



Life is Better with Trees!



A daunting task at the start of the day as the trees get delivered.

On the 6th July, we held a community tree planting day at the Macpherson's farm, east of Wubin, in conjunction with Planet Ark's National Tree Day.

The day was a great success, we had 17 fantastic volunteers, and thanks to all their efforts and hard work, we completed the site. In all, we planted over 7,500 native trees and shrubs at the site. The site will be fenced off by the farmer to prevent stock grazing.

The trees were funded through a DEC Environmental Community Grant, which overall has enabled us to plant over 30,000 native trees and shrubs in the Jibberding area this year. Both planting sites have created corridors between existing remnant vegetation and previous revegetation efforts.

The project began last September, when the local remnant bush was surveyed, and seed collecting began. Staff from YYCRC, NACC and DEC collected provenance seed which was then propagated at the Kalannie tree nursery.

The purpose of the planting was to reinstate the biodiversity in the area. Species planted included *Melaleuca lateriflora*,



Janette Macpherson and Ruth Bateman, still smiling after 5 hours planting!

Mel. atrovirides,
Mel. eleuterostachya,
Senna charlesiana, four species of acacia, three saltbushes, rhagodia, hakeas, grevilleas and a small number of york gums.



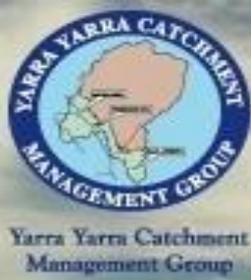
Chairman of the YYCMG, Peter Syme does his bit for the environment!

The timing couldn't have been better with fantastic rain falling two days after the trees went in. We are very hopeful of a high strike rate. We finished a great day with a BBQ and a well earned beer.

Thanks again to all of you who gave up your time on the day 😊

Community Action Grants - Call for Applications

\$8 million is available to help community groups protect the environment and support sustainable farming through its 2010-11 Caring for our Country Community Action Grants program. Closing date 31st August 2010. More information about the program can be found at www.nrm.gov.au where you can also register and access the on-line application. If you are unable to access the website please call 1800 552 008 to obtain any or all of these documents. Enquiries may also be made at communityactiongrants@nrm.gov.au.



Yarra Yarra News



When the Wind Blows

Are you tired of losing your topsoil? NACC have financial assistance to help in a number of ways...



Certain soil types are particularly susceptible to wind erosion, and the problem of wind erosion in the Northern Agricultural Region has been recognized at a federal level. The good news is the Australian government have also provided funding through the Caring for Our Country program, to carry out practical on-ground works to help manage this issue.

Sound interesting? Then please read on....

The funding is available through four different incentive projects, administered by NACC and delivered by your local NRM Officers (that's Dene and Lizzie in the Yarra Yarra region). There are 4 different incentives available, to suit your soil type/rainfall and individual preference for management. All funding is subject to a successful site assessment.

Recent changes to the incentive program mean that any farmer in the NAR may now apply for any of these incentives, the boundaries have been removed (and Burakin is now included!). There have also been changes to the subsidy rates.

Strategic Revegetation

Money is available for fencing wind affected sites and revegetating with native or exotic species to minimize future wind erosion. Variable fencing rates depending on size of site, there is no minimum site size required. Max incentive **\$16,000**

Tree Crops - Oil mallees, brushwood or sandalwood

\$250/hectare up to a maximum of **\$3,360** for establishing tree crops on wind affected sites. Plantings must be a minimum of 10hectares, and can be planted in blocks, alleys or along contours.

Fodder Shrubs (Saline land management)

The incentive is aimed to help you address saline areas on your property through fencing and revegetating, to make productive use of this unproductive land. Fodder Shrubs that can be used are saltbush, rhagodia and tagasaste. Up to **\$2,300/km** for mesh fencing and **\$0.20/seedling** available. Max incentive **\$4,550**

Perennial Pastures Establishment

Money is available for establishing pasture and fencing off the sites (fencing is essential) and installing a water point. Minimum area of 20hectares and maximum area of 80 hectares can be established. Max incentive **\$10,600**. **Opportunities still available to plant this August if you hurry!**

Now is the perfect time to think about planting trees for next year. Nurseries need orders for seedlings before Christmas, so if you are interested in accessing any of these incentives, please contact us as soon as possible to register your interest. If you filled in an EOI form this year, we will be contacting you soon to see if you are still interested.

