

YARRA YARRA ECO NEWS



Summer 2023/4

Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group Inc. Quarterly Newsletter

Environment | Agriculture | Community

Welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of Yarra Yarra Eco News! There's lots going on at YYCMG at the moment as exciting new projects get underway and others wrap up. We've had some great success with funding applications in the last few months, and continued to offer a variety of workshops to the community. Read all about it here.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a well earned break.

Funding Secured for Cyclone Seroja Recovery

We have recently heard that our funding proposal for a State NRM Community Stewardship Grant has been successful

We have secured just shy of \$380,000 through the grant for a project focussing on on-ground recovery of native vegetation after the substantial damage caused by Cyclone Seroja.

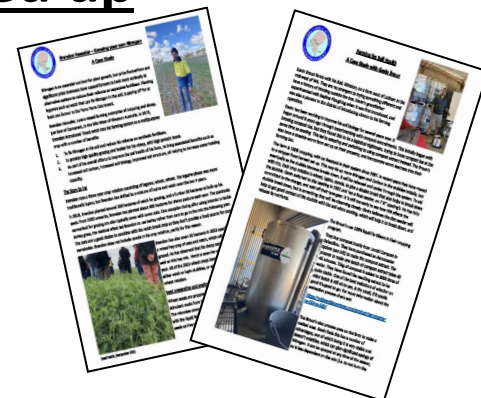
We will be working with several landholders throughout the YY Catchment and we will be getting to work straight away so we are able to get seedlings in the ground in 2024.



Soils under the Microscope—all Wrapped up

Our soils under the microscope project came to an end earlier this year. For the past two years this project has delivered multiple extension events looking at soil health and increasing understanding of the links between soil health and drought resiliency. A couple of great resources which have come from the project, and are available on our website are our local farmer case studies:

<http://yarrayarracatchment.org.au/index.php/current-projects/>



You can also check out our Compost Tea Case Study Video with Sarah Mason of Carah Farms.



This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund



Maximising Habitat Value from Saline Land Restoration

We have been working in partnership with ECU for the last three years on a project investigating how we can best increase the habitat values of saline land whilst at the same time, helping to create other benefits in the system for the farmers.

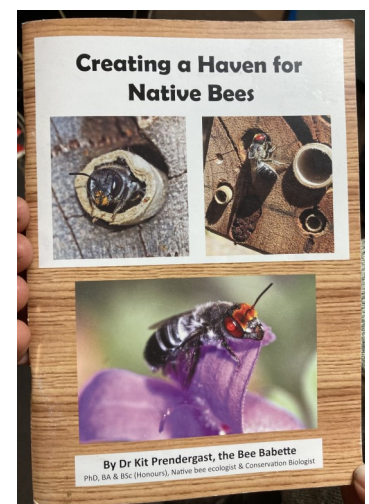
This project has involved extensive fauna surveying of both birds and invertebrates, in a variety of saline landscapes, degraded to different degrees, and where different revegetation practices have been undertaken, to see what kind of habitat values, current revegetation practices create.

We have created a couple of helpful fact sheets based on the project findings, with lots of easy to implement strategies that can be included in revegetation and enhancement projects to help boost their biodiversity. A3 printed poster copies are available, please get in touch if you would like any.



Invertebrate Workshops

Back in July we were able to bring Lora Flora of Eco-Action up to the region for a couple of days so she could deliver two Minibeast workshops to students from both Coorow Primary School and students at the Central Midlands Regional High School. Students were able to get up close and personal with a variety of “mini-beasts”, some of which were not that mini! They also learnt about why invertebrates are a vital part of our ecosystems and why we need them! The High school students took a more in-depth look at native bees, (did you know there are over 1700 species of native bees in Australia?!). Native bees are important pollinators, but they are threatened by habitat loss and pesticides. One easy way to help is by creating bee hotels, which is exactly what the Moora students found themselves doing on the day.



