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Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 22nd *Moore to the Point* quarterly newsletter. We've had a great result with the MCC's natural assets project allocating all funding earlier than expected. MCC has put in for new projects in a number of funding rounds so watch this space for more financial help!
 editor *Rachel Walmsley*

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Moore River Fencing and Reveg Funding all allocated

Fifteen landholders in the Moore River catchment have now benefited from the funding available through the MCC's project '*Recovery and protection of the Moore River Catchment's threatened natural assets*'. The state NRM funded project has now fully allocated all its available funding with 22.75km of priority native vegetation being fenced off and protected, 20km of the Moore River being fenced and 18ha of riparian zone being re-vegetated.

The original project output targets had to be changed slightly to accommodate the demand of land managers wishing to fence and protect their patch of native bush. The funding has allowed these assets to be protected from stock which will help enhance and conserve them for the future. Clearing of the land for agriculture has seen much of the native vegetation disappear so protecting these assets for the future is vital for catchment's biodiversity.

The funding has also allowed MCC to contract the expert skills of Andrew Huggett, an esteemed ornithologist from NSW, who has carried out previous bird monitoring works in the catchment. He will conduct these additional surveys on a number of the project sites to help gauge the health of the vegetation and gather baseline data for future conservation projects.

The project is also involving Fiona Faulkner of Department of Environment and Conservation. Fiona is due to assess each of the project sites for the 'Land for Wildlife' status during the coming months. This is a voluntary scheme that aims to encourage and assist landholders to provide habitats for wildlife on their property.

Ingrid and Rachel will be busy in the upcoming months visiting all the sites and signing off works. Rachel went out mid April to a priority 4 remnant vegetation fencing site at Cranmore Farm near Roundhill. Kristin and Tracy Lefroy have wanted to fence



off this patch of remnant vegetation for some time. Kristin says 'we wouldn't have been able to do these works without this financial help from the MCC and the state. Now this remnant has been fenced off from the stock, the bush will be able to regenerate and encourage more native birds and animals to come back.' Kristin is a 5th generation farmer at Cranmore Farm. He explains that conservation works on the farm started with his grandfather who started fencing a lot of the creek lines to help stop erosion and to enhance the biodiversity. Kristin says 'we want to carry on these conservation works throughout the farm as we can see the benefits for a sustainable farming future.'



Above: Kristin with his new fence that will keep the stock off this 37ha patch of remnant York and Salmon Gum woodland

MCC is seeking further funding to help farmers fence off natural assets in the catchment as demand has been high.

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.

Gingin Brook

~ restoration success ~

Flowing through the heart of Gingin township is Gingin Brook, which is the only perennial freshwater stream between Perth and the Kimberley. In addition to surface flows, it is fed by groundwater discharge, contributing about 67 % of total flow mainly during summer.

A degraded site in the township was targeted for restoration by the Friends of Gingin Brook and the Shire of Gingin with a Natural Heritage Trust grant in 1998. The site was infested with Taro which had almost completely displaced the native understorey.



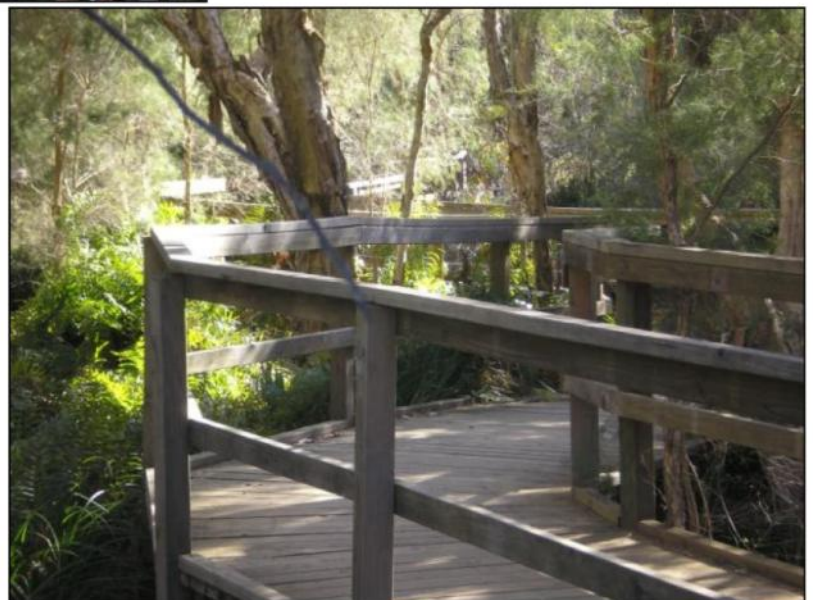
Control techniques have been successful and Taro has been totally eradicated from the site. Removal of the weeds has allowed native emergent and riparian understorey species to re-establish and the site is a remarkable restoration success.