We can only offer these incentives to a limited number of farmers - don't miss out!

To register please contact Dene or Lizzie:

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

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





Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

Yarra Yarra News



Stabilising soils in the north eastern wheatbelt using Cereal Rye

Two years ago, Richard and Sally Lee successfully applied for funding through the Woolworths Sustainable Farming Programme, to trial the effects of cereal rye in stabilising 4 areas susceptible to wind erosion. Three of the sites are sandplain wadjil soils and the fourth site is a saline site, where alleys of saltbush had already been established.

The purpose of the trial was to see what effect the cereal rye had on the soils and if it could be used to help return these degraded areas to productive cropping and grazing sites once more. The hope being that by incorporating a cereal rye rotation into the farming system, this could help with implementing sustainable agricultural practices on the farm.

Other works carried out in conjunction with this project have included fencing off saline land and carrying out strategic plantings of oil mallees, to help reduce wind erosion.

The project included measuring the dry matter produced at the end of the growing season, measuring the soil organic levels before planting and at the end of the growing season and noting the wind and rainfall events. The observations made as a result of the project are as follows:



Comparing the root mass of cereal rye and triticale



A successful lupin crop grown in the year following the cereal rye trial.

- The success of the root mass establishment was significant and was also found to be greatest in the cereal rye sites, followed by triticale with the least root mass establishment found in sites planted to wheat.
- The cereal rye sites had far more stubble and vegetative cover following grazing compared to triticale and wheat, allowing greater ground cover over dry summer months, and subsequently helping to stabilise the soil further.
- Richard and Sally have seen increased stabilisation of the sandplain soils, and have also noted a fall in ground water levels in the saline areas leading to reduced waterlogging.

For more information about this project, please contact Richard Lee: famlee@westnet.com.au



Sandalwood Update

This is your last chance to take advantage of a 50% discount for one years membership to the Australian Sandalwood Network. As well as receiving all the information you could need to start your own sandalwood plantation, you will be entitled to free or discounted entry to field days, and you can also access the fantastic peer mentoring system the ASN have in place, where long-term growers will come to your property and provide advice tailored to your situation. **All this for just \$55!**

We will be carrying out vegetation surveys in the near future to find a range of local host seedlings to set up a local demonstration site at Dale Goodwin's property in 2011.

For more info call Lizzie: 9973 1451 or 0408 934153

www.sandalwood.org.au





Roadside Conservation Committee

When is a Road a Flora Road?

In addition to a road's essential purpose as a transport route, roadsides possess a number of other values. They are remnants of the original native vegetation; providing habitat for our native plants and animals; and acting as corridors for their movement. There are landscape values associated with roadsides, with local native plants providing a 'sense of place', and providing the traveller with an example of the way the 'bush' once looked. Roadsides are a valuable and irreplaceable resource, the list of other values goes on and on.

Unfortunately, many of the roadsides in our beautiful state are losing their value, due to a range of threats. The most common ones are clearing, weeds, fire, dieback and salinity.

Can you think of any roadsides in your area that may deserve special recognition and protection? Well, read on a bit further because there may be something you can do to help!

The Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) initiated a program, the Flora Roads program, as a way of encouraging road managers to protect and conserve roadside vegetation of high conservation value.

Flora Roads, as defined by the RCC, are "those roads which have conservation value owing to the vegetation growing within the reserve". There are a number of criteria that the roadside must meet before it can be considered for Flora Road status:

- the roadside must be mostly native vegetation, and be in as near to its natural condition as possible;
- the roadside may be one of the only remaining examples of the original vegetation; and
- the Flora Road should be a decent length (e.g. more than 2km), and may link up with main roads, tourist routes or other significant features within an area.

Put simply, a Flora Road contains vegetation of special conservation, cultural or scenic value, and also provides an attractive tourist drive route within a Shire or region.

