

ACROSS THE OUTBACK

Number 46

November 2009

Produced for Outback SA

What's your 10-year plan for the Arid Lands?

The SA Arid Lands (SAAL) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board is mid-way through consultation on its draft Regional NRM Plan, released to the public for comment on 26 October - and there's still plenty of time for you to consider the draft and provide your written feedback.

The Regional NRM Plan for the South Australian Arid Lands affects everyone who lives, works, visits and/or values the region.

It provides a coordinated and integrated basis for managing the natural resources in the region over the next 10 years. It also includes a Business Plan for the SAAL NRM Board's activities over the next three years.

The Plan provides a range of programs to protect valuable ground and surface waters; ensure sustainable industries; help pastoral land management; conserve natural ecosystems; and encourage community participation.

The implementation of the Regional NRM Plan will support communities in the sustainable use of their natural resources and in maintaining natural ecosystems.

If you missed the recent Public Meetings the SAAL NRM Board is still very keen to hear what you think and

there's plenty of time to consider the Plan and opportunities for providing your feedback.

Get your copy of the Plan today...

The draft Regional NRM Plan and Feedback Form are available on our website www.saalnrm.sa.gov.au or by calling our Port Augusta office 8648 5977.

... then tell us what you think

To submit your feedback, complete and post the Feedback Form, email us at aridlands@saalnrm.sa.gov.au or call our office to discuss your thoughts with one of our staff.

Written submissions must be received by the SAAL NRM Board's Presiding Member by 29 January 2010.

Further information:
8648 5977

Having their say -
Attendees at the November Public Meetings in Lyndhurst and Roxby Downs; Public Meetings were also held in Coober Pedy, Nonning, Yunta and Adelaide.

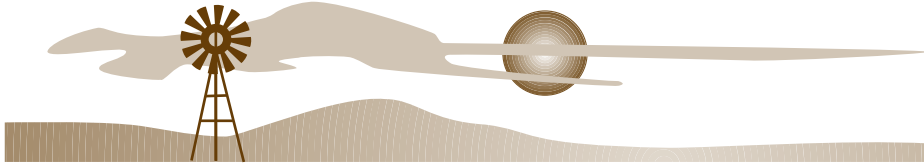


Across the Outback is published every second month for the Outback SA Government and Community Alliances. It is currently jointly funded by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (on behalf of the Pastoral Board); Primary Industry and Resources at Port Augusta; the SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board; the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure; and the Outback Areas Community Development Trust.

Across the Outback is prepared and edited by Jenny Barker (SAAL NRM Board). Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please contact jenny.barker@sa.gov.au or 08 8463 3354



Government
of South Australia



Pastoral Board forum in Burra

Approximately 20 pastoralists from the North Eastern and the Eastern Pastoral Districts attended an open forum with the Pastoral Board and Pastoral Program staff, at the Burra Football Club on 14 October.

The event provided an ideal opportunity for lessees to discuss issues of concern directly with Board members and staff.

A wide range of issues were raised with frank and open discussion between all present.

Dust storms

A major issue was the serious damage caused by the dust storms in the week beginning 21 September.

While there have been a number of dust storms over the last few months, the event in September was by far the worse, lasting 15 hours or more and with winds of up to 100km per hour.

The storm affected vast areas of the rangelands, causing serious damage to the condition of the land, the vegetation and loss of feed as well as damage to roads, troughs, fences, buildings and other infrastructure.

The dust storm is a major blow, coming on top of several years of drought conditions.

Other issues discussed at the forum included feral goats, lease assessments, lease inspections, and the concept of stating stock maximums to DSEs.

Feral goats

The topic of feral goats led to some robust discussion, with a range of views put forward by lessees on how they should be managed and the level of effort that should be applied to control them.

The use of goat proof boundary fencing as a barrier and to aid in control was also discussed.

It was recognised that the heavily wooded country in the Eastern Districts increases the difficulty of feral goat control.

The forum conclude with a barbeque dinner.



Pastoral Board and Program contacts:

The Pastoral Board of SA

Soil & Water Environs Building, Entry 4, Waite Campus, Waite Road, Urrbrae SA
(GPO Box 2834, Adelaide SA 5001)

General enquiries:

Phone (08) 8303 9751
Fax (08) 8303 9320
Freecall 1800 678 447

Specific contacts in Adelaide and Port Augusta:

Presiding Member
Michael McBride 0427 087 966

Program Manager
Glenn Gale (08) 8303 9345

Pastoral Board matters
Glenn Gale (08) 8303 9345

Public Access to pastoral lands
David Oag (08) 8648 5174

Lease Assessments
Craig Baulderstone (08) 8303 9752

Lease inspections and tenure
Chris Turner (08) 8303 9755

Managing the dry conditions

During the last two months pastoral inspections have focussed mainly on properties in the previous Eastern Districts Soil Board area north of Morgan.

Eight pastoral properties have been inspected with very dry seasonal conditions persisting throughout the district.

All pastoralists are addressing the difficult stock management situation through removal of stock to sale or to other properties.

One or two leases are probably not as advanced as others with their stock removal program, but have discussed their options with pastoral inspectors.

Overall, a dry and testing time for pastoralists, but one in which everybody is doing everything they can.

PIRSA assesses dust storm damage

PIRSA is currently assessing the extent of damage caused by recent dust storms that ripped through rural areas in the north-east of the State during September.

