



**GOULBURN  
BROKEN**  
CATCHMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY

# Municipal Infex

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Roadside Weeds Cntd. 2
- Call for Local Noxious Weed Nominations
- Getting to Know You 3
- URL Winds Up
- Trees vs. Water Yield 4
- New Approach to Native Vegetation - Making Progress
- If It's Broken - Fix It! 5
- 2005 Watertable Map Released 6
- NE Greenhouse Alliance on a Recruiting Drive
- Special Lift-out on Weed Funding 7-10
- NRM Funding Seminar 10
- Emergency Weed Declaration
- Management Plan for Kanyapella Basin Wetland.
- Gemmill's Swamp Bird Hides 11
- Irrigation Milestones
- Information workshops
- Salt Disposal and the Murray River 12
- Salt Disposal Explained 13
- Public and Private Groundwater Pumps
- Snapshots and Snippets from the MDBC & MAV. 14
- Barmah Boat Tour for Intrepid SIRIC members. 15
- Councils combine to save Stormwater \$\$\$
- Old George the golfer 16
- Box Ironbark Ecology Course
- Coming Events

June 2006

Edition 21

# Roadside Weeds

## - Putting Things in Motion

Municipalities in the Shepparton Irrigation Region have acted to clear up confusion about local government's responsibility for roadside weed management.

The City of Greater Shepparton, supported by the Shires of Moira and Campaspe, presented a motion to the State Council of the Municipal Association of Victoria on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June asking the MAV to resolve a claim that weed management on council-managed roads is now the responsibility of local government.

The motion was combined with a similar proposal from South Gippsland Shire Council which seeks legislation

amendments to clearly assign responsibility for roadside weeds to the Department of Sustainability & Environment. Failing that, it calls on the MAV to ensure adequate funding is provided for councils to meet

their statutory requirements. In the limited time available to speak to the motion, CoGS councillor Bruce Wilson called on his "cousins from the city" to understand the serious implications of weed management

"...That the MAV seek to clearly resolve the issue of responsibility for weed management on roadsides of undeclared and other roads managed by local government" - CoGS Motion.

"If this be the case then the MAV must negotiate an immediate commitment for the provision of additional resources to allow municipalities to meet their statutory requirements" - Rationale.

for regional councils.

The motion passed unanimously. A work plan will now be developed to take the matter further.

### Changing Roles

Traditionally, responsibility for roadside weed management was with the adjoining landholder, with DPI charged with compliance and enforcement.

However, legal opinion obtained by DSE/DPI on an obscure sub paragraph in Section 20 of the Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994) exempts landholders from responsibility on "crown land managed by a public authority other than the Secretary or Minister."

According to the opinion, in the case of municipal roads, which make up 85% of roads



So who is responsible for roadside weed management? While we wait to sort that one out very little is being done to control weeds on roadside reserves, which are among our most significant surviving stands of remnant vegetation.

## Your Chance to Nominate a Noxious Weed.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and DPI are inviting local government, community groups and landholders to nominate weeds for the regional Noxious Weeds List.

The invitation is part of an 18 month program to assess Weeds of National Significance and State and Regionally Prohibited Weeds for possible declaration as noxious weeds in this catchment.

DPI and GBCMA use the list to set priorities for weed management work at a regional level.

Anyone knowing of a weed in the catchment which is not already listed is encouraged to fill out a nomination form and it will be assessed for inclusion in the list. Nominations close on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Nomination forms and current lists of noxious weeds are available from DPI and the GBCMA. For further information contact Katie Brown, GBCMA Community Programs Manager, on 5736 0100.

## Roadside Weeds.....

in the Shepparton Irrigation Region, this is local government.

There are 163,000 km of municipal roads in Victoria. Rough estimates suggest it could cost rural councils at least \$18 million a year to carry out basic weed control on road reserves, equating to a rate increase of 8-12% in some shires.

Informal discussions between the MAV and DSE/DPI have not resolved the issue.

### Compliance

DSE/DPI remain responsible for compliance and say they will enforce linear managers' weed management responsibilities. But, until the roadside issue is resolved, they will not launch any new prosecutions on landholders for non-compliance on roadside weeds.

### Changing Priorities

DPI has also advised that its own diminishing resources will be directed to "new and emerging weeds" which are still capable of eradication.

The department acknowledges this position "may differ from community expectations".

Weeds such as Paterson's Curse are seen as too far gone for effective eradication and are now low (eg: The curse is 95<sup>th</sup>) on the priority list.

### Impact on CMA's

Another significant impact will be on Catchment Management Authorities which, as linear managers for streams and waterways, will be accountable for aquatic weeds, despite having few, if any, funding resources to carry out the work.

### More Cost Shifting?

While some councillors agree local government may be best placed to



Some weeds with high community priorities, such as Paterson's Curse, will be much lower priorities under new weed guidelines. Instead, the limited resources available will be aimed at "new and emerging" weeds which might still be eradicated.

manage roadside weeds, they are adamant it can only be possible if adequate resources are provided. Many believe, however, weed management could be another example in a long list of cost-shifting onto local government and ratepayers. Councils have been suspicious for some time that

the continued withdrawal of DPI's weed management staff from regional offices would see more work falling onto local government.

### Taking the Bait?

Some councils resisted applying for funding under the "Tackling Weeds on Private Land" program, fearing it would be seen as them accepting responsibility for roadside management. Even when councils did apply, many bids were carefully structured to avoid any precedent in the roadside weed issue.

## Weed Numbers

**27,000+**

Number of alien plant species brought into Australia

**2,700+**

Number of alien plant species which have become agricultural or environmental weeds

**34.6 million**

Number of hectares in Queensland invaded by the imported rubber vine.

**61**

Number of native plant species made extinct or threatened by imported weeds

**\$30 million**

Annual agricultural losses attributed to Paterson's Curse

**1,831**

Number of weeds which are escaped garden plants.

**56%**

Percentage of "World's Worst Invasive Alien Species" which are escaped garden plants.

**26.3%**

Percentage of known invasive agricultural or environmental weeds which are still available for sale.

**80**

Number of known invasive weeds which the CSIRO says should be urgently withdrawn from sale.

**77**

Number of native plant species rendered extinct by agriculture.

**4**

Number of native plant species rendered extinct by weed competition.

# Partners Get It Together.

More than a dozen councillors from municipalities in the Shepparton Irrigation Region attended a combined local government / GBCMA workshop on natural resource management in Shepparton on 10 May.

The workshop was organised to bring new and re-elected councillors up to date with the latest environmental issues affecting local government and to convey their own priorities back to CMA board members and senior staff.

In his opening address, GBCMA Chairman, Stephen Mills, emphasised the mutual dependence of the CMA and local government in managing the many environmental challenges facing the community. Mr Mills said the strength of the relationship between the CMA and councils in this region is envied in many other parts of the country.

In response, City of Greater Shepparton Mayor, Cr Jenny Houlihan, said councillors also appreciated the close relationship with the GBCMA, which is obvious in their many joint responsibilities and activities.

Cr Houlihan specifically referred to "River Connect", a pilot project aiming to improve the Shepparton and Mooroopna communities' understanding of their rivers and to recognise them as the life-blood of the community. River Connect will investigate options for invigorating this relationship, particularly through the development of the large flood plain between Shepparton and Mooroopna for passive recreation.

