

National NRM Facilitator Network Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the National NRM Facilitator Network Newsletter. The primary focus of the NRM Network Newsletter is to provide the Facilitator Network with information from the Australian Government, and for Facilitators to share their experiences and information with the rest of the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Network.

The newsletter also assists communication within the Joint NRM Team and with other sections of the Department of Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), and the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH).

Facilitators, the Joint NRM Team, Departmental sections and key stakeholders are all encouraged to provide articles for this newsletter. Articles are due the first Wednesday of every month, with edition release in the second week of every month (content permitting). The newsletter will be available on the NRM website.

All articles must adhere to the newsletter conditions. These conditions and submission instructions can be found on page 8 of this newsletter.

Healthcheck Working Group

After an intense phase of designing the pilot project, collecting data and compiling state reports, things have quietened for the Healthcheck working group. The working group is in the process of drafting a national report and will soon meet to consider the next steps of the project.

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For more information please contact the Healthcheck representative in your state/territory:

- ▶ Peter Hazell ACT (02) 6274 1065
- ▶ Martin Heller WA (08) 9333 6775
- ▶ Melissa Bradbury NSW (02) 9296 1663
- ▶ Lee Drummond TAS (03) 6233 3151
- ▶ Carolynne Yates NT (08) 8999 4507
- ▶ Michelle Lauder VIC (03) 9637 8979
- ▶ Annie Keys QLD (07) 3214 2650
- ▶ Ben Hyde SA (08) 8303 8670
- ▶ Megan Edwards CBT (02) 6272 4842

Coastcare Workshop

The Australian Government NRM Facilitators – Coastcare, held their second Coastcare theme meeting from 13–15 July in Canberra. The first day included a workshop that began a process of engaging with two other Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funded national networks – Marine and Coastal Community Network (MCCN) and SEAnet. The two days following included meetings with policy staff from DEH and DAFF to discuss national policy, communications, to make contacts and learn more about sections operating within the two departments. The meeting also considered coordination of coastal and marine activities across the Network for the next 12 months.

Training Needs Working Group

The Training Needs working group met via teleconference on 21 June 2004. The group discussed the feedback from the last National NRM Facilitator Forum, the plans for the next Forum, along with the training needs of facilitators within the NRM Network.

Members of the group are working with facilitators in their States to assess their training needs and to gather ideas for the next Forum.



The working group will be meeting in Canberra in August to progress the next forum and to finalise the training needs assessment and plan.

For more information contact the Training Needs representative in your state/territory:

- ▶ Kirstin Kenyon QLD State-wide
- ▶ Chris Rinehart QLD Regional
- ▶ Michael Miller NSW State-wide
- ▶ Penny Slater NSW Regional
- ▶ Charles Prouse WA ILMF
- ▶ Nathan Malin WA Local Government
- ▶ Cathy Lyons WA Regional
- ▶ Lee Drummond TAS State-wide
- ▶ Lynne Robertson TAS Regional
- ▶ Paul Francis SA State-wide
- ▶ Geoff Rogers SA Regional
- ▶ Dave Munday NT State-wide
- ▶ Kath Nash NT Regional
- ▶ To Be Announced VIC State-wide
- ▶ Faith Deans VIC Regional
- ▶ Melissa Morley Capacity Building
- ▶ Kelly Dal Broi Capacity Building



ILMF Workshop

A three-day workshop for the Indigenous Land Management Facilitators (ILMF) was held in Coffs Harbour from 21–24 June. During the workshop facilitators discussed work plan reporting, provided state updates, went on a field trip to Nambucca Heads and learnt more about Australian Government programs including Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA), the NRM Indigenous Engagement project and amendments to the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)* (EPBC ACT) that deal with heritage listings. The workshop provided the team with a great opportunity to share experiences, identify a diversity of issues across the country and work together on solutions for common problems.

If you would like to learn more about the role of the ILMFs, or how you can work more closely with them please call the relevant ILMF in your state/territory:

▶ Rob Clegg	NSW	(02) 9228 6181
▶ Mark Sutton	NSW	(02) 6274 2120
▶ Rocky Sainty	TAS	(03) 6223 2720
▶ Wayne Barbour	NT	(08) 8920 5117
▶ Sandy Marty	NT	(08) 8950 5013
▶ Jim Davis	QLD	(07) 4051 9089
▶ Leah Salter	QLD	(07) 3854 4650
▶ Cliff Cobbo	QLD	(07) 4721 3544
▶ Tammy Capocchi	VIC	(03) 9450 5318
▶ Kevin Walley	WA	(08) 9172 5433
▶ Charles Prouse	WA	(08) 9193 1118
▶ Paul Bowers	WA	(08) 9420 6320
▶ Adrian Stanley	SA	(08) 8260 0276

Personality Profile (PP)

The inaugural PP is on Ms Kelly Pearce.

Current role: Kelly Pearce is the lead Senior Executive Servant (SES) in the Joint NRM Team for WA, VIC and Capacity Building. She shadows (backup) for Gerry Smith on SA and Mike Lee on Monitoring and Evaluation.

Kelly has held this position for the past nine weeks and has found the culture of the Joint NRM team very welcoming and supportive. In fulfilling this role Ms Pearce is looking forward to working with communities and people in the regions.

The most challenging part of Kelly's role thus far is coming to terms with the history of the National Action Plan (NAP) and NHT programs and their operational nuances in each State.

In her role, Kelly is aiming to increase the profile of the value that the National Facilitator Network is making towards achieving resource

condition targets. She is also looking to improve the understanding of the linkages between capacity building and on-ground works necessary to achieve long-term behaviour and natural resource change.

Employment History: Kelly has had an extensive career in the public service working for State and Federal government agencies spanning 21 years. She has worked in WA, SA and ACT in the Departments of Social Security (1983), Bureau of Statistics, Australian Taxation Office, Department of Information Technology and the Arts (in Networking the Nation and broadcast construction). More recently, Kelly worked for the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) establishing the Regional solutions programs, managing the Regional Transaction Centre Network program, Dairy Regional assistance Program, the Regional Assistance Program and the Regional Partnerships Program (amalgamation of all DOTARS regional programs). She briefly spent some time in Transport Security and four months with the Department of Finance and Administration writing Budget Paper 2.





Career Goal: Kelly's career goal is to improve the way that the public sector serves regional Australia, including metropolitan areas. To add value to how we do business.

Personal History: Kelly grew up in WA, residing in Narrogin, Geraldton and Perth, before she moved to Canberra then Adelaide then back to Canberra.

Education: While living in SA, Kelly attained a Bachelor of Business (HR Development) from the University of South Australia, and more recently attained a Graduate Diploma in Applied Economics from the University of Canberra.

Interesting Bits: Kelly has two Alaskan Malamutes, one Turkish Van (feline) and four fish. She enjoys sled dog racing and car rallying. Her ideal holiday would be to volunteer at the Iditarod 1000km Sled Dog Race in Alaska.

Kelly drives a Subaru Forester. Her favourite place in Australia is the Dinner Plains in Victoria.

Favourite Food: Indian

Favourite Movie: Finding Nemo

Favourite Book: Lord of the Rings

To nominate next months PP, please contact Kelly Dal Broion (02) 6271 6651.

State Profile – Victoria

The Victorian Joint NRM Team has been very busy over the past few weeks assessing and negotiating the Regional Catchment Investment Plans and developing schedules to be included in the revised NAP and NHT financial agreements.

Geoff McFarlane, Victorian Landcare Facilitator, will be providing training on Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in several states. Geoff has been coordinating the "Environmental Best Management Practices on Farms" project in developing EMS for agriculture as a means of benchmarking farming against a range of 'best practice' criteria.

Peter Wilcock, Victorian Bushcare Facilitator, is coordinating the further development of the Victorian Biodiversity Network. 15 national biodiversity hotspots have been identified as areas containing a high concentration of native plants and animals, including endemic species with immediate or future pressures on their conservation and the Network seeks to maximise the impact of biodiversity conservation work.

World Environment Day was held on 5 June 2004. Victorian Coastcare Facilitator, Michelle Lauder, was instrumental in spreading important coastal and marine protection messages as part of this day. Michelle featured in radio interviews on the day as well as other media promotions.

Contacts for the Victorian Team:

- ▶ *Vicki Ratliff* (02) 6274 1796
VIC Team Director
- ▶ *Lindsay Jolley* (02) 6274 1421
Wimmera, East Gippsland
- ▶ *Anne-Marie Wilson* (02) 6274 1178
North Central, West Gippsland,
Multi-Regional, NHT State-wide
- ▶ *Debbie Langford* (02) 6274 2059
Corangamite, VIC Finance and JSC
- ▶ *Felicity Bunny* (02) 6274 1114
Port Phillip, Glenelg Hopkins,
Vic NHT Regional Competitive
- ▶ *Tim Thelander* (02) 6274 2521
North East, Goulburn-Broken,
Communications
- ▶ *Caitlin Barry* (02) 6274 1768
Mallee, Monitoring and Evaluation
- ▶ *Peter Wilcock* (03) 5430 4383
Bushcare Facilitator
- ▶ *Geoff McFarlane* (03) 9637 8978
Landcare Facilitator
- ▶ *Michelle Lauder* (03) 9637 8978
Coastcare Facilitator



What's goss!

Welcome to the new facilitators to the Network:

- ▶ Miya Isherwood – Regional Facilitator for Torres Strait
- ▶ Geri Lee – Regional Facilitator for Alice Springs while Michelle Rodrigo is on leave
- ▶ Paul Bateson – Regional Facilitator for Kimberly and Pilbara located in Derby, WA
- ▶ Steve Welch – Regional Facilitator for ACT, located in Canberra

Thanks and goodbye to:

- ▶ Vera Lubczenko – Rivercare Facilitator for Victoria has taken up a new position in the Catchment Strategies team at the Victorian Department of Environment and Sustainability
- ▶ Pia Richter – Coastcare Facilitator for South Australia who has taken up a position in Ceduna, SA

Together, let's give our land a hand

A nationwide information campaign, 'Together, let's give our land a hand', was launched on 20 June 2004.

Through television, newspaper and magazine advertisements, the campaign aims:

to increase knowledge and awareness of the Government's natural resource management programs, the Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. The campaign seeks to achieve community acceptance, participation and support for these programs, to protect the environment and ensure sustainable agricultural industries for the benefit of all Australians.

Australian Government, local government, regional and indigenous land management facilitators have been sent bulk copies of the 'Give our Land a Hand' information kits.

The materials are for your ongoing use as an NRM facilitator. Examples of use: field days, conferences, announcements, events, presentations, and meetings. Multiple copies can be provided to regional bodies, other regional reps and local facilitators.

The information kits have slots for your business cards and capacity for you to add regional/state material into the folders. In a separate mail out you will receive copies of a fact sheet, which has maps of Australia and each state showing NRM regions. A blank A4 fact sheet or letterhead will also be provided that can be used in normal printers for a wide range of purposes.

For additional copies of any of the printed material, call the Community Information Unit on 1800 552 008.

Who's Watching our RIVERS?

On 9–10 June the National Waterwatch Forum was held in Canberra. This meeting occurs twice a year and provides an opportunity for the State Waterwatch/ community water monitoring representatives and the Australian Government Rivercare Facilitators to strategically guide & contribute to the direction of Waterwatch/community water monitoring in the NRM framework.

Executives from the Australian Government Joint NRM Team also attended the Forum. They provide both input and support for Waterwatch and the role that the Network can play in delivering regional NRM outcomes. Thanks Ian Thompson, Mark Tucker and Kelly Pearce for being available to attend and participate in the Forum.

The June Forum provided an opportunity for the Australian Government and states/ territories to network and clarify the role and future directions for Waterwatch. The major messages and outcomes of the Forum included:

- ▶ Waterwatch is a national community water monitoring network;
- ▶ Waterwatch may assist with community capacity building and engagement in NRM;
- ▶ the vision for Waterwatch is 'healthy waterways'
- ▶ the goal for Waterwatch is 'to empower community groups and individuals to be active in the protection and management of waterways;
- ▶ Areas to focus on the coming months include: technical and data support, communication and partnerships.

In addition to the Forum, a Waterwatch 'Needs and Gaps Analysis' is currently being undertaken by a consultant (Don Thomson, Landscape and Social Research) and is due to be completed by the end of August 2004. The outcomes from both the review and the National Waterwatch Forum will assist in the development of a Business Plan for Waterwatch. This will be done in consultation with States and regions and aims to support the national community water monitoring network. This document will be made available on the NRM website through a link to the Waterwatch Australia (*finding link*) website by October 2004.

For inquiries contact Nadia Kingham (02) 6272 3629 or Leonie Hodsdon (02) 6271 6355 of the Capacity Building Section, Joint NRM Team.

Aboriginal Engagement in NRM

New South Wales is in the process of implementing NRM reform with establishment of Catchment Management Authorities (CMA), a Natural Resource Commission and changes to the functions of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR).

Robert Clegg, ILMF for New South Wales, recently initiated and ran a three-day workshop aimed at developing guidelines on engagement of Aboriginal communities in NRM across the state to coincide with this process.

Workshop participants included Aboriginal elders and community members, Aboriginal Natural Resource Officers (ANROs), Aboriginal Community Support Officers (ACSOs), Australian Government and regional NRM Facilitators, ILMFs and agency representatives from the NSW and Australian Governments.

Megan Edwards from the Capacity Building Team spoke with Rob about the workshop and his vision for aboriginal engagement in NRM in NSW for the future.

► *Could you explain what led you to initiating this workshop?*

To get a shared understanding of engagement. Currently engagement is too fractured, everyone has a different idea of what it is. The purpose of the workshop was to inform people of what engagement is and to collect information on issues in regards to Aboriginal engagement in NRM.

► *What will be the outcomes of the workshop?*

The main outcome will be to produce guidelines on (Aboriginal) engagement for all government agencies with an interest in NRM in NSW. The information has to come from both government and communities.

I am looking at a range of options to solve the problems and address the issues that were identified.



We need resourced Aboriginal reference groups in all the regions. These groups need to represent all Aboriginal communities and disseminate information from communities to government and vice versa.

Another outcome is the needs for the CMAs to hold regional workshops to deliver information on Aboriginal engagement. This information needs to be consistent across regions, and comprehensive to include support from both Government agencies, and regional bodies (CMAs).

The guidelines will be signed off by all key agencies. I am hoping to get sign off at least at the Secretary level if possible.

► *How do you see NRM Facilitators using the guidelines and outcomes from the workshop?*

The process has been supported by Australian Government, regional and local level facilitators. Currently, I am receiving feedback from them on the guideline's use.

A working party has been formed and are in the process of collating the information. Feedback from the workshops participants and key agencies will be taken into consideration in the final draft.





Another outcome was the decision of the Southern CMA to appoint two facilitators to support aboriginal engagement along the South Coast. Appointment of these positions has occurred as a direct result of the workshop.

- ▶ *What do you expect to be the timing of the final draft?*

The NSW activity statements are due in October, and I am hoping to circulate the finalised draft to coincide with these statements.

- ▶ *Is there anything else you would like to say Rob?*

Thanks to those that turned up and for the support of the attendees. And thanks to those who helped pull the workshop together.

“I would also like to say that this is a step forward, not sideways, in bringing people together. It is a start in the right direction.”

Contact for more information Robert Clegg ILMF (NSW) on (02) 9228 6181 or Gavin Andrews, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Integrated Policy Unit, DIPNR (facilitated the workshop).

Review of the Native Vegetation Framework

On 16 April 2004 the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council reconfirmed its commitment to the need for native vegetation management. The Council agreed to review and update the *National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation* (Native Vegetation Framework) originally endorsed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council in 2001.

Council members agreed that the review should address the range of costs and benefits of vegetation management, including various management tools such as volunteerism, grants, market-based measures and regulatory approaches. Terms of Reference for the Review are currently being developed.

For more information please contact Michelle Evans, Vegetation Management Policy Section, DEH on (02) 6274 1284.



DAFF Roadshow

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Roadshow visits field days, major shows, conferences and rural events to provide information on the Department's policies and programs to regional and rural Australia.

Roadshow staff are keen to meet NRM facilitators in their travels and to join forces with facilitators at events.

During July the Roadshow will be in Queensland at the Ag-Grow Field Days in Emerald and the Cairns Show, where they will be sharing their stall with local facilitators.

In July Roadshow staff will also be putting up stalls at the South Australian Farmers Federation conference and the Victorian Farmers Federation Conference.

To find out where the Roadshow will be next, view their schedule on the DAFF Roadshow website or look under the link to Events on the DAFF website

Roadshow also produces a comprehensive fact sheet on all of DAFF's policies and programs, which provides a handy reference tool for people in the regions.

To find out more about how the Roadshow can work with you contact Keryn Kefous (02) 6272 5935 or Shane Scanlon (02) 6272 4330 from DAFF, Public Relations.



Events/Key dates

National Science Week: Aug 14–22, 2004

Australia's biggest science and innovation festival is on again across the continent from 14-22 August 2004.

National Science Week 2004 features more than 2000 activities, events, entertainments and contests in all States and Territories.

From Perth to Sydney, Darwin to Hobart and many places between, Australians will enjoy a sneak preview of the future.

If you'd like to learn more, take part or see what's on, go to www.scienceweek.info.au

Salinity Solutions – Working with Science and Society Conference 2–5 August, 2004 – Bendigo

The conference will discuss developing and implementing solutions to the social, environmental and agronomic problems posed by dryland salinity. Conference themes include: sustainable farming systems with balanced water use; new plant-based solutions; the social and policy context and connecting science to farming practice. Full registration includes half-day scientific tours.

For more information call (03) 6224 3773 or visit www.cdesign.com.au/salinity2004

Publications

NAP Annual Report Summary now available

The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council released in April 2004, the Annual Report Summary for the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP). This is a four-page document that provides a good overview of the NAP's progress to date.

The NAP Annual Report is available on the NAPSWQ website or from the Community Information Unit, DEH on 1800 803 772

Newsletter Content Conditions:

To submit articles for the Network Newsletter the following conditions must be adhered to for publication.

Content parameters

- ▶ Content to be no more than ½ A4 page of text
- ▶ All Acronyms to be spelt out in the first instance
- ▶ Contact details must be provided for further inquiries
- ▶ Articles can include a profile on resources available. Please provide links or contact details about how to source these resources. The newsletter will not include documents or attachments.
- ▶ Graphics may not necessarily be included due to size limits (download size). Please ensure all graphics are low resolution.

Submission

- ▶ Content to be provided electronically to Kelly Dal Broi ph (02) 6271 6651 by the first Wednesday of every month.
- ▶ Content to be approved by Director level prior to submission.
 - Regional Facilitators to obtain approval from State Team Director.
 - Key Stakeholders to obtain approval from appropriate executive level prior to submission)

Articles are to be provided by email. The email must include the following words *and to be CC to the approving Director:*

“As this article will be included in a public document, the content has been approved by <Name>, Director of <Team>, <Date>.”

Final draft Newsletter will be approved by the Capacity Building Team.

Newsletter will be available at the end of the second week of the month. An email will be circulated with a link back to its location on the NRM website.