From: David, Chris
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Subject: Wheatbelt NRM E-News Issue 73
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ISSUE 73, 30th March 2010

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Wheatbelt NRM wants your help to shape NRM in your area

Todd Hutchinson of People Rich

The upcoming Wheatbelt NRM Community Forums will provide the opportunity for community members to express their views on natural resource management, meet the new Wheatbelt NRM sub-regional director and hear the latest from some of the leading voices in NRM, Agribusiness and improved Farm practices.

Wheatbelt NRM will seek to engage its regional community by stimulating discussion and establishing a platform for our community members to have their say in Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management. Associates and members of Wheatbelt NRM will be given the opportunity to speak with their sub-regional director and have their opinion represented.

Todd Hutchison of People Rich will facilitate the community feedback workshop at the Forums. Todd is a dynamic and inspirational international professional speaker, author, consultant and known as the "Corporate Mechanic™" and Managing Director and Chairman of the People Rich Group of Companies amongst other roles.

His expertise and enthusiastic personality will ensure Wheatbelt NRM proficiently attends to communities NRM issues with clarity. If you have an opinion on NRM in your area then come along to this free event.

Hosted by Ernie Dingo these unique forums will be held in **Wongan Hills (Monday 12th April), Merredin (Tuesday 13th April) and Hyden (Wednesday 14th April).**

If you havn't RSVP'd to any of these Forums yet please contact Di Robinson on 9690 2250 or email drobinson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

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1. EVENTS

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

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1.2 The Wallatin Open Day and Saltland Pastures Association Dinner

The Wallatin Open Day and Satland Pastures Association Dinner RSVP date has been extended. There are still places available to attend this event below. It should be a great day and will be your last chance to hear about the salinity research conducted on farms in the Wallatin Catchment over the last five years.

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.

SPA

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

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1.3 An Evening with Richard Louv

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2. GENERAL NEWS

2.1 >> Australian Forrest Growers branch opportunity
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2.1 Australian Forrest Growers branch opportunity

Dear WA Wheatbelt Tree Croppers

We have been given the opportunity to form a branch of the national body the Australian Forest Growers and are planning an inaugural meeting to formally form WA Wheatbelt AFG

DATE: Tuesday April 6th 2010
PLACE: Wongan Hills Telecentre, 2 Elphin Crescent
TIME: From 10am

All current financial members of AVONGRO will be given the opportunity to automatically become members of AFG at no extra cost for a full year. Non-AVONGRO members can join WA Wheatbelt AFG direct. There will only be one membership in the future – with AFG

Initially AVONGRO will continue to exist and work alongside WA Wheatbelt AFG to ensure that there are not overlaps or gaps.

AFG is a national group who has been looking after the interests of private forest growers for 40 years. Forming WA Wheatbelt AFG will give truly low-rainfall (Wheatbelt wide) tree crops a voice in the national arena.

For more information on AFG see: www.afg.asn.au

We will be looking for 3 or 4 committee members on the day so please come prepared to put your hand up for the inaugural committee (must be AFG members).

RSVPs to Monica Durcan by Wednesday March 31st – preferably by email

Monica Durcan (MRD), Executive Officer
AVONGRO Wheatbelt Tree Cropping Incorporated
www.avongro.com.au
56 Broadway Road, BICKLEY WA 6076

Ph/fx: 08 9291 8249
Mobile: 0418 934 870

Email: mdurcan@iinet.net.au

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2.2 Discussion Paper for the Australian Framework for Landcare - second phase

A further stage of consultation to guide the development of the Australian Framework for Landcare is now underway to allow the broader Landcare community to comment on developments to date including the initial conclusions reached by the Reference Group.

The National Landcare Forum provides an opportunity for participants to do this but the papers are being circulated more widely to allow those not attending the Forum to have a say.

The *Discussion Paper* and *Background Paper* can be accessed at www.landcarefacilitator.com.au by clicking on the Framework webpage

Landcarers are asked to provide comments to landcareframework@nrm.gov.au by Friday, 9 April 2010.

