



wheatbelt
natural resource
management

2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

EVALUATION REPORT

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VERSION 1.0

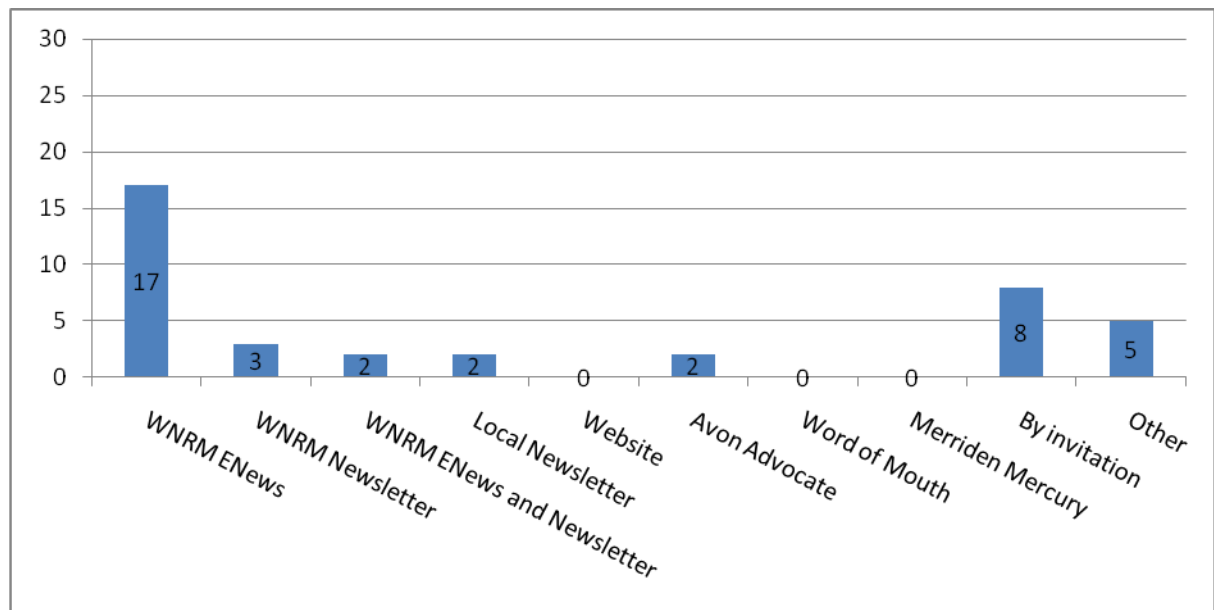
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1. INTRODUCTION

On Thursday, 28 October Wheatbelt NRM held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Northam Country Club. In attendance were 46 community members, not including Wheatbelt NRM Board Directors or staff. Over 60% of attendees completed and submitted an evaluation form. The following report outlines their responses. The evaluation form is included in Appendix 1.

