

Natural Resource TALK...

News

The new **MOSAIC Map** website is officially launched, showcasing nearly 500 outstanding projects that have significantly improved the management of Australia's natural resources. The website displays a map of Australia which will allow users to search for projects funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality at a national, state, territory and regional level. Short articles on up to 10 projects chosen by the NRM regional bodies are featured for each region, with high-quality images. More will come as the website is further developed. Visit www.nrm.gov.au

The **Natural Heritage Trust's 10-year anniversary** was celebrated on the 19th June to mark the Australian Government's initial establishment of a \$1 billion fund to protect and manage Australia's natural environment under the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*. Over the past decade, the Australian Government has invested more than \$2.9 billion to activate over 27,000 projects. To mark this anniversary a special edition of the *Natural Heritage* journal has been published. Order a copy by emailing your address to heritage@canmail.com.au



Details of Phase Three of the Natural Heritage Trust are available on a factsheet at www.nrm.gov.au/stewardship/nht-questions.html. The Q&A outlines the Australian Government's continued support of NRM beyond 2008 with additional funding of nearly \$2 billion over five years for the successor programme to the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality - Phase Three of the Natural Heritage Trust.

The three objectives for the Trust will be retained: biodiversity conservation; sustainable use of natural resources; and community capacity building and institutional change. The NAP has been merged with the Trust in response to broad stakeholders' wishes and the NAP and Trust reviews.

New staff

We have four new Regional NRM Facilitators and one new Australian Government NRM Facilitator in WA:

- Tim Thompson - Southern Rangelands Catchment
- Matthew Reimer - Northern Rangelands Catchment
- Trish Dames - Avon Catchment
- Rachael Reed - South West Catchment
- Shelly Spriggs - Australian Government Facilitator - Coastal and Marine

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National NRM Facilitator Forum

The National NRM Facilitator Forum will be held in Canberra from 18-20 September at University House and the Academy of Science. The theme is "Stories of Change" and the focus will be sharing experiences and stories of Facilitator work plus information sessions about NRM policy initiatives.

The forum will bring together over 60 Regional Facilitators and more than 50 State Level Facilitators. The aim is to: exchange knowledge and experiences; build the skills of facilitators to contribute to the effectiveness of the network and NRM outcomes; and to celebrate successes, reflect on challenges and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a national network.

Wetlands education

Wetlands.edu is a national wetland education and management training program designed to provide capacity building and skills development for regional and community investments in wetland-related assessment, planning and actions. Funded by the Natural Heritage Trust, training opportunities are available in Brisbane in July, Newcastle and South Australia in August and Denmark, WA, in October.

It is aimed primarily at regional NRM and catchment bodies and their stakeholders, including Landcare and river management groups, local governments and private landholders.

A full list of training event details can be accessed at www.wetlandsedu.org.au

Funding

The Australian Government

Envirofund Round 10 has \$4 million made available from the Natural Heritage Trust for a special purpose 'Coastal and Marine' Round. This will provide targeted help to allow communities to protect and improve their local coastal and marine environments.

Community groups and individuals can now apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to undertake local environment projects to protect our foreshores, beaches, estuaries and marine environments. The Australian Government will again consider a reduced level of applicant contribution for coastal Envirofund projects, particularly where they are undertaken by volunteers. **Round 10 closes on Friday 20th July 2007.**

More information, examples of eligible activities and the Envirofund Round 10 Guide and Application Form can be downloaded at <http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/round10/index.html> or free call 1800 065 823.



The Australian Government's Community Water Grants

has been extended for a further six years. Community organisations are able to receive grants of up to \$250,000, with many local governments having already applied for grants for small-scale projects that save water, improve water recycling or boost water resources.

In the 2007 Federal Budget, Australian Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced the Community Water Grants Programme would be extended until mid-2013. The Australian Government will distribute a further \$200.7 million by 2013. **Round 3 online applications close at 11am (AEST) on 4th July 2007.**

The Australian Government's new AgFund has been set up to help primary producers manage change and improve profitability. AgFund will match funding from local producer groups of up to \$50,000 to support projects that help producers tackle industry issues at the local level.

Projects must be completed within one year or less and can include: helping farmer groups better position themselves to take advantage of emerging markets; developing strategies to address a regional biosecurity threat; working to understand and implement an innovation to increase productivity; and translating strategic plans into new practices. Under the initial round of the AgFund, projects which contribute to drought mitigation, preparation or recovery will be given particular consideration in recognition of the fact that many producers have been coping with prolonged drought conditions. **Applications close 5pm (AEST) Monday, 16th July 2007.** For more information free call 1800 136 100 or visit www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/aaa/advancingindustries/agfund

Awards

The United Nations Association of Australia has awarded the Natural Heritage Trust-funded Nooramunga Corner Inlet Water Monitoring Project in WA, which won the Community award for ten years of collecting water samples weekly at about 30 sites. More than 60 volunteers are still committed to better understanding their waterways and monitoring the water quality flowing into Corner Inlet and Nooramunga.

The Banksia Awards have nominated several Natural Heritage Trust-funded projects including the Gulf Ghost Nets Programme in Northern Australia (Indigenous Category and People's Choice); Restoring Connections Project in WA (Indigenous Category); Project Hindmarsh in Victoria (Community Category), and the Nooramunga Corner Inlet Water Monitoring Project in WA (Community Category). **Winners will be announced on the 20th July 2007.** More information: www.banksiafdn.com/index.php?page=328

The Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award finalists have been announced: Ralph Gunness, Arrow Energy, Queensland; Arron Wood, "One Life, One World, Our Future", Firestarter, Victoria; Professor David Lindenmayer, The Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU and Professor Richard Kingsford, University of NSW. Banksia has also launched the inaugural Banksia Environmental Foundation's People's Choice Award, handing Australians the power to decide who has delivered the best environmental project in the country. Voting closes 12th July 2007. Visit: www.banksiafdn.com

The 2007-2008 State and Territory Landcare Awards are open for applications. There are ten categories with awards to recognise individuals, schools, universities, local councils, primary producers, Indigenous groups and many others. The winners in each State and Territory will receive statewide recognition and be flown to a National Landcare Awards ceremony held in Canberra in 2008. Applications for Queensland, ACT and Victoria are now closed however the following States are still open: **NSW entries close 17th August, NT entries close 20th July; SA entries close 16th July; TAS entries close 17th August and WA entries close 28th September.** To download a brochure including categories and criteria visit: https://wic004tv.server-secure.com/vs154616_secure/resources/LANDCAREAWARDS_6PP.pdf

The 18th McKell Medal is now open for nominations. The McKell Medal is awarded to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to improving land-use practices and attitudes in NRM through community leadership, research or community education activities. **Nominations close Friday, 16th November 2007.** More information and selection criteria can be accessed at www.daff.gov.au/mckellmedal

Calendar

The National Water Quality Management Strategy (NWQMS) aims to achieve the sustainable use of the nation's water resources by protecting and enhancing their quality while maintaining

economic and social development. To help achieve this agreed view, the Department of the Environment and Water Resources is holding more than 20 workshops throughout Australia's NRM regions from **June 2007 to May 2008.**

The workshops will provide examples based on local water quality issues and skills for water quality planning. The workshop will also assist in the development of plans and actions identifying local water quality objectives, water quality targets and monitoring and reporting frameworks. A full list of NWQMS documents are at: www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/quality/index.html#nwqmsguidelines To get your region involved contact Gerard Hogan on 02 6274 2699



AWA Water Reuse and Recycling Conference, 16-18 July 2007, Sydney.

Themes include: potable recycling; environmental impact and assessment; emerging water treatment technologies; water quality monitoring and economic drivers and impediments. Visit: www.cwwt.unsw.edu.au/reuse07/index.html

2007 Capacity Building in Indigenous Communities Seminar series.

The Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Inc is holding the 2007 series of seminars on Capacity Building in Indigenous Communities in **Canberra (24-25 July), Adelaide (31 July-1st August), Darwin (11-12 September) and Nhulunbuy (7-8 November).** Visit: www.ards.com.au/default.html

Weed management

A survey conducted by the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management has seen regional NRM bodies throughout Australia have input into the next series of weed management guides. Eight weeds were selected on the basis that they were environmental weeds for which there is insufficient extension material available on their management in natural ecosystems. The eight are: African boxthorn, Coolatai grass, brooms, buffel grass, periwinkle, Spanish heath, cat's claw creeper and feathergrasses & mission grasses.

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Coastcare recruits

New research by Coastcare and Roy Morgan Research show that 40 per cent of Australians - eight million people - are so concerned about our coastal environment that they would consider getting involved in a local Coastcare group. With our coast facing weeds, dune erosion and storm water pollution, potential new Coastcarers are welcome.
www.coastcare.com.au or call 1800 151 105.

To subscribe to Natural Resource TALK email majordomo@erin.gov.au with nothing in the subject line and 'subscribe nrm-news' in the body of the email. To unsubscribe insert 'unsubscribe nrm-news' in the body. 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

NSW Coastal Volunteers Forum 2007, 9 - 12 August 2007, Central Coast. This forum is the first of its kind since the 2002 Dunecare Conference. Contact: wycare@bigpond.com or 02 4352-1199.

2007 Queensland Landcare Conference and Awards, 22 - 25 August, Mackay. The program includes field trips and interactive workshops. More information: www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm or call 07 3211 4413

Cybersurf

A new water resources website - Water for cities and homes - is part of the new Australian Government water resources website. Included are tips for saving water in the home and links to the Water Efficiency and Labeling Standards (WELS) Scheme. Visit: www.environment.gov.au/water

A new online Encyclopedia of Life aims to document all 1.8 million named species on the planet - an unprecedented global effort. For the first time in the history of the planet, scientists, students and citizens will have multi-media access to all known living species, even those that have just been discovered. Visit: www.eol.org

The Connected Water Website has been developed to progress a coordinated approach to managing surface and groundwater resources in Australia. It is intended to provide updated information to water managers, policy managers and catchment management groups. Visit: www.connectedwater.gov.au

Library

Water Management: Managing for Biodiversity in the Rangelands. The Department of the Environment and Water Resources commissioned a series of studies into impacts on biodiversity in the Rangelands. Visit: www.environment.gov.au/about/publications/order-form.html

Biodiversity Monitoring in the Rangelands: A Way Forward. A report on the outcomes of a technical workshop on the monitoring of biodiversity in Australia's rangelands that was held in 2002 in Alice Springs, NT. Visit: www.environment.gov.au/about/publications/order-form.html



Afforestation in a catchment context: understanding the impacts on water yield and salinity is a new report that looks at the potential hydrologic consequences that should be considered when planning forest plantations. Scientific background for land and water resources managers and the plantation industry. Visit: www.ewatercra.com.au/documents/Afforestation%20in%20catchments.pdf

Land & Water Australia and partners began the Masters of the Climate project in 1999 with a group of farmers from across the country providing information about how they use climate tools to better manage their land resources. *Innovative Farmers Coming Through Drought* is a culmination of stories from these farmers eight years on. Download it at <http://products.lwa.gov.au/products.asp> or contact 1800 776 616 and quote product code PK050943.

The way ahead for Australia's North-west Oceans: Marine Bioregional Planning in Commonwealth Waters. The North-west Marine Region will be one of the first to benefit from the Government's world-leading program of marine bioregional planning. When complete, this Plan will deliver certainty for industry, protection for this remarkable marine environment and conservation of its biodiversity. Visit: www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/publications/nw-brochure.html

The Role of Physical Processes in Mangrove Environments Manual for the preservation and utilisation of mangrove ecosystems. A vital tool for managers and decision-makers working to safeguard our mangrove ecosystems. Visit: www.aims.gov.au/ibm/pages/news/pdf/the-role-of-physical-processes-in%20mangrove-environments.pdf