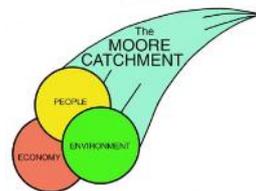


MOORE to the point



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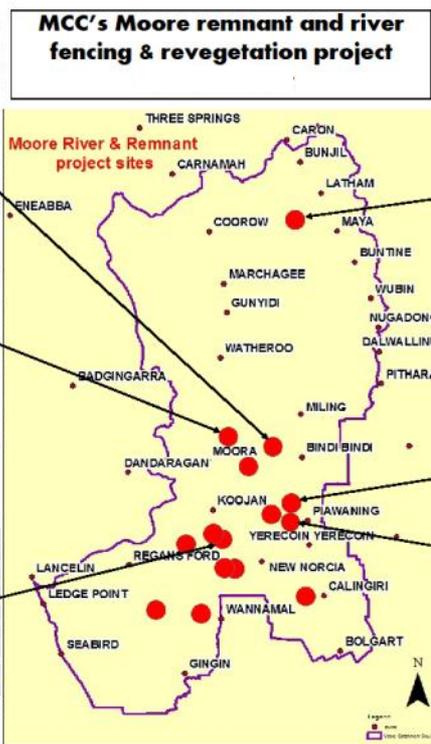
Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 24th *Moore to the Point* newsletter. MCC have been busy over the last quarter putting the finishing touches to our state funded fencing project as well as promoting the NACC wind erosion incentives which will run out in 2012. Read on... editor *Rachel Walmsley*

Inside this issue:	page
Wannamal hosts Perennial Pastures day	2
A Black Carnaby Cockatoo emergency	3
NACC incentives - last chance offers !	4
Incentive farmer focus - what's in it for you ?	5
MCC AGM farewells & show round up	6

Natural Assets fencing & revegetation project completed

The Moore Catchment Council is pleased to announce that its WA State funded 'Recovery and protection of the Moore River Catchment's threatened natural assets' project has concluded with spectacular results. The project has helped fifteen farmers recover and protect 476ha of priority woodland and creek lines in the Moore Catchment through incentives for fencing and revegetation. Rachel Walmsley of MCC said 'The Moore's natural assets need protecting from stock damage as some of the vegetation associations in the Moore Catchment are down to their last remnant, and once they are gone, there are gone forever.' Rachel continued 'Agricultural clearing has had a heavy impact on the native vegetation so it is imperative to protect the remaining remnants for biodiversity and future posterity.'

The project involved technical guidance from Fiona Falconer of Department of Environment and Conservation and Mike Johnson of Department of Water. Fiona has also carried out Land for Wildlife surveys on the project sites as an added extra. The project also allowed ornithologist Andrew Huggett to conduct bird surveys during autumn and spring to help measure the quality of the habitat being protected. Rachel said 'His results indicate that remnant vegetation house a wider array of bird species than degraded or revegetated sites demonstrating that protection of remnant native vegetation is the highest priority for conserving native bird species.'



An information day was held in Piawaning in July entitled 'Value your natural assets'. The day saw over 35 people come and learn about micro bats, Carnaby's cockatoo and roadside vegetation as well as listening to farmer's firsthand accounts of implementing conservation works on their farms. Rachel said of the project 'MCC hope the project has raised people's awareness of



protecting natural assets in the catchment for the future. Thanks to all the people involved in the project over the last fifteen months and the WA state NRM office for providing the funding, it has been a positive outcome for natural resource management.'

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.

Wannamal workshop focuses on perennial pastures

How to fit perennial pastures into sand plain farming systems and successful perennial establishment were the topics of a workshop and field walk in Wannamal on the 12th July. 30 local farmers and technical advisors came along to the day which was organised by the Moore Catchment Council and funded by NACC through the federally funded Caring for our Country wind erosion program.

The day started in the Wannamal hall with morning tea followed by presentations from Geoff Moore (DAFWA) and Phil Barrett-Lennard (Agvivo). Geoff kicked things off with a presentation on pros and cons of perennial pastures and commonly used species of sub tropical grasses being used in the Northern Agricultural Region. Geoff says 'perennial grasses increase productivity on poor sandy soils which are unsuitable or marginal for cropping and also minimize the risk of wind erosion.'

Now...13 Establishment Must-Do's

1. 100% weed control - 2 sprays
2. Sow between August 15 and 30
3. Furrow sow (converted culti-trash or scalping points)
4. Shallow seed placement (5 to 10mm)
5. Use Press Wheels
6. Use fertiliser as a carrier for seed as required
7. Insect monitoring and control
8. Kangaroo and rabbit monitoring and control
9. No grazing in first 6 to 9 months
10. Purchase quality seed – watch for dormancy
11. Only sow when there is a full profile of moisture
12. Maintain some groundcover at seeding
13. Sow at a slow speed (5 to 8 km/hr)

Elvergreen

Phil continued with establishment advice of perennials including his 13 Establishment Must-Dos (left) which all farmers looking to sow perennials should follow. He particularly stressed on points 3 and 5 which talk about furrows and press wheels, and mentioned a number of farmers who have converted machinery to seed perennial grasses.

