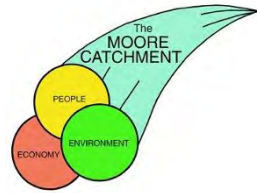


MOORE to the point



**Serving the Moore
River catchment
since 1995**

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Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 30th *Moore to the Point* newsletter. Its been a busy few months wrapping up projects and delivering the most important parts of the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo project. The project has been well received. Find out more below..... editor *Rachel Walmsley*

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Carnaby's project soaring to success

The iconic Carnaby's Black Cockatoo has been a primary focus of MCC's activities over the past couple of months.

Through State NRM Office funding, the project aims to reintroduce forage and nesting species around the Moora town site and Koobabbie Farm near Coorow, to enhance the breeding prospects of this rare and endangered species. The Moora and Koobabbie Important Bird Areas (IBAs) support up to 60 and 32 breeding pairs of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, respectively.

The project has been a great success so far with a well attended Carnaby awareness workshop being held in July (page 2), two community planting days plus a school planting day held in late July/early August, and the planting of over 17,000 trees and shrubs over fourteen properties and Shire land in the target areas.



The plants chosen for revegetation included *Grevillea petrophiloides* – Pink Poker, *Hakea lissocarpa* – Honey bush, *Hakea scoparia* – Kangaroo bush, *Hakea trifurcate* – Two leafed Hakea, *Hakea preissii* Needle Tree, *Eucalyptus salmonophlola* – Salmon Gum, *Eucalyptus wandoo* – Wandoo, *Eucalyptus loxophleba* – York Gum and *Acacia saligna* Golden Wreath Wattle (all

pictured above in order). MCC joined forces with the Shire of Moora to plant an additional 4,000 local provenance plants on top of the 13,000 ordered through the initial project which included various Melaleucas and Acacias. All these plants represent a good mix of native Carnaby feed/nesting species suitable for the target areas.

MCC worked with the Shire of Moora and Don Williams to find suitable community planting locations around Moora. Sites identified (below in red) included behind the hospital adjacent to the Moore River, Candy's Bush Reserve, and west of town along the River and in the Shire depot.



Above: Thousands of seedlings waiting to be planted! Thanks to Moora Citrus for holding them at their nursery.



Left: Community planting sites in Moora

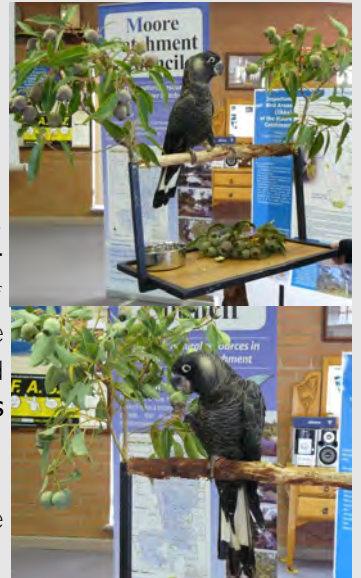


Information correct at time of printing. While every attempt is made to present accurate information on events, dates etc no responsibility is taken for the accuracy of the information.

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Information day

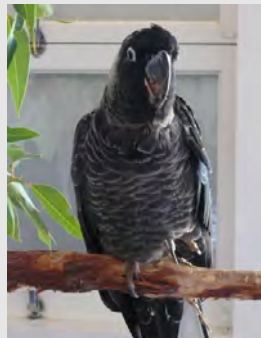
Ever seen a Carnaby Black Cockatoo up close? The opportunity arose to get up close and personal with Chasey the Carnaby at an informative workshop held in Moora on the 16th July to raise awareness of this endangered bird species. The workshop was funded through MCC's State NRM Office Carnaby's Black Cockatoo forage habitat project. The day attracted more than twenty-five people from all over the region and the Perth area.

The day kicked off with Wally Kerkhoff of the Kerkhoff Carnaby Group, who talked about his work in Moora over the years with rehabilitating Carnaby's which have been injured or poisoned. Wally is passionately dedicated to preserving the bird species and shared some of his observations into conserving them including using Afgan melons as feed (they love the seeds). One audience member was so touched by Wally's cause that a sizable donation to his fund was made !



Wally was finally upstaged by Chasey the Carnaby who was nosily munching marri nuts. Paula and Kylie from Kaarakin Black-Cockatoo Conservation Centre brought him up to show the audience how magnificent the endangered bird species is up close, and to demonstrate what the Centre does for injured Carnaby's in the Swan Hills. Chasey was the highlight of the day for many and wasn't shy for the camera.

