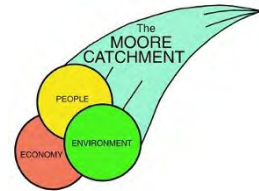


# MOORE to the point



*Serving the Moore River catchment since 1995*

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## Issue 27 Spring 2012

Welcome to the Moore Catchment Council's (MCC) 27th *Moore to the Point* newsletter. MCC have been involved with some interesting events over the past few months so please read on.....  
editor *Rachel Walmsley*

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### Elite saltbush trial promises more feed

MCC's project to help CSIRO to trial elite Oldman saltbush is progressing well. Rachel Walmsley of MCC says 'Dr Hayley Norman, CSIRO has been running the project funded through Future Farm Industries CRC to find an Oldman Saltbush cultivar with higher digestibility and palatability than the average Oldman saltbush on offer at nurseries. The project has involved narrowing down the original 80,000 cultivars to just 12 and has relied on sheep to do the majority of the selection through their grazing preference at the research sites. These 12 remaining cultivars will be trialled at ten sites across WA including the three in the MMPIG region.'

The MCC obtained funding through the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) Caring For Our Country (CFOC) devolved wind erosion grant scheme and CFOC's Community Action Grants scheme to carry out the project. In partnership with the Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group (MMPIG), three different project sites were chosen at Miling, Namban and Calingiri to ensure widespread testing of the shrubs.

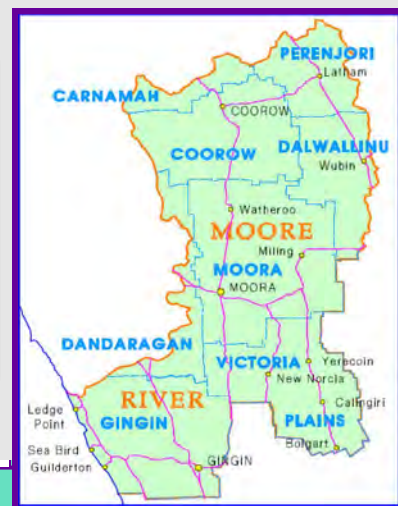
Aaron Edmond of Calingiri is one of three farmers helping CSIRO to trial elite Oldman saltbush in the paddock and offered a corner of wheat crop to plant the 1,000 seedlings much to Hayley's delight.

The MMPIG and MCC have had a long involvement with promoting saltbush as a sustainable fodder shrub. As well as providing energy, protein and vitamin E, they also have a great environmental role in rehabilitating saline lands and provide habitat for native animals. CSIRO will monitor the sites over the next couple of years to measure growth and adaptability in the paddock, and also rate preference by the local sheep.

Rachel concluded 'Thanks to the farmers who offered a trial paddock and their assistance for planting – Aaron Edmonds, Dan Hastie and Ken Seymour. Thanks to all the funders, and to Hayley and Matt for planting the seedlings.'



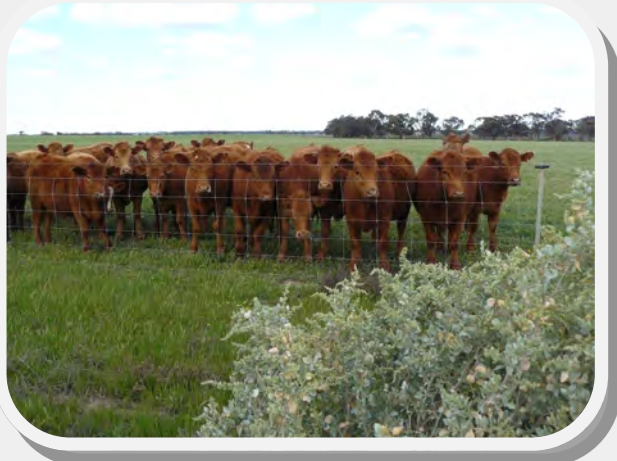
Above: Dan Hastie preparing his trial site west of Namban  
Right: Matt Wilmot, Aaron Edmonds and Hayley Norman. Aaron was very generous with the planting site he offered



## Bindi farmers show off their saltbush

The severe windy conditions didn't put off the dozen or so farmers attending the 'Practical uses of saltbush' afternoon on Monday 3rd September in Bindi Bindi to learn about the benefits of saltbush as a fodder shrub. The day was organised by the Moore Catchment Council (MCC) and Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group (MMPIG) using funding through the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) devolved Caring For Our Country wind erosion grant scheme.

