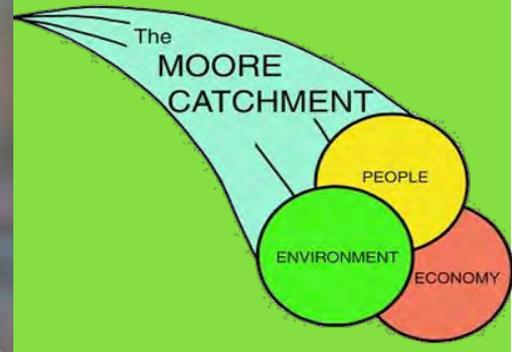




Eucalyptus pyriformis (Pear-fruited Mallee), Maya

R. Walmsley

Moore to the point Summer 2020



Conserving the Moore River catchment since 1995

In This Issue

New funding helps MCC support Moore landcare

Moore Catchment Council are more than excited to be successful in securing funds for another couple of years from State Natural Resource Management Program. Funds were so low before Christmas, MCC were planning a graceful exit. But, now saved by an injection of \$330K, MCC can do lots more landcare and coastcare work in the Moore catchment for another couple of years.

What is Moore Catchment Council doing in 2020?? Well here we go. Into the new decade and MCC's 25th anniversary as a community landcare/coastcare group existing to 'maintain and improve the health of the Moore River Catchment'. Here are the projects we're working on this year funded through State NRM Program, National Landcare Program and Iluka. There are still only 2 staff - Rachel (landcare officer 4.5 days wk) & Helen (executive officer 2 days wk)...but we'll get it done....somehow :)

1) **WORKING ON COUNTRY** - We have projects for paid opportunities for local Yued to work on country and share knowledge including revegetation jobs, seed collection and fencing protection for the Old Reserve, Moora

Continued on page 2 ...

2	New projects roundup
3	Health soils, healthy community
4	The Last Stand is coming back
5	Carnaby's conservation update
5	Love your bit of bush
6	MCC AGM at Carrah farm

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2020 projects cont....

2) PYP GRASS - Holy Pyp !!! MCC has managed to score not 1 but 2 projects to tackle the Pyp Grass infestation at Guilderton. Just had word that we scored a \$20k grant through the Federal Communities Environment Program ! We've tried in vain to get more funding to extend the Pyp Grass spraying program at Guilderton after funding ground to a halt in May 2018, but got knocked back at least 4 times. So to score 2 grants in one year is great (other through State NRM Program).

What is Pyp Grass? 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. The attached photo show sprayed Pyp - look how it has smothered all the native vegetation below.



The grants will also fund some native seed collection and also community planting events.

3) KNOWLEDGE BUILDING - We are planning environmental knowledge building opportunities including hosting a monster event - The Last Stand 2 environmental event in Sep 2020. See article.

4) HEALTHY SOIL, HEALTHY COMMUNITY - We are planning a series of workshops in April to share Permaculture principles and share ways of building healthy soils through compost making, worm farms etc for a healthier environment and community. See flyers

5) MOORE NATURAL ASSETS - We have projects for farmers to plant 50,000 native species in the winter to enhance biodiversity, and fence off 70ha of creeks and remnant bush from stock damage

6) ENGAGING CHILDREN - We have projects to work with primary and secondary school children to teach them and provide practical opportunities on Aboriginal culture and bush tucker gardens; Native vegetation identification, seed collecting, and planting; Microbat conservation and bat box construction

MCC worked with the Central Midlands High School Horticulture students in 2019, educating them about local native flora, and offering opportunities to revegetate degraded land in the catchment. These opportunities will continue in 2020.



December 2019 - Spent a hot hour and a half out with CMHS horticulture kids learning about and picking seed in Moora with Ian Pulbrook. We picked *Melaleuca raphiophylla* (paperbark), *Casuarina obesa* (Sheoak) and *Hakea preissii* (needle tree). The seed will be grown and planted in revegetation projects next year. Many thanks to Ian for coming down.



