



Broombush taking off in the Yarra Yarra

There has been a hive of tree-planting activity in the region over the winter. Over 200,000 broombush seedlings have been planted throughout the catchment.

Firstly a huge thank you to Lotterywest who provided us with a grant that enabled us to plant this many seedlings. They have been very supportive of our re-vegetation project and have been an instrumental part in getting it off the ground. The Moore Catchment Council had a project running this year funded through Caring for Our Country, this allowed us to purchase the seedlings at a heavily subsidised rate.



We are concentrating on re-vegetating areas of saline land in the valley floors (in conjunction with the regional drainage project) and broombush is a perfect choice for this. The species used are local to the area, with seed sourced locally. The species of Broombush used are able to cope with mild to moderately saline conditions and medium to low rainfall. Broombush has other advantages, including reducing the amount of groundwater recharge thus preventing the further spread of salinity, they have a biodiversity value, an aesthetic value, plus once the plants are between 5 - 7 years old, they can be harvested for use in the brushwood fencing industry. Although still in the early stages, the brushwood industry is showing some very positive signs of being a legitimate commercial opportunity that can address some of the serious environmental issues facing the region at the same time. Work has started towards setting up a grower group for brushwood in the region.

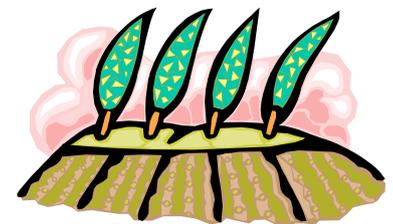


The tree planter, loaded up with Seedlings

If you would like more information about brushwood as an on-farm option there is a fantastic publication available - "Growing Brushwood for Profit & Protection in the Northern Agricultural Region". This includes a number of farm-based case studies. We have copies available in the office, please contact us if you would like one.

Using trees for Wind breaks

A workshop held on 20th August in Moora covered many of the key issues relating to using trees for windbreaks in the wheatbelt. Wind erosion can be a serious problem in this region but there are ways to reduce and minimize the risk. There are currently a variety of different incentives available in the region aimed at reducing wind erosion (more details on page 2).



An excellent resource has been produced by the Department of Agriculture and Food about tree windbreaks, this covers a variety of topics including explanations of how they work, the economic benefits, how to best design windbreaks for different situations, choosing the right trees and also managing some of the potential problems. You can download this resource from:

http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/objtwr/imported_assets/content/lwe/land/bulletin07_windbreaks.pdf

Alternatively you can contact the office and we can email you the document.

Incentives available targeting Wind Erosion - register your interest now

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for the Caring for Our Country, Wind Erosion Incentives. The incentives will be available on a first in first served basis - plus there are certain eligibility criteria that must be satisfied. To register your interest you will need to fill out an expression of interest form, please contact the office and we can email or fax one to you. There are 4 incentives available throughout the Northern Agricultural region and a brief overview of each below

Farm Forestry - Oil Mallees

- Oil Mallee establishment - \$120/ha
- Industry membership to the Oil Mallee association
- Max incentive per site of \$3,360



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Fodder Shrub Establishment (saltbush)

- Fencing - \$2,300/km for mesh fencing, \$1,150/km for plain wire fencing
- Fodder shrub establishment - \$0.20/stem
- Industry Membership to Saltland Pastures Association
- Max incentive per site of \$4,550



Perennial Pasture Establishment

- Fencing - variable rates for mesh/plain wire or electric fencing
- Pasture establishment \$85/ha
- Watering point - \$1,000/point (1 per 80 ha)
- Max incentive per site of \$10,600



Strategic Revegetation

- Fencing - variable rates for mesh and plain wire fencing, and dependent on size of area fenced
- Revegetation - variable dependent on size of area
- Max incentive per site of \$16,000

The perennial pasture and strategic revegetation incentives are available to landholders in the western half of the NAR and the farm forestry and fodder shrub incentives will be available to those in the eastern half of the NAR. As yet we do not have accurate maps of where the divide is so if you are interested in any of these incentives, please indicate this on the form.

Please contact Lizzie or Dene at the Perenjori office for further information

Tel: 9973 1425 or email yycmg_lizzie@westnet.com.au



22nd October - Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group's AGM and general meeting

If you are interested in landcare and NRM in your region then come and join us at the AGM of the YYCMG and get involved! The meeting will start at 2.30pm in the Perenjori office, and will be followed with a sundowner.