Rachel Walmsley of MCC said 'The afternoon started at the Bindi hall with Hayley Norman (CSIRO) talking about the uses of saltbush in the farming system both for fodder and environmental benefits. She also talked about the elite oldman saltbush project funded through Future Farm Industries CRC to find a **strain of oldman saltbush with better digestibility and palatability.**' MCC and MMPIG are helping the project by trialling the 12 selected clones on three sites at Calingiri, Miling and Namban. Hayley and her team will monitor these sites into the future. Phil Vercoe (UWA) then spoke about the importance of the ru-



Above: Les's cows can't wait to have a taste of the saltbush



Above: The group looking over Les's saltbush allies

men and how to make it more efficient to reduce wastes including methane.

Field visits followed with a trip first to Les Crane's property at Gabalong to look at his allies of saltbush alongside oil mallees to create belts of food and shelter for stock across his property. Rachel said 'Les has been experimenting with design and now has settled on paddock edge belts of 16m of saltbush and mallees which also act as great wind breaks.' The group then moved on to Rob and Maria Wood's Te Rakau property at Bindi where the couple have used saltbush to extensively rehabilitate all their creek lines over many years creating habitat for native fauna as well as feed for their sheep. The results are magnificent and are much more aesthetically pleasing than bare salty creeks. Rob and Maria's hospitality continued back at their house with beers and steak rolls, and the events concluded just as the first spots of rain started to blow in.



Left: Hayley shows the group how to determine male and female saltbush plants  
Right: Rob Wood (centre) talks about how he and his wife Maria have spent years rehabilitating the creeklines on their farm



If you want to find out more information about fodder shrubs on saline land, then click link:

<http://saltlandgenie.org.au/>

"Saltland Genie has all the answers when it comes to making productive use of saltland. He uses the latest knowledge and tools for saltland management from the Sustainable Grazing on Saline Lands initiative.

With all the facts and resources at his fingertips, Genie helps you compare the pros and cons of 11 possible options. He will show you what has worked for others and what should work for you."

# Seabird beach walk highlights the importance of weed

It may have been a bit windy with a few friendly flies but that didn't deter a group of keen local community members participating in a guided beach walk at Seabird on the 11<sup>th</sup> October which was dedicated to boosting the profile of beach seaweed (or beach wrack as it's properly known). Many people are put off by the sight and smell of the weed when it covers beaches during the winter/spring months and after storms. The morning walk was organised by the Moore Catchment Council (MCC) and funded through the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) Federal Caring for our Country Coastal Engagement program.

Rachel Walmsley local Natural Resource Management Officer with MCC said 'Dr Mic Payne from NACC led the walk which started with everyone gathering bits of weed and beach debris. Mic then divided up the finds into categories to show everyone what the weed is made up of which surprisingly is actually **mostly seagrass and not sea weed.**' Other groups included sponges, algae and of course human caused debris (in this case a pair of sunglasses which were snapped up by one of the participants !) A great find turned up in the shape of a Port Jackson shark egg case which was fascinating to look at.

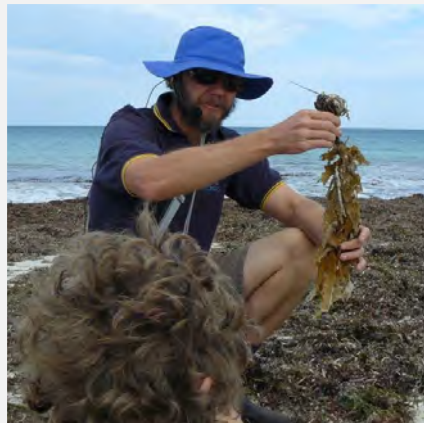
Mic then made a couple of sweeps of his net in the weedy water and turned out its contents into a tray. Thousands of critters known as Amphipods were swimming around as were other bugs. Great food source for the small fish !



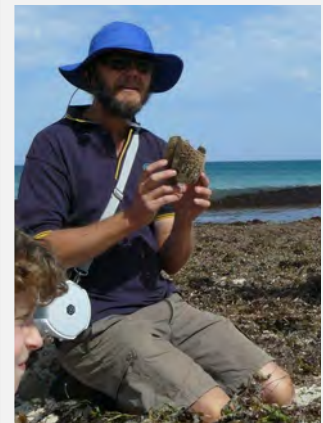
Above: Beach combing at Seabird



Above: Seagrass



Above: Seaweed (Sea wrack)



Above: Sponge

Finally, Mic promised the group they would go away with three significant reasons why the weed is highly important to the coastal environment and why everyone needs to respect it more.

