

## David, Chris

---

**From:** David, Chris  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 February 2010 4:46 PM  
**Subject:** Wheatbelt NRM E-News Issue 69



wheatbelt  
natural resource  
management

*e-news*



ISSUE 69, 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2010

**1. EVENTS | 2. GENERAL NEWS | 3. FUNDING | 4. OPPORTUNITIES**  
**5. STAFF FOCUS | 6. PUBLICATIONS | 7. LINKS**



**NATIONAL  
LANDCARE  
FORUM**

**Adelaide 22-25 March 2010**

*'Celebrate Communicate Invigorate'*

### **Sponsorship opportunity for a community member/farmer to attend The National Landcare Forum Adelaide 23-25th March 2010**

Wheatbelt NRM is offering 3 sponsorships for community members to attend the National Landcare Forum. **The selection criterion is:**

- One community member from each sub-catchment region (Avon, Yilgarn and Lockhart) will be eligible for sponsorship;
- Community members should have strong local networks in NRM, be active within an NRM group that is a member of WNRM, or be a registered WNRM Associate (to register go to <http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/associates>);
- Interested community members will be farmers and will indicate a willingness to share what they have learned at the National Forum by speaking at a local community NRM event or preparing a written newsletter article.

#### **What the sponsorship provides**

The sponsorship will provide registration fees, 4 night's accommodation (with some meals) and return airfares to Adelaide. In return for the sponsorship applicants must attend the entire program, including a field trip of the applicant's choice. Applicants should register for the Forum and their chosen field trip and organize their own flights. Wheatbelt NRM will reimburse these expenses when supplied with a copy of Forum registration and airfare booking confirmation (up to a value of \$1500). Accommodation (including some meals) will be booked and paid for by Wheatbelt NRM and Wheatbelt NRM delegates can share other minor travel expenses e.g. taxi with our attending staff member (if desired and convenient). Successful applicants will receive an official letter from Wheatbelt NRM to confirm the sponsorship commitment.

## Expression of Interest

Please complete the form linked below and email to [cswift@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:cswift@wheatbeltnrm.org.au) or fax to 9690 2255 by **Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> 2010**. Wheatbelt NRM will notify successful and unsuccessful applicants by Friday February 19<sup>th</sup> to allow time for bookings to be made.

## Application form

 [View Sponsorship Information \(2\) \(2\).doc](#) (Microsoft Word Document 645Kb)

*The Hon. Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is hosting the National Landcare Forum – at Allan Scott Park, Morphettville, Adelaide 23-25 March 2010. The Forum recognises the significant contribution the community has made over the last 20 years. The theme of the Forum is ‘Landcare celebrates – 20 years of achievements and future challenges’.*

All the details for the National Landcare Forum can be found at <http://www.nationallandcareforum.com.au>

[Back to top](#)

## Community Small Grants Incentive Scheme

This is a call for applications in the 2010 small grants incentive scheme with the new name “Community Small Grants”; designed to support activities that improve your local community’s participation and awareness of Natural Resource Management (NRM).

Wheatbelt NRM invites your community group, organisation or schools to submit an application for this incentive scheme. This scheme is suitable for activities up to \$15,000. For 2010 projects, your activity will need to be completed and a final report submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, however this may be extended depending on your project’s unique requirements.

Please clearly specify the date(s) that you intend to implement your project activities on your application form. This assists Wheatbelt NRM to allocate funds and anticipate funding demands for 2011.

***Examples of suitable activities may include, but are not limited to:*** environmental education initiatives/lectures, flora and fauna surveys, tree planting, bushland management, recycling, water harvesting, water conservation and cultural NRM activity. Applicants will be expected to show a strong NRM focus and to demonstrate how any knowledge gained from the activity will be shared within your community.

If you are interested in this incentive scheme, and have a project in mind, please visit our website <http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/funding/csg> for an application form.

Applications close on **March 26<sup>th</sup> 2010** for assessment during April 2010.

If you would like to discuss your project idea before submitting an application please contact [cswift@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:cswift@wheatbeltnrm.org.au), phone Carla Swift on 9690 2250 on Mondays or Wednesdays or mobile 0428 777 287 other days.

[Back to top](#)



# 1. EVENTS

- 1.1 >> Wallatin CDI Open Day 31st March
- 1.2 >> GRAIN AND GRAZING PRODUCERS TO HAVE SAY ON BIOSECURITY FUNDING SCHEMES
- 1.3 >> 'Auria' Field Day
- 1.4 >> Narrow margins and changing weather patterns – free workshop series

## 1.1 Wallatin CDI Open Day 31st March

The Wallatin Wildlife and Landcare Group Inc has undertaken a 4 year Catchment Demonstration Initiative (CDI) project which is finishing this year, and all interested farmers and community members are invited to attend the final Field Day on the 31<sup>st</sup> March between 9am and 6pm.

The CDI project has involved a large number of farmers working together to manage salinity through different techniques such as tree planting, perennial pastures and deep drainage.

The event will be held in the Shire of Kellerberrin, which is located 2 hours east of Perth on the Great Eastern Highway.

Field Day participants will have the opportunity to be taken on a tour of the project and speak to the farmers about the success of different methods of salinity reduction, as well as receive research information on the whole project.

If you are interested in attending this event and would like further information, RSVP early to Brad Thompson at the Shire of Kellerberrin on 9 045 4006.

[Back to top](#)

## 1.2 GRAIN AND GRAZING PRODUCERS TO HAVE SAY ON BIOSECURITY FUNDING SCHEMES

Western Australian farmers have an opportunity to comment on proposed Industry Funding Schemes to help fund programs responding to pests, weeds and disease of concern to their sector.

The schemes, to be set up under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, aim to help industry fight pests and diseases which primarily impact on their sector and which are not covered under national arrangements.

A series of briefings and workshops will be held across rural WA between February and April to ensure those affected by the new schemes can provide input.

Three new schemes will initially be introduced for pests and diseases of grains, seeds and hay; cattle; sheep and goats. Each scheme will be managed by a committee appointed by the Minister for Agriculture and Food.

These Industry Management Committees (IMCs) will determine which pests or diseases are to be tackled and the required funding arrangements for each scheme.

Enabling regulations are required before any of the new schemes can begin. These regulations have been developed under the general guidance of an industry working group comprising WAFarmers and Pastoralists and Graziers Association nominees.

The current consultation phase will seek broader feedback from industry to ensure the proposed arrangements operate effectively.

For more information on the schemes and to lodge feedback, visit the department website at [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au) or contact **Tony Richman (08) 9690 2186** or **Cathy Lyons (08) 9368 3942**.

Dates for regional workshops in the Avon River Basin are as follows:

Date	Type	Location	Venue	Time
Mon 15 Mar	Regional Workshop Q&A	Northam	DAFWA	10.00-12.00
Thu 18 Mar	Crop Updates Briefing	Northam	DAFWA	TBC

### 1.3 'Auria' Field Day

'Auria' is Australia when salt has been removed.

You are invited to a free field day at 'Auria' where David Kennett will share his knowledge acquired over the past 8 years. The 'Auria research Project' was a finalist in the category, 'Meeting the Greenhouse challenge' of the United Nations Association of Australia 2009 'World Environment Day Awards'.

Hundreds of thousands of trees have been planted at 'Auria', in a project aimed at developing and refining innovative, new forestry techniques, designed specifically for income-generation and addressing environmental issues in semi-arid regions.

**This free field day at 'Auria' takes place:**

**8am – 12pm, Wednesday, 17th February 2010**  
**1069, Old Koorda Road, Minnivale**

Booking is essential for catering purposes, call David on 0427 600 024 or email [info@auria.net.au](mailto:info@auria.net.au)

*Back to top*

### 1.4 Narrow margins and changing weather patterns – free workshop series



Narrow margins and changing weather patterns -  
We present an interactive tool to help you develop new farm enterprise combinations for the future. Explore options of annual and perennial enterprises under a changing climate - what will your farm production be?



**Free workshop series** - for the best results for you. BYO laptop (recommended but not essential)

2010 Dates	Times	Venues
Tues Feb 23	8.30 - 11.30am	Northam Dept of Agriculture and Food
Tues Feb 23	1.30 - 5pm	Kellerberrin TAFE
Wed Feb 24	8.30am - 12	Northam Dept of Agriculture and Food
Wed Feb 24	1.30 - 5pm	Quairading Telecentre
Thurs Feb 25	8.30 - 11.30am	Merredin Dept of Agriculture and Food
Thurs Feb 25	1.30 - 5.30pm	Bencubbin
Tues Mar 2	1.30 - 4.30pm	Theatrette, Dept of Agriculture and Food, South Perth
Wed Mar 3	9am - 12	Wongan Hills Telecentre
Wed Mar 3	1.30 - 4.30pm	Dowerin Lesser Hall
Thurs Mar 4	8.30 - 11.30am	Corrigin
Thurs Mar 4	1.30 - 4.30pm	Northam Dept of Agriculture and Food

For bookings contact Tom Sweeny: 9690 2154/[thomas.sweeny@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:thomas.sweeny@agric.wa.gov.au)  
or Monica Durcan: 9291 8249/[mdurcan@inet.net.au](mailto:mdurcan@inet.net.au)



## 2. GENERAL NEWS

- 2.1 >> CfoC information sessions
- 2.2 >> Caring for Our Country MERI Plans
- 2.3 >> Funding Success for Yilgarn/Westonia Farmer Group
- 2.4 >> Back to core business for Forest Products Commission.

## 2.1 CfoC information sessions



The Australian Government is a Caring for our Country information session in Northam to provide an overview of the 2010-11 business plan.

*When: Thursday 4 February*

*Time: 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm*

*Where: Bridgeley Community Centre, 91-93 Wellington Street, Northam*

*You are not required to RSVP for these sessions.*

[\*Back to top\*](#)

## 2.3 Funding Success for Yilgarn/Westonia Farmer Group

“But will this work in the Yilgarn, or Westonia?” How often have you heard that said when you are looking at something new at a field day somewhere wetter? It is this question that prompted Bodallin Catchment Group to focus more on farming and production issues with the idea of attracting trials and demonstrations. It also prompted them to open up their membership to everyone in the Yilgarn and Westonia Shires.

Now Bodallin Catchment Group been successful in their application for funding of \$22,000 for a pasture project “**Bodallin Catchment Group improving legume pastures in the Yilgarn and Westonia Shires**” – see below. It is funded by Woothworths through Landcare. The group will work with and take advice from Steve Carr from Aglime, Chris Poole from ALOSCA, Angelo Loi from DAFWA, Neil Ballard from Ballard Seeds and others. Tim Scanlon from Merredin Ag Dept and Kara Hatch, the local NRMO, will assist the group to organize the project, the field days and the publicity.

The project is open to members of Bodallin Catchment Group and farmers in the Yilgarn and Westonia Shires. It has three parts:

**Part A – 300 subsidised soil tests** - top soil (normal price), mid soil and subsoil (free)

**Part B – 10 trials to rejuvenate old legume pastures** with inoculants (Alosca/super mix in strips) – 4 BCG members, 6 for farmers in the Yilgarn or Westonia Shires.

**Part C - 2 demonstrations of a selection of new pasture cultivars** (one on light land, one on heavy land) suited to the drier areas of the Wheatbelt.

Please contact John Butcher 90475031 or Kara Hatch 90467063 if you would like to join in the project, either for the soil tests or to host a trial or demonstration. Please pass on the info to anyone who you think would like to join in and be a friend of Bodallin Catchment Group.

[\*Back to top\*](#)



## 3. FUNDING

### 3.1 >> Opportunity for funding for Wheatbelt Farmers

#### 3.2 >> RED CARD FOR RED FOX & RABBITS

#### 3.3 >> Grants & Funding websites

### 3.1 Opportunity for funding for Wheatbelt Farmers

Round two of the Soil Conservation Incentives Program is now open. Applications for up to \$50 000 are sought from farmer groups and individuals to demonstrate management practices that help to control wind erosion. The three main themes that applicants can access funding under are:

- Integrating tree crops into farm systems;
- Recommended grazing management practices; and
- Recommended cropping management practices.

It is anticipated that farmers will demonstrate innovative or underutilized practices or technologies that are appropriate for soils at risk to wind erosion. Applicants are encouraged to work in groups to share their experiences and encourage the adoption of farming practices that reduce wind erosion to their local community.

Round one of the program was very competitive with less than half of the projects submitted being approved for funding. To assist prepare an expression of interest, interested parties are encouraged to contact project partners that are listed in the guidelines including Western Australian No-Till Farming Association, AVONGRO, Oil Mallee Association, Forest Products Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.

To download the application form and guidelines click on the link below. Applications are due to the Wheatbelt NRM office by close of business (5 pm) Monday, 15 March 2010.

<http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/tenders/SCIP/>

Contacts: Dan Ferguson ([dferguson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:dferguson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au) – 9690 2259)  
Rochelle Horlin ([rhorlin@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:rhorlin@wheatbeltnrm.org.au) – 9690 2258)

### 3.2 RED CARD FOR RED FOX & RABBITS

**The end of summer marks the beginning of fox and rabbit control by farmers across the ag region – and we hope you all will be involved! Red Card for the Red Fox program supports local groups to coordinate local community 1080 baiting and foxshoot campaigns.**

The HOT PERIOD has been set for 19 February – 19 April, and all landholders are encouraged to control pests on their properties during this period – pests work across farm boundaries, so we have to too! Stockbrands sponsored foxshoots will be held on 19-21 February & 19-21 March, where \$5 for every fox shot in a registered community shoot will be donated by Stockbrands to the RFDS.

Local coordinators are responsible for organising local activities, and we have a range of info-sheets, posters and other

templates to make their role straight-forward.

In 2009, over 16,000 baits were laid during the hot period and 5,000 foxes were culled in community foxshoots – will you help us top it this year???

Contact Sally Thomson on [sowingseeds@bigpond.com](mailto:sowingseeds@bigpond.com) for more information or to register your community's involvement.

### **STOCKBRANDS RAFFLE RESULTS – RED CARD FOR THE RED FOX 2009**

In addition to pledging \$20,000 to the RFDS for community foxshoot efforts in Autumn 2009, Stockbrands director John Forehan recently announced the winners of the inaugural Stockbrands Raffle for clients that participated in 1080 baiting or these locally-organised community foxshoots.

Steve Bailey of Narembeen was a surprised and very pleased 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of a new .223 Remington rifle. Steve has baited for the past 2 years through the program since he noticed more and more fox numbers around. "We put out over 100 baits a year, and find the baiting easier and more effective than shooting – but perhaps that says something about it being time to get a decent gun!" Steve said. The Narembeen fox shoot is organised by Steve's uncle, with locals meeting up at the shearing shed on Steve's family farm.

The Department of Corrective Services was drawn as the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner, through their twice-yearly baiting efforts on the Pardalup Prison Farm in Mt Barker. Farm Manager Glen Clode has been involved in 1080 baiting for over 10 years and is a strong advocate for pest control being a group effort. "There's a heap of different land-uses in our area, and the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee and the Red Card program play an important role in bringing us all together, otherwise we're just chasing our tails", commented Glen.

Redbank Grazing Co of Gingin will receive 1000 marked ear-tags as third prize winner and Monty Driessen of Wannamal is keen to look into the future with his fourth place prize of a handheld Lightforce spotlight.

To enter in the Stockbrands Raffle in 2010, landholders must participate in 1080 baiting and/or registered community foxshoots, as well as purchase strong/Sidney tags through Stockbrands... good luck!

*Back to top*

### **3.3 Grants & Funding websites**

- *Grantslink* [www.grantslink.gov.au/](http://www.grantslink.gov.au/)
- *DAFF grants & assistance* [www.daffa.gov.au/about/grants\\_and\\_assistance](http://www.daffa.gov.au/about/grants_and_assistance)
- *DEWHA grants & funding* [www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/index.html)
- *FRRR grants* [www.frrr.org.au/currentprojects.asp](http://www.frrr.org.au/currentprojects.asp)
- *Caring for our Country funding* [www.nrm.gov.au/funding/index.html](http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/index.html)

*Back to top*

---



## **4. OPPORTUNITIES**

**4.1 >> WA Job vacancies**

**4.1 Western Australian job vacancies:**

[Click here to view the vacancies for Western Australian NRM positions](#)

*Back to top*

---



## 5. STAFF FOCUS

**Adrian Price**  
NRMO  
Shire of Dowerin



Adrian Price has taken on the NRMO role in Dowerin after Kezia Pontifex recently resigned to spend more time in other employment. Adrian's previous related roles includes LCDC co-ordinator combined with Ribbons of Blue and recycling motivator for the Shire of Boyup Brook.

Adrian studied forestry science through the University of Melbourne, managing the Amery Acres Tree Farm near Dowerin and was a Tidy Towns judge in Queensland and WA. He is also a former member of the WA Waste Management Board.

Currently Adrian is the Chair of the newly renamed 'Dowerin and Regions branch of Men of the Trees'; formerly known as 'Tree Farm Project' which was based in Perth.

Adrian is looking forward to meeting other NRMO's

Contact details:

**Adrian Price**  
Natural Resource Management Officer  
Shire of Dowerin  
PO Box 111, Dowerin WA, 6461  
P: (08) 9631 1464  
F: (08) 9631 1193  
Mob: 0428 680 008  
Email: [nrm@dowerin.wa.gov.au](mailto:nrm@dowerin.wa.gov.au)

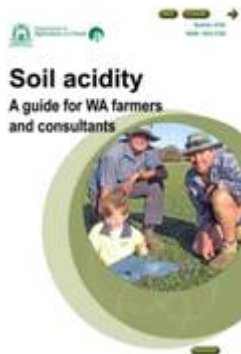
*Back to top*

---



## 6. PUBLICATIONS

### Soil acidity: A guide for WA farmers and consultants.



This guide was produced as part of the Wheatbelt NRM soil acidity project 'Optimising soil pH for sustainable farm practices', jointly delivered by the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia and Precision SoilTech.

Soil acidity is an economic and natural resource threat throughout the Western Australian wheatbelt. Production loss and sustainability are of major concern to farmers, with more than 14.25 million hectares of wheatbelt soils currently estimated to be acidic or at risk of becoming acidic to the point of restricting production. Estimates of production loss for the wheatbelt due to acidity range from \$300–400 million, or about 10 per cent of the annual crop.

*To download this publication please click on the following link:*

 [View Soil acidity farmers guide Bulletin 4784 for screen.pdf](#) (PDF document 6143Kb)

*Back to top*

---



## 7. LINKS

### *Featured Link:*

*NRM AUSTRALIA on twitter*



Interested in keeping up to date with all the natural resource management news of the day? Then follow [NRM Australia](#) on twitter.

<http://twitter.com/NRMAustralia>

***Back to top***

---

### ***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 [cdavid@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:cdavid@wheatbeltnrm.org.au) or fax to 9690 2255.

***Back to top***

---

### ***Unsubscribe/Subscribe?***

If you don't want to receive the Wheatbelt NRM e-News, reply to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

If you know someone who wants to receive E-News, please reply to this email with their email address and "subscribe" in the subject line.

***Back to top***



***PO Box 311***

***Northam WA 6401***

***Ph: (08) 9690 2250***

***Fax: (08) 9690 2255***

***Web: [www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au](http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au)***

***Working with communities to create healthy environments and livelihoods.***