

Jan - Apr 2005



Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



The Recreational Lake at Perenjori is Complete

The works to rehabilitate the lake are almost finished. The bunding wall has been constructed using an excavator to form a retaining wall around the lake perimeter. This wall extends for 1700m to provide a barrier for the water to rise in the lake to a sustainable level.

The overflow has been completed in conjunction with the Shire of Perenjori using a concrete wall formed up to 2.5m in height at the deepest point. The overflow is a controlled outlet for excess water to escape in times of high flow.

In addition, the overflow has had more than 600 tonnes of rock carted in to support the wall as a batter to help protect the constructed wall. This was thanks to the generosity of the community who spent more

than a day with 9 trucks and 2 front end loaders ferrying the rock back to the wall site.

The second part of the project is the channel to assist in drainage in the valley floors.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) was returned with no serious objections to our plan, with some points for consideration. Given this the channel excavation has begun, with the appointed successful tenderer, Kevin Lyon.

The excavation has just begun with 3 km's of a 17 km line completed. The channel is expected to be finished by late April.

The drain is making good water and well within expectations, monitoring of quality and quantity

will take place soon to ascertain a benchmark for flows.

All local road crossings are partly funded and coordinated by the Shire of Perenjori. Three road crossings have been successfully completed

For further information, please contact Dene Solomon, Project Manager, on 9973 1425.



Chris King and Laurie Butler installing tyres at a vehicle crossing.

Farmers Support Regionally Coordinated Fox Baiting

CONGRATULATIONS to all those who took part in the Coordinated Fox Baiting Program in March and April.

A total 608 landholders in 52 Shires across Western Australia took part, with a reported number of 27,086 baits distributed to date. In addition to this 1538kg of rabbit



bait was distributed by 53 landholders and there have been 1219 foxes shot.

The number of baits distributed in Shires by Landholders are Carnamah - 410, Perenjori - 300 and Morawa - 700, totalling 1410 baits, and in Moora, Dalwallinu and Victoria Plains collectively, there were 1240 baits distributed by farmers, an awesome effort!

For their hard work, thanks go to

Jennifer Bairstow, Regional NRMO for Sustainable Agriculture, coordinating the northern end with the assistance of Biosecurity Officers Suzanne Hill and Sam Mills, and to Adam Clune, Agriculture Protection Officer, Moora, for coordinating the southern end of the Yarra Yarra Catchment.

Lets hope there are a lot more lambs and Mallee Fowl this year as a result and we can improve on this fantastic effort next year.

Search for Subsurface Drainage Sites

Cindy Walker, with the assistance of Kevin Lyon, has been visiting potential trial sites for subsurface drainage throughout the Yarra Yarra Catchment.

Characteristics required of the sites are: High water table, an evident and localised salinity problem that has not been alleviated by the use of a deep drain, and a deep drain or similar as a discharge point.

Sites in Three Springs, Morawa, Perenjori, Kalannie and Burakin have been chosen for further tests to determine their suitability.

At each of the sites, test holes will be drilled and pits dug to determine the level of the water table and the soil types.

From these results, we can confirm the suitability of each site for drainage and continue the investigation into the severity of salinity at the site by survey, EM31 and EM38.

If there is anyone within the Yarra Yarra Catchment that feels they have a site that may be suitable, please contact Cindy Walker at the Perenjori YYCMG Office.

Perenjori School children to visit the Perenjori Lake

Early next term, Mark Gledhill and Cindy Walker are organising for the children from the Perenjori Primary School to visit the Perenjori Lake to see the completed lake and the excavator in action constructing the drain into the lake.



Dene Solomon, Project Manager, will talk to the children and answer questions about the reasons behind the project. Activities out at the lake will give them the opportunity to have a hands on experience with salinity in our local environment.

Following this, a NRM Officer from the Department of Environment will visit the school with a salinity model, heightening the children's awareness of salinity.

Environmental Activities with Carnamah District High School

Trails Project

YYCMG, in cooperation with West Midlands NRM Group, is assisting the Carnamah School and Shire to complete a walk trail from the Shire Caravan Park/Town Centre, passing through a local Botanic Walk and terminating at the MacPherson Homestead.

This project was funded in the 2003 Trails Funding Program by the Department of Sport and Recreation, Government of Western Australia

YYCMG involvement is primarily with the school assisting with the completion of the Botanic Walk, providing information and accessing resources and knowledge for the Primary School.

Grey Water Project

Funding has been granted by the *Mitre 10 Caring for our waterways* program to the Carnamah Primary School for the construction of a Greywater project.

This project will encourage efficient water use in the school, plant trees around the townsite to beautify the area and increase groundwater use, thereby lessening the potential of groundwater table rise and salinisation. Overall, it will raise the students' and parents' awareness of local environmental issues.

Installation of tanks and the connection of pipes to the air conditioners will capture water for use around the school grounds. The use of the water will be determined by its salt content.



In addition, the YYCMG will be analysing water from the monitoring bore put down last year and discussing the results with the children.

Janine Hobson, Science Teacher at CDHS has also expressed interest to visit sites where farmers have used different methods to combat salinity with the children undertaking Agricultural Studies.

Community Garden at the Three Springs School

The YYCMG and West Midlands NRM Group are working on an exciting, community orientated project with the Three Springs Primary School.

The old Kindergarten site will be transformed over the next few years to include: a chook yard, native



plants, bush foods, recycling, composting, the children's artwork and a water feature.

Activities within the garden will be incorporated into the curriculum to extend their environmental knowledge and understanding.

