

Network Notes

SEPTEMBER 5 2008

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POINTS OF
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On Ground

Update from the Chairman

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARD COMMUNIQUE 27th NRM Board meeting on Tuesday 22nd July 2008

The Caring for Our Country program succeeded NHT as the primary Australian Government funding source for NRM as of 1 July 2008.

Much of the discussion at this Board meeting enabled the Directors to be updated on the latest details of the Caring for our Country initiative, also to further discuss the role the NRMB should play into the future to achieve the best NRM outcomes, and gave the Directors the opportunity to approve the activities undertaken by Board staff to develop potential future funding programs. Discussions held by regional facilitators with potential program partners had raised a number of questions relating to services that the Board may offer partners, and these were discussed by the Directors. The Directors agreed that Board staff could provide the following services to program partnerships: Partnership Brokering, Proposal Development, Project Coordination, Contract Management, Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Board meeting was attended by David Lambert, the Commonwealth Government Team Leader of the Northern Territory NRM Team. There was a very useful discussion on the interim bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments, which includes the funds to be provided to the NRM Board. David described the Bilateral as an interim agreement for 2008/09 to ensure a continued flow of funds for on-ground NRM activities. It describes the CFOC National priorities and changes in reporting compared to existing programs.

Update from the Chairman cont.

Two presentations were made to the Board in the afternoon. Helen Sloane has prepared an Interim Outcome Report on RIS2004-07 for the Australian Government. She evaluated three years work in seven weeks and developed an excellent reporting format that will be used by the Board in the preparation of the final report for this Regional Investment Strategy. She summarised the report for the Board using the Executive Summary as a guide.

Helen used a Program Logic Framework for each program and explained the benefits of using Program Logics to evaluate longer term Resource Condition Targets. In general, Helen found RIS2004-07 milestone compliance was good, especially where projects had specifically been developed with respect to program outcomes.

Professor Stephen Garnett and Neil Collier finished the meeting with a presentation on their NRMB-funded project "Scenario Planning for Climate Change in Tropical Landscapes". This was an open session for Board Members and Staff.

Mike Clark
Acting Chairman, NRMB (NT) Inc

Program Logic Workshops

Five Program Logic development workshops with key stakeholders were held during the week of 25-29 August. One day each was devoted to the assets identified in the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan: Inland Waters, Land, Terrestrial Biodiversity, Coasts & Marine, and Communities, NRM Institutions & Knowledge. Forty-five participants attended one or more of the workshops. A wide range of stakeholders were represented, from industry associations to NGO's to all levels of government. Draft logics for each asset will be circulated to participants and those who were unable to attend, so that extra input or comments can be incorporated. The asset-based logic diagrams arising from the workshops are tools that are intended to inform the development of Program proposals and investment plans, particularly forthcoming *Caring for Our Country* opportunities, details of which will be released at the end of September.

Northern Australia Alliance

A sum of \$120,000 has been provided by the Australian Government to progress the Northern Australia Alliance of NRM Regional Bodies and other stakeholders. The NRM Regional Bodies involved are Western Australia's Rangelands, Northern Territory and Queensland's Southern Gulf Catchments, Northern Gulf, Burdekin Dry Tropics, Wet Tropics, Cape York Peninsula, and Torres Strait regional bodies. Initial activities for the Alliance will be a stakeholders forum to bring the key partners together and development of a Business Plan in partnership with key collaborators.



SSI NT Central Australia

8 Certified
Professional
Development
Points

GPS to GIS Workshop

Spatial Science Institute (SSI)
Alice Springs
will be running a workshop entitled
"GPS to GIS"

The course is designed to:

- Provide a basic understanding of GPS usage including Projections and Datums
- Explain how to correctly collect GPS data in the field for use in GIS including the do's and don'ts of using a GPS from the experts in the field
- Demonstrate some of the latest hardware and software as used by Field Scientists throughout the Territory in various fields



WHO

This course will be of great value to people who use GPS devices to collect in-field data that is then used in a GIS. The course is also for anyone who would like to learn about GPS technology and how it contributes within a number of different fields

