



Moore to the point Autumn 2017

Conserving the Moore River catchment since 1995

In This Issue

Workshop highlights clearing concerns

Driving through avenues of towering Salmon Gum and Wandoo is a well-loved sight of the Wheatbelt – but for how much longer? Questions and comments about roadside clearing were high on the list of concerns asked by the audience at the Native Vegetation Clearing Laws workshop held 6th April in Moora and organised by the Moore Catchment Council. Rachel Walmsley MCC’s Community Landcare Coordinator said “From listening to the participants at this workshop, there is definite concern about the clearing of native vegetation around the region and also the laws in place to protect our remnant plants.”

The first speaker from the Environmental Defenders Office, Declan Doherty, talked through the State and Commonwealth Laws concerning native vegetation clearing and the processes that applications for clearing have to go through. Rachel said “there were lots of questions for Declan which shows how unclear and complicated the clearing laws are.” Eddy Wajon spoke next about the importance of conserving roadside vegetation. He shared practical ideas which can keep trees but ensure road safety including barriers and reflective strips. Rachel said “Eddy has been publically vocal about disappearing roadside native vegetation recently. He has been working alongside Main roads and Shires to plan road upgrades whilst retaining the vegetation especially old trees which deserve to be conserved.”

Adam Peck from Birdlife gave the group an update about the Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo numbers in the region and the declining state wide population status. Carnaby’s are a protected species under State and Commonwealth laws and conserving their natural habitat is important for their survival. The final speaker, Fiona Falconer, is a local farmer and environmental enthusiast. Fiona talked about their landcare journey and the importance of finding a balance between clearing and a healthy landscape. Rachel said “Thanks to all the speakers for contributing their time and to all the participants who came along and contributed with questions and comments. Thanks to the State Natural Resource Management Programme for funding this day.”

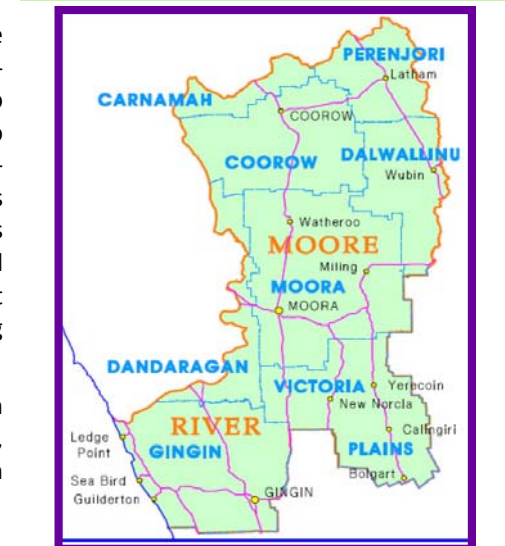


For more information on the presentations, please contact MCC on 9653 1355.

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Speakers Declan, Fiona, Adam and Eddy with MCC’s Rachel

Introducing MCC's newest employee

Introducing our newest employee Emma Pearse. Emma has come on board to help deliver MCC's Moore review project which will involve looking at about 130 sustainable agriculture projects carried out over the past 10 years. The project has been funded through the National Landcare Programme and will help to see what worked and what didn't through past projects involving brushwood, saltbush, perennials, and oil mallees. Today we had a quick look at a saltbush project planting in 2011 at Namban. Amazing growth and such a change in the landscape from the 40,000 saltbush planted. Emma is here until late May so if you see her around the district, say hello.



Moore Review Project - Sustainable Agriculture in the Spotlight

Over the past ten years the Moore Catchment Council has been busy working with farmers to keep their land sustainable and productive for future use implementing projects to address issues including water erosion, wind erosion, salinity and water logging. These projects were designed to create greater productivity off the land and to encourage the diversity in markets within the wheatbelt.

The projects under the microscope include Oil Mallee plantations, perennial pastures, saltbush, brushwood and strategic revegetation. Over the past six weeks I (Emma Pearse) have been driving across the Moore Catchment area and beyond (stretching into the Yarra Yarra Catchment Management area) to have a look at a selection of the projects and get feedback from the farmers involved. Most feedback so far has been positive with some projects adding huge amounts of productivity to land.

