

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



February 2011

## Wheatbelt NRM E-Newsletter



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## Issue 92

Dear Chris

Welcome to another Wheatbelt NRM E-news with some great Events, News and Funding Opportunities.

Volunteer registrations are now open for the Malleefowl Surveys while Men of the Trees are offering training sessions based on the 'Treemendous Trees' Education Kit. In response to the difficult financial situation Western Australian grain growers face this season, Westpac is holding a series of financial education short courses in Dalwallinu, Kellerberrin and Lake Grace. And for those interested in having tree crops as part of your farming system be sure to chek out the Master Tree Grower Program in our opportunities sesction.

Round 4 of Wheatbelt NRM's Soil Conservation Incentives Funding (Tree projects) has now opened, while the closing date for our Bushcare Grants close soon.

Also a reminder for those of you who were caught without power during the storms which hit the Wheatbelt last week, [click here](#) for information and a online application form for the State Government Extended Outage Payment Scheme.

Kind regards,

Wheatbelt NRM



## Events

## Inline Image



### Malleefowl Surveys - Bush Walking, Bush Camp Outs

Volunteer registrations are now open for the following Malleefowl Surveys:

Mt Jackson (north of Bullfinch) 22-28th May  
Badja Station (south of Yalgoo) 5-11th June

- Minimum Registration period—one week
- Own transport and self sufficiency in camping equipment required
- Good degree of fitness essential for all-day bush walking

For further information and/or a registration form, contact Project Coordinator, Susanne Dennings

Ph: (08) 98282083 Mob: 0400224396 Email: [sdennings@bigpond.com](mailto:sdennings@bigpond.com)



## Inline Image



### 'Treemendous Trees' Education Kit training sessions

Men of the Trees has secured funding from Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management to run activities and training sessions based on the 'Treemendous Trees' Education Kit.

2011 is the international Year of Forests. The Men of the Trees' 'Treemendous Trees' Education Kit is full of information and curriculum linked activities for all ages designed to instil an appreciation of what trees do for each of us individually, for our communities and for the environment.

Opportunities will be designed to suit your needs but can include:

- Class activities for different age groups;
- How to grow native seedlings; and/or
- Training for teachers in the use of the kit so that your school can continue to use the kit well into the future.

The kit contains a Teachers' Resource Book, story books for younger students and a manual on how to propagate native seedlings.

This offer is free to schools within the Avon Wheatbelt however all activities must be completed by mid-May 2011.

For more information or to book your visit by Mrs Jo Wheeler, Men of

the Trees' Revegetation Officer, fill in the form below and email to Mrs Wheeler at: [jowhwk@gmail.com](mailto:jowhwk@gmail.com)

[Click here to download the form](#)

What better way to participate in the United Nations' International Year of Forests (see <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011>)

This offer funded by Wheatbelt NRM ends mid-May!

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### Regional Financial Management Short Courses for Women

In response to the difficult financial situation Western Australian grain growers face this season, Westpac is holding a series of financial education short courses to support wheatbelt farmers hit by one of the lowest rainfall seasons for the state's agricultural area. Westpac have tailored a 1 day short course for Women in Agriculture and Business Advisors to Women in Agriculture and will be running these short courses across the WA grain belt for all women - irrespective of their banking relationship.

#### Short course dates

Dalwallinu

Monday 21st February

9:30am - 4pm (registration, tea and coffee from 9:00am)

Lunchtime speaker: Sue Middleton, Moora Citrus. 2010 RIRDC Rural Woman of the Year, WA & National

[Click here to register](#)

Kellerberrin

Thursday 24th February

9:30am - 4pm (registration, tea and coffee from 9:00am)

[Click here to register](#)

Lake Grace

Wednesday 2nd March

9:30am - 4pm (registration, tea and coffee from 9:00am)

Lunchtime speaker: Mary Nenke, Cambinata Yabbies. 2007 Australian Export Hero and 2000 RIRDC Rural Women's Award WA Winner

[Click here to register](#)

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### General News

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#### "RED CARD" Gains Momentum

Baiting

The Department of Agriculture has published a frequently asked

questions guide regarding baits, indicating that, from an end-user point of view, baits may have different requirements in terms of recommended laying practices, but overall the products are very similar. The factsheet states that farmers will continue to go about the normal application process, which involves submitting a one page 1080 baiting application form to their local Biosecurity Officer, who authorises vouchers for applications that pass the risk assessment analysis, including landholder safe use and handling certification.