Cost: \$50 (SSI members)
\$250 (non-members)
\$200 (early bird registrations)

Includes: Morning/Arvo Tea & Lunch

****BYO:** your GPS device
(laptops optional)
for the hands-on Session

EarlyBird: 23 September 2008
RSVP: 16 October 2008

WHEN & WHERE

8.30am – 5.00pm
Thursday 23th October 2008
CSIRO Conference Room,
Heath Road, Alice Springs
(385938.065E, 7372369.357N)

For further enquiries please contact
Jason Barnetson (08) 8951 9213
jason.barnetson@nt.gov.au
or Ben Sparrow (08) 8951 8244
ben.sparrow@nt.gov.au

Events

Landcare Week Event: Sunday September 7th OPEN DAY

WHERE: McMinns Lagoon- At the shed

WHAT: Planting of Trees and Grass

WHEN: 9.00am

Please tell your friends

Will finish off with a sausage sizzle!!!

Coming to Alice Springs – ABARE’s Regional Outlook conference

With 12 speakers across four sessions, this is your chance to access the latest commodity data and industry trends for your region at the Alice Springs Regional Outlook conference on Wednesday 29 October.

With sessions including the *overview, agriculture – future directions, changing climate, changing directions* and *vibrant regions*, this is your opportunity to make new contacts, discuss industry trends, and access information that can encourage innovative approaches to traditional issues. The conference is open to anyone with an interest in their community.

Date: Wednesday, 29 October

Venue: Voyages Alice Springs Resort, 34 Stott Terrace, Alice Springs

Time: registration from 8.30am, conference 9am – 5pm

Registration for the conference is \$77 (inc GST).

For program information, please visit www.abare.gov.au/regional (the program will be released online soon)

For enquiries, contact Angela Ellerman on 02 6272 2303
or email aellerman@abare.gov.au

General News

Philanthropic Submission Writing – tricks of the trade (taken from 'Philanthropy [Australia] Quarterly' Newsletter)

One of the surprising things about reviewing funding submissions (in secondment to a foundation) is that many organisations emphasise the negative far too much. Some submissions concentrate far too much on tugging at the heartstrings of the foundation trustees and staff, and to do that they often repeat themselves. They also spend far more time emphasising the problems than they do explaining what they intend to do about them.

Remember that to most grant makers, the most important thing is not the problem you're trying to solve but what you are going to do about it. You don't want to overwhelm them – especially not to the point where they are almost convinced that the problem is not solvable! Like the song, you've got to "accentuate the positive". If the need or issue is genuine, you just need to explain it simply and back it up with some facts. They may be statistics you've found elsewhere ("According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, around one million Australians have diabetes and the number is expected to increase over the next decade"). They may also be your own statistics ("In the past six months, requests for assistance have risen by 30%").

The real thing you need to concentrate on in your submission is **what you are going to do about the problem**.

What will you spend the foundation's money on, and what will that achieve? What actions will take place when you receive the funding – will you build something, buy something, train some people, hire someone? And what will that lead to in turn? Who will end up being better off as a result of what you want to do, and how will they be better off. Another important thing to avoid is to have a submission that's full of things that don't really convey any information. I've read some submissions that were 20 pages or longer, and which devoted most of that time to what I would call "unnecessary padding". One submission was interspersed with full-page colour photos of children gazing wistfully into the camera – at least ten pages' worth! The photos told me nothing, and were more annoying than moving – they got in my way as I tried to find the facts I was looking for. They also implied, to me, that the charity in question had spent some money on them, as the photos were obviously all taken in the same style and by the same photographer, and it looked as if some effort had gone into staging them. Yet they gave me no information at all about the problem the charity was trying to solve or the way they were going to do it.

On the other hand, most grant makers will love to get a submission that is only three or four pages long but which provides me with a concise statement of what the organisation is trying to do; how many people they will help and where they would come from; how they will help (for example, by running three months' worth of weekly post-natal parenting classes, with twelve participants per class referred by the local hospital, and conducted by a nurse with morning tea and socialising time built in) and how they will measure the results (for example, monitoring whether any of the participants need to access other post-natal services; monitoring health of babies and mothers who participate; surveys to ask whether the participants feel more confident in their parenting skills and ability to look after their babies and themselves).