A boardwalk has been constructed, giving access to the stream and surrounding swampland shaded by large Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) and Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*).

The naturally regenerated understorey vegetation includes Tall Sedge (*Carex appressa*), Tassel Sedge (*C. fascicularis*), a native fern (*Cyclosorus interruptus*) and Native Knot Weed (*Persicaria decipiens*).

Gingin Brook has a disjunct population of the native fern, *Cyclosorus interruptus*. Native fern (shown at right) is a botanical curiosity at this location because it most commonly occurs in vine thickets in the Kimberley, and in tropical and subtropical regions of the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales.

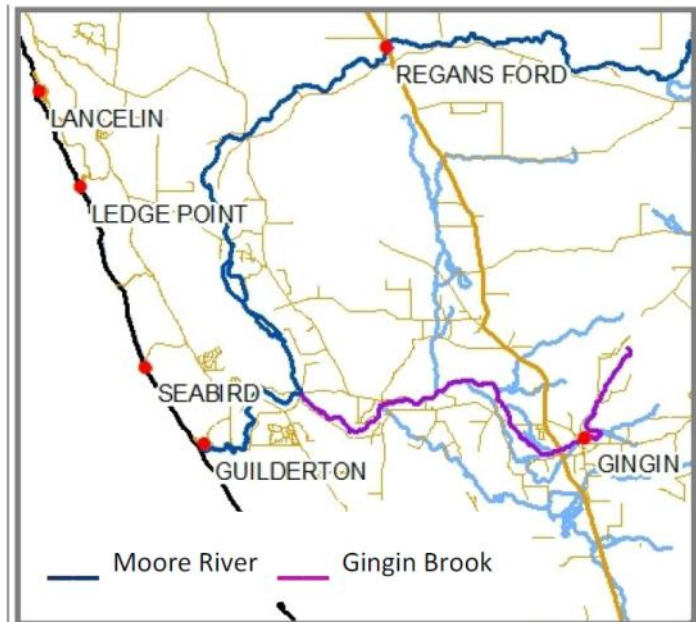


Gingin Brook

~ under threat ~

Declining rainfall in recent years and increasing demand on groundwater systems in the area has resulted in the recent lack of flow in Gingin Brook during summer in this historically perennial stream.

The following article introduces the Gingin Water Group, a recently formed community group concerned about the threat of declining water resources in the greater Gingin area.



The **Gingin Water Group** was recently formed in response to increasing community concerns about the reduction in the amount and condition of local groundwater and surface water, and the associated impacts on environmental, economic and social values of the greater Gingin area. Over 90 concerned citizens attended a public meeting held in Gingin on 27 October 2010 and the vast majority were in support of forming the Gingin Water Group.

At subsequent meetings of the Group with representatives from the Department of Water, it was decided to prepare a submission to the Gingin Groundwater Allocation Plan call for public comment and to undertake a community education program. The Group is keen to dispel the misconception that they intend to 'police' water allocation compliance – the Group has neither the jurisdiction, nor the desire.

Some of the concerns cited by the community are over-allocation of groundwater, dwindling water supplies and drying streams. For instance, the middle reaches of Gingin Brook, historically a perennial system, are now dry during summer, which has significant impacts on the brook's ecology and social values. Gingin Brook is dependent on groundwater discharge in the upper and lower reaches to maintain water flows during summer, indicating that groundwater levels have declined to a critical extent.

