From: David, Chris
To: David, Chris
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ISSUE 71, 2nd FEBRUARY 2010

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Wheatbelt NRM Community Forums

Wheatbelt NRM has found that working with communities and farming groups within the region is the most effective way in helping to manage natural resources. To get an idea of what Wheatbelt communities want, three open forums have been scheduled for April in Wongan Hills, Merredin and Hyden. Details are below

To RSVP for any of these forums please email info@wheatbeltnrm.org.au or call 9690 2250

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1. EVENTS

1.1 >> WANTFA Annual Conference
1.2 >> BAM Industry Funding Schemes (IFS) Consultation Regional Workshop at MERREDIN

1.1 WANTFA Annual Conference

10th & 11th March 2010

The Vines Resort, Swan Valley

"Machinery Matters - Beyond knife points"

Highlights

Disc Seeder Book Launch - Day 1

Farmready Course on - Day 2

For further information phone Kaye Phillips-Webb, Communications Manager, on 0427 223 395 or email kaye@wantfa.com.au

To Register Please Call Adrienne Brown, on 64887465 or email admin@wantfa.com.au for a registration form.

Discounted WANTFA membership for all attendees!

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1.2 BAM Industry Funding Schemes (IFS) Consultation Regional Workshop at MERREDIN

VENUE: Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre, Bates St, Merredin
DATE: Thursday 4th March
TIME: 11am to 1pm
M/tea and lunch provided

Please confirm attendance to Kathy Saunders
Ph: (08) 9690 2000 Fax: (08) 9622 1902
Mobile: 0427 690 282 Email: kathy.saunders@agric.wa.gov.au

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2. GENERAL NEWS

2.1 >> Significant changes to Commonwealth environmental programs
2.2 >> Invitation to comment on the consultation draft of Australia's Native Vegetation Framework

2.1 Significant changes to Commonwealth environmental programs

A concerted focus on biodiversity for the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) program will mark the International Year of Biodiversity, Environment Minister Peter Garrett announced.

Funding will be allocated through a competitive process and will be open to all research groups hosted by an Australian research institution. This will ensure continuity between the current and future research programs.

Read more: http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2010/mr20100219a.html

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2.2 Invitation to comment on the consultation draft of ***Australia's Native***

Vegetation Framework

The consultation draft of ***Australia's Native Vegetation Framework*** is now open for public comment until 5pm AEDT Wednesday 31 March 2010.

The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council invites all members of the public and industry sectors with an interest in native vegetation management to make a submission on the consultation draft Framework.

The consultation draft has been prepared by a intergovernmental review team involving all states and territories and the Commonwealth Government. The review team was established to update the 1999 *National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation* to take account of emerging issues and new approaches to vegetation management.

Once the public consultation period closes the review team will revise the Framework in light of the range of public comments received. When this has been completed a revised version of *Australia's Native Vegetation Framework* will be considered by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council for their endorsement.

Information is available at http://www.environment.gov.au/native-vegetation-review where you will find:

- the consultation draft
- background information
- frequently asked questions
- information on how to make a submission
- a downloadable submission template.

Enquiries and requests for hardcopies of the consultation draft may be directed to the Community Information Unit of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts on freecall 1800 803 772 or by emailing ciu@environment.gov.au.

Dr Diana Leeder

Chair, Native Vegetation Framework Review Task Group

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3.1>> Opportunity for funding for Wheatbelt Farmers
3.2 >> Sponsorship opportunity for a community member to attend The National Landcare Forum Adelaide 23-25th March 2010
3.3 >> Grants & Funding websites

3.1 Opportunity for funding for Wheatbelt Farmers

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3.2 Sponsorship opportunity for a community member to attend The National Landcare Forum Adelaide 23-25th March 2010

The Australian Government is providing assistance for up to five people from each NRM region to attend the National Landcare Forum in Adelaide, from March 23-25. We have been asked to promote this opportunity to our community, and administer funds to enable up to 5 members of our region to attend the forum at a discounted cost. Up to $400 (incl GST) is available to go towards transport & accommodation and the cost of the forum registration will be waived.

This subsidy will provide individuals, and ultimately community and Landcare groups, the opportunity:

- to learn about the latest research developments in Natural Resource Management (NRM) and sustainable agriculture
- to learn about and contribute to the developing National Landcare Framework
- to develop new networks and new skills
- to celebrate 20 years of achievements and the significant contribution the community has made over the last 20 years.

There are only 5 positions through this funding **(note that this is separate to the recent offer by Wheatbelt NRM of up to $1500 for up to 3 community members to attend the Forum though two places are still available:** Wheatbelt NRM Sponsorship from.doc **)**

The Australian Government criteria is that the applicant must represent:

- A community or landcare group that is actively engaged in natural resource management activities;
- A group that will benefit from a member attending the National Landcare Forum; and
- A group that without the subsidy would be unlikely to send a representative to the National Landcare Forum

This will be an opportunity for those who would not normally attend such a conference to be able to attend. We are taking up this opportunity from the Australian Government so would appreciate if you could distribute this to your networks and hopefully the WA wheatbelt can have a strong presence at the Forum. We still have some funds remaining from Wheatbelt NRM offer so if you know a community member who is deserving of the Forum, please encourage them

to apply. NRM Officers are eligible to apply for the Aust Govt subsidy – but we would prefer if you could bring along a farmer from the region as well if you would like to attend.