Remember, foundations are reading lots of submissions from lots of charities. They don't need to be convinced to give the money away – that will happen no matter what. They don't need to be moved emotionally – again, they are already going to give the money away. They just need to be convinced that you will spend the money well and that the community will be better off as a result.

General News

NLP Landcare Tent

NLP has supplied a landcare badged tent to the Darwin/Katherine landcare and primary industry sectors. The tent will be available for groups around these regions (pending availability and group organised transport) and it measures approximately 6 x 4 metres under cover, with optional sides.

Contacts for the tent are:

Ian Linley at ianlinley@bigpond.com or 0428 330 131

Pete Foster at peter.foster@nt.gov.au or 0401 118 344

NLP is currently attempting to obtain a similar tent for the Alice Springs region.

Conferences/Seminars

Veg Futures Conference – Toowoomba 20 -23 October 2008

Veg Futures 2008 tackles the big questions around vegetation management with a focus on biodiversity, water quality and landscape resilience in the face of climate change. The conference will also explore the policy environment for vegetation management, the potential role of carbon markets, the latest techniques for revegetation as well as specialist sessions on the role of art in the environment and communication for NRM practitioners.

For more information and registration visit or www.greeningaustralia.org.au/resources/veg-futures-08 or 07 3012 7617

The 15th Conference of the Australian Rangeland Society

The 15th Conference of the Australian Rangeland Society will be held in Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia, from 28 September – 2 October, 2008. The conference theme “A Climate of Change in the Rangelands” will focus on the changing environmental, social, cultural and economics facing Australia’s rangelands in the future and linking this dynamic to the broader community’s real values concerning the rangelands.

Contact JK Connections:

Janine King janine@jkconnections.com.au 07 5547 0774

Jackie Kyte jackie@jkconnections.com.au 07 5482 4368

Awards

Rural Women’s Award 2009 Applications

The 2009 Rural Women’s Award celebrates rural women and their contribution to primary industries. It gives rural women the chance to discover their strengths and build a greater capacity to contribute to primary industries and rural Australia.

For more information visit www.ruralwomensaward.gov.au or 08 8999 2336.

Applications close **15 October 2008**

Funding

AusIndustry Climate Ready Innovation Grants

The Australian Government's Climate Ready Innovation Grants aim to increase the level of high quality innovation activities by small to medium sized enterprises in Australia that address the effects of climate change. **Closing date for the first four rounds are - 4 September 2008, 4 Dec '08, 12 Mar '09 and 25 Jun '09.** For further details visit www.ausindustry.gov.au/ and click on AusIndustry Products

Landcare Australia Ltd grants

Details of grants to groups registered on the landcareonline directory can be accessed at www.landcareonline.com

- Australia Post Community Development Grants - closes 19 Sep 2008
- Dilmah Water Quality Funding - closes 31 Oct 2008
- Westpac Operation Backyard employee grant program- no closing date applies
- Junior Landcare Grants Program - closes 24 Oct
 - VISY Junior Landcare Recycling Grants
 - Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant
 - Australia Post Junior Landcare Biodiversity Grant
 - Melbourne Water Young Watercare Grant
- Special offers - www.landcareonline.com/resource.asp?rclD=15

Grants & funding websites

- Grantslink www.grantslink.gov.au/
- DAFF grants & assistance www.daffa.gov.au/about/grants_and_assistance
- DEWHA grants & funding www.environment.gov.au/programs/index.html

DAFF FarmReady program

The Australian Government Australia's Farming Future has allocated \$26.5 million over four years to boost training opportunities for primary producers, and enable industry, farming groups and natural resource management groups to develop strategies to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change.

Two grants will be available through the FarmReady program.

PRIMARY PRODUCER REIMBURSEMENT GRANT - Reimbursement grants of up to \$1500 per financial year will be available to primary producers and Indigenous land managers to attend approved training courses.

