

Natural Resource TALK...

NRM Communications

The Mosaic project expects to see about 350 featured project descriptions on the site by the launch of Phase 1, which is scheduled for early February.

Over the past couple of months there have been photography visits to about 10 regions including Avon (WA), Alinytjara Wilurara (SA) and Cape York (Qld).

Copies of all photos will be provided back to regions for their own use.

Mosaic will move into Phase 2 straight after the launch, adding another round of descriptions, pictures, moving imagery and possibly some student resources.

News

How to have excellent NRM partnerships with local government is the latest research conducted by Australian National University researcher, Dr Su Wild-River, supported by Land and Water Australia.

The project looks at how to resolve NRM problems through improved understanding of local government contributions. The research involved 28 local governments (four from each state and the Northern Territory) and 19 regional NRM agencies. The results are a checklist showing how Australia, state, territory and regional agencies can work better with local governments. Download the fact sheet: http://www.wild-river.com.au/research/resilience/how_to_fact_sheet.pdf



Framework for Future NRM

Programmes has been released by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council. While good work is being done to protect, enhance and restore Australia's natural resources, much more needs to be done across a range of issues to ensure that these assets remain sustainable. This paper proposes a framework for the future development of natural resource management programmes across Australia. Visit: <http://nrm.gov.au/publications/future/index.html>

A \$1 million commitment to the national Coastcare programme has been made by the Australian Government. The two-year Natural Heritage Trust funding will support Landcare Australia Limited in its work to protect our coasts through the national Coastcare programme. Coastcare aligns closely with work undertaken by regional NRM groups by targeting activities at the local level. Visit: <http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2006/mr08dec06.html>

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NRM workshop

The first national NRM Workshop held last November at the Gold Coast drew 360 delegates to hear 52 case studies. Key issues emerging from the workshop included the need for a long-term planning and flexibility in arrangements to allow regions to deal with emerging issues such as drought and climate change in the context of NRM. Agriculture Minister Peter McGauran told delegates that Australia leads the world with the only national-scale intensive program of its kind in NRM.

He said there was strong support for the regional model in government and growing acceptance of stewardship payments, where environmental outcomes are purchased from primary producers. For copies of presentations visit: www.rgc.org.au/01/cms/details.asp?k_id=42

Grants guide

The 2007 Australian Green Grants Guide helps landholders, councils, communities and companies find funding for environmental and heritage projects. The one stop guide offers 250 Australian environmental and heritage grants with 50 new grants added since last year. It provides specific information about each grant and has indexes for applicants to see which grants they are eligible for. Samples from the Guide can be viewed at www.molinostewart.com.au or contact 02 9891 5399 or molino@molinostewart.com.au

Funding

Community Water Grants will help to save 9,518 mega litres under the latest \$61.7m round of successful applicants. A total of 1,444 community based projects aimed at saving, reusing or improving the health of local water resources have received funding under Round 2. We expect Round 3 to open for applications in early to mid-2007. To subscribe for information on Round 3 as it becomes available visit www.australia.gov.au/communitywatergrants



Australian Government Envirofund

Round 9 will open for applications in February 2007 and will cover the normal range of activities funded by the Envirofund.

Register to receive a copy of the Australian Government Envirofund Guide and Application Form when it becomes available. You can also view a general guide to the eligible activities and requirements of the programme plus a sample application form.

Merchandise for successful Round 8 project proponents will be distributed in late January. Visit: www.nht.gov.au/envirofund

National Landcare Programme Community Support Component

is open for applications. Community Support funds local and regional landcare activities consistent with priorities in accredited, regional NRM plans and investment strategies.

These can include measures to combine production and conservation on farms, improve the skills of NRM managers, promote best management practice and better integrate natural resource

management into business and property plans. Applications must be received by COB Monday 26 February.

Visit: <http://www.daffa.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare/national-landcare-programme/community>

The Exchange Incentive Fund is now available to regional groups and researchers for events and activities to be carried out before 1 January 2008. Up to \$5,000 is available for successful projects, although applications up to \$10,000 will be considered.

The Exchange Incentive Fund allows regional practitioners to better manage their natural resources by increasing their access to current knowledge and research on native vegetation, and generating new knowledge through links to relevant researchers and organisations. Visit: www.lwa.gov.au or call 1300 886 589

Surveys

Who Cares about the Environment in 2006? is a survey of NSW people's environmental knowledge, attitudes and behaviours and conducted every three years since 1994.

In 2006, people value the environment highly as part of their lives and almost 90% are concerned about environmental problems, with water related issues the top environmental issue and climate change and energy issues growing rapidly in importance. The survey also explores the concepts of 'environment' and 'sustainability' in more depth as well as examines the motivations, triggers and barriers people have to adopting environmentally friendly behaviour. Visit: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whocares/whocares2006.htm>

Australia's litter problem will be assessed and counted through the second Keep Australia Beautiful national litter index. The litter count includes all states and territories which are assessed by type and location. The results give governments, communities and industry valuable information about the litter problem, allowing a measure of success rates and new ways to reduce litter. Included in the audit is a neighbourhood litter count. Visit: www.kab.org.au



Awards

Victoria's Westernport volunteer Dr Tim Ealey has won the \$5,000 Minister's Award for Coastal Custodians in recognition of his coastal revegetation work in Victoria's Coronet Bay. Dr Ealey, 80, developed a method to mass-cultivate environmentally friendly seagrasses and mangroves in Westernport Bay in Victoria. He received volunteer support from five separate community groups for his revegetation work over the past three years.

The 2007 Banksia Environmental Awards are now open. The 2007 theme is "Solutions through convergence", which is about merging technologies, resources, expertise and knowledge so we can make greater strides in preserving our environment and reducing the impact of climate change. Through convergence we can find synergy to accomplish together what could not be done separately - solutions to the issues that face us today and in the future.

Visit: <http://www.banksiafdn.com>

Australia's top non-government organisation reserve of the decade has been awarded to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy for the outstanding contribution of its privately-owned Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary to the National Reserve System. Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary, in the Kimberley in WA, is Australia's largest privately owned protected area with more than 200 birds, nearly 100 reptiles and amphibians and an estimated 40 different mammal species.

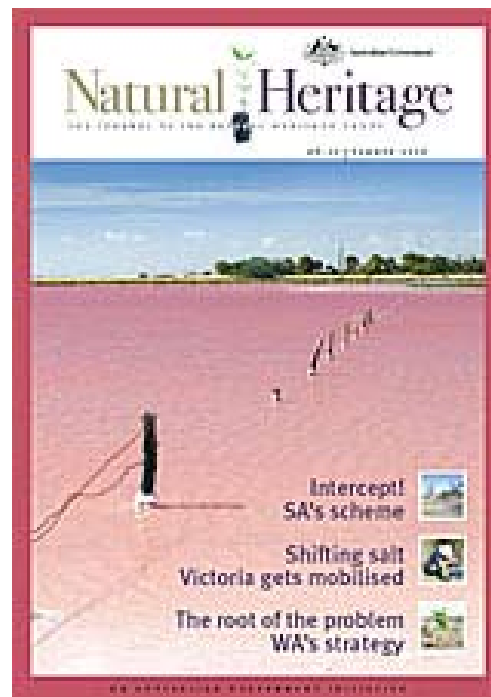
The Reef Guardianship Awards, an initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Marine

Park Authority, have recognised 32 schools which will share in \$20,000 in prizes. Some of the winners include Gympie East State School - Reef Guardian Champions award, Belgian Gardens State School - Sea Stars award (for youth directed and owned activities) and Hall State School - Waste Watchers award.

Australian Tidy Town finalists include Cue (WA), Kingston (SA), Swansea (TAS), Benalla (VIC), Leeton (NSW) and Roma (QLD). Winners will be announced 12th May at Ballarat, Victoria. Visit: www.kab.org.au

Library

The latest edition of the Natural Heritage Journal is out now. This season's theme is "salinity", which features 12 NAP-funded projects from around the country. To join the mailing list email heritage@canmail.com.au or download the latest edition from www.nht.gov.au/publications/journal/index.html The upcoming theme for autumn is "facilitators". If you have a story idea email georgia.curry@deh.gov.au



A review of Australia's urban water situation outlines the state of water supplies in our major cities. It shows how water conservation and restrictions are no longer enough to cope with changes in future water supply shortfalls. Visit: http://www.dpmc.gov.au/water_reform/index.cfm

Natural Resource Talk

Q&A

The ABC asked their most frequently submitted questions on the water crisis to a panel of experts. As one of the worst droughts since records were kept continues, all options are looked at for a secure water source. Are desalination, recycling sewage or bans on hoses really the answer? Will fixing the Murray solve the whole problem? Can we just hold out until the drought's over, or do we need a complete overhaul of our water use?

To see the 13 questions and answers visit: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/expert/realexpert/watercrisis/>

Cybersurf

The Atlas of Australian Marine Fishing and Coastal Communities has launched a companion website that enables members of the public to make their own maps with the data provided in the atlas. Students, researchers and those who work within the fishing industry will find the map-making online tool a highly valuable resource. The map-making feature can be found online at <http://adl.brs.gov.au/mapserv/fishcoast/mapper.html>

Please keep us informed of your NRM news. Email: georgia.curry@deh.gov.au



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry
Department of the
Environment and Heritage

The Australia State of the Environment 2006 is the nation's most wide-ranging environmental report card to date. It is the third in a series of studies



prepared every five years for the Australian Government by an independent committee of experts. The report tracks changes in atmosphere, biodiversity, human settlements, inland waters, coasts and oceans, natural and cultural heritage and the Australian Antarctic Territory. Visit: www.deh.gov.au/soe

National Guidelines for Water Recycling comprise a risk management framework and specific guidance on managing the health risks and the environmental risks associated with the use of recycled water. The phase one guidelines have been released, with phase two expected by the end of 2007. Visit: http://www.ephc.gov.au:80/ephc/water_recycling.html

The Asparagus Weeds Best Practice Management Manual features the most up-to-date information for land managers on how to tackle six of the worst environmental weeds. Included are both forms of bridal creeper, bridal veil, Asparagus fern, ground or basket Asparagus and climbing Asparagus. Also included is advice on developing a local weed management plan. Visit: <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bridalcreeper/>

Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends is the latest national snapshot released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Its focus this year is "solid waste" and shows that Australians are recycling nearly half their waste (46%), but are facing a major electronic waste challenge. Visit <http://www.abs.gov.au/>



The Living Planet Report is WWF's biennial statement on the state of the natural

world. The 2006 report says on current projections humanity will be using two planet's worth of natural resources by 2050. Download the report at: <http://www.wwf.org.au/publications/living-planet-report-2006/>

Global Warming Cool It is a home guide to reducing energy costs and greenhouse gases. Every Australian household emits around 14 tonnes of greenhouse gas each year. Simple things such as using public transport, taking shorter showers and washing clothes in cold water can all help in reducing greenhouse gases. Visit www.greenhouse.gov.au/gwci

Urban Habitat Guidelines for the ACT provides

principles for managing urban habitat, steps to reduce human induced threats to urban biodiversity, and practical guidelines for developing habitat gardens and landscapes. Visit: http://www.lifeinthesuburbs.net.au/res/File/PDFs/Urban_Habitat_Guidelines_for_the_ACT.pdf



A Reef Manager's Guide to Coral Bleaching provides strategies for managing and responding to the threat of mass coral bleaching; and ways to support coral reef ecosystems to survive and recover from bleaching events. Visit: <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/>

Mallee Sustainable Farming 2005-2006 Results Compendium is a compilation of all results from Mallee Sustainable Farming trials over the past 12 months. It contains relevant the latest results from core sites at Waikerie and Kerribee, a Rhizoctonia Update and New Rotations for Low-rainfall Environments. Contact Jacqui Doyle on 03 5021 9101.

Plants of the Channel Country is a 324-page, full-colour field guide to plants of the Channel Country. Desert Channels Queensland is distributing the book for \$20. Contact 07 4658 0600.