Some of the most successful projects of note so far have been those of saltbush plantings. The saltbush plantings were targeted to be undertaken on marginally salty ground, not only impacted by increasing salinity, but also wind and water erosion and in parts waterlogging. Taking note from farmer's feedback not only has the saltbush created coverage on bare salty ground, it has slowed water flow and hence reduced water erosion in creek lines and has provided wind breaks. Saltbush has proven itself as great fodder shrub for sheep and therefore has boosted the productivity of land that has otherwise been cast aside.



Saltbush planted in 2011 on salty ground, being grazed by some sheep.



A grazing paddock planted with perennial grasses.

Another successful project has been the planting of Perennial pastures, which involved sowing of different seed mixtures including varieties of Panic and Rhodes grasses. The perennial pasture projects were mainly implemented to create year round pasture coverage to increase grazing potential and to address issues of wind and water erosion. These pastures were planted on sandy land at risk of getting blown away. With a varying success rate of plantings, those that did stand the test of time have had fantastic results not only providing year round feed but also stabilising topsoil. Results have also indicated the most palatable grazing option is the Panic grasses, while Rhodes grows quickly after sowing it is likely to be the last of the grasses to be eaten in the paddock by the sheep and cattle.



Oil Mallee's planted on a sandy paddock to manage blow outs during heavy wind gusts.



Fiona falconer and her Grandson Tom with the Brushwood plantation that was planted in 2007.

Projects involving Brushwood, Oil Mallee's and strategic revegetation have all had great positive impacts on the land degradation issues of water logging, salinity and wind and water erosion, however have less of an obvious cash benefit. The take-off of the Brushwood industry has been slow, with some of the greatest issues being the labour intensive method of harvesting and lack of demand within the market. The Oil Mallee projects panned out in a similar way, with the market for harvesting the oil not taking off, and the carbon credits system losing steam. It seems the positives out of these projects have mostly been in increasing the biodiversity of the land, having more aesthetically pleasing outlooks over the country and in the mitigation of land degradation - and for all farmers involved these are positives enough.

Funded through:



Anameka saltbush - the future of saltbush fodder

Rachel and Emma attended the Chatfield Nursery Anameka saltbush day down at Tammin on 12th April. It was a very interesting day involving looking at the saltbush trial sites, listening to Hayley Norman - saltbush guru from CSIRO who helped 'find' this Oldman saltbush, and looking through the Chatfields nursery which grows around 2 million plants. MCC is going to trial Anameka on 4 farms as part of the National Landcare Programme funded Moore review project. Planting will happen this winter.

Anameka facts

Old man saltbush (OMSB) has been planted for stock feed in saline and infertile soils in the low to medium rainfall zones of Australia for many years. OMSB is native to the semi-arid areas of Australia, this means it's already well adapted to dry and challenging environments. Once established, it can persist for decades provided it is not subject to extended waterlogging. Anameka has been selected as the best from 90 genotypes trialled in 2009-11.

Is Anameka saltbush for you? Anameka has been selected for higher digestibility and improved preference to sheep.

Across a range of environments, it had a mean organic matter digestibility of 64%, crude protein of 19.5% and 25% ash. We anticipate this nutritional profile and improved relative palatability will lead to increased voluntary intake, higher energy values and increased livestock productivity. Animal house feeding studies confirm the digestibility data. Paddock-scale comparisons of sheep or cattle productivity through use of Anameka over existing OMSB varieties has not yet occurred. Be warned - selecting for higher palatability to sheep could result in higher predation by other critters and over-grazing if paddocks are set stocked.

Anameka saltbush is only available from Chatfields Nursery as they have the licence to sell it. It costs a bit more than standard saltbush because it is grown from cuttings which have to be propagated from the parent plants.



