

David, Chris

From: Wheatbelt NRM [cdavid@wheatbeltnrm.org.au]
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To: David, Chris
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wheatbelt
natural resource
management

October 2010



Wheatbelt NRM E-Newsletter

working with the community to manage our natural resources



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Drought and Carbon news, plus new video clips on the website

Dear Chris

Welcome to another Wheatbelt NRM E-news.

Firstly a friendly reminder to our **Wheatbelt NRM members to RSVP for our upcoming AGM** featuring guest speaker Annie Mac. For more information scroll down to our Events section of this E-News.

We have some interesting news items in this edition with an update on the **Drought reform pilot** and the **Carbon Farming Initiative** of the Federal government amongst other stories

We would also like to inform you of our new **Video page on the Wheatbelt NRM website**. Currently populated with fantastic camera trap footage, this video library will be growing over the next few weeks with a variety of clips. You can view the video's at www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/reports-publications/video/

Kind regards,

Wheatbelt NRM

Events



(Annie Mac)
life coach.

Wheatbelt NRM AGM 2010

Featuring guest speaker Annie Macbeth
International futurist, trend forecaster and

Date: Thursday 28th October 2010

Time: 09.30am registration
10.00am start
13.00pm close

Place: Northam Country Club
15 Wood Drive Northam

Morning tea and a light lunch will be Provided

RSVP: For catering purposes to Hayley Blakiston on 9690 2291 or
hblakiston@wheatbeltnrm.org.au by Monday 25th October

Annie Mac - Guest Speaker

Future Trends : Faster Wider Deeper

As WA leads the nation into its economic future, the speed of our economic, political, social & cultural change continues to increase exponentially. Are we heading for more chaos or healthy growth? Are there dangers ahead or only opportunities? Is the GFC sounding the death knell of American/European global economic supremacy? & if so, what's our emerging role? What about regional/Wheatbelt issues? What is the real impact of climate change? And how will the Generations X & Y redefine how we do business & operate in a Quantum world? Futurist Annimac will discuss these key trends impacting the Wheatbelt now & over the next 10 years.

"Resisting change is like holding your breath - if you succeed, you die."

[Click here to download the flyer](#)

General News



Wheatbelt NRM Aboriginal Advisory groups first 'on country' discussion

Recently the Wheatbelt NRM Aboriginal Advisory group held its first 'on country' discussions at Derdibin. Throughout the day a range of activities were discussed including activities with Northam elders and school

recent cultural groups, the management of prioritized Nyungar sites as well as the allocation of new sites for management. Recent environmental training activities that the community were involved in was also highlighted. The next meeting is expected to be held 'on county' in Merredin.



Drought reform pilot well supported in Western Australia

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, today welcomed the strong response to the pilot of drought reform measures in Western Australia, with hundreds of WA farmers attending information sessions in July and August.

"The drought reform pilot in WA is a major milestone for the Gillard

Government in delivering an improved system that better supports farmers, their families and regional communities,” Minister Ludwig said.

“More than 450 people have attended information sessions and Centrelink’s mobile office has visited 26 communities and provided services to more than 1400 rural customers in the pilot region.”

“There has been strong interest in Stronger Rural Community grants of up to \$300,000 for local government authorities and community organisations. This funding will help rural communities build resilience against an agricultural downturn.”

“The Farm Family Support program, which helps eligible farm families meet basic household expenses, has had more than 100 applications for income support. Farm Family Support also provides case management support including funds for professional advice and training.”

The Australian Government, in partnership with the Western Australian Government, is conducting the pilot to trial new measures in response to the national review of drought policy.

The measures are designed to move from a crisis management approach to risk management and provide more effective and equitable social support for farming families and rural communities.

“We want our farmers to be better prepared for future challenges,” Minister Ludwig said.

The pilot will operate in part of Western Australia until 30 June 2011. Outside of the pilot region and in all other parts of Australia the government’s Exceptional Circumstances arrangements continue to apply.

