**From:** Wheatbelt NRM
**To:** Chris David
**Subject:** Wheatbelt NRM E-News 6 April 2011
**Date:** Wednesday, 6 April 2011 9:51:38 AM

Wheatbelt NRM Logo

**April 2011**

# Wheatbelt NRM E-Newsletter

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## Issue 96

Dear Chris

Welcome to the first Wheatbelt NRM E-News for April.

For those of you attending Season Break this weekend in Kellerberrin (a festival of music, fun, food and farming culture) be sure to visit the Wheatbelt NRM stall on Saturday and have a chat to Dr Elizabeth Kington.

Their are two great employment opportunities with Wheatbelt NRM featured below; Program Manager (Sustainable Agriculture) and Program Coordinator (Biodiversity) closing in late April.

Also the Caring for our Country Business Plan 2011-12 is now available. It provides an opportunity for you to seek funding for open-call projects and regional base-level funding that contribute to one or more of the six national priority areas set by the Australian Government for improving our natural resources. You'll find more information in general news below.

Kind regards,

Wheatbelt NRM

## Events

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## Perth Green Drinks 2011

Come along to meet sustainability professionals, students and enthusiasts for a chat! Green Drinks is an international event happening in more than 700 cities worldwide – why not join in the fun?

Guest speakers
Susan Hunt, CEO of Perth Zoo, on Wildlife Conservation: the Role of Zoos
Phil Bellamy, Electoral Officer for the Agricultural Region, on Large-scale Revegetation for the WA Wheatbelt.

When: Tuesday 12th April, 6-8pm
Where: Central Institute of Technology, East Perth Campus at 140 Royal Street(map and details)
RSVP: Green Drinks is a free event, but please RSVP before Thursday 7th April 5pm by emailing greendrinks.perth.rsvp@gmail.com to let us know you'll be there. Central Institute of Technology provides drinks and finger food, so we need to know numbers for catering.
If you use Facebook, you might like to check out the Perth Green Drinks page and like it. We will be putting meetup information there, and occasional notices of other green events in Perth.

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## Planning for profit workshops

Improve farm profitability at the DAFWA Planning for Profit workshops in Kulin, 12th April and Mukinbudin, 13th April.

The interactive workshops, based on farm situations specific to the wheatbelt, will focus on the financial aspects of running a farm as a business and identifying changes a grower can make to achieve more profit, including boosting yields, cutting back on variable costs and farm running expenses, improving marketing strategies and decreasing risks.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Natalie Hogg, T: 9690 2000, E: natalie.hogg@agric.wa.gov.au

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### Oil Mallee Industry Conference

Oil Mallee Industry Conference is set to challenge attendees with the progress and prospects of the oil mallee industry on the 14th and 15th April in Perth.

Be part of the discussion on future development under the emerging national policy frameworks, carbon sequestration projects, bioenergy programs, mixed species revegetation and the benefits of adopting both in a hybrid approach.

For more information, contact Oil Mallee Australia, T: 9433 1244, E: omainfo@oilmallee.org.au or click here.

## General News

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### Caring for our Country 2011-12 Business Plan

Proposals for land care and environment projects from across the nation are invited under the Caring for our Country 2011-12 business plan. The Gillard Government today announced up to $178 million will be made available to fund natural resource management projects through the Caring for our Country 2011-12 business plan.

The 2011 Caring for our Country 2011-12 business plan sets aside up to $66 million for base-level funding for regional NRM organisations, with the remainder for projects that contribute to achieving outcomes in line with the six national priority areas for Caring for our Country.
These priorities are: increasing the National Reserve system; biodiversity and national icons; coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats; sustainable farm practices; remote and northern Australia; and community skills, knowledge and engagement.

The Government is seeking one and two year proposals in which project milestones, budgets and deliverables can be completed by June 2013.

Through the 2010-11 business plan the Conservation Agriculture Alliance of Australia has received over $800,000 in funding to assist farmers adopt no-till practices in an effort to reduce soil loss and increase ground cover across 23 regional catchments in Australia. The 2010-11 business plan funded more than 200 projects across the nation and supported a broad range of industry, natural resource management and community groups.

More information on the Caring for our Country 2011-12 business plan and about how to apply for funding is available from www.nrm.gov.au or by phoning 1800 552 008.

If you require assistance with funding applications contact the Wheatbelt NRM Landcare Facilitator Sally Rayner at
T: 9690 2290 E: srayner@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

Wheatbelt NRM Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Michelle Kidman is also available to assist with Program Logic and Monitoring, Evaluation Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plans.
T: 9690 2266 E: mkidman@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

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## Garnaut Climate Change Update - Transporming Rural Land Use

On March 1st, Professor Garnaut released his updated paper as part of the climate change review called “Transforming Rural land Use”. This paper outlines issues associated with carbon sequestration and emissions mitigation associated with rural land use. Professor Garnaut, while supportive of the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI), suggested that the requirement for financial additionallty be reconsidered and that a link between the CFI and an emissions trading scheme be established to assist in the purchasing of non-Kyoto offsets. Professor Garnaut also noted that co-benefits such as biodiversity should be encourgaed. Importanlty Professor Garnaut also outlined the challenges for global devleopment due to the linked issues of climate change and food security. For a full copy of the paper go to: http://www.garnautreview.org.au/update-2011/update-papers/up4-key-points.html.

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## Climate & Weather Inforation at Climate Kelpie

Climate Kelpie is a website funded by a number of R & D corporations and the Deparmtent of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries which brings together a range on information on managing climatic variability, decision support tools as well as climate change projections (at the regional level for 4 State s) and weather

forecastes. It is worth a look at
http://www.climatekelpie.com.au/about

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### Parliament debating carbon farming legislation

Legislation before Federal Parliament will establish the government's Carbon Farming Initiative. The initiative (CFI) is a market mechanism that will begin to unlock the potential for carbon abatement in the land sector, which accounts for around 25% of Australia's emissions. The government aims to pass the legislation before July 1. Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Joe Ludwig, says it will assist the agricultural sector to build resilience to deal with the impacts of climate change. He says under the initiative, farmers and other landholders who make changes to their current practices that result in emission reductions will be rewarded for their efforts. Senator Ludwig says farmers will be encouraged to generate carbon credits from a range of activities such as fertiliser management, reduced livestock emissions, soil carbon and reforestation. He says the initiative provides Australia with the opportunity to be at the forefront of global developments in land sector offsets. The government received about 280 submissions as part of the consultation process to draft the legislation and made a number of changes to the legislation to reflect stakeholder views.

Further information on the CFI can be found here.

## Funding

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### WA Grants for Women Program

Funding of up to $5000 is available for community organisations to develop projects that strengthen the social and economic wellbeing of women, increase their participation, promote positive images of women in the community, encourage women's leadership and/or encourage women's sense of safety.

Projects are expected to be completed within 12 months of the grant allocation.

Applications for 2011 are now open.

Women's Grants Guidelines (PDF)

Women's Grants Application Form (Word)

Please contact the Grants and Contracts Officer for more information by telephoning (08) 6217 8400 or email
grants@communities.wa.gov.au

## Opportunities

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### Wheatbelt NRM Job Opportunities

#### Wheatbelt NRM Program Manager (Sustainable Agriculture)

Based in Northam

SPL3 or GCL6 Salary range $81,501 to $97,150
Fulltime, fixed term contract to 30 June 2013

An exciting opportunity exists to be at the forefront of sustainable agriculture initiatives in Western Australia's wheatbelt region. The Program Manager (Sustainable Agriculture) leads a small team of natural resource management professionals in developing and maintaining a portfolio of projects aimed at increasing the adoption of sustainable farm practices in the Avon River Basin. Wheatbelt NRM is seeking a professional with an advanced knowledge of project management, natural resource management and extension to guide and manage this key program. The preferred applicant will have 10+ years experience in a related field and an understanding of wheatbelt farming systems.

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 below or by contacting Hayley Blakiston at: hblakiston@wheatbeltnrm.org.au or telephone (08) 9690 2250

Position Outcome

Position Description

Applications close 5.00pm WST Wednesday, 20th April 2011
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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

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 below.

For further information please contact Rebecca Palumbo at rpalumbo@wheatbeltnrm.org.au or phone 9690 2250.

Position Desrciption

Key activities

Applications close 5.00pm WST Friday, 22nd April 2011

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## Landcare Awards

Groups or individuals with a story to tell should submit it to the State and Territory Landcare Awards. In the next 2 months, a cycle will kick off that will culminat in 2012 with the national Landcare awards. This year, it is the states and territories that have the task of selecting their winners, which will then go onto the national awards in 2012. There are 12 categories in total covering aspects such as primary producers, local government, indigenous, education, youth and coastcare.

Western Australia Award Information

WA Category and Criteria

WA Entry Form

WA Landcare Awards page

For more information contact:

Natalie Moore

Department of Agriculture and Food WA

Phone: 08 9368 3166

Email: natalie.moore@landcareaustralia.com.au

Closing Date: Fri 27th May 2011For more information go to: http://www.landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=2930.

## Publications

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### Minister welcomes ABARES Australia's Forests at a Glance 2011 report

Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, today welcomed the release of Australia's Forests at a Glance 2011.

Australia's Forests at a Glance 2011 is a pocket-book compendium of data and information about Australia's native forests and timber plantations. It is compiled annually by the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences.

"The forest industry in Australia is important to the economy of many regional areas," Minister Ludwig said.

"Australian forests remain some of the best managed in the world. Over 75 000 people were employed in the forestry, logging and wood manufacturing sectors in 2010.

The publication contains summary information on forest types, areas and how native forests—including old growth forests—are conserved and managed. It also covers timber harvesting, production and consumption of wood products and employment in the forestry and wood products industries.

Minister Ludwig said Australia's Forests at a Glance 2011 is particularly relevant as 2011 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Forests.

“This year we want to raise awareness of the sustainable management, conservation and development of forests internationally.

“Almost 75 per cent of Australia’s log supplies now come from plantation forests. This is an increase of around 20 per cent since 2000.

“I encourage everyone to use this publication as a resource for information on the state of our forest industries.”

For a copy of the publication please visit click here

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### A Review of the Monitoring and Evaluation Practices and Perceptions of Australian Regional Natural Resource Management Organisations

Lucy Richardson
Student, Masters of Business Research Program, University of Southern Queensland
Science Leader, Condamine Alliance
February 2011

Australia’s regional Natural Resources Management (NRM) organisations, working in a highly complex environment, implement community NRM plans/catchment action plans for their individual regions. A core responsibility associated with the investment of the Australian and State/Territory funds through these regional bodies is the monitoring and evaluation of the impact, appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency and legacy associated with the investment of these public funds (Australian Government NRM Team 2009). This report outlines the findings of a survey of these regional bodies undertaken to identify aspects of the practices, perceptions and culture surrounding the monitoring and evaluation of their NRM investment programs. The survey was completed by representatives of 36 of the 56 regional bodies and provides insight into the differences and similarities between their organisations and approaches.

Click here to download the publication

## Focus On

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**Sally Rayner**

Program Coordinator (Sustainable Agriculture)

Sally has been working in Bruce Rock, as the Natural Resource Management Officer for the past four and a half years, since graduating from Curtin University with a Degree in Agribusiness 'Farm Management' with honours' in agronomy. She has experience in working on small to large scale projects at grass roots and regional levels. She enjoys working with farmers to achieve their goals in sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. In her new role as Program Coordinator, Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Facilitator she aims to continue to work with landholders to reach effective sustainable outcomes.

T: 9690 2290 E: srayner@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

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