

Natural Resource TALK...

NRM Communications

The Mosaic Map project is nearing Phase 1 completion with up to six writers busily working on the final regions. Photography work has been increasing with visits taking place across the countryside including South Coast (WA), Adelaide and Mount Lofty (SA), NRM South (TAS) and SEQ (Queensland).



Great quality images have been taken (see Kerry Trapnell's photo above) that will not only feature on the NRM website but also be added to the Department of the Environment and Water Resource's image database for future use. The database will have thousands of new images once all featured projects have been photographed. Regions will receive copies of all photos for own use. The new NRM websites and Mosaic Map will be launched soon – watch this space.

NRM in the spotlight. Regions may be aware that over the next year or so the Australian Government NRM Communications team is producing DVDs on a range of topics. Here's what's coming up over the next couple of months:

- Gulf Ghost Nets project - final filming in Far North Queensland.
- "Drought and NRM" - filming in Victoria and possibly also NSW (with other states to follow).

Down the track we'll also cover a mix of projects in each of the States, as well as issues such as sustainable agriculture,

salinity, water, coasts, biodiversity conservation, industry partnerships and Caring for Country. Regular updates will be provided. For more information contact Heather Turk on 02 6274 1466 or heather.turk@environment.gov.au

NRM News

An Australian Government Facilitator Meeting will be held from 13 - 14 March 2007 at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Edmund Barton Building Conference Centre in Canberra. This meeting brings together all Australian Government NRM State Level Facilitators including the Rivercare, Coastcare, Biodiversity, Sustainable Resource Use, Indigenous Land Management and Local Government Facilitator networks. The focus is on discussions surrounding the future direction and operational environment of the Australian Government NRM Facilitator network leading up to and post June 2008. For more information contact Margot Sharp on 02 6271 6355 or margot.sharp@daff.gov.au

A National Action Plan for Educating for Sustainable Development (NAP ESD) is being developed by the Australian Government. The NAP ESD will supersede the existing National Action Plan for Environmental Education (released in July 2000) and will build on current activities and broaden the focus to acknowledge the interconnected nature of the social, economic and environmental



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NRM data

A new NRM information Website - The Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP) Programme - is being developed to provide a comprehensive source of information that will support the activities of regional groups in NRM. It enables access to a range of NRM data from State repositories at a single point of access.

So far, an online tool for accessing NRM Information Products called "NRM Info" has been released and is available for public use. Information is presented in a range of themes aligned with the NHT/ NAP Matters for Target. Visit <http://spatial.agric.wa.gov.au/slip/> For more information contact Jasmin Beattie on 08 9368 3853 or email jbeattie@agric.wa.gov.au

Pest portal

Under the Natural Heritage Trust's National Feral Animal Control Programme, the Bureau of Rural Sciences has supported the Pest Animal Control CRC in cooperation with the University of Canberra to develop a website on pest animals. The site aims to make information on past and current research readily accessible. Visit www.feral.org.au/

dimensions of sustainable development. While the initial survey has closed, additional submissions are sought from regional bodies and all NRM facilitators. It is preferred that people respond as representative of a region or group rather than as individual. Upcoming workshops in every state will provide another opportunity for involvement as well as via written responses to the Discussion Paper, which will be released in April.

Visit www.urbisjhd.com/nap or for a copy of the survey contact Project Director Roberta Ryan at NAP@urbisjhd.com or Assistant Director for Sustainability Education, Joan Cornish, at joan.cornish@environment.gov.au

The Capacity Building Section with the Australian Government NRM Team has a new director, Jane Bennett, starting 12th March 2007. Former director Catherine Sullivan has taken up a new position with the Victorian Water Trust.



Funding

Community Water Grants Round Three will open for applications in mid-2007. Potential applicants are encouraged to work through the new 'Planning your project section' of the website before applying - <http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au/planning/index.html>. In the 'Resources' section of the website you can find links to useful websites and details of organisations you may need to contact in the planning phase. For information visit <http://hermes.erin.gov.au/eaccrf/cwg/include/index.shtml>

Australian Government Envirofund Round 9 is open for applications. Individuals and community groups across Australia are being encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$50,000



for local environmental projects. This year, Envirofund will allow proponents in Exceptional Circumstances (drought) declared areas on private land to apply for weed and feral animal control as the primary activity, as long as there is a clear natural resource management benefit. In Western Australia EC declared areas include the North Eastern Wheatbelt and southern pastoral. Descriptions and maps of the relevant areas can be found at: www.agric.wa.gov.au/servlet/page?_pageid=449&_dad=portal30&_schema=PORTAL30

Applications close 27th April 2007. To download a guide and application form visit www.nht.gov.au/envirofund or call 1800 303 863 or email envirofund@daff.gov.au

Research and development project proposals - second call - are invited under the Australian Government's \$44m Defeating the Weeds Menace Programme. The Australian Government is making \$1.5m available for projects that focus on integrated weed management strategies that incorporate an understanding of landscape scale ecological processes; efficient methods for surveying and eradicating agreed emergent weeds; and quantifying the impacts of weeds on sustainability and the environment and the relative benefits and costs of different control measures. **Proposals must be received by 16th March 2007.** For more information contact 02 6263 6016 or visit http://www.lwa.gov.au/Apply_for_Funding/Defeating_the_Weed_Menace_Second_Round_Research_Call/indexdl_5795.aspx

The Exchange Incentive Fund is available to regional groups and networks and researchers for events or activities to be carried out before 1 January 2008. The small grants fund of \$5,000 to any given project is supported by the Natural Heritage Trust and managed in a partnership between Greening Australia's Exchange service and Land & Water Australia's Native Vegetation R&D Programme. For more information visit http://www.lwa.gov.au/Apply_for_Funding/Exchange_Incentive_Fund/indexdl_3694.aspx

New national body

The National Coastal Alliance is being created to unite local governments, environmental organisations and other parties involved in the economic, social and environmental management of coastal communities and regions. The alliance is expected to serve as a conduit for discussion between the groups about coastal management issues and also to play a leading role in compiling research data on coastal issues. The formation of the alliance has been an initiative of organisations such as the National Sea Change Taskforce, the Australian National University, the Australian Local Government Association, CSIRO and NRM groups. For more information email info@seachangetasforce.org.au



Surveys

A Lantana Survey is being conducted in Queensland to gather information about landholders' current lantana management practices and help them set their pest planning goals. The first 1,500 respondents will receive a free Lantana Control Manual, which is a guide for controlling lantana in a variety of land-use situations, drawing on the knowledge and experience of landholders and communities throughout the country. To participate in the survey email clare.raven@nrw.qld.gov.au



The University of Western Australia is working on a project aimed at making fox control more effective. Part of it involves creating a "genetic map" of fox population structure Australia-wide, so that we can get a better handle on their patterns of dispersal and responses to different control methods. WA is seeking assistance with the collection of samples of any foxes you shoot, trap or see as road kill in your region. It has user-friendly kits that contain everything needed to take samples for DNA analysis, plus reply-paid envelopes. Visit: <http://www.foxdna.animals.uwa.edu.au/>

Awards

The 2007 Thies Riverprize is now open for nominations. The prize is awarded during the Riversymposium for outstanding achievement in the restoration and preservation of rivers and waterways across the world. The International Thies Riverprize is \$225,000 and the National Thies Riverprize is \$75,000. **Deadline for submissions is 30th March 2007.** Nomination forms and judging criteria are available at <http://www.riversymposium.com/index.php?page=ThiesRiverprize>

Natural Resource Talk

Bird watching

Bird Explorers invites you to follow their adventures as they attempt to photograph every species of bird in the world in an effort to promote the awareness, conservation and beauty of the planet's diverse birdlife. Visit <http://www.birdquest.net/>

Science!

Scirus is a free search engine that searches more than 300 million science-specific Web pages enabling you to pinpoint scientific, scholarly, technical data, find the latest reports, peer-reviewed articles and journals and offer unique functionalities designed for scientists and researchers. Visit <http://www.scirus.com>

The Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award is open for applications. It is awarded to an Australian individual, organisation or group for a project, programme or other activity that has demonstrated outstanding environmental achievement at a national or international level. **Closing date 1st April 2007.** For more information including award criteria and registration visit www.banksiafdn.com/index.php?page=134

World Environment Day Awards are now open for nominations. The national awards program recognises businesses, local governments, community organisations, individuals, schools and the media whose work serves to protect, manage or restore the environment. **Nominations close 9th May 2007.** For complete guidelines, entry criteria and nomination forms visit www.unaavictoria.org.au or email: office@unaavictoria.org.au or phone 03 9670 7878.

The Banksia Environmental Awards are now open for entries. The theme this year is 'Solutions through Convergence' which is about merging technologies, resources, expertise and knowledge to make greater strides in preserving our environment and reducing the impact of climate change. Award categories include international, education, local government, community, Indigenous and people's choice. **Entries close 8th May 2007.** Further information on categories, guidelines and eligibility can be accessed at www.banksiafdn.com/index.php?page=131 or contact the Banksia Environmental Foundation 03 9684 4667 or info@banksiafdn.com

Tasmania's King Island Council has won an award for Innovation in Wastewater Treatment. This tiny council – representing a population of only 1,800 – has been recognised in local, state and national environment awards, including the prestigious Banksia Awards, for the recently completed Currie Sewage Treatment Wetlands. The Wetlands provide a passive sewage system that uses natural processes (sedimentation filtration and biological

transformation of organic matter) to treat the entire wastewater of the township of Currie. By minimising energy and chemical requirements, the project has a minimal environmental footprint. This project is one of the first in Australia where sewage has been treated entirely through a wetland system. For more information visit: <http://www.nrmtas.org>

Calender

Community Engagement 2007, 13-14 March 2007 at Citigate Sebel, Sydney, NSW. The forum is about innovative methods and techniques for collaboration in policy making to enable capacity building in our communities. Visit www.iqpc.com.au/au-3035-003



International Salinity Forum, 20th March – 3rd April, Adelaide Convention Centre, SA. The focus is of the conference is on new approaches in tackling the salinisation of water resources including irrigation, dryland and urban salinity and salt water intrusion. Visit www.internationalsalinityforum.org or call 02 6281 6624 or email conference@conlog.com.au

Fenner Conference on the Environment: Water, population and Australia's urban future, 15 - 16 March 2007, Canberra. The Fenner Conference will explore the water-population connection with a focus on Australia's urban and peri-urban areas. For more information visit <http://www.science.org.au/events/fenner2007/>

Workshop, Rehabilitation and Management of Disturbed Native Vegetation, 14 - 15 March 2007, Coffs Harbour NSW. The workshop focus is the knowledge and skills required to undertake ecological rehabilitation and management of disturbed native vegetation. Visit <http://www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/WorkshopRegistration2007.html>

International Coastal Symposium, 16-20 April, Gold Coast, Queensland. The conference will bring together coastal scientists, managers and planners from around the world to discuss coastal evolution, dynamics, ecology, geomorphology, chemical, geology, conservation, management and engineering related research. Visit www.griffith.edu.au/conference/ics2007/

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation National Forum, 17-19 April 2007 at the CSIRO Discovery Centre, Canberra, ACT. Practitioners will demonstrate identification of soil organisms and applications to rehabilitation practice, share knowledge gained from experience, and identify knowledge gaps. Visit <http://www.anpc.asn.au/conferences.html>

Library

Wetlands Australia - National Wetlands Update 2007. The annual update for Australia's wetland community is now available. To order a printed copy or to download a pdf version visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/publications/wa15/index.html>

Integrated Weed Management manual. Ten years of study by Weeds CRC has created a 250-page manual on 20 of the worst weeds of Australia's cropping areas and individual weed management tactics, as well as details on how to develop and assess effective weed management programmes. The manual also contains a section on herbicide resistance. Visit www.weeds.crc.org.au/publications/iwm_manual_flyer.html

National Riparian Lands R&D Programme Legacy CD. This brings together all research, publications, tools and key scientific references from 13 years of work on the National Riparian Lands Research and Development Programme. To order a free copy visit www.rivers.gov.au/publicat/factsheets.htm#legacycd

National Agriculture and Climate Change Action Plan, supported by the National Farmers Federation and State and Territory Ministers for Agriculture. For more information visit: www.daff.gov.au/climatechangeactionplan



Periodic publications & fact sheets on saltland management. Available on CRC Salinity's website including 'Focus on Salt' and 'Salt Magazine'. To download copies visit: www.crcsalinity.com.au/publications/publications.php A series of fact sheets are also available on the above website.

Managing Dryland Salinity 2006 Update. Available for free. Contact Canprint for both hard-copy and CD-Rom. Freecall 1800 776 616 and quote Product Code PR061217

Change & Continuity in Peri-urban Australia. This Peri-urban CD reviews research and writings on the implications of change and continuity in peri-urban Australia. Order a free copy on: 1800 776 616.

Managing riparian lands in the cotton industry & sugar industry guidelines. Land & Water Australia together with the Cotton CRC & RDC and cotton growers and the Sugar RDC and sugar growers, have worked together to produce riparian management guidelines for both the cotton and sugar industries. To download a copy visit: www.rivers.gov.au/publicat/industry.htm

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Feedback

'Vic Estuaries 06' forum, held in December 2006, attracted more than 125 people and promoted the cooperation and collaboration in estuary management, research and funding across Victoria. Workshop participants were taken to the Barwon, Thompson, Anglesea, Painkalac and Erskine estuaries to discuss current management and local initiatives.

Each of these estuaries has unique management requirements such as fish passage, coastal planning, the need for environmental flows and artificial mouth openings. 'Vic estuaries 06' was fruitful in linking up key researchers and management agencies to discuss future integrated management initiatives and funding opportunities. A key outcome was strong support for the development of an 'estuary flagship' initiative where integrated catchment-to-coast management could be piloted.

Catalogue

Land & Water Australia's Mostly Free publication catalogue outlines some of the 'mostly free' 600 publications available for download or order from Land & Water Australia. These include information on landscape and river management, social and economic issues and irrigation. To subscribe to LWA for catalogue updates email subscribe@lwa.gov.au

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



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Department of the Environment
and Water Resources

Issue 4, Land & Water Australia's 'Thinking Bush – Science for managing native vegetation in Australian landscapes'. Insights and knowledge from projects initiated through the Native Vegetation R&D Program since 2000. Visit: www.lwa.gov.au/nativevegetation or call 1800 776 616.

Landcare Queensland has launched a virtual bookshop with 17 Landcare related titles that focus on the Queensland landscape, sustainable land management and community engagement. The latest titles, catalogue and order form are available at www.landcare.org.au/Bookshop.htm



The Invasive Animals CRC has a range of fact sheets on feral animals available for download via its website. New ones for the fox and cat have recently been added. Visit <http://www.invasiveanimals.com/index.php?id=151> to view. Email contact@invasiveanimals.com

Gorse - National Best Practice Manual. Includes instructions for gorse mapping, planning a control program, undertaking the work and following up. The manual also includes a CD of the Bureau of Rural Science's "A field guide for surveying and mapping nationally significant weeds". Contact 1300 368 550.

National Boneseed Management Manual. Detailed explanations of control methods, advice on developing a weed management plan (covering the wide range of habitats where boneseed

occurs), and information on monitoring. The manuals are aimed at community groups as well as government agency, CMA and NRM staff. Visit <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bitoubush/>

Asparagus Weeds Best Practice Management Manual. 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/>

The Queensland Wetlands Programme has released the most comprehensive maps available of natural and artificial wetlands for the Great Barrier Reef catchment. Wetland managers such as NRM regional groups, local government and industry from the Wet Tropics to Wide Bay can now access detailed information on 37,000 individual wetlands. The mapping identifies the location of a wetland, its size, type, degree of hydrological modification, frequency of inundation, salinity and vegetation. Available in PDF format and a DVD. Email Angela.Pattie@epa.qld.gov.au or call 07 3006 4621.

2006 Annual Climate Statement. The Bureau of Meteorology has released its 2006 annual climate statement, which paints a picture of two Australias - a wet northern Australia and a hot, dry south. Download the statement: http://www.bom.gov.au/announcements/media_releases/climate/change/20070103.shtml

Landcare report. The Australian Landcare Council has released its 2005-06 annual report. Download the report: <http://www.auslandcarecouncil.org/Annual%20Report/Annual%20Report%202005%20-2006.pdf>

National Pollutant Inventory data for 2005-06. Information on emissions to Australia's air, land and water during 2005-06. The NPI contains information on emissions of 90 substances from more than 3,800 facilities around the country. A total of 47 of the 90 NPI substances reported by industrial facilities decreased compared to the previous year. Visit: <http://www.npi.gov.au/overview/reduction.html>