Farmers and pastoralists should contact the Drought Assistance Hotline on 13 23 16 to speak to someone about their individual circumstances and to find out more about the drought pilot programs available.

The pilot will be reviewed in 2011 to inform further government consideration of national drought policy reform.

Further details on the drought pilot are available at www.daff.gov.au/droughtpilot



C.Y. O'Connor Institute announces plans for agricultural education to continue at the Muresk Campus.

Following the announcement by Liz Constable, Minister for Education; Tourism, on Wednesday 22 September, C.Y. O'Connor Institute will commence delivery of education programs at the Muresk campus in 2011.

Institute Managing Director, Mr John Scott, has provided details of what can be expected to occur over the next three years and beyond.

“The Institute is within a few weeks of submitting an application for registration to deliver higher education programs,” said Mr Scott. “The process to review the application is expected to take around six months, so we anticipate being in a position to commence delivery of an Associate Degree program in Agribusiness from Semester Two, 2011, subject to Ministerial approval.”

As a pathway to the associate degree program the Institute will be offering a Certificate III in Agriculture (or Rural Operations,

depending upon student interest), commencing in February 2011, focusing on workplace-based rural skills. This program has been designed to provide students with the practical skills and knowledge needed to run a successful business in the farming industry.

The program will provide „tickets“ and specialist skills for working on farms, and more specifically for seeding. Students will be assessed to industry standards, ensuring that they are presented with stimulating curriculum and skill building challenges that prepare them for work in the agribusiness industry. Studies will include practical, hands-on skills training including a significant vocational placement on a working farm.

The Certificate III course will be overlaid with theory-based units that will gain credit transfer to the associate degree once the Institute achieves its registration and Ministerial approval. Additional higher education subjects will be offered in second semester so that those students who only want to take a one year program can exit with a higher education Diploma in Agribusiness.

Successful completion of the Diploma will enable students to continue on to a second year of study and enter the Associate Degree in Agribusiness.

Students who complete the Associate Degree in Agribusiness program will have the opportunity to articulate into one of three universities for completion of third year studies: Agricultural Science at UWA; Agribusiness at Curtin University; and Animal Science or Environmental Science at Murdoch University.

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



Australian Framework for Landcare

After a number of rounds of consultation, The Australian Framework for Landcare has been released and is available from

http://landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=2076 . The final print version of the Australian Framework for Landcare was launched on 8 September 2010 in Sydney by Coral Love, Chair, Australian Framework for Landcare Reference Group as part of the National Landcare Week celebrations. The Framework process has undergone a number of consultations with the Landcare community over the past year and a half and the aspirations in the document belong to the community. The Australian Framework for Landcare in reflecting the views of the Landcare community will help guide decisions about investment by government and other sections of the broader Landcare partnership.

Federal Election Carbon Farming Initiative

During the recent Federal election the government announced a Carbon Farming Initiative supported by \$45.6m from the Renewable Energy Future Fund. Under the Carbon Farming Initiative, the Federal Government would dedicate resources to developing methodologies for the recognition of carbon credits from carbon farming that could then be sold on voluntary domestic or international markets.

The aim is for farmers to be able to know in advance exactly what they need to do to generate credits that are internationally recognised and available for trading. It is proposed that Landcare would be funded to provide information on how farmers can further benefit under the initiative. Eligible methodologies that are expected to be settled in the early years of the scheme include reforestation, as well as projects that avoid or reduce emissions from: Livestock, Fertiliser use and manure management, Savannah burning, Legacy

waste in landfills and Deforestation. The Carbon Farming Initiative will be of interest to many in the Landcare community and I hope to keep you informed as this initiative is further developed.

For more information go to <http://www.alp.org.au/agenda/more---policies/carbon-farming-initiative/>.

Funding

Lotterywest Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Visit

11 October- 15 October 2010

Lotterywest is planning a regional trip to the Eastern Wheatbelt region to raise awareness of Lotterywest grants and meet with grant applicants, recipients and other stakeholders.

Lotterywest has a model of grant making which focuses on building relationships with geographic communities. Under this model, staff remains centrally located at Lotterywest but has a more active, focused and consistent presence at the local level. Their aim is to build and maintain relationships across their designated region while maintaining broader sector relationships which can inform regional activities. This way of operating allows Lotterywest to work closely with local organisations and facilitate a more coordinated approach to grant making.

There are two staffs managing the Lotterywest grants to the Wheatbelt region and they would like to introduce themselves to you.

They also wanted to let you know of their upcoming visit to the region, as a key local contact, in case there are community projects/initiatives that you think they should know about or follow-up during their visit. They are interested in meeting with organisations with a strategic view of the region, particularly those involved in the management of community infrastructure or community development initiatives.

Their plans to date include:

Destinations: Cunderdin, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Bruce Rock, Narembeen, Kondinin, Corrigin and Quairading

Dates: 5 days - October 11-15, 2010

Purpose: Meetings, site visits, and information seminars

They are available outside of the seminar times to meet with grant customers and other stakeholders.

They hope you can assist them in maximising their regional visit and look forward to hearing from you. They are also keen on hearing your thoughts on venues, local marketing opportunities etc.

Alternatively, do contact them in the future should your organisation need grants support from Lotterywest.

Contact:

Lee Grmas
Program Manager
Grants & Community Development, Lotterywest
Tel: (08) 9340 5280
Mobile: 0420 964 407

Lee Holben
Grants Officer
Grants & Community Development, Lotterywest

Opportunities



Natural Resource Management Officer
Oyster Harbour Catchment Group

Mt Barker /

Albany, Western Australia

This is a great opportunity to work for a busy catchment group on the beautiful south coast of Western Australia.

Oyster Harbour Catchment Group is a not-for-profit organisation who works with landholders, government agencies and other community groups to promote and support sustainable farming and conserve biodiversity in our catchment.

The OHCG is seeking a suitably qualified person to engage a broad range of stakeholders and implement projects that the group has secured funding for. This will include implementing the Caring for our Country business plan and promoting Natural Resource Management within the Oyster Harbour Catchment.

The applicant should have:

- good written and interpersonal communication skills
- excellent organisational skills
- the ability to work without supervision as well as be part of a team
- experience in project and contract management
- relevant qualifications and/or practical expertise in natural resource management
- a current C class driver's licence
- excellent computer skills

Contract to 30 June 2011 (with possible extension subject to funding)

How to apply: for selection criteria and application details please go to: <http://www.southcoastnrm.com.au/pages/344/vacancies>

Applications close 5pm Friday, 29th October 2010.

Publications



Introduction to acidic saline groundwater in the WA Wheatbelt characteristics, distribution, risks and management

Department of Water

Extensive areas of the valley floors in the Western Australian Wheatbelt are already affected by shallow saline groundwaters and these areas are likely to grow for decades as groundwater levels are still rising. The use of engineering

methods such as deep (2-3 m) drains and pumping to control shallow groundwater is increasing. More than 5000 km of deep drains are estimated to have been constructed to protect low-lying land from salinisation and to help rehabilitate marginally saline.

[Click here to download the resource](#)

Focus On



Jenny Borger

Healthy Bushland Officer, WWF

Jenny has worked for WWF previously under the Woodland Watch Project. Originally from North Queensland she moved to WA in 1990 to work for Dept of Agriculture in Moora. Her background was chiefly in soil conservation and soil mapping, moving into flora ID and vegetation surveying since 2002. She has been involved in several projects in the Northern Agricultural Region through work with DEC, WA Landskills, West Midlands Group and various consultancy jobs taking in some of the pastoral country as well. There is a myth that she is a flora geek too, but has provided a home for some of our native fauna (ticks) on many occasions. She rejoined WWF so she could survey with Mike, Phil and Chris again.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



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