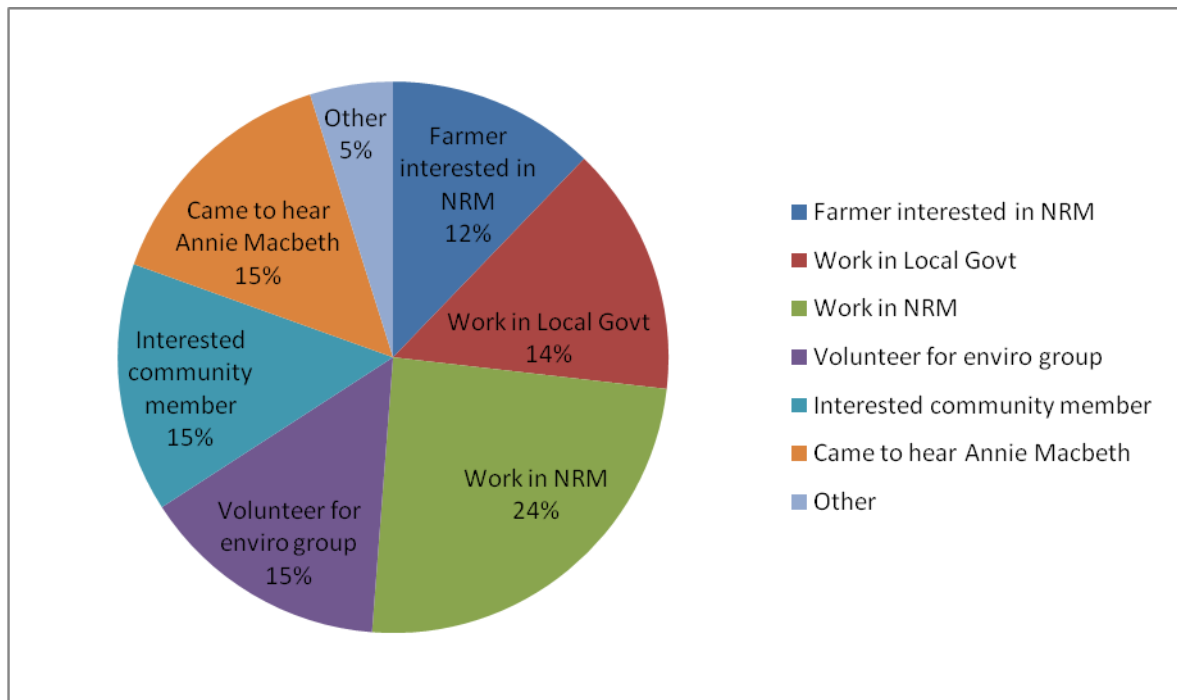
2. HOW PEOPLE HEARD ABOUT THE AGM



Responses for 'other' included:

- Call for membership
- Contacted by email or by phone
- Natarsha Woods

3. WHY PEOPLE CAME TO THE AGM



Respondents had multiple reasons for attending the AGM, and those few respondents with 'other' reasons for attending included:

- Regional development organisation with a holistic approach to growth and development of the Wheatbelt, which includes recognition of the importance of environment
- Merredin LCDC Secretary/Treasurer

4. WHERE PEOPLE CAME FROM

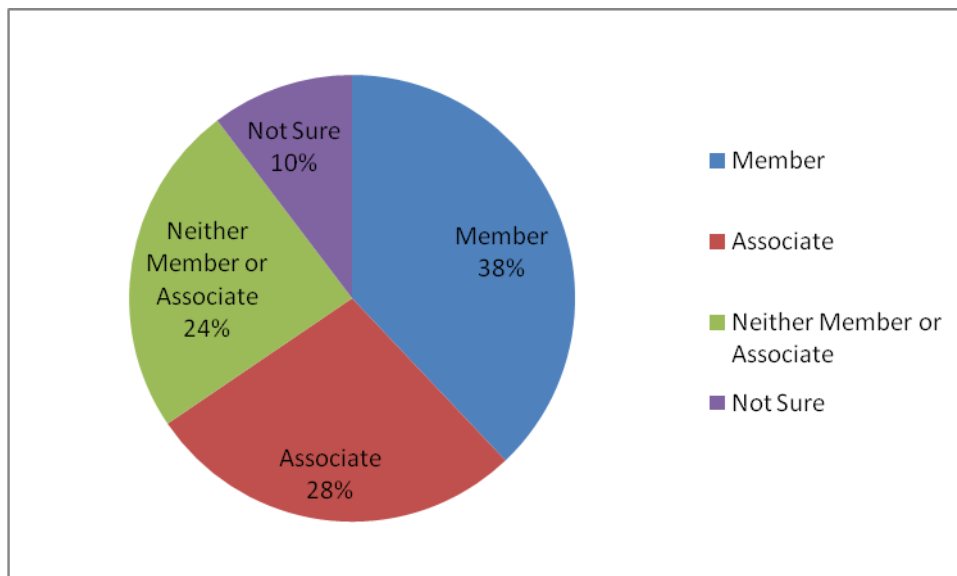
Respondents came from the following post code locations:

- Mogumber
- Bickley (or other locations with postcode 6076)
- Northam (or other locations with postcode 6401)
- Floreat (or other locations with postcode 6014)
- Wialki (or other locations with 6473)
- Wongan Hills (or other locations with postcode 6603)
- Merredin (or other locations with postcode 6415)
- Kellerberrin (or other locations with postcode 6410)
- Parkerville / Stoneville
- Dowerin (or other locations with postcode 6461)
- Mukinbudin (or other locations with postcode 6479)

- Goomalling (or other locations with postcode 6460)
- Hyden (or other locations with postcode 6359)
- Greenhills, Ballardong (or other locations with postcode 6302)
- Meckering (other locations with postcode 6405)
- Clackline
- Beckenham (or other locations with postcode 6107)
- Bateman (or other locations with postcode 6150)
- Meckering (or other locations with postcode 6405)
- Quairading (or other locations with postcode 6383)

Approximately 13% of respondents chose not to identify their location.

