



Featuring in this edition

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- Financial incentives for farmers & land managers
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What is on in the Australian world of Landcare?

Appointment of Australian Landcare Council

The Australian Government has recently announced the appointment of 16 new members to the Australian Landcare Council (ALC) which is the Australian Government's key advisory body on Landcare. According to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Ludwig, the Australian Government is committed to supporting the Landcare community which has been protecting and restoring Australia's environment and improving the landscape for farmers for the past 20 years. He said the appointment of 16 outstanding individuals with demonstrated commitment to their local environment and communities will strengthen Landcare.

The Minister said that in particular he wanted the council to focus on outcomes, concentrating on what the government considers the central pillars of Landcare for the next 20 years: food security, responding to climate change and maintaining the environment. The council will work with the Landcare community, including farmers and Indigenous land managers, to help prepare Australia for the challenges that climate change presents to our productivity and natural resource management. The 16 new members join the previously announced Chair of the ALC and former WA Agriculture Minister, Mr Kim Chance and provide an important converge across the country as well as expertise in farming, conservation, research, indigenous and other Landcare related facets. The 16 new members are Ms Kate Andrews (NT), Professor Snow Barlow (Vic), Mrs Pamela Brook (NSW), Ms Alexandra Gartmann (Vic), Dr Judy Henderson AO (NSW), Dr Rosemary Hill (QLD), Mr Peter Kenny (Qld), Mr Jock Laurie (NSW), Ms Coral Love (Vic), Ms Banduk Marika (NT), Mr John McQuilten (Vic), Mr Dennis Mutton (SA), Ms Vicki-Jo Russell AM (SA), Ms Sharon Starick (SA), Mr Andrew Stewart (Vic) and Mr James Walch (Tasmania).

Announcement of funding for Regional Landcare Facilitators

The Australian Government has recently announced funding for 56 organisations around Australia to support farmers and land managers as well as encourage conservation in local communities, through the employment of Regional Landcare Facilitator.

Each organisation will receive funding of up to \$150,000 per year for three years for a Regional Landcare Facilitator to support community Landcare and production groups to adopt sustainable farm and land management practices and to protect Australia's landscape. These facilitators will help Landcare and production groups meet the challenges of food security, climate change and the protection of biodiversity. They will work on projects through Landcare networks and provide feedback to the Government and the National Landcare Facilitator, Brett de Hayr, on emerging issues and activities in the regions relevant to Landcare.

According to the National Landcare Facilitator, Brett de Hayr, a key role of the facilitators will be to help their local communities. "Whether communities are rural, urban or peri-urban, they will be able to access information that they want from government. Communities will be able to obtain information on food security, climate and the environment and apply this knowledge in a way that meets local needs."

The funding is part of the Australian Government's \$33.6 million commitment to a national network of Regional Landcare Facilitators.

In the Northern Agricultural Region the regional landcare facilitator is currently hosted by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC). Although this position is based in Geraldton, it is a resource to the whole region.

Announcement of funding for successful projects of the CFOC's open call component of 2010-11

Recently the Australian Government announced an additional \$241 million for the successful projects of the open call component of the 2010—11 Caring for our Country business plan. About 168 environmental and sustainable agricultural projects were successful.

- Over \$60 million will be shared among rural, urban and coastal community and Landcare groups, as well as landholders to improve, protect and better manage our natural and productive landscapes.
- \$181 million was allocated as base level funding for 56 regional natural resource management (NRM) organisations around Australia. From these funds, \$49.9 million will go to NRM groups specifically to support this work.

About **\$2 882 999** in funding were granted to WA **Landcare projects** including:

- Fisheries Department of WA - \$289 900
- Curtin University of Technology - \$300 000
- WA Vegetable Growers Association Inc - \$268 340
- Greening Australia Western Australia - \$300 000
- Leschenault Catchment Council (LCC) Incorporated - \$294 164
- Wagin/Woodanilling Landcare Zone Inc - \$130 000
- Oil Mallee Assoc of WA Inc - \$292 000
- Mingenew Irwin Group - \$300 000
- WA Vegetable Growers Association Inc - \$233 595
- Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated - \$300 000
- Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated - \$175 000

All funding will be subject to contract negotiations. For further information about Caring for our Country including a list of funded projects visit www.nrm.gov.au.

Westpac's Junior Landcare Grants Program

Westpac is helping students develop leadership skills through local environmental projects – Your school can apply by Friday 10th December 2010. For more information or to apply visit: juniorlandcare.com.au. Grants of \$1,500 are available for schools to help students build their sustainability leadership through a project to improve their school or local community environment. Schools seeking to develop environmental leadership skills for Year 5 and 6 students are encouraged to apply. For more information or to apply visit www.juniorlandcare.com.au

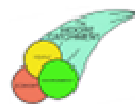
Landcare Knowledge Archive – Have you got a landcare story?

In September, the National Landcare Facilitator and Landcare Australia began to collect information from those involved in the broader Landcare movement (groups, individuals, care and productivity groups, regional bodies etc) for PDF copies of publications that they have produced since the inception of Landcare to be included in an on-line "Landcare Knowledge Archive". Some examples of the topics covered so far include soil carbon, history of Landcare, Landcare internationally; group planning, flora and fauna guides, conservation tillage, revegetation, agro-forestry and wetlands management. Topics can be searched by key words or also by location to see what has been happening across the country. The aim is not for this to be purely an historical record, but a knowledge base that is built on and added to as new material is produced.