The greatest impact appears to be north of the Barrier Highway (Peterborough to Broken Hill) and as far north as Marree and Oodnadatta.

Collecting evidence

In conjunction with the Rangelands Drought Taskforce, the Pastoral Board, the SA Arid Lands NRM Board, agribusinesses and the community, PIRSA is collecting evidence that can be used to build a sufficient case in seeking assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Letters have been sent to all pastoralists in the affected regions, providing them with advice on support already available to them as part of Exceptional Circumstances drought declarations.

Local support contacts have also been provided, for those needing counselling, drought assistance or financial advice.

The letter also asks pastoralists to provide evidence to assist PIRSA in establishing the extent of damage.

So far it's estimated that about 35 properties have been affected, including loss of feed for livestock, some structural damage to buildings, sanding up of infrastructure and damage to roads and related infrastructure.

Further information

Pastoralists affected by the dust storms should contact Liz Connell 0488 145 124 or liz.connell@sa.gov.au

Two new staff members

Two new Land Assessment Officers recently commenced working with the Pastoral Program giving a major boost to our capacity to undertake pastoral lease assessments.

Carolyn Woods...

Carolyn Woods grew up in rural NSW and has 15 years experience in the natural resource management field.

Before moving to Adelaide, Carolyn worked at Cootamundra, NSW with the Landcare community and also the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority working on salinity and water quality projects.

With the Urban Biodiversity Unit (SA Department for Environment and Heritage), Carolyn worked with community groups and on NRM projects with contractors restoring native vegetation in the southern part of Adelaide.

Carolyn has a good background in working with local rural communities and has good project management skills which should help in the delivery of lease assessment reports.

She has a strong interest in plants

and their ecology.

...and Augie Facelli

Augie Facelli was born in Argentina but grew up in Adelaide.

Augie studied environmental biology at the University of Adelaide and completed an arts degree, majoring in philosophy.

He did his honours on the effect of galling thrips on arid land Acacia species located near the Middleback Research Centre.

Most recently, Augie has worked for O'Connor NRM, including writing reports on a pest control program in the central Flinders and communicating with landholders.

He has also performed vegetation assessments in the southern Adelaide Hills and Monarto area and has maintained databases for these projects.



Impacts of waterpoint management on biodiversity

The final field work component is complete for the Land & Water Australia project *Assessing biodiversity outcomes from waterpoint management in the arid rangelands.*

For the past three years, and with the help of volunteers, a team of researchers from CSIRO, Department for Environment & Heritage and Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation, have been undertaking mammal and vegetation surveys in the gibber deserts of far north SA.

The research has been conducted at three field sites; two cattle properties (Macumba and Todmorden) and the Oodnadatta Town Common, all representative of Saltbush–Mitchell Grass vegetation communities.

The research examined the effect of rainfall seasonality on vegetation responses when assessing land condition and the biological responses to controlled waterpoint closure.

Seeds collected from soil samples were germinated under winter and summer rainfall conditions to confirm species responses and calibrate the seed bank

composition in the gilgais (small, ephemeral lakes formed from a depression in the soil surface).

Waterpoints were turned on and off to study the effects of grazing on the surrounding animal and plant communities.

Preliminary indications suggest that rainfall and temperature seasonality have a greater influence on biodiversity than grazing relaxation.

The findings of this research will increase our understanding of the effects of grazing on the biodiversity in this environment, with the final report to be published in 2010.

Further information

www.csiro.au/science/waterpointmanagement.html

<http://lwa.gov.au/products/list/3260?page=8>; see issues 7 (Oct 08) and 9 (June 09) of *Thinking Bush*, Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Program, L&WA

Anita Smyth: anita.smyth@csiro.au



Trevor Hobbs (DWLBC) checking a pitfall trapline on Macumba station

Review of unimproved values and pastoral rentals

The Valuer-General will be undertaking a full and comprehensive review of the unimproved value of pastoral land in 2010.

First reported in the March edition of ATO, this review meets the requirement of the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*.

Under *The Act* a determination of the unimproved value of pastoral land must be undertaken at least every five years.

The Valuer-General is responsible for determining the unimproved value of the land, and fixing the annual rent for the lease as a percentage of the unimproved value of the land.

The Valuer-General is represented in 10 regional offices throughout South Australia by specialist rural valuers who undertake continual analysis of rural sales.

The review will be completed by mid-2010, with advice being forwarded to the Pastoral Board in relation to the rent notices to be issued in November 2010.

Determination of unimproved values and fair rates of return for individual properties include consideration of the following factors:

- the most recent land type classifications and associated information
- carrying capacities
- property sales and price movements within the pastoral industry
- prevailing market conditions
- climatic conditions
- property location
- access to markets



Helping communities to help themselves

Progress Associations and community volunteers across the outback are getting help in managing local infrastructure and services.

Another series of training workshops was recently conducted with more than 40 locals from the Mintabie, William Creek, Andamooka, Oodnadatta and Marla areas.

The topics of governance, effective meetings and constitutions were covered by experienced training provider and Kimba farmer Cecelia Woolford, who regularly runs the workshops on behalf of the Outback Areas Community Development Trust (the Trust).

As part of the Trust's role in building community capacity, communities in

outback SA increasingly need more skills and knowledge to manage important local infrastructure and essential services.

Much of the funding for these projects and services is via State and Australian Government grants, with the latest round of Community Infrastructure Program grants a good example (see related story below).

The Trust was recently successