



Yarra Yarra News

Summer 2012



☎ Perenjori office 99731425 🌐 www.yarrayarracatchment.org.au

Inside this issue:

- Carbon credits and what they could mean for you and your farm.
- Local farmers share their experiences of participating in the sustainable farming incentive program and working with YYCMG and NACC
- Red Card for Rabbits and foxes; coming to a town near you!
- NRM officers out and about



Carbon Farming in the NAR

As Australia moves toward a lower carbon economy, new economic opportunities are emerging for our regional and urban stakeholders. Under the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI), farmers can now earn money from implementing activities such as planting trees, managing regrowth vegetation and adopting more sustainable practices that can reduce emissions from landfill, livestock and fertiliser use, or increasing carbon in soils or vegetation.

To assist farmers and local government authorities in making sound and informed decisions, the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council in association with the Australian Carbon Traders ran a series of workshops across the region during February, these workshops were funded by the Australian Government through the Carbon Farming Initiative Communication Program.

The workshops were well received, with 167 farmers and 12 local government reps attending in total.

How can you get involved?

NACC and Australian Carbon Traders (ACT) have together set up 'CarbonQuest Australia' to provide a low cost entry into the carbon trading market for farmers in the NAR. CarbonQuest Australia can assist farmers in making informed business decisions on how carbon activities can be incorporated into good business planning. Registered users can plan projects, have them assessed/approved and trade carbon credits with purchasers who can also register in the system. NACC are currently offering *20 free registrations* to landholders interested in selling carbon.

For more information about CarbonQuest: www.carbonquestaustralia.com.au

For more information about the Carbon Farming Initiative: www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi

Incentives Update

We are still looking for farmers interested in taking up farm forestry or fodder shrub incentives.

Under farm forestry there are variable rates/ha available. Options include but are not limited to oil mallees, sandalwood host seedlings, Broombush and mixed biodiversity plantings.

Farmers wanting to plant fodder shrubs can get reimbursed with \$0.2 per seedling and \$2000/km for fencing.



Hurry! Only a few left!

On-ground works options	Eligible activities and incentive rates
Farm forestry	Incentive available for planting oil mallees/sandalwood hosts \$250/ha or broombush - \$500/ha. Criteria apply. Maximum incentive per site: \$3,360
Fodder shrub establishment	Incentive available for fodder shrub establishment and fencing. Criteria apply. Maximum incentive per site: \$8,000
Hidden Treasures	Incentives available for fencing of existing native vegetation to protect threatened species and priority remnants. Criteria apply. Maximum incentive rate per site: variable

Tree Crop Incentive

NAME NATHAN & HILTON PATTERSON
LOCATION CARNAMAH
PLANTED 37 HA OF OIL MALLEES IN SEVERAL BLOCKS



Hilton Patterson with 3-year old oil mallees

"The soil where we planted the oil mallees is a loamy clay with a sandy surface. I imagine that it was perfect cropping country when it was first cleared. Unfortunately it became waterlogged and slightly saline over the years. For us it was marginal country and we could hardly make a profit of it" Hilton states.

"We planted around 37 000 mallees over the last 3 years. They are all *Eucalytus loxophleba ssp lis-sophloia* which are suited to a heavier soil type and also tolerate a bit of salt. The ground around them seems to be recovering quite well and the water table appears to be a lot lower than a few years ago. I am certain that it prevents the problems from spreading."

"One thing we noticed was that it really pays off to plan a bit ahead and deep rip the sites prior to planting. On this heavier soil type here it worked best to deep rip a whole year before the trees went in. They are around 3 m tall and really healthy looking compared to around half a meter in areas without ripping."

"We haven't decided yet if we want to get someone in to harvest them for oil or if we want to apply for carbon credits. One thing or the other will happen sometime in the future. But we mainly planted them to recover the landscape and we achieved that already."

"It is great to receive government assistance for these sort of projects. It certainly helps financially."

Contacts : Please contact Flora at the Yarra Yarra office in Perenjori (9973 1451) if you are interested in the Tree Crop incentive.



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NACC funding available
Broombush and mixed
species establishment:
\$ 500/ha
Oil mallee and
Sandalwood hosts
establishment:
\$250/ha



Saline Lands Incentive



NAME LES & BEV HEPWORTH
LOCATION PERENJORI
PLANTED 100 HA OF SALT BUSH IN SEVERAL BLOCKS



Les Hepworth in a saltbush planting

"The sites were quite saline before we planted the fodder shrubs. You could see the salt on the surface. The ground was partly bare, with ice plant and the odd blue bush growing on it. All our plantings are in low lying valleys that become water-logged at times. It was just unproductive land" Les and Bev state.

"We have planted around 10,000 salt bushes per year for the last 4 years. It's a mix of Old Man salt bush, River salt bush and Wavy Leaf salt bush. They seem to handle the conditions quite well. With the tree planter it only takes us about 1 or 2 days each year to plant them."

"The establishment rates were quite good too; even in drier years. I think it is important to plant the seedlings before you expect a rain," Les says. "Apart from that you can't do too much wrong. We varied the depths and planted them on an angle to encourage the seedlings to grow wider rather than higher. It all worked well."

"After half a year or longer we graze the shrubs for the first time. From then on the sheep are in them for 2 to 3 weeks twice a year. I believe they actually benefit from getting grazed. Also, some varieties, the Old Man salt bush for example, grow quite tall and are then difficult for the sheep to reach. Just recently I pushed some of the really tall ones over with the loader to make the feed available. They are already shooting back."