Please RSVP to Lizzie on 9973 1451



What's Bugging you!

Beneficials were the focus of two workshops presented recently in the northern wheatbelt. The Partners in Grain co-ordinated Crop and Pasture Insect identification workshops were attended by a mix of farmers and agribusiness who all received high quality information from experienced presenters. The workshops were held in Latham and in Three Springs, with attendees having the benefit of the experience of Peter Mangano, Dusty Severtson, Alan Lord and John Botha from the DAFWA Entomology Branch. Mr Mangano said that the workshops provided farmers with a better understanding of the importance of the lifecycles of major pests and high risk situations. Included in the discussion was the increased insecticide resistance in pests and management options for insect control.



Identifying insect specimens

The day was packed with information covering insect identification and life cycles, highlighting the insect growth stages that are most damaging in-crop, monitoring techniques and the concept of integrated pest management. Participants were given an opportunity to identify a lot of insect specimens (live and otherwise), and practice using the Crop Insects Ute Guide (kindly provided for participants by the National Invertebrate Pest Initiative). There was also some time in the paddock to learn about the different techniques for sampling for insects.

Crop Insects : the Ute Guide - This book covers crop pests, beneficial insects, biological control, grain storage pests and biosecurity pest threats specific to WA. Copies are available from some Departmental Offices for a cost of \$25.00 or by mail order by phoning the Dept of Agriculture and Food, South Perth on 9368 3710.



Demonstrating Sweep net techniques

Peter Mangano is also the editor of PestFax, this is an information service emailed out weekly during the growing season and contains information from around the wheatbelt of what has been found where and how to deal with problems. The information is sent in by the readers, it is very up to date and a useful resource. If you would like to get on the mailing list, contact Peter at peter.mangano@agric.wa.gov.au

The pest workshop was hosted by Waddi Forest LCDC and Yarra Yarra Catchment Regional Council, and supported by the Department of Agriculture and Food and the National Invertebrate Pest Initiative.



Environmental Community Grant

The Yarra Yarra Catchment Regional Council were successful in the first round of funding under the State Governments' Environmental Community Grants Program. This program was introduced in recognition of the enormous contribution community-based organizations make to protecting the State's environment and conserving the nature of WA.



The grant will provide funds for a revegetation project at two sites in the Jibberding area. In total we will be planting around 40,000 seedlings. Both sites will create a link between areas of remnant vegetation and previous revegetation works. The first stage of the project is to carry out a full site assessment and collect seed from the area to be grown for planting next year. This will be taking place over the next couple of months.

We are planning to revegetate with a variety of species including Eucalypts, Melaleucas, Hakeas, Acacias, saltbush and rhagodia.

We will be looking for some willing volunteers to help plant the seedlings next June/July so get in touch if this sounds like fun!!



Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

Yarra Yarra News



More fun with the Great Gardens Team

On the 16th September, the Great Gardens team were back in the region, this time in Moora to deliver another day packed full of useful tips and tricks for improving your garden, with information on how to become more water efficient through improving your soils, use of fertilizers, wetting agents and mulch plus some great tips for irrigation.

While they were at it they revealed many myths that the gardening companies don't want you to know - guaranteed to save you money and time! There were also some great tips for reducing energy use in the house and how to keep your house naturally cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter

We have produced a fact sheet crammed with great advice from the day. For your copy please contact Lizzie King on 9973 1451



The Regional Drainage Project

Lease agreements with landholders involved in the deep drainage works are being undertaken to establish long term lease agreements over the fenced area of the drains. This involves surveying and analysis of new lease boundaries and integrating this with the existing cadastral boundaries. This creates data of a coordinate nature that is compiled within the agreement in spreadsheets, along with maps and diagrams. These maps will ultimately be lodged with Landgate as a legal document lasting for a period of 15 years. This process will take some time due to the legal ramifications and requirements of producing such a document. For more information please contact Dene Solomon on 9973 1425

Dates for your Diary

October 15th -Native Grasses workshop, Moora (9964 1005)

October 18th - 24th, National Water Week

October 22nd - Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group AGM, Perenjori, 2.30pm, followed with a sundowner. All welcome, rsvp to Lizzie

October 27th—30th, West Australian State NRM Conference, Geraldton (9964 9774)

For more details about any of these events please contact us at the Perenjori office



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

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