



Moore to the point

Spring 2017

Conserving the Moore River catchment since 1995

In This Issue

Landcare winners are gridders !!!

Moore Catchment Council are celebrating after winning the prestigious and much coveted Fairfax Community Landcare Group award at the WA Landcare Awards held on Wednesday 30th August in Perth. MCC staff Helen Watkins and Rachel Walmsley, and MCC committee Tony White and Kay McGlew were all in attendance to see if MCC could clinch the award from the other worthy finalist Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group. Rachel said “We were all on the edge of our seats in anticipation as MC Verity James announced the winner. When our name was called we were elated, so appreciative that MCC had been chosen. Now its on to the National Landcare awards next year. Maybe MCC will get recognised at a national level - how exciting !”

WA Landcare Patron Malcom McCusker presented the award. Tony White (vice MCC Chair) then gave an interesting and thought provoking speech recognising the Moore River as such an important central focus that affects and links everyone in the catchment from the headwaters and broadacre farming in the north and east, to the hobby farmers and horticulture in the south, before flowing into the sea at Guilderton which is a tourist magnet.

Summary of MCC: The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) is a community led not-for profit organisation set up in 1995 to “maintain and improve the health of the Moore River environment by communicating natural resource management and encouraging maximum sustainable use of resources.” Working at grass roots level to maintain and repair the Moore’s natural environment, MCC encourages sustainable farming and land management practices, and builds community capacity in conserving the Moore River catchment against current and impending threats. Achievements include the successful completion of 60 projects to the value of \$5.7 million over the past 22 years, with 13 more projects in progress. MCC prides itself on effective and productive stakeholder engagement with local government, departments, industry, community members and groups, landholders, and Aboriginal community. Some of MCC’s current key priorities are creating Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo forage and breeding habitat, planting multi-beneficial shrub systems on farms, and sharing Aboriginal knowledge and providing Working on Country opportunities with the local Yued community.

MCC and Moore residents: Linda Johnson, Helen Watkins, Rachel Walmsley, Kaye McGlew, Tony White, Jan Richards & Paulina Wittwer

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Continuation of dune restoration at Guilderton

The North Guilderton dunes were once again buzzing with action on Sunday 11th June for a community planting day. The event was part of Moore Catchment Council's project to rehabilitate the north dunes, funded through Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's Coastal Community Grants 2016-2017 funding by the Australian Government through the National Landcare Programme.

This 22ha area of fragile dunes has been targeted for rejuvenation after many years of degradation by off-road vehicles. This project is the 4th year of revegetation and will give nature a helping hand to cover the old vehicle tracks.

42 keen volunteers attended the day including locals, community from surrounding towns and members of the 4WD Club of WA. Helen Watkins, MCC's executive Officer said "What a fabulous turnout once again by this enthusiastic community who have given up their Sunday morning to help out. It shows that this community is passionate about repairing this area and that the 4WD Club, who are based in Perth want to give back to the communities where they 4WD."

The planters were split into teams of four and delegated different sites to work. A mixture of native seedlings that were propagated from seed collected last year and grown by Apace Nursery were planted and tree guards placed around them. Hamish Longbottom from NACC gave a tree planting demo at the start of day - Urging everyone to plant as deep as possible and to stabilise the tree guards with two stakes to have a chance of surviving this dry start to the season.

In 3 hours the planting squad planted nearly 1,500 seedlings and were duly awarded with freshly made salad rolls and cool drinks. Helen said "Huge thanks to everyone that came along and helped, Hamish from NACC for providing extra support on the day and for the funding of this worthwhile project, the 4WD Club of WA and all those behind the scenes that help bring it all together special thanks to Bob and Linda Johnson, now we all just need to all do a rain dance to help the rain along." *Ed note - The rain dance worked well as we received 25mm of rain the next day.*



Dune planters. Thank you for all your help :)

Below: Look at the difference in only a few years !!

But wait there's more.....

A dozen or so volunteers came out to help get the remaining 500 plants in the ground on 21st July.

The day was glorious and we were blessed with a downpour right at the end. Couldn't have asked for more!

Thanks to all the dune planters this year. You've done a great job :)



'Adapting in a changing world' WA NRM conference 2017

MCC recently attended the State NRM Conference down at Curtin University. The three days had a mix of key note speakers from around the world, concurrent sessions with more local projects and ideas, stalls and posters showcasing projects, and networking sessions during breaks to meet new people and share knowledge.

MCC presented a couple of posters. One on native vegetation clearing - particularly roadside vegetation, and one on Moore wildflowers

Some of the memorable presentations included a couple of groups working with urban people getting them out to the regions tree planting etc, presentation of the WA Landcare Network's State of Landcare report calling for more funding for grass roots delivery, successful direct seeding methods by Green Australia, Keith Bradby's global landcare travels, local landcarer Paulina Wittwer telling us we need to be landcare ninjas, and Quenn Nanna who talked about landcare being instilled in their everyday culture.



