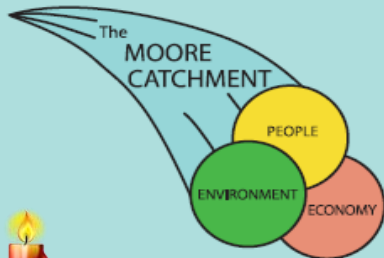


MOORE to the point



Natural Resource Management Update Issue 17 Summer 2009

Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 17th *Moore to the Point* quarterly newsletter.

As the year comes to an end, we can reflect back on what has been a great year for the MCC. Countless events attended and organised, two CFOC projects on the go and many on-ground incentives delivered out to farmers in the Moore river catchment. We hope 2010 will be just as exciting!

Everyone here at the MCC wish you all a **Merry Christmas** and a prosperous **New Year**.

Moore Catchment Council
19 Dandaragan Road,
PO Box 337, Moora WA 6510
Tel: 9653 1355 Fax: 9653 1366
www.moorecatchment.org.au

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editor **Rachel Walmsley**

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SMART Homes & Gardens hit Moora

The Moore Catchment Council & the Yarra Yarra Catchment Regional Council hosted another SMART Homes & Gardens workshop at the Moora Recreational Centre on Wednesday 16th September. Over 40 people from near and far came along to hear the Great Gardens team talk about money and time saving methods to create and maintain healthy waterwise gardens, as well as dispelling myths and hype created by many tv programs. Peter Coppin of the Perth based Great Gardens team certainly didn't hold back when dispelling myths with plant label manufacturers and garden shows saying 'Most plant information and also garden shows don't relate to WA and especially not Moora, a label that says full sun does not mean full sun in Moora! Most labels are made in Victoria and so mean nothing here'.



Above: Garry Heady talks to the enthused crowd about SMART tips to create great gardens and eco homes that save money, time and the environment.

Throughout the day the team presented a mind boggling array of useful information including best use of fertilizers and wetting agents, irrigation set ups and creating energy efficient homes, and also answered many questions from the audience on their own issues. Each participant went home with a goody bag full of information, energy efficient globe, seeds, shower timer and discount vouchers, and there was a raffle of gardening prizes of which Kylie Payne from Jurien Bay won top prize. Kylie said 'I



Above: Lizzie (right) hands out the raffle prizes to Jean Greenwood, Kylie Payne & Lee Campbell

never expected to win anything today so I am very pleased. The day has been fantastic and I am very glad I came.'

Rachel Walmsley (MCC) and Lizzie King (YYCRC) thank everyone who came, and thank the sponsors that made this workshop possible - Shire of Moora, Makit, Home Timber & Hardware, Synergy, Watercorp, NACC and of course Garry Heady, Peter Coppin and John McWilliams of the Great Gardens team who did

another excellent job of providing a thoroughly enjoyable and informative day. Anyone wanting a fact sheet of the main hints & tips of the day please phone the MCC office 9653 1355.



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 any of the information.



NACC has a range of CFOC wind erosion incentives to offer landholders in the NAR - the oil mallees and fodder shrub incentives are aimed at the eastern part of the NAR in the heavier country, whilst the perennial pastures and strategic reveg are aimed at the western sandier country.



An overview of payments are below:

Farm Forestry - Oil Mallees

- Oil Mallee establishment - 10c/seedling
- Industry membership to the Oil Mallee association

Max incentive per site of \$3,360

Fodder Shrub Establishment (saltbush)

- Fencing - \$2,300/km for mesh fencing, \$1,150/km for plain wire fencing
- Fodder shrub establishment - \$0.20/seedling, \$90/ha direct seeded
- Industry Membership to Saltland Pastures Association

Max incentive per site of \$4,550

Perennial Pasture Establishment - sub tropical grasses and tagasaste

- Fencing - variable rates for mesh/plain wire or electric fencing
- Perennial pasture establishment \$85/ha, \$140/ha for PP & Tag on same site
- Watering point - \$1,000/point (1 per 80 ha)

