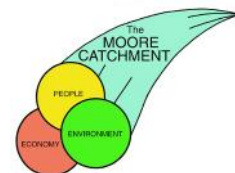


MOORE to the point



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Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 19th *Moore to the Point* quarterly newsletter. Since the last newsletter, MCC have been successful in obtaining state funding which has been gratefully received. Ground works have also started with the saltbush project. Just need lots of rain now ! Happy reading ☺
editor **Rachel Walmsley**

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Moore NRM Funding from State

The Moore Catchment Council are celebrating once again with the recent announcement of the state NRM funding favouring one of their projects. The \$5 million on offer was highly contested attracting 177 submissions, with the MCCs 'Recovery and Protection of the Moore River Catchment's Threatened Natural Assets' being one of 51 successful applications. The project was awarded \$199,800 to help aid and encourage land managers in the Moore River catchment to protect and recover riparian zones as well as protect threatened important native vegetation. The project will run until September 2011.

Most of this project money is destined for fencing and revegetation activities which will be distributed as on-ground works incentives. The project aims to fence off 25km of the Moore River (tributaries, creeklines etc) and revegetate 50ha. Money is also available for fencing off 15km of priority native vegetation in the catchment.



Above: The iconic Moore River near Gillingarra

Incentive rates will be:

- ★ Moore River fencing: \$3,000/km
- ★ Moore River revegetation: \$500/ha
- ★ Native vegetation fencing: \$4,000/km

All incentives will be offered on a first come/first served basis and be subject to a site assessment. Other criteria will also apply which is detailed in the fact sheets.

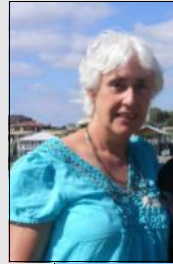
Rachel Walmsley of the MCC who wrote the application says 'everyone at MCC is thrilled that we have received this funding. This project will build on the huge amount of fencing and reveg works already carried in the catchment as part of funded schemes and private investment. The iconic Moore River is a natural, social and economic asset that needs managing in ways which will protect it from continued stock damage, salinity and degradation so that it can be enjoyed by everyone for many years to come.'

The project will also host two information days to raise awareness of the project and also the importance of ongoing natural resource management in the catchment and beyond. For further information please contact the office on 9653 1355



Ledge Point Coastcare Group Community Activities

The Ledge Point Coastcare group have hosted a number of activities as part of their Coastwest grant and as part of their ongoing mission to improve and maintain the dune systems in the town. Jan Richards the organiser, is a passionate resident and the driving force behind these activities. NACCs Chiara Danese & Ashley Robb have also helped immensely in supporting Jan and her team.



Left: Jan Richards
Below: Great turn out for the event by community, and local shire and NRM representatives



Coastal Rehabilitation workshop

Dave Bright presented an excellent workshop on practical coastal rehabilitation on 21st April which demonstrated best practice when conducting rehabilitation projects. Topics covered included: sourcing plants - using nurseries with correct provenance, planting methods and weed control, and also ongoing maintenance and monitoring.



Above: Rachel Walmsley (MCC) & Ashley Robb (NACC) enjoy a cup of tea at the workshop

This was followed by lunch in the park and then a beach walk which showed the group works that had gone on already, and works that needed doing.



Left: Dave Bright points out the perils of Pit Grass
Above: Ash gave everyone a copy of 'Coastal Plants - pocket guide' which NACC has just published



Community Planting day

The weekend of 26th/27th June was perfect for getting people out to help plant 1600 coastal plants on degraded sections of the dunes. Overall 30 local people came to help which definitely made light work for all. Species planted included *Carpobrotus virescens* (coastal Pig face), *Atriplex isatidea* & *Atriplex cinereoacosta* (saltbush) and *Scaevola crassifolia* (Fan flower). Local children came and watered all the plants, then everyone enjoyed morning tea and a well deserved sit down. Thanks to everyone that helped out.



Above: The last of the pigface going in



Above: Filling in an old pathway
Left: Revegetating dunes along side a beach access path

Native orchids are starting to make an appearance at this time of year.



Diuris brumalis

Diuris brumalis (winter donkey orchid) is quite common in the region. It grows in gravelly loam and flowers between June and August.



