



Burakin Weir now in Place

The crump weir is now in operation on the Burakin deep drainage project. This weir will allow us to measure both deep drainage flows and surface water flows that occur from catchment runoff. At the site we have a stainless steel weir that sits on a concrete base that has been laid down to bedrock. Within the project we will measure at regular intervals



The Hi-Tech rain gauge & monitoring station

- ① Flow rates
- ① Salinity of the water
- ① pH of the water
- ① Rain events via a tipping bucket rain gauge

All this data is recorded and will be downloaded monthly or as required. The station will soon have the capacity to allow downloads via modem designed to operate on 3G



The fully operational crump weir

networks. It is hoped that the 3G network is an efficient and secure wireless technology that will assist us with regular downloads and minimise the travel time required to cover the vast distances within our catchment. This project has been fully funded by the Department of Water to allow monitoring of surface water flows. This data will be used for catchment flow modelling.



Farm Water Planning

The Farm Water Rebate Scheme (FWRS) is another of the water supply initiatives administered under the Department of Water's Rural Water Planning Program. The aim is to encourage farmers in dryland agricultural areas (<600mm average annual rainfall) to implement on-farm water supply improvements in order to address identified areas of water deficiency, better manage existing water supplies and reduce water wastage.



The scheme replaces the old Farm Water Grants Scheme. Rebates are available for selected on-farm water supply improvements which will be identified during a farm water supply audit and planning process and approved by the Department of Water following lodgement of a Farm Water Supply Plan. The rebates cover the development and installation of reliable on-farm water supplies for domestic, crop spray and livestock use.

In order to access rebates under the FWRS, you must first complete the farm water supply audit and planning process under the Farm Water Supply Planning Scheme. Rebates are available for the following infrastructure plus the actual planning audit:

Dams, dam site drilling, grade banks, guttering, tanks, troughs, well liners, distribution, pumps, rain gauges and more.

For a copy of the full rebate scheme contact Dene or Lizzie at the Perenjori office or you can find further information on the website: www.water.wa.gov.au or call Rural Water Planning 1800 780 300.

With thanks to the Moora Miling Pasture Improvement Group for this article.

Subsidised seedlings and other incentives available to target Wind Erosion



We are still seeking expressions of interest for the Caring for Our Country, Wind Erosion Incentives, available through NACC. The incentives will be available on a first in first served basis - plus there are certain eligibility criteria that must be satisfied. To register please contact the office. **Opportunities are still available for planting this year!**



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Oil Mallees

In 2009 NACC ran a very successful oil mallee project, with over 60 landholders taking part throughout the region. Subsidised seedlings are available again this year, and for the next 3 years. If you have been considering planting oil mallees on your property, this is a great opportunity to get specific establishment advice for your sites, as well as cheaper seedlings!



Mallees can be used to address a number of issues on your farm. They can be strategically planted to alleviate wind erosion, reduce groundwater recharge, reduce or stop surface water erosion, provide shade for stock as well as having the potential for harvesting and carbon sequestration.

By getting involved, you can receive 10 cents back for every mallee seedling you plant, and will receive a years membership to the Oil Mallee association.

Saltbush and Rhagodia

Do you have a salty site on your farm that you have been considering fencing off or planting to fodder shrubs such as saltbush or rhagodia? If so then you may be able to access some funds to do this. This incentive is able to provide subsidised seedlings and money for fencing off saline sites. You can fence, plant seedlings or both, up to the maximum incentive of \$4,550 per farm.

Saltbush are increasingly recognised as providing a very valuable feed source for both sheep and cattle and can be particularly useful during the autumn feed gap as they are able to make use of summer rain. If you have land that is unproductive because of salinity then this could be the project for you. Where sites are extremely saline there is money to fence the sites and allow them to regenerate naturally.



If you want to get involved, you could be eligible to receive 20 cents for every seedling you plant and up to \$2,300/km for fencing, as well as a years membership to the Saltland Pastures Association.

There are also incentives available for perennial pastures and strategic revegetation. Please contact Dene or Lizzie at the office and we will be able to discuss this with you.

