

**From:** Wheatbelt NRM [c david@wheatbeltnrm.org.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 November 2010 4:04 PM  
**To:** Chris David  
**Subject:** Wheatbelt NRM E-News 30 November 2010



November 2010



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## Wheatbelt NRM grant rounds open!

Dear Chris

Wheatbelt NRM has recently opened three grant rounds for community groups in the Avon River Basin.

The 2011 Community Small Grants designed to support activities that improve your school and local community's participation and awareness of Natural Resource Management (NRM) in your area.

The Wheatbelt NRM Bush care Grants will support community organisations and individuals to manage and undertake on ground works which will manage remnant bush and protect the important biodiversity values of the region.

Funding is also available for materials, equipment or community engagement activities that assist in increasing community participation in the Red Card Program.

Further information on these grants and more can be found in the E-news below.

Kind regards,

[Wheatbelt NRM](#)

[Web Version](#)

## Events



### Recognising Women Farmers Morning Tea follow-ups

After returning from a study tour to Birchip in Victoria to learn about drought management strategies Natarsha Woods has been helping the ladies farmers who joined her to run morning teas in their local towns. The ladies have also taken the opportunity to talk at other events. The troupe has been talking to women in the towns of - Hyden, Corrigin, Lake Varley, Cunderdin, Beverly, and last Friday night at Moorine Rock. Some of the strategies are:

- Maintain social contact (especially by having morning tea with your girl friends !)
- Understand your business structure, and the goals of the business AND the goals of all of the people in the business
- Plan for a good year in 2011. Make smaller term plans, "What are we going to be doing in the next 10 days?" and then pat yourselves on the back when you achieve it.
- Shop local, the impact of drought is hard on the whole community (even the guys at the bank)
- Remember what you learnt last time - stock feeding strategies

Ladies that attended have been asked what their top environment concerns are, Wheatbelt NRM will consider this in project development moving forward. Of the 160 ladies we have spoken to, 74 returned the surveys and the top concerns are:

- Water conservation and management
- Salinity
- Climate Change

We are planning to have 2 more events after harvest in Pingelly and Quariding Please contact Natarsha Woods at [nwood@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:nwood@wheatbeltnrm.org.au) or phone 9690 2234 if you are interested.

## General News



### Mungangabby Sandalwood Establishment and Maintenance Project

Bencubbin farmer, Michael Hogan, is just one of the 47 successful applicants through Wheatbelt NRM's (WNRN) recent funding rounds under their Soil Conservation

Incentives Program (SCIP). Michael has received funding to revegetate a large paddock that is located high in the landscape, does not achieve a return from annual crops and has been prone to wind erosion. As part of Michael's contribution and in exchange for receiving the funding he is obligated to hold two small field days to share his knowledge and experience with others.

Recently Michael, with the assistance of Bob Huxley and local NRMO Tracey Hobbs, held a very successful field day, bringing in

WA direct seeding expert, Dr Geoff Woodall. 30 interested farmers and enthusiasts attended to see just what has been achieved with the direct seeding of sandalwood hosts in conjunction with the planting of seedlings on this previously poor performing site.

Michael took an interest in sandalwood, particularly for this wind erosion prone unproductive paddock high in the landscape. 'While we are planting back a biodiverse mix of host species, the sandalwood is important because without them I would still have an unproductive paddock. If everyone in the district would plant unproductive areas like this to sandalwood, we would soon have enough resource in the district for a new industry, particularly since sandalwood trees produce an annual nut crop while we are waiting for the high value timber to mature'.

WNRN's SCIP program is funded through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program. For more information contact Dan Ferguson at Wheatbelt NRM on 9690 2250 or email [dferguson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:dferguson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au).

*Photo: Michael with a 2 year old sandalwood on a 3 year old host growing on a site that could not profitably grow a conventional crop.*



### Carbon farming framework released

The Australian Government has released a framework for how farmers, foresters and landholders will be able to generate carbon credits under the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI).

Industry groups are being invited to share feedback with the Government by making a submission to the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency by January 21, 2010.

Further information is available at [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)

[Click here to read the media release.](#)



### CFOC Project: Reducing the impact of rabbits to enable regeneration of threatened flora, communities and critical habitat in the Wheatbelt

DEC staff working on the Caring for Our Country rabbit control project are continuing to monitor rabbit activity and declared rare flora (DRF) populations within the Central Wheatbelt and Great Southern Districts, working with land managers to implement management actions.

If you would like to be involved in the project or are keen to assist with monitoring DRF or rabbit activity we would like to hear from you. Please contact the flora conservation officer at your nearest Wheatbelt Region DEC office.

Effective rabbit control in December and January

December and January are typically part of the rabbit breeding

season, with young rabbits starting to disperse from the warrens in January. With little feed available, baiting is a particularly effective control method during these months. Remember to protect pets, birds and other natives by removing carcasses.

Reducing shelters such as rubbish piles is also very effective after breeding and when young rabbits are dispersing. "Shelter reduction can result in the death of more than half of rabbits under one year old." (Department of Primary Industries).

Fumigating and collapsing warrens is most effective during the breeding season and is a good follow up method to use 3-4 weeks after baiting. It is also a useful option in areas where there is a risk of non-target species poisoning.