Pterostylis sanguinea

Pterostylis sanguinea (dark banded greenhood) is less conspicuous with its green to brown flowers. It grows in a variety of soil types, preferring deep litter shaded by mature trees. It flowers from June to September



Eriochilus dilatatus subsp. *undulatus*

Eriochilus dilatatus subsp. *undulatus* (wavy leaf bunny orchid) is also inconspicuous but in this case it is due to its diminutive size. This tiny widespread orchid has already finished its flowering period, flowering from April to June.

Delicate and elegant, *Caladenia longicauda* (common white spider orchid) is also widespread in its distribution and flowers from July to November. Its close relative *Caladenia longicauda* subsp. *albella* (small-lipped white spider orchid) is larger flowered and more spectacular but has a more localised distribution south in the NAR and flowers from July to September. It prefers winter-wet soils, such as waterlogged areas, creeklines and wetlands.



Caladenia longicauda



Caladenia longicauda subsp. *albella*



Tour of Bob and Anne Wilson's Farm

Bob Wilson is well-known for the 1000 ha of tagasaste plantations he established in the late 1980's. He is also well-known for his generosity in sharing his knowledge and passion. In late April, he kindly showed a group of interested farmers, organised by John Longman of the West Koojan-Gillingarra LCDC, around his farm in Lancelin.

John Longman (front), Tom Kelly, Kevin Gors and Bill Lullfitz (left to right) chose an excellent vantage point to hear what Bob had to say.



Other interested listeners.



Tagasaste

Row Spacing. Bob said that initially he planted his tagasaste rows too close together (6 m between a 2 m double row), and that he now prefers double rows with at least 8 - 10 m between them. However with poorer soils, the inter-row area is less productive for annuals so it makes sense to have tagasaste rows closer together.

Direct Sowing. Bob advises that furrows should have the water-repellent surface scalped aside. Press wheels should leave a flat profile to avoid cotyledon burial, which happens in V-shaped furrows after rain or wind events.

Establishment. Insect control is critical during the establishment year. Initially, red-legged earth mite and possibly cutworm can be troublesome. Wingless grasshoppers and Rutherglen bugs can be a major problem around December of the establishment year. Kangaroos and rabbits need to be controlled the year before establishment because they can be very destructive, especially rabbits.

Plant Form and Grazing. He stresses the importance of managing the stand so that the ideal 'broccoli' shape of plants is maintained. Cutting or grazing when plants are 12-18 inches tall will produce the all-important early bushing out. If plant growth gets away and stock can no longer reach, it must be cut back. However this is expensive, so good grazing management is preferable.

The key with sheep is using rotational grazing with big mobs, to graze hard and prevent plants getting too high. Care must be taken not to denude the plants, so that there is plenty of photosynthetic potential to allow quick recovery. Bob allows 1 month recovery periods for his stands (sometimes longer in summer) after 3-7 days of grazing, depending on mob size. The photo at right shows a stand on the second day of grazing by cattle after 1 month of recovery.

Shelter. Bob likes to let every tenth row or so grow tall to provide shelter for stock.



Supplementation. If weight gain of young stock is required over summer, Bob said that supplementation is needed when plant growth slows down due to water stress. Providing weaner cattle with 1 kg whole lupins per head per day will produce 0.5-0.6 kg weight gain, and 3 kg will produce around 1 kg weight gain.

Fertiliser. Bob hasn't used much fertilizer in recent years but says it would be better though, to improve growth and palatability. He recently started to use manganese sulphate every 3 to 4 years to overcome Mn deficiency, recognised as a yellow-orange leaf discolouration in winter and spring when plants should be growing well. Most recently it was applied by adding to a biological spray as a foliar application.

Perennial Pasture



Role of Sub-Tropical Grasses. The role of sub-tropical grasses in Bob's farming system seemed very obvious as we were standing in almost knee-high green grass where there used to be bare ground and dried annuals at this time of year. Annuals still play an important part but the perennials provide that all-important extra feed at break of season, and there is a bonanza if there is summer rain, said Bob.