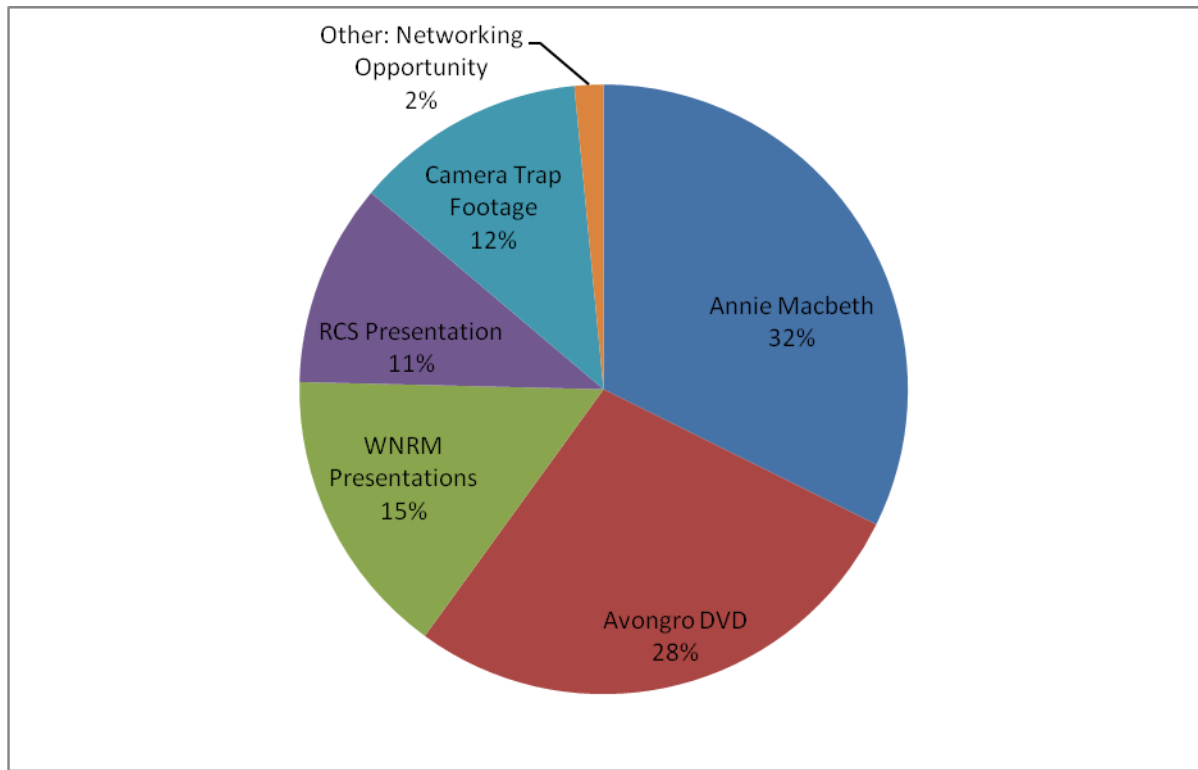
5. MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES WHO ATTENDED



6. NEW ASSOCIATES

- Seven people requested to become new Wheatbelt NRM Associates.
- Only two respondents specified that they did not want to become associates – one identified themselves as being a current Member, and one who works in NRM.

7. MOST ENGAGING ASPECTS OF THE AGM



L-R: Peter Sullivan Wheatbelt NRM CEO with guest speaker Annie Macbeth, International Futurist, Trend Forecaster and Life Coach at the Annual General Meeting