### New Sponsor

We are pleased that one commercial distributor, David Grey, Aglink, is sponsoring the Red Card program by donating five percent of sales across their full range of PAKS bait products during March to the Royal Flying Doctors. With 28,000 fox baits alone being laid by landholders in March 2010, baiting is now both an effective means of pest control and fund-raising opportunity. Stockbrands Co continues with its valuable sponsorship of the Community Foxshoots, which will take place on 25-27th February and 25-27th March 2011, and five dollars will be donated to the RFDS for every fox and feral cat culled at registered community shoots.

All landholders are urged to participate and can get more information via [www.redcard.net.au](http://www.redcard.net.au) or contacting Sally Thomson on [info@redcard.net.au](mailto:info@redcard.net.au) or 0417 983 356.

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### Landcare facilitators to play key role in Carbon Farming Initiative

The Gillard Government has announced further consultations with farmers and landholders on the Carbon Farming Initiative, an important initiative to enable rural and regional communities to benefit from climate change projects.

Regional Landcare Facilitators will be invited to a national forum in Canberra in March this year, followed by state and territory based training days from March through to June.

Once the Carbon Farming Initiative legislation is in place, in mid 2011, the Government will support a series of workshops in the 56 Natural Resource Management regions to help communities better understand carbon markets and how to take part. Indigenous Land Management Facilitators working under the Caring for Our Country program of the Environment Department would also be involved.

Many activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon also have the potential to produce benefits for farm productivity, biodiversity and natural resource management.

Under the Carbon Farming Initiative, the Government will invest \$45.6 million over the four years from 2010–11 to 2013–14 to establish a carbon crediting mechanism for land-based activities,

fast-track development of methodologies for carbon offset projects, and give farmers the knowledge, capacity and confidence to generate, and benefit from, carbon credits.

The Government will continue to work consultatively with landholders and others. Formal submissions on a November 2010 consultation paper on the proposed design of the Carbon Farming Initiative have been extended until 4 February 2011. The Government has also released draft legislation and methodology guidelines for public discussion and comment by 4 February 2011.

For more information on the [Carbon Farming Initiative](#) click here.

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### Tall Wheat Grass recommended as threatening process in Victoria

Tall Wheat Grass (TWG) has a Very High FFI CRC weed risk rating in Victoria. The Victorian Scientific Advisory Committee has now recommended TWG be listed as a threatening process, posing risks to the survival of other taxa and communities, under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

The recommendation for listing is open for public comment until 18 February.

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## Funding

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### Soil Conservation Incentives Funding Round 4 (Tree projects)

*A Wheatbelt NRM initiative for farmers to protect soil from wind erosion.*

340,000 seedlings are available for farmer groups or individuals to protect the soil resource from wind erosion. Farmer groups and landholders in the following shires are eligible for this program:

- Narembeen
- Kondinin
- Kulin
- Lake Grace
- Kent

Applications close Friday 18 March 2011

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

For more information please contact:

Georgie Troup

Project Manager (Sustainable Agriculture)

E: [gtroup@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:gtroup@wheatbeltnrm.org.au) P: 9690 2258



Inline Image



### Bushcare 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.

Closing Date:

To be considered for funding applications must be received or postmarked on or before Friday 18th February 2011. Applications received later than this date will be assessed individually pending adequate funds (if any) remaining from the assessment.

