



NRM Sundowner - Perenjori



Euan Scott, John Borger and Margi Weir

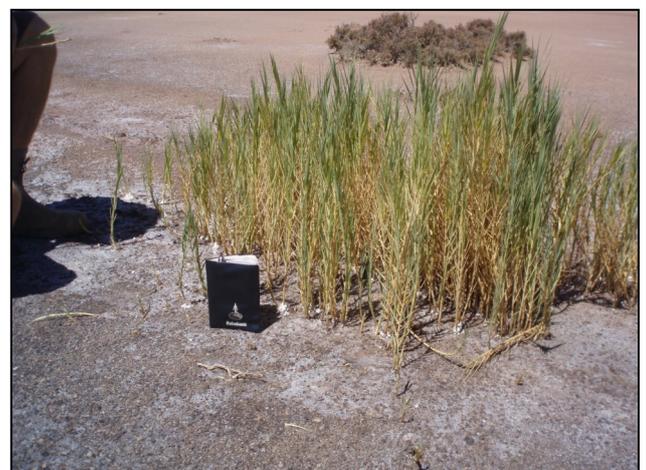
On the 17th February, around 40 local farmers packed into the Yarra Yarra office in Perenjori to come and listen to the three speakers at our NRM sundowner. Margi Weir (NACC Water Program Leader) spoke about the importance and value of our wetlands, and discussed the incentives available for protecting them. Euan Scott (Farm Forestry Development Officer with NACC) was there to talk about the options for oil mallees on your farm and the benefits they can provide, including reducing wind and water erosion, reducing groundwater recharge and providing shelter for crops and stock. There are subsidised oil mallee seedlings

available through a NACC and Caring for Our Country program this year. More details on page 4. John Borger (Department of Ag) provided a highlight of the evening for many farmers as he discussed the increasing problem of the exotic weed slender ice plant, which has taken hold on many farms in the area. John discussed some of the trials that have already taken place and the management options that have proven effective in the battle against this weed. Ice plant is particularly nasty as it is able to bring up salt stored at depth and deposit it on the soil surface, making an increasingly salty environment and preventing other plants from growing. For more information about any of the above, please contact the office on 9973 1425.



NyPa Forage - A new option for Saline Land?

Elders/NyPa Salt Solutions have been trialing a new salt land perennial, NyPa Forage (*Distichlis spicata*). This is now available on limited commercial release (through Elders agents). NyPa was selected from plants native to America that are able to tolerate high levels of salt due to a bi-cellular salt gland. It is a perennial plant that has phenomenal growth rates in late Spring, Summer and Autumn. The only means of spread is through a deep root structure (runners) that regularly dies off and re-shoots leaving soil pores filled with organic matter. Green forage then penetrates the surface and continues to grow. The deep root structure provides very good drought resistance and allows it to self irrigate from the saline water table.

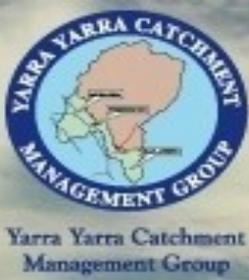


NyPa grass growing in a bare salt scald near Wubin

The salt gland allows the salt to pass from the root zone and is then exuded on the leaf surface. Sheep and cattle can eat the forage.

Thanks to David Scholz, of Elders -Scholz Rural, Dalawallinu for providing this information.

Please contact the office if you would like any further information



Yarra Yarra News



**Establishing The Yarra Yarra Land Conservation District Committee
Public Meeting – 23rd April 2009
2pm – before the YYCMG general meeting
Perenjori Yarra Yarra Office**

IMPORTANT – YOUR ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR BY PROXY ENCOURAGED

A Public Meeting will be held to explain the proposal of establishing a Yarra Yarra Land Conservation District Committee (Yarra Yarra LCDC) which covers the Yarra Yarra Catchment of the Northern Agriculture Region and for the whole community to register their support for the proposal. A motion shall be put forward to establish a new Yarra Yarra Land Conservation District Committee.

Attendance by all people who have an interest in landcare within the region is encouraged.

This is the second of two public meetings required to establish the LCDC. Establishing the Yarra Yarra LCDC will enable Natural Resource Management to continue to be addressed in the region, with input from interested parties, without the administrative burden associated with running many smaller LCDCs. The Yarra Yarra LCDC would operate alongside the Yarra Yarra Catchment Regional Council. The establishment of the Yarra Yarra LCDC is also required by funding bodies to ensure ongoing management of assets developed using the public funds. Many LCDCs in the southern region of the Yarra Yarra Catchment have wound-up or are in the process of winding-up, we now require wide community support in order to establish the Yarra Yarra LCDC.

The Yarra Yarra LCDC, when established, will call for nominations in all relevant categories, ie Landuser, Farm Lobby Group Rep, Shire Rep and Commissioner’s nominee. It is anticipated that the constitution would make provision for 9 landusers, with one representative coming from each of the 9 management zones of the Yarra Yarra Catchment. The 9 management zones include: Burakin, Kalannie, Goodlands, Jibberding, Mongers, Perenjori, Darling Creek, East Three Springs and Bowgada. At this stage Morawa have indicated that they do not want to be included but everybody is more than welcome to attend the meeting.

Public Meetings at which a motion is passed to form an LCDC is the first step in the process. Other steps include attaining support from Shires, determining the boundary, and developing a constitution. Landholders will be invited from within the district boundary to become part of a steering committee. The steering committee will play a major part in developing the constitution.

