



Ord Land and Water

Newsletter

Editor; Dick Pasfield 08 9169 2222 dick@olw.com.au
PO Box 1804 KUNUNURRA WA 6743

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OLW Successful in State Funding Round

OLW has been granted funding for three out of the four proposals submitted to the NRM WA State funding call. In total, \$58,000 will be provided to undertake on-ground work for Erosion Control at Lake Argyle, Bellyache Bush control at Lake Kununurra and continue the Mesquite control program at Nicholson Station.

A 39ha infestation of Bellyache Bush on Lake Kununurra is the largest of several known infestations along the lake, and the furthest up-stream. This work will ensure that the transportation of seeds further downstream is controlled through treatment and if possible eventual eradication.



Erosion Gully at Lake Argyle study site 2007

Erosion control work at Lake Argyle in 2007 provided demonstration sites showcasing to landholders how remediation work can assist in reducing the large sediment load entering the Lake. These sites have since been maintained, and continue to provide ongoing sediment data. The State funding will enable the installation of erosion mitigation banks at downstream sites and ensure a longer term viability of gully remediation. The Mesquite and Bellyache projects are funded through until December 2013 and the Erosion Control work at Lake Argyle will continue until June 2014. Any enquiries to Dick Pasfield dick@olw.com.au or Vernon Sadler vernon@olw.com.au

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Prickly Acacia Control at Nulla Nulla

The control program for Prickly Acacia is continuing to progress well with pre-wet season treatment carried out during November and December of 2012. The program has been running for the last three wet seasons with an ongoing reduction in average plant densities as follows:

- In 2010 there were 180 plants/100ha found and treated,
- In 2011 that number reduced to 119 plants/100ha,
- In 2012 only 5 plants/100ha were found and treated

The Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Group also provides additional funds to the project. This added support will ensure a continuous period of control into the future and the plants eventual eradication from the area.



Nicholson Station Mesquite Control Update

Following large scale mechanical control carried out in August 2012 OLW spent a further 10 days on site in October. In this time 8,000 hectares was surveyed and several thousand mesquite plants were treated with herbicide. Work focussed on locations considered unsuitable for the bulldozer used earlier in the year. These included areas of outlying mesquite, where there was a risk of erosion and plants close to fence lines and watercourses.

Heytesbury Beef carried out further work in December and staff are currently monitoring the infestation over the wet season.

Surveillance work will be ongoing by both OLW and station staff, particularly in the new year when it is expected that there will be many new seedlings.

This project is a partnership between OLW, DAFWA, Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association and Heytesbury Beef Pty Ltd and is expected to run for at least five more years.

Contact Vernon Sadler for further information, vernon@olw.com.au

Community Weeds Identification Booklet

OLW has recently received \$2,500 in funding from the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (SWEK) to fund the publication of a Town Weed Identification pamphlet.

It will be utilised to provide information to community members of those weeds that pose the highest risk of becoming garden escapees.

Don't forget to check in with The Weed of The Month on the SWEK website homepage, providing information on the latest weed data, on-ground work and what you can do to prevent spread and report weeds:

<http://www.swek.wa.gov.au/>

For any information regarding weed identification contact OLW

(08) 9169 2222



New OLW Board Member Rob Cossart

Introducing New Board Member

Rob is the Program Manager- Water Resource Use and Management, Kimberley Region at the Department of Water in Kununurra.

For the past 5 years Rob has been actively involved in land and water planning in the Kimberley and is excited to bring his knowledge in local water issues and land-use related management to the Board.

Continuing Board Members are:

Liz Kirkby, Rik Soderlund, Wilhelm Bloecker, Mike Shaw, Lynette Craig, Bill Andrews, Russell Cornall and Charlie Buckley.

Bellyache Bush in the ORIA

Ord Land and Water are continuing to conduct control work in partnership with OIC for Bellyache Bush in the Ord Irrigation Area (ORIA). There is currently an infestation spreading down one of the drainage lines towards the Ord River.

Several hectares have been cleared by bulldozer, with access tracks constructed for chemical control work. Multiple applications of herbicide have been applied to deal with new germinations after recent rain. This was applied using a "Quickspray" unit recently acquired by OIC. Treatment has resulted in the interruption of the seeding cycle as plants are treated before setting seed, promoting a return of native vegetation. Work will continue as new seedlings emerge, and they will be treated until Bellyache Bush has been eradicated from this site.

OLW Membership

Membership nomination is sought at anytime from people interested in Natural Resource Management in the east Kimberley region. Register your interest to become involved in NRM with OLW by contacting Dick Pasfield on **(08) 9169 2222** or at dick@olw.com.au