The long-term aspiration of the Group is for utilisation of water resources in the greater Gingin area to become sustainable, leaving sufficient water for environmental water requirements. This is a 'big ask' due to declining rainfall and conflicting needs for water use. The Group intends to approach the problem from two directions to influence both regulatory change and practice change.

The submission to the Gingin Groundwater Allocation Plan call for public comment will enable the Gingin Water Group to influence regulatory change aimed at achieving sustainable water use. Community education will enable the Group to influence landholder practice change through building understanding and providing opportunities for change. **Sandy Pate**, Regional Landcare Facilitator Perth Region NRM, is available for anyone in the greater Gingin area who would like to discuss their water issues (**9374 3320**).

Queries about the Gingin Water Group can be directed to:

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Ingrid Krockenberger

Moore Catchment Council

mcc.nrm1@bigpond.com **9653 1355**

Soil Stabilisation during Tagasaste Establishment

Low rainfall leading up to and during the 2010-2011 summer has made tagasaste (tag) difficult to establish in some areas. Even in less difficult years, consideration must be given to soil stabilisation and prevention of wind erosion in newly planted tag paddocks.



David de Bruyn of Carnamah is an experienced tag grower and used the NACC perennial pastures incentive to plant tag in his pale sands. He did a great job stabilising the fragile sandy soils, having put in a cover crop of feed barley which he then harvested. He was able to cover the cost of fertiliser and seed with the harvested crop, and the light sands were left with a protective cover of barley stubble.

Shown above is a tag row surrounded by barley stubble resulting in minimal exposure to wind erosion. The north-south orientation of the rows will provide protection from the most damaging winds once the plants become larger.

Summer Colour on the Roadside



Beaufortia micrantha (Little Bottlebrush)

These two brightly coloured myrtles were spotted on Wannamal West Road during summer. Remnant vegetation on roadsides has important habitat value that needs on-going protection.

Beaufortia squarrosa (Sand Bottlebrush)

Many lend a hand for Clean Up Day in Ledge Point

Ledge Point is looking discernibly tidier after a huge number of community members turned out for the annual Clean Up Australia event on the 6th March. Jan Richards of the Ledge Point Coastcare Group organised the event which over the past few years has attracted around 8-10 volunteers. Jan couldn't be present on the day and so left Rachel Walmsley of the Moore Catchment Council (MCC) to run the Sunday morning event.

Rachel said 'we had expected around 8 volunteers to come and help, so when 42 attended we were positively overwhelmed.' Luckily Jan had been stockpiling bags and gloves supplied from Clean Up Australia through the years so there was plenty of equipment for all. The volunteers ranged from small children to adults including local residents and visitors. Some were holidaying in Ledge Point for the long weekend including Suzanne Jackson from Hawkesbury, NSW who decided to join in. She says "I was keen to be involved in Clean Up Australia Day wherever I happened to be. Luckily for me I was holidaying at the gorgeous Ledge Point and loved the opportunity with cleaning it up to help keep it as nature intended!"

Volunteers were rewarded with a certificate of participation each and a lucky few also received passes to the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre (courtesy of the NMDC), and also free drinks and icy poles courtesy of the Beach Sands shop at Ledge.

All in all over 45 bags of rubbish were picked up throughout the town site including the main beach and adjacent dunes. Rachel said 'an audit was carried out on a number of bags to see what had been discarded, with the main items collected being glass beer bottles, bottle tops and plastic wrappers.' Rachel continued 'I'll never understand why people can't just take their rubbish home rather than leaving it to become a health hazard and eye sore!' Among the rubbish were a few interesting items including a huge piece of carpet, trampoline and a number of bongos which must have been discarded by some young holiday makers enjoying the long weekend.



Above: Rachel (MCC) and Suzanne Jackson from NSW who came to lend a hand with the clean up



Rachel said 'Thanks to all those volunteers that took part, including those who picked up rubbish in the days leading up to the 6th. It was a magnificent effort and Ledge looks better for it with just a few hours work done by many. We are certainly looking forward to next year's event.'