Above: Wally Kerkhoff gave a personal account of what he's been doing to conserve the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in Moora
Right: Chasey the Carnaby steals the show !
Below: Local farmer Sarah Mason talks about the vast amount of revegetation that has been carried out on her Calingiri farm



Sarah Mason, a farmer from Calingiri and a keen Carnaby enthusiast, gave a farmers perspective of protecting the Carnaby and native vegetation on her farm through fencing, and connecting existing remnant native vegetation through revegetation corridors. Sarah and her husband Geoff have planted many hectares of native plants throughout their farm providing much needed feed and nesting habitat for Carnaby's.



After a delicious lunch, the group headed out to Wally's house to look at where he cares for the Carnaby's plus look at his nesting 'logs' which he makes for artificial nests. Wally has made dozens of these which are erected around Moora (and beyond) and have been very successful at attracting breeding pairs to lay eggs and raise young chicks. On leaving, Wally gave everyone some of his homemade honey - bonus !

The group then moved on to Candy's Bush Reserve to have a guided walk with Jenny Borger from WWF. This was unfortunately cut short by a torrential downpour! But we can't complain about the much needed rain.



Above: Wally shows the group his nesting log production area
Right: Very wet !!! The heavens open during the Candy's Bush Reserve walk with WWF

Thanks to all the speakers and participants who made the day a success.



The MCC organised two community plantings day on the 25th and 28th July in Moora as a part of the Carnaby's project. The Shire of Moora allocated a number of sites around Moora that MCC could use and also provided an extra 4,000+ native tree seedlings grown at CY O'Connor Institute with seed collected by local farmer and ecologist Don Williams.

Nearly twenty people volunteered over the two days including Moora residents, CY O'Connor students and volunteers from Perth. The total planted was approximately 2,000 seedlings.

Above: Don Williams and Marie Carter sort seedlings
Below: Students from CY O'Connor get planting

The project also paid for a contractor to rip and mound the sites which, along with the fabulous rains straight after planting, will ensure a good establishment.



Above: Local resident Anthony planting
Below left: Group work !
Below: A Perth resident comes and helps

Above: MCC's Julia White & local Wes Porter
Below: Not many to go planting team !!



The MCC, in conjunction with the Shire of Moora, also organised a school tree planting with St. Joes Primary school on 1st August behind the Moora hospital. The children were super enthusiast and got to work immediately by separating into planting teams. Over the hour, they managed to plant approximately 800 plants. Great job !

Thanks to Don Williams for helping out.



Background

The 8ha Candy's Bush Reserve is located on the south-eastern outskirts of the Moora town site. Moora is situated on the floodplain of the Moore River on a broad, flat valley floor.

The vegetation of the Candy's Bush Reserve comprises Wandoo and Salmon Gum Woodland. The vegetation is in very good condition; plants are healthy, all vegetation layers are present and there are few weeds. Past surveys by WWF and the WA Native Orchid Study & Conservation Group reveal many reasons why the bush is important for flora species including being designated as the best location around for the Moora Spider Orchid, Brown-veined Shell Orchid and Green-veined Shell Orchid (photos below). Both survey reports note the reserve being rich in biodiversity but also note that continued threats from humans is starting to have an effect on its decline.

The bushland provides habitat for fauna including the endangered **Carnaby's Cockatoo**. The remnant is located within Birdlife Australia's designated Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Important Bird Area and provides important breeding habitat.

The Yued (Yuet) significance of the reserve is immense. 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.

It is important that Candy's Bush Reserve be preserved and managed for its significance as a woodland remnant and its nature conservation, cultural and heritage values for the benefit of present and future generations. Only 7% (14,156 ha) Medium woodland York Gum and Salmon Gum remain in Moore River Catchment compared to a pre-European extent of 214,280 ha.



Above: map showing boundary of Candy's Bush Reserve
Below: vegetation of the reserve



Action

The threats to this reserve are numerous. Perimeter fencing is needed to help control the many motorbikes, horse riders and car hoons which drive through this reserve causing damage. Also, to stop dumping of rubbish (which is widespread). Fencing may outrage some of these users but interpretative signage is planned detailing the value and importance of this reserve. A huge threat is the loss of Traditional heritage knowledge of the reserve and Yued people heritage history in general. Many of the Elders and Yued members who possess the knowledge are aging and this knowledge needs to be documented and shared for the future generations to use and understand.

