

MOORE to the point



Moore Catchment Council
19 Dandaragan Road,
PO Box 337, Moora WA 6510
Tel: 9653 1355 Fax: 9653 1366

Natural Resource Management Update Issue 13 Summer 2008-2009

Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 13th *Moore to the Point* quarterly newsletter. The team has been busy again with two projects ending as of the 31st Dec, the Brushwood project getting the go-ahead and new government funding offering additional opportunities to get new projects off the ground.

As always, if you have any articles or updates that you would like to see in future newsletters, or wish any additional information, please contact the MCC in Moora. Editor, Rachel Walmsley

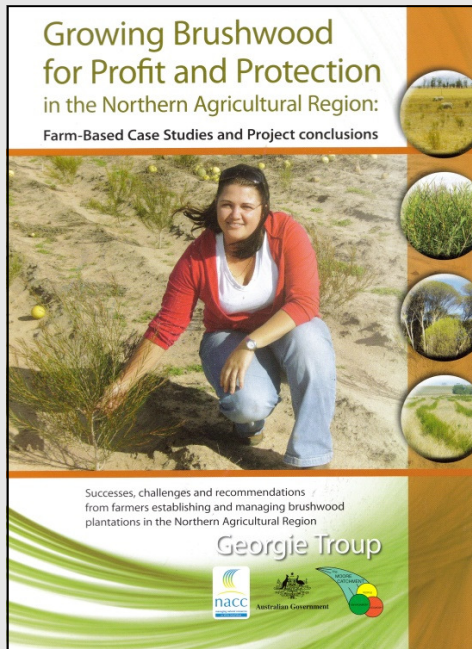
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Funding Approved for Brushwood Project Extension

The Moore Catchment Council is very pleased to announce that funding has been approved for an extension of the successful Brushwood Industry Development on Saline Land Project. The Federal Government has made \$224,000 available for the Increased Adoption of Sustainable Brushwood Production project, under the highly contested Caring For Our Country Open Grants scheme. Moore Catchment Council was among very few Western Australian projects to receive funding. The total amount allocated throughout Australia was \$28.5 million, with Western Australia receiving \$2.8 million.

The Adoption of Sustainable Brushwood Production Project has been managed by Project Officer Georgie Troup and has seen over 1.25 million Melaleucas planted throughout the Northern Agricultural Region since 2006. Melaleucas planted by the project are destined for the brushwood fencing market.

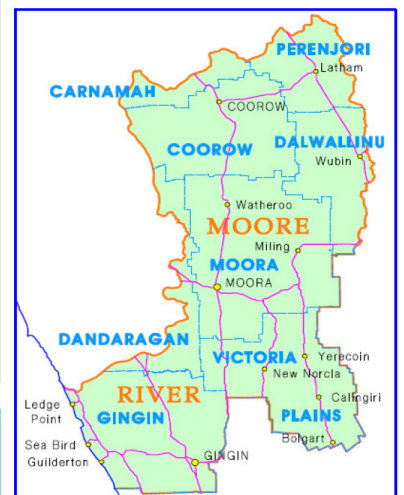


Brushwood production offers farmers diversification of farming enterprise and economic return on previously unproductive agricultural land affected by salinity. There are many additional benefits associated with brushwood plantations including amelioration of land affected by salinity and protection of valuable cropping land. Sustainable production of brushwood in plantations ensures the protection of naturally occurring stands of Melaleuca in remnant vegetation. The harvested plants have the ability to re-sprout, providing a useful renewable resource.

An additional 475,000 seedlings will be planted through the new project and most of those have already been allocated to farmers, who expressed a keen interest to adopt or expand brushwood production on their land. There will be additional seedlings available to landholders in the Moore River Catchment and Yarra Yarra Catchment at the heavily subsidised cost of 10c each.

For more information on growing Melaleucas for brushwood or to receive a

copy of the 'Growing Brushwood for Profit and Protection' booklet, please phone the office.