8. WHAT DID PEOPLE LEARN FROM THE AGM

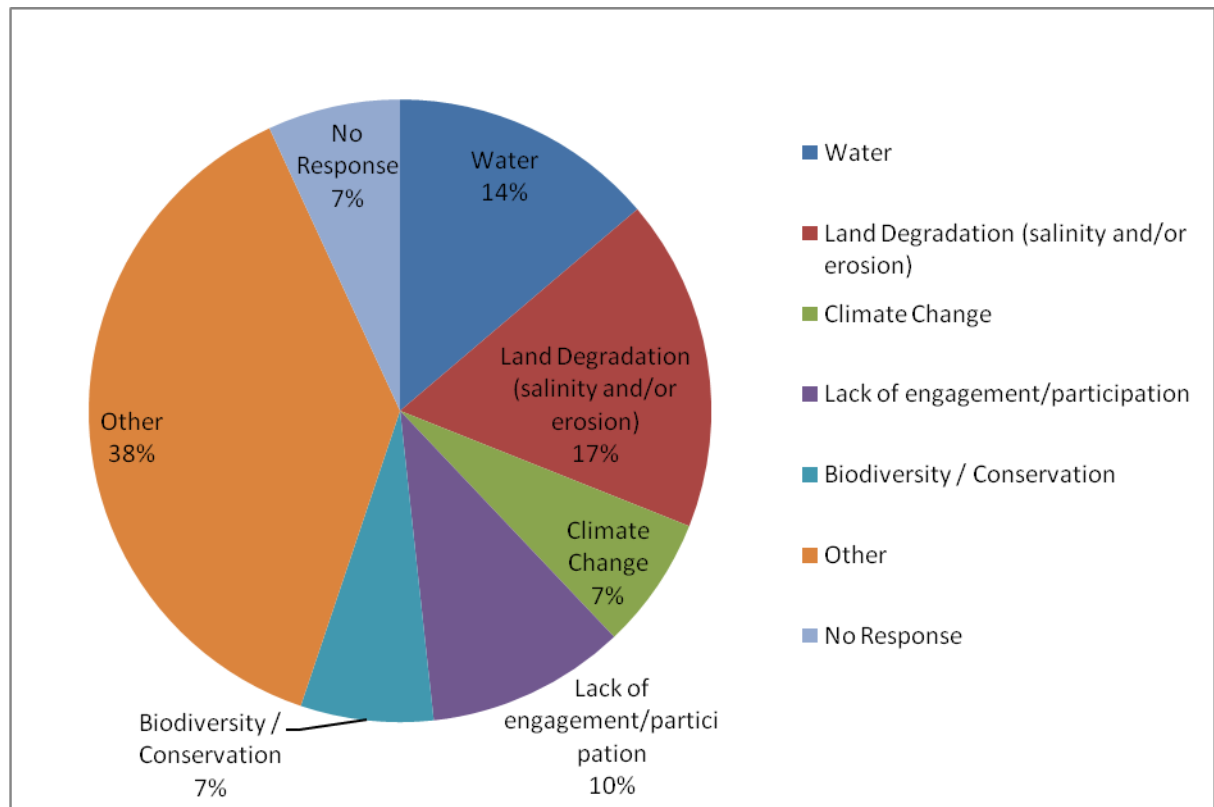
- 62% of respondents indicated that they had learnt something new at the AGM. Responses included:
 - Projects in train within catchment
 - How the Wheatbelt NRM is helping the area
 - Cunderdin is absent!
 - Great work going on
 - Greater range of projects than I was aware of.
 - Specific projects undertaken
 - Diversity of projects across the region
 - Digital photos for invertebrate identification (new methods)
 - To be more flexible to meet changes over which we may not be in control
 - Progress of current projects
 - The importance of passing on to younger generation.
 - There are a number of programs underway
 - Camera traps
 - WNRM is proactively pursuing regional cross-boundary partnerships
- 21% said they did not learn anything new. These respondents were a mix of workers in local government and NRM.
- 17% of respondents gave no response at all.



L-R: Wheatbelt NRM Chair Glenice Batchelor receiving the Gwambygine Invertebrate Study report from Tony Clack of the River Conservation Society. The study was funded through Wheatbelt NRM's Small Grants program.

9. THE COMMUNITY'S ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

Respondents were asked to list their top three concerns for the environment, with 1. being rated their top priority. Respondent's top priorities have been broadly grouped, as shown below.



Responses not included in the groupings above included:

- Break up of rural land and development pressures
- Sustainable agricultural practices
- Doing more with less!
- Negative attitudes of people - the Earth is resilient! Have faith.
- Third world pollution (and slavery)
- Maintaining viable communities
- Sustainable agricultural production (& profitable)
- Land managers being able to economically manage their property
- Educating the young about natural biodiversity/environment
- Lack of perennials in farming
- Diversity for farmers

Table 1 lists all responses and includes the second and third priorities of respondents.

