



Moore to the point Summer 2017

The MOORE CATCHMENT

PEOPLE

ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMY

Conserving the Moore River catchment since 1995

In This Issue

Moore cause for celebration

Moore Catchment Council is celebrating triple funding success!! Recent announcements from the State NRM Program and the National Landcare Program (NLP) have seen MCC attract **\$185,000** to the catchment.

\$100,000 from the NLP's 20 Million Trees program will see 50ha of native habitat, featuring priority tree and shrub species suitable for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, planted on five local farms. This is the 3rd 20 Million Trees project MCC has been successful in obtaining funds for, and with only 64 projects funded Australia wide (only 10 in WA), MCC are extremely grateful to have been selected again.

\$85,000 will come from the State NRM Program to continue protecting and enhancing the Moore's natural assets including fencing remnant bush and revegetating degraded land. This program will also engage the local Yued community through providing paid work opportunities working on country, and work with two schools providing learning experiences through Noongar and native wildlife education.

This funding news is excellent news for the continuation of important landcare projects in the Moore catchment. The extra funding also allows Moore Catchment Council to continue its work past 2018. Thanks to both funding bodies for their investments. Grant writing is a lengthy and stressful exercise so to be rewarded for many (many many) hours of hard work is gratifying.



The Staff and Committee of the Moore Catchment Council would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas, and a happy and safe new year. We thank you for your support during 2017 and look forward to your continued support in 2018

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Making extra income from native trees and shrubs

Can extra money be made from planting native trees and shrubs on your farm? This was one of the questions aimed to be answered from a recent field walk at Gabalong, east of Moora, looking at sustainable agriculture options which have both landcare and industry outcomes. The field walk, held 26th October at Les Crane's property, was a final part of a Moore Catchment Council project reviewing sustainable agricultural projects carried out over the past 10 years in the Moore and Yarra regions. Projects have included brushwood, oil mallee and native tree plantations, saltbush and fodder shrubs, and perennial pastures. The project aimed to find out what worked, what didn't work, improvements and recommendations for future projects.

Brushwood was a huge project between 2006 and 2009 which saw 1.8 million brushwood seedlings planted on marginal land, in the Moore and Yarra regions, with an industry aim to provide material to create brushwood panel fencing. Les Crane planted around 25ha in 2006 to fix a boggy spot in the paddock and potentially make extra money from harvesting. Rachel Walmsley from MCC said "Brett and Hayley Bowman from Bowman Brush, Meckering attended the field day to talk about and demonstrate harvesting techniques, and speak about markets for their fencing panels. At present the best method for harvesting is by hand and this has been a huge limitation in getting the brush to the factory. The Bowman's will pay 50c/kg green weight for hand harvested brush but the future lies in the development of a mechanical harvester to get the job done quicker." The demand



Brett Bowman shows the group how the cut brush is put together to create fencing panels



Left: Brett Bowman teaches Sarah to cut brush

Right: Graham and Ross have a go with cutting brush



for brush panels is on the slow increase and the Bowmans are improving their marketing to get the product more widespread.

Saltbush has been ever popular in the Moore region to reclaim saline land and increase grazing potential. Anameka saltbush is the culmination of 10 years of work by CSIRO and Future Farm Industries to find a native plant and then ultimately an Oldman Saltbush cultivar which is more palatable and digestible. This native super cultivar is currently licenced to Chatfields Nursery in Tammin where seedlings will cost 75c each compared to the average 45c for normal saltbush. Rachel said "The cost is escalated because each seedling is a clone - painstakingly propagated from the parent plants. The cost reflects the extra effort and risk in production. Les planted nearly 3,000 plants as part of the review project but is so impressed he's ordered 6,000 more for 2018." Hayley Norman



Hayley Norman discusses the pros of Anameka saltbush



(CSIRO) was on hand to talk about the benefits of Anameka including organic matter digestibility of 64%, crude protein of 19.5% and 25% ash plus an array of trace minerals leading to improved health and quality of wool. Rachel said "Anameka is for serious saltbush graziers so put it on ok land rather than down in the salt as you'll get a much better return for your investment."

Thanks to the National Landcare Program for funding this project. A report, compiled by Project Officer Emma Pearse, detailing all the findings from 123 projects around the region is coming soon.

Les Crane explains his shelter/fodder belt system to Sarah Mason

Capturing farmers thoughts on landcare projects

As part of the Moore sustainable agriculture projects review project, video interviews were conducted with some of the farmers involved to capture their thought on their projects and how they suited their farming enterprises. Click on the links to find out more.



