

Nov—Jan 2006

Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



SubSurface Drainage Field Days—Carnamah, Three Springs and Kirwan

The subsurface drains will begin construction on the 21st February at the Carnamah trial site followed by the Three Springs and Kirwan sites.

2 km of perforated pipe will be implemented at each site using different designs to determine the applicability of subsurface drainage to combat salinity in broad acre agriculture.

Field Days held during this period will showcase the Mastebroek 2620 Drainage machine in action and explain the purpose of the research trials and monitoring.

Information on other Natural Resource Management projects in the Yarra Yarra Catchment will be presented and available at the field days.

Field Days:

Carnamah

Wednesday 22nd February

7:30 am for an 8 am start

Location: Alf and Maria Niven's property, 10km East of Carnamah on the Carnamah Bunjil Rd.

Three Springs:

Monday 27th February

7:30 am for an 8 am start

Location: Mutter's property, 4km East on Simson Road from the Morawa—Three Springs Rd

Kirwan:

Friday 3rd March (May be subject to change. Please call to confirm)

7:30 am for an 8 am start

Location: 3 km West of Kirwan Bin on Kirwan Rd

Please Note: If you are unable to at-

tend the field days please contact Cindy Walker on 9973 1425 or 0427 246 399 to arrange a time to visit.

Directions: If you would like a map with directions faxed to you, please contact Cindy.

At the Mutter's trial site there will also be the opportunity to view a recently constructed open deep drain.



Mastebroek 2620 Drainage Machine, manufactured in England with a 220kw Deutz diesel engine and laser guided depth control. It has been purpose built to lay drain coil in a bed of filter media to precise laser grade in a single pass.



Subsidised Brushwood Plantations

This project aims to develop several hundred hectares of Melaleuca plantation for the Brushwood fencing industry, in the Northern Ag Region over the next 3 years and is funded by the National Action Plan for Salinity (federal government) through Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) first Investment Plan.

At the heart of the project is a subsidised seedling program that will allow farmers that are prepared to establish large scale plantations to access seedlings for as little as 8 cents each, which is

a 75% discount on the full cost of the trees. Another goal of the project is to establish enough brushwood material to alleviate commercial pressures on natural stands and to provide enough raw materials to establish a brushwood panel processing plant in the region. The project aims to provide environmental services whilst also providing some economic returns on land that is unproductive for conventional agricultural practices, giving land-

holders another management option on land that is going saline.

There will be approximately 500,000 trees planted in the first year of the project that will take place in (July –August 06).

We are currently seeking farmers that are interested in establishing large scale brushwood plantations on their properties.

For further information contact Georgie Troup, Project Officer on 0408675787 or georgietroup@bordnet.com.au

NACC Investment Plan 1 - Projects in the Yarra Yarra Catchment

Some Examples of NRM Projects to be undertaken in 2006 are:		Project	Proponent
		Groundwater use vision for the Mid-West	DOE
		Developing Capacity Building for Rivercare	DOE
Regional Monitoring and Evaluation	NACC	Implementing recovery actions (weed control, translocations, seed collection, genetic research)	DOE
Region-wide education, extension and awareness activities	NACC		
Managing climate risk and variability	DAWA	Conservation and Management of Road-side Vegetation	WA Landskills
Biodiverse Commercial Direct Seeding	Moore Catchment Council	Identification & Prioritisation of Biodiversity Asset Values	CALM
Drainage Benchmarking	DAWA	Yued Booja Environmental Audit of Cultural - Spiritual Sites and Land Use practices	
Determining optimum grazing rotations for perennial pastures	DAWA		
Understanding environmental risks and benefits of perennial pastures	DAWA	Determining the distribution of key weed and feral animals threatening biodiversity	CALM

Envirofunds—Round 8 Opens in February

Envirofunds is part of the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust program. The next round is due to open in February 2006 and close in May (approximately).

Funding available:

- Protect and improve the condition of your native vegetation
- Rehabilitate saline and eroded land

- Revegetate and protect waterways
- Up to \$50,000 (GST inclusive) available to community groups and individuals to carry out on-ground and other actions to target local environmental problems.**

Register at www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/ to receive an Application Guide and Form when Round 8 opens.

Successful drought Envirofunds

In the drought round there were 2,567 applications seeking over \$67 million. Unfortunately of the 1146 projects funded, only 33 were from Western Australia. Many applications Envirofund received were eligible but missed out in the funding cut off. To view the successful applications for Round 7 of Envirofunds go to: www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/

Salinity Rehabilitation and Extension Program

The Salinity Rehabilitation and Extension Program, funded through the NACC Investment Plan, utilising funds from the National Action Plan for Salinity, **aims to improve the salinity extension service to landholders throughout the Northern Ag Region.**



The Salinity Rehabilitation and Extension Program will complement the Department of Agriculture's, Rapid Catchment Appraisal, a large scale salinity project.

This salinity extension service will include:

- An "on farm" salinity advice service
- Regular ground water trend updates
- Administration of a fencing grant to increase the area of protected saline land.

The "On Farm" salinity management service would be delivered by a team of specialists in hydrology, farming systems, revegetation and surface water control.

Options covered will include engineering, cropping and grazing solutions, farm forestry and revegetation for nature conservation outcomes.

Updates on groundwater trends will be supplied to landholders with bores on their properties and used to determine the best salinity management options for the property.

If fencing of saline land is deemed to be a suitable management option, a fencing subsidy is available to assist landholders to implement saltland works on their farm.

A total of 200 kilometres of saltland fencing will be subsidised in the first year to protect the fragile soil from the pressures of grazing stock.

