

**David, Chris**

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**From:** David, Chris  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 February 2010 4:59 PM  
**Subject:** Wheatbelt NRM E-News Issue 70



wheatbelt  
natural resource  
management

**e-news**



ISSUE 70, 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2010

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

### **Wheatbelt NRM Community Forums - SAVE THE DATE!**

Express your views on natural resource management, meet the new Wheatbelt NRM sub-regional director and hear the latest from some of the leading voices in NRM, Agribusiness and improved Farm practices

Three unique forums will be held in Wongan Hills (Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April), Merredin (Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April) and Hyden (Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April) at community centres. Planning is well underway and the day will be hosted by Ernie Dingo.

We invite all interested community members to attend.

Flyers and invitations will be sent out shortly so look out for an e-announcement in your mailbox soon!

If you have any ideas on what you'd like to see included please contact Liz Kington on 9690 2296.

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



## **1. EVENTS**

- 1.1 >> Show Me the Change - A National Conference on 'Evaluation of Behaviour Change' for Sustainability.
- 1.2 >> Narrow margins and changing weather patterns – free workshop series
- 1.3 >> Reduce Fertiliser inputs WITHOUT reducing CROP YIELDS

## **1.1 Show Me the Change - A National Conference on 'Evaluation of Behaviour Change' for Sustainability.**

We all know that behaviour change is complex. How do we show what's working and how do we evaluate it? You are invited to participate in *Show Me The Change* and explore what matters most to you. With an increasing awareness of the need to implement community-wide change towards a more sustainable society, there are numerous endeavours working to change people's behaviours. But how do we know what is working? Many of us claim that our programs are successful ... but are they really? "Show Me The Change!" And what should we be focusing on when evaluating change programs? And what tools are available to help us? Show Me The Change is not just a stocktake of tools and tactics ... it's a space where we can explore worldviews and revisit the goals and values that underpin our work. For example, discussing the influence of funders and accountability, and how this influences evaluation requirements and approaches. Are we asking the right questions?

"Everything that can be counted, does not necessarily count; everything that counts, cannot necessarily be counted"  
Albert Einstein.

For more information and to register your interest, visit the website at <http://www.showmethechange.net.au/>

***Back to top***

## **1.2 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@iinet.net.au](mailto:mdurcan@iinet.net.au)



Wheatbelt Brushwood Growers



[Back to top](#)

### 1.3 Reduce Fertiliser inputs WITHOUT reducing CROP YIELDS



**Balance<sup>®</sup>**

Information SESSIONS

Balance is an exciting new input for cereal crop production designed to promote healthy SOIL BIOLOGY working together with minimal FERTILISER input to optimise nutrient cycling and crop potential. Independent agronomist Deb Archdeacon will share her passion and experience in building healthy soils as she explains the results of 7 years extensive field trials to demonstrate how BALANCE can help build a more sustainable farming system with lower financial risk.

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### INVITATION

You and a friend are invited to attend a free morning session at one of the following locations...

BALANCE INFORMATION SESSIONS		Tick Preferred Location
Tuesday Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	New Norcia Hotel	9am till Noon
Wednesday Feb 24 <sup>rd</sup>	Badgingarra Community Centre	9am till Noon
Wednesday March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dowerin Bowling Club	9am till Noon
Thursday March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Ambulance Hall Quairading	9am till Noon

Organiser Contact: David Sharp

Mob: 0419 904 001

email: [david.sharp@customcomposts.com.au](mailto:david.sharp@customcomposts.com.au)



Headoffice: Nambeelup Rd, Nambeelup WA. Ph: 9581 9582

**PLEASE FAX RESPONSE TO 9581 9585**

[Back to top](#)



## 2. GENERAL NEWS

[2.1 >> Red card ramping up](#)

[2.2 >> Caring for Our Country MERI Plans](#)

## 2.1 RED CARD RAMPING UP

The Red Card for the Red Fox and Rabbits program ramps up this month with the targeted baiting time starting 19 February and going through to 19 April.

Once again Sally Thomson is coordinating this project and she encourages any local communities interested in participating to nominate a local coordinator and get in touch with her.

The Red Card program aims to support community pest control efforts and works by coordinating the community so that maximum impact can be achieved.

Last year over 90 groups participated through out the agricultural region of Western Australia.

Stockbrands are once again supporting the program by offering a donation to the RFDS for every fox counted as part of registered community fox shoots. All shooters must submit the NLIS / PIC (Property Identification Code) for their cull to be counted – giving Stockbrands important statistical information. Landholders involved that purchase Stockbrands will go into the annual Stockbrands raffle, with 5 prizes to be drawn, including a 1<sup>st</sup> prize of 5000 eartags.

The Wheatbelt NRM is offering support to local groups within the Avon River Basin through the Red Card Incentives Program. Grants from this program can be used to subsidise the cost of baits or other activities associated with the Red Card program. Application forms are available through Wheatbelt NRM now, and funds will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For information on the grant program please call Rebecca Palumbo at Wheatbelt NRM or for information on Red Card please call Sally on 0417 983 356 or email [sowingseeds@bigpond.com](mailto:sowingseeds@bigpond.com).

***Back to top***

## 2.2 Caring for Our Country MERI Plans

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (or MERI) are essential components of all Wheatbelt NRM programs. Each of Wheatbelt NRM four *Caring for Our Country* programs has a MERI Plan setting out key evaluation questions, measures, methodologies, roles, responsibilities and timeframes. These plans are available on the Wheatbelt NRM website at <http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/monitoringandevaluation>

The inclusion of planned monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement activities in our programs has a number of benefits, including:

- to increase the knowledge and understanding of people participating in the project
- to allow project managers to judge whether a project is/has been successful and whether any changes should be made during the project or for future projects
- to provide information about the successes or lessons learned for planning new improved projects, as part of a continuous cycle of improvement

- to promote the project and its outcomes to the community and other key stakeholders
- to demonstrate the success of a project to funders for accountability
- to collect information that will contribute to the body of knowledge about managing the natural resource assets of the Avon region

For more information contact Michelle Kidman, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator on 9690 2250 or via email at [mkidman@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:mkidman@wheatbeltnrm.org.au)

**Need Help with monitoring, evaluation, reporting or improvement?**

Then contact Wheatbelt NRMs Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Michelle Kidman. Michelle is available to provide advice and assistance to the community and can be contacted on 9690 2250 or via email at [mkidman@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:mkidman@wheatbeltnrm.org.au)

*Back to top*

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## 3. FUNDING

**3.1>> Opportunity for funding for Wheatbelt Farmers**

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

**3.3 >> Grants & Funding websites**

### **3.1 Opportunity for funding for Wheatbelt Farmers**



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CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

## Soil Conservation Incentives Program

Round 2

A Wheatbelt NRM initiative for farmers to protect soil from wind erosion

Funding is available to help Wheatbelt Farmers and farmer groups to address wind erosion.

Grants for between \$5 000 - \$50 000 are available for planting trees and demonstrating cropping and grazing practices that help to address wind erosion.

Farmer groups and individuals in the Avon River Basin are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest by the closing date of March 15, 2010

Contact Rochelle Horlin at Wheatbelt NRM on 9690 2250  
or email [rhorlin@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:rhorlin@wheatbeltnrm.org.au)

For more information visit:  
[www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/tenders/SCIP](http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/tenders/SCIP)

[Back to top](#)

### 3.2 Sponsorship opportunity for a community member 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](#)

### 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](#)

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## 4. OPPORTUNITIES

**4.1 >> Increasing Farmer Knowledge and Adoption of Integrating Perennials into Agricultural Systems to Manage Wind Erosion 2009 to 2011**

**4.2 >> WA Job vacancies**

**4.1 Increasing Farmer Knowledge and Adoption of Integrating Perennials into Agricultural Systems to Manage Wind Erosion 2009 to 2011**



**'Increasing Farmer Knowledge and Adoption of Integrating Perennials into Agricultural Systems to Manage Wind Erosion 2009 to 2011'**

AVONGRO Wheatbelt Tree Cropping, in conjunction with the Forest Products Commission and the Oil Mallee Association of Australia, are delivering the tree cropping component of Wheatbelt NRM's new project: 'Increasing Farmer Knowledge and Adoption of Integrating Perennials into Agricultural Systems to Manage Wind Erosion 2009 to 2011' Project.

What do we have to offer participants in this project?

AVONGRO	Forest Products Commission	Oil Mallee Association
Assistance with developing EOs and Action Plans	One-on-one technical advice on the design, placement, establishment and management of sandalwood, brushwood and native timber tree crop demonstrations and trials	One-on-one technical advice on the design, placement establishment and management of oil mallee tree crop demonstrations and trials
Peer Mentors to share farmer to farmer experiences – in your patch		
Champions – who can give presentations or open their farms up for visits		
Project promotion including the production of case studies		
Assist with open days, workshops and farm/catchment tours		
Collating information to determine project outcomes		

**Contact details:**

AVONGRO	Forest Products Commission	Oil Mallee Association
Monica Durcan, Executive Officer 9291 8249, 0418 934 870 <a href="mailto:mdurcan@iinet.net.au">mdurcan@iinet.net.au</a>	Amanda Rukuwai 0427 380 977 <a href="mailto:amanda.rukuwai@fpc.wa.gov.au">amanda.rukuwai@fpc.wa.gov.au</a>	David McFall 9881 5373, 0429 815 373 <a href="mailto:templemc@treko.net.au">templemc@treko.net.au</a>

We encourage demonstrations and trials that combine the various management options of on offer through this project.

## 4.12 Western Australian job vacancies:

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

*Back to top*



# 5. PUBLICATIONS

Proposed guidelines for treating acidic drain water in the Avon catchment, Western

## Australia: adapting acid mine drainage treatment systems for saline acidic drains



Using deep drainage in the WA Wheatbelt to manage shallow saline groundwater in broad valley floors can lead to discharge of acidic saline water that may require treatment of the acidity and removal of metals and minor elements before disposal or further use. The low pH and high concentrations of metals and other elements can pose environmental risks where water is discharged to creeks, floodways and lakes. The sustainable use of deep drains in managing dryland salinity will depend on meeting the pressing need to develop low-cost, practical, and effective options to treat acidity.

[View Proposed guidelines for treating aciic drainwater in the Avon River Catchment.pdf](#) (PDF document 2614Kb)

[Back to top](#)

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## 6. LINKS

**Featured Link:**

### The National Reserve System



The National Reserve System is Australia's network of protected areas, conserving examples of our natural landscapes and native plants and animals for future generations. Based on a scientific framework, it is the nation's natural safety

net against our biggest environmental challenges.

The reserve system includes more than 9,000 protected areas covering more than 11 per cent of the country. It is made up Commonwealth, state and territory reserves, Indigenous lands and protected areas run by non-profit conservation organisations, through to ecosystems protected by farmers on their private working properties.

To view click on the following link:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/index.html>

**Back to top**

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

**Back to top**

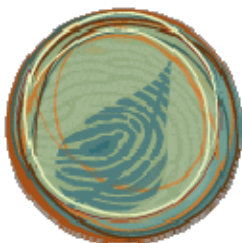
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**Back to top**



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