A walking trail for the local community and passing tourists is also planned to encourage interaction with the local environment, showcase native species, and also to provide an place for healthy living through the encouragement of walking in the bush. This reserve will become an asset for Moora which can be utilised for exercise, viewing nature and education.

The first stage of action was a gathering of relevant stakeholders at the reserve in mid June 2013 which included the Shire, Friends of the Moora Woodlands, Yued Group, SWALSC, and MCC. Here, possible plans and issues were discussed and logistics of where fencing could go. On confirmation of the plan of action, the MCC have assisted the Friends of the Moora Woodlands and Yued Group to instigate the on-ground works.

As part of the State NRM funded Carnaby's project, MCC have been able to carry out some revegetation of bare areas within the reserve and allow fencing to be funded to protect this vegetation and the rest of the reserve from degradation from motorbikes and cars. MCC has also applied for additional funding to create interpretative signage and formalise a walking trail through the reserve.

MCC teamed up with Friends of the Moora Woodlands (FoMW) to organise and run a fencing busy bee weekend (30th Aug - 1st Sep). Thanks to the Shire of Moora for delivering some of the materials needed from Perth. Nearly a dozen volunteers came and helped over the weekend armed with hammers and shovels. Jim Pond, FoMW Chairman, was elected project team leader and delegated jobs to the workers. This involved erecting the wooden fence posts and rails, stringing wire between posts, installing metal fence posts, and fixing wire to the posts. On Saturday, volunteers worked from 9am until half 1pm and followed up with an additional three hours on Sunday. Hungry workers were rewarded with a sausage sizzle.

The volunteers have managed to install 400m of fence adjacent to Gardiner St with the remainder will be fenced using a contractor.



Above & above right: Holes are dug and posts installed
Below: Marie Carter helps out with posts and litter picking



Above: fencing team pose for a piccie
Left: Hard earned BBQ lunch
Right: Completed fence - 5 wire plain fence with top line in white to allow for greater visibility. The remaining fencing will be carried out by a contractor



NACC wind erosion incentive program come to an end

The Northern Agricultural Catchment's Council (NACC) Caring For Our Country (CFOC) 4 year Wind Erosion Program came to an end 30th June 2013. MCC was contracted by NACC to deliver this program in the Moore sub region during this time.

The program involved offering financial incentives to grow tree crops, perennial pastures, native vegetation and saltbush, plus fencing to protect saline land and blow outs on poor sands. 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 results 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. 88 of these projects went ahead.

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.

MCC has also been delivering the successful NACC CFOC funded 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 were known habitat and feeding sites for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.

Below: Map below shows locations (in red) of all wind erosion and hidden treasures projects 2009-13 carried out in the Moore catchment



Wind erosion projects 2009-2013 completed	No. of sites	Area planted (and/or protected) (ha)	Length 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

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

Right: A successful project. David Glasfurd, Walebing was extremely pleased with his 2012 strategic revegetation project. He was able to use funding to fence and revegetate a wind erosion prone area of his farm using native species



Future

A recent reduction in funding forced NACC to reassess the way it delivers NRM programs in the Northern Agricultural Region. As a result, NACC has decided to cease funding the sub region NRM bodies to employ on-ground staff and employ these staff ie NRMOs, themselves. This means MCC will not be delivering NACC on-ground programs including the Rivers project, Hidden Treasures project or Sustainable Ag project. *All enquiries for these programs need to be directed to NACC in Geraldton 9938 0100.*

MCC expressed interest in hosting the NACC employed NRMO, but was not successful. Instead NRMOs for the Moore region will be based in Perenjori and possibly Jurien Bay (at time of press).

MCC will continue to employ a NRMO ie Rachel, for the next 12 months to deliver current MCC projects, look for other funding opportunities and promote NRM in the Moore catchment.

The North Guilderton Coastal Restoration project made further progress on the 14th of August with a stakeholder meeting at Café de Moore, Guilderton. This project is being delivered by MCC on behalf of NACC, and involves fencing off some of the dune tracks and implementing signage to encourage dune users to stick to the designated tracks.