INDUSTRY GRANTS - Eligible industry, farming and natural resource management groups will be able to apply for a grant of up to \$80 000 per financial year to undertake projects that will assist in the development of strategies to manage the impacts of climate change.

Further information about the FarmReady program will be available in the coming months. Updates will be provided on <http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/australias-farming-future/farmready> or call 1800 638 746

Funding

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation funding 2009/10

Applications for RIRDC funding and scholarships for 2009/10 are now open.

RIRDC invests in the knowledge needs of three portfolio areas:

- New rural industries
- Specific established industries

Cross-sectoral national rural issues

RIRDC investments are driven by Five-Year R&D plans which address the needs of each industry and ensure priorities are industry and government-driven. Overall RIRDC's aim is for a more profitable, dynamic and sustainable rural sector.

Preliminary research proposals **due 12 September 2008**

Research Scholarship applications **due 7 November 2008**

For more information an application forms visit www.rirdc.gov.au or 02 6271 4100

Forestry Fellowships Available to Oregon USA

The World Forest Institute, the Gottstein Trust, and Forest & Wood Products Australia are seeking Australian forestry professionals for 12-month Fellowships involving networking, research, and cultural exchange.

Fellowship benefits include:

- Opportunity to develop the contacts and skills necessary to advance your professional career
- Generous stipend, round trip airfare and visa expenses
- Conducting a project on a forestry topic of your choice
- Visits and field tours to public and private forestry organizations each week, including forestland, harvesting sites, public management and research agencies, manufacturing and processing facilities, non-government organisations, and parks
- Working with forestry colleagues from around the world

For more information call (03) 9545 2209 or www.gottsteintrust.org/html/info/wfifel.htm Applications close **12 September 2008**

AusIndustry Climate Ready Innovation Grants

Australian Government Climate Ready Innovation Grants aim to increase the level of high quality innovation activities by small to medium sized enterprises in Australia that address the effects of climate change. The program provides grants from \$50,000 to \$5 million for the costs of research and development, proof of concept and early stage commercialisation innovations projects designed to address the impacts of climate change. Applications close 4 September 2008

For more information contact Joachim Schoen on 08 8941 6261, AusIndustry hotline 13 28 46 or

<http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/content/level3index.cfm?ObjectID=41E5A831-6D81-42AC-9BD4DEE08AAD185E&L2Parent=AEB901E5-7CB8-4143-A3BF33B2423F9DA6>

Indigenous organisations - DGR and Philanthropic Funding (taken from

'Philanthropy [Australia] Quarterly' Newsletter)

Alice Macdougall and Anna Lyons of Freehills have generously made available their paper *Indigenous Organisations – DGR and Philanthropic Funding*. It's been written for organisations that work in, or for the assistance of, Indigenous communities. There's a very clear explanation of the different Deductible Gift Recipient categories which might apply to Indigenous organisations and of what the restrictions on them might be.

You can download this paper from the PhilanthropyWiki at:

http://philanthropywiki.org.au/index.php/Indigenous_organisations_-_DGR_and_Philanthropic_Funding

Publications

OzCoasts (Australian Online Coastal Information) www.ozcoasts.org.au

OzCoasts provides comprehensive information about Australia's coast, including its estuaries and coastal waterways. This information helps to generate a better understanding of coastal environments, the complex processes that occur in them, the potential environmental health issues and how to recognise and deal with these issues.

A National Climate Change Research Strategy for Primary Industries

Australia's primary industries have developed a national research strategy to address climate change and emissions management. The strategy outlines six research priorities:

- Understanding future climates
- Managing emissions
- Preparing industries
- Accessing information
- Facilitating change

Linking decision makers

To download or order the report or summary fact sheet visit www.lwa.gov.au

Free Events Management Resource (taken from 'Philanthropy [Australia] Quarterly' Newsletter)

One of our Philanthropy Australia staff members has recently come across an online ticketing system – TryBooking - which has been designed to help philanthropic organisations, charities, schools and other community organisations promote, manage and provide tickets for events. It has been developed to handle every stage of the event booking process - from selling tickets and collecting payments right through to developing seating plans and guest lists.