Our final project activity was a community forum with A/Professor Eddie van Etten, who delivered a webinar to discuss the project findings. The webinar was recorded and is available on our website:

[Saline Land Restoration Webinar](http://yarrayarracatchment.org.au/index.php/current-projects/) <http://yarrayarracatchment.org.au/index.php/current-projects/>

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program Community Stewardship Grant 2019.



natural resource
management program



Wicking Beds a Winner in the Heat

Back in October, on a fittingly hot, 38 degree day, keen gardeners gathered in Perenjori to learn all about how we can garden successfully in the very challenging conditions we experience out here, especially over our hot, dry and windy summer months.

Our workshop was delivered by Fiona Blackham of Gaia Permaculture, and the key topic of the day was wicking beds. We learnt about the theory behind them and then we got to work building two, in the Perenjori Community Garden. One in an IBC container and we also converted a raised bed to a wicking bed.

Wicking beds work by providing a large reservoir of water below the plants, working on the principle that water will rise through capillary action, making water readily available to the plants above when they need it. They are a great idea in this climate as they can reduce the water needed to grow by up to 70% compared to the equivalent plant in a normal raised bed or pot! That is a huge water saving in a drying climate. Don't forget to also mulch well and provide some shade and wind protection if you want top results!



The day was a great success and we're happy to let you know there will be two further similar events coming in 2024, one in Perenjori and one in Kalannie

Huge thanks to the volunteers of the Perenjori Community Garden for all the pre-workshop preparations! (And the husbands of the volunteers! You know who you are Geoff and Spud).

This workshop was made possible by a grant from the Mount Gibson Perenjori Public



Dates for your Diary



SAVE THE DATE
YARRA YARRA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

FOLIAR NITROGEN WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2024

DELIVERED BY JOEL WILLIAMS
INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED SOIL HEALTH EDUCATOR

FOCUSING ON
IMPROVING NITROGEN USE EFFICIENCY THROUGH
NITROGEN NUTRITION & FOLIAR FEEDING

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
LANDCARECOORDINATOR@YARRAYARRACATCHMENT.ORG.AU

REGEN WA
This event is supported by Regen WA

Red Card for Foxes & Rabbits 2024

This community feral pest control initiative is running again in 2024. Co-ordinated control efforts help achieve better long term outcomes.

Local Shoot Registered in the shire of Carnamah

Weekends of 4-6th February and 4-6th of March

Contact Emma for more info or to register your team: emma.ogilvie@outlook.com



You can also register your own event or see where other events are being held here:

<https://www.redcard.org.au/registration>

To find out more you can check out Joel's website: <https://integratedsoils.com/foliar-nitrogen/>

Joel recently spoke with the Lower Blackwood LCDC covering "What you need to know about Nitrogen" They recorded both a webinar and a podcast and we recommend checking them out:

<https://lowerblackwood.com.au/>

2024 Community Rabbit Baiting Program Expressions of Interest - REGISTER NOW

The Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA) would love for landholders in the Shires of Koorda, Dalwallinu, Perenjori, and Morawa to **register now** for the February 2024 Community Rabbit Bait Mixing Days! CWBA will arrange a day in your community in early February to come and mix 1080 poison into the oats that you supply. They need an idea of the number of landholders interested so they can allocate and purchase enough poison. February and March is the best time of the year to undertake effective rabbit baiting programs in our region. Please contact Linda Vernon if you are interested:

eocwba@outlook.com

New faces for the YYCMG Committee



We held our AGM on 22nd November and are really pleased to welcome four new committee members! Thanks to all of you for getting involved: Amanda Rowlands, Joc Dwyer, Ange Dring and Elizabeth Blyth.

Our committee positions are filled as follows: Chair: Peter Syme, Vice-Chair: Jude Sutherland, Treasurer: Stacey Hudson, Secretary: Lizzie King

Funding Updates: We have been successful in securing a number of small grants this year, and we're looking forward to delivering the following projects/events in 2024:

Nutrien Ag Solutions Community Grants: Growing Community - \$3088 to strengthen community resilience with a workshop on resilient gardening and equipment to build a local community garden in Kalannie.

RegenWA: \$2000 towards our Joel Williams, Foliar Nitrogen Workshop (6th March)

Community Underwriting 2023 Small Grants: Primary Schools Planting Biodiversity project - \$2000 towards two tree planting events with Three Springs and Perenjori Primary schools.