Tony Ruse Red Gully Farm, Boonanarring

Projects: Strategic revegetation, Perennial pastures - grasses and Tagasaste

Issues: Non-wetting sandy soil, wind erosion

".....we have less wind and less heat, and we're getting the biology in the soil coming towards the surface because it is a welcome habitat"

Link: <https://youtu.be/lqAFjg4wMG4>



Neil Pearce Mindalla Farm, Miling

Projects: Oil mallees, saltbush

Issues: Non-wetting sandy soil, wind erosion, saline soils

"Oil mallees could be a three way thing...wind break, oil and also (carbon) sequestration....allows us to run sheep in this paddock."

Link: <https://youtu.be/iJfKZfJWU4M>



Les Crane Gabalong Farm, Gabalong

Projects: Oil mallees, Anameka saltbush, brushwood

Issues: Wind erosion, saline soils, marginal country

"Land was beyond cropping stage.....I think we're going to get improved productivity by growing Anameka saltbush."

Link: <https://youtu.be/DBKBSu4A-XU>



Ian McGillivray Koojan Farm, Koojan

Projects: Brushwood, soil conditioners trial for fodder shrubs (saltbush, Tagasaste)

Issues: Non-wetting sandy soils, wind erosion,

"Tag planted in deep ripped, spaded and chook manure added in strips is growing very well, grazed within 12 months."

Link: <https://youtu.be/9ZFDLUPC-RU>

Endangered Mt Yule Silver Mallet gets boost

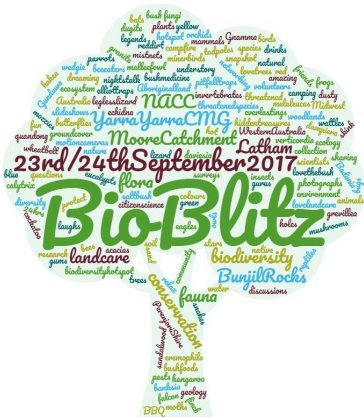
Eucalyptus recta or the Mt Yule Silver Mallet is a rare tree found in a handful of hilly rocky places from south of Walebing to Cadeaux. A revegetation project is increasing its range at Mt Yule farm. The seedlings, planted winter 2017, look amazing ! Further revegetation will take place in 2018. This project is funded through the State NRM Program.

From little things big things grow



Bunjil Rocks bioblitzed in 24hr community event

What do you get if you put 60 keen environmentally minded people together for 24hrs in the Midwest bush? A bioblitz of course! The weekend of the 23rd/24th September served as the date for the Midwest's inaugural bioblitz organised by the Moore Catchment Council (MCC), Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group (YYCMG) and the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC). A bioblitz is a 24hr event involving rapid collection of ecological data at a particular site which provides a snapshot of the species that occur in that area. The event attracted around 60 people aged 7 to 70 from all over the region from Perth to Geraldton, and was held at Bunjil Rocks in the Shire of Perenjori. Rachel Walmsley, MCC's Community Landcare Coordinator said "It really was a fabulous weekend. We based ourselves at Latham to take advantage of the free and well equipped Shire camping facilities and community hall. Participants camped in swags, tents and camper vehicles in the bush camping area adjacent to the oval. We also picked the same date to camp there as 80 members of the 4WD club Trackcare which nearly doubled Latham's population for the weekend!"



The bioblitzers arrived Saturday morning to register and set up camp. After an introduction from organisers Rachel, Lizzie King (YYCMG) and Jessica Stringemore, and a Welcome to Country by Badimia local Ashley Bell and his didgeridoo playing nephew Angus, bioblitzers made their way out to Bunjil Rocks reserve a few kms north. Rachel said "Participants then split into groups with an 'eco-guru' team leader and spent the afternoon exploring and surveying the bush. Gurus on-hand were Midwest flora expert Jenny Borger, bird enthusiast Phil Lewis, local landcare lover Paulina Wittwer, bat crazy and nest cam specialist Joe Tonga, and all-round eco guru and fauna trapping expert Nic Dunlop." Fauna highlights on the first day included seeing a beautiful barn owl and rarely seen Nightjar accidentally flushed from their day roosts, and a Western Yellow robin caught in a mist net and brought to the group by Nic so everyone could see up close.



The evening's activities included a night stalk led by Joe Tonga, who became all the children's favourite leader with his gadgets and gizmos including infrared cameras and UV torches to spot scorpions. Dinner was catered for by a couple of local ladies from the Perenjori P&C who cooked tasty casseroles and curry followed by three different deserts - yum!