Table 1: Respondents top concerns for the environment (with 1 being the highest priority)

1. (Top Priority)	2.	3.
Break up of rural land and development pressures	Over grazing - land degradation	Lack of understanding about relationship between the natural environment and farming production
Community motivation and enthusiasm towards NRM & the environment	Salinity & wind erosion (equal as effect different soils and areas on farms)	seasonal variability & how to better manage this on farm
Sustainable agricultural practices	Conservation of our natural environment - waterways, plants, insects and animals	Community consciousness of the long term impact they are having on the environment and what they can do to reduce this impact
Salinity from clearing	Decline of remnant native vegetation (e.g. no regeneration)	Threats to/further loss of biodiversity (e.g. salinity, grazing, pests & weeds)
Doing more with less!	Multi use	Recycling
Wildlife conservation	Habitat restoration	Feral animal control
Negative attitudes of people - the Earth is resilient! Have faith.		
Climate change	Population increase	Lack of vision by government in water usage.

1. (Top Priority)	2.	3.
Third world pollution (and slavery)		
Land care restoration	Tree plantings	Plant matter
Climate change		
Maintaining viable communities	Water quality	Alternative energy/fuels
Sustainable agricultural production (& profitable)	In balance with healthy landscape	Better meteorological science to support good farming decisions and seasonal forecasting basis, i.e. don't sow crop if it is going to be a drought year.
Land managers being able to economically manage their property	Rabbits, foxes and (in places kangaroo population impacting on land uses)	
Salinity	Feral animals	Assisting farmer to improve NRM on land - community engagement
Educating the young about natural biodiversity/environment	Revegetation/healing salt land, erosion etc	Water
Land degradation esp. salinity & erosion	Rural water quality	Waste minimisation

1. (Top Priority)	2.	3.
Waterway degradation	Loss of biodiversity	Loss of habitat
Water quality	Tree cropping	Climate change
Lack of perennials in farming	Effects of wind erosion/salinity	Foxes and rabbits
Diversity for farmers	Loss of land to salinity or erosion	Whole farms planted to carbon trees
Water/salinity	Land productivity	
Lack of involvement in Land care	Funding for landcare	Forums that have Landcare solicitors
Water (rain)	Wind erosion	Soil compaction
River Health	Bush preservation / restoration	Covenanted
Long term land holder engagement for stewardship	Biodiversity loss	
Erosion	Water	Biodiversity

10. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

The following improvements were suggested for future Wheatbelt NRM events:

- I have attended two NRM events in 2010 and I think the guest presenters invited to talk have been very engaging and thought provoking, which adds great value to the events.
- Ensure the speakers rostrum is not in front of the screen
- Keep together people - shares new ideas
- Interesting and challenging speakers
- Have speakers like Annie Macbeth
- Make sure they go longer
- Very disappointed. Why wasn't the rostrum put on the dais so everyone could see the screen? 20% couldn't! Only one person knew how to use the mic. Women have 15% better hearing than men at best. Tractor drivers have very poor hearing. Just compare the sound level of the video clip to previous presentation. Was there are shortage of ink printing the name tags?

APPENDIX 1: 2010 AGM EVALUATION FORM



Please help us to improve our services to you in the future by completing and submitting this evaluation form before leaving today. Simply check the box against your selected answer, and provide any comments you wish to make.

1. How did you hear about Annual General Meeting (AGM)?

(multiple responses accepted)

- Wheatbelt NRM E-News Website Word of mouth
 Wheatbelt NRM Newsletter Avon Advocate Merredin Mercury
 Local Newsletter
 Other, *please specify:* _____

2. Which of the following options best describes your reasons for attending the AGM?

(tick one box only)

- I am a farmer interested in natural resource management
 I work in Local Government
 I work in natural resource management
 I am a volunteer for an environmental, Grower Group or NRM group (e.g. Friends of groups)
 I am a community member interested in natural resource management
 I came to hear the guest speaker, Annie Macbeth
 Other, *please specify:* _____

3. Are you a Wheatbelt NRM Member or Associate? (tick one box only)

- I am a Member (groups or organisations interested in natural resource management can register for membership)

Members receive formal invitations to attend events, including the Annual General Meeting and having voting rights on appointment of Directors. For more information on registering groups or organisations for membership contact Wheatbelt NRM on 9690 2250.

- I am an Associate (any individual can become an Associate)
 I am not a Member or an Associate
 I'm not sure