Surround by saltbush in Tammin

Bush medicine workshop causes a stir

Using WA's wondrous variety of native plants for wellbeing and treating ailments has long been the norm for Aboriginal Noongars. Some of this vast and interesting knowledge was passed on to the community by Viv Hansen who presented to a packed out workshop in Guilderton on Friday 10th March. Viv, a Noongar woman of the Balladong and Wadjuk people has always had an interest in traditional medicinal uses of the bush and recently received a formal qualification in Bush and Western Herbal Medicine in 2008. Rachel Walmsley, Moore Catchment Council's Community Landcare Coordinator who organised the workshop said "The interest in this workshop was overwhelming and I had to turn away at least a dozen people as we just didn't have room. When I phoned Viv to tell her the numbers, she was flabbergasted that there was so much interest. Around 70 people attended ranging from local community to travellers from Perth, various suburbs, Mundaring and even overseas visitors. Amazing turnout!"



Viv preparing bush ingredients

Viv started the day by running through a few native plants and their uses.

Samples from plants such as Oldman Saltbush and Balga (Grass tree) gum were shared around to see, touch and taste. Then the hands-on session started with the furious chopping of Eucalyptus and Melaleuca leaves for the balm which involved boiling up the leaves in olive oil and then adding beeswax and cooling. The balm can be used as a general moisturiser and for tired muscles. Rachel said "Next the group made herbal pot-pourri using various plants which can help respiratory and sleep issues. Viv also enlisted an army of stirrers to make the Eucalyptus and native lemon grass cream which involved plants steeped in water, then combined with wax and glycerine, and stirred furiously until cooled."



Huge crowd came along to the bush day



Boiling up the eucalyptus leaves



Some of the Yued ladies joined in the stirring



Yued heritage shared by Charlie Shaw and Margaret Drayton

Viv has recently co-published a bush medicine book 'Noongar Bush Medicine: Medicinal Plants of the South-west of Western Australia' which she had for sale. Further copies are available from:

<https://uwap.uwa.edu.au/products/noongar-bush-medicine-medicinal-plants-of-the-south-west-of-western-australia>

The day came to an end and people left armed with a new appreciation of the WA bush and samples of the creations. Rachel said "Many thanks to everyone who came along and gave great feedback, to the Guilderton Country Club for their venue and catering, to Viv and Moort Hansen for their knowledge, and to the State Natural Resource Management Program and Royalties for Regions, and the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council and National Landcare Program for their funding which made this day happen. Apologies to anyone who missed out but we plan to run another one next year. Watch this space!"



Great Aboriginal knowledge shared: Marge Shaw, Viv Hansen, Rachel, Charlie Shaw & Mort Hansen

Workshop helps to make sense of social media



Peta talking through social media

Social Media is everywhere and knowing how to use it successfully will help community groups keep in with the high flyers and promote their good work. 16 people attended a MCC organised beginners workshop at the Gingin Community Resource centre on Feb 28th to learn about the different types of social media and what each social media type is used mainly for well presented by Peta Thorniley

Introducing Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Linked In, Pinterest & Instagram during the workshop in an interactive manner was enjoyed by all. Advertising on Social Media is now becoming a great way to advertise community groups and your upcoming events, this will reach a targeted audience and cost very little. Example of how the Shire of Moora's video how a road is bituminised went viral in December 2016 with over 111,000 likes and 340,000 shares in 4 days.



Top tips for Social Media

- ☺ Choose only 1 - 3 social sites to focus on - including Facebook
- ☺ Link up your accounts to save time i.e post on Pinterest / Twitter / Instagram also appeared on your facebook page
- ☺ Post / comment on other people posts/tweets
- ☺ Keep learning as the Social Media world changes continually
- ☺ Users expect access to exclusive content, events or sales or discounts or promotions.
- ☺ Integrate your Facebook / Twitter into your website
- ☺ Promote your Facebook / Twitter account where ever you can.

Funded through:



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Showing off projects to the funders

Deb Slater-Lee, Programs Manager for the State NRM Office visited and attended the recent native clearing workshop in Moora and took the opportunity to have a little tour of a few past and current state funded projects. Rachel was only too happy to oblige and took Deb to see the 2014/15 Candy's Bush walk trail, signage and revegetation project in Moora, and the current Mogumber walk trail and Carnaby's project, and Koojan reserve conservation project. We concluded the tour with a stop at a farm revegetation project east of Moora. A 10ha bare eyesore is on its way to being transformed using native species including Old-man saltbush (pictured). Rachel also showed Deb that saltbush is a tasty treat not just for sheep !



