

**From:** [Wheatbelt NRM](#)  
**To:** [David, Chris](#)  
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## Wheatbelt NRM Logo



March 2011

## Wheatbelt NRM E-Newsletter



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## Issue 95

Dear Chris

Welcome to an early edition of the Wheatbelt NRM E-News.

Pencil the date in now for the State NRM conference held in conjunction with the International Society on Digital Earth (ISDE7) taking place August 23-25 at the Perth Convention Centre.

A reminder that Wheatbelt NRM invites you to take part in a public discussion about Caring for our Country. – what you have found works well, what can be done better, or completely new ideas - see below in news for more details.

And for those looking out for a career in NRM be sure to check out the Program Coordinator (Biodiversity) position with Wheatbelt NRM in our opportunities section below.

Kind regards,

Wheatbelt NRM



## Events

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### Collaborative Decision Making in NRM

The Collaborative Decision-Making in NRM Conference is back for a second year! Over 130+ people attended in 2010 and we anticipate that this year will be much bigger and better! Join over 20 NRM experts as they share their insights on cross-sector and cross-scale governance arrangements to improve NRM outcomes.

[Download the new brochure](#)

SAVE up to \$550 when you register by Friday, 1st April 2011

Call us in 1300 316 882 for more information

By attending, you will gain insights into:

- Designing roles and responsibilities for shared decision-making
- Approaches for aligning regional, state and national objectives
- NRM governance arrangements across jurisdictions
- The role of community-based groups and networks in NRM governance
- Challenges and opportunities for NRM in carbon investments

To register, simply:

Call: 1300 316 882

[Book online](#)

Email: [registration@criterionconferences.com](mailto:registration@criterionconferences.com)



### Paddock Workshop BODALLIN CATCHMENT GROUP (INC)

When: Wednesday 30th March 2011

Time: 9.30am

Where: Wind Erosion Project site at Clint Della Bosca's, Bennett Road, Sth Moorine

Get your hands dirty!

Hands on activities including: comparing wind erosion risks, rainfall readiness of soil, control of weeds and moisture storage.

Seven different treatments

- Brown manuring/Chemical fallow
- Enhanced cover – early senesce
- Enhanced cover – late senesce
- Normal stubble retention
- Use of "Weed Seeker" or "Weed It"
- Use of "Grizzley"

LUNCH PROVIDED - RSVP FOR CATERING BY 25th March

Drinks and nibbles afterwards

PHONE JOHN BUTCHER ON 90475031 or email:



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### ISDE7 and the State Landcare Conference

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, 23-25 August 2011.

The Seventh Symposium of the International Society on Digital Earth (ISDE7) will provide an exciting insight into the use of digital technologies in today's and tomorrow's world. It will explore the role Digital Earth technology plays in economic and social sustainable development, environmental protection, disaster mitigation, natural resources conservation and improvement of human being's living standard.

Global thinking and local action will be merged in an extensive program provided by the joining of forces of ISDE, the [WALIS Forum](#) (WA Land Information Services Forum) and the [WA NRM](#) (Natural Resources Management) Office. The combined communities of digital earth modellers, spatial scientists and those involved in conservation and sustainable management will come together for the first time to network and share valuable insights.

ISDE7 delegates are offered a conference rich in choices, with some 'must see' [keynote speakers](#) including Jack Dangermond – ESRI President, Elizabeth Lee - Director for Projects and Development at CyArk, Ian Jackson – British Geological Survey and Dr Linlin Ge – University of New South Wales.

The Conference will be held at the world class Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre overlooking the magnificent Swan River surrounded by many hotels and restaurants.

The Sponsorship and Trade Exhibition Prospectus has been developed and if your organisation would like to be involved in the conference as a Sponsor or take a booth at the Trade show please download the Prospectus [here](#) OR contact the Event Managers, ICE Australia via [email](#).



### General News

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### Next step in carbon farming announced by the Federal Government

A carbon offsets scheme to provide new economic opportunities for farmers, forest growers and landholders, and help the environment by reducing carbon pollution, has been established as part of the Federal Government's Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI).

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Minister, Greg Combet, says people can now submit methodologies to the Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee to be assessed for use under the CFI. The committee will assess the technical merit of offset methodologies and ensure that CFI projects result in real abatement.

Mr Combet says methodologies developed by so-called early movers can be considered, and any remaining technical issues resolved, in advance of the legislation providing for the Carbon Farming Initiative. The legislation is expected to be introduced to Parliament in the first half of 2011.