Max incentive per site of \$10,600

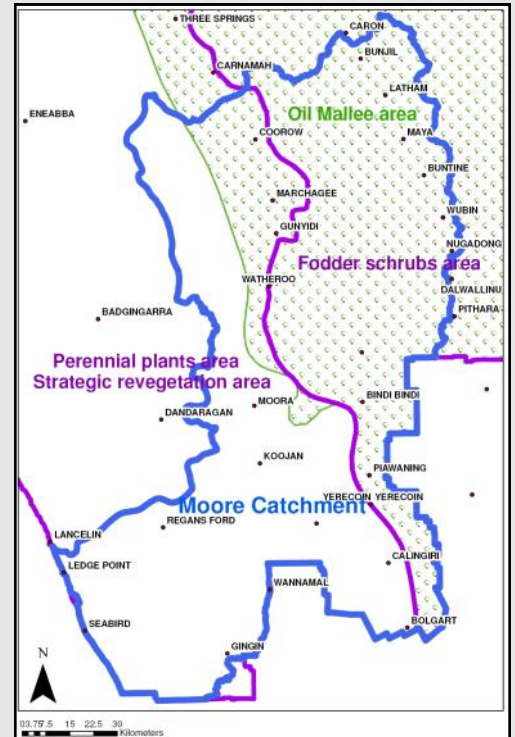
Strategic Revegetation

- 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 each year for the duration of the four year project.
- ✓ Each incentive can only be utilised **once** by each land manager.
- ✓ Each incentive is subject to conditions eg minimum size.

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.



Brushwood

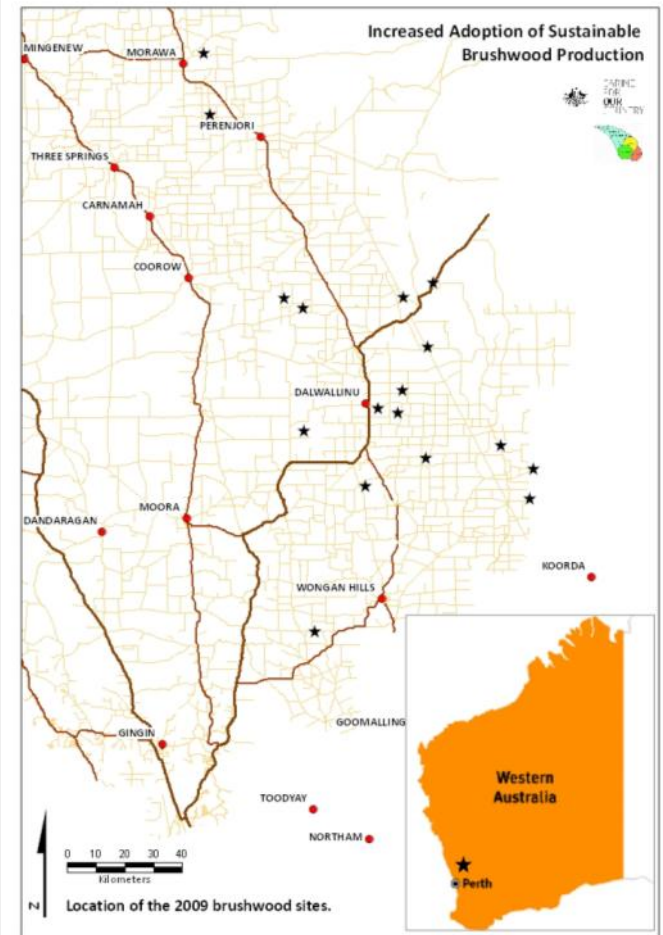
Increased Adoption of Sustainable Brushwood Production Project

The 'Increased Adoption of Sustainable Brushwood Production' project, funded by the Federal Government through Caring for our Country, has been completed and has achieved all its milestones.



Major Outcomes:

- **508,000** brushwood seedlings were planted in the Northern Agricultural Region;
- Wheatbelt Brushwood Grower Group has been formed;
- Brushwood Industry Steering Committee was established from representatives from the Avon, Southwest and Northern Agricultural Catchments (due to meet again in February 2010);
- Sites planted through MCC's previous brushwood project, 'Adoption of Sustainable Brushwood Production', were inspected and management recommendations were made;
- Measurements were taken from the monitoring bores established in 2006.



Measurements from the monitoring bores established in 2006 showed that it was too early to determine whether the plantations have had an effect on groundwater levels. Monitoring will continue.