GBCMA Chief Executive Officer, Bill O'Kane, emphasised the



CoGS Mayor, Cr Jenny Houlihan and GBCMA Chairman, Stephen Mills, co-hosted the CMA / Local Government workshop, which emphasised the close working partnerships in natural resource management.

mutual benefits for local government and the CMA in achieving the objectives of the regional catchment strategy.

Councillors also heard the latest developments in the catchment's river health program direct from the its manager, Wayne Tennant.

Municipal Catchment Coordinator, Colin James, outlined a range of topical issues of particular interest to local government, including roadside weed management, coordination of funding,

cost-shifting, native vegetation controls and alignment of local and regional planning.

It was agreed the workshop was of great value to mutual understanding of the complexities involved in natural resource management, especially given the increasing involvement of councils in environmental planning and management.

A similar workshop was held in Euroa for mid and upper catchment councils on 24 May. Those attending voted it a great success.



The workshop was attended by councillors from CoGS, Moira, Campaspe and Strathbogie Shires as well as the GBCMA Chairman, CEO and senior managers.

## Urban Rural Links Program Comes to an End.

After ten years' working to improve understanding between rural and urban communities, the Urban Rural Links program is to be wound up.

Declining support, lack of sponsors and rising costs are behind the decision, made at a meeting of the URL Steering Committee in Melbourne on 8 May.

The meeting was told Committee

Chairman, Cr Alistair Fraser, would not be available to continue in the position.

The MAV also advised it would no longer host the URL coordinator or provide administrative support.

A resolution was passed to wind the program up. A final meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in June to disburse remaining funds to community-

based groups with similar goals to URL.

At the height of its activities, URL had ten councils and 40 schools as members and was active in organising relationships between urban and rural schools, with bus trips for school kids to gain better appreciations of each community's similarities, differences and challenges. URL had strong natural resource theme.

## Salinity Research Causing a Re -Think on Forestry

Environmental managers are having to re-think the role of large-scale revegetation as one of the basic tools for long-term salinity management.

A long-held belief has been that re-vegetating catchments would stabilise soils and reduce the risk of saline runoff contaminating areas downstream.

Based on this belief, the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy aims to almost double vegetation cover from 26% to 50%.

But modelling carried out on the South-West Goulburn region indicates the trade-off between re-vegetation, water yield and salinity is not as beneficial as first thought.

The models suggest the Goulburn Broken revegetation targets would reduce catchment water yield by more than 130 gigalitres

a year, far more than previously thought.

The estimated impact on salinity in the Murray River at Morgan, the off-take point for Adelaide's water supply, would be the equivalent of 28,000 tonnes of salt each year.

Water loss caused by doubling existing forestry hectares in the Murray Darling Basin has been estimated at 700 gigalitres per year, second only to losses attributed to climate change.

The water yield issue is of particular concern with large-scale forestry, which has never been well regarded because of the minimal benefits to biodiversity offered by the non-indigenous single-species plantations.

GBCMA CEO, Bill O'Kane, says the results have caught many people by surprise and will require a re-think of the trade-off between water yield and salinity.

## Native Vegetation - the New Approach.

The roll-out of DSE's "new approach" to the Native Vegetation Framework is gathering pace with three important strategic documents approved for release.

- Net Gain Calculator - a tool to assist council planners work out the amount of off-set planting required.
- DSE Assessment Procedures - will guide planners in assessing native vegetation clearance applications.
- Revegetation Guide - outlines how to manage offset plantings.

The documents were approved on May 31 and will be distributed to councils in coming weeks.

As well, DSE's Benalla-based Native Vegetation Support Officer, Gary Smethurst, has completed the first of four training sessions at each of the 12 municipalities in the north-east region.

The sessions have outlined the basics of the amended framework and demonstrated a desk-top GIS assessment tool which is being developed in the region to assist planning officers process applications for native vegetation clearance permits.

The assessment tool includes (or refers to) several layers such as zones, overlays, cadastre data and aerial photographs and provides a "step-through" process resulting in a summary page of key outcomes.

A record of previous native vegetation applications for each location is also planned as an interim measure until the state-wide Native Vegetation Permit Tracking system, being developed by DSE head office, becomes available. This will enable planners to check if permits have previously been issued for a location and if permit conditions have been met.

The local MYFOL-type assessment tool is designed to be compatible with local governments' existing GIS systems.

DSE and local government will provide data to populate the layers, including aerial photographs, based on who has the most up-to-date information.

There has also been a lot of interest in third party off-sets, such as "Bush Broker" and "payment-in-lieu" but, to date, there is little or no information on how these processes will work.

This has not helped the introduction of the New Approach. Despite the best efforts of regional DSE staff, many council planners are sceptical about the process, largely because, almost three months after the start-date, vital working details and guidelines are still being developed.

Meanwhile, the review of exemption provisions under the Native Vegetation Framework was completed some months ago and is awaiting ministerial approval. The review came after concerns there was too much latitude for uncontrolled native vegetation clearance by people claiming exemptions from permit requirements for purposes such as personal use, firewood and public safety.

Some concern has been expressed by council staff about the actual workload which will result from the "standard path", whereby the majority of clearance applications will be assessed by local government without referral to DSE. Under the New Approach, only major applications will be referred.

There are also questions about resources available for compliance and enforcement of permit conditions, particularly for offset planting. An almost total lack of enforcement to date has meant many offset requirements have either never been planted or have died through lack of maintenance.

Moira Shire has announced it will audit all native vegetation clearance permits issued over the past three years to check compliance, particularly in offset planting.

# If It's Broken - Fix It!

The GBCMA's River Health Strategy is making major inroads into improving the health of the Broken River, with a \$2.8 million works program now into its second year.

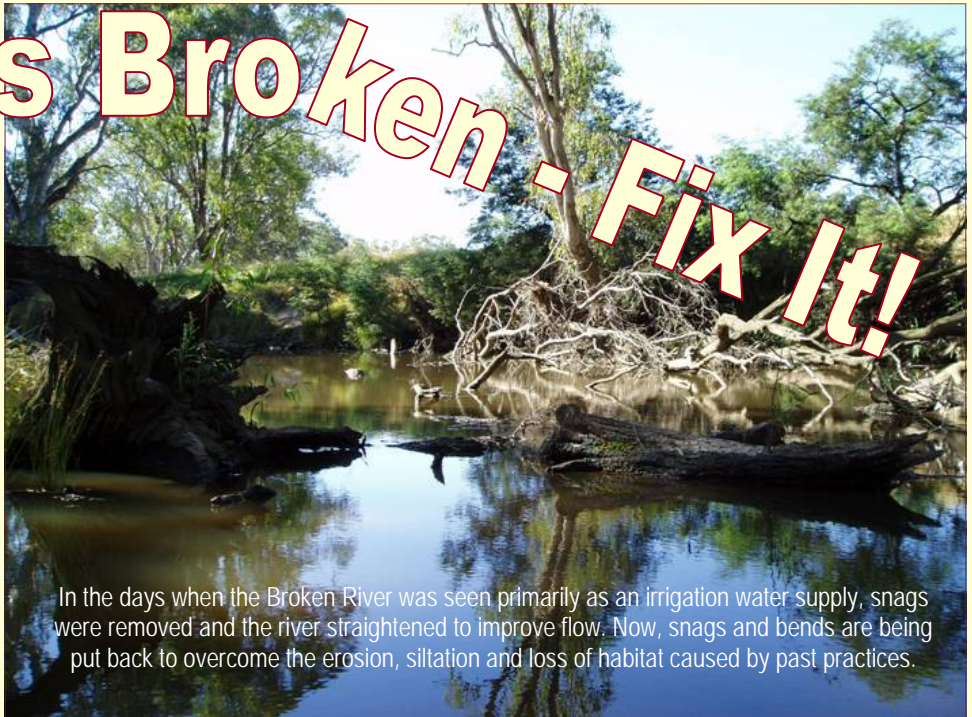
Improved flows, erosion control, re-snagging, revegetation of the river corridor and installation of a fish-way at Casey's Weir are among the works carried out to date.