We encourage parents to be involved with this project so if you have an idea or something to contribute, Cindy Walker (YYCMG NRMO) on 9973 1425 or Sonia Rob (WMNRMG NRMO) would be pleased to hear from you.

Plans will be confirmed at the start of term 2 when the NRMOs meet with the School Principal, Helen Hill and Shire Deputy CEO, Jane Callis.

The Shire is keen to be involved in

the project and has presented the school with 2 compost bins which will kickstart the composting section of the garden.

Application for funding will be submitted to appropriate bodies for certain parts of the project to boost the school and P and C's budget.

A greywater project may be developed to strengthen the school's water supply and make the children more conscious of the value of water and the methods used to recycle water.



Looking for \$\$\$ for Environmental Projects - Information on Funding Grants

Mitre 10 - open to schools and youth organisations to provide funds to enable young people to participate in local Landcare projects. **Closes** 20th May

Australian Government's Community Water Grants - funding for on the ground water solutions that are community orientated and save or protect water resources. **Opening** - June 2005.

Garden Scheme Grants - encourages gardening and improving our environment ie. Community based garden projects

W.A. Regional Initiatives Scheme (WARIS) - projects may be of a governance, social, economic or environmental nature, contributing to outcome priorities of the Re-

gional Development Policy. **Closes** - 24th May

Envirofunds - **Opens** approx June

Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) - for practical on the ground projects **Closes** 6th May

PROGRESS of the Feasibility Study of the Yarra Yarra Catchment

The feasibility study of the Yarra Yarra Catchment is progressing well with some necessary adjustments made to the original schedule.

The full attention at present is towards the resource assessment, including soil pits, surveying and bore drilling. The first stage of the soil pits and bore hole analysis is now being written up. This will provide information for the first 100km of water way construction for which YYCMG is sourcing funds.

Ian Fordyce, soil scientist, has been employed to help with the evaluation of soil make up and structure. CRCLEME will also be assisting with this assessment once they receive funding.

YYCMG have ascertained the need to extend the findings to reach practical conclusions by establishing at least 10 sites of constructed waterway totalling 100 km. At present, YYCMG are sourcing funds to extend the feasibility study to accom-

modate this activity.

The development of this process is in hand with the Regional Organisation of Local Government document being processed at the Department of Local Govt. LCD amalgamation is proceeding

In conclusion YYCMG will be investigating further funding to ensure we can practically demonstrate the results of our investigations in each of Zones within the Yarra Yarra.

Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

YYCMG Calendar YYCMG Meetings

The Yarra Yarra Group is a professional incorporated Catchment Management Group formed in 1997 by community members who wished to enhance the economic environmental and social well being of the Yarra Yarra Catchment Basin. The Yarra Yarra Basin is one of four Natural Resource Management Sub-Regions in the Northern Agricultural Region.

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Three New Staff at YYCMG

YYCMG has 3 new staff members: Lisa Pocock, Database Manager and Ian Fordyce, Natural Resource Management Officer are based at the YYCMG Office in Kalannie and Darryl Kemp, backhoe operator, is assisting with the Feasibility Study.

Lisa has been very busy updating the database and has helped everyone get organised in dif-

ferent areas of their work. Ian has been kept very busy analysing the soil from the backhoe pits dug as part of the Feasibility Study.

Darryl Kemp, Backhoe Operator has been down to Kalannie digging backhoe pits for the Feasibility study as well as fitting in driving the excavator for Kevin Lyon on the Perenjori Lake Project.

2005 Season

Its been great to see tractors busy in the paddocks after the recent rain.

Here's to more H2O falling from the sky, circle work in tractors and smiles on faces for the 2005 season!

**PLEASE NOTE - THE DATE CHANGE FOR THE NEXT MEETING:
Next meeting now on Tuesday 26th of April**

26th May
23rd June
28th July
25th August
22nd September
27th October
24th November
22nd December

Closing Dates for Funding Grants:

6th May Grants to Voluntary Environmental and Heritage Organisations
24th May Western Australian Regional Initiatives Scheme

Melanie Steven's wedding



Cindy Walker, Melanie Stevens, Dene and Dawn Solomon

Melanie Stevens, former NRMO for the Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group married Daniel Stevens of Kalannie at the Belvoir Homestead on the 1st of April. Melanie, stole the show, as

brides do, and the rain did not spoil day but brought smiles to the faces of all the farmers attending. We wish Melanie and Daniel all the best for a very happy married life in Kalannie!

Dene and Lisa complete Arc9 training to provide a better service to Yarra Yarra farmers

Dene Solomon and Lisa Pocock recently attended training for Arc9 in Perth at NGIS. Arc9 is an updated version of an existing Geographical Information Systems computer mapping program. Arc9 is a valuable tool in catchment management especially when gathering data, determining the lay of the land and for creating very useful maps (very handy for finding all those bores hidden in the catchment).

Training was conducted by GIS Analyst Doug Szczecinski, a former Beverley farmer. Doug's knowledge of LandCare and farming was an added bonus. This created famil-

iar ground, making its easier for Dene and Lisa to understand what Doug was trying to teach them. After seeing the area Dene farms, Doug was quite blown away by the sheer size of the properties compared to the little farms down in Beverley.

Lisa and Dene have found the training very useful. The training has made Dene's job easier with new ways of managing and using his surveying data. Lisa has found that the training was beneficial in making her job of data management much easier and less time consuming. The use of Arc9 will increase the quality of work created for the Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group.

YYCMG can now provide an improved mapping service to farmers