Once the Yarra Yarra LCDC is established, by Order of the Governor, nominations will be sought from the public to fill the committee.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, but are supportive of the establishment of the Yarra Yarra LCDC please complete the following and forward to yvcmg_lizzie@westnet.com.au , or fax 9973 1421

I _____ support the establishment of the Yarra Yarra LCDC and wish to submit my apologies to the meeting to be held on the 23rd April 2009 in Perenjori.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

Yarra Yarra News



Rare Spiny-Tailed Skink Could be in your backyard!

Staff from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) have recently conducted surveys for the rare Western Spiny-tailed Skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*), in the Northern Ag Region. The surveys from Wubin to Perenjori revealed that the skink has further declined



in population. However, an increasing number of skinks are being located on private property. The Western Spiny-tailed skink is one of very few skinks to demonstrate communal living. Families tend to live in fallen hollow logs in woodland areas, however due to the widespread destruction of such areas, sheets of tin or wood piles on farmland are increasingly being used as a substitute. The survival of the rare skink is threatened by the destruction of its native habitat, extensive grazing of woodland habitat by domestic livestock and predation by foxes, dogs and cats.

Recovery actions are being implemented where possible, and this included relocating nine individuals last year from private property to a nearby nature reserve where other spiny-tailed skinks are known to live. A pile of timber they were living in was moved to their new home to help them adjust to their new environment.

We'd love to know if you have seen these special skinks, if you have, please fill out the form below with as many details as you can and send it back to Renée Hartley at:

Dept. of Environment and Conservation, PO Box 638, Jurien, WA 6516, or fax it to (08) 9652 1922.

For more information you can contact Renée on ph: (08) 9652 1911 or email renee.hartley@dec.wa.gov.au

Western Spiny-tailed Skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*) Sighting Form

Certainty of Identification: Very Certain Moderately Certain Not Sure

Adults seen _____ Approx. Size _____ cm # Juveniles seen _____ Approx. Size _____ cm

HABITAT Unnatural:

Woodpile Altered Un-natural

Rubbish Heap

Other _____

Natural:

Woodland Natural

Pile of Tin

Attached:

Map Attached

Photo Attached

Notes

Location: (eg, location number, GPS location, street name...) _____

Private Property

Remnant

Shed / House Area

Reserve

Roadside

Other _____

Description of Sighting: (eg. time of day, skink's activity...) _____

Sighted By: _____ of _____

Date Sighted: _____

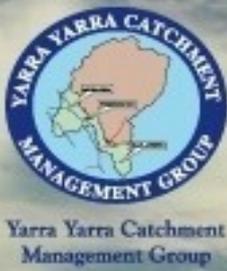
Date Reported: _____

This work is being conducted under the *Back from the Brink* and *Back from the Edge* projects, implemented by DEC and WWF, funded by the Federal and State Governments and administered by the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council and Avon Catchments Council.



Department of Environment and Conservation
Our environment, our future





Yarra Yarra News



Red Card for the Red Fox

The Latham fox shoot took place on the 21st March. The event was run as part of the Red Card for the Red Fox program. A great effort on the night saw a final tally of 50 foxes, four feral cats and 189 rabbits.

Thanks to Troy Johnson for helping to organize the event. Thanks also to our sponsors for the night, Perenjori Eziway, Landmark and NACC, and also Stockbrands who were donating \$5 per fox/cat shot to the Royal Flying Dr's. The Latham teams raised \$270 between them.

If you are thinking of carrying out 1080 baiting on your property but are not accredited, we have the necessary paperwork available in our office. Please contact us for more information. Alternatively contact your local DAFWA bio-security officer.



Funding, Grants and Incentives available!

NACC Eastern Oil Mallee Program: Oil mallee seedlings are available to you at the heavily subsidised price of 12c (+ GST) per seedling. As part of the program you will receive an individual site assessment with a Farm Forestry Development Officer, who can advise you on the most suitable sites, and the most suitable seedlings for your soil type. You will need to plant a minimum area of 10 hectares. Ownership of the seedlings remains with you - the grower. Oil mallees offer a number of benefits and have the added bonus of a potential income down the track. The deadline is approaching rapidly so if you are interested please contact the office on 9973 1425 as soon as possible.

NACC Wetlands Protection Incentives: The aim of the program is to protect and restore priority wetlands in the NAR that are under threat from weed invasion, unrestricted stock, erosion, sedimentation, elevated nutrient levels and salinisation. Incentives are available for fencing, stabilisation, revegetation, enhancement and weed control. The area to be protected must be at least 1 hectare in size. Call the office to discuss the options offered. There are only limited funds available so first orders get first option to funding. Don't miss out!!

Farm Water Rebate Scheme 2009 - Farm Water Supply Planning Scheme (FWSPS): A new round of farm water grants is now available through the Department of Water (WA). To find out more you can contact us at the Yarra Yarra office, or visit their web page www.water.wa.gov.au Alternatively you can ring 1800 780 300 to request a copy of the latest rebates available. Some mapping is required and Yarra Yarra can assist with this part of the application

Environmental Community Grants - up to \$30,000 - apply by 1st May: These grants are available for projects involving biodiversity conservation, sustainable catchment management, nature appreciation in natural areas, protection of high value areas by landholders on private land and more. For further details visit www.dec.wa.gov.au or call the office if you have any ideas you would like to discuss.

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

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

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