November 2019 - This morning took the Horticulture students from the Moora high school out to look at the native regeneration after a controlled burn -notably the fabulous *Verticordia grandis* and the *Nuytsia floribunda*. Thanks Flora for the pics

7) CARNABY'S BLACK COCKATOO CONSERVATION - MCC will continue its long term important Carnaby conservation program. We have activities to actively protect and help build knowledge including log nest building, nest and population monitoring, forage/breeding habitat planting, and information booklets and signage.



Healthy soil, Healthy environment, Healthy communities



Want healthy soils, a healthy environment & a healthier sustainable community ?



Join Moore Catchment Council, and Fiona Blackham from Gaia Permaculture for 2 interesting workshops available at 3 locations

MCC was lucky to obtain funding from the State NRM Program to run some healthy soils and sustainable living workshops around the catchment. MCC has teamed up with Gaia Permaculture guru Fiona Blackham to run 3 'Digging Deeper' workshops concentrating on healthy soils and food production, and 1 Intro to Permaculture workshop.

They are going to be great - pick one and book in today !



Digging Deeper workshop

Topics including healthy soils, making compost, wicking bed construction, food production, native bush tucker, beneficial insects & permaculture

Theory & hands-on workshops in:

- ** **Perenjori Tuesday 31st March** (bowling club)
- ** **Moora Wednesday 1st April** (bowling club)
- ** **Guilderton Friday 3rd April** (community hall)

Why soil??

Some people reckon soil is boring, and that it may be, but it's darned important! Healthy soil is a living, breathing organism, vital for the health and well-being of our precious plants out in the garden. And just as we feed and nurture our plants, so must we feed and nurture our soils. But what determines a healthy soil, how do we achieve it, and how will it benefit us, as gardeners?

Permaculture workshop

Introduce permaculture ethics & principles into your daily lives.

Permaculture is a set of principles that result in designing sustainable and productive systems.

Systems for living, architecture, food production, land management and community. Permaculture mimics patterns that occur in nature, to make these systems energy efficient, low cost and with high yielding results.

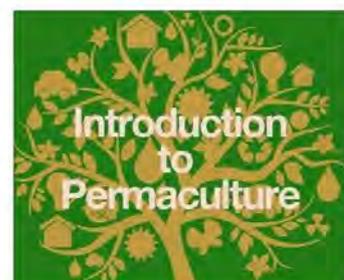
Theory & hands-on workshop in:

- ** **Moora Thursday 2nd April** (bowling club)

☺ **Warning - this workshop could change your life !**

What is a healthy soil?

Firstly, lets' talk about what soil actually is. Technically, it is the thin layer of material that covers the earth's crust. It provides plants with support, mineral nutrients, water and air. Soil is derived from the weathering and breaking down of parent material (rocks), with the addition of varying types and levels of organic matter. The amount and type of organic matter in the soil, coupled with the original parent material, determines the structure, nutrient content and behaviour of the soil. All very important factors to understand when planting out a garden.



Time: All workshops 9am - 3pm. Morning tea and lunch provided.

RSVP: Rachel 9653 1355 0409 296 264 or mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com

FREE to attend, places limited

www.moorecatchment.org.au

This Moore Catchment Council project is being funded through the WA Natural Resource Management Program



natural resource management program



Delivery partners: Gaia Permaculture, Moora Community Resource Centre, Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group & Guilderton Community Association



Most Australian gardeners are presented with quite poor soils. These are a result of housing and urban development, overworking, previous chemical practices, poor watering practices and so on. In addition, much of the soil in our urban and suburban spaces has been bought in from elsewhere, relocated as it were, with gardeners facing a bit of an unknown quantity when they venture out the backdoor. But, as we know, the most important factor in a healthy garden is healthy soil. This basically means that your plants can only be as good as the soil they grow in. If you have an exhausted soil with no nutrients your plants will struggle, and may starve to death.