Rising Groundwater Project Bus Tour and Break Down

What an end to a project! On 8th December about 14 people headed out to tour the project area for the Koojan Gillingarra Rising Groundwater Project visiting many sites including Wandawallah Lake, Chris Vanzetti's tagasaste, Phil Tomlinson's sandalwood and tree plantation trial site, Bob Hamilton's perennial pastures established on bio-solids application area, the Koojan West Lake and finally the McGillivrays Rivercare site.

What was unexpected was the Shire of Moora's Community Bus which experienced a dead battery due to an air conditioning switch being left on during Phil Tomlinson and Chris Vanzetti's site visits. After many chiefs and no Indians working on the problem and using a spare vehicle for recharging the battery and lots of pushing by attendees, the switch was turned off and away the bus went to finish off the rest of the tour. If nothing else the breakdown caused some laughs and was very entertaining for everyone involved and the rest of the tour was undertaken in very good humour. Attendees enjoyed the tour and we all enjoyed a well deserved drink at the end of the tour at the Moore Catchment Council Christmas Party.

Drilling has also been carried out in the Capitella Valley on Longman and Brown property. The results found indicate that the valley is a "paleochannel" or old river bed and there is significant water resource in the coarse sands found in the 60m depth bore holes. Department of Agriculture and Food hydrologists are still working on the water quality within the holes but there is a possibility that the water can be used for new industry development in the future which is very exciting!

The project will officially finish up on the 31st December 2008 and Bronwyn Fox, project manager, is currently busy putting together the final reports and finalising the financials for the project.



Above: Pushing the bus uphill !! Members of the tour party do their best to get the bus started.

Photo: C.Schrank



Above: Bob Hamilton explains how bio-solids were applied to his land and how it has affected his perennial pasture

Photo: R.Walmsley

Introducing New NACC Incentive Schemes

Some exciting new incentive schemes developed by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) are now available through the Moore Catchment Council. If you interested in these incentive schemes, please contact Moore Catchment Council on 9653 1355 to obtain an Expression of Interest form to begin the process.

Please also note:

- ◆ the **Rivercare Incentive Program** still has funding available for fencing, revegetation, weed and pest control, and alternative watering points, in order to protect and enhance natural drainage lines.
- ◆ the **Salinity Rehabilitation and Extension Project** will still be providing saltland management advice and fencing incentives.

Eastern Oil Mallee Incentive

NACC is making oil mallee seedlings available at a subsidised cost to landholders in the area shown in the map below.



Site Criteria			Incentive
min. plantable area	min. no. of seedlings	max. no. of seedlings	cost per seedling
10 ha	10,000	100,000	12c

Ownership of the trees will remain with the grower. All seedlings will be accredited by the Oil Mallee Association (OMA), and participating landholders will receive a complementary 12 month OMA membership. The Eastern Oil Mallee Incentive program is aimed at achieving reduction in wind and water erosion, improved water quality, reduction of rising groundwater, provision of crop and stock shelter, nature conservation, and building the oil mallee resource in the NAR.

Wetland Incentives

The aim of the NACC Wetlands Incentive program is to protect and restore wetlands in the NAR that are under threat from weeds, stock access, and soil and wetland degradation. The on-ground works are intended to enable regeneration of existing native vegetation, stabilisation of the area, and improvement in water quality. The Incentive Scheme offers fencing, re-vegetation, weed and pest control, bank stabilization, and alternative watering points incentives, summarised below:

Site Criteria	Fencing Incentive		
min. wetland area	wetlands less than 10 ha	wetlands 10-50 ha in size	wetlands greater than 50 ha
1 ha	\$3,000/km ringlock (or \$1,000/km plain wire)	\$3,500/km ringlock (or \$1,000/km plain wire)	\$4,000/km ringlock (or \$1,000/km plain wire)

Other Incentives (where required)						
re-vegetation	enhancement	weed control	mechanical weed control	pest herbivore control	bank stabilisation	alt. watering pts. & stock crossings
\$500/ha	\$1000/ha	\$30/ha/yr for 5 yrs.	up to \$200/ha (once only)	\$20/km/yr for 5 yrs.	up to \$2,000/site	up to \$3,000/property

Native Vegetation Management

Areas of priority remnant vegetation have been identified through the NACC and DEC Hidden Treasures program. The aim of the NACC Native Vegetation Management program is to protect and restore priority areas of remnant vegetation in the NAR that are under threat from weeds, stock access and soil degradation. The Incentive Scheme offers fencing, revegetation, and weed and pest control incentives to landholders of areas that have been identified as priority remnant vegetation. The Moore Catchment Council will be in contact soon with those landholders identified in having these areas of remnant vegetation, but any more information in the meantime can be acquired by phoning, or dropping into, the office.