Sunday morning started (for some) with a dawn bird walk around camp led by Phil Lewis. Breakfast BBQ bacon and egg rolls followed, then back out to Bunjil Rocks for the final two survey sessions. Highlights included spotting a Spiny Tailed Skink which is Threatened species, seeing highly venomous Gwardar (Western Brown) snakes with Joe, and Jenny calculating that the flora team had logged around 120 species of plant over the 24hrs. Back at Latham HQ the final debrief, thank yous and lunch occurred before everyone departed for home and a well-earned rest. Rachel said "The event concluded just as the heavens opened - thank goodness. Many thanks to everyone who came along and helped make the event a raging success including the team leaders, caterers, and Shire of Perenjori for allowing us to use their facilities. It was an intense but fun 24hrs of flora surveys, bird spotting, nest spying, animal trapping, making friends, camping in the bush, pond dipping, bat stalking, sharing knowledge, eating, wind sun and a shower or two, plus laughs and good memories.



Team Bioblitz - Rachel, Jess & Lizzie

Huge thanks to the sponsors and funders who allowed this event to happen including Gunduwa Regional Conservation Association, National Landcare Program, Conservation Council, Moora Citrus, Westways Wildflowers, Kochii oil, Moore Park olive oil, Manavi eggs, Spineless Wonder and Earth Stewardship.

Successful Carnaby conservation in Moora

All around Moora the familiar cries of Carnaby’s Black Cockatoos can be heard at this time of year. What you might not know is that the Carnaby’s are in town to breed and raise chicks. They like to nest in hollows in big old Salmon Gums and Wandoo but unfortunately there is a lack of these trees now from extensive clearing. Something had to be done to help these endangered birds and local Moora resident Wally Kerkhof decided he was the man to do it. Over the past 35 years or so, Wally has designed an artificial nesting log that is actively helping this cockatoo species to survive and thrive in the Moora area. Wally and his volunteer group, the Kerkhof Carnaby Group, have helped erect 40 of these logs around Moora. Moore Catchment Council has been helping the group seek funding to construct nesting logs, and more recently, monitoring of the nests.

Rachel Walmsley MCC’s Community Landcare Coordinator said ‘We recently got funding through the WA Government NRM Program for a pole camera to peek in the nests at breeding time. This has saved Wally climbing up ladders or finding a cherry picker to use. It’s quick and convenient, and results have been spectacular so far with 20 healthy chicks found in 17 logs. It shows the nests work and more artificial nests should be installed around the breeding areas of Moora and Victoria Plains Shires to ensure the Carnaby’s have somewhere to breed.’ Wally also supplement feeds around 170 Carnaby’s which fly to his place every day at dusk to help the parents raise their chicks. The public are invited to view this feeding for free from the purpose built hide. For more information or any landholders interested in having Carnaby logs of their properties please contact MCC on 9653 1355.

Monitoring results

Monitoring results have been more than encouraging. Almost all artificial log nest have been used by Carnaby’s this year to breed. A couple had failed attempts (eggs not fertile or chick died because hen scared off or disappeared (some talk of local shootings!)) but the majority (90-95%) have successfully raised a chick. Most chicks are male (black beak) - which seems to be a similar occurrence each year. Some nests had twin births but mostly one chick survived. One nesting log had big healthy twins and strangely this nest has had twins fledged most years - must be the best log in town ! All Carnaby chicks should have fledged by February and be back next August for more breeding.



How to monitor a Carnaby nest



Left: Happy twins

Right: selection of Carnaby chicks in their artificial nests



Left: What the ! Carnaby eggs, pigeon chick !!!

Right: beautiful big baby. Not long to go now



Pyp grass weed gets 1st spray at Guilderton

If you're down at Guilderton over the holidays, you might notice some big patches of brown vegetation around town. This is where weedy Pyp Grass has been sprayed. This spraying is the 1st stage of at least a 3 stage spray program to remove the rampant weed from the dunes and reinstate native vegetation. 4 sites were sprayed and the knock down has been good. This project is being managed by MCC with funding from NACC's coastal program through funding from the National Landcare Program. The next spray is being planned for the autumn.

What is it?

Pyp Grass (*Ehrharta villosa*) was introduced into Australia for use in dune stabilisation. However, as an aggressive invader with biological adaptations to dry situations it is known to smother and replace native vegetation, threatening the biodiversity of the Western Australian coastal ecological communities. The coastal dunes at Guilderton are a key natural asset, providing ecosystem services to the town including coastal protection, tourism and ecological services.

What's the issue?

The dunes at Guilderton have had Pyp Grass mapped, and the infestation extends continuously over one kilometre north from the mouth of the Moore River, with a further population a few hundred metres further north. It needs to be controlled before all native vegetation is pushed out.