"The whole process of getting involved with NACC and the Yarra Yarra group was pretty straight forward. And the paperwork was kept to a minimum," Les concludes.

Contacts: Please contact Flora at the Yarra Yarra office in Perenjori (9973 1451) if you are interested in the Saline Lands incentive.

NACC funding available
Fencing:
\$2000/km
Saltbush establishment:
\$0.20/seedling



Red Card for Rabbits & Foxes

Working together for maximum impact



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Community Shoot Weekends

Designated weekends for community Shoots:

24th - 26th February & 23rd to 25th March

Stockbrands are once again donating a generous \$5 per fox or feral cat shot during the Community Shoot Weekends to the Royal Flying Doctors. David Grays Aglink will be donating 5% of sales of PAKS baiting products invoiced during the month of March 2012, to the Flying Doctor Service.

Coorow Community Fox Shoot: Coorow Golf Club

23rd March, 4pm for registration of teams/ rules

24th March; 11am for tally up, brunch and prizes for the winning teams

Teams of 3 or 4, you must have landholders permission to participate on their land. Please contact Flora to register your interest;

flora.danielzik@bigpond.com Tel: 9973 1451 or 0437 208246

If you want to hold an event in your local area please contact us for further details.

Baiting

The most effective control for rabbits and foxes is through a combination of baiting and shooting.

To use 1080 bait you must be an accredited user. The accreditation process is very straightforward and your accreditation for handling the baits will last for three years. If there is enough interest we will organise local accreditation sessions. Please contact Lizzie to register your interest on lizzie.king@bigpond.com

Wild Dog Control

There has been an increase in wild dog numbers and attacks on stock within the Yarra Yarra catchment area, particularly on properties bordering or close by to the lake systems.

We have a DVD available to borrow if you are having to manage these problems. The DVD contains a number of proven tips and techniques from a variety of locations across Australia for using foot hold traps to capture wild dogs and foxes. For more information or if you would like to borrow the DVD, please contact Dene Solomon on 9973 1425, or dene.solomon@bigpond.com



For information on the management of all feral pests management go to:

<http://www.invasiveanimals.com/>

Invasive Animals CRC

Rabbit Incentive

Landholders interested in baiting rabbits in and around natural bush land or fencing off bush land that joins onto farm land can get financial support for their efforts! Incentives available are:

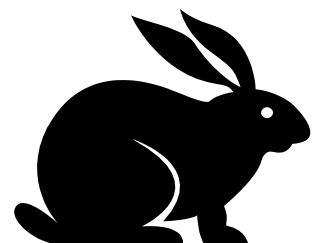
\$20/km for 1080 baiting (You must be accredited to use 1080 bait)

\$50/warren for warren ripping

\$20/warren for phostoxin treatment

\$4,500—\$6,700/km of rabbit mesh fencing

For more information contact Flora Danielzik on 9973 1451 or flora.danielzik@bigpond.com



NRMD News Roundup

A new database upgrade will make things easier for entering all of our borehole monitoring data. We are working with Lisa Smith on this project. All our past data is available on our website, and we will soon be providing regular updates through the website.

We were recently successful in getting funding for a Community Action Grant.

The project is looking at using forage shrubs to increase biodiversity and reduce wind erosion whilst still providing valuable feed for stock. We are working with the Morawa Farm Improvement Group and the Perenjori Farming Forward Group to set up three demonstration sites in the area. A workshop will be held in late August to check out the sites and provide information on best management practices for fodder shrubs.

The YY staff has just submitted two large project proposals under the Federal Government's Biodiversity Fund. One project encourages landholders to create road side vegetation corridors through assisting financially in the replacement of old fencelines. The second project aims to continue the revegetation of low lying valley floors, creating a substantial wildlife corridor throughout the Yarra Yarra catchment.

The YYCMG has been selected to host a demonstration site for Old man saltbush elite cultivars. In previous trials these cultivars have shown higher palatability and increased biomass production compared to commonly grown Old man salt bush lines in the area.

This project is co-ordinated by CSIRO researcher Hayley Norman. First choice of participating was left to

Are you looking to hire equipment for your tree planting/ripping/mounding in 2012?

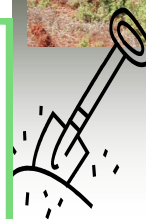
Please contact us at the Yarra Yarra office for a list of locally available options.



GRANTS AVAILABLE

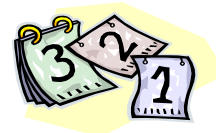
- 2012-2013 Community Action Grants—close 27th March www.nrm.gov.au
- Coles Junior Landcare Grants—close 4th April www.juniorlandcare.com.au
- Environmental Community Grants—close 2nd April www.dec.wa.gov.au
- Myer Foundation—no closing date www.myerfoundation.org.au

Please contact us if you have a project idea or would like some assistance submitting an application!



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- 23rd - 25th March 2012: Red Card for Rabbits & Foxes, Community Shoot Weekends, contact info@redcard.net.au
- 23rd/24th March: Coorow Fox shoot, Coorow golf club, start 4pm, contact flora.danielzik@bigpond.com
- 15th April: Great Cocky Count, at sunset, contact greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au



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