

David, Chris

From: Wheatbelt NRM [cdavid@wheatbeltnrm.org.au]
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To: David, Chris
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July 2010



Wheatbelt NRM E-Newsletter
working with the community to manage our natural resources

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Events, updates and Wheatbelt NRM Board opportunity

Dear Chris

Welcome to another edition of the Wheatbelt NRM E-Newsletter.

Many NRM events are coming up with the **Paddock Options for Proactive Farmers** happening on 31 August, this event will discuss current technologies and cropping systems with options for future farm viability.

We also have an update in general news from our **Nyungar Budjar Carer Kathleen Kickett** and her work around Rabbitt Monitoring and Control around Declared Rare Fauna.

And for those of you looking to share your skills in the region Wheatbelt NRM is **calling for nominations to their Board of Directors**, go to the opportunities section for more information.

Kind regards,

Wheatbelt NRM

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Events



Paddock Options for Proactive Farmers
Chris David You are invited... Take your pick!

WESTONIA : 31st August

BENCUBBIN : 1st September

BEVERLEY: 2nd September

Running from 9am-5pm, events will showcase well renowned speakers who will discuss current technologies and cropping systems with options for future farm viability.

Lunch provided with a few beverages to end the day

Venues and agendas for the day will be available shortly!

For further information please contact:

Bencubbin event : Jessica Smith (08) 9685 1202

Westonia Event: Kara Hatch (08) 9046 7063

Beverley Event: Jen Vincent (08) 9645 0016 or Emma Wilson (08) 9645 0236.

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Australian Network for Plant Conservation's National Conference in Perth!

A conference for everyone involved in conserving Australia's unique flora and native vegetation.

28 September to 1 October 2010, Perth WA

This conference is for practitioners, researchers, governments, community groups, non-government organisations and anyone else interested in plant conservation. We aim to provide updates on the latest, most relevant information, and opportunities to link up with other people working to conserve our native flora.

Further information can be found on the ANPC website: www.anpc.asn.au/conferences/2010/ or contact the ANPC office (anpc@anpc.asn.au ; ph: 02 6250 9509)

[Click here to download the flyer](#)

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General News



Landcare Week 2010 National Citizen Science campaign with ClimateWatch.
6th - 13th September 2010

This campaign encourages landcare and coastcare groups, CMAs, NRMs, schools and youth groups, business and industry, and everyone from the general community to register as a 'Landcare ClimateWatcher' for Landcare Week.

Registration is free and participants are asked to monitor, collect and record data that will be used by scientists around the world who are studying the impact of climate change on ecosystems.

Landcare Australia will be asking all Australians to help celebrate Landcare Week by participating in a citizen science activity, or by getting their hands dirty and volunteering with their local landcare group.

People can go to the web site www.landcareonline.com.au to find a local group or to register for the Landcare Week campaign. On the website you will also find other citizen science programs that you can link in with such as programs to map the spread of rabbits, weeds or water quality.

To help your group get involved with Landcare Week, we have created the Landcare Week Resource Kit, this is available on the web site for you to download. The kit includes:

- Template media release for you to send to local media
- Web site graphic for your web site
- Email signature for your group members to use
- Poster to display in your community
- Landcare Week advertisement you can ask your local newspaper to publish
- Landcare Week invitation template if you have an event

In order to promote landcare events and project activities around Australia we need groups to tell us what they are doing, we invite you to place your Landcare Week activity on the web site www.landcareonline.com.au

In Landcare,

Heather Campbell,
Landcare Australia CEO

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Trees and SCIP Round 3 - why not try something different?

You may already be thinking of your 2011 tree plantings so consider putting in a submission for Round 3 of Wheatbelt NRM's Soil Conservation Incentives Program. Significant funding can be applied for, even including fencing!

While the key outcome does need to be wind erosion control and land managers within the Avon River Basin can still apply for sandalwood hosts, brushwood and/or oil mallees, in this round there is the opportunity to trial some other species. In particular we are looking for sites to trial improved varieties of swamp sheoaks with Frankia. Frankia is a soil fungi that aids the growth of sheoaks but little work has been done in Australia. It would be good to have several trial sites replicated throughout the ARB to test this combination across the region.