An extensive monitoring program, which checks the river for salinity, nutrients, turbidity, temperature and a range of other environmental indicators, confirms the water quality and biodiversity is responding well to the work.

The river's improvement program began with extensive research to identify the major threats to its well-being, such as erosion, stock access, un-seasonal flow regimes, loss of habitat, man-made obstructions and weeds.

Priorities for the works program were based on the levels of threat.

Tragically, a lot of work is required to repair the damage caused by policies of previous river managers whose main



In the days when the Broken River was seen primarily as an irrigation water supply, snags were removed and the river straightened to improve flow. Now, snags and bends are being put back to overcome the erosion, siltation and loss of habitat caused by past practices.

priority was efficient delivery of irrigation water.

Snags were removed and the river straightened to improve water flow. This was a disaster for the river's environment, causing erosion, turbidity and loss of habitat, now requiring major works to fix.

A number of CMA programs now offer incentives for landholders to carry out work along the river frontage, including alternative stock-watering, fencing, irrigation re-use and revegetation. About 80% of landholders have expressed interest in helping improve the river's condition.

Local government has also been heavily involved in the program, particularly by

improving the quality of urban stormwater entering the river.

Water sensitive urban design, such as man-made wetlands to treat town stormwater before it gets into the river, is becoming commonplace.

The City of Greater Shepparton and the Rural City of Benalla have installed several gross pollutant traps which stop tonnes of litter from getting into the river each month.

A number of community groups are also involved, particularly in monitoring, revegetation and weed control.

One of the biggest success stories has been fish ladders, which allow fish to move upstream for spawning.

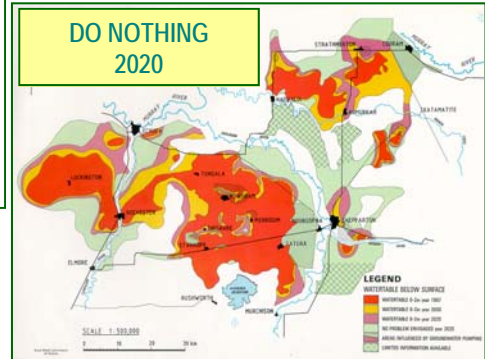
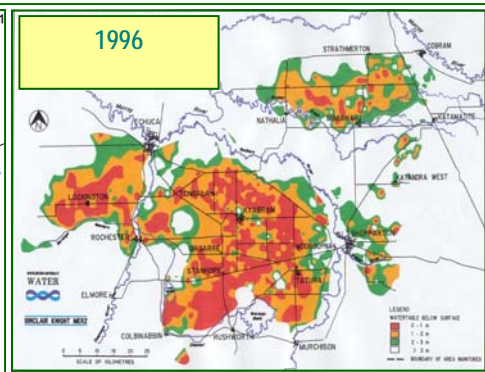
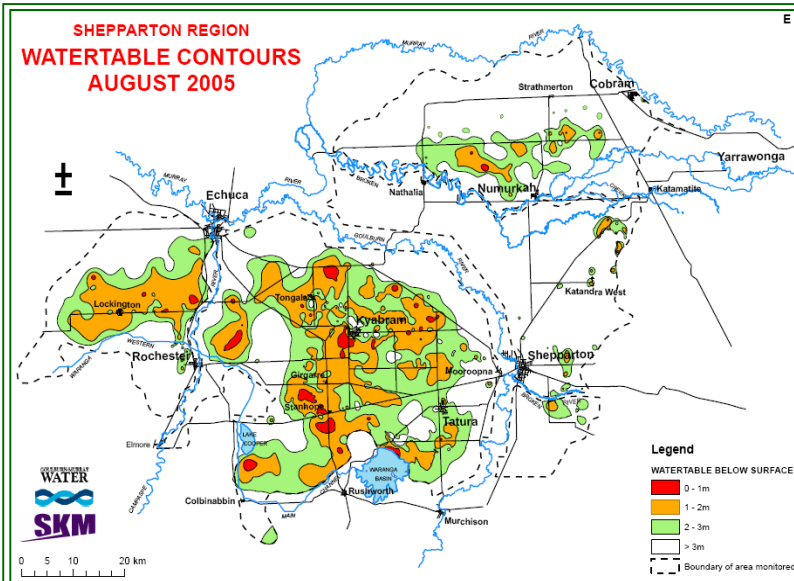
Monitoring has confirmed huge numbers of fish are using the ladders to follow their  
*(Continued on page 15)*



Fish ladders, such as this one at Casey's Weir, restore natural fish migration patterns by allowing them get past man-made obstructions to reach their spawning grounds. Monitoring has found the ladders are highly successful, with some of them seeing the passage of thousands of fish in the lead-up to the spawning season. The biggest danger now is vandals, who have cut their way into some fish ladders to set nets.



Gross Pollutant Traps intercept tonnes of litter from town stormwater systems and stop it entering the river systems.



## Watertables Continue the Downward Trend.

Watertables in the Shepparton Irrigation Region are continuing their downward trend, with years of drought, reduced water use and improved irrigation methods contributing to a marked improvement over the past decade.

In the latest watertable map for 2005, red and yellow areas show where the watertable is within two metres of the soil surface - the danger level above which salt is drawn to the surface by a process known as evapotranspiration. At this level, most crops and pastures are also affected by waterlogging. Many indigenous trees, such as box and native pine, are affected long before that.

The 1996 map, outlining the situation after a number of wet years, shows a dramatic difference to 2005, demonstrating the major influence of the drought and the subsequent drop in irrigation water use.

Scientists warn it is premature to think the watertables are gone forever, as a return of a few wet seasons would certainly see the trend reverse. They say it is essential to continue with the region's groundwater management strategy to protect the local environment and economy. The 2020 map shows the likely situation in a "do nothing" scenario

## North East Greenhouse Alliance on a Recruiting Drive

The North East Greenhouse Alliance is on a recruiting drive to expand its membership, particularly with local government.

Seven councils have joined the regional alliance, which is one of five formed in Victoria under the State Government's greenhouse strategy. The councils are Moira, Wodonga, Benalla, Wangaratta, Towong, Alpine and Indigo. The North East Catchment Management Authority is also a member.

The alliance's full-time regional coordinator, Jennifer Allan, who is hosted by Wodonga City Council, says the alliance is keen to have all local governments and other key stakeholders in the region involved in its projects.

The two main aims of the alliance are to develop greenhouse gas abatement and climate change adaptation projects. Raising community awareness of greenhouse issues is essential for both of these aims.

NEGHA has recently secured funding to develop the first stage of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the region.