Rachel and Deb

Carnaby's getting more habitat

MCC are running a few projects this year that involve Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Here is an update on progress:

- Gillingarra and New Norcia forage and breeding habitat project - 2 farmers in Gillingarra will be planting 9,000 mixed native species this winter suitable for Carnaby's. At the Gillingarra hall, a walk trail is being formalised by the Gillingarra community, nesting logs installed, and MCC will design some signage to complement the trail. Volunteers to plant seedlings in some of the bare patches during the Gillingarra John Curtin volunteer weekend in early September. 2,000 seedlings will be planted around New Norcia. Funded through State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions.
- 9 sites around the Moore catchment are being revegetated as part of a 20 Million Trees National Landcare Programme funded project. 6 sites were planted last year with the remaining 3 being planted this year. Last year's sites will also be infilled to ensure a good success.
- 2 landholders will be planting cocky habitat around the Boonanarring area this winter. Up at Koojan, the Salmon gum reserve is going to be fortified with extra bollards to prevent firework stealing and some new seedlings planted. Cocky breeding logs will be installed at the Koojan and Dalaroo reserve to help increase the population of Carnaby's in the area. Funded through State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions.

Muchea tour explores plants from pot to paddock

There was much to admire around Muchea on the recent 'pot to paddock' community trip. A group of landcarers including gardeners and native plant enthusiasts met on Friday 21st April at the Muchea Tree Nursery for an interpretative tour of the inner workings of the nursery. Rachel Walmsley, MCC's CLC said "Natalie Vallance (along with her late husband Steve) has been running the nursery for over 30 years and been passionate about providing local proteaceous species. MCC have been using the nursery for Carnaby's forage habitat species for quite a few years now and Nat has always been so helpful with species advice." The tour group split into two and spent an hour looking around the nursery including the propagating tunnels with misting units and heat mats, the seed raising shed, pot cleaning station and potting shed. Rachel said "Nat explained about the different ways in which plants are grown including from seed, propagated from cuttings and also grafted. There has been a demand for *Corymbia ficifolia* which is a pretty red flowering gum but can have variants. Grafting insures the councils get the colour which they want."

Not all native species you see are propagated successfully. Species including some Hakeas and Grevilleas are difficult or impossible. Rachel said "The nursery has been experimenting with propagation techniques on a number of species including *Verticordia grandis* which is a beautiful long flowering red bush. Nat explained that they had managed to get a few to grow and were now on sale at an unusually elevated price. The level of price normally dictates how difficult the plant was to grow."



The potting shed



Nat shows us around her nursery

The tour concluded at the nursery shop which allowed for the participants to pick up a few native plants. Lunch was hosted by the Chittering Landcare Centre (CLC) north of Muchea. The group put on a fabulous two course lunch and Roseanna Hindmarsh CLC's Executive Officer, gave an informative presentation about the landcare centre's work over the years. Rachel said "The CLC have done so much good landcare work over the years including working with school groups and coordinating large rehabilitation projects. They do such important work."

Afterwards the group visited one of the large rehabilitation sites and marvelled at the changes from a degraded bare site to a woodland paradise full of life. Rachel said "Many thanks to the Muchea Tree Nursery and the Chittering Landcare Centre for such an interesting day, and to the State Natural Resource Management Programme and Royalties for Regions for their funding to run the event."