Keith Bradby gave a global view of landcare



Rachel and Helen with the MCC posters. Both prompted much discussion.

Thanks to Richard for the pics



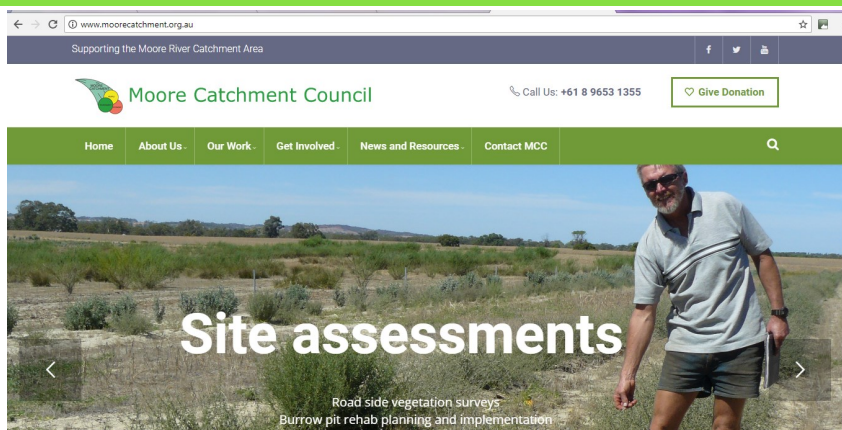
Also ran into an old MCC employee - Julia White who spent time as an intern a few years ago

New improved website for MCC

With funding through the State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions, MCC has a shiny new website. This new website is a marked improvement from the old one and is much easier to navigate. We are currently loading it up with projects and other interesting stuff. Thanks to Peta Thorniley of Markitech for designing it.

Check it out:

<http://www.moorecatchment.org.au/>



State NRM conference poster



Moore on...

...Native Clearing by Stealth

What's the issue?

In the Moore River catchment, approximately one-quarter of the original vegetation has been retained since clearing began. This vegetation contains more than 80 species of priority flora and nearly 40 species of rare flora.

Unfortunately native vegetation is continuing to disappear bit by bit all the time on private land and land managed by the Shires and Infrastructure companies (roads and rail). Who is responsible for monitoring these disappearances? What are the laws regarding native clearing? These issues aren't just restricted to the Moore catchment, they are happening State wide. More information regarding the laws and responsibilities for land managers needs to be available and communicated.

Roadside vegetation



There one day...
gone the next.....



Roadside vegetation - what's the value?

Ecological

- continuous corridors linking native habitat; habitat for rare/threatened fauna; inhibits weeds

Economic (tourism)

- visitors coming to look at wildflowers, majestic, stately trees
- ecotourism on the rise

Hydrological

- prevents/inhibits salinity; slows down water to reduce erosion

Aesthetic

- Cathedral effect

Safety

- intercepts rising/setting sun; addresses monotony fatigue



Which road would
you rather drive
down ??



Alternatives to clearing to create 'safe' roads

Road barriers



Reduce speed limits



Audible edge lining



Vary roadside environment



Wider pavements



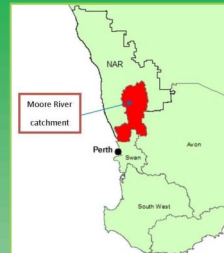
Moore Catchment Council



Rachel Walmsley
Community
Landcare
Coordinator



Helen Watkins
Executive
Officer



The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) is a community driven not-for-profit organisation set up in 1995 to "maintain and improve the health of the Moore River environment by communicating natural resource management and encouraging maximum sustainable use of resources."

MCC works at grass roots level to maintain and repair the Moore's natural environment, encourage sustainable farming and land management practices, and build community capacity in conserving the Moore River catchment against current and impending threats. MCC prides itself on being effective, efficient and innovative. Achievements include the successful completion of 53 projects to the value of \$5.7 million over the past 22 years, with 13 more projects in progress.

Awards

- Finalist in the 2014 CSBP Environmental Award – Western Australian Regional Achievement and Community Awards
- Finalist in the 2015 & 2017 Fairfax Media Community Group Award – Western Australian Landcare Awards
- Finalist & Semi Finalist in the 2015, 16 & 17 LandCorp Sustainability Award – Western Australian Regional Achievement and Community Awards

Clearing laws - are you confused?

Confusing / unstructured!