Seed Mix. The perennial grasses Bob has established recently are more Panic-dominant due to their better palatability, feed quality, drought tolerance and responsiveness to rain. He keeps Rhodes in the mix because he has a gut feeling that it is needed for reasons such as diversity and low saponin. Signal and Panic may cause photosensitisation problems in stock due to high saponin levels. A trial strip of Kikuyu has taken about 5 years to become a significant part of the pasture biomass.



Bob stresses the importance of good initial cover for long-term success.
All photos taken in late April, 2010, after good rain in March.



Legume Companions. Much effort is going into developing suitable legume companions for perennial pastures. Bob said we already have blue lupins to increase nitrogen in the soil but they don't have a lot of feed value and there can be toxicity problems. Toxicity is less of a problem with the summer-active grasses because stock will select the green grass rather than green lupin pods. Bob has found that lucerne does not persist in his pasture, possibly due to grazing pressure (his soils have pH of about 6). Serradella is very useful to fill the gap when there is early cold and the sub-tropical grasses have lost their feed value, but we have to see how well the various varieties perform in the long-term.

Residual Fertiliser and Biological Sprays. Bob has used biological sprays on his perennial pastures to introduce mycorrhizal fungi to the soil. Christine Jones' advice is that perennial grasses can form associations with the fungi which enable soil nutrients to become available for plant uptake. Bob said he believes something like 85 % of water soluble fertilizers are generally in unavailable form and it would be good to be able to access them.



Combining tagasaste and perennial pasture. Bob has established a demonstration site trialing tagasaste with perennial pasture in the inter-row at 3 different row spacings. Photo at left shows the site, which was established last season.

NACC Wind Erosion Incentives - Out Now !

The Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) has a range of CFOC wind erosion incentives to offer land managers in the NAR. A recent review has removed previous targeted boundaries and allowed all land managers now to apply for any incentive, subject to a site assessment for suitability.

An overview of payments are below:



Farm Forestry - Oil Mallees

- Oil Mallee establishment - \$250/ha
- Industry membership to the Oil Mallee association

Max incentive per site of \$3,360

Fodder Shrub Establishment (saltbush & Tagasaste)

- Fencing - \$2,300/km for mesh fencing, \$1,150/km for plain wire fencing
- Fodder shrub establishment - \$0.20/seedling, \$90/ha direct seeded
- *Max incentive per site of \$4,550*

Perennial Pasture Establishment - sub tropical grasses

- Fencing - variable rates for mesh/plain wire or electric fencing
- Perennial pasture establishment \$85/ha,
- Watering point - \$1,000/point (1 per 80 ha)

Max incentive per site of \$10,600

Strategic Revegetation

- Fencing - variable rates for mesh and plain wire fencing, and dependent on size of area fenced
- Revegetation - site <10ha = \$750/ha, sites >10ha = \$1,000/ha
- Weed and rabbit control incentives available

Max incentive per site of \$16,000

- ✓ The incentives are on a first come - first served basis with only a specific number of land managers in the NAR being eligible for each incentive per year for the duration of the four year project.
- ✓ Each incentive is subject to conditions eg minimum size
- ✓ Each incentive can only be utilised once by each land manger.

If you are interested in any of these incentives, then please phone the MCC office, and either Rachel or Ingrid will be able to discuss them further with you.

Saltbush Project Enters Planting Phase

The busiest time for the MCC's Productive Saltbush Pastures to Combat Wind Erosion in the Eastern Moore River Catchment project is happening right now, with Ian Pullbrook's team busy ripping, mounding and planting 110,000 of the 144,000 saltbush seedlings. Five farmers are planting the remaining saltbush themselves with all works finishing by the end of August.



With the dry start to the planting season, we were a little bit worried about the seedlings getting a good start but the recent rains have put our worries to rest. The mounding also helps the saltbush seedlings establish well by allowing them to access fresh water held in the mounds.