Saltbush Project Review Booklet Available

The successful saltbush project with the Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group may have officially ended in September but its results will continue to be monitored for some time to come. A project review booklet has been published outlining the project processes throughout the year, and highlights various problems that were encountered as well as positive (some unexpected) outcomes that have been generated. If anyone would like a copy to see what the project has achieved so far then please phone the office.

East Moore Project Finds New Species

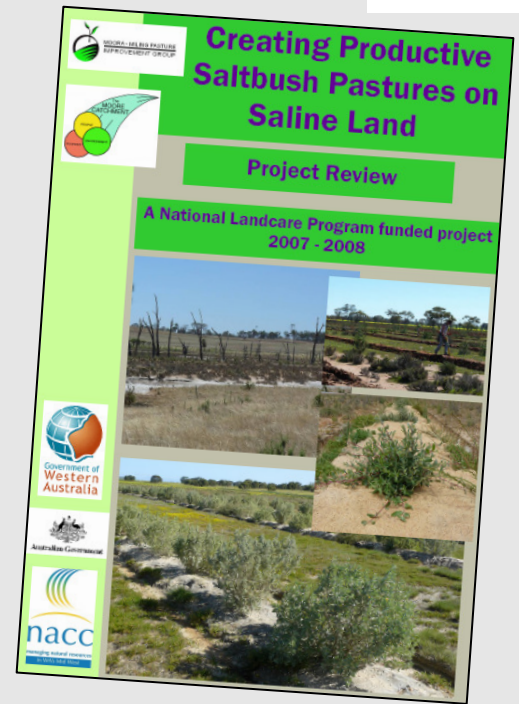
A new species has been found as a result of flora surveys carried out by Donna Rayner, Sarah Clune and Lana Kelly in 2007. The plant was discovered on Mr B. Harridge's property. The species has been named *Tetradthea* sp. New Norcia. Ryonen Butcher from the WA Herbarium visited the site with Lana in October 2008 to re-sample. After they had been trying to find the plant for over for over an hour, Lana decided to walk back to the car to get video footage to help refine the search. She got almost to the fence and spotted the



little pink flowers. Loud shrieks of joy ensued! For a site of over 18 hectares Ryonen had parked only 10 metres away from the plant!

Tetradthea sp. New Norcia is from the Tremandraceae family. *Tetradtheas* are often referred to as Pinkeyes or Black Eyed Susan due to the dark centre of the pale pink flowers.

Left: Ryonen Butcher, WA Herbarium and Lana Kelly, East Moore Project with the new *Tetradthea* species
Photo: L.Kelly



Upcoming Events in 2009:

- ◆ 30th Jan - *Moore Catchment Council OGM, Dallwallinu* - everyone invited, please rsvp to office
- ◆ 26th-28th Feb - *Pasture to Pocket Grazing Management* workshop, Three Springs - phone Katherine Johnston 9651 1277 or 0419 091 834
- ◆ 30th Mar-3rd Apr - *River Restoration* workshop - phone the MCC for more details

Moore Catchment Council Team:



Australian Government

Lana Kelly Project Management Officer East Moore Project 0427 364 167 or lkel@bigpond.net.au

Bronwyn Williams Project Officer, Koojan-Gillingarra Rising Water Table 0438 924 208 or bronwynwilliams@westnet.com.au

Rachel Walmsley NRM officer 9653 1355, 0488 954 664 or mcc.nrm@bigpond.com

Ingrid Krockenberger NRM officer 9653 1355, 0409 296 264 or mcc.nrm1@bigpond.com

Helen Watkins Administration & Finance Officer 9651 4291, 0428 514 292 or wathel58@bigpond.com