- ☺ The weed actively protects the beach and dunes from storm damage
- ☺ The weed provides a habitat for the critters that small fish eat, which in turn bigger fish eat which supplies the fishermen with something to catch
- ☺ The weed is full of nutrients and acts as a natural compost heap which break down and nourishes the ocean

'It was an interesting and captivating couple of hours ' said Rachel, 'Mic did an excellent job of engaging the group especially the children. Thanks to everyone who came along and made it a great morning. We all went away with a better appreciation for beach wrack.'

Click on the link for a great resource for beach combing

<http://beachcombers-kit.fish.wa.gov.au/>

Below: Critters in the weed - thousands of them !



## Guilderton community cleans up beach and estuary

A good number of community volunteers turned out for a beach and estuary rubbish pick up in Guilderton on the 12<sup>th</sup> October which ran in conjunction with Tangaroa Blue's state wide annual clean up event. Tangaroa Blue aims to improve the health of the marine environment of WA through monitoring marine debris and education events. A big part of this annual clean-up is not only to rid the beach of rubbish, but also to audit the waste collected to feed into Tangaroa Blue's database so to highlight types of rubbish discarded.

The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) in collaboration with the Guilderton Community Association organised the clean-up with funding through the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) Federal Caring for our Country Coastal Engagement program, and equipment supplied by Tangaroa Blue. Rachel Walmsley of MCC said 'We had a good number of volunteers help with the two hour clean up including lots of children. These volunteers picked up a huge amount of rubbish from around the lookout, beaches, Silver Creek and the estuary car park.' 60kg of rubbish was picked up in bags, and a trailer helped bring back a lot of discarded wood, rope and a car battery from the southern beach which weighed an estimated 120kg.

Analysis of the waste revealed a lot of the regular offending items like plastic wrappers, straws, cigarette butts and bottle caps as well as clothing, dirty nappies and broken camping equipment. The most artistic find of the day was a 'scarecrow' made of old bits of rope, wood and foam buoys. This might not have ended up in the skip due to its charm!

Below: A trailer load brought back from the southern beach



Above: Connor family, Burbury Family, Dean Brady, Linda Johnson & Kate Louis with their bags of rubbish

Right: Neil & Gillian Lamont with their very artistic find



Rachel concluded 'The volunteers did a great job of cleaning up Guilderton's beaches and estuary, and I thank them for giving up their time to help. I just wish people would put their rubbish in a bin or take it home with them instead of dumping it on the beach.'



For more information on Tangaroa Blue and news from other Clean ups from around the State, then please click link:

<http://www.tangaroablue.org/>

Above: A few hours work brought in 180kg of rubbish !!!

The Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) in partnership with local volunteers, landcare, community groups and local government has been coordinating roadside vegetation surveys for more than 20 years.

Over the last year, the RCC, in conjunction with the Moore Catchments Council (MCC) and volunteers has been conducting surveys of the roadsides in the Moora Shire. A big job considering there are almost 200 roads and nearly 1000km of shire managed roads in Moora. The aim is to undertake a snap shot survey of the roadside vegetation on at least 80% of the rural roads. From the comprehensive data which is collected a Roadside Conservation Value map is produced with overlays of identified weeds to be targeted for management.

The survey also identifies potential Flora Roads, roads with high conservation value and areas which may be suitable for re-vegetation. Habitat values, tree/shrub decline, main vegetation types and any fauna seen is also recorded.

Many flowering roadside plants have been recorded during the surveys including some very large and noticeable specimens. Two new populations/locations of the threatened plant *Daviesia dielsii* were also found during the surveys and some very interesting flora was noted on some roads. (See photos)

More information on the RCC Roadside Conservation Mapping Program can be found at [www.dec.wa.gov.au/rcc\\_mapping](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/rcc_mapping). To find out more about the Moora surveys contact Kylie Payne at the RCC on 9219 8762 or [kylie.payne@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:kylie.payne@dec.wa.gov.au) or Ingrid or Rachel at the MCC.



Top this! Has anyone seen a Native willow/ native apricot (*Pittosporum angustifolium*) this large before?



Threatened roadside plant, *Daviesia dielsii* with local volunteer Angela Keamy



Prickly toothbrush (*Grevillea armigera*)



Pink pokers (*Grevillea petrophilodes*) Miling East Road



Tamma (*Allocasuarina campestris*) - male plant in flower



*Acacia ulicina* near Watheroo



Pear-fruited mallee (*Eucalyptus pyriformis*)



Wells' Dampiera (*Dampiera wellsi*)

*Huge thanks to Kylie Payne for this report and photos. If you want to get involved with the surveys, please ring the office.*



orange pea – possibly a *Mirbelia*



## NACC's Wind erosion Incentives - Last Chance !!

Wind Erosion incentives are nearly finished. You can still get money for planting trees and saltbush plus fencing saline areas in 2013 if you jump in quick !!