TryBooking has no set up costs or registration fees, and it's free for all community groups to use for non-paid bookings. For events that require payment collection there is a fee, although it is reduced for registered charities. The system allows users to set up their events and to obtain a unique URL (website address) that can be linked to your website, newsletter or email so that people can book for your event by visiting the website.

For more information, visit www.trybooking.com – and I'd be interested to hear if any of you try this system and what you think of it.

Census QuickStats (taken from 'Philanthropy [Australia] Quarterly' Newsletter)

Did you know that you can easily benchmark your particular geographic area against the rest of Australia using a free product on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website? It's called QuickStats and you can access it at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/Home/census> and then do a search for 'QuickStats'

You might find this really handy if you want to come up with some supporting evidence to indicate a need in your particular area. For example, if I wanted to look at the stats for Inverloch, Victoria, I can find out that it has a remarkably older population (the average age in Inverloch is 52 years as compared to 37 years for the rest of Australia) and a much lower household income (\$626, compared with \$1,027 in Australia). If I were to write an application for more aged care services in Inverloch, these statistics would help me support my case.

NRM Jobs/Volunteer Opportunities

NRM PROGRAMS MANAGER Natural Resource Management Board (NT) Inc, Palmerston, Northern Territory

The Natural Resource Management Board (NT) Inc (the Territory's sole regional NRM body) is the foremost NRM organisation in the Territory.

P3 (\$77,903-\$82,073), Temporary Vacancy, 1/10/08 – 30/06/09

The position reports to the Executive Officer of the Natural Resource Management Board (NT) Inc.

The primary purpose of the NRM Programs Manager position is to develop and manage Natural Resource Management Board (NT) programs using investment funds made available by governments and other investors and assist with reporting to stakeholders on the outcomes of such investments.

Selection Criteria

Essential:

- Tertiary qualification in environmental or natural resource management or an equivalent discipline.
- Program and project management experience and skills, including stakeholder consultation, planning, budget management (including financial acquittal) implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting.
- Experience and ability to coordinate and monitor programs and projects to ensure specific objectives are met, within time and budget constraints, and to ensure a climate of continuous improvement and outcome orientation.
- Well developed strategic, analytical and conceptual skills.
- Demonstrated high-level written and oral communication skills, including the ability to negotiate with and influence people from diverse backgrounds.
- Very high level of self management, including excellent organisational skills to manage competing time demands for multiple projects within given timeframes, requiring high levels of self motivation and initiative.

Please refer to the contact details below for a complete copy of the Selection Criteria and Job Description
recruitment@nt.gov.au www.nt.gov.au

Closing Date – 19 September 2008



PO Box 30
Palmerston
NT 0831
P: (08) 8999 4847
F: (08) 8999 4445
E: info@nrmbnt.org.au



Australian Government



Northern Territory Government

This newsletter is prepared every three weeks by the Regional NRM facilitators in the Territory. It is prepared for distribution, in the first instance to the Local Level Facilitator network.

The Local Level Facilitators can then forward this newsletter onto any groups, individuals that may benefit from the information contained within this publication. It is also hoped the newsletter will be a medium by which NRM information can be passed onto others in the network. SO if you have any concerns, articles, adverts or news that you wish to share, please send it into the Regional Facilitator who is listed on the newsletter roster.

This newsletter contains a number of web links to access further information on topics. If you have difficulty downloading information, please contact your Regional NRM Facilitator who can send/fax you a hardcopy.

Regional NRM Facilitators

Caroline Biggs/Madonna Wuttke (nee Mackay)

Katherine region

PMB 123, Katherine NT 0851

P: (08) 8973 8106 | F: (08) 8973 8122 | M: 0428 770 101

E: caroline.biggs@nrmbnt.org.au

E: madonna.wuttke@nrmbnt.org.au

Karen May

Alice Springs & Barkly region

PO Box 2130, Alice Springs, NT 0871

P: (08) 8951 9264 | F: (08) 8951 9268 | M: 0427 611 972

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Karman Lippitt

Top End region

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Julia Chalmers

Top End region

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E: julia.chalmers@nrmbnt.org.au

We are on the web
www.nrmbnt.org.au