From: Colyer, Rhonda on behalf of Avon Catchment Council
Subject: Avon Catchment Council - E-News Issue 58
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ISSUE 58, 11th AUGUST 2009

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5. STAFF FOCUS | 6. PUBLICATIONS | 7. LINKS

Quote of the Day

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.
Albert Einstein

Major change underway at ACC

The last couple of months have been a hectic time for ACC staff and Board with seasonal plantings of over 1 million trees, development of Caring for our Country projects for 2009/10, wrap-up of the NHT/NAP programs and the completion of a comprehensive governance review aimed at moving the group forward with better ways to assist the community in managing their natural resources.

The most significant changes stemming from the review are:

1. a shift from a representative Committee of Management to a skills-based Community Board of Management comprising between eight and ten Director positions;
2. the creation of a broader Membership base for the organisation, comprising key stakeholder groups whose interests will be reflected in the decision making of the group;
3. a stakeholder engagement framework and strategy that allows for transparency in, and formalization of, the interface with key stakeholder groups; and
4. the strengthening of community engagement through the formalisation of sub-catchment Reference Groups for the Yilgarn, Lockhart and Avon Sub-catchments.

We are now well structured as an independent community based group to work with the Avon River Basin community through collaboration and partnership to achieve positive changes for our environment.

Stay tuned as we are also in the process of changing our name to "Wheatbelt NRM" to better reflect our community of interest.

These changes will be rolled out over the next couple of months and should be finalised by our October 2009 AGM. Immediate priorities include a Membership drive, nominations for Board Director vacancies, formal change of name, new web and email addresses, and planning to get the Sub-catchment reference groups up and running.

All in all, a positive set of changes intended to enable community groups more input into how the Wheatbelt's natural resources are managed.

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1.1 >> Calendar
1.2 >> Free sustainable fish bbq and film

1.1 Calendar

(click on event for more info)
AUGUST

24 – 30 Keep Australia Beautiful Week
26 – 27 Dowerin Field Days

SEPTEMBER

1 Wattle Day
7 National Threatened Species Day
7 – 12 National Landcare Week
10 SPA Annual Field Day
12 – 13 Sustainable House Day
13 National Bilby Day
16 International Day for preserving the Ozone Layer
18 World Water Monitoring Day
20 National Neighborhood Day
22 World Car-Free Day

1.2 Free sustainable fish bbq and film

Join Conservation Council of WA for one of our special events featuring an advanced screening of internationally acclaimed film, The End of The Line, a short presentation on our unique marine life and a discussion forum.
Enjoy a FREE sustainable seafood BBQ meal as you discover all about WA's marine life and lifestyle – unique, unprotected and under threat.

RSVP Essential – 9420 7266 or email: conswa@conservationwa.asn.au
Location details: click here

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2. GENERAL NEWS

2.1 >> Dale Ecoscape Tree Workshop
2.2 >> Koorda Primary Students Join in the Fun of National Tree Day
2.3 >> Crystal ball for rainfall in world-first atlas!
2.4 >> New publication provides farmers with survival solutions for drier times
2.5 >> Aglime acknowledgement

2.1 Dale Ecoscape Tree Workshop

Dale workshop attendees enjoying Mike Griffiths biodiversity expertise

When 24 land holders from the Dale region west of Beverley, gathered at the home of Don and Naomi Watts for an Avon Catchment Council NRM workshop they never imagined that the most interesting part of the day would be getting down on their hands and knees and looking at the moss, lichens and tiny orchids that covered the granite hill near the house. Mike Griffiths from WWF took the participants on a bush walk and had everyone captivated with his passion and knowledge on what treasures could be found when you looked close enough.

The attendees also found out more about the potential for agro forestry and met with Bethan Lloyd from the Australian Sandalwood Network and Helen Job, Brushwood Coordinator from Avon Gro. After the bush walk a short bus trip took the crowd down the road to see first hand the work that Lynley Thomson and Mike Eviston has put into recovering a stretch of Turner Gulley

that meets the Dale River. Prue Dufty from the Department of Water was on hand to answer everyone's technical questions about how to get rid of that annoying waterway weed – Juncus acutus.

The weather was fantastic, the venue was beautiful, the food was plentiful and the company was great. As one participant said. "The day was Informative, a good chance to meet neighbours and learn about our local bush."

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2.2 Koorda Primary Students Join in the Fun of National Tree Day

Koorda primary school students, staff and community members tree planting

Koorda Primary School Students recently enjoyed the opportunity to get out of the classroom and learn something about planting trees as part of National Tree Day.

Rosie Bogle, Natural Resource Management Officer for the Shires of Koorda and Wyalkatchem, arranged for the students to listen to a short presentation on planting trees by Cilla Wilson and Di Lovell from Avon Catchment Council, and then helped the students to plant nearly 100 trees by hand around the Koorda Golf Course. The day was enjoyed by all students who enthusiastically threw themselves into the task at hand. Fiona Gaetke, Principle of Koorda Primary School, then invited parents and other members of the community back to the school for morning tea to celebrate.

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2.3 Crystal ball for rainfall in world-first atlas!

Researchers from The Australian National University have created the world's first comprehensive visual atlas of global rainfall projections over the next 100 years based on all of the models used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its most recent report.

PhD researcher Wee Ho Lim and Dr Michael Roderick from ANU have created the *Atlas of the Global Water Cycle*, which contains some 300 pages of global maps and tables showing current and projected measures of rainfall, evaporation and runoff.
The atlas illustrate the projections of each of the 20 computer models used by different countries to forecast future water cycles – data drawn upon by the IPCC in its reporting on climate change, but not visualised in the same way and place until now. For more information go to;

http://epress.anu.edu.au/global_water_cycle_citation.html

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2.4 New publication provides farmers with survival solutions for drier times

A new publication by the Future Farm Industries CRC (FFI CRC) shows how farmers can increase their productivity and remain profitable in a dry and uncertain climate through the use of perennial plants.

Called Prospects for perennials, the publication is a definitive guide to incorporating perennial plants into the mixed grazing and cropping systems of southern Australia.

The publication is particularly relevant to farmers who are weighing up the options for coping with unreliable rainfall and are looking for sustainable ways to remain productive.

Prospects for perennials also provides a glimpse of what farming in the future could be like by highlighting the research underway and technologies being developed by FFI CRC to help Australia achieve new levels of sustainability and productivity in a drying climate.

To have your own copy of Prospects for perennials, email greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au

or download an electronic version from the Publications section of the FFI CRC website (www.futurefarmcrc.com.au).

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2.5 Aglime acknowledgment

An important contributor was unintentionally omitted from our acknowledgements in the last issue of E-news: In relation to The Bodallin Catchment Group Post-Seeding Field Tour we failed to mention that Aglime was an important contributor, particularly in relation to the vital post-walk drinks.

ACC apologises for the oversight.

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3. FUNDING

3.1 >> "Shaping Change in Communities" Busselton, Western Australia
3.2 >> Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program
3.3 >> FarmReady Reimbursement Grants
3.4 >> Water for the future funding
3.5 >> Forest Industries Development Fund – applications due by Thursday 17th September
3.6 >> RIRDC funding applications for 2010-11 – preliminary proposals due Friday 25th September
3.7 >> Grants and Funding websites

For more funding opportunities please view our previous Enews issues by clicking here

3.1 Australian Pest Animal Management Program - round now open

The 2009-10 round of the Australian Pest Animal Management Program is now open.

APAMP funds research and extension projects that develop and promote improved monitoring and control techniques to reduce the agricultural impacts of pe st animals. Closing date for Expressions of Interest is Friday 28 August 2009 for the initial assessment. This will be followed by a full application process for successful preliminary proposals. Further details can be accessed at www.daff.gov.au/brs/land/feral-animals/apamp

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3.2 Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal's Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program is now open and will benefit people in rural and remote communities.

Closing date is 30 September 2009. Further information can be accessed at www.frrr.org.au

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3.3 FarmReady Reimbursement Grants

FarmReady Reimbursement Grants, for courses completed prior to 30 May 2012, assist primary producers and Indigenous land managers to attend approved training courses aimed at improving their capacity to adapt to climate change and increase self reliance and preparedness.

Applications forms need to be lodged and approved prior to attending approved courses, followed by submitting the claim for reimbursement (up to 30 days after the completion of the course). Managed by the department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, further information and application/claim forms can be accessed at www.farmready.gov.au

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3.4 Water for the Future funding

The Water for the Future program - National Rainwater (closing date 31 March 2014) & Greywater Initiative (closing date 31 January 2010).

Managed by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts, further details can be accessed at www.environment.gov.au/water/p rograms/index.html

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3.5 Forest Industries Development Fund – applications due by Thursday 17th September

The $9m Forest Industries Development Fund is a federal government grant administered by the Dept of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), with the aim of developing initiatives to improve Australia's international competitiveness in forest products and to stimulate investment and job creation in the forest sector.

This is Round 2 (the first was earlier this year) and it is focussed on projects that increase investment in measures that add value to forest resources to increase or maintain employment. Grants will represent 30% of total project costs and will generally be no more than $500,000. For guidelines and application forms goto www.daff.gov.au/fidf or contact 02 6272 5079 or fidf@daff.gov.au

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3.6 RIRDC funding applications for 2010-11 – preliminary proposals due Friday 25th September

The Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) invests in the knowledge needs of three areas: *New rural industries; *Specific established rural industries; and *Cross-sectoral national rural issues

Research funding: Preliminary research proposals are due on Friday 25th September, and if selected, full proposals are due on 5th February 2010 with successful applicants notified on 17th May 2010. You need to read the current research priorities at www.rirdc.gov.au/RIRDC/index.cfm?B4AD8AB0-F1FE-4F78-A937-EF6397B47E96

Doing Business With RIRDC to access a booklet which outlines the application process. NB: RIRDC's business with research providers is facilitated by a web-based project management system called Clarity. To set up a secure account before submitting a proposal, contact the RIRDC helpdesk for a username and password. Email helpdesk@rirdc.gov.au or phone 02 6271 4100.

The Clarity Entry Point is at http://research.rirdc.gov.au/

Scholarships and travel/conference funding: Scholarship applications are due in November; Travel and conference applications can be submitted all year but need to be 3 months in advance of requirement.

Application information for Scholarships and Travel/Conference funding can also be found in Doing Business With RIRDC

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3.7 Grants & Funding websites

- **Grantslink** www.grantslink.gov.au/
- **DAFF grants & assistance** www.daffa.gov.au/about/grants_and_assistance
- **DEWHA grants & funding** www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/index.html
- **FRRR grants** www.frrr.org.au/currentprojects.asp
- **Caring for our Country funding** www.nrm.gov.au/funding/index.html

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4. OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 >> Victoria Plains Wildflower Walk on Sunday 20th September 4.2 >> Upcoming workshops: Enabling Change and Facilitation Skills
4.2 >> Securing the future of Agricultural education at Muresk
4.3 >> Women leading change – regional conference
4.4 >> SPA Annual Field Day
4.5 >> 2010 RIRDC Rural Women's Award
4.6 >> Event Mangaement Essentials
4.7 >> Western Australian Job vacancies
4.8 >> Conservation Council of WA ENVIRONMENT and SUSTAINABILITY POLICY OFFICER

4.1 Victoria Plains Wildflower Walk on Sunday 20th September

Enjoy a day in the country starting with morning tea, then a guided tour through natural bushland, and finishing with a bush lunch, entertainment and local produce stalls.

•Endangered Carnaby Cockatoo expert;
• Chat with a sandalwood farmer;
• Stalls featuring local produce and crafts.

At 'Carrah Farms' Calingiri – 10am, Sunday 20th September 2009 For further information and tickets, contact Shire of Victoria Plains on 08 9628 7004 or reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au

Costs apply: $30 pre-paid adults, Children $10, $5 more at the gate, but please book and pre-pay for tickets as gate sales can't be guaranteed.

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4.2 Securing The Future of Agricultural Education at Muresk

This petition on line so you can assist in securing the future of agricultural education at Muresk.

Can students really get the same quality of education on a Bentley campus? If you want to help you can sign this petition and provide your details so that you can potentially be contacted to provide your views.

http://www.petitiononline.com/Muresk/petition.html

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4.3 Women Leading Change -Regional Conference

The Wheatbelt ACC is pleased to announce their next exciting event , 'Women Leading Change' - Regional Conference in Northam, September 9 - 10, 2009.

This is a one off opportunity for regional women, networking and professional development, and as we like to offer equal opportunity, men are also welcome to participate.

Closing date is Friday 28 August 2009. Leadership WA offers Western Australians premier community leadership program.

More info can be found at http://www.wheatbeltacc.com.au/

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4.4 SPA Annual Field Day

Thursday 10th September 2009
Hyden Telecentre, 9.30am - 3.30pm

Come along and find out:
• What can I do with my saltland?
• How do I establish productive saltland pastures?
• Will my sheep eat saltbush and still gain weight?
• See where and how to start first hand at local Hyden sites.

Saltland Pastures Association Annual General Meeting will be held over lunch.
No cost. Everyone welcome.

RSVP to Sally Rayner on 90611677or nrmo@brucerock.wa.gov.au Before Friday 4th September.

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4.5 2010 RIRDC Rural Women's Award

It is that time of year for women working in primary industries to consider entering the 2010 RIRDC Rural Women's Award - now in its 11th year!

The award is designed to recognise and support the contribution women make to rural Australia. Women working in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, natural resource management and related sectors should apply. Glenice Batchelor, Chair of ACC was finalist last year and said ' it was a great opportunity and encouraged everyone to be involved. Don't ever feel you're not eligible to try. Everyone achieves in their own way for their community' Nominations are open now until 15 October.

Go to http://rrrforum.invisionzone.com/index.php?showtopic=871

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4.6 Event Management Essentials

9.30 to 12.00 - 14 August, Brookton Country Club

Are you planning a new event for your community group? Do you want to learn how to re-invigorate your existing event? Zoe Warwick will be presenting an "Event Management Essentials" workshop that will give you the tool-box to make your next event memorable!
Starting with the difference between planning and designing your event, through to success factors, practical checklists and templates.

This workshop is applicable to all events—from sports events to community shows, fund-raisers to curtain-raisers. The workshop is presented by Zoe Warwick from WACOSS. Zoe has vast experience working with community groups and volunteers. The cost will be $30, invoiced on receipt of your registration. Limited places available — bookings on a first in basis.
For more information or to register, please contact:

Carina Whittington
Community Services Manager
Shire of Brookton
(08) 9642 0210

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4.7 Western Australian job vacancies:

42 Gondwana Link Landscape Manager, Bush Heritage Australia, $62-69K, Albany (or district)
43 Ramsar Initiative Coordinator, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, $45-55K, Mandurah
44 Executive Hydrogeologist, Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM), Perth

45 Senior Botanist/Taxonomist, ecologia Environment, Perth
46 Botanist or Senior Botanist, ecologia Environment, Perth
47 Environmental Officer or Engineer, Water Resource Mgt, Dept of Water, $51-93K, Perth

More info at http://www.nrmjobs.com.au

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4.8 Conservation Council of WA ENVIRONMENT and SUSTAINABILITY POLICY OFFICER

The Conservation Council of WA is the State's leading community organisation for conservation and sustainability.

This is a unique and exciting part-time opportunity for a science, sustainability or public policy graduate (or similar). For further information, including a full job description and selection criteria, please go to www.conservationwa.asn.au or contact Susan Liddicoat on (08) 9420 7266.

Applications close 9am, 17th August 2009.

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5. STAFF FOCUS

Helena Mills

Healthy Ecosystem Project Coordinator
WWF-Australia

Originally from the eastern states, I came out to Northam 3 years ago to work with WWF and ACC on conserving remnant vegetation on private land in the Wheatbelt. I had always wanted to work on flora and vegetation in the WA Wheatbelt, an internationally recognised floral biodiversity hotspot. My previous work in the federal government had also piqued my interest in working with landholders to conserve and manage bushland through voluntary means and incentives, rather than regulation and legislation. So, when I saw the job with the Healthy Ecosystems team, I grabbed it with both hands.

I haven't looked back in the last three years, and sometimes, particularly when I'm wandering around a beautiful bit of bushland looking at all the plants, I have to remind myself that it's a job, and I'm actually being paid to do this! I've also been lucky to meet so many wonderful people doing amazing things for biodiversity – farmers, NRMOs, community members, colleagues.

I have also embraced the WA lifestyle, and gotten into kayaking in a big way – I recently paddled from York to Northam on the Avon River, which was a fantastic experience, a whole different way of appreciating the landscape I've been working in.

Having just moved in with my partner in the Perth Hills, I'll be leaving Northam at the end of September, but I sincerely hope that whatever I end up doing next, I'll still get to spend at least some of my time working with the people I have met here in the beautiful bushland of the Wheatbelt.

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6. PUBLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK FOR PRIORITISING WATERWAYS FOR MANAGEMENT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA – REPORT A

The WA State Government and regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups have important roles in the management of the State's waterways. However, without a State-wide waterways management framework these organisations have had no objective, systematic approach for prioritising management. This report describes a waterways management prioritisation framework that has been adopted by the WA State Government.

The framework is based on the values-threats approach adopted by other NRM frameworks including; WA Department of Environment's Salinity Investment Framework and the State-wide Waterways Needs Assessment model developed by the WA Water and Rivers Commission.

Click here to download the publication:
https://www.avonnrm.org.au/reports_publications/WaterResourceManagement/wmassessmentframework/file/at_download

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7. LINKS

Click here to view all our NRM and Funding links

Featured Link:

Saltland Genie

http://www.saltlandgenie.org.au/

Saltland Genie has all the answers when it comes to making productive use of saltland. He uses the latest knowledge and tools for saltland management from the Sustainable Grazing on Saline Lands initiative.

With all the facts and resources at his fingertips, Genie helps you compare the pros and cons of 11 possible options. He will show you what has worked for others and what should work for you.

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Want to contribute?

Please forward any interesting facts about projects (even a couple of sentences will do), photos or events in your area via email to ckuiper@agric.wa.gov.au or fax to 9690 2255.

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Healthy Landscapes, Livelihoods and Communities