From: David, Chris
To: Ferguson, Daniel B
Subject: Wheatbelt NRM E-News Issue 72
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ISSUE 72, 16th March 2010

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Moving Forward in 2010

This year projects for Wheatbelt NRM will be based around helping to protect bushland on private land, sustainable agriculture based on reducing wind erosion and working with the Aboriginal community. Projects are being funded through the Commonwealth government's Caring for our Country program, worth more than $4 million.

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 (12th), Merredin (13th) and Hyden (14th).

MC Ernie Dingo will present the forums which will also give people the chance to meet their new local sub-catchment directors and official forum hosts Sue Middleton (Avon), Ian Hall (Lockhart) and Merrilyn Temby (Yilgarn).

An information flyer can be viewed below or go to Forum Focus in this E-news to view profiles on two of our great speakers.

Please RSVP drobinson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au or call 9690 2250.

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1. EVENTS

1.1 >> Wheatbelt NRM Community Forums
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1.1 Wheatbelt NRM Community Forums

1.2 The Wallatin Open Day and Satland Pastures Association Dinner

The Wallatin Open Day *and* Saltland Pastures Association Dinner

31st March 2010, Coulahan Pavilion, Kellerberrin

Morning Session 9am—12noon

- *Salinity and Hydrological information about the Wallatin-O'Brian Catchment Region*, **Dr Richard George**, (DAFWA).
- *CSIRO/GRDC Research and Partnership with the Wallatin CDI Project*, **Dr Michael Robertson**, (CSIRO).
- *Engineering Options in the Wheatbelt - Solutions for salinity*, **Nic Cox** (Department of Water).
- *Saltland Pastures and perennial options for farming systems*, **Dr Hayley Norman** (CSIRO).
- *Australian Government no longer funds salinity work - Why is that?* **Kevin Goss**, CEO and Executive Director of Future Farming Industries Cooperative Research Centre.

Afternoon Session 1pm-5pm

Field Trip of Project Sites in Wallatin and O'Brien Catchments. See first hand:

- **Groundwater Pumping**
- **Deep Drainage**
- **Saltland Pastures**
- **Perennials in the landscape**

Evening Dinner 6pm -9pm

All attendees and SPA Members are invited to join the Saltland Pastures Association for dinner to help celebrate the end of an era, and here from Guest Speakers as to there views on the future of saltland pastures and salinity.

Field Day attendance and dinner is free. Please RSVP by the 24th March to Brad Thompson at the Shire of Kellerberrin on 9045 4006.

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1.3 Healthy Forests Forum

World Forestry Day, 21st March, 2010 at Trinity College, UWA

The Institute of Foresters of Australia is organising a seminar on "Healthy Forests" to promote positive dialogue amongst stakeholders in WA native forest management.

We are especially interested in the views of younger people to lead the discussion. Therefore, we are encouraging presentations to be by people younger than 40 years of age. The programme below allows 20 minutes for most presentations including five minutes for questions of clarification. Discussion of issues is intended to be held until the end of each session.

While recognizing a diversity of views, we are suggesting a broadly inclusive view of healthy forests along the lines of the 2004 FAO World Forestry Congress "Healthy forests which supply the full spectrum of products and services whilst conserving soils, maintaining biodiversity, regulating climate, sequestering carbon; where forest fragmentation is decreasing, deforestation is reduced, degradation is halted, and forest cover is increasing."

(www.fao.org/DOCREP/ARTICLE/WFC/XII/FINALSTAT-E.PDF). An older but quite useful article discussing the concept of healthy forests by Kolb *et al*, 1994 is attached for your consideration.

In the interests of a worthy debate we hope that you will encourage your colleagues to participate in the seminar. We will have to charge $30.00 for lunch payable on the day but the IFA will cover other costs. Bona fide full time students will be admitted free of charge.

RSVP to davidw@plantall.com.au by 12th March 2010.

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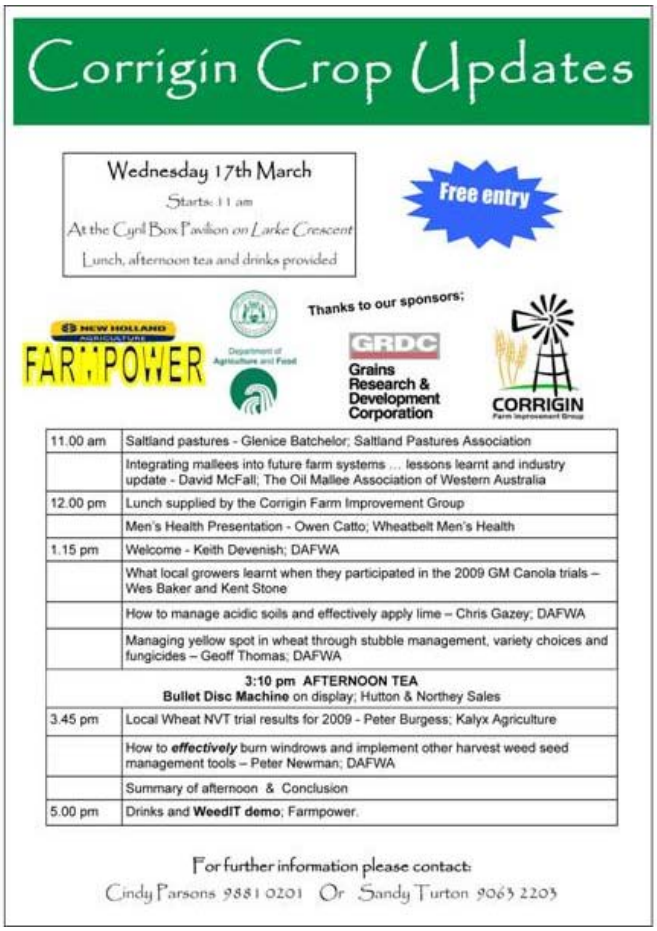
1.4 Corrigin Crop Updates