If you have light sandy soil, your plants may not get enough moisture and will probably die of thirst. If you have heavy clay soil, your plants will not get enough drainage and will probably drown! Soil is full of life and it needs some of the same things which animals and plants need to survive, like air, water and nutrients. We can not easily see all the activity going on in the soil but we can smell it and feel it to get a sense of its health.

Healthy soil smells sweet. It's loose, well drained and rich in organic matter. Air and water move freely through the soil because air space exists around soil.

Healthy soil will have about:

45% minerals	
24% air	3-5% humus
25% water	up to 1% living organisms

Thanks to Sustainable Gardening Australia for info

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/>

The Last Stand 2 returns to Moora

In September 2018, MCC (with a little help from some great friends and sponsors) organised a huge 5 day environmental awareness event in Moora. We wanted to run a positive and interesting event to highlight the wonders and woes of WA Wheatbelt wildflower country. It ran 5th - 9th September and involved a Symposium, information and art displays, and bush tucker talk and bush walks. It was a great success with over 400 people coming through the door. The encouraging feedback was also a trigger that this type of event needs to be run again. So, that's what we're doing, organising The Last Stand 2 which again will run 5 days from 9th - 13th September at the Moora Performing Arts Centre. Below is the draft program so far. Put the date in your diary now - you won't want to miss it !



9th-13th September 2020
Moora

A 5 day environmental awareness event highlighting the wonders and woes of WA Wheatbelt wildflower country

Which path to the future?



The Last Stand 2 9th - 13th September Moora

	Activity	Time
Wed 9th	Last Stand Symposium	10-5pm
	Information & art displays	10-5pm
	Networking dinner	6-9pm
Thurs 10th	Information & art displays	10-5pm
	Explore wildflower country Bus trip	all day
	2040 film showing	6-9pm
Fri 11th	Information & art displays	10-5pm
	Spineless Wonders insect display	all day
	Bush walk (Candy's Bush reserve)	1pm
	Bush tucker activity	all day
	Sundowner (Chamber of Commerce)	6-7pm
Sat 12th	Information & art displays	10-5pm
	Spineless Wonders insect display	10-5pm
	Bush walk (Candy's Bush reserve)	1pm
Sun 13th	Information & art displays	10-1pm
	close	

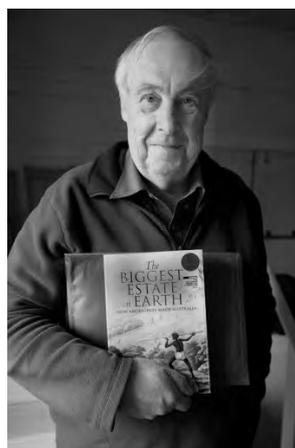
The Last Stand 2 is being organised by the Moore Catchment Council and several local volunteer Landcarers. Additional help - sponsorship or volunteering - gratefully received.

Sponsors (so far)

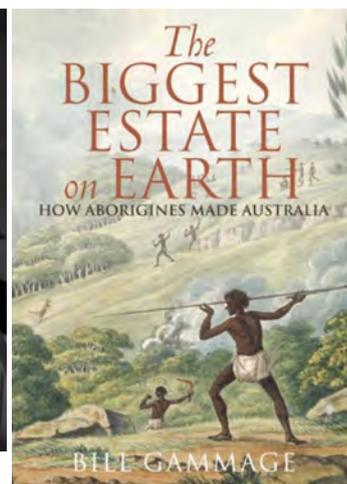
Already we have a couple of excellent speakers confirmed for the Symposium - Bill Gammage and Carmen Lawrence. Bill is Australian academic historian who wrote the acclaimed book *The Biggest Estate on Earth* and Carmen is currently Chair of the Conservation Council who spoke passionately about health and nature at the 2018 Last Stand event. Also just confirmed is Malcolm French, author of the best book ever on Wheatbelt trees, he'll speak at the Symposium or the networking dinner. Watch this space for developments !



