



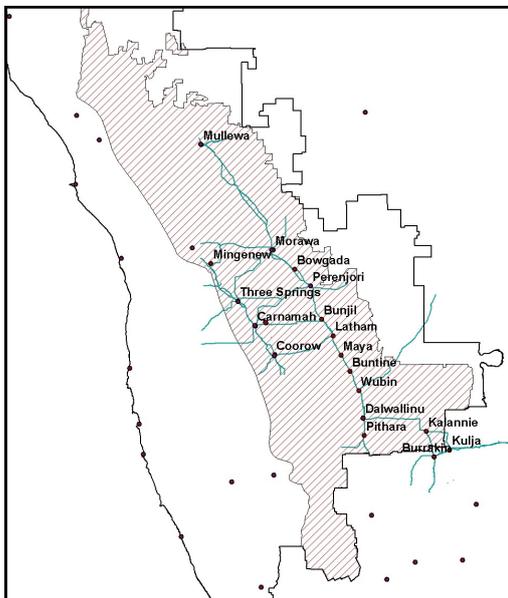
Oil Mallee Seedling Subsidies for 2009

Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC) Eastern Oil Mallee Program

Subsidised Seedlings Available

12c (+GST) per seedling delivered to a central point

Minimum order of 5,000 seedlings



For planting in winter 2009, NACC has a number of Oil Mallee seedlings that are being subsidised and offered to landholders. The seedlings will be offered at 12c each with delivery included. The oil mallee program will be targeted at the area outlined in the map. This covers most of the Yarra Yarra Catchment, plus areas of the Moore Catchment and Greenough sub-regions too. Participating landowners will receive a complementary 12 month Oil Mallee Association (OMA) membership. This Oil Mallee Incentive program is aimed at achieving the following outcomes;

- ☺ reducing wind and water erosion;
- ☺ improved water quality;
- ☺ reduction of rising groundwater;
- ☺ provision of crop and stock shelter;
- ☺ nature conservation; and
- ☺ building the oil mallee resource in the Northern Ag Region.

If you are interested in taking part in the program you will need to complete an Expression of Interest form. These are available from our Perenjori office and are also available to download from our website - www.yarrayarracatchment.asn.au

For further information please contact Lizzie or Dene on 9973 1425



Would you be interested in getting a large scale aerial photo/map of your farm?

Depending on the amount of interest we will print these maps in February/March of next year. We can do maps up to A1 size on paper or matte film paper

There would be a nominal fee to cover costs of the ink.

Please get in touch with Dene Solomon if you are interested on 99731425 or email to yycmg.dene@bbnet.com.au





Check out our new and improved website!

www.yarrayarracatchment.asn.au



You can find information about all of our current and past projects, local and national funding opportunities, upcoming events in the region, minutes from our meetings, all of our newsletters and more on our new website.

Would you like to see your photos on our website?

Email us your photos of the region and we will put the best ones up on our website. Remember to tell us where the photos were taken. We will put new photos up every month. Email them to: yycmg_lizzie@westnet.com.au

Caring For Our Country

Open Grants Successful Applications Announced

The Federal Government have announced the successful projects in the Caring for our Country, Open Grants round. Across Australia there was a total of \$28.5 million available and 137 projects have been funded from this. The Yarra Yarra group submitted an application for a project for tackling soil acidity in the Northern Agricultural Region. Unfortunately this application was unsuccessful. The funding round was very competitive and only a small portion of projects were successful. You can see the full list of successful projects on the Caring for our Country website:

www.nrm.gov.au/projects/open-grants.html

Business Plan 2009-2010 and future funding

The Australian government have just released their Caring For Our Country business proposal for 2009/10. This lays out the Natural Resource Management (NRM) targets they want to achieve over the next five years. There is \$2.25 billion of funding available for the next five years under this program and applications for funding for 2009/10 must be submitted by the 6th March 2009.

You can view the business plan on their website: www.nrm.gov.au

We are keen to know what your thoughts are about the type of projects you would like to see happening in this region. There are number of things to bear in mind:

- All applications must specifically address one or more of the targets as laid out in the business plan
- Projects that are able to address multiple targets will be favoured
- Proposals from partnerships for projects will be favoured

One of the six priority areas for investment is sustainable farm practices and the government targets cover improving land management practices, increasing landscape scale conservation and improving knowledge and skills of land managers.