Geoff completed the presentation section by talking about companion annual legumes which add an extra element to the pasture through fixing Nitrogen for the grasses to use.

After lunch the group headed out to Kamarah farm to look at some perennial paddocks. Manager Errol Howard has been experimenting with different perennials pastures for a number of years for his sheep and cattle to utilise. He was able to use

Above: Phil goes through his 13 establishment must –do's

NACC incentive programs to help fund establishment in a couple of these paddocks. Parts of the property are low lying and

affected by frost which has not been kind to some of the most recent pasture established. Errol believes in locking up the pasture for as long as possible to encourage self seeding and germination. Matt Carrick (Bos Veterinary Services) finished the day by talking to the group about seed quality and liver problems associated with pastures. Thanks to Errol for letting us roam his farm, and to Geoff, Phil and Matt for their presentations.

For more information about NACC incentives, including perennial pasture establishment in the Moore Catchment area, please phone Rachel or Ingrid at the Moore Catchment Council on 9653 1355



Above: Errol (insert) shows off the seeder which he uses



Above: In a 2008 perennial paddock, Phil talks about management

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo emergency at training day

A training session for monitoring Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo was held in Moora at the Bowling Club on Sunday 25th of September. Claire Bartron, Conservation Officer for the Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project, was giving a presentation on the biology of this rare and endangered species. Suddenly, Karen Wyatt from Koojan appeared at the door holding a female Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo wrapped in a towel.

The bird had been struck by a car on the Bindoon-Moora Road in Koojan and was still alive but it was badly injured with a suspected broken wing. The decision was made to transfer the bird to the Perth Zoo where veterinary staff have vast experience with injured Black-Cockatoos and have the facilities and expertise to provide for best care. Claire called ahead to advise the Perth Zoo vet staff that one of the volunteers was bringing the injured bird.

Ingrid said, "it was the most extraordinary coincidence – Claire was just about to explain the threats faced by the Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo when an actual unfortunate victim appeared at the door." Claire explained that the bird may have been feeding on the side of the road on spilt grain or roadside vegetation when it was struck. Its large size would have made it difficult to gain enough height to avoid being hit or it was simply caught up in the vehicle's slipstream.



Above: Female Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo at a nesting hollow (photo credit: Birds Australia)



(above) Claire Bartron of Birds Australia observing Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo nesting in a Salmon Gum hollow near the banks of the Moore River in Moora.

Rescuer Karen Wyatt mentioned there had been a distraught mate nearby and Claire explained that the birds mate for life. "If she can be successfully rehabilitated she will need to be released in the same area next spring, so that the pair can find each other again. Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo return to the same area at the same time of year to breed each year" she said.

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo is an iconic species threatened with extinction. Although they are often seen in the region, their numbers are declining and their populations are ageing due to the difficulty in raising their young in an altered landscape. Research on population demographics has shown that 70 % of adults are no longer breeding, which means their numbers will continue to decline as very few young birds are replacing the ageing adults.

Birds Australia has identified places, known as Important Bird Areas or IBAs, which are critical for the survival of special birds. There are 23 IBAs designated for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, 7 of which are wholly or partially within the Moore River Catchment, including Moora itself. The Moora IBA consists of suitable nesting habitat along two major roads, the town itself and another small

site. The training day volunteers observed Salmon Gum hollows occupied by nesting females, as well as pairs conducting courtship behaviours, within the town.

Update: Claire has informed us that Perth Zoo vet staff unfortunately euthanised the bird as the injuries were too severe for successful treatment. However, other injured birds have recently been successfully treated and released back into the wild.

For more information on Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, contact: Claire Bartron at Birds Australia
c.bartron@birdsaustralia.com.au
0428 762 292; PO Box 100, 7 Wald Street Narrogin, WA 6312
Volunteers are always welcome



(photo above) Volunteers from left, Catherine O'Neill, Marie Carter, Clare Caldeira and Harry Carter, observing a suitable nesting hollow in a Salmon Gum at the Moora Showgrounds. Unfortunately this hollow was occupied by the plague species, Little Corella, which is more aggressive than Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo in the competition for scarce nesting sites.

NACC's CFOC On-ground Incentives - Last Chance !!

The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) have a number of on-ground incentives to offer as part of the Northern Agricultural Catchment's Council (NACC) CFOC wind erosion program.

2012 is the final planting season for these incentives on offer as future Federal Government programs **will not offer production based incentives**. So **NOW** is your **LAST CHANCE** to receive some financial help to plant perennials, saltbush, and tree crops. We have limited funding so act now before its all gone !

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

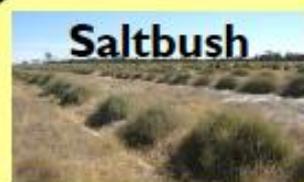


Tree Crops

Overview: Incentives available for Sandalwood host species, oil mallees and Brushwood, or come up with your own idea for a tree crop

What do I get?