The Flora Road signs (provided by the RCC) draw the attention of both the tourist and anyone working in the road reserve, to the roadside flora, indicating that it's special and worthy of protection. The program seeks to raise the profile of roadsides within both the community and road management authorities.

At present, there are 37 Flora Roads in the state, within the Northern Ag region they only occur in the Shires of Coorow, Dandaragan, Mingenev and Victoria Plains, despite the regions renown for it's wildflowers.

There are 3 steps to follow before a road becomes a Flora Road:

1. Identify the road;
2. Nominate the road;
- and 3. Declare the road as a Flora Road.



Anybody can identify potential Flora Roads; If your shire has had an RCC survey of roadside conservation value undertaken, the map produced identifies high conservation value roads that could potentially be suitable Flora Roads. Alternatively, local communities, groups and individuals usually know of some really good roadsides that we are not aware of, so please let us know about them!

Now that the roadside has been identified, you can nominate it as a Flora Road by submitting a written request to the RCC. If you are not the road manager, it is important to have the support of the road manager. Only the managing authority in whom the care, control and management of the road is vested can officially declare it a Flora Road.

Once the potential Flora Road is identified and nominated, if it meets the criteria, the RCC works collaboratively with the road manager to achieve the declaration of a Flora Road.

The RCC would love to hear about special roadsides in your area, and expand the Flora Roads network.

If you know of a potential Flora Road, or would like advice or information, please contact the RCC by phoning on 9334 0423 or emailing rcc@dec.wa.gov.au.

Thanks to RCC for this information.

If you would like to nominate a flora road, forms are also available from our Perenjori office - 9973 1425





Yarra Yarra Catchment
Management Group

Yarra Yarra News



Pilot of Drought Reform in Western Australia

As part of the national review of drought policy, the Australian Government are conducting a pilot program of drought reform measures from 1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011. The aim of the pilot is to test a range of measures that have been designed to support farmers in managing and preparing for future drought and a changing climate as well as increasing the overall resilience of rural communities. There are still funds available now and throughout the program to assist families with meeting basic household expenses during financial hardship.

The pilot is split into two stages, firstly a "farm planning" stage, with free training covering strategic planning, financial planning plus social and environmental aspects. \$1000 is also available to offset travel, childcare and accommodation costs. On successful completion of this, eligible farm businesses will be able to apply for grants to "Build Farm Businesses", with up to \$40,000 available for business adaptation grants and \$20,000 available for landcare adaptation grants.

More info is available at: www.daff.gov.au/droughtpilot or by calling 13 23 16

To get involved in the Farm Planning stage you will need to fill in a straightforward application form which can be downloaded from: www.agric.wa.gov.au

Alternatively contact the Perenjori office for more information (9973 1451). We have a limited number of information packs available, which were given out at the community info sessions held recently.



Australian Government

Dates for your diary - Come along and see us at your local Agricultural Show:

Saturday 14th August in Perenjori, Saturday 21st August, Dalwallinu

Come and chat about sustainable farming, find out more about the incentives available, learn about landcare in the region and projects that you can get involved in. See you there!



Staff News

As funding came to an end at the end of July, we lost two full time staff of the YYCMG.

Dr. Ian Fordyce has worked with the YYCMG for over 5 years in a number of roles, but chiefly in his capacity as a geologist and botanist, overseeing the monitoring of the regional drainage project. Ian is currently working in the mineral exploration sector, somewhere near Alice Springs and we would like to wish him all the best with his future endeavours and hope to see him back up this way sometime soon.

Max Hudson also finished paid employment with the YYCMG at the end of May. Max has been a stalwart of the YYCMG since it began back in 1997, and although no longer working in a paid capacity, he is still committed to the cause of reducing salinity throughout the catchment, protecting and restoring remnant vegetation and looking for ways to improve surface water control in the Yarra Yarra. We would like to take this opportunity to give Max a huge thankyou for his mammoth efforts over the past 13 years, and hope that he continues to support the group.

Could you be our next NRMO? We are currently recruiting for this position, full time or part time available, based in Kalannie or Perenjori. Call Dene or Lizzie for more information 9973 1425

If you would like to join our mailing list, please send an email to yycmg.dene@bbnet.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.yarrayarracatchment.org.au