For more information please contact Mike Clarke, DAWA, Geraldton on 9956 8527

NOID Approved for Mongers Drain

Approval has been granted by DAWA for the Mongers Drain to be constructed. **The Mongers Drain is the pilot drainage project in the Yarra Yarra Catchment funded under the NACC Investment Plan.** YYCMG staff will be meeting landholders involved to prepare a tender document in the next few weeks. Mongers Drain will also be the subject of a Cost and Benefit Analysis conducted by Viv Read and Associates on behalf of NACC and the Engineering Evaluation Initiative 2.



Engineering Aspects and Cost Benefit Analysis of Drainage

The Engineering Evaluation Initiative 2 has invested \$250,000 into the Yarra Yarra Catchment regional drainage and Water Management Evaluation. This feasibility study will look at the engineering aspects of the drainage proposal and a Cost and Benefit Analysis covering the whole of the Yarra Yarra Catchment carrying on from the Mongers investigation.

Yarra Yarra Catchment and Wheatbelt Catchments Form an Alliance

The Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group has joined other Wheatbelt Catchments to form an alliance. **The alliance is a lobby group aiming to get a better deal for catchment management in Wheatbelt areas.** The group has been invited to meet with representatives from the State and Federal secretariat to develop a proposal to access Strategic Reserve funds to continue the Catchment Rehabilitation work to be demonstrated in Mongers Zone throughout the the Yarra Yarra Catchment.

GOOD Farmers USE DRUM MUSTER

From all reports recent rainfall has resulted in increased summer spraying activity across the region. **Now** is a good time to deliver any drums you have used since the last round of September collections.

drumMuster Collections held throughout the Yarra Yarra Catchment from 15th to 31st of March

It's simple—just ensure that your drums are:

- Free of any visible chemical residue;
- Clean and Dry;
- Punctured if they're metal, with the lids removed.

Note: Containers with dirt rust and dye stains **ARE** accepted by drumMUSTER

Council	Site	Date	Bookings/Info
Morawa	Morawa Depot	15, 16	9971 1004
Perenjori	Perenjori	20-24	9973 1002
	Latham	20-24	9973 1002
Three Springs	Three Springs	20-24	9954 1001
Carnamah	Carnamah	20-24	9951 1055
	Eneabba	20-24	9951 1055
Dalwallinu	Dalwallinu	15-31	9661 1001
	Kalannie Recycling Centre	15-31	9661 1001



This national program helps farmers keep farms, their families, their soil and, their livestock safe from chemical contamination. Used drums delivered to your local drumMUSTER Centre will be recycled into other products.

For more information please contact your local Council, visit the drumMUSTER website or call your drumMUSTER Regional Consultant Bevan Henderson on 0429 089 780 www.drummuster.com.au

Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Yarra Yarra Group is a professional incorporated Catchment Management Group formed in 1997 by community members who wished to enhance the economic environmental and social well being of the Yarra Yarra Catchment Basin. The Yarra Yarra Basin is one of four Natural Resource Management Sub-Regions in the Northern Agricultural Region.

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YYCMG Calendar

YYCMG Meetings

Next meeting is on:

23rd February

Dates for Funding Grants:

Envirofunds Round 8

Opening February 2006

Community Water Grants

Opening March 2006

Farm Water Grants

Grants up to \$15,000 are available to provide reliable farm water supply for in house use, homestead gardens, crop spray, livestock drinking and other on-farm requirements; optimise water resource utilisation on your farm; manage excess water that may lead to soil erosion, waterlogging, flooding and salinity.

www.wrc.wa.gov.au/owr

Interested in NRM? Become a NACC member

Membership is free and brings with it many benefits including:

* As NACC is responsible for allocating funds to NRM projects throughout the region, **have your say on where funds are most needed**

* Access to the **latest information on natural resource management** (NRM) including grant applications and the latest research results

* Assistance from the NACC network of NRM professionals throughout the region including **practical advice and technical support for environmental projects**

* Chance to **participate in strategic decision making about the management of the natural resources** in the Northern Agricultural Region

* Access to **funding and training opportunities**

* Opportunity to **represent your community interests** on the NACC regional and sub-regional committees

* **Gain assistance with Indigenous consultation**, a mandatory requirement of most NRM funding applications.

Membership is open to individuals who are residents, landowners, or interested in NRM, or individuals who are a member of groups, agencies, or organisations within the Region with an interest in NRM and in promoting the objectives of NACC.

The NACC membership form which, should you wish to become a member, can be printed out and faxed or posted to NACC administration: Reply Paid 95 PO Box 95 Perenjori WA 6620 Phone: 9973 1444 FAX: 9973 1464 **Alternatively**, you can complete the form online at <http://www.nacc.com.au/membership.asp>.

NACC Update

Investment Plan 2 (Years 2 and 3)

Has been sent to the State and Australian Government Agencies. They will provide feedback and NACC will make changes.

Positions Vacant

As a result of the new projects there will be several positions opening soon. Keep checking the NACC website www.nacc.com.au for more information.

Envirofund Workshop

NACC may have the opportunity to host an Envirofund workshop including a speaker from Canberra. This would be a great opportunity to learn the “dos” and “dents” of the Envirofund Rounds. If you are interested please contact Cindy Walker on 9973 1425.

Perenjori Lake Project

Thanks to recent heavy rains, the Perenjori Drain is flowing well and the Perenjori Lake filling up rapidly.

Dene Solomon, Project Manager, recently installed some new monitoring equipment to establish the volume of water flowing in the drain. Pictured below is the v-notch weir installed in the drain with a depth logger attached. A similar method of monitoring will be used to measure flow rates at the sub-surface drain disposal points.