Mr Combet says people will then be able to get started with their project planning and realise early investment opportunities.

Interim guidelines for Submitting Methodologies are now available on the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website. The guidelines have been developed following public consultation on the proposed CFI design.

The guidelines have been prepared to allow early assessment of CFI methodologies which will fast-track offset projects when the scheme starts. Further information on the Carbon Farming Initiative can be [found here](#).



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### Caring for our Country Review - Have your say!

Wheatbelt NRM invites you to take part in a public discussion about Caring for our Country. – what you have found works well, what can be done better, or completely new ideas.

Wheatbelt NRM will be collating input to submit to the Australian Government on behalf of our members and associates. We are seeking your views about Caring for our Country; whether it has met its objective and what issues the Australian Government may need to consider in developing future options for natural resource management programs. Your submission can be as long or short as you like and will form part of a Wheatbelt wide submission in helping shape future Australian Government support for Natural Resource Management (NRM).

Alternatively you may wish to submit a separate response.

Please send through your response for collective submission directly to:

Natarsha Woods, Operations Manager Wheatbelt NRM on  
[nwoods@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:nwoods@wheatbeltnrm.org.au)

We ask you to please reply by Friday 6th of May 2011.

You may also find it useful to read the CFOC discussion paper

before preparing your submission:

[Review of Caring for our Country discussion paper \(Australian Govt\)](#)

Alternatively you can reply via the Caring for our country discussion forum: [www.caringforourcountryreview.com.au](http://www.caringforourcountryreview.com.au)

In this forum you can air your views and experiences, contribute to existing discussions, catch up with community or industry partners, and find out what others are saying about Caring for our Country.



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### Get involved in The Great Cocky Count 2011

Get involved in conserving an endangered and iconic Western Australia species, by joining Birds Australia with The Great Cocky Count 2011 on 7th April.

The survey, organised by the Birds Australia's Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project, in partnership with Department of Environment and Conservation aims to better map critical habitat in the form of night roosts for this threatened species across the southwest of Western Australia.

We need volunteers to find night roosts and get a 'snap shot' of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo numbers, and to carry out follow up surveys. We will be repeating last year's incredibly successful survey, this year we're working across the entire Swan Coastal Plain, from Geraldton to Busselton and we are spreading our even wings further, we want roost locations and counts from across the species range.

Participating in the Great Cocky Count is easy and fun, it involves getting to your site half an hour before sunset and counting the birds as they fly across the sky into the roost, until about half an hour after sun set. So get involved, find roost, pack a picnic, and make an evening out of it.

If you know of a roost site or would be interested in being a volunteer observer please e-mail Xander at; [greatcockycount@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:greatcockycount@birdsaustralia.com.au) or call/text 0404713866.



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**Urban Developer - a new tool for water-sensitive urban**

## design

eWater CRC has released Urban Developer, a new tool to support Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM). The software allows users to plan and assess how a system based on water-sensitive design principles will operate.

This next generation software tool—available now in a free beta version—incorporates all urban water cycle services (stormwater, wastewater, potable water and re-use) within a single framework.

Urban Developer allows urban water managers to compare options for IUWM, ranging in scale from the allotment to the suburb.

The software lets users explore questions such as, what is the best balance between reticulated water and alternative supplies—including rainwater tanks or third pipe systems—to give the best outcome. Water managers can examine these options with respect to water security and hydrological impacts, while understanding their effects on ecological sustainability.

The Urban Developer modelling framework is equally applicable to brown and greenfield sites and can simulate demand and supply interactions at sub-daily time scales, and deal with catchment rainfall-runoff responses at a range of scales.

The program allows the user to alter factors affecting individual blocks and streets and visualise how this will impact at the suburb scale. It highlights the potential interactions of water supplies from reservoirs, stormwater, rainwater tanks and wastewater.

No other software for urban water management allows such consistent, and detailed, evaluation of integrated urban water management options.

With a focus on water quantity and the total water cycle, Urban Developer complements eWater's popular product, music, which is designed for stormwater quality management.

[Find out more](#)



## Funding

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### Be Naturally Landcare grant

Be Natural Cereal and Snacks partnered with Landcare Australia in late 2010 to support 6 landcare groups across Australia.

The aim of the partnership is to take small steps towards making a positive contribution to our natural landscape. Be Natural have looked to Landcare Australia to help them take the first small steps

to making an on-going difference to our landscape and environment.