Following this consultation period, the Reference Group plans to have a draft Framework for consideration by the Landcare community by mid May 2010 and to complete its work by 30 June 2010. It is expected that the Australian Landcare Council would take responsibility for the completion of the Framework and arrange for its final approval by the Landcare community.

A *Summary of Community Feedback on the Australian Framework for Landcare* document, which is a compilation of feedback to date from state/territory forums, blog and submissions to the 'Landcare Speaks' paper, can also be accessed at the website above.

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2.3 OUT-FOXING AT ITS BEST

Foxes are again outfoxed by community efforts

The community commitment to controlling foxes and rabbits across agricultural landscapes was again illustrated on the weekend, with farmers across the south west land division working together as part of the annual Red Card for Red Fox program.

The second of the Stockbrands Community Foxshoots saw 45 groups coordinate the efforts of over 800 farmers and volunteers, who worked through the night culling foxes, feral cats, rabbits and wild pigs while raising funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Over 3000 foxes were culled in the shoots, which would eat the equivalent of 16 semi-trailer loads of livestock, native animals and insects each year. Farmers also culled 140 wild cats, who can raise up to 8 kittens each year, along with over 2500 rabbits.

This total will see Stockbrands donate $15,000 to the Royal Flying Doctor Service as part of their sponsorship arrangement of donating $5 per fox culled in registered shoots. John Forehan owns Stockbrands Co and is proud that his Western Australian company is supporting this Western Australian cause, and is a firm believer in supporting local economy. The program is made possible through collaborative funding by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, Wheatbelt NRM, South West Catchments Council and South Coast NRM bodies.

Partnerships are a strong focus of the program and professional hunting and conservation bodies, such as the Sporting Shooters Association, are also forging strong links with farmers in a bid to outwit the wily fox.

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3. FUNDING

3.1 >> Grants & Funding websites

3.1 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 >> Landcare Facilitators Initiative
4.2 >> Western Australian NRM job vacancies

4.1 Landcare Facilitators Initiative

The Australian Government's support for Landcare continues with applications now open for suitable organisations to apply for funding to host a Landcare facilitator under the National Landcare Facilitator Initiative.

The Australian Government has committed $33.6 million over four years under the National Landcare Facilitator Initiative for organisations to employ a Landcare facilitator within each of the 56 Natural Resource Management regions across Australia. Eligible host organisations must be engaged in natural resource management and promoting the uptake of sustainable farm and land management practices.

The new arrangements for the National Landcare Facilitator Initiative will come into effect on 1 July 2010. It is envisaged that funding agreements will cover the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2013.

Applications for host organisations will be open until 15 April 2010.

Application form and guidelines

- Landcare Facilitators Initiative - ***application form*** (PDF - 145 KB) | (Word - 205 KB)
- Landcare Facilitators Initiative - ***applicant guidelines*** (PDF - 286 KB) | (RTF - 147 KB)

For further information and an application form please email landcarefacilitators@daff.gov.au or call (02) 6272 4981.

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4.2 Western Australian NRM job vacancies:

Click here to view the vacancies for Western Australian NRM positions

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5. PUBLICATIONS

BURLONG POOL ON THE GULGULGA BILYA

Located 5 kilometres west of the Northam Townsite, Burlong Pool is a semipermanent body of water and a site of significance to both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people of Northam.

The site was also used as a training location in water crossings by the military and for recreational activities for the local Northam community in the 1940's and 50's.

Wheatbelt NRM (formally known as Avon Catchment Council) in association with its partners has installed 12 interpretive signs at Burlong Pool that are reprinted here in this booklet. The site has also undergone a major cleanup and development. This project was a joint initiative involving the local Aboriginal community, Shire of Northam, Avon Valley Environmental Society, Department of Water, Avon Valley Contractors, Green Corps and Wheatbelt NRM.

Books will be available in April, please phone Wheatbelt NRM on 9690 2250 to reserve your copy.

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6. LINKS

Featured Link:

New Wheatbelt NRM Website going live in early April

A new look Wheatbelt NRM website will go live in early April and aims to be more user friendly and informative.

With easier to navigate reports and publications, online videos and interactive maps the new site will be a repository for all Wheatbelt NRM information and knowledge.

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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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Working with communities to create healthy environments and livelihoods.