From: David, Chris
To: David, Chris
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ISSUE 57, 28th JULY 2009

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Quote of the Day

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

BURLONG POOL PLANTING DAY

Gary Bennell and his granddaughter help in planting seedlings at Burlong Pool.

Enthusiastic community members got their hands dirty this week at Burlong Pool for a tree planting day coordinated by the Avon Catchment Council (ACC). The day was a great success with 1500 trees planted by all participants who thoroughly enjoyed helping with the revegetation of Burlong Pool.

Local Aboriginal and community members, Avon Valley Environmental Society, Department of Water and the Green Corps team all took part in the day's planting, which was followed by a BBQ lunch. A film crew from Murdoch University also recorded the day's activities as part of the ACC's Recording of Traditional Knowledge project.

'It was great to see people from the Northam community, including the local Ballardong Nyungar community come together and play a role in re-planting of Burlong Pool' said Nathan Heal.

'I also think we witnessed the next generation of conservationists with so many children keen to get involved' he said.

The Avon Catchment Council has partnered with the Department of Water to undertake environmental works to restore what was once a large and very deep expanse of water at Burlong Pool. Burlong Pool is a semi-permanent body of water located on the Avon River in the Shire of Northam and is an important site to the Nyungar people. It is at present being managed and developed through consultation with the local Aboriginal community.

The Department of Water has partnered with Mission Australia to host a Green Corps team based at the Avon Valley Youth services building who are undertaking works at the Pool amongst other sites. The team played a major role in the days planting activities and have been working closely with all partners to undertake the works at Burlong Pool.

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1. EVENTS

1.1 >> Calendar
1.2 >> Women Leading Change – Regional Conference 9 and 10 September 2009

1.1 Calendar

(click on event for more info)

AUGUST

2 National Tree Day
9 International Day for World Indigenous People
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
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 Women Leading Change - Regional Conference 9 and 10 September 2009

The Wheatbelt ACC is pleased to announce their next exciting event, 'Women Leading Change' - Regional Conference in Northam, September 9th & 10th 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. We have been fortunate to have secured the skills of a range of talented presenters and workshop facilitators including, Dr Carmen Lawrence, Dr Peter Dingle, Matt Hern, Shelley Taylor-Smith and Ros Worthington, of course, this impressive line up would not be possible without the invaluable contribution from our sponsors and is supported by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and forestry. Closing date for applications is 28 August 2009.

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

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2. GENERAL NEWS

2.1 >> Bodallin Catchment Group Post-Seeding Field Tour
2.2 >> Australian Government releases new guidelines help meet national environmental laws
2.3 >> Landcare Awards Nominations Closing!
2.4 >> Australian Forest Growers WA Tree Farmer of The Year Award
2.5 >> AVONGRO CFOC PROJECT UPDATE

2.1 Bodallin Catchment Group Post-Seeding Field Tour

The Bodallin Field Tour Group.

The Bodallin Catchment Group recently held a very successful Post-Seeding Field Tour. Funded through ACC's Network Support and Development Incentive Scheme, the Tour was a huge success with 35 people attending, including local farmers, farmers outside the Bodallin Catchment area and industry professionals.

Despite the very cold and windy day, everyone enjoyed looking at various NRM activities throughout the Catchment, including no-till techniques, oil mallees, liming trails, stubble retention, saltbush and revegetation techniques. After the tour, everyone enjoyed a few drinks at the Moorine Rock pub, courtesy of WANTFA, GGA and CSIRO.

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2.2 Australian Government releases new guidelines help meet national environmental laws

Important information is now available to help anyone planning developments that could affect nationally protected environments or species.

Under national environment legislation (the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) any proposal likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance needs to be assessed by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

Matters of national environmental significance are: world and national heritage sites, wetlands of international importance, nationally threatened species and ecological communities, migratory species, Commonwealth marine areas, and nuclear actions. Full media release available at:
http://www.environment.gov.au/about/media/dept-mr/dp21jul09.html

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2.3 Landcare Awards Nominations Closing!

This is a friendly reminder that nominations for the 2009 West Australian Landcare Awards will shortly be closing on August 7th. If you could please send this reminder out to all Landcare and environmental groups it would be greatly appreciated.

The Landcare Awards provide groups with a fantastic platform to discuss the important environmental work being conducted around the great state of WA.

If you are working towards a better environmental future then let your work be recognised and your voice heard through the State Landcare Awards. Know of a great project? Then nominate them for an award and let them receive the acknowledgement they deserve.

For more information please simply contact Amy Green or Natalie Moore on the details below or visit
http://wa.landcareheroes.com

Amy Green:
PR Manager Landcare Australia (WA & NT)
9368 3869
0448 883 703
amy.green@landcareaustralia.com.au

Natalie Moore:
Projects Officer Landcare Australia
9368 3166
natalie.moore@landcareaustralia.com.au

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2.4 Australian Forest Growers WA Tree Farmer of The Year Award

Time is running out to put in your entry for the Tree Farmer of the Year Award. The winner of this prestigious state Award will be the WA state representative at the National Australian Forest Growers' Awards. The WA state winner will be announced at the State Landcare Awards Gala Dinner at the Geraldton NRM conference later this year.

The AFG WA Tree Farmer of the Year Award honours and acknowledges landowners or private forest managers who, by their personal efforts, demonstrate effective tree growing, silvicultural management of tree crop areas, or other forestry practices on their property, to achieve one or more of the following aims:
1. production of timber or other commercial products
2. protection of agricultural assets, production systems, water
3. biodiversity conservation and enhancement of natural bushland.

Give low-rainfall tree crops a national profile – put in your entry by Friday August 7th! entry forms can be found at: http://www.nrm.wa.gov.au/NRM_events.htm

For more information, explanation of criteria, conditions of entry, and more about the Australian Forest Growers Tree Farmer of the Year Award please contact Monica Durcan – phone (08) 9291 8249 or email mdurcan@iinet.net.au

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2.5 AVONGRO CFOC PROJECT UPDATE

L – R: Measuring Brushwood biomass in the field; Destructive sampling of 8 year old Sandalwood with its jam host; Disassembling the plants in the lab and recording the green weight; and Drying the samples, ready for a second weighing.

AVONGRO, in conjunction with a range of partners, is half way through a one year Caring for our Country Project 'Developing Sustainable Production Systems, Resilient to Climate Change – Baselining'.

The project has many facets, one of which is to collate information on the current status of tree cropping in the Avon. This baseline data will help everyone in the region to measure future change. Land managers in the Avon are also participating in the project either by making their sites and tree crops available to the team and/or by participating in surveys and information sharing.

A large and very important part of the project is the calibration of CSIRO's Scenario Planning and Investment Framework (SPIF) tool for Avon conditions. This tool http://www.csiro.au/solutions/CEFModellingTools.html allows land managers, NRMOs and farm advisors to assess the environmental and financial viability of production enterprises.

The CSIRO team have been busily collecting growth data for Brushwood and Sandalwood systems from various rainfall zones and soil types throughout the Avon. Literally thousands of plants have been measured in the field and hundreds cut and taken back to the CSIRO laboratory in Floreat where each leaf, twig and branch is weighed green and after drying.

AVONGRO would like to acknowledge and thank project partners CSIRO, DAFWA, Australian Sandalwood Network, Brushwood growers, Oil Mallee Association and particularly the land managers who have generously given their sites for field measurements, insights to holistic production systems and their healthy plants for destructive sampling. Keep an eye on the special page on the AVONGRO website for updates on this exciting project:
http://www.avongro.com.au/Webpages/CfoC.htm

3. FUNDING

3.1 >> "Shaping Change in Communities" Busselton, Western Australia

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

3.1 "Shaping Change in Communities" Busselton, Western Australia

Are you under 30 and involved in practice change?
Then we invite you to apply for a Scholarship to attend the Australasia-Pacific Extension Network 5th International Conference 9 – 11 November 2009

"Shaping Change in Communities" Busselton, Western Australia

APEN has obtained support from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry under its Australia's Farming Future initiative, Next Gen of Farmers, for 10 young people to attend the 2009 International APEN Conference in Busselton.
The scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis and will include:

- full conference registration,
- 3 nights accommodation at Abbey Beach Resort,
- $550 towards travel expenses (GST inclusive),
- APEN membership and
- access to the APEN mentoring scheme.

Applications are due 20th August and should be submitted too conference09@apen.org.au . Please find the attached letter on how to apply for a scholarship to attend the APEN conference and benefit from an APEN membership. Existing APEN members can apply but if you have already registered for the conference you would not be eligible for the full scholarship.

Further information about the conference can be found at www.apen.org.au or emailing conference09@apen.org.au or phoning 1800 831 663.

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4. OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 >> Assessing and Managing Sustainability Issues
4.2 >> Upcoming workshops: Enabling Change and Facilitation Skills
4.3 >> Farm Water Workshops

4.1 Assessing and Managing Sustainability Issues using HACCP and Certifying Environmental and Welfare performance using SQF courses

- ***Do you need to demonstrate environmental or natural resource stewardship in a farm business?***
- ***Would your farm, project or region benefit from enhanced environmental / natural resource planning?***
- ***Do you work with individual producers, or producer groups or processors***
- ***who would benefit by demonstrating their environmental stewardship?***
- ***Need to know more about designing, developing and deploying a certified management system in***
- ***agriculture or food?***

If you have answered 'YES' to some of the above: the upcoming Assessing and Managing Sustainability Issues using HACCP and Certifying Environmental and Welfare performance using SQF courses can provide you with a detailed understanding on how to design, develop, deploy and certify a management system that can demonstrate to markets and regulators that good stewardship practices are in place and desirable outcomes are being achieved. Then the two courses will provide you with the knowledge you are seeking!

Dates and location: (subject to final confirmation)

Assessing and Managing Sustainability Issues - Noon Wednesday 29 July to 3pm Friday 31 July 2 2009
Certifying Environment and Welfare performance – 6pm Wednesday 19 August to 3pm Friday 21 August 2009
Please Note: There will be evening sessions for both courses. Both courses are residential (live in) at the Muresk Campus – Curtin University of Technology – NORTHAM
Contact: John Noonan Mobile 0429 13 5504 Facsimile (08) 9266 4422 j.noonan@curtin.edu.au

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4.2 Upcoming workshops: Enabling Change and Facilitation Skills

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1. Enabling Change
The hands-on master class on the design of behaviour change projects (2 days)

This is gradually becoming a standard course for sustainability educators, health promoters, NRM staff, and marketing and comms professionals.
Starting with nothing more than a problem statement, participants use a simple yet powerful step-by-step process to design and evaluate real life behaviour change projects. It includes an insightful crash course on the social and motivational psychology of behaviour change.
"Sharp, accurate, concise and applicable the moment I step out the door." - community programs manager, NZ regional council

Sydney: 25-26 August
Melbourne: 2-3 September

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2. Facilitation Skills
Learn to facilitate any group with confidence (1 day)

This intensive one-day workshop is a great opportunity to build sound group work skills. You'll learn a fantastic all-purpose template for designing effective facilitated sessions, practice your interaction skills in a safe environment, and find ways to deal effectively with conflict.

"On target for what is needed in our jobs." - catchment manager, Victoria
Due to many requests, I'm offering this workshop to an open audience for the first time. It's limited to a maximum of 8 participants, so book early to ensure a place.
Sydney: 8 September

For more information on both these workshops, click on: www.enablingchange.com.au

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4.3 Farm Water Workshops

Brookley Consulting in NSW is offering two workshops on Water Conservation Planning and Planning for Stock & Domestic Water Supply.

The cost of both courses may fully re-imbursed through the FarmReady Reimbursment Grants Program for eiligible participants. If you are interested in these workshops, please contact Brookely Consulting direct, as these courses may be run in WA if enough interest is shown.

For more information, see http://www.brookleyconsulting.com.au/page1005.html

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5. STAFF FOCUS

Katie Barr

Hi all! I have been helping out at ACC for 4 months now on a casual basis. I have been involved in Final Project reporting, general project file maintenance and tidy, Project tracking, and more recently support in organizing the upcoming ACC AGM.

I am a local to Northam and have returned here recently, after four years travelling around Australia on a working holiday.

My husband and I have a beautiful 18mth old son, who fills our days with endless pleasure and excitement!

I am a member of the Link Theatre group, and am currently enjoying my first production "Love begins at Fifty", which is finishing up this week to rave reviews from all who have seen it.

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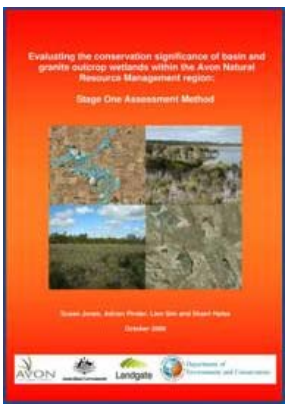
6. PUBLICATIONS

Evaluating the conservation significance of basin and granite outcrop wetlands within the Avon Natural Resource Management region: Stage One Assessment Method



This publication describes a wetland evaluation and classification methodology for use at a regional scale in the Avon Natural Resource Management region and the broader Wheatbelt of Western Australia.

This methodology, funded by the Avon Catchment Council (ACC) through Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and National Action Plan for salinity (NAP) funding, provides a procedure for classifying and evaluating basin and granite outcrop wetlands in the Avon Natural Resource Management (NRM) region, at a regional-scale.

For the purposes of this methodology the conservation significance of a wetland reflects its scientific, educational, amenity, spiritual, philosophical, recreational, consumptive use and ecosystem service value. The information available on each of these values at the regional-scale is limited, therefore not every value is represented in this document (for example, there is limited data available on the ecosystem service value of wetlands, e.g. flood mitigation, nutrient stripping).

Click here to download the publication:
http://www.avonnrm.org.au/reports_publications/Biodiversity/wetlandsevaluationmethod1/file/at_download

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Click here to view all our NRM and Funding links

Featured Link:

The Avon Natural Diversity Program

http://www.avonnaturaldiversity.org

***The Avon Natural Diversity Alliance (ANDA) is a groundbreaking Partnership within Natural Resource Management (NRM) and see's a collaborated approach to the environment being embarked upon*.**

Comprised of Greening Australia (WA), WWF Australia, the Department of Water and the Department of Environment and Conservation, ANDA is a functional example of modern day landcare organisational structures with this partnership enabling a more effective approach to many of the Avon natural diversity projects.

The organisations each work across a range of Projects for the Avon Catchment Council, often in partnership with another ANDA organisation. ANDA has commenced the delivery of several Avon investment plan projects that focus on the recovery and protection of native species and communities, ecosystems, and landscapes. They are aimed at contributing to the achievement of the long-term targets identified in the Avon NRM Strategy.

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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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