

SEAVROC Environmental Project Officer Report - York
February 2011

Caring for our Country Wind Erosion Project

Perennial farming systems targeting wind erosion within the North Eastern and Southern Wheatbelt regions of WA

Currently editing 15 case studies about farmers and their various management strategies to combat land degradation and seasonal variation from WEROC, NEWROC and SEAVROC. These case studies will be published and distributed to farmers at field days and through local Shires. This is the first edition of the case study series, 15 more will be created in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Assisting the Field Day Coordinators with the organisation of the Project's Soil Health Forum to be held on 15th March in Merredin. The Forum has been advertised in all SEAVROC Shires as well as emailed out to farmers and landholders and sent to all members of the Project Facebook page. All Project Officers will be helping to facilitate the Forum on the day.

Drafted 'Seedling Confirmation' letters. These letters will be sent out to all participating farmers after their site visits have been completed detailing information discussed at the site visit and seedling supply details.

Created a website update for the project, detailing project happenings up until February 2011. This update also included information about the Soil Health Forum.

Assisting AVONGRO with the drafting a brochure/guide about the Project's three trial sites in Quairading, Bruce Rock and Nungarin. This will be printed and available for distribution by April 2011.

Researching current articles and media releases for Project Officers to place in local newsletters/papers to continue extension of the Project.

Contacting any local conservation groups and farmer groups and giving them information about the Project. This is an essential project component that is reported to 'Caring for our Country' and is an important communication and engagement tool to spread the word of the Project and encourage more landholders to be involved.

Updated yearly Action Plan for duties undertaken as a Project Officer and Communications Manager for the Project. This Action Plan is submitted to the Australian Government for reporting purposes.

Monthly meetings with CFoC Project Officers from NEWROC and WEROC.

SEAVROC Environmental Services – York

Produced and sent out SEAVROC Environment E-news for landholders and interested residents in the SEAVROC Shires.

Red Card for Rabbits and Foxes – Successful Grant Application from Wheatbelt NRM. We have just been notified that all SEAVROC Shires will be receiving \$600 towards subsidising

baits for landholders. It has been decided to give out \$30 vouchers to local bait suppliers in each Shire for 1080 and Pindone baits on a 'first in, best dressed' basis. As soon as the funds have been received from Wheatbelt NRM, the available vouchers will be advertised in each Shire.

Red Card for Rabbits and Foxes – Community Fox Shoots. The shoot weekend was held on the 25-27th of February with participants from Quairading, Cunderdin, Beverley and Brookton. *Stockbrands* donates \$5 for every fox or cat culled on the weekend to the Royal Flying Doctors. Results below:

Quairading – 100 Foxes, 3 cats

Winning team: Ray Hathaway, Joel Hathaway, Rhys Bland, Shane Baron (27 foxes, 1 cat)

Brookton – 6 foxes, 3 cats

Winning team: Jason Bassett (6 foxes, 3 cats)

Beverley – 29 foxes

Winning team: Scott Morrell, David Bell, Damien Nicholls, John Barrett-Lennard, Chad Vandenburg (18 foxes)

Cunderdin – 22 foxes, 1 cat

Winning team: Will Chrimes (22 foxes, 1 cat)

A total of \$820 has been donated by *Stockbrands* to the Royal Flying Doctors on behalf of SEAVROC shooters.

Organised a training session for Environment/NRMO Officers from SEAVROC, WEROC and NEWROC on February 17th on Native Vegetation Clearing Legislation with DEC officers from the Native Vegetation Clearing Branch in Perth, Merredin and Jessica Shepherd from WALGA. This was organised in response to the recent announcement of grain freight rail closures and subsequent road upgrades that will be needed in the near future.

Emailed new Environment Grant opportunities to SEAVROC CEOs.

Provided general advice to landholders within SEAVROC on NRM issues such as pest control, revegetation, grant opportunities, remnant vegetation management, native vegetation clearing regulations and field days.

Meetings/training

LGMA Challenge 2011 – I have been nominated to represent SEARTG in the 2011 LGMA Challenge. The Challenge requires several team meetings during February and March to complete 'Pre-Challenge Tasks' and the Challenge day is on the 25th March at Trinity College, UWA. The Theme for this year revolves around staff retention strategies.

Team:

Quairading – Jen Vincent, Peta Saunders

York – Jodie Lilleyman, Kristy Robinson

Tammin - Myra Henry

Cunderdin – Stacey McQuistan

Upcoming tasks/events

Australian Government Grant – ‘Next Gen Farmers’ – Quairading EO and EPO currently looking into applying for a grant to send young farmers from SEAVROC on a study tour to the Eastern States for several possible conferences and events to do with building resilience to Climate Change. Next Gen Farmers grants offer support to stage events that improve the leadership and representative capacity of young people entering or involved in primary industries.

Enrich Field Day 8th March – Department of Agriculture and Food WA Merredin.

Quairading LCDC Strategic Planning Workshop 11th March

NEWROC Field Walk – 30th March 2011

Quairading Field Walk – Trial Site – 14th April

Grant writing workshop and Project Planning workshop – 28th March 2011

Currently waiting for the outcome of the State NRM Grant Application to fence off the Avon River within the York Shire.

LGMA Challenge Day 25th March 2011.

Assist with the facilitation of the CFoC Wind Erosion Project Soil Health Forum to be held on the 15th of March in Merredin.

Liaise with Shire Engineer regarding road works for the next 5 years within York Shire and plan required clearing permits.

Liaise with DEC regarding fencing of Mt Bakewell Reserve and review of the Reserve Management Plan.

Carry out first site visits for all SEAVROC farmers receiving seedlings/seed from the wind erosion project. Site visits involve assessing the preferred planting site, commencing photo monitoring of the site, farmer surveys, gps coordinates, and planting design discussion.

Produce and send out next SEAVROC E-news.