Installing rabbit proof fencing at this time is a long term solution to remove rabbits from an area but the fence must be regularly maintained. Rabbits will also need to be removed from within the fenced area.

*Photo: Styliidium coroniforme ssp. coroniforme surveyed by volunteers and DEC staff at Elphin Nature Reserve*

## Funding



### 2011 Community Small Grants

This is a call for applications in the 2011 Community Small Grants designed to support activities that improve your school and local community's participation and awareness of Natural Resource

Management (NRM) in your area.

Wheatbelt NRM is inviting schools, community groups and organisations to submit an application for this incentive scheme. This scheme is suitable for activities up to \$15,000. For 2011 projects, your activity will need to be completed and a final report submitted by 30th September 2011.

Examples of suitable activities may include, but are not limited to: reserve restoration; environmental education initiatives and aquatic habitat projects. School project applications will be expected to demonstrate how students will be engaged in the proposed activity and how knowledge gained from the project will be disseminated amongst the school and wider community.

If you are interested in this incentive scheme, and have a project in mind, please download an application form below:

[Application form](#) (pdf)

[Application form](#) (editable pdf)

Applications close 10 December 2010

If you would like to discuss your project idea before submitting an application please contact [tbeagley@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:tbeagley@wheatbeltnrm.org.au) or phone Taryn Beagley on 9690 2257.



## Bush care Grants

Do you have a special patch of bush that needs looking after?

Wheatbelt NRM wants to help communities and land holders to protect their local natural areas.

The Wheatbelt NRM Bush care Grants will support community organisations and individuals to manage and undertake on ground works which will manage remnant bush and protect the important biodiversity values of the region.

Grants are available up to the value of \$15,000 for works including revegetation, fencing of remnant bush and pest control.

Applications close 18th February 2011.

More information is available at

<http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/funding/bushcare-grants/> or by contacting Rebecca Palumbo on 9690 2265 or email [rpalumbo@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:rpalumbo@wheatbeltnrm.org.au).

[Click here for the application form](#)

## 2011 Red Card for Rabbits and Foxes Program

As part of the 2011 Red Card for Rabbits and Foxes Program the Wheatbelt NRM is pleased to invite application from community groups participating in the program for grant funding to support that participation.

Funding is available for materials, equipment or community engagement activities that assist in increasing community participation in the Red Card Program.

Grants up to \$1000 are available.

Applications close 11 February 2011.

Application forms are available from

<http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/funding/red-card/> or by contacting Rebecca Palumbo or Nathan Heal on 9690 2250 or emailing [info@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:info@wheatbeltnrm.org.au).

[Click here to download an application form](#)

## Opportunities



### Wondering what's happening at Muresk?

If you had plans to study at Muresk next year but aren't quite sure what is going on, then we have the answers at C.Y. O'Connor Institute.

In 2011 we will be beginning our agriculture to agribusiness higher education training program - a practical, farmbased suite of courses and qualifications that will give you the skills and knowledge you need for a successful career in agriculture. And the best part? Unlike traditional University studies, where you only get a qualification at the end of your studies, with C.Y. O'Connor you will be awarded a qualification for every year you successfully complete.

Oh, and did we mention that you can earn while you learn with our Certificate III and IV traineeships?

Email [anna.kennedy@cyoc.wa.edu.au](mailto:anna.kennedy@cyoc.wa.edu.au) for an further information or register your Expression of Interest at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FFBJ7FP>

[Click here to download the brochure](#)

## Publications



**After the fence: condition of fenced, unfenced and reference York gum - jam woodlands in the Avon Catchment, Western Australia**

CSIRO

Considerable investment through natural resource management programs supports restoration of biodiversity in intensively used landscapes such as the Western Australian wheatbelt. One of the most common interventions is fencing of remnant vegetation to facilitate recovery from degradation caused by livestock grazing, yet the effectiveness of this intervention for enhancing biodiversity has only rarely been quantified. We compared 69 unfenced, fenced and reference sites in widespread but highly threatened herb-rich York gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba*) - jam (*Acacia acuminata*) woodlands of the Avon catchment, Western Australia, to explore two hypotheses: (1) that fencing facilitates recovery of degraded York gum - jam woodlands towards conditions of little-degraded 'reference' woodlands, and (2) that after fencing, recovery of degraded woodlands to reference condition is constrained by ecological or other limits.

[Click here to download this publication](#)

## Focus On



**WA Christmas Tree**

(*Nuytsia floribunda*)

The WA Christmas Tree can grow up to 10 m high and grows inland as far as the central Wheatbelt including places like Yorkrakine

Rock (Tammin) and Cunderdin. It produces brilliant yellow and orange flowers between October and January.

Did you know:

- Whilst an uninteresting looking tree for most of year, the WA Christmas Tree blazes with a gold colour for few weeks of Birak (Nyungar season for December/January).
- It is the world's only free-standing mistletoe tree.
- It feeds off any plants growing around it, including grasses and small shrubs, via a special root attachments in the soil called haustoria
- Its succulent lateral roots were traditionally dug up and eaten by Nyungar people.



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



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