So far there are about 100 items received and being gradually loaded onto the Knowledge Archive. However, for this initiative to reach its true potential as a resource for the Landcare movement and to preserve some of the great publications that have been generated, we need your help. So if you are, or have been involved with the production of a publication which you consider should be available on the Landcare Knowledge archive, then send a PDF copy to the National Landcare Facilitator on landcarearchive@nrm.gov.au. To visit the Landcare Knowledge Archive go to the resources section at www.landcareonline.com.au.



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Landcare Bus tour

On 27th Oct 2010, NACC's Regional Landcare Facilitator organised a bus tour to coincide with this year's NACC AGM that was held in Moora on 26th October. The tour offered local residents an opportunity to see firsthand some of the land management issues in the region and to hear how these issues have been addressed. The tour was attended by 27 participants from diverse backgrounds.

The tour started in Dandaragan, where Hellene McTaggart of the West Midlands Group gave an overview of their programs including some of their project outcomes and learnings. The bus then proceeded to Hi-vallee farm where the participants had an opportunity to hear from the local native plants expert Don Williams who demonstrated the significance of health biodiversity in the farming environment. According to Don, native plants play an important role in the agricultural systems. They are not only contributing to the stabilisation of the soil, but also they attract birds and insects to pollinate the crops.

From Hi-vallee farm, the bus took off to visit some coastal project sites around the coastal town of Cervantes, where NACC's coastal management team shared some of the challenges confronting our coastal areas today and showed the group a degraded site. The coastal team acknowledged the collaborative efforts of the coastcare community groups including working with partners such as the West Midland Group.

Close to Cervantes, the group visited one of the region's iconic lakes – Lake Thetis. In the past, through the Australian Government funding, NACC partnered with the Department of Environment and Conservation to protect this iconic lake from degradation. Lake Thetis is a home to various microbial communities. In this lake there are colonies of Cyanobacteria that build Stromatolites. The scientists believed that the Stromatolites in Lake Thetis are similar to the earlier organisms to appear on earth that produced oxygen from the formation of life. The Stromatolites in the lake are believed to have been growing for about 3,500 years.



Above: Jen Bairstow of WMG introduces Graham Sutherland – a farmer from west of Badgingarra to share his experiences on Subtropical grasses. On the left hand side is John Longman of MCC

The bus tour concluded by visiting two farms in the west and east of Badgingarra, where the group saw and heard from farmer who has planted subtropical grasses and another farmer who has fenced off a Hidden Treasurers high value remnant vegetation site.



Above: Don Williams serving a traditional billy tea to MCC's John Longman and NACC's Jackie Gill



Above: NACC's coastal project officer Ashley Robb shares about coastcare challenges



Above: DEC's Brad Rushforth explains to the group about the Lake Thetis conservation project



Above: NACC's Sarah Jeffery shares some thoughts about subtropical grasses

INCENTIVES - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST STILL OPEN

NACC Wind erosion and Rabbit control incentives

NACC have recently reviewed and updated their incentives program to make it more attractive to apply. Tree crops now have further options on top of just oil mallees that include sandalwood and brushwood. The fodder shrub (saltbush) incentive has been doubled to a maximum incentive of \$8,000 which could help plant up to 47 ha of saltbush. There are also other incentives available including: perennial pastures, strategic revegetation and rabbit control.

The incentives funded through the Australian Government's CFCO Program, will be offered on first come first served basis. Sites will be assessed against specific guidelines and criteria to ensure that on-ground works funded through the project deliver landscape-scale change and value for money.

Farmers and land managers undertaking on-ground works will also be offered 12 months membership to appropriate industry groups to enable them to access the latest technology and management information available. In addition to offering incentives, the project will also provide training and information dissemination opportunities to farmers and land managers involved in the project.

For more information regarding NACC's wind erosion incentives contact your local NRMO or phone Sarah Jeffery, Sustainable Farming Coordinator on 9938 0110 or Marieke Jansen, Acting Biodiversity Coordinator on 9938 0108.

Moore fencing incentives available

- Are you in the Moore River catchment and planning to fence off creek lines and remnant vegetation this year?
- Do you want to contribute to the long term protection of the Moore Catchment's natural assets?
- If so, then phone the Moore Catchment Council on 9653 1355 to discuss the new incentives available.

Through the state funded 'Recovery and Protection of the Moore River Catchment's Threatened Natural Assets' project, the MCC can offer landholders \$3,000/km for fencing and \$500/ha for re-vegetating creek lines, and \$4,000/km for fencing off priority remnant vegetation.

This project has enough money to fence 25km and re-vegetate 50ha of the Moore River and its tributaries, and 15km of priority native vegetation. These incentives are offered on a first come/first served basis and will be subject to a site assessment for suitability. Works need to be completed by September 2011.

For more information please phone Rachel or Ingrid at the MCC office at 9653 1355 for further details.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

A Waratah® Fencing Afternoon with Neville Prince

Landmark Geraldton office would like to extend an invitation to you to attend a Waratah® Fencing Afternoon with Neville Prince. The event will be held at Landmark's office in Geraldton (156 Flores road) on Tuesday 30th Nov 2010 at 4:00pm. The demonstration will run for approximately 2 hours and will include:

- Strainer assemblies – Do's and Don'ts
- Barbed and Plain Wire Fence Erection
- The Waratah Accessory Range
- What's New from Waratah
- Handy Hints to save you time and money.

For catering purposes, please RSVP to Brett DelNero at Landmark Geraldton office at 9921 1344 or George Panayotou (Waratah Sales Manager) at 0418 945 828 by Friday 26th Nov 2010.



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