If you have any ideas on native acacias with commercial potential or trialling native timbers to protect your soils from wind erosion, we would like to hear from you. AVONGRO Executive Officer, Monica Durcan, is available to help develop applications. Tree Crop Peer Mentors are also available to discuss your ideas. Contact Monica on 9291 8249, 0418 934 870 or mdurcan@iinet.net.au for any help regarding developing tree crop applications for Round 3. Application forms can be found at:

www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/funding/scip

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Wongan Cactus - *Daviesia euphorbioides*



Matchstick Banksia - *Banksia cuneata*



Rabbit Monitoring & Control around Declared Rare Flora

Over the last 6 months, Nyungar Budjar carer Kathleen Kickett has been involved in monitoring rabbit activity and rabbit control at Declared Rare Flora (DRF) sites. This work has been part of a project which aims to reduce rabbit populations to levels that enable the regeneration of critical habitat of threatened flora populations and communities. The project is partially funded through the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country.

Rabbit monitoring has involved looking for signs of activity such as the presence of scats, buckheaps, warrens and grazing. To date, Kathleen has also been involved in laying 1080 baits by hand and using a bait blower, as well as fumigating warrens using Phostoxin. Kathleen will also be involved in future project work such as installing rabbit proof fencing and weed control. The Wongan Cactus and the Matchstick Banksia are two species included in the project. A brief description of each is described below:

Wongan Cactus - *Daviesia euphorbioides*

Wongan Cactus (*Daviesia euphorbioides*) is classified as Declared Rare Flora (Critically Endangered). This plant is mostly leafless and is a spreading shrub growing to 45cm in height. It stands erect and has very thick branches. There are small, prickly scales in the place of leaves although some leaves may exist on the bottom sections of the plant.

The flowers are pea-like with a deep yellow-orange standard petal and deep red or maroon keel petal. Flowering occurs from June to August. The fruit pod is triangular with a sharp tip that opens to reveal one or two seeds per pod.

Matchstick Banksia – *Banksia cuneata*

The Matchstick Banksia (*Banksia cuneata*) is classified as Declared Rare Flora (Endangered). There is 12 natural populations and one translocation population which was planted in 2005. Main threats to this species include rabbits, drought stress, weeds and inappropriate fire regimes

The Matchstick Banksia is a shrub or small tree 2-5m tall, with smooth grey bark, erect stems and dull green leaves covered in coarse hairs.

Flowers are 3-4cm wide and cream to pink towards the base, turning pink throughout, The style is cream colour turning red and the pollen presenter is green. The fruit cone is grey, covered in soft, short matted hairs and approximately 20mm long. The seeds have a uneven triangular shape. Flowering time is around September to December and the seeds mature from September to February.

Photos: Kathleen Kickett – Noongar Budjar Carer/Conservation Employee (DEC/WNRM)

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Funding



Caring for our Country - Community Action Grants 2010-11

In the 2010-11 round up to \$8 million is available to help community groups protect the environment and to support sustainable farming practices. Investment proposals are sought from environmental, Indigenous, Landcare, Coastcare and sustainable agriculture community groups for grants of between \$5000 and \$20 000 (GST exclusive) to take action to help protect and conserve Australia's environment. Projects must be completed within 18 months.

Applications will close 31 August 2010.

More information about the 2010-11 round is available on the website www.nrm.gov.au including the 2010-11 Community Action Grants Applicant Guidelines, How to complete the Community Action Grants application and the on-line registration and application form.

If you are unable to access the website please call 1800 552 008 to obtain any or all of these documents in hard copy.

Enquiries may also be made at communityactiongrants@nrm.gov.au

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Round 3 of the Soil Conservation Incentives Program now open

Program has now opened to farmer groups or individuals in the Avon River Basin.

Round 3 of the Soil Conservation Incentives Program has now opened to farmer groups or individuals in the Avon River Basin.