Projects are also being developed around sustainable public lighting, carbon sequestration, alternative fuels and transport and energy savings for schools and member organisations.

There is no membership fee for NEGHA, but members must sign a memorandum of understanding which sets targets for achieving greenhouse gas reductions.

The minimum target is a 10% reduction by 2010, but some members have set higher goals than this.

Members must also agree to host at least one project and contribute to Alliance activities, either directly or in kind.

The Goulburn Broken CMA is also investigating its role in greenhouse and climate change and is looking at the best way it can contribute to local efforts. Coordinator, Tim Barlow, says the CMA is keen to support councils in reducing greenhouse gas.

Tim Barlow and Jennifer Allan are attending the next meeting of the Goulburn Broken Environmental Planning Forum being held in Benalla on June 28 to discuss local government's involvement in greenhouse issues and outline benefits for councils joining the alliance.



# Weed Funding Lift-Oux

Latest Guide to Sources of Funding for Weed Management.  
Information supplied by the Bitou Bush National Coordinator and the National Coordinator for Boneseed and Willows.

Program	Timing	Dept.	Relevant Criteria	Link
Defeating the Weeds Menace	October 2006	DEH/DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic on-ground control and eradication at regional level.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.daff.gov.au/defeatingweeds">www.daff.gov.au/defeatingweeds</a>
NHT Envirofund	Round 8 Opened Feb	NHT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$30,000 (50,000 for significant public benefit).</li> <li>• Weed control on public land.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund">www.nht.gov.au/envirofund</a>
NHT Community Water Grants	Round 2 Opened March 2006	DEH, DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$50,000</li> <li>• Improving surface or groundwater health, such as erosion control, creek and riverbank repair, cleaning up a local creek or wetland.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au">www.communitywatergrants.gov.au</a>
Threatened Species Network	Round 9 Community Grants Program	NHT, WWF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$50,000</li> <li>• Enhancing, restoring or establishing key habitat</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.wwf.org.au/outwork/species/tsngrants">www.wwf.org.au/outwork/species/tsngrants</a>
Maintaining Australia's Biodiversity Hotspots Program	2004 - 2007	DEH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$36 million for total program</li> <li>• Improve conservation of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots</li> <li>• Enhance active conservation management and protection of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems as habitat for native plants and animals.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/hotspots/national.html#where">www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/hotspots/national.html#where</a>
Commonwealth Environmental Education Grants	Second round TBA	DEH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3,000 to \$45,000 (more on merit)</li> <li>• Encourage business and industry to develop practices consistent with ecologically sustainable development.</li> <li>• Develop resources and consistent approaches to environmental education in the community.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.deh.gov.au/education/programs">www.deh.gov.au/education/programs</a>
Landcare - Natural Resource Innovation Grants	Mid 2006	National Landcare Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$150,000</li> <li>• Must contribute to sustainability of natural resource base and demonstrate wider applicability across relevant industries.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.landcare.gov.au/nlpinnovations">www.landcare.gov.au/nlpinnovations</a>
Landcare - Community Support Grants	Mid 2006	National Landcare Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around \$30 million for total program</li> <li>• For local and regional Landcare activities consistent with regional NRM plans</li> <li>• Larger-scale strategic on-ground activities that allow for participation by community Landcare and primary industry groups.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.daff.gov.au">www.daff.gov.au</a>
Landcare—Sustainable Industries Initiative	At any time	National Landcare Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benchmarking current NRM practices</li> <li>• Establishing and implementing national NRM strategies</li> <li>• Innovative environmental management system projects</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.daff.gov.au">www.daff.gov.au</a>
Green Reserve Program	At any time	DEWR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of NewStart recipients aged 40 - 65 to work in local conservation projects, 2 days a week for 26 weeks.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.greenreserve.com.au/greenreserve/index/htm">www.greenreserve.com.au/greenreserve/index/htm</a>
Open Gardens Grants Scheme	Expected to open in May 2006	Australia's Open Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total \$55,000 nationally.</li> <li>• Garden related community projects (could include weed displays, education programs about invasive garden plants.)</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.opengarden.org.au">www.opengarden.org.au</a>

Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program	Expected to open mid-2006	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$15 million over three years.</li> <li>• High public benefits</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance habitats, improve fishers' awareness, ownership and responsibility, foster partnerships.</li> <li>• Will support protecting environment at water's edge, sensitive habitats, education and awareness raising.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.daff.gov.au/recfishinggrants">www.daff.gov.au/recfishinggrants</a>
Indigenous Protected Areas Grants	Any Time	DEH/NHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support indigenous landholders to manage land and protect natural and cultural features</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.deh.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/funding.html#who">www.deh.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/funding.html#who</a>
Healthy Soils for Sustainable Farms	2006 round TBA (2005 was in October)	LWA/NHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5 million.</li> <li>• Accelerate practices of farmers and resource managers which maintain and restore soils.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.lwa.gov.au/funding">www.lwa.gov.au/funding</a>
E Tree	On-Going	E Tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$3,000</li> <li>• Planting native species on public or private land and associated weed control.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ETree.com.au">www.ETree.com.au</a>
Kennard's Hire Equipment Grants	As required	Kennard's Hire through Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donation of hire equipment and/or vehicles for Landcare and community group projects.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.landcareonline.com.au">www.landcareonline.com.au</a>
Bundaberg Rum Bush Funds	Any Time	Bundaberg Rum through Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,000 to \$5,000</li> <li>• Water quality projects</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.landcareonline.com.au">www.landcareonline.com.au</a>
Westpac Operation Backyard	Any Time	Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$5,000 for projects with Westpac staff as volunteers</li> <li>• Bushland rehabilitation, improving roadsides for wildlife, preventing erosion.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.landcareonline.com.au">www.landcareonline.com.au</a>
Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants	18 May, 3 August, 19 October	Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$500 for schools and youth groups involved in environmental projects</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.landcareonline.com.au">www.landcareonline.com.au</a>
Australia Post Community Development Grant	31 May, 29 September	Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$3,000 to support community groups involved in improving their environment.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.landcareonline.com.au">www.landcareonline.com.au</a>
Australian Bird Environment Foundation Grants	31 May 31 October	Australian Bird Environment Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$3,500</li> <li>• Maintain, improve or extend native habitat for birds, native animals and plants.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.birdobservers.org.au">www.birdobservers.org.au</a>
Norman Wettenhall Foundation Grants	31 May 30 June 30 September 31 December	Norman Wettenhall Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$10,000</li> <li>• Innovative projects that act as a model</li> <li>• Build community capacity to effect long term change</li> <li>• Disseminate information that will benefit the natural environment</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.nwf.org.au">www.nwf.org.au</a>
Seeds of Renewal Program	Early 2006	Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$350,000 total</li> <li>• Small grants for rural and regional groups for projects and activities that aid the growth of</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.frrr.org.au/generalgrants.asp">www.frrr.org.au/generalgrants.asp</a>
Holden Community Support Association	Most times	Holden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds, in-kind donations or partnership support</li> <li>• Seek to educate and involve the Australian community in restoring and preserving Australia's natural environment.</li> <li>• Applying alternative technologies to achieve environmental gains.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.holden.com.au">www.holden.com.au</a>