(At left) Zoe Slater, a regular attendee at field days in the region, shows how blue lupins provide a sheltering canopy and protection from cold for sub-tropical grasses . Thanks, Zoe. :-)

Leaves of sub-tropical grasses without a protective canopy have purple discolouration (below left) due to cold stress and yellowing because they are not actively growing, compared to those growing with blue lupins (below right).



Caution: blue lupins may cause alkaloid toxicity. However, appropriate grazing management can avoid toxicity problems. Ensure that paddocks are not grazed when green pods are present and annuals have dried off or perennial pastures are not actively growing and green, so that stock will not select blue lupins.

(At right and below) Pasture smorgasbord and a great little ecosystem with lots of biodiversity, including lucerne, clovers, lupins, annual grasses and broad-leaved weeds, and sub-tropical perennial grasses.



The land-manager mentioned that there were plenty of spiders living there to eat the red-legged earth-mites and other undesirables — an advantage of a well-functioning ecosystem.



(At left) Phil Barrett-Lennard contemplates his no-kill cropping paddock with a variety of forage species including oats, various clovers and rye, destined for cutting and strip-grazing of wind-rows. Sub-tropical perennial pastures are semi-dormant in the understorey and will become active as it warms.

(At right) Clover and rye flourishing in spring, with sub-tropical grasses in the under-storey, ready to take off in summer.



(At left) Advantages of annual legumes sown with sub-tropical perennial grasses include better growth and survival, better nitrogen nutrition and feed quality, and lower nitrogen cost. Various clovers and serradella can be seen in the photo.

(At right) Elephant grass canes have been planted in rows (one row can be seen parallel and about 8 m from the vehicles), with Evergreen mix sub-tropical perennial grasses sown in the inter-row space.



(At left) Converted culti-trash combine for fine-tuned sowing of perennial pasture — the masterpieces to come out of farmers' workshops are a must-see at perennial pastures field days. Press-wheels seen at the back are essential.

The MCC held their Annual General Meeting at the Moora bowling club on Friday 2nd October. A dozen or so people attended the event, which was followed by an OGM and delicious lunch.

A number of MCC committee positions had become available, and so nominations were put forward and votes were cast.

The MCC executive committee positions held are as followed:

- ★ **Chairman:** Geoff Erikson
- ★ **Deputy Chairperson:** Lawrie Short
- ★ **Treasurer:** Cynthia McMorran
- ★ **Secretary:** Duncan Peter



MCC committee l-r: John Braid, Ingrid Krockenberger, Arthur Tonkin, Cynthia McMorran, Reg Beale, John Longman, Helen Watkins, Lawrie Short, Rachel Walmsley, Barry Johnson & Geoff Erikson

CFOC saltbush 2009/10 project update

Just a quick update on the MCC/MMPIG 'Productive Saltbush Pastures to Combat Wind Erosion in the Eastern Moore River Catchment'. This project hopes to further ensure MMPIG farmers are equipped with the practical skills and know-how to integrate saltbush into their farming systems to ensure resilience economically and environmentally in the face of a changing Australian climate.

All 18 land managers needed for the project have been signed up and all 144,000 saltbush seedlings have been allocated. We had such a quick response from land managers when the project was announced and were overwhelmed with the general interest to be involved.

At present, the seedlings have been ordered, all successful farmers been notified and assessments of each site are due to take place - as soon as harvest has finished !! A saltbush best management workshop is planned for March 2010 with speakers from CSIRO, DAFWA and CRC - so watch this space for the flyer.

Productive saltbush on salt affected land

Upcoming Events in 2009/10:



- ★ 29th Jan - **MCC OGM**, venue tbc - 9653 1355
- ★ 25th Feb - **Malcolm Bartholomeus visits to WMG & MMPIG groups** - Eneabba & Miling - 9653 1355
- ★ March - **Good Guide to Saltbush workshop**, Miling - 9653 1355
- ★ 26th Mar - **WMG women, wine & wellbeing**, Dandaragan - 9651 4008



Moore Catchment Council



protecting the natural resources
in the Moore River Catchment



Rachel Walmsley

NRM officer

9653 1355

0488 954 664

mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com



Ingrid Krockenberger

NRM officer

9653 1355

0409 296 264

mcc.nrmo1@bigpond.com



Helen Watkins

Admin & Finance Officer

9651 4291

0428 514 292

moorecc@bigpond.com