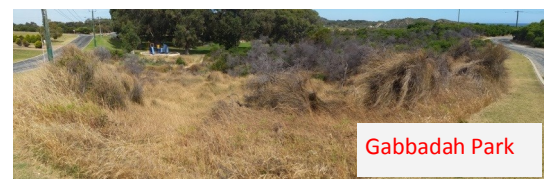
Heritage Park



Near lighthouse



Gordon St North



Gabbadah Park

Coastal volunteers get together at Green Head

Headed out to Green Head on Friday 8th Dec to a coastal group get together organised by Hamish from NACC and the Green Head Coast Care group. Its a good chance to meet up with people and discuss coastal issues and good stuff, and also to go and have a look at projects. Hadn't seen the 3 Bays wall trail upgrades since the planning stages. Great progress with the walk trails, signage and dune stabilisation through brushing. Such a good bunch of vollies there. PS Dynamite Bay = stunning !



- 1) Coastal volunteers get together - sharing, helping, making new friends
- 2) Before and after dune stabilisation
- 3) Dynamite Bay - a natural asset worth protecting for the future

Huge native seedlings giveaway at Moora show

What a day at the Moora show!! I The MCC had a display on the oval at the 106th Moora show on 16th September. Lots of people came through to chat to Helen and Rachel, and look at the display. About 75 people took away bags of the 700 free Carnaby forage seedlings, including Moora shire president Ken Seymour, Nationals Shane Love and local resident Lana Kelly (pictured). Thanks to the State NRM Program for funding seedlings.



Planting natives for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

Around the catchment, landholders have been revegetating areas of their properties for Carnaby's Black Cockatoos as part of projects run by MCC and funded through State and Federal funding programs. One of these projects is at Red Gully farm on Wannamel West road. Tony Ruse is no stranger to landcare projects and he was quite happy to plant 5,000 native plants for the Carnabys through a State NRM Program funded project. Tony and his farm manager Ken planted the seedlings in winter into prepared rip lines containing compost to help establish the seedlings by providing nutrients and moisture. Digging down there was plenty of moisture. Good job Ken and Tony !



Adding compost to the rip lines will boost success rates



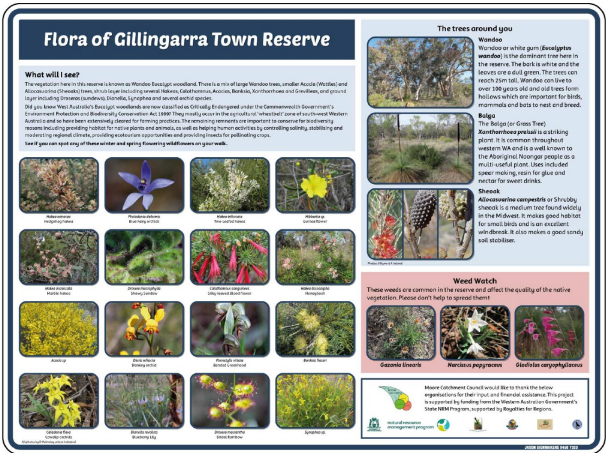
Farm manager Ken and owner Tony Ruse

New signage for Gillingarra and New Norcia

As part of a State NRM Program grant, the Gillingarra Town Reserve and the river side walk at New Norcia is getting new interpretative signage. Three signs have been designed for Gillingarra . One with walk trail and historical information, another (featured) with flora to spot around the reserve, and the third is all about Carnaby's Black Cocktoos. They will all be of interest to day trippers and campers who visit the reserve.

The sign at New Norcia is a Carnaby's information sign. It will complete a set of 'totems' being designed by Axiom for all around the historic town.

Looking forward to seeing all of the signs up and being used !



Shop for MOORE



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



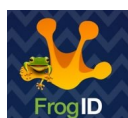
Moore wildflowers are stupendous ! This laminated A3 poster can be purchased from MCC for **\$10 plus postage**. All proceeds will be put towards our conserving Moore assets projects. Contact MCC on 9653 1355.

A bit Moore

Moore amphibian: Motorbike Frog *Litoria moorei*

Large frog (up to 8cm). Bright green. Olive green or brown black. Fingers are unwebbed and toes near fully webbed.

Occurs near swamps, lakes, river pools, ponds and quite often backyard swimming pools. Distinctive 'motorbike' calling noise. Calling period Sep-Jan.



The Australian Museum has released a new smartphone app, **Frog ID**, that can identify frogs by their chirps, barks and croaks. Find it on iTunes and Google Play. Its really useful !



A bit Moore

MCC funders



natural resource
management program



Perenjori
Embrace Opportunity



MOORA-MILING PASTURE
IMPROVEMENT GROUP



Australian Government

National
Landcare
Programme



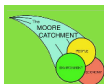
meat & livestock australia
MLA



DARWIN
WHEAT SHIRE



GUNDUWA
Regional Conservation Association



Moore Catchment Council



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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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