Macquarie Bank Foundation Grants	See website for dates	Macquarie Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2.5 million per year. Average grant \$12,500</li> <li>• Innovative, community-based projects benefiting the environment.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.macquarie.com.au">www.macquarie.com.au</a>
Ian Potter Foundation Grants	1 February 1 May 1 August 1 November	Ian Potter Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop partnerships to help prevent irreversible damage to the environment</li> <li>• Encourage biodiversity</li> <li>• Support economic and ecological sustainability of land and preservation of species</li> <li>• Foster broad public awareness of environmental challenges facing rural Australia</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ianpotter.org.au">www.ianpotter.org.au</a>
Myer Foundation Natural Environment Grants	TBA (closing date for 2005 was September)	Myer Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable water and land management</li> <li>• Preservation of biodiversity</li> <li>• Enabling communities to participate effectively in discussions about environmental and ecological health and empower them to provide long term, solutions.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.myerfoundation.org.au">www.myerfoundation.org.au</a>
Sunshine Foundation Grants	1 July 15 December	Sunshine Family Private Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500 to \$5,000</li> <li>• Enhance the quality of life through conservation and environment</li> <li>• Supported by voluntary labour</li> <li>• Seed funding</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.mgg.com.au">www.mgg.com.au</a>
BHP Billeton Corporate Community Program	1 March 1 August 1 November	BHP Billeton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$50,000 to \$100,000</li> <li>• Directed at long term solutions</li> <li>• Will become self-sustaining</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for involvement of BHP Billeton employees</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.bhpbilleton.com/bb/sustainabledevelopment/community/supportguidelines.jsp">www.bhpbilleton.com/bb/sustainabledevelopment/community/supportguidelines.jsp</a>
Environment Victoria website		Environment Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website contains links to state and federal grants and funding .</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.environment.vic.gov.au">www.environment.vic.gov.au</a>
Goulburn Broken CMA website		GBCMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding opportunities pages outline various options for funding under the RCIP process, with links to other sources.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au">www.gbcma.vic.gov.au</a>
Port Phillip Westernport CMA website		PPWCMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive grants calendar for state and federal funding sources</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ppwcma.vic.gov.au">www.ppwcma.vic.gov.au</a>
Regional Catchment Investment Process (RCIP)	Various - Check CMA websites	CMA's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must address actions and priorities listed in regional catchment strategy</li> </ul>	CMA websites
National Heritage Trust (NHT)	Various— check CMA websites	NHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$33,000 to \$290,000</li> <li>• Large-scale projects too broad for a single region</li> <li>• Incorporate high level of coordination and joint investment</li> <li>• Related to institutional reform, particularly in land-use and planning</li> </ul>	CMA's
NHT Regional Funding Strategic Reserve Component	End of financial year	NHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typical about \$400,000</li> <li>• Meet state/federal priorities that CMA's are unable to meet under standard funding</li> <li>• Address emergency priorities</li> <li>• High cost - high return projects</li> </ul>	CMA's
Volunteer Group Grants - Parks Victoria	May 2005?	Parks Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community projects that relate to Parks Victoria managed areas</li> <li>• In close cooperation with Parks Victoria staff</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au">www.parkweb.vic.gov.au</a>

Crown Land Reserves Improvement Program	Not open at present	DSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to, but generally less than, \$50,000</li> <li>• Improve community benefits of Crown land reserves</li> <li>• Protect and enhance natural values of crown land reserves</li> <li>• Encourage a planned approach to management and development of crown land reserves</li> </ul>	www.dse.vic.gov.au
Botanic gardens Scheme	Any Time	Victorian Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$100 to \$3,000</li> <li>• Help conserve Victoria's rare and threatened native plant species and vegetation communities on public and private land.</li> <li>• Encourage and support community groups to carry out local conservation projects</li> </ul>	adrian.moorree@dse.vic.gov.au
Community Support - Strengthening Communities	Four rounds / year	Victorian Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30,000 to \$500,000</li> <li>• Improve community environments, resources and infrastructure</li> </ul>	www.dvc.vic.gov.au
Victorian Volunteering Small Grants	Ongoing	Victorian Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend local volunteering opportunities</li> <li>• Encourage community organisations to attract more volunteers</li> </ul>	www.dvc.vic.gov.au

### Not Wanted: Bear Skin Fescue.

The Victorian Government has made its first ever emergency declaration of a noxious weed in an attempt to control Bearskin Fescue.



*Festuca gautieri* is a perennial tussock grass which grows to 50cm high, forming a dense canopy smothering all competition. Its sharp spikes make it unpalatable to stock. The plant has been imported for sale as a garden plant since 2003. It was banned in Western Australia after it was found it to be "highly invasive". An estimated 1,000 plants per month have been sold through Victorian nurseries under names such as "Blue Periwinkle".

### NRM Funding Seminar

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is holding a one day seminar to explain "de-mystify" the funding processes for natural resource management projects.

The seminar is open to all employees working with community groups and landholders. It will be held at the Euroa School House from 10.00am to 12.00pm on Tuesday 18 July.

Guest speakers include:

- Ian Linley, National Landcare Program Coordinator
- Amber Parkinson - DAFF, on Envirofunds, Community Water Grants, Healthy Soils, Menace Weeds funding.
- Megan McFarlane, GBCMA, Funding Coordinator on the CMA's Expression of Interest process.

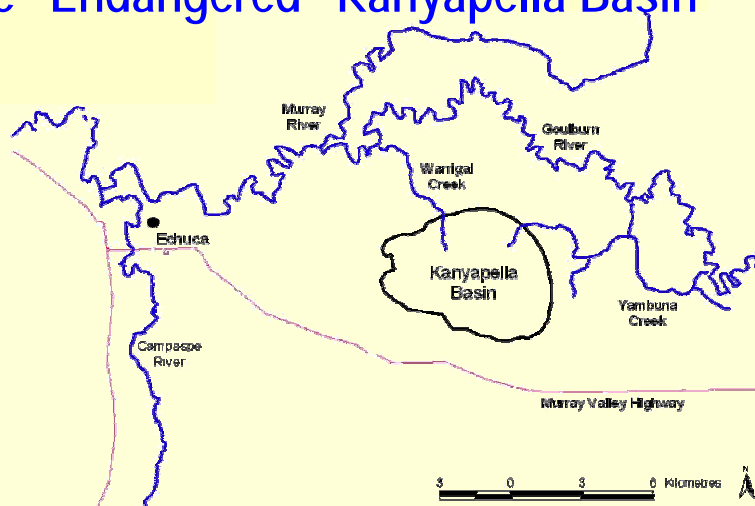
Further information from Megan McFarlane at GBCMA.

## Plans to Restore the "Endangered" Kanyapella Basin

A draft management plan for the Kanyapella Basin wetland has been completed.

The huge natural basin, which covers almost 3,000 hectares, is located 15 kilometres east of Echuca. It is officially listed as degraded and endangered, with more than 50% of the wetland system lost through generations of clearing, grazing, weed inundation and lack of flooding. However, Kanyapella still provides breeding grounds and habitat for many rare and endangered native plants and animals.

The draft plan recommends the environmental status of the basin be raised to reflect its potential for restoration and that natural wetting and drying regimes be returned to encourage regeneration.





# Salt Disposal and the Murray River.

Up in the headwaters of the Murray River, salinity levels are low, around 50-60EC, but, as the river meanders the 2,100 kilometres to the ocean in South Australia, it picks up salt from every tributary and from groundwater seeping in from surrounding land.

By the time the water gets to Morgan, the off-take point for Adelaide's water supply, the salt level has increased by a factor of ten and is over 600EC.

This equates to more than 10,000 tonnes of salt every day.

The Goulburn Broken catchment contributes about 4.7% of that salt, about 65,000 tonnes a year.

While these statistics, expressed in tonnages, sound awful, it is important to remember the total tonnage of salt (salt load)

is not as significant as the *concentration* of salt in the water. Provided there is enough water to dilute the salt to manageable levels, the environment is safe.

A fundamental aim of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Strategy is to manage this salinity so our catchment can dispose of its excess salt into the Murray River without exceeding our allowance.

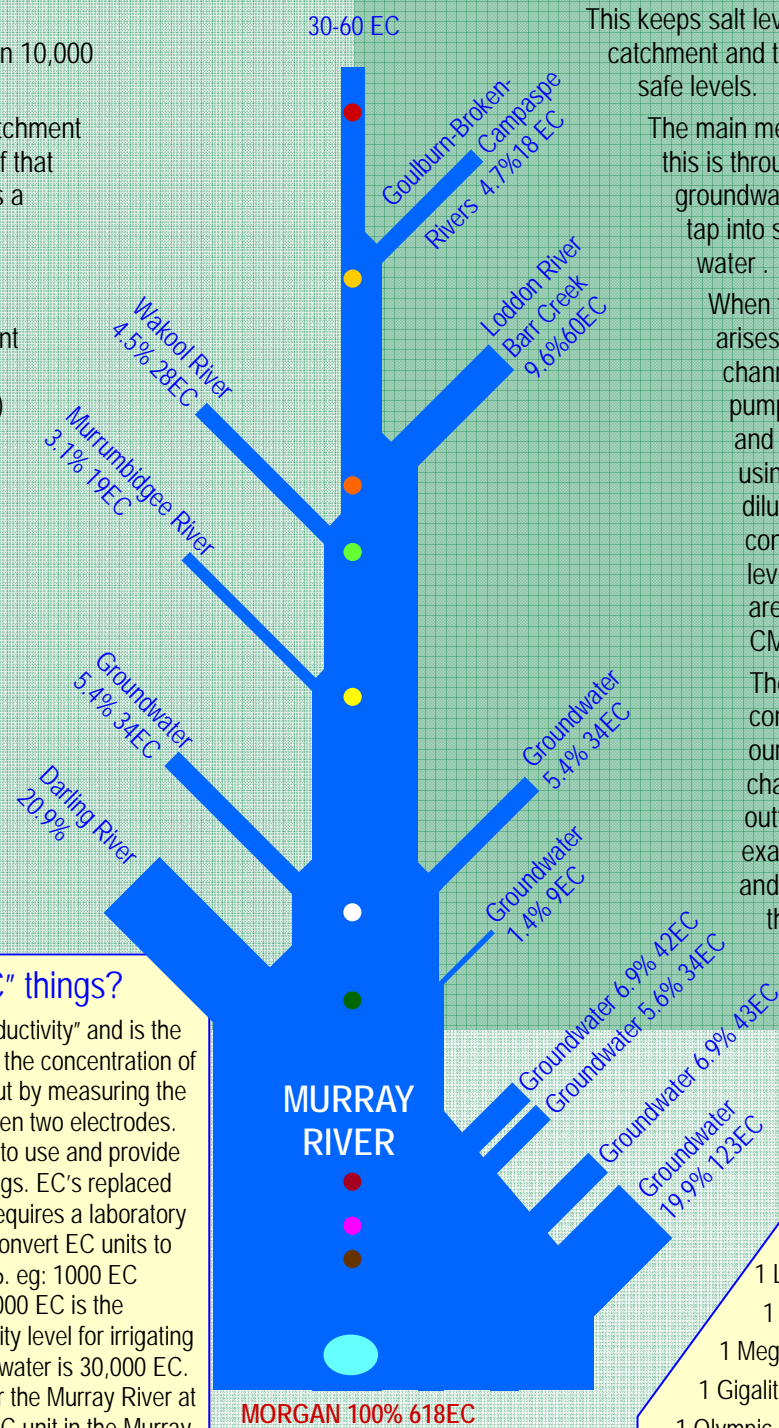
This keeps salt levels in our own catchment and the Murray River at safe levels.

The main means of achieving this is through public groundwater pumps which tap into saline underground water.

When the opportunity arises (i.e.: high flows in channels and rivers), the pumps start operating and dispose of salt, using the high flows to dilute the salt concentrations to safe levels. Public pumps are funded through the CMA.

The CMA also constantly monitors all our catchment's channel and drainage outfalls to track the exact amounts of salt and nutrients entering the river system.

- Yarrawonga
- Torrumbarry
- Swan Hill
- Wakool Junction
- Euston
- Merbein
- Lock 9
- Renmark
- Lock 4
- Lock 3
- Morgan



**What are these "EC" things?**

EC means "Electronic Conductivity" and is the basic term used to express the concentration of salt in water. It is worked out by measuring the conductivity of water between two electrodes. EC meters are very simple to use and provide immediate, accurate readings. EC's replaced "parts per million", which requires a laboratory analysis to determine. To convert EC units to ppm, multiply the EC by 0.6. eg: 1000 EC equals 600 ppm. About 1,000 EC is the maximum sustainable salinity level for irrigating clover-based pasture. Sea water is 30,000 EC. The agreed salinity level for the Murray River at Morgan is 618 EC. Each EC unit in the Murray River equates to 6,000 tonnes of salt.

**How Much Water?**

- 1 Litre = 1,000 millilitres
- 1 Kilolitre = 1,000 litres
- 1 Megalitre = 1 million litres
- 1 Gigalitre = 1,000 megalitres
- 1 Olympic Pool = 3.3 Megalitres
- 1 Sydney Harbour = 500 Gigalitres

N.S.W.

VICTORIA

S.A.

MURRAY RIVER

MORGAN 100% 618EC

# Salt Disposal - What is it?

Salt Disposal is the managed disposal of salt from a catchment to achieve what is called "Salt Balance" - equalising the amount of salt coming in (importing) with that going out (exporting) to prevent the salt building up and contaminating our soils and water.

Every year, about 100,000 tonnes of salt comes into the Shepparton Irrigation Region, most of it in our irrigation water. More salt is generated within the region by high watertables.

Only about 60,000 tonnes leaves the catchment, so we are accumulating more than 40,000 tonnes of salt in our soils each year.

**The term "Salt Disposal" is commonly used in catchment management, but what does it really mean?**

Decades ago, it was realised this accumulating salt load had to be managed or the continual build-up would destroy our environment, economy and our way of life. The days of the Goulburn Valley being the food bowl of Australia would be gone forever.

But any salt we export from our catchment affects everyone else downstream so, before we could start disposing of our excess salt, an equitable management system had to be developed to protect the rivers and the communities who depend upon it.

The Murray Darling Basin Salinity and Drainage Strategy was born.

This national agreement set 1988 salt levels as the upper limit for the amount of salt each catchment could contribute to the

salinity level of the Murray River.

Anything done since then that causes an increase in

salinity must first have a "Salt Disposal Entitlement" (SDE), which is strictly regulated by the MDBC.

The Goulburn Broken catchment, like every other in the Murray Darling Basin, earns its salt disposal credits by investing in salinity mitigation works within the catchment and by supporting salt interception works (ie: evaporation basins) further downstream.