The meeting was held to discuss the finer points of the plan that aims to improve the management of uncontrolled four wheel drive access, which is damaging the north Guilderton dunes and their unique coastal vegetation. Stakeholders present included representatives from the Guilderton Community Association, Shire of Gingin, Department of Parks & Wildlife, South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council, Moore Catchment Council, and the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council. Outcomes included a slightly revised plan that moves on-ground works and track alignment from Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) to designated Road Reserve. The revised plan will be presented to the Shire of Gingin and Yued Working Party in November.



Above: Multiple track use is causing devastating consequences on the dunes and is only going to get worse if no intervention happens

Right: Four wheel drive use is 365 days a year but more prominent during holidays and summer months. Many vehicles get bogged on the soft sand

Enrich fodder shrub project completed but not yet finished

The MCC's CFOC Community Action Grant 'Demonstrating elite fodder shrubs for future productive use in the NAR' has concluded but monitoring will be ongoing. This elite Oldman saltbush project funded through Future Farm Industries CRC and partnering Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group, aims to find a strain of oldman saltbush with better digestibility and palatability. Hayley Norman, project leader of CSIRO provided this report.

Preliminary data from the Midlands sites

At the Calingiri site 2.5% of plants failed to establish, in the most saline part of the paddock. A further 7% had a fatal run-in with the header during harvest! At the deep white sandy site in Watheroo, 6.8% did not survive – it is unclear if this was associated with drought or predation with evidence of grazing by cattle. While the plants at the saline and waterlogged Miling site failed to grow much biomass, survival was 99%. Biomass was measured at the sites on 13-14 March 2013, approximately 220 days after planting. During the establishment phase, individual shrubs at Calingiri grew an average of 65 g of leaf dry matter (DM).



Miling site at planting



Calingiri March 2013



Watheroo site in March 2013



Plants at Watheroo grew 45 g of leaf DM and the plants at Miling grew an average of 8 g of leaf DM. These levels of growth were much lower than the southern sites where there was much higher summer rainfall and plants grew over half a kilogram of edible dry matter per plant during this establishment phase. The most productive clones were #10, #13, #22 #32 and #81. The plants from Chatfields Tree Nursery and Eyres green Gian were as productive as the selected clones. It is important to note that early growth is often not be correlated to growth after grazing. Obviously long-term productivity and survival is critical.

While biomass is important, the clones were selected primarily on the basis of nutritive value and relative palatability to sheep. A total of 225 plants per site have been subsampled for measurement of nutritional traits.

Where to next?

The CRC finishes in June 2014 but data analyses are continuing. With permission of the landholders, we are planning to measure growth and nutritional value of the saltbushes for at least another 12 months. Additionally, in a pen feeding study we are feeding the best 8 genotypes to sheep to confirm digestibility figures. The CRC is currently finalising commercialisation plans.

Moore Wildflower film

With the wildflower season in full bloom, want to know what kinds of flowers you'll see around the Moore region?? MCC have made a short 10 min film which takes you on a whistle stop tour of the wildflower hotspots. From Moora orchids to Coorow everlastings and down to multi coloured sandplain flower species in the south - it really is a myriad of colour and design !

Click on this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZdpTsUIxvA&feature=share&list=UUb1wqM4ujwXi94p0HQRD5Kw>

Thanks Julia



Julia White, a graduate of Murdoch University, joined the Moore Catchment Council in May on an internship but has now finished her contract. Julia was a great employee over the past few months helping to wrap up NACC projects which have come to an end as well as being a great help implementing the MCC's Carnaby project. Thanks and good luck for the future !!



Come and get free trees and tree guards at the Moora show



MCC will have over **500 trees seedlings** to give away so come and get a few !!!

We will be set up in the Wool shed at the Moora Agricultural Show on the 21st September. The big seedling give away is part of the Carnaby's project and so we will have those feed and nesting species on offer (see front page for species).

This year we also have green plastic tree guards and stakes to give away as well. They can really help to protect your seedlings from the weather and also critters which want to eat you seedlings like rabbits, white cockatoos and galahs.

So load up and get planting !!!



Upcoming events

- ★ 4th October **MCC AGM**, Moora call Helen 9653 1355
- ★ 23rd November **Heavenly Hectares Small Landholders workshop**, Gingin call Rachel 9653 1355 for more info

facebook

Keep up to date !! Find the MCC on Facebook for lots of photos from projects and events.

Type **Moore Catchment Council** and **like** to have regular info on your feed :)

Moore Catchment Council

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in the Moore River Catchment*



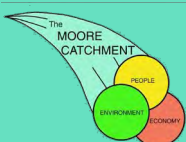
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