Below: Sally and Wally Cahill with their clean up day participation certificate

Above: a number of families holidaying in Ledge came along and helped pick up rubbish on the beach and

Additional photos are available through the Moore Catchment Council's Facebook page. Further information regarding upcoming coastal activities in the Moore catchment is available from Rachel at MCC 9653 1355 or mcc.nrm@bigpond.com

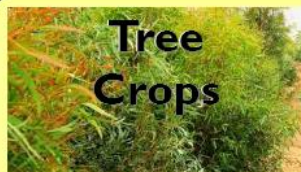
The MCC is contracted by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) to deliver a federally funded Coastal Engagement program in the Moore River catchment's coastal region.



NACC's CFOC On-ground Incentives - Out Now !

NACC have a number of Caring for Our Country funded incentives to help mitigate wind erosion and control rabbits. The tree crops incentive now has three options - oil mallees, sandalwood and brushwood. The fodder shrub (saltbush) incentive has a maximum incentive of \$8,000 which could help plant up to 47 ha of saltbush ! The rabbit control incentive is available in the Gingin and Woodridge target areas, and also to groups of farmers willing to take a strategic approach in controlling rabbits on a number of neighbouring properties.

If you're interested in any of these then give us a call to discuss on **9653 1355**.

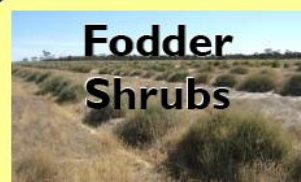


Tree Crops

Overview: Incentives available for Sandalwood host species, oil mallees and brushwood

What do I get?

- Up to \$250/ha
- Membership to industry group for one year ie Oil Mallee Association

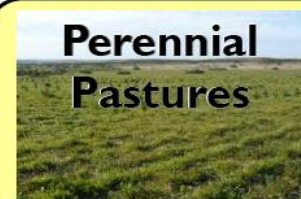


Fodder Shrubs

Overview: Incentive available for saltbush and rhagodia sp. Also plain and mesh fencing

What do I get?

- Seedling - \$0.20 each
- Fencing - \$2,000/km (mesh). \$1,000/km (plain)



Perennial Pastures

Overview: Incentives available for sub tropical perennial grasses, tagasaste, fencing and watering point

What do I get?

- Pasture - \$85/ha
- Fencing - \$1,725/km (mesh), \$1,150/km (plain), \$575/km (electric)
- Watering point - \$1,000 each (max 1)



Strategic Revegetation

Overview: Incentives available for fencing, weed and rabbit control, and seedlings

What do I get?

- Fencing - between \$1,150 & \$3,450/km depending on size of area
- Re-veg - \$750 - \$1,000/ ha
- Weeds - \$30/ha/yr. Rabbits - various rates



Rabbit Control

Overview: Incentives for fencing, 1080 baiting, fumigation and warren ripping

What do I get?

- Baiting - \$20/km/yr. Phostoxin fumigation - \$20 per warren
- Warren ripping - \$50 per warren
- Exclusion fencing - between \$4,500 - \$6,700/km dependant on size

Farmer focus

Who: Ken Seymour

Where: Merridale, Miling

What: Sheep and crop

Env problems: wind erosion, rising ground water, salinity

NACC funded projects: CFOC Fodder Shrubs, Sa-line Land fencing (NACC/DAFWA)

MCC funded projects: MCC/MMPIG saltbush projects 2008 & 2010

Ken's comments: 'Many farmers have hundreds of hectares of unproductive salinity affected land in this region. Saltbush has totally transformed these areas.'



Above: Ken with his 2010 CFOC funded saltbush through the MCC project. He has been impressed with the result and is planting more this year.



MCC enjoyed a day out at Fini Olives near Reagan's Ford as part of the March Ordinary General Meeting. We were treated to a fabulous morning tea on arrival featuring an array of tasty cakes - including a chocolate cake to die for ! The meeting then followed with discussions about relocating to the new office at Cunninghams, distribution of surplus equipment, purchase of new IT equipment and ideas for future projects. Both NRMO's also presented their work reports for the past few months.