Corrigin Crop Updates

Wednesday 17th March
Starts: 11 am
At the Cyril Box Pavilion on Larke Crescent
Lunch, afternoon tea and drinks provided

Free entry

Thanks to our sponsors:

NEW HOLLAND AGRICULTURE FARMPOWER

Department of Agriculture and Food

GRDC Grains Research & Development Corporation

CORRIGIN Farm Improvement Group

11.00 am	Saltland pastures - Glenice Batchelor; Saltland Pastures Association
	Integrating mallees into future farm systems ... lessons learnt and industry update - David McFall; The Oil Mallee Association of Western Australia
12.00 pm	Lunch supplied by the Corrigin Farm Improvement Group
	Men's Health Presentation - Owen Catto; Wheatbelt Men's Health
1.15 pm	Welcome - Keith Devenish; DAFWA
	What local growers learnt when they participated in the 2009 GM Canola trials – Wes Baker and Kent Stone
	How to manage acidic soils and effectively apply lime – Chris Gazey; DAFWA
	Managing yellow spot in wheat through stubble management, variety choices and fungicides – Geoff Thomas; DAFWA
	3:10 pm AFTERNOON TEA **Bullet Disc Machine** on display; Hutton & Northey Sales
3.45 pm	Local Wheat NVT trial results for 2009 - Peter Burgess; Kalyx Agriculture
	How to ***effectively*** burn windrows and implement other harvest weed seed management tools – Peter Newman; DAFWA
	Summary of afternoon & Conclusion
5.00 pm	Drinks and **WeedIT demo**; Farmpower.

For further information please contact:
Cindy Parsons 9881 0201 Or Sandy Turton 9063 2203

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2. GENERAL NEWS

2.1 >> Wallatin CDI celebration
2.2 >> Farming Landscapes for the Future workshop series

2.1 Wallatin CDI celebration

After over five years of successful research, development and extension into salinity management through on ground farm demonstrations, the $1.2 million Wallatin Catchment Demonstration Initiative is coming to an end, with a final celebration on the 31st of March at Kellerberrin.

15 key demonstration projects have been installed in the Wallatin and O'Brien catchments, near Kellerberrin and Doodlakine. Farmers could then co-invest with 50% "Rollout" funding to implement the best fit options for their farming business. Hundreds of visitors have toured the 44 000ha catchments over the years to learn of the trials, tribulations and successes of the works that have included a 10km deep drain, siphons, surface water earthworks, creek crossings and creek riffles, ground water pumping, lucerne and saltland pasture establishment.

The Saltland Pastures Association, a cooperative of farmers, researchers and community keen to promote the use and benefits of saline pastures, is also approaching the end of an era, and is celebrating with a dinner following the Open Day with all attendees and members invited. This Field Day is also in partnership with the WEROC 'Caring For Our Country' NRM group, who are beginning a 4 year project to combat Wind erosion in the Central Wheatbelt.

The Project Manager for the Catchment Demonstration Initiative, Glenice Batchelor said 'hopefully, farmers will come along and see what has been learnt from the demonstration sites and our farmer's experiences locally. They'll identify their own sites they're worried about, look at the research and options the Wallatin group have trialled and implemented,

and then be able to decide how best to manage salinity back on their own farms.

Field Day attendance and SPA dinner is Free, please RSVP by the 15th March to Brad Thompson at the Shire of Kellerberrin on 9045 4006 or email nrmo@kellerberrin.wa.gov.au

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2.2 Farming Landscapes for the Future workshop series

Over 70 people attended the workshop series that recently toured the Avon Wheatbelt to demonstrate the new (free) *Farming Landscapes for the Future* software tool developed as part of AVONGRO and CSIRO's Caring for our Country Project. Consultants and State Government staff joined land managers to see what the new tool has to offer and to learn how to use it.

A year's worth of data collection to calibrate CSIRO's SPIF tool to Avon tree crops and conditions and CSIRO's APSim tool for Avon cropping systems gives users the ability to now compare the production and economics of a variety of scenarios for anywhere on their farm.

While workshop participants provided valuable feedback on possible improvements, in general everyone agreed that the tool will be very useful in the future for making on-farm decisions.