Please note that there is only a short amount of time the subsidy is available, as **Registration for the Forum closes on 12 March 2010.**

Click below to download the application form:
View Aust Govt Subsidy App Form 2_3_.pdf (PDF document 165Kb)

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3.3 Red Card for the Red Fox and Rabbits Incentive Scheme

Guidelines and application forms are available for community groups and organisations applying for incentive funding to support feral animal pest control through the Red Card for the Red Fox and Rabbits program in the Avon River Basin (ARB).

Click here to download the Guidelines and Application Form

The Red Card program aims to support community pest control efforts and works by coordinating the community so that maximum impact can be achieved. The targeted baiting time started 19 February and is going through to 19 April.

Wheatbelt NRM is offering support to local groups within the Avon River Basin through the Red Card Incentives Program. Grants from this program can be used to subsidise the cost of baits or other activities associated with the Red Card program. Application forms are available through Wheatbelt NRM now, and funds will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

To be included in the assessment process your application must be received or postmarked on or before 4.00 pm on Friday 5 March 2010.

For information on the grant program please call Rebecca Palumbo at Wheatbelt NRM or for information on Red Card please call Sally on 0417 983 356 or email sowingseeds@bigpond.com

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3.3 Grants & Funding websites

- ***Grantslink*** *www.grantslink.gov.au/*
- ***DAFF grants & assistance*** *www.daffa.gov.au/about/grants_and_assistance*
- ***DEWHA grants & funding*** *www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/index.html*
- ***FRRR grants*** *www.frrr.org.au/currentprojects.asp*
- ***Caring for our Country funding*** *www.nrm.gov.au/funding/index.html*

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4. OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 >> 2010 Banksia Awards now open
4.2 >> WA Job vacancies

4.1 2010 Banksia Awards now open

Banksia is once again looking to inspire and be inspired by examples of environmental excellence in Australia's most prestigious environmental awards. Banksia Awards are open to communities, business, governments, and individuals engaging in and leading the way in innovative and sustainable practices.

We all play a part in forwarding Australia's development towards a sustainable future and we encourage you to consider the many categories featured in the 2010 Awards Program as well as the Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award, the Environment Minister's Young Environmentalist of the Year Award and more!

The Awards seek out and recognise Australian Businesses, Community groups, individuals and public bodies that are reducing their environmental footprint and using resources in innovative ways. Banksia Awards provide an invaluable opportunity for recognition, and promotion of the leadership that exists in Australia.

This is Banksia's 22nd year of Awards Programs and we encourage you to make this your milestone year.

For further information on award categories, contact or download an entry kit visit
www.banksiafdn.com

Contact:
Wayne Slattery – Awards Manager
03 9684 4667
wayne@banksiafdn.com

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4.12 Western Australian job vacancies:

Click here to view the vacancies for Western Australian NRM positions

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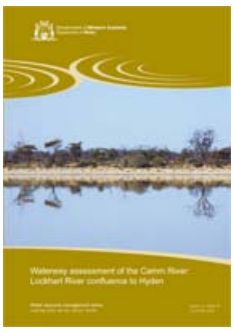
5. PUBLICATIONS

Waterway assessment of the Camm River:

Lockhart River confluence to Hyden



Management of water resources in the Avon River basin is a high priority under the Wheatbelt NRM's (formerly Avon Catchment Council's) natural resource management strategy and investment plans. Through the Avon Rivercare Project, the Department of Water has initiated a project to investigate the riparian condition and management needs of waterways in the Avon River basin within the zone of ancient drainage. This Camm River project is the fifth of these waterway assessments, following those of the Salt River, lower Yilgarn River, lower Lockhart River, and the Lockhart–Lake Kurrenkutten to Camm River confluence.

View WRM57 (web).pdf (PDF document 4673Kb)

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6. LINKS

Featured Link:

New Future Farm Industries CRC Website

Welcome to *Future Farm Online*, the website for the Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre (Future Farm Industries CRC).

This site is dedicated to providing information on the use of perennial plant based farming systems and technologies to provide Australian broadacre agriculture with new productivity and sustainability gains and better natural resource management outcomes.

To view click on the following link:

http://www.futurefarmonline.com.au/

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Want to contribute?

Please forward any interesting facts about projects (even a couple of sentences will do), photos or events in your area via email to cdavid@wheatbeltnrm.org.au or fax to 9690 2255.

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If you know someone who wants to receive E-News, please reply to this email with their email address and "subscribe" in the subject line.

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Working with communities to create healthy environments and livelihoods.