TBA: Social media marketing workshop, Gingin



September



'What the spiny skink is a Bioblitz' you might ask?! Well its a 24hr get together of nature lovers - community and gurus to explore some bush and record what's there.


This big event is in the initial planning stages and will be a joint venture between MCC, Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group and Northern Agricultural Catchments Council. Camping will be at Latham thanks to the Shire of Perenjori. More info to come.....

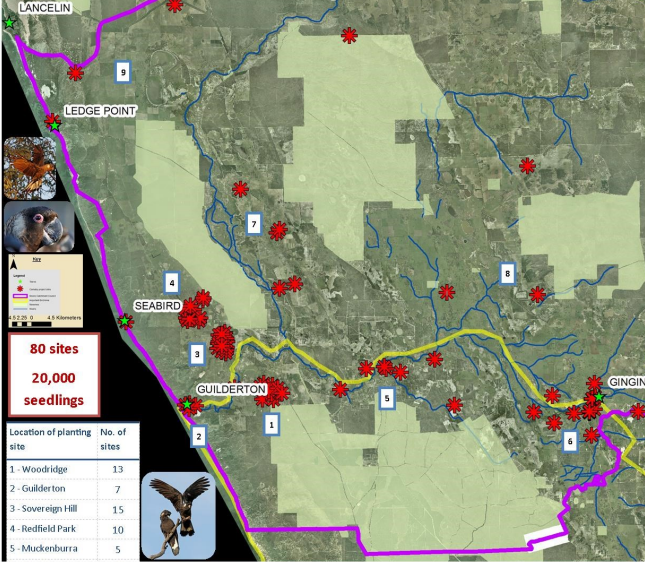
Carnaby's Swan Coastal Sandplain forage habitat project

MCC is pleased to announce the completion of the large National Landcare Program '20 Million Trees' funded project to establish Carnaby's forage habitat between Gingin and Guilderton. The project saw over 20,000 seedlings planted on 80 properties. It has been an intense but rewarding project that has seen many people new to landcare projects learn about local native plant species and which ones are food for the cockies.



Planting feed species for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in the Swan Coastal Important Bird Area 2015-16






80 sites
20,000 seedlings

Location of planting site	No. of sites
1 - Woodridge	13
2 - Guilderton	7
3 - Sovereign Hill	15
4 - Redfield Park	10
5 - Muckenburra	5
6 - Gingin	18
7 - Wanerie	6
8 - Beermullah	2
9 - Other	4

Carnaby's feed species for Gingin to Guilderton region

A mixture of the below was planted at each site



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



'Bob's Banksia' *Banksia prionotes* has done particularly well in Guilderton. Here Bob stands next to a one planted in winter 2015. Its huge !!

MCC will look to apply for additional funds to further this project as the region is of vast importance as a food reserve for the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo who are losing their Perth habitat due to extensive clearing.

Thanks to everyone who took part in this project and apologies for all the photo nagging.

Participant Feedback using 'Wordle' analysis (the bigger the word, the more times it was said)



Participants project learnings feedback. Being involved in a project and the knowledge of which native plants to grow and how to plant correctly were top of the learnings



Participants project general feedback. They appreciated the variety of free seedlings, tree guards and presence of a dedicated project officer

MCC Annual General Meeting in Guilderton

MCC held their AGM down in Guilderton on 25th November. There was a good turnout of people and the weather was perfect. The AGM proceeded with one committee member - Peter Waterhouse - stepping down due to health reasons. Many thanks to Peter for all his help up in the NE corner of the catchment. MCC welcomed new 2017 committee members Dahlia Richardson, Janice Page and John Longman. The annual report was passed. Online copy available below. Shane Love MPA shared updates on future funding and Rachel Walmsley gave a run down of projects over the past year.



Lookout ! MCC tour at the lookout over the Moore



MCC committee and staff 2017

The group then went and viewed projects on the north dunes and lookout, then embarked on a lovely cruise of the Moore river.

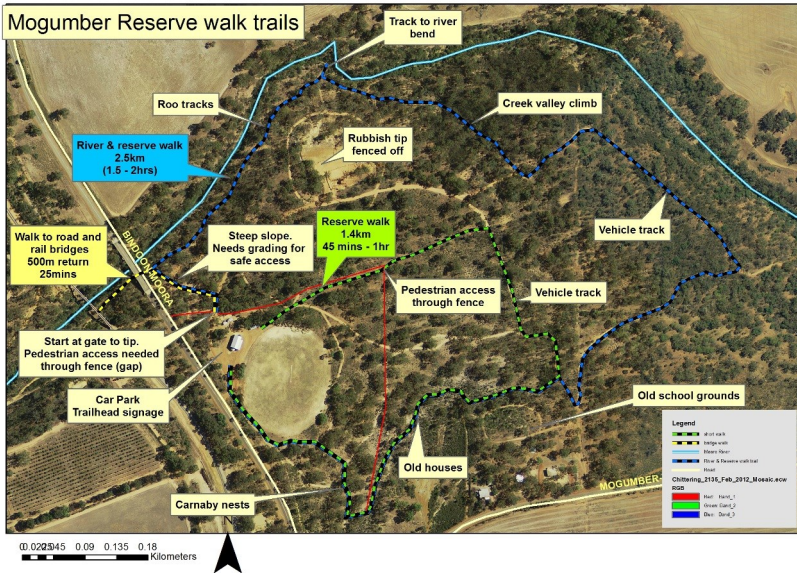
Annual report: http://www.moorecatchment.org.au/Newsletters/Annual%20report%202015_2016.pdf

Mogumber's natural asset - a secret worth protecting

The 58ha Mogumber Town Reserve is a special patch of bush that deserves to be recognised and conserved. The reserve is healthy Wandoo woodland with patches of Marri, *Melaleuca* sp. and *Eucalyptus rudis* (Flooded Gum), and located on the banks of the Moore River. It's a good sized remnant that is important to conserve on many levels.