\$5 000 - \$50 000 is available for implementing recommended farm management practices that protect the soil resource from wind erosion.

Two main categories of project are available from which management strategies can be selected:

- Integrating tree crops into farm systems
- Recommended cropping & grazing management practices

Applications will be assessed on the suitability of proposed works and the applicant's commitment to sharing skills and knowledge about the project with their local community.

Projects will be supported up until the end of 2012 to maximize learning about the costs and benefits of incorporating the practice into a farm enterprise.

Applications close 30 August 2010

[Application Form \(Cropping & Grazing projects\) \(MS Word 2.22MB\)](#)
[Application Form \(Cropping & Grazing projects\) \(PDF 385kb\)](#)
[Application Form \(Tree projects\) \(MS Word 1.96MB\)](#)
[Application Form \(Tree projects\) \(PDF 500kb\)](#)

Contacts

Dan Ferguson (dferguson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au - 9690 2259)
Rochelle Horlin (rhorlin@wheatbeltnrm.org.au - 9690 2258)

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Opportunities

Banksia Awards CLOSE OF ENTRIES LOOMING

Close of entries is 2 August 2010 at 5.00 pm.

There is still time to enter. So download your entry kit now.

For those working on your entries a few helpful tips: -

1. Check out the [FAQs](#) on the Banksia website
 2. Make sure all five criteria are address
 3. Stick to the recommended format in the entry kit
 4. Make a check list to ensure that all relevant items have been included before entry is sent to Banksia.
- If you have any questions [contact Banksia](#)

To those of you entering the 2010 Awards, we wish you Good Luck.

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Wheatbelt NRM

Communications Officer

Based in

Northam

Salary range

\$53,665 to \$73,578

Fulltime, fixed

term contract to 30 June 2013

Working closely with stakeholders and community, the role will be responsible for developing regional communications, business opportunities and relationship building activities for Wheatbelt NRM.

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management is a non-profit 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.

Position documentation is available at:

www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/employment or by contacting Elizabeth Kington at: ekington@wheatbeltnrm.org.au or telephone (08) 9690 2250

Applications close 5.00pm WST Friday, 13th August 2010

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Call for Nominations for Director positions on the Wheatbelt NRM Board of Management

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

We invite eligible candidates to nominate for up to three (3) vacant Board of Management positions to be appointed at this year's Annual General Meeting to be held Thursday 28 October 2010.

Board Directors are provided a financial honorarium and reimbursement for travel expenses.

For further information or an application kit please contact Hayley Blakiston on: (08) 9690 2291 or hblakiston@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

Applications close Friday 3 September 2010

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Publications



Corrigin BioBlitz Report

Helena Mills, WWF

The 2008 Corrigin BioBlitz was the fifth community-based, collaborative, 24-hour biological survey organised by WWF-Australia (WWF) in the Avon River Basin. Professional and amateur biologists, ecologists and naturalists - working as volunteers for WWF - conducted fieldwork with members of the local Corrigin community to help them discover more about the faunal biodiversity in their very high conservation value local reserve. The data obtained during the BioBlitz provides a useful indicator of environmental quality and serves as a baseline for future monitoring and management of the reserves.

[Click here to download a copy](#)

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Focus On



Dan Ferguson

Program Manager - Sustainable Agriculture

Wheatbelt NRM

Dan joined the Wheatbelt NRM team in 2006 after six years working in regional natural resource management in pastoral areas of South West Queensland. Dan's current role at Wheatbelt NRM is Program Manager (Sustainable Agriculture) after four years managing various salinity and soil health projects. He aspires to a greater understanding of farmer decision making so that his projects, aimed at increasing the adoption of sustainable farm practices, better suit the practical needs of wheatbelt agricultural systems.

Dan has a Bachelor of Science (Natural Resource Management) from the University of Western Australia; a Graduate Certificate in Rangeland Management from University of Queensland; and is presently studying at the University of South Australia under a scholarship from the International Centre for Excellence in Water Resources Management.

Dan's wife Lucia recently gave birth to their first child, Ben who is already being primed as a future Test cricketer for Australia.

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CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



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