We will keep you informed of our progress with project applications. The easiest way for us to do this is via email, so if you are not already on our mailing list and would like to be, send an email to Lizzie : yycmg_lizzie@westnet.com.au



\$2000/km Salinity Fencing Extended



Jessica Hasleby, Development Officer, Geraldton

The Salinity Rehabilitation and Extension Project which has been running in the north-eastern wheatbelt for the past 2 years has been extended until the **30th June 2009**. Over 130 farmers have been provided with saltland management advice and fencing, and the project is looking for more expressions of interest.

The project provides an on-farm salinity advice service to farmers who have a significant proportion of land affected by salinity, and are situated in the Yarra Yarra Catchment, eastern areas of the Moore River Catchment and the headwaters of the Irwin Catchment. Participating farmers may also be eligible for the NACC fencing incentive of \$2000/km to help improve the management of saline land.

In addition to provision of advice the project currently has signed up fencing contracts worth \$530,000 which, if all erected, will help to improve management of 14,000ha of salt affected land in the Northern Agricultural Region. Several completed fences have been inspected and the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) is reimbursing landholders.

Management of these areas ranges from natural regeneration to planting saltbush with inter-row pastures. Many people are realising the grazing value of their saltland, especially in these drier years, and are crash grazing or implementing cell grazing systems.



Mounded river saltbush with an inter-row pasture.

Landholders with existing contracts now have until the 31st of March to erect their fences. We are also keen to visit farmers who have already completed an existing contract and would like more fencing, or to visit landholders who express an interest in either fencing or advice.

Farmers wanting to participate in the project can call Jessica Hasleby at the Geraldton office for an appointment.



For further information, contact Jessica Hasleby at the Geraldton Office on 9956 8532

Weed Watch: Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*)

Do you have this plant on your property?

This large tough weed, which grows to 1.6 metres high, will displace pasture species, and if left unchecked can form into impenetrable thickets. Spiny rush is fond of damp areas and will quickly invade watercourses.

Within the Yarra Yarra region it is most likely to be found around the Three Springs and Carnamah areas. Once Spiny Rush becomes established it can be very difficult to get rid of. If you have this plant on your property and would like information on how to get rid of it, please contact the Perenjori office and speak to Dene or Lizzie. Tel: 99736081



The Regional Drainage Project

The second stage of the Merkanooka drain just west of the Morawa town has now been completed. It included just over 12km of deep drain at a depth of 2.5 metres when possible. The line of the drain was changed at times in an attempt to maintain depth. This meant numerous pits being dug to establish possible options that would enable us to keep the drain at 2.5 metres.

Surface water channels have been constructed alongside the main drain when no obvious channel existed. This has an added benefit of the following:

- Provides surface water conveyance, less pooling near drain wall
- Strengthens bund wall therefore better protecting the asset
- Provides topsoil on bund wall to allow establishment of revegetation and grasses
- Overall aesthetically better

The new channel extends from the Mingenew-Morawa Rd, over Moffet Rd, across Ryan Rd and heads west across Coaker Rd for about 2 km. In total the drain now extends more than 26 km and crosses eight main roads, two of these being main bitumen roads.

If you would like any further information about the project please contact us.

Upcoming Events

February 26th, 2.30pm, Kalannie Office, Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group General Meeting



Creating Productive Saltbush Pastures on Saline Land

We have copies available of the above document in our Perenjori office. This is a review of a project carried out by the Moore Catchment Council and Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group over 2007/2008.

If you would like a copy please get in touch.

Staff News

All of the staff at Yarra Yarra would like to wish you a very merry Christmas. See you in the New Year.

NACC calendars for 2009 are available (free!) from our Perenjori and Kalannie offices. The calendars are full of fantastic photos, all of which were taken by residents from the NAR region.



If you would like to join our mailing list, please send an email to yycmg_lizzie@westnet.com.au



Perenjori : PO Box 124, Perenjori, 6620, Tel: 99731425, Fax: 99731421

Kalannie: Po Box 14, Kalannie. 6468, Tel: 96662140, Fax: 96662130