- Up to \$500/ha for brushwood, \$250/ha for oil mallees, sandalwood
- Membership to industry group for one year ie Oil Mallee Association

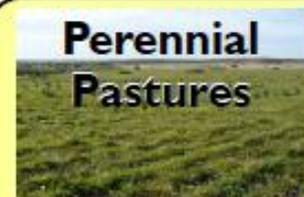


Saltbush

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)



Native Species 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



Hidden Treasures

Overview: Incentives for fencing and protecting priority remnant vegetation

What do I get?

- Up to \$4,000/km for fencing
- \$1,000/site for covenanting

New carbon trading scheme Carbon Quest - what is it?

CarbonQuest Australia has been developed by NACC and Australian Carbon Traders to provide a **low cost entry into the carbon trading market** for this region's farmers. Ben Keogh from Australian Carbon Traders will take you through the mechanics of the Carbon Farming Initiative and the relationship with domestic and international markets and demonstrate how you can aggregate your credits and sell to the carbon market. CarbonQuest Australia provides a vehicle to pool your carbon credits with other farmers, minimising transaction costs. This fully automated trading system assists decision making by modelling returns into the future, manages your project from planning through to selling. CarbonQuest Australia is supported by workbooks and dedicated online resources developed specifically for NAR farmers.

The program is currently running a one year pilot where ten farmers get to sign up for free - there are a few places left so contact the MCC office for more details of what to do next.

More details <http://www.australiancarbontraders.com/nacc>

SALTBUSH



Bruce Topham - Miling

"Saltbush has totally transformed our farm by making it more productive"
"What was once salt twenty years ago is now lush pasture"
"NACC's incentive will help pay for another 10,000 saltbush in 2012 "



TREE CROPS



Phil Martin - Gunyidi

" We have planted oil mallees on the farm for the last three years"
"NACC helped us establish our first 10ha in 2009 and provided us management information"
"Trees crops will bring in money plus help reduce wind erosion, provide stock shelter and create habitat for native fauna"



PERENNIAL PASTURES



John Isbister - Koojan

"In 2009 We planted two paddocks of perennial grasses with the help of NACC "
"Perennials help provide stock feed on poor sands and also stop paddocks from blowing away"
"We are going to try spading before our next lot of perennials"

NATIVE REVEG



Clive Tonkin - Namban

"I've planted lots of different native trees on my farm at Namban including Sandalwood & River Gums"
"NACC are providing me funds for a native vegetation wind break "
"Wind breaks can help protect sandy paddocks and also provide shelter"



Farewells and new appointments at MCC AGM

Farewells and new appointments occurred at the Moore Catchment Council AGM held on the 30th September. Geoff Erickson stepped down as long-time Chairman and was replaced by Reg Beale from Gingin. Cynthia McMorran also stepped down as Treasurer and was replaced by Lawrie Short. Cynthia, who has decided to leave the committee completely to concentrate on new ventures, has been an active member of the Moore Catchment Council since its conception in the early 1990's and will be sorely missed. Barry Johnson, a long serving member and Vice Chair of the committee, also retired from his position. Geoff and Cynthia were presented with a magnificent bouquet of dried wildflowers courtesy of Rhonda and Arthur Tonkin. Newly appointed community members to the MCC committee include Tony White and Richard Topham both from Miling. Tony also accepted the Vice Chair position. With new younger input combined with a wealth of experience, the MCC strives to move forward with promotion of natural resource management in the catchment whilst tackling the dwindling funding issues posed by the government which risk losing the Natural Resource Management Officers employed by MCC. Pre-lunch guest speakers were Mark Batty from WALGA who talked about state and federal government funded nature resource management programs and future opportunities, and also Tony White who recently returned from a GRDC world study tour armed with global agricultural insight and a head full of ideas. Both speakers were well received and MCC thanks them for their time. Places on the committee are still available so if you are interested please ring the office.



Above: Cynthia accepts a beautiful leaving gift

Spring events round up

The MCC attended a number of events over the winter/spring season, including the Dalwallinu and Moora shows, and the Liebe and Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group Spring field days. We were lucky to receive sponsorship from Bauxite Alumina Joint Ventures to give away 600 native trees at the Moora show. This year we chose Carnaby's Black Cockatoo habitat as our theme and gave away trees including Salmon gums and Wandoo as they are the natural nesting hosts for these birds. We hope that some of these trees will grow and replace some of the old ones around Moora.



Above: Moora show - free trees for all



Above: Liebe field day - talking incentives

Upcoming events

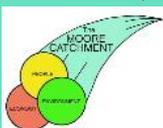
- ★ 2nd December - MCC Christmas OGM, Guilderton RSVP 9653 1355

**Moore
Catchment
Council**



*protecting the natural resources
in the Moore River Catchment*

**NOTE NEW
MOBILE
NUMBERS**



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