Historically, the reserve is an important Yued/Yuet site. It falls within the Registered 20008 Moore River Mythological Waggy site which is highly sacred to the Yued. It is also a known past camping spot for tribes to camp and gather food. Ecologically, the reserve is rich in biodiversity and features a number of 'declared rare' flora. During the winter/spring months, the reserve bursts into bloom with a magnificent array of wildflowers. The reserve's remnant vegetation and the proximity to the river provides important habitat and connectivity for a variety of native wildlife including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and invertebrates. The reserve is also home to approximately 60 Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

which are drawn here due to the abundant presence of feed species (*Hakeas*, *Grevilleas*, *Isopogons*, *Xanthorrhoeas* (grass trees) and gum nuts), and also suitable trees with hollows for breeding during Winter/Spring.



Walk trails

The reserve has a number of tracks but no formalised walk trails. 3 signposted walk trails have been planned working alongside the Mogumber Progress Association, local Aboriginals and the Shire. These signed trails will direct the visiting public around the reserve so they can enjoy and learn about the Moore River, history and flora/fauna. The trails will utilise existing tracks where present and cut through the bush with minimal disturbance - good for the bush and good for walking close to nature. Trailhead signage is to be drafted up soon. Watch this space !

Ecological surveys

The reserve is managed by the Shire, not DPAW, so the ecology hasn't been well documented. MCC has commissioned Fiona Falconer, local flora guru and past DPAW Land for Wildlife officer, to carry out a survey to record the flora and fauna species. We visited the reserve in November, along with local Aboriginal Phyllis Tomms, to make note of what was present. Phyllis is a fountain of knowledge as she has a keen passion for the reserve's ecology plus has lived there most of her life.



Phyllis and Fiona walk through the carpet of yellow *Podolepis*

Rare Golden Catpaws

Another visit was carried out in late November with a DPAW Flora Officer to record the known and previously unrecorded rare flora in the reserve. There is a huge patch of rare *Grevillea bracteosa* that was previously unknown plus a number of *Verticordia*. The reserve is also home to a rare yellow (Golden) catpaw *Anigozanthos humilis subsp. chrysanthus*.



Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

Mogumber is well known locally for its Carnaby population. Unfortunately this information has been missed off 'official' databases with the departments etc. MCC has fought hard to change this in the last 2 years with Birdlife conducting a number of hollow surveys during the 2016 breeding season. They monitored the 6 artificial nests near the oval which were all occupied and successfully reared chicks. There was also good news with the recently repaired stack adjacent to the rodeo arena housing a breeding pair and also a newly found occupied nest in a big Wandoo. MCC will continue to liaise with the Shire over issues with the rodeo activities impacting on the reserve and Carnabys.

Spot me in my nest ! Photos: Freeda from Birdlife

Moore wildflowers 2016 - best season ever?



The Midwest wildflower 2016 season was magnificent. The good and timely rains in autumn and winter led to an eruption of wildflowers that was described as the best seen since the mid 1970's. Luckily MCC's CLC Rachel is a crazy flora photographer and was out and about snapping the wondrous flora. The collage left is 320 of the best shots from 2016 which includes orchids, Verticordias, Banksias, Dampiera, and Calytrix. Rachel says "Highlights have to be finding the Cleopatra's Needles and Blue Shirt orchid for the first time. They are unbelievable to see".

This laminated A3 poster can be purchased from MCC for \$15 posted Aus wide. Enquires about the poster or individual prints can be made to Rachel at MCC.

A bit Moore

On the north Guilderton dunes Fri 13th Jan and spied *Acacia cyclops* in perfect seeding. Went back and got a bucket and filled it in five minutes. These seeds will be used to grow new shrubs for the Guilderton dunes. They are also important to the Noongar people. The Red-Eyed Wattle (*Acacia cyclops*) is known as the Wilyawa (or Woolya Wah) in Noongar. As well as using the seeds for making damper, the green seed pods are used for a variety of purposes. For instance, a pod can be crushed in the hands to release a sticky juice which, when a little water is added, can be used as a creamy sunscreen and an insect repellent. (Courtesy of Plants and People in Moore Country Nyungar Plant Use in Yellagonga Regional Park)

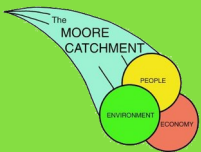


A bit Moore

MCC funders



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MCC Awards

- * Finalists & Semi Finalists in WA Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2014, 2015 & 2016
- * Finalist in WA Landcare Awards 2015

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Donate Now**

<http://www.moorecatchment.org.au/Donation/s/DonationForm%20MCC.pdf>

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