Comments from workshop participants:

- 'Keep up the good work. It has meaningful outcomes.'
- 'Potential is great.'
- 'Program could be very interesting for/in future.'
- 'I think the tool shows great potential.'

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3. FUNDING

3.1>> Community Small Grants Incentive Scheme
3.2 >> Grants & Funding websites

3.1 Community Small Grants Incentive Scheme

The call out for applications in the 2010 Community Small Grants Incentive Scheme is still open; the grants are designed to support activities that improve your local community's participation and awareness of Natural Resource Management (NRM).

Wheatbelt NRM invites your community group, organisation or schools to submit an application for this incentive scheme. This scheme is suitable for activities up to $15,000. For 2010 projects, your activity will need to be completed and a final report submitted by 30th September 2010, however this may be extended depending on your project's unique requirements.

Please clearly specify the date(s) that you intend to implement your project activities on your application form. This assists Wheatbelt NRM to allocate funds and anticipate funding demands for 2011.

Examples of suitable activities may include, but are not limited to: environmental education initiatives/lectures, flora and fauna surveys, tree planting, bushland management, recycling, water harvesting, water conservation and cultural NRM activity. Applicants will be expected to show a strong NRM focus and to demonstrate how any knowledge gained from the activity will be shared within your community.

If you are interested in this incentive scheme, and have a project in mind, please visit our website http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/funding/csg for an application form.

Applications close on **March 26th 2010** for assessment during April 2010.

If you would like to discuss your project idea before submitting an application please contact cswift@wheatbeltnrm.org.au, phone Carla Swift on 9690 2250 on Mondays or Wednesdays or mobile 0428 777 287 other days.

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3.2 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 >> Western Australian NRM job vacancies

4.1 Western Australian NRM job vacancies:

Click here to view the vacancies for Western Australian NRM positions

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5. Forum focus

This issue of Wheatbelt NRM E-news highlights two speakers at the Wheatbelt NRM Community Forums taking place on the 12th (Wongan Hills), 13th (Merredin) and 14th (Hyden) of April.

Dr Christine Jones

Dr Christine Jones is an internationally renowned and highly respected groundcover and soils ecologist. Christine has a wealth of experience working with innovative landholders to implement regenerative land management techniques that enhance biodiversity, increase biological activity, sequester carbon, activate soil nutrient cycles, restore water balance, improve productivity and create new topsoil. Christine has organised and participated in workshops, field days, seminars and conferences throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the USA and has a strong publication and presentation record.

Christine received a Community Fellowship Award from Land and Water Australia in 2001. The LWA Community Fellowship Program provides recognition to individuals with an outstanding track record in mobilising and inspiring the community to better manage their land, water and vegetation.

Christine will be presenting at all three Wheatbelt NRM forums.

Rowan Reid

In 1985, at the age of just 24, Rowan co-authored the book Agroforestry in Australia and New Zealand. He has since been a leader in the development of agroforestry education and extension programs in Australia having developed the first undergraduate course in agroforestry in Australia and the very successful Australian Master TreeGrower Program. Rowan was awarded the 2000 Eureka Prize in Environmental Education for his work on the program.

Rowan also practices agroforestry on his own farm. Bambra Agroforestry Farm provides the opportunity for landowners to see a wide range of tree species grown for timber, fodder, food and seed production as well as the opportunity for practical outdoor education.

His research includes work on eucalypt plantation silviculture, buffer strips management, extension methods and landscape change. He has been the principal researcher on competitive R&D grants totalling more than $1M dollars and has published in peer reviewed journals and research reports.

After more than 20 years as an academic at the University of Melbourne, Rowan is now working privately on his own farm and as a consultant. He is particularly interested in sharing ideas about how to involve private landholders in multipurpose forest management and the silvicultural management of forests on farms for high quality timber.

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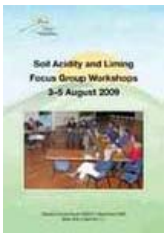
6. PUBLICATIONS

Soil Acidity and Liming Focus Group Workshops 3–5 August 2009



Focus group workshops were conducted at three locations in the central and eastern wheatbelt of Western Australia. Twentyfour participants, 22 males and 2 females, aged from 21–30 to 61–70 attended the workshops. The focus groups

involved presentation of soil-sampling data from the participants' farms. The main aim of the workshops was to determine whether there are any common barriers to the adoption of liming as a practice

http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/reports_publications/Soil_Acidity/focusgroupsworkshop/file/at_download

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7. LINKS

Featured Link:

Florabank

Florabank recognises and shares the best available knowledge from research and practice in native species seed management and supports a professional and informed seed sector, encouraging quality and choice for buyers of native Australian seed. Florabank also delivers training for seed professionals, and works to assist the native seed industry to grow and develop as a national peak body advocate.
Florabank is an initiative of the Australian Government, Greening Australia and CSIRO. Greening Australia has been funding Florabank since mid 2008.
To view click on the following link:

http://www.florabank.org.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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