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

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### Environmental Community Grants 2011

The Western Australian Government is committed to helping communities and individuals undertake conservation projects which have environmental benefits. The Government will allocate \$1.53 million in grants this year to help with projects involving:

- biodiversity conservation (\$500,000);
- sustainable catchment management (\$300,000);
- rescue and rehabilitation of injured or incapacitated fauna (\$50,000);
- interpretation and sustainable recreation in natural areas (\$180,000);
- regional parks (\$105,000)
- Bush Forever sites (\$75,000);
- support for major conservation/environmental organisations (\$120,000); and
- protection of high-value areas by landholders on private land (\$200,000).

It is intended that the grants will encourage contributions from other funding sources and help undertake projects. Funds are to be expended within the 2011/12 financial year.

### Who can apply?

Individuals, local community groups or organisations and local authorities may apply. State Government agencies are ineligible to apply directly for these grants but may participate by forming partnership groups.

[Download the Environmental Community Grants 2011 Application Guidelines \(4.87 MB\)](#)

### How to apply

'Application forms may be downloaded [here](#)

### More information

Phone (08) 9442 0300 or email [grants@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:grants@dec.wa.gov.au) (*This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it for further information.*)



## Opportunities

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### Master Tree Grower Program

Do you own land in the Avon Wheatbelt?

Interested in having tree crops as part of your farming system?

WA Wheatbelt Australian Forest Growers (AFG) has secured funds from Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management to run the highly acclaimed Master Tree Grower Program this autumn in the Avon Wheatbelt. The course is for land managers in the Avon Wheatbelt who would like to include tree crops as part of their farming system.

The course will run for eight days over four weekends at four different locations in the Avon.

Eight-day course over four weekends:

- Friday/Saturday March 11th and 12th – value adding opportunities
- Sunday/Monday March 20th and 21st – site selection, silviculture and management
- Sunday/Monday April 3rd and 4th – tree crops in the broader landscape
- Sunday/Monday April 10th and 11th – property planning

Cost: \$275 (includes GST)

The course brings together experts in a range of fields associated with tree crops and property planning – you will learn how to match the most appropriate tree crop to each site, learn how to manage your plantings, value-adding opportunities and visit other properties to learn from each other.

If you have any queries contact Monica Durcan: 0418 934 870 or email: [mdurcan@iinet.net.au](mailto:mdurcan@iinet.net.au)



## Publications

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### Worthy case for woody crops

Mallees that thrive in the dry inland of Australia, planted in two row belts, are the basis of the FFI CRC's Woody Crops Program.

A new paper Energy Tree Cropping by the FFI CRC presents a case for woody crops in agriculture to make a significant contribution to improving the environment, developing renewable energy and to the mitigation of greenhouse gases in Australia.

Paul Turnbull, Woody Crops Program Leader explained, “the landed cost of biomass is the important factor in determining whether it can be profitable to provide electricity from biomass. This paper, which is based on the contributions of many staff within FFI CRC and our partners in electricity production shows the benefits for regions and farmers of generating electricity from mallees.”

According to Paul, the paper supports our communication with politicians, farmers and the general public and can be download on the FFI CRC website

[www.futurefarmonline.com.au/publications/other-publications.htm](http://www.futurefarmonline.com.au/publications/other-publications.htm)

Please contact Paul Turnbull [Paul.Turnbull@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Turnbull@dpi.vic.gov.au) for more information.

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## Focus On

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## Popflower

### *(Glischrocaryon sp.)*

The Popflower is a perennial herb with yellow flowers between June and March.

#### Did you know:

- The Popflower is a member of plant family well known for its aquatic or wetland species.
- Whilst it is a native plant the Popflower grows well in disturbed areas and is well known from graded roadsides with masses of yellow flowers.
- Four species grow in the Wheatbelt, all with bright yellow flowers.
- It is apparently named "popflower" as people try to pop the air-filled hop-like fruit that follow the flowers.