Our regional catchment strategy currently has an SDE of 5.15 EC but, when fully implemented, will need 17.3 EC.

## Watery Statistics

**3 million plus**

Tonnes of salt that pass down the Murray River each year.

**24,909,000**

Megalitres of water consumed in Australia in 2000-2001

**75**

Percentage of water used by agriculture.

**968,000**

Megalitres of storm and waste water from Sydney each year.

**1.2 billion**

People on earth who do not have sufficient clean drinking water.

**3.3 million**

People who die each year from drinking contaminated water.

# Public V Private Groundwater Pumps - What's the Difference?

Under the GBCMA's Farm Exploratory Drilling Scheme, landholders pay a deposit of \$850 for an Electro-Magnetic Survey (EMS) and exploratory drilling on their properties.

If useable groundwater is not located, the deposit is refunded.

If groundwater is found with sufficient yield and low enough salinity that it can be shandied with fresh water and used for irrigation, the landholder installs a "private" pump.

Under the FEDS agreement, the landholder has committed to developing the pump, largely at their own expense, within two years. Private pumps are under the control of the landholder, who also pays the operational costs.

Incentives offered for private pumps reflect community benefits from the localised watertable control they generate. The landholder's financial contribution reflects the benefits they get from watertable control and the value of the groundwater as an irrigation resource. At different times of the year, if certain "triggers" are reached, private pumps can also be used for



One of 43 public groundwater pumps in the SIR used to dispose of highly saline groundwater and maintain the catchment's salt balance.

watertable control by disposing of water to channels and drains.

If, however, groundwater located by the FEDS exploration is too salty for re-use, a "public" pump can be installed.

Public pumps are funded through the CMA's Sub Surface Drainage Program and are managed by Goulburn Murray Water.

Public pumps are used by the CMA to dispose of highly saline groundwater according to the regional salinity strategy - the aim of which is to maintain the salt balance in the catchment and provide long term regional protection against salinity.

## Snapshots & Snippets

### Murray Darling Basin Commission.

From the MDBC E-Newsletter

#### Anyone for Salt?

The latest stage of the MDBC's \$60 million "Basin Salinity Management Strategy", the Pyramid Creek Salt Interception Scheme, near Kerang, was officially opened on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The \$10 million Pyramid Creek project is managed by Goulburn Murray Water and, when complete, will intercept 30,000 tonnes of salt a year.

There are nine major salt interception works proposed for the Murray River with a goal of diverting more than 1,000 tonnes of salt every day.

The Pyramid Creek scheme includes a major project by Pyramid Salt Pty Ltd to harvest about 5,000 tonnes of salt (see picture) a year for commercial use.



### Municipal Association of Victoria

From the MAV Environment Bulletin.

#### "Disappointed" with Budget Funding.

The MAV has expressed disappointment with the level of funding for local government environmental activities in the recent state budget. In particular, the MAV says there was no response to its requests for funds to implement wastewater management strategies developed by 56 Victorian councils over the past 12 months.

#### Clearwater Training

Training sessions are available to assist local government staff to use the MAV's Clearwater Tool Box to deliver community education on stormwater and wastewater programs. The toolbox provides a step by step process for officers to design, deliver and evaluate programs. A one day training session will be held in Melbourne on 30 June.

Further details are available from [www.mav.asn.au](http://www.mav.asn.au) or Amy McDonald on 9667 5581.

#### Community Water Grants

The second round of the Australian Government's Community Water Grants is expected to open in mid 2006. The grants focus on water quality projects for high value environmental sites, such as Ramsar-listed wetlands. Further information is available from Paul Marsh, National NRM Facilitator, Rivers and Water, on 9637 5550.

#### Sustainability Forum

The Victorian Local Sustainability Showcase Forum will be held in Mid-August for local government to share and explore different models and experiences in environmental sustainability. Further information from Claire Ruedin, MAV on 9667 5555

### NEW FORESTS

Wood production and environmental services



An important new book about combining forestry with environmental benefits has been released in Canberra.

Traditional forestry operations are not seen as environmentally sensitive because of the inherent monoculture and non-indigenous plants which produce few, if any, biodiversity benefits.

Large reductions in rainfall run-off caused by large-scale forestry, particularly from upper catchments, has only lately begun to be appreciated.

The book, partly funded by the MDBC, is specifically written for inland areas of the Murray Darling Basin affected by salinity. It addresses issues such as using species, soils and locations to provide economic wood production while also returning environmental benefits.

Further details from CSIRO Publishing at <http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/5031.htm>

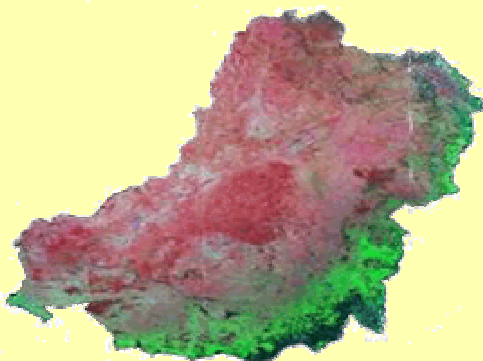
### Spatial Data Sets

The MDBC has published more than 200 spatial data sets in the Australian Spatial Data Directory at (<http://asdd.ga.gov.au>).

There are plans to expand the maps at a rate of 50 to 100 sets per month to provide a readily accessible archive of spatial data for environmental managers and planners.

Because of extensive research programs carried out through the regional catchment strategy, the Shepparton Irrigation Region is strongly represented in the map sets.

The data set pictured (left) is a salinity profile of the Murray Darling Basin, which extends from southern Queensland to South Australia.



## Taking to the Boats

Members of the Shepparton Irrigation Region Implementation Committee recently took a boat trip along the Murray River through Barmah Wetland to see first-hand the benefits of the huge environmental flood carried out by the GBCMA late last year.

Almost 500 gigalitres of environmental water flows were used to create Australia's largest ever environmental flood. The water was used to extend flooding through the forest from August to November - stimulating a huge regeneration of native grasslands.

The flood also generated native bird breeding which has been described as the most significant in more than 30 years.

Five SIRIC members and a number of staff from the CMA, DSE and Parks Victoria took to four boats to travel from Barmah upstream through the Barmah Narrows to The Cutting, before turning into Budgee Creek and on to Barmah Lake.

Along the way they inspected a site where bank restoration works are to be carried out by the CMA at the Budgee Creek confluence.

GBCMA's Environmental Water Reserve Manager, Keith Ward, who led the party, outlined the value and timing of environmental



SIRIC members pause to inspect one of many cultural heritage sites in the Barmah Wetland.

flows, explaining how they are used to "top up" natural flood events to ensure vital grasslands and breeding grounds receive enough water over sufficient time to bring about regeneration.

Neville Atkinson, Indigenous Heritage Officer for the GBCMA, told SIRIC members about the long indigenous history and enormous cultural significance of the Barmah Millewa wetlands, pointing out a number of heritage sites.

The trip was organised to give the SIRIC members an opportunity

to see the successful outcome for the huge investment of environmental water used to create the Barmah flood.

The community-based SIRIC oversees the implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy in the Shepparton Irrigation Region and provides community input into decisions about managing environmental water flows.

SIRIC is also the community reference group for the Barmah-Millewa Significant Ecological Asset Management Plan.

Plans are underway to hold another Barmah trip for members of local government. Details will be announced shortly.



Battling the current through The Narrows to inspect wetlands regeneration in Barmah-Millewa. Along the way the IC members saw some of the challenges facing the world famous wetland, including the presence of woody weeds, like willows, seen here on the riverbank.

(Continued from page 5)

natural migration patterns.

This is resulting in greater fish numbers and better spread of fish populations, particularly into the upper reaches.

Regrettably, one of the biggest threats to the fish ladders is people, some of whom have actually used angle grinders to cut their way into the passages to set nets to haul in migrating fish.

Measures are being installed to identify people responsible for the vandalism.

Further details of the Broken River program are available from the GBCMA website on [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/thebrokenriver](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/thebrokenriver)

## Joint Project to Save Water \$\$\$\$

The Shires of Moira and Campaspe have combined with the City of Greater Shepparton to develop Sustainable Water Use Plans.

The joint project aims to make best use of limited funding available to produce a generic document which will be adapted to suit each council's individual needs.

Environmental consultant, Ann Roberts, has been employed by the three councils to develop the plans, which will investigate current water use and then set water

conservation targets, action lists and implementation plans. All plans must be completed by the end of the year.

Ms Roberts is based at the City of Greater Shepparton.

All municipalities are required to develop a Sustainable Water Use Plan under the State Government's white paper water reforms. Councils are then required to report to the State Government on their success, or otherwise, in achieving the specified outcomes of the strategies.

A quarterly newsletter about local government issues and involvement in natural resource management in the Shepparton Irrigation Region. For the information of municipal councillors and staff, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and other agencies involved with local government in the natural resource management partnership.

Edited by Colin James

Municipal Catchment Coordinator  
Goulburn Broken CMA  
Phone: (03) 5833 5244  
Fax: (03) 5833 5971  
Mobile: 0418 561679

Old George is a mad keen golfer, but his eyesight is deteriorating and his wayward golf balls are becoming a hazard.

The club president has to call him in and explain that, for safety reasons, George won't be allowed to continue playing.

George is most upset about this, but he soon has an idea. His old mate down at the nursing home, Harry, has good eyesight and, what's more, he can do with some exercise.

So he talks Harry into coming down to the club, where George puts a suggestion to the president.

What if Harry acts as George's eyes, so he can continue playing without being a risk to anyone?

After a few drinks, the president agrees, so they head out to the tee.

"Harry, you're sure your eyesight is fine and you can show George where to aim?"

"Yeah, no worries mate. The eyes are as good as the day I was born."

So, Harry lines up George, checks the fairway is clear and gives him the OK.

George gives a mighty swing and "whack", the ball flies off into the distance.

"Did you see that Harry? What a shot! Did you see where it went?"

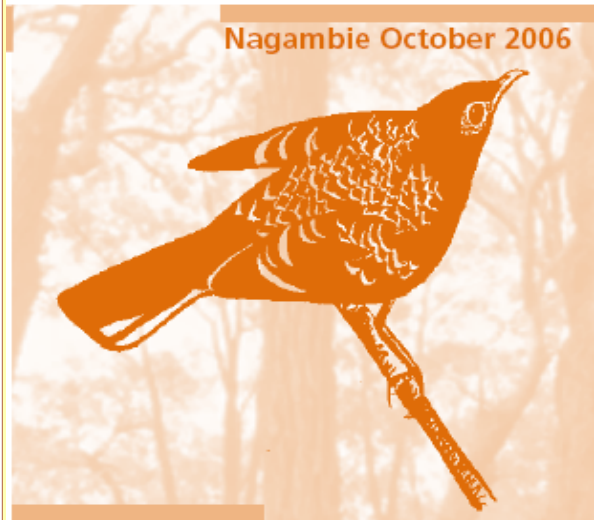
"Yeah, no worries, clear as day".

Well, then, where is it?"

"I can't remember".

## Box Ironbark Ecology Course

Nagambie October 2006



Before European settlement, the box ironbark eco-system was one of the most widespread ecologies in the Goulburn Broken catchment. But now, after decades of clearing, it is among the most degraded and threatened as the remnants struggle to survive against many environmental pressures.

Understanding and preserving the remaining box ironbark landscape will be essential to preserve the character of what our landscape once looked like - not to mention the many native birds and animals that rely upon it for survival.

A five-day workshop, organised by DSE from 16 to 20th of October this year, will bring together a wide range of leading researchers and experts to give participants a better understanding of how this special ecology works, its relationship to the wider environment and a host of practical skills to be able to plan and manage a sustainable future for this precious resource.

The course will be held in Nagambie, at the heart of box ironbark country, and will include day and night field trips.

The cost is \$1,200 which includes accommodation, meals, transport, instruction and course notes. A FarmBiz subsidy of \$600 is available for participants who own or manage the natural resources of a rural or rural residential landholding greater than two hectares in size. Further details are available from course convener, Dianne Marshall at DSE, on 9637 8823

### COMING EVENTS

#### June

- 23 - SIRIC
- 27- North East Environment Officer's Forum
- 28 - Goulburn Broken Environmental Planning Forum.
- 30 - Clearwater Tool Box Training Workshop, MAV, Melbourne.

#### July

- 10 - SIRTEC
- 11 & 12 - Wood Smoke Workshops, EPA, Melbourne
- 12 - Malcolm Turnbull visits GB.
- 17- MCC Briefing, Moira Shire
- 18 - Funding Seminar, GBCMA, Euroa School House.
- 28 - SIRIC meeting at Campaspe

#### August

- 11 - GBCMA Annual Reporting Day
- 16-17 Healthy Soils Through Communication Conference, GBCMA, Seymour
- Mid - Victorian Local Sustainability Forum, MAV

- 17 - MCC Steering Committee, Campaspe Shire

- 28 - SIRTEC

#### September

- All month - Biodiversity Month
- 4 - 10 Landcare Week
- 7 - National Threatened Species Day
- 15 - SIRIC
- 26 - North East Environment Officers' Forum
- 27 - Goulburn Broken Environmental Planning Forum

#### October 2006

- 2 - SIRTEC
- 8-11 International Landcare Conference, Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre.
- 16-20 Box Ironbark Ecology Course, DSE, Nagambie.

- 21 - SIRIC meeting at Moira

#### November

- 15 - MCC Steering Committee, Moira Shire
- 15 - Catchment Partners Day

#### December

- 1 - SIRIC
- 13 - SIRTEC

**In Australia, you have a 10.1% chance of developing asthma, 6.9% chance of having your car stolen, 0.14% chance of being involved in a traffic accident this year, 0.00071% chance of dying from lightning strike and a 0.00001% chance of contracting a fatal virus from drinking contaminated water.**



Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority  
168 Welsford St., Shepparton  
P. O. Box 1752  
Shepparton 3632  
(03) 5820 1100



GREATER SHEPPARTON

City of Greater Shepparton  
90 Welsford St., Shepparton  
Locked Bag 1000  
Shepparton 3632  
(03) 5832 9700



Shire of Campaspe  
Cnr. Hare and Heygarth Streets,  
P.O. Box 35  
Echuca 3564  
(03) 5481 2200



Moira Shire  
44 Station St., Cobram  
P. O. Box 578  
Cobram 3643  
(03) 5871 9222