If you're interested 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)

Through the Northern Agricultural Catchment's Council (NACC), MCC has two new funding options to offer landholders - Hidden Treasures, and Rivers and Wetlands. If you interested in either, then give us a ring on **9653 1355**. Details below:

	<b>Overview:</b> Incentives for fencing and protecting priority remnant vegetation <b>What do I get?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to \$4,000/km for fencing</li><li>• \$1,000/site for covenanting</li></ul>
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### What is a Conservation Covenant ?

South west Australia is a pretty special place ! It contains unique flora, fauna and ecosystems not found anywhere else in the world. Three quarters of the land is managed by private landholders so conservation of these unique species and habitats for the future is their responsibility.

A way to ensure future protection of remnant vegetation on private properties is to set up a conservation covenant. These are legally binding agreements registered to the title which have been negotiated between the organisation offering the covenant and the landholder.

Currently in WA, the organisations offering covenants are the National Trust (NTWA), Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), and the Department of Agriculture and Food. In WA, DEC and NTWA currently have 294 conservation covenants covering 34,003ha.


### Why covenant?

- ☺ Conserves biodiversity and heritage
- ☺ Long term security for the conservation values and investment
- ☺ Government, community and individual awareness and recognition of your bushland
- ☺ Third party advocacy and ongoing management support
- ☺ Financial incentives

### Sounds good, now what do I do?

For more information on what land qualifies and the covenanting process, please contact the relevant party:

- ⇒ NTWA: Helena Mills 9321 6088 [helena.mills@ntwa.com.au](mailto:helena.mills@ntwa.com.au)
- ⇒ DEC: Janine Kuehs 9334 0404 [janine.kuehs@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:janine.kuehs@dec.wa.gov.au)
- ⇒ DAF: Andrew Watson 9368 3282 [andrew.watson@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:andrew.watson@agric.wa.gov.au)

	<b>Overview:</b> Incentives for fencing and revegetation/enhancement of rivers and wetlands <b>What do I get?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fencing - \$3,500/km</li><li>• Revegetation - \$1,000/ha</li></ul>
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**Right:** The Crombie's above Watheroo fenced off and revegetated this section of their degraded creekline in 2009. Now it's a forest !!!  
Andrew and Richard Crombie couldn't wait to show MCC just how well the vegetation has grown.

2009



2012



# MCC Annual Report

# MCC's Annual General meeting



MCC held their Annual General meeting on the 28th September at the Ballet room in Moora. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer were up for nomination and Duncan Peter (Secretary) and Lawrie Short (Treasurer) were both re-elected.

John Braid gave a presentation on NACC's progress and future focus. John has been a board member of NACC for a few years now. John Holley from the State NRM office gave an informal presentation on future funding opportunities and then held a discussion on what's happening around the state.

The MCC's annual report is out now !!

[http://www.moorecatchment.org.au/Newsletters/Annual%20Report%202011 2012.pdf](http://www.moorecatchment.org.au/Newsletters/Annual%20Report%202011%202012.pdf)

Or phone the office for a paper copy



Above: MCC AGM participants - Duncan Peter, John Longman, John Braid, Bob Leeson, Ingrid Krockenberger, Richard Topham, Cynthia McMorran, Helen Watkins, Reg Beale, Rachel Walmsley, Tony White, Linda Johnson, Lawrie Short & Geoff Erikson

## MCC meeting survey

If you have 5 mins, please can you **click on link** and fill out survey. Its only 10 questions long and will help MCC with organising how it runs meetings. We want to find out what people like and dislike about MCC meetings. Thanks

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYD8DNB>

PS It will also help Rachel with her Diploma of Sustainability :)

## Upcoming events

- ★ 30th Nov - MCC Christmas OGM, Sandy Lake Farm Gingin RSVP Helen 9653 1355

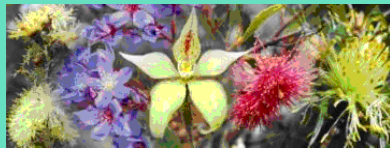
# facebook

Keep up to date !! Find the MCC on Facebook for lots of photos from projects and events.



Type **Moore Catchment Council** and **like** to have regular info on your feed :)

# Moore Catchment Council



*protecting the natural resources in the Moore River Catchment*

**NOTE NEW MOBILE NUMBERS**



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**0409 296 264**

[mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com](mailto:mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com)



**Ingrid Krockenberger**

NRM officer  
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**0488 954 664**

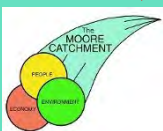
[mcc.nrmo1@bigpond.com](mailto:mcc.nrmo1@bigpond.com)



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