



In the Heartlands

Honeysuckle Creek catchment in focus

Volume 3, Issue 1.

“Land Use Change in the Honeysuckle Creek”

June 2005

• Snapshots



Salt Bush Trials P3



Direct seeding trials



Direct seeding field day

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Your Heartlands Contacts

Working for you...

CSIRO looks to Multi Benefits

CSIRO is working on a project called “Water use, growth, and carbon sequestration of environmental plantings” on various sites around the Heartlands area.

As part of delivery of Commercial Environmental Forestry (CEF), it is expected that regional bodies such as Catchment Management Authorities may call for tenders for large-scale revegetation schemes. These could include either commercial block plantings (woodlots or plantations), or environmental plantings such as those direct-seeded for biodiversity outcomes.

It is often assumed that environmental farm plantings will accrue similar salinity and carbon benefits compared to those of commercial forestry and agro-forestry. However, knowledge about patterns of growth, biomass accumulation and water use

of environmental plantings in the low rainfall zones (500 to 800 mm MAR) is limited at this time. Improved knowledge and techniques are needed to estimate tree growth and water use of environmental plantings to facilitate prediction of biomass, carbon sequestration, groundwater recharge and other off-site environmental benefits.

Tree growth and water use predictions will depend on accurate measurements of a range of site and stand conditions, including: leaf area, canopy structure and development, age, tree density, species, rainfall, available water etc.

Environmental plantings may contain two or more species and be planted at varying densities. These attributes increase floristic and structural complexity and greatly add to the difficulty of obtaining good estimates of tree growth and water use.

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Games Link

Heartlands was successful in obtaining funding from the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Tree Planting Program and will direct seed between 40 to 50 ha during August/ September this year.

We believe we can get enough support from landholders to meet this target. Landholders who are interested in direct seeding this year under this project will be expected to permanently and exclusively provide 50% of all carbon sequestration rights of the site to the Victorian Government.

A recent small bus tour around some of the sites direct seeded last September have

produced some excellent results. This is our first real attempt at direct seeding and we believe that the inoculant added to the wattle seed to encourage germination has been a great success and all plantings in the future will include the inoculant.



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Debra Todd —Officer Manager	5761 1691		
Lisa Lister —Administration Support	5761 1675		

"Land owners perceptions of biodiversity and Landcare grants in the Goulburn Broken Catchment"

Kerri Brachmann and Pixy MacLachlan are 3rd year Resource Management students of the University of Melbourne and through the Dookie Campus will be working with Barry Oswald over the next few months as part of their Industry Project. They will be asking the vexing question 'what does biodiversity mean to you?'

During July they will be travelling around the catchment interviewing landowners about biodiversity issues and they will also be asking landowners about their knowledge and understanding of the grants that are available through the Catchment Management Authority.

Questions will specifically address patterns of biodiversity, motives that drive landowners to increase biodiversity on their land, identify any problems encountered during the grant process,

and whether the entire process lived up to expectations. This will be a warts and all review of the issues surrounding biodiversity and the funding that is available for landowners within the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

Kerri and Pixy will randomly select landowners to interview and they will be making contact soon. Your anonymity and your responses will be highly confidential and your assistance in this project would be greatly appreciated. We would especially love to hear from people who have had issues with the funding process or those who have ideas for making it better.

The outcomes of this study will identify problems that have been raised and where improvements can be made by the CMA to ensure successful implementation of on-ground works.

Should you require any further information, or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either the researcher supervisor Cheryl O'Dwyer Ph 5833 9282 or the subject coordinator; Dr Rebecca Ford, on Ph 5834 9753.

Biodiversity in Focus at Dookie

All landholders in the Heartlands area should take the opportunity to speak with Kerri and Pixy and assist them with their industry project.

We heartily support this project.

CSIRO from page 1

The project is planned to run over two years with co-investment from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and CSIRO. At this stage it is not possible to clearly and confidently plan and budget for all research over the two years. It is therefore proposed that a properly stage-gated approach be taken whereby plans for detailed field experimentation will be developed once the available on-ground infrastructure is known and specific objectives are clarified after review of

literature and present knowledge (see 'Methodology' section).

The project is funded by CSIRO Forestry DAFF and Forest Products (CSIRO FFP)

The fundamental questions are:

*How much water do environmental (mixed-species) plantings use and how much carbon do they sequester compared to pasture and single species commercial plantings?

*Are there robust relationships between stand attributes (eg. leaf area,

stand volume, floristic composition) and water use?

*How can existing growth models of single species plantings be adapted to mixed-species environmental plantings?

We will all want to know the results of these findings and hopefully the additional benefits of environmental plantings compared to single species plantings.

Barry's on ground works - and other things

Its been a while since our last newsletter and its well overdue to let everyone know what's happening in the Heartlands. I have been waiting for the rains before I put pen to paper so there is now no excuse.

Heartlands has been going just on five years and when driving around the countryside you can really see the difference in the landscape. The trees planted out during that time have responded and the landscape is looking a picture. It doesn't seem to take long before the trees are up over fence height.

With all the plantings many areas are starting to link up with vegetation corridors, which is a great result for the Heartlands area.

Barry

REMINDER

Your newsletter is now available in PDF format so all landholders can receive it in colour.

If you would like to receive newsletters electronically please contact us now so we can include you on our list. Email: popped@gbcma.vic.gov.au

Saltbush Trials on Saline Land

by Barry Oswald

Land Water & Wool has granted funding to raise saltbush on saline land.

This project commenced in October 2004 and a 4 ha site in Caniambo was selected for the trial. The site was ripped and prepared for saltbush seedlings which were planted in December. This is not an ideal time to plant anything let alone saltbush however we worked with the experts and went ahead with the planting program.

The day after planting it was arranged to water the plants however the water cart broke down and we were delayed until the next day. We achieved approximately 50% result which was acceptable considering the long dry spell.

During March the replanting of saltbush took place and to date we believe we will achieve an acceptable result.

The areas between the rows have been sod seeded the following mix:

Creeping Saltbush (*atriplex semibaccata* 2kgs,

Ruby Saltbush (*enchylaena tomentose*) 2kgs

Spiny Saltbush (*rhagodia spinescens*) 1kg

River Saltbush (*atriplex amnicola*) 1kg

32% Puccinella

52% Tall wheat Grass

5% Balansa Clover

11% Strawberry Clover

All rows between saltbush seedlings have been sown at least 2.5 metres wide.



Sod seeding salt bush between rows

Wiggly Sticks

The carpet Python Project, run by Janice Mentiplay-Smith (DPI) has been initiated in response to sightings of the reptile in the Chesney region.

Funding is available to participate in the project which aims to protect the Carpet Python by protecting its habitat; fencing and revegetation, creating vegetation corridors etc.

Interested landholders should contact Janice Mentiplay-Smith at DPI on 5761 1644.



Regional Landcare Forum 7th-8th July

This years Regional Landcare Forum will be held in Seymour and is shaping up to be a great success.

Organisers have booked the Seymour Football Club and other sporting facilities and have arranged for a number of different displays from Landcare product and service suppliers.

The Agenda for the two day event will include presentations and workshops and snapshots from the coal face.

Presentations will include biodiversity, soils, cultural heritage and landscape change, plus a regional bus tour on Friday to sample the landscape and tastes of the Highlands region.

The Forum dinner on Thursday evening promises to be a great night, so all

delegates will need to book early to take advantage of the raft of interesting events.

For information and bookings, contact Katie Brown: 5797 2001.

A Wildlife Guide for Landholders

in the plains and ironbark regions of the Goulburn Broken catchment.

NOW AVAILABLE

Ph 5761 1691



Extended to all

Goulburn Broken Landholders

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has extended the new Bush Returns program, to all of the Goulburn Broken catchment.

The program offers landholders ongoing payments to manage large areas of land for regrowth and natural regeneration throughout the Goulburn Broken catchment.

Here is a great opportunity to increase tree cover and get paid for it!

Contact the CMA on 5761 1691

or visit the website:

www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

for an information kit, including an expression of interest form.

Forms should be returned to the CMA to arrange an obligation free site visit.

Round up

New Ideas in Nutrient Research

A proposal is being put forward to Land and Water Australia to carry out seaweed harvesting trials in the Sheep Pen Creek Landcare Area. The objective of this project is to support a commercial and sustainable rate of growth of a seaweed species in shallow basins using the saline ground water.

Nowhere in the world is seaweed being commercially cultivated in inland saline groundwater. Seaweeds harvested for industrial gels are cultivated inter tidally in many parts of the world and the same seaweed species is cultivated as part of a major

industry in sub tidal waters off Chile. Project Investigator, Rob Cordover, has more than 25 years experience in a variety of aquaculture and marine research projects.



A Spot of success



These plantations of spotted gum and ironbark were planted in 2001 and have grown well over 6 metres in height in the past four years.

Paddock TREES

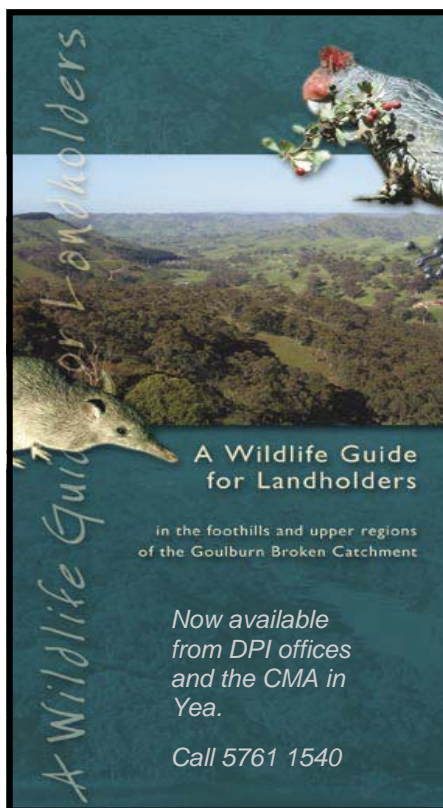


Information brochure available on saving the grand sentinels of farm paddocks across the country.

Paddock trees are disappearing fast due to clearing for subdivision and natural attrition.

For your information brochure please contact the CMA on

5761 1540



For your Diary

New IC member

- *Bernie Ryan has been appointed to the Mid Goulburn Broken Implementation Committee*

Goulburn Study

- *Do you have a personal history with the Goulburn River? Hear Stephanie Lavau of Melbourne University deliver the first stage of her PhD project titled "At home in the Australian Landscape: A history of the domestication of the Goulburn River". Thursday August 11, 2005, 6.00—7.00pm. Hotel Australia, Shepparton. Bookings through Kate Faram (03) 5823 6600 or email kfaram@unimelb.edu.au Limited spaces, light refreshments (drinks at bar prices).*

GET ON THE WEB TO SEE WHATS GOING ON.

Heartlands has its own website. You can see what is happening in the Sheep Pen Creek catchment and other Heartlands project areas by logging on to: www.clw.csiro.au/heartlands

Remember—Your newsletter is available in PDF format from the GBCMA website www.gbcma.vic.gov.au or by emailing popped@gbcma.vic.gov.au



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