After the meeting's conclusion and a huge lunch, the group had time to browse the shop which sells all the different olive oils produced at the farm as well as shiraz and chardonnay wine from their small vineyard. They also sell other local wares including soaps, condiments and homemade cards. The farm manager was then on hand to show the group around the processing plant and explain how they get from tree to



bottle. Currently Fini have 170,000 trees producing 11 different varieties of olive and over 510,000 litres of oil are produced a year. Fini export a large volume of their award winning oils abroad and have developed a good reputation despite being such a young grove (developed in 2000).

The location of the grove in the Moore Catchment and the Mediterranean climate received is ideal for olive production. The MCC thank Tony Fini and his team for the opportunity to look around his olive grove.

Showcasing on-ground NRM works to CFOC representative

The MCC met with two representatives from the Federal government on the 23rd March to talk about NRM in the catchment and also to showcase on-ground works funded through Caring For Our Country (CFOC) and previous projects. Robin Nielson is the CFOC Project Officer assigned to the Northern Agricultural Region, and Clayton Lewis is the Indigenous Land Management Facilitator. After a presentation and lengthy discussion in the office, the group set out to look at some field sites.

First stop was a brushwood site which Rob Keamy planted with funding through NACC in 2007. Rob was on-hand to explain why he used brushwood to re-vegetate this previously bare low lying land.



The group then moved on to a CFOC saltbush site where Tony White from the Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group helped explain the importance of saltbush for rehabilitation and for production in this area.



Oil mallees planted in 2009 funded through NACC

The final stop was at Phil Martin's farm near Gunyidi which has been transformed using oil mallees, saltbush and native vegetation funded through CFOC and other government funded projects. Phil helped explain to Robin and Clayton why on-ground funding incentives are important in rehabilitating the catchment as well as increasing agricultural sustainability. Thanks to everyone who came and made the day a success.

MCC has moved office

The Moore Catchment Council has now moved to 1 Padbury St in the Cunningham's building after our lease ran out at 1 Dandaragan St. You can find us on the left hand site of the building as you walk in. We have rented the reception area and one of the offices. Come and visit us anytime ! All phone numbers are still the same so if there is no one in the office, give us a ring on our mobiles or leave us a message at the MCC reception desk.

Next MCC OGM - May 20th

The next MCC OGM will be held in Moora followed by a trip out to Agcorp Moora Citrus to see how the orchard is developing. Anyone wishing to come along is most welcome. Give the office a ring for more details 9653 1355

Tree Planting equipment



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, tree planter and seeder for hire at **\$50** each a day for MCC members. If you're interested in any of these items, then please phone the office for further details.

Red Card for Feral Foxes and Rabbits



Fox and rabbit shoots have been taking place all over the state as part of the 'Red Card for Red Fox' campaign. This included Miling who ended up having two shoots - one in February and one in March. Teams of four went out during the evening and early morning on a number of farms in the Miling district and shot foxes, rabbits and feral cats. The total tallies for both events was **203 foxes, 62 rabbits and 5 cats**. The teams celebrated afterwards with a cooked breakfast and prize giving for the winning teams. NACC and MCC were able to support the event by advertising the event, obtaining sponsorship and also sponsoring the catering at both events. These coordinated events have proved to be a good tool in controlling the number of feral pests around the district. Foxes, cats and rabbits can have a devastating effect on sheep, crops, and native flora and fauna, and so need to be controlled.

Left: The winning team overall - Adam Martin, Kurt Williamson, Murray Douglas & Steven Douglas

Upcoming events

- ★ 5th May - **Weeds workshop**, Gingin 9938 0100
- ★ 20th May - **MCC OGM**, Moora 9653 1355
- ★ 4th June - **Coastal Conversations**, Guilderton 9653 1355

Moore Catchment Council



protecting the natural resources in the Moore River Catchment



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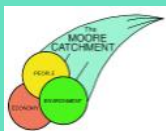


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CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY