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e-news

wheatbelt natural resource management

ISSUE 59, 25th AUGUST 2009

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Quote of the Day

"Let every individual and institution now think and act as a responsible trustee of Earth, seeking choices in ecology, economics and ethics that will provide a sustainable future, eliminate pollution, poverty and violence, awaken the wonder of life and foster peaceful progress in the human adventure."

John McConnell, founder of International Earth Day

Project Success – Funding provided for the Avon Wheatbelt National Reserve System Project

Wheatbelt NRM along with our project partners WWF Australia, NACC and Blackwood Basin Group were very excited to receive advice last week that our CFOC competitive project application had been successful.

Funding of $660,000 in the first year is being provided to strengthen the National Reserve System in the Avon Wheatbelt Bioregion and the Western Mallee Sub Region, with the possibility to extend the project for up to 4 years if the project is successfully meeting objectives and outcomes.

The project will work with land managers within these bioregions to protect priority bushland through the use of conservation agreements and management plans.

We are looking forward to planning this project with the National Reserve System Unit from the Australian Government and working with them to ensure the sustainability of the regions ecosystems.

Wheatbelt NRM call for director nominations and membership

Wheatbelt NRM Incorporated
(formerly Avon Catchment Council Incorporated)

Would you like a seat at our table?

Call for Nominations

Director positions for Board of Management

Wheatbelt NRM is an independent community based group providing community leadership for natural resource management.

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc (Wheatbelt NRM), formerly known as Avon Catchment Council, invites eligible candidates to nominate for four (4) vacant Board of Management positions, to be appointed at this year's Annual General Meeting, to be held Wednesday 22 October 2009.

The Board of Management is a skills-based Board with the following skills desired:

NRM Management and Industry Knowledge | Expertise in Avon River Basin land and waterscapes | Strategic planning | Financial management

Board Directors are provided a financial honorarium and re-imbursement of travel expenses.

For further information please contact Peter Sullivan on:
(08) 9690 2267 or psullivan@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

Application kits can be obtained by contacting Katie Barr on:
(08) 9690 2250 or kbarr@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

Applications close 11 September 2009

Wheatbelt NRM Incorporated
(formerly Avon Catchment Council Incorporated)

An opportunity to have a voice and be recognised

CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP

Wheatbelt NRM is an independent community based group providing community leadership for natural resource management.

To better understand the needs of the Avon River Basin community, Wheatbelt NRM seeks to create a Member group from organisations who operate or reside within the Avon River Basin. Being part of our Membership will ensure your organisations interests are considered as part of our overall, planning, prioritising and on-ground activities.

Members are not required to pay a subscription fee.

We are inviting Australian organisations that are operating or residing within the Avon River Basin and are involved with, or have influence on, its natural resources to submit an application for Membership to become part of the natural resource management community.

Application forms can be obtained by contacting Katie Barr on:
(08) 9690 2250 or kbarr@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

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1. EVENTS

1.1 Calendar

(click on event for more info)

August

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

September

Biodiversity month - all month

1 Wattle Day
2-3 Newdegate Field Day
7 National Threatened Species Day
7 – 12 Women Leading Change Conference
9 WANTFA Spring Field Day
10 SPA Annual Field Day
11– 13 Sustainable House Day
12– 13 Kwongan Colloquium email barbara.jamieson@uwa.edu.au
13 National Bilby Day
16 Facey Group Field Day
16 Corrigin Farm Improvement Group Field Day Contact email sturton@corrigin.wa.gov.au
16 International Day for preserving the Ozone Layer
18 World Water Monitoring Day
20 National Neighborhood Day
22 World Car-Free Day
22-25 Florabank Seed Collectors Course Geraldton (see below)
24 Avongro and ASN AGM (see below)

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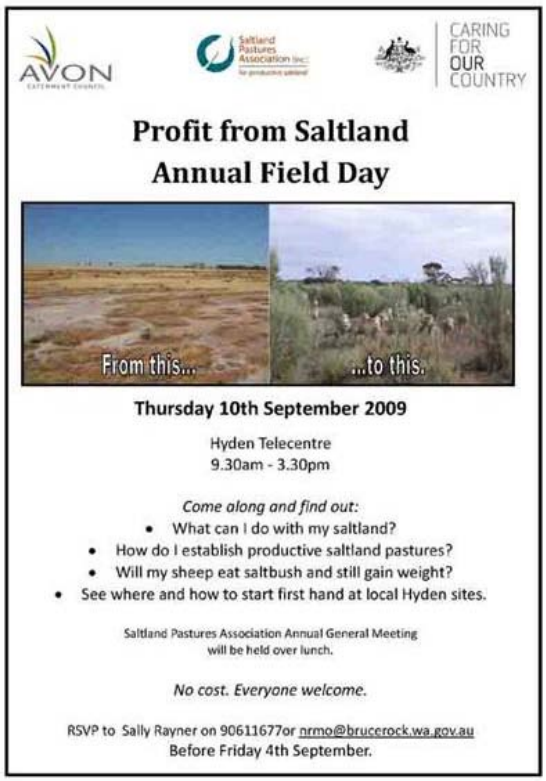

AVON

Saltland Pastures Association Inc.

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

Profit from Saltland
Annual Field Day

From this... ...to this.

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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AVONGRO Wheatbelt Tree Cropping and the Australian Sandalwood Network AGM.

DATE: Thursday September 24th 2009

VENUE: Department of Agriculture and Food WA, Centre for Cropping Systems, York Road Northam

TIMES: AVONGRO from 10am, ASN from 1:30pm

RSVP: to Monica (mdurcan@iinet.net.au) or Bethan (exec@sandalwood.org.au) if you are attending both AGMs and are staying for lunch

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Kwongan Colloquium 2009

Biodiversity in the wheatbelt:
where do we go in the 21st century?
12 and 13 September 2009

Organisers: School of Plant Biology and Conservation Council, together with Science Divisions of Kings Park & Botanic Garden and Department of Environment and Conservation, with sponsorship from the Shire of York.
http://www.plants.uwa.edu.au/alumni/kwongan

Audience: Fellow scientists, growers, managers of the land, environmental officers working for mining companies, anybody with a keen interest in native plants in WA, landowners with rare and endangered species on their land, people responsible for management of road verges.

Aims: To enhance awareness of the significance of native plants in the general community and build stronger links between UWA's School of Plant Biology and its associates with the conservation and mining industry and the wider community. Explore options to work towards collaboration, e.g., in ARC-Linkage proposals with conservation and mining industry and any other interested parties.
Location: Town Hall, 1 Joaquina Street, York
www.york.wa.gov.au

Time: Saturday, 12 September, 2009 (followed by a field trip on Sunday 13 September; field trip not included in the cost given below).

Cost: $110 [$75 for our alumni and (honorary) patrons], including morning and afternoon tea, lunch, sundowner and a USB containing all the presentations. Concessions are available for non-government organisations and unwaged attendees.

Registrations close 29th August. For more info contact
Barbara Jamieson
School of Plant Biology, UWA
(08) 6488 1782
barbara.jamieson@uwa.edu.au

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Florabank Seed Collecting training course in WA soon.

Florabank will be holding a Professional Development Training Course for seed collectors in conjunction with the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council in Western Australia. This Florabank Training course is designed for people with some prior experience of seed collecting who want to improve their skills and knowledge.

The course will be held from 22-25 September 2009 in Geraldton.

Cost is $1500 (+GST) for 4 days of professional training, which includes the course manual, a field trip, practical activities, assessment costs, morning, afternoon tea, and lunches during the course. For enrolment enquiries, or to reserve your place at this course, please contact Ingrid at Greening Australia on 02 6202 1600

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2. GENERAL NEWS

2.1 >> *'Caring for our Country' congratulations on Wheatbelt Shires success*
2.2 >> Report shows pests continue to cost our agricultural industries
2.3>> New Swan River Trust website.
2.4 >> New publication provides farmers with survival solutions for drier times

2.1 'Caring for our Country' congratulations on Wheatbelt Shires success

WEROC and NEWROC NRMO Staff members: From left (back row) Tobias Vudzijena, Brad Thompson, Tracey Hobbs, Rosie Bogle, Sam Pickering (front row) Kara Hatch, Sally Rayner and Jessica Smith

The Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils [WEROC] in conjunction with the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils [NEWROC] and the South East Avon Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils [SEAVROV] have been successful in their Federal Government, Caring For Our Country [CFoC] grant submission and will receive $786,000 over the next four years. Funding will provide landholders in these regions with a range of innovative opportunities to reduce land degradation risks associated with wind erosion.

To achieve sustainable farming systems, combating wind erosion is a priority. This project aims to support landholders to continue to balance production and the environment, and a focus includes providing Oil Mallee, Saltbush, Brushwood, Casuarina obesa and Sandalwood host seedlings and / or Lucerne seed to eligible landholders at either a subsided rate or at no cost, to target areas prone to wind erosion. The project will also encourage, where applicable, the implementation of wind breaks, tree crops, alley farming systems and / or perennial pasture systems and diversity in farming systems.

WEROC, NEWROC and SEAVROC are voluntary organisations that view integrated Natural Resource Management [NRM] and sustainable farming practices as core business for a better future and collaboration between the three regional groups as essential

in achieving maximum on-ground outcomes across the Avon Wheatbelt. Project funding will be delivered by WEROC's and NEWROC's community based NRM officers and SEAVROC's Planning and Land Use Management Group [PLUM], and will follow on from WEROC in partnership with NEWROC's successful 2008, CFoC project 'Adopting Innovative Practices to Improve the Resilience of Farming Systems in the Eastern and North Eastern Wheatbelt of Western Australia'.

Landholders in WEROC Shires, Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Yilgarn and Westonia; SEAVROC Shires, Beverley, Brookton, Cunderdin, Quairading and York; and NEWROC Shires, Koorda, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Trayning and Wyalkatchem, who are interested in participating will be notified through local media in the coming months for expressions of interest.

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2.2 Report shows pests continue to cost our agricultural industries

A report recently released shows pests continue to have a major economic impact on our agricultural industries, with the cost of rabbits alone almost doubling in five years to an estimated $206 million annually.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke today launched the report, 'The economic impacts of vertebrate pests in Australia' produced by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). Mr Burke said better pest management was an investment in the future of our agricultural industries. Full report can be found at;

http://www.maff.gov.au/media/media_releases/2009/august/report_shows_pests_continue_to_cost_our_agricultural_industries

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2.3 New Swan River Trust website.

The website will provide up to date information for a wider range of audiences. The design, navigation and writing style has changed and we have provided new information for our users to access in an easier navigation design.

Rod Hughes, General Manager said: "This new website will provide the foundation of our new approach to online communications. It paves the way for the Trust to communicate to a wider range of audiences and will also host our new e-newsletter. It also provides more information for visitors to the Swan Canning Riverpark and ways for everyone to be part of the action".

Go to www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au

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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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3. FUNDING

3.1 >> Farm Ready Grants
3.2 >> Grants and Funding websites

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

3.1 Farm Ready Grants

Primary producers, primary industries and natural resource management groups can apply for grants of up to $80,000 a year. The funding supports projects to help farmers adapt to climate change, mitigate or transform.

Federal Minister for Agriculture Tony Burke says: "Our farming sector will be among the hardest hit by climate change if we don't act now to help farmers adapt to the challenges of the future".

Applications for round two of the FarmReady Industry Grants of up to $80,000 a year will close at 5 pm AEST 30 September 2009. For more information visit www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/australias-farming-future/farmready

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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

4.1 Western Australian job vacancies:

Multiple NRM Roles, South West Catchment Council, South West WA
Chief Executive Officer, South West Catchments Council, Bunbury
Environmental Sustainability Technician, Esperance Ports Sea & Land, $60K, Esperance
Commercial Licence & Lease Officer, Swan River Trust, Riverpark, $60-63K, East Perth
Airport Environment Officer (pt), DITRDLG, $63-72K, Perth
More info at http://www.nrmjobs.com.au

4.2 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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5. STAFF FOCUS

Jill Symington

DEC Conservation Officer (Wongan Hills Ecoscape Project)

I've been working at DEC for just over 12 months after moving from Perth to live in Northam. My role with the Wongan Hills Ecoscape project has involved working with landholders in Wongan Hills to protect the area's great biodiversity by fencing remnants, buffering remnants by revegetation, and feral animal and weed control.

I've also enjoyed coordinating various workshops and field days which were held to encourage community involvement and increase awareness of the significant biodiversity found in Wongan Hills.

Prior to working for DEC, I was working as a botanist for an environmental consulting firm based in Perth. I was involved in undertaking flora surveys and enjoyed working in some beautiful landscapes in the Goldfields and Great Southern regions.

I'm enjoying living in Northam and am currently planning my new garden. We've also recently taken on an orphan lamb – Sinclair. He's starting to pull through after some early struggles. It's our first lamb and he's been a wonderful addition to the household.
Jill can be contacted on **Ph: (08) 9622 8940 Mobile: 0418 134 023 Email: jill.symington@dec.wa.gov.au**

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6. PUBLICATIONS

INTRODUCTION TO ACIDIC SALINE GROUNDWATER IN THE WA WHEATBELT

This information sheet is an introduction to the acidic saline groundwaters of the Wheatbelt: where they occur, the origins of their acidity, aspects and methods to manage or treat these.

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

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7. LINKS

Click here to view all our NRM and Funding links

Featured Link:

Perth Region NRM

http://www.perthregionnrm.com

Perth Region NRM (formerly the Swan Catchment Council) is a community-led regional organisation responsible for coordinating and delivering natural resource management (NRM) in the Perth Region.

As one of 56 regionally based organisations from around Australia, Perth Region NRM is helping to achieve a nation-wide approach to management and restoration of our environment.

Perth Region NRM is an incorporated association, made up of members from the community, State Government, Local Government and the corporate sector.

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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 cwilson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au or fax to 9690 2255.

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