Chittering landcare does a good lunch

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ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS

State NRM conference is coming soon



State NRM and Coastal Conference 2017

Adapting in a changing world

29 – 31 August 2017
Curtin University
Bentley, Perth

natural resource management program | Western Australian Planning Commission | NAMWA

Participation in the Conference can take a number of forms:

- Oral Presentation
- Poster Presentation
- A short and sharp 7-minute presentation
- A special workshop session

Deadlines

- Abstract Submission Due 31 May 2017
- Author Acceptance Notification 15 June 2017
- Author Registration Deadline 30 June 2017
- Early Bird Registration 30 June 2017

For more information visit the conference website

www.promaco.com.au/events/nrmcoastalconference/

Moore natural assets: another project wrapped up

Moore Catchment Council is proud to announce that another project has been completed. The 2015-17 'Protecting and enhancing the Moore River biodiversity assets' project has been funded through the State NRM Program.

Outcomes have included:

- ☺ 7ha of revegetation carried out on two farms;
- ☺ 6.6km of fencing to protect and connect remnant vegetation;
- ☺ Native clearing information day presented by Environmental Defenders Office, Eddy Wajon, Birdlife Australia and Fiona Falconer (06.04.17);
- ☺ Benefits of bug and fungi in the bush presented by Faye Arcaro (30.08.16)
- ☺ Online film with farmer interviews on their landcare projects <https://youtu.be/WDxQbsWyl9A>

Funded through:



natural resource management program



Kristin Lefroy and his revegetation



Ross Adams shows off his fence



Andrew Nixon revegetated a creekline

2017 Great Carnaby Count - done

The Great Cockey Count is a long-term citizen science survey and the biggest single survey for black-cockatoos in Western Australia. On one night in autumn, volunteers monitor known roost sites and count black-cockatoos as they come in to their evening roosts. Records submitted from across the southwest provide a snapshot of black-cockatoo populations, and over time this has helped us quantify the changes in black-cockatoo numbers.

This year the count was on Sunday 9th April. The site on the Dandaragan road was surveyed and 144 Carnaby's Black Cockatoos were counted. This is a pretty good result and the birds come to this site because of the small lake on the south side of the road.



The State of Landcare

The WA Landcare Network has recently released a very interesting report. The 'State of landcare WA' report sends a warning that while the landcare movement is needed more than ever, government support and funding is diminishing. Have a read here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwODTqmV1PIPTVikX09mVGxGX1U/view>



Upcoming events in 2017

Upcoming

- ⇒ 11th June: Guilderton Community planting day
- ⇒ 23rd/24th September: Bunjil Rocks Bioblitz



'What the spiny skink is a Bioblitz' you might ask?! Well its a 24hr get together of nature lovers - community and gurus to explore some bush and record what's there.

This big event is in the initial planning stages and will be a joint venture between MCC, Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group and Northern Agricultural Catchments Council. Camping will be at Latham thanks to the Shire of Perenjori. More info to come.....

We have moved !! New Moora offices for MCC



MCC have moved offices in Moora from 1 Padbury street (Cunninghams) to 20 Robert Street (DAFWA).

The opportunity to save a bit of cash has led to the move. We are situated in a separate building next to the main DAFWA building. Call in at the DAFWA reception and they'll point you where to.



MCC has 3 offices on right hand side of court yard.

Want Moore wildflowers?



Moore wildflowers are stupendous ! This laminated A3 poster can be purchased from MCC for \$15 plus postage. All proceeds will be put towards our conserving Moore assets projects. Contact MCC on 9653 1355.

Also available.....



'A walk through the wildflowers' coffee table book \$45 each

A bit Moore

Threatened species - Rose Mallee (*Eucalyptus rhodantha*)

The Rose Mallee is a low spreading mallee that grows up to four metres high with smooth greyish brown stems and bluish green branches. The flowers are large, growing up to 7.5 centimetres across and are bright red to pink in colour. The Rose Mallee is known from fewer than 400 individual plants near Three Springs, and Watheroo in the northern wheatbelt of Western Australia. Threats to the Rose Mallee include land clearing and the drift from herbicides and pesticides sprays.

Info: <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/rose-mallee-eucalyptus-rhodantha>



A bit Moore

MCC funders



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MCC Awards

- * Finalists & Semi Finalists in WA Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2014, 2015 & 2016
- * Finalist in WA Landcare Awards 2015

Support Moore local landcare
Donate Now

<http://www.moorecatchment.org.au/Donation/s/DonationForm%20MCC.pdf>

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