Carmen at the 2018 Last Stand



Bill with his book



Carnaby monitoring and knowledge sharing

2019 results overall all are good. Monitored 36 artificial log nests around Moora. 25 nests produced 27 fledged chicks, 2 nests had eggs that didn't hatch, 3 logs had chicks that died early on and 4 didn't have any attempts. So 89% attempts and 75% success. Not bad at all.

Roll on 2020 season !! PS We have 60+ artificial nests built by Wally in the Moora region, so the number for new chicks this year can be doubled so approx 50 new Carnabys to help fight their extinction. Natural hollows are monitored by Birdlife. Thanks to State NRM Program for funding the monitoring



Knowledge sharing

29th November - helped the Kerkhof Carnaby Group host an afternoon for the Kaarakin Carnaby Conservation Centre volunteers. Most hadnt been to Moora before so we got to show off some of the wonderful conservation efforts for saving the Carnabys. What a great bunch !

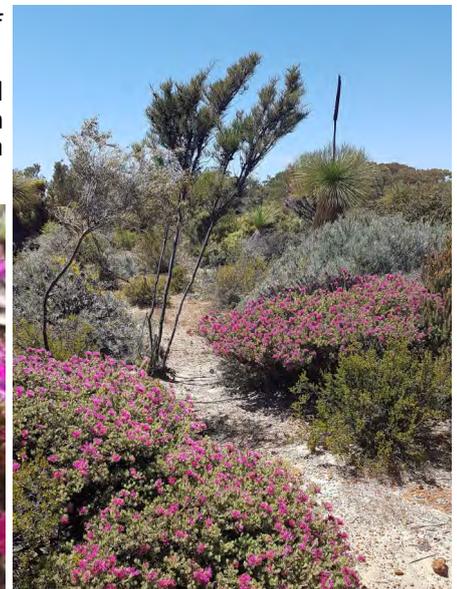
To end a great day, Kaarakin vollies come and watch the Carnaby feeding at Wally's with KCG vollies and Rachel from MCC. Hundreds of Carnaby's turn up for dinner to help them raise a chick. More hens are back now that chicks in the nests are bigger. This viewing is a nightly treat for the birds and spectators! Wally has done so much to help save this species from extinction. Moora locals and the WA community should feel proud of him.



Love your bit of bush

Graham Johnson, who farms near Piawaning, has been wanting to fence off this bit of bush for years, and finally he's done it !

With the help of the State NRM Program, Graham fenced off 15ha of Wandoo woodland and sandy/gravel scrubland. The vegetation was blooming pink with Melaleucas when Rachel visited to sign off the fence. The fenced off remnant is now protected long term from stock pressures - thanks Graham.



MCC AGM December 2019 @ Carrah farm

MCC held their AGM at Carrah Farm near Calingiri on 11th December. We took a bus down from Moora and stopped to look at the Mt Yule revegetation site near Walebing. The AGM saw Tony White re-elected as Chair. Welcome to Lizzie King who will be a committee member representing the north east catchment. Many thanks to Sarah & Geoff Mason for hosting us.



Moore Catchment Council committee and staff at 2019 AGM in Calingiri. Chair Tony White, Secretary Sarah Mason, Treasurer Lawrie Short, committee Duncan Peter, Marie Carter, Janice Page and new member Lizzie King. Plus staff Rachel and Helen

A bit Moore



A bit Moore

Wonderful Woody Pears

Did you see the Woody Pears in flower recently ?
Xylomelum angustifolium (Sandplain Woody Pear) trees were literally dripping in long droopy aromatic flowers along the Midlands road reserve and in lots of places on the sandplain.

They are a medium shrubby tree (2-7m) and are usually noted for their large woody pear shaped velvety fruit.

MCC funders



Moore Catchment Council



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- * **Winner** Fairfax Community Group, WA Landcare Awards 2017
- * **Winner** NAR Outstanding Community Group, NACC Awards 2018
- * Finalists & Semi Finalists in WA Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017

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

Stay up to date !!!! Follow MCC.....
 Keep up to date on social media. We're on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at **Moore Catchment Council** . Please **LIKE** us to have regular info on your feed :)