Left: One of Ian's planting team busy hand planting saltbush at Frank Tierney's farm



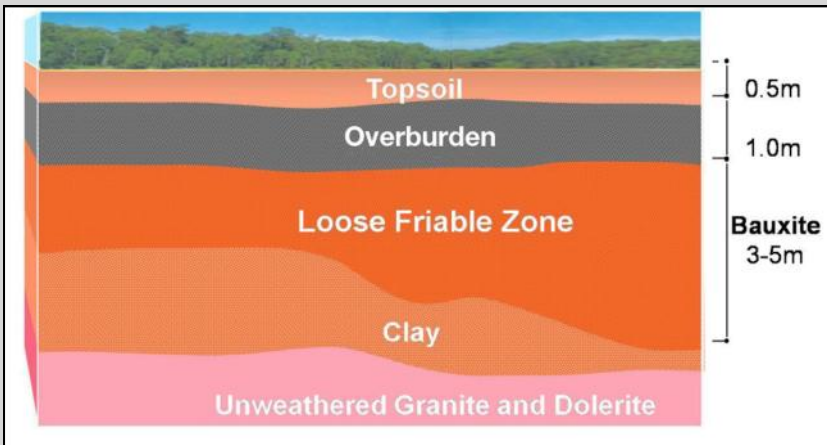
The Moore Catchment Council's Ordinary General meeting on the 21st May was held in Bindoon after an invitation from Bauxite Resources Ltd (BRL) was received to come and inspect a rehabilitated mine site near the town. After the OGM had finished, Matthew Todd, Jacqui Jankowski and Chantelle O'Sullivan from BRL gave a presentation on bauxite mining procedures and activities in the area. Then we jumped on the bus provided and went to look at the rehab operations just north of Bindoon.



Left: Matthew Todd gave MCC an informative presentation on BRL and bauxite in the area

Facts about bauxite

- ★ Bauxite was first found in the darling Ranges in 1905 but not mined until 1955.
- ★ Bauxite here is superior compared with QLD and Indonesia due to low silica content
- ★ Bauxite typically found between 1 and 4m below ground surface



Above: Typical geological structure of bauxite country. BRL conduct 'minimum impact mining' - see BRL statement right.

BRL mining procedure :

In privately owned farmland our intention is to mine by:

1. preserving the topsoil
2. removing the bauxite in the overburden and gravelly zone
3. replacing the topsoil and creating new and better pastures or tracts of native vegetation as the land-owner decides



Left: Matthew explains the mining procedure to the group. BRL only mine in previously cleared areas and only remove 3 m of material. This rehabilitated site has been returned to perennial pastures at the request of the land manager.

Below: The group have a look around and ask BRL questions.



Left: John Longman and Cynthia McMorran looking at the new perennial pasture establishment.



MCC Tree Planters for Hire



The MCC has five Pottiputki tree planters that are available for member to rent at **\$10** a day each. They are light and easy to use, and may save many a sore back from the planting of a large number of trees and shrubs !

We also have a moulder for hire at **\$50** a day for MCC members. If you're interested in any of these items, then please phone the office for further details.

Funding Opportunities

The Federal government have released the second round of Community Action Grants which aims to help community groups take action to conserve and protect their natural environment. The grants are targeted towards established community-based organisations which have sustainable farming, and/or protecting and enhancing the natural environment as their principal objective investment proposals are sought from environmental, Indigenous, Landcare, Coastcare and sustainable agriculture community groups for grants of between **\$5000** and **\$20 000** (GST exclusive) to take action to help protect and conserve Australia's environment. Projects must be completed within 18 months. Applications close 31st August. www.nrm.gov.au

NACC will also have another round of wind erosion small grants of up to **\$10,000** per project. This will open in September so get thinking now! Info will be available at www.nacc.com.au soon.

MCC's new library - full of really useful NRM information

MCC has put together a small reference library, available for loan to anyone who is interested. Categories include: landcare planning & strategy development, social aspects of landcare, salinity, biosecurity, soils, perennial pastures & native grasses, river & wetland management, livestock management, surface water management & earthworks, bushland health & conservation, groundwater and farm forestry. Come in and have a look !

Shelley Spriggs New CEO for NACC

MCC would like to congratulate Shelley on being appointed the new CEO of NACC. Shelley is a great asset for the region and has already made her mark during her interim CEO position towards ensuring NACC's CFOC target delivery, and also strengthening NACC's position in the Northern Agricultural Region and beyond.

Upcoming events

- ★ 19th September - Carrah Farm Wildflower Walk - 9655 9852
- ★ 15th September - West Midlands Group Field Day - 9651 4008
- ★ 1st October - **MCC AGM/OGM**, Moora - 9653 1355

Moore Catchment Council



*protecting the natural resources
in the Moore River Catchment*



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