The first six projects supported by Be Natural will assist a local environmental issue that the Landcare group is currently tackling e.g. riparian buffer zone, access ways to reduce disturbance to vegetation, exotic weed management, fauna surveys, etc. The projects are aligned with the local catchment action plan. There is a strong emphasis on involving the wider community within the project to encourage people to volunteer with local groups. Where possible Landcare groups will be encouraged to involve their local school or youth group to increase interest and participation by “junior landcarers” – the landcarers of the future.

2011 is an exciting year for the partnership where Be Natural Cereal and Snacks will launch an open grant round to support Landcare groups across Australia. The open grant round aims to provide much needed funding to 25 groups across Australia to help the continuation of on-going projects which have not received funding in the last 12 months. The additional funding will help groups extend existing community projects. It will also assist them to promote how working together with local businesses, schools, councils and the broader community can make a real difference.

The “Be Naturally Landcare” grant round will open in May of 2011 and will be open for four weeks. Eligible Landcare groups can apply via the Landcare Australia website by registering on the National Landcare Directory. Further details will be available in the coming months so stay tuned to [www.benatural.com.au](http://www.benatural.com.au)



## Opportunities

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### 2011 Banksia Award Launched

At no other time has it been more important for corporations, businesses, governments, communities and individuals, to be recognised for their environmental or sustainability credentials --- this is vital to ensure Australia's future prosperity.

More than one award to enter

The Banksia Category Awards comprise ten separate Awards and the entry system provides you with the technical information and criteria for all of the ten awards.

Subject to individual award eligibility, entrants for these Awards can be individuals, groups, communities, governments and corporations etc.

To enter a category award you will need to pay a fee and these are calculated according to your status i.e. community, large business etc. The Award Entry Kit is downloadable below and contains all the technical specifications for each Category Award together with key instructions in how to complete a Banksia Entry.

## General Eligibility

Your initiative must have recent significance, with results shown over the last two years. The initiative must be primarily undertaken in Australia, or must be shown to have a substantial environmental impact in Australia. The organisation or individual must not have been prosecuted for a violation of any environmental, social or commercial law in Australia or overseas in the past 12 months.

Refer to [Category Award Entry Kit](#) for any extra eligibility requirements.

Contact Details  
For all award queries

p: 03 9684 4667

e: [award query email](#)

a: Level 1, 40 Albert Road, South Melbourne 3205



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## Wheatbelt NRM Program Coordinator (Biodiversity)

Based in Northam

Salary range \$70,037 to \$83,322

Fulltime, fixed term contract to 30 June 2013

General Division Level 5 or Specified Calling level 2

An exciting opportunity exists to be part of a reputable team of natural resource management professionals.

The position will be responsible for managing projects that support Wheatbelt communities to achieve improved protection of biodiversity values and Aboriginal cultural values across the region.

An ability to communicate with a variety of stakeholders and an understanding of Aboriginal communities and the management of cultural heritage will be highly regarded.

Ideally the applicant will have 5+ years experience in a related field and an understanding of the unique biodiversity of the Wheatbelt.

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management is a nonprofit organisation working in partnership with community, industry and government to provide regional leadership and direction for sustainable land use and the conservation of natural resources in the Avon River Basin of Western Australia.

To apply for this position you will need to provide a covering letter and resume, detailing your experience and capabilities. Position documentation is available at:

[www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/employment](http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/employment) or by contacting Rebecca Palumbo at [rpalumbo@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:rpalumbo@wheatbeltnrm.org.au) or telephone 08 96902250.

Applications close Friday 8th April 5.00 pm WST



## Publications

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### 2010 Survey of the Avon River Basin Farming Community

In August 2010 the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management (NRM) conducted a survey of the Avon River Basin farming community on behalf of Wheatbelt NRM. The aim of the survey was to determine landholders' levels of knowledge and skills in Natural Resource Management and their engagement with Wheatbelt NRM. The survey was funded by the Australian Government under its Caring for Our Country program.

[Click here to download the survey](#)



## Focus On

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### The Avon Region

The Avon River originates at Lake Yealering in the Shire of Wickelup. The catchment area upstream of the confluence with the Salt River at Yenyening Lake is 91 500 km<sup>2</sup>.

The Mortlock river system has a catchment area of 16 800 km<sup>2</sup> and joins the Avon River at Northam.

The catchment area for the combined Avon River and Mortlock River system is 24 900 km<sup>2</sup>.

Your Avon sub-region director

Sue Middleton is the Avon sub-catchment director and will work with Members and associates of the Avon sub-region to represent key stakeholder groups to provide input to the Board of Management.

[Click here to view Sue's profile.](#)