Dene: 9973 1425, 0427 731425, yycmg.dene@bbnet.com.au

Lizzie: 9973 1451, 0408 934 153, yycmg_lizzie@westnet.com.au

Sandalwood Workshops

Two full-day workshops were held recently (one in Morawa, the other in Dalwallinu) to discuss the practicalities, difficulties and ultimate benefits of growing Western Australian sandalwood on wheatbelt farms. With a range of knowledgeable guest speakers including Jon Brand, senior forester from the Forest Products Commission, Dr Geoff Woodall from the University of Western Australia, Tim Emmott from Greening Australia, Bethan Lloyd from the Australian Sandalwood Network, and Bob Huxley, a long-time grower from Mt Marshall. Both workshops included inspection visits to local plantation sites.



Both days were well attended, showing that there is some real interest in this region for developing the sandalwood industry. Sandalwood is generally grown for its valuable wood, this usually takes between 20 - 25 years. With serious depletion of wild stocks and a strong market demand there are real opportunities for farmers. More recently there has been an increased demand for sandalwood nuts, which are produced from about 5 years of age.



John Brand discusses the differences in jam tree hosts

With funding received through the Woolworths sustainable farming grants, we are running a project to provide farmers with an option to use sandalwood to diversify their on-farm activities, through providing information and extension services on the use of best management practices for incorporating sandalwood into the farm business.

Top tips for establishment!

- ☺ Location, Location Location!
- ☺ Plantations should contain high host densities
- ☺ Use local hosts
- ☺ Use a diversity of hosts

Strategic sandalwood plantations are able to offer a number of environmental benefits as well as being a long term investment. Sandalwood is suited to low rainfall areas and will grow in poorer wodjil soils making it a good option for areas of low production on the farm. Sandalwood is often a highly suitable option for bare sandy sites, that are susceptible to water and wind erosion.

As part of the project we are also able to offer a limited number of farmers the opportunity to join the Australian sandalwood network for 12 months at a 50% subsidy, ie a cost of \$60 to you. This will allow you to access their fantastic peer mentoring program, which involves one of their long term growers coming out to your farm, assessing your site and offering practical and individual advice for how best to establish sandalwood at the site. Other benefits of membership include receiving regular information updates and industry newsletters, notification of events and discounted or free attendance at industry field days and workshops. Further details are available on their website www.sandalwood.org.au

For more information please contact Lizzie King on 9973 1451 or 0408 934153



Bruce Storer discusses some of the potential pitfalls



NEFF meetings were held in Morawa and Perenjori on the 22nd & 23rd March. Speakers Tim McClelland and Harm van Rees from the Birchup Cropping Group in Victoria spoke about the benefits of input management, and programs such as Yield Prophet.



Yield Prophet is a web interface for the crop production model APSIM. It simulates crop growth based on paddock-specific inputs of soil type, pre-sowing soil water and nitrogen, rainfall, irrigation and nitrogen fertilizer applications, and climate data. Yield Prophet was developed by BCG (Birchip Cropping Group) in collaboration with CSIRO as a risk management tool for dryland farming systems in the Victorian Wimmera and Mallee, with an emphasis on decision support for nitrogen fertiliser inputs.

For more information
contact Emma on 9971 1471
or
admin@neffgroup.com.au

New Look for the
YYCMG website
(and a new address)



The Yarra Yarra website has undergone a much needed update and it is looking great (thanks to Ian and Chris). This sparkling new website can be found at: www.yarayarracatchment.org.au

Find out about the NRM projects taking place in the region, browse our online gallery, check our meeting dates, take a look at the monitoring data that has been collected in the region over the past few years and more.

We welcome any comments and feedback on the new website.

Dates for your Diary - 2010

July - We will be holding a tree planting event in July (date to be confirmed) as part of the National Tree Day initiative. Contact Lizzie for further details.

July 29th - YYCMG General Meeting, Perenjori. 2.30pm All welcome



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

Website : www.yarayarracatchment.org.au