Both State and Commonwealth laws regulate land clearing in Western Australia (Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA), Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth))

It is an offence to clear native vegetation unless authorised or exempt under the law

**Exempt clearing law currently stands at 5ha per year
- too much ?**

Need independent advice?

The Environmental Defenders' Office WA
www.edowa.org.au



- A community legal centre, operating since 1996
- Specialises in public interest environmental law
- Non-governmental, non-for-profit that relies on private support to provide services

Help communicate clearing laws

run workshops to help
communicate laws and reasons
to retain native vegetation
Talk to local Shires - do they
know the laws?



Other disappearing native vegetation issues



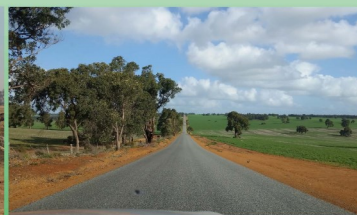
Paddock trees



Clearing power lines through reserves



Out of control stubble fires



Fence line removal

Thanks to Eddy Wajon and the Environmental Defenders Office for their help and information

Currently financially supported by

protecting the natural resources in the Moore River Catchment

www.moorecatchment.org.au



Planting for Carnaby's around the Moore catchment

Down at the Mogumber Town Reserve a small amount of planting has been done on some of the areas cleared during the fire earlier this year. MCC engaged local Yued community to carry out the work. Fred Mogridge and his team planted and tree guarded the plants to help make an environmental and visual impact. Problems post fire have been erosion, weeds and vehicles driving up and down the cleared areas compacting the soil and preventing regeneration. Thanks to the State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions for funding this project.



Fred and his team planted and guarded 500 seedlings help regenerate the degraded tracks post fire.

MCC's National Landcare Program 20 Million Trees project for Carnaby's progressed with sites being infilled from last year and new sites being planted. This project has seen 46,000 seedlings planted on 9 sites in the catchment. Below is the Koojan revegetation site.



East of Moora, David Glasfurd is really happy about his revegetation site progress funded through State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions



Carnaby's are back nesting in the east. On the left is one of 30 artificial nesting logs on Moora. This pair moved in the other day.

On the right is the natural tree nest hollow in the arena. It is occupied and 2 eggs have been laid. 2 other nests in the arena area also have eggs laid from Carnaby's.

MCC is now in a position to monitor nests after purchasing a camera thanks to funding through State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions.

Bioblitz - come along and help us ecoblitz Bunjil rocks



A BioBlitz is a 24-hour event involving rapid collection of data about the biological diversity of a particular site; enabling scientists and other experts to identify as many plant and animal species as can be found in this limited time frame. It doesn't provide a complete inventory of species, but rather a 'snapshot' of the species that occur in the area.

This free event is open to **EVERYONE** - you don't have to be a native flora and fauna whizz to join in. If you're keen on nature, want to learn about the natural environment around you, meet new friends and don't mind camping then **WE WANT YOU!**

Where is it?

Headquarters and camping is at Latham in the Shire of Perenjori 4hrs NE of Perth, 3hrs SE of Geraldton. Camp at Community Centre



Bunjil Rocks is 10mins N of Latham

Do you feed me? What shall I bring?

Bioblitz team will provide dinner on Saturday evening (hot casserole (meat and veggie options) and apple crumble), Sunday BBQ breakfast and Sunday lunch sandwiches.

Please be self sustaining for all other meals - snacks, morning and afternoon tea, drinks etc

Dress for the bush and friendly mozzies, bring tent/camper, bring warm clothes and bedding - it can get very cold at night!

Who's coming?

Joe Tonga - micro bat and fauna expert.
Running a night stalk

Nic Dunlop - citizen science organiser & all round ecology expert

Faye Arcaro - fungi fanatic and native bee queen. Catch her slideshow

Jenny Borger - Wheatbelt native vegetation ID legend

Phil Lewis - bird crazy and keen photographer. Dawn bird walk leader

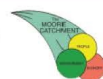
Fiona Falconer & Paulina Wittwer - landcare legends and beaut botanists

For details and to register visit www.nacc.com.au/project/bioblitz

For more information, please contact the Bioblitz Organising Team:

Jessica Stringemore - jessica.stringemore@nacc.com.au or 9938 0106
Lizzie King - Lizzie.King@nacc.com.au or 0429 374 373
Rachel Walmsley - mcc.nrm@bigpond.com or 0409 296 264

This project is supported by Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group and Moore Catchment Council, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and Gundluka Regional Conservation Association



Honouring a local Landcare legend

MCC committee and staff visited long time Landcare warrior John Longman at his home in Moora on Mon 4th September. John is in failing health but we wanted to thank him for his dedication to make landcare things happen in the Moore catchment especially around Gillingarra. John was chair of the Koojan-Gillingarra LCDC for many years and has served on and off of the MCC committee since its conception.



Thanks John: Duncan Peter, Reg Beale, Rachel Walmsley, Helen Watkins, Kaye McGlew and John Longman

John has helped get many salinity projects happening and always had a knack of getting polities up from Perth to see (and fund) the issues. Thanks John for all your perseverance and making plenty of noise. You have made a difference!



Salinity: John down at the NyPa grass site in Gillingarra

Curtin students plant for Carnaby's cockatoo

MCC joined the Gillingarra Sport and Recreation Club for their John Curtin volunteer weekend 2nd/3rd September. The dozen or so volunteers spent the weekend tidying up the town reserve and buildings. They also planted 500 seedlings around the reserve for Carnaby's as part of MCC's Carnaby forage habitat project funded through the State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions. The reserve is generally in good condition but there is a lack of understory plants in some parts so the students planted a variety of Hakeas and Banksias. Many of them hadn't planted trees before so this was a chance to have a go. Old (not that old!) MCC Project Officer Lana Kelly also helped the students plant and water the seedlings. Well done to all the students - you did well.



Curtin volunteer students get busy with planting and guarding 500 seedlings



The Gillingarra Sport and Rec recognise the Carnaby as an iconic bird of the region. Because of this, it was fitting that they commissioned this magnificent Carnaby sculpture for siting next to the hall. Looks fabulous.

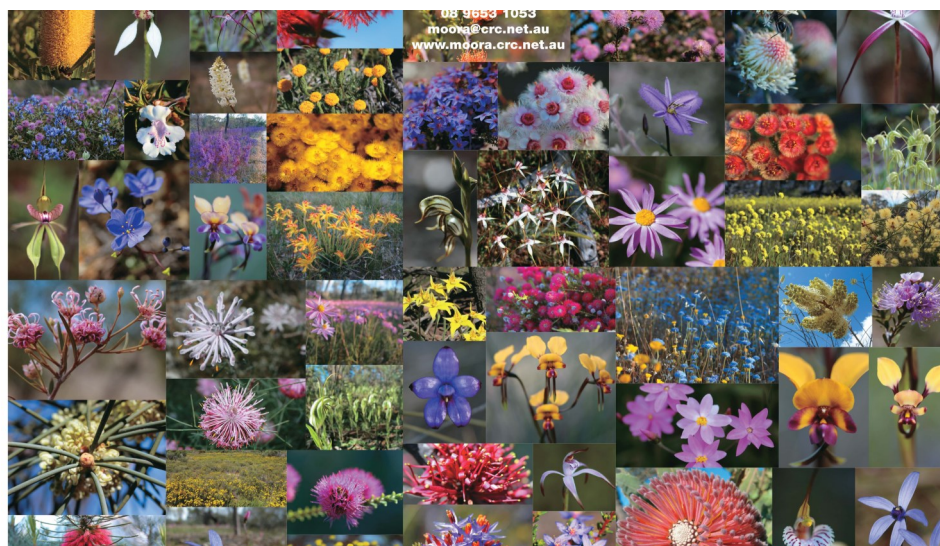


Kerkhof Carnaby group and Curtin students

Wally addresses the students

In the evening, members of the Kerkhof Carnaby Group gathered to talk about Carnaby's with the locals and students. Wally Kerkhof addressed the group and talked about his involvement with the bird and why he's dedicated his life to helping them. The students asked lots of questions and even each got a present of honey from Wally. The students were also treated to some music from the locals playing ukuleles and accordion.

Shop for MOORE



Moora wildflower wrapping paper. **\$3 per sheet.** 100% of proceeds to be donated to MCC. Contact MCC on 9653 1355.



Moore wildflowers are stupendous ! This laminated A3 poster can be purchased from MCC for **\$10 plus postage**. All proceeds will be put towards our conserving Moore assets projects. Contact MCC on 9653 1355.

A bit Moore

Moore spiny critter: Thorny Devil *Moloch horridus*

Every seen one of these up close? They are Thorny Devils and they are appearing around the catchment now. This one was warming itself on a main road and so was moved before it became roadkill.

The thorny dragon grows up to 20 cm (7.9 in) in length, and it can live for 15 to 20 years. The thorny devil also features a spiny "false head" on the back of its neck, and the lizard presents this to potential predators by dipping its real head. The thorny dragon's scales are ridged, enabling the animal to collect water from any part of its body.



A bit Moore

MCC funders



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MCC Awards

- * Finalists & Semi Finalists in WA Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017
- * Winner in WA Landcare Awards 2017 (Fairfax Community Group), Finalist 2015

Support Moore local landcare..... Donate
<http://www.moorecatchment.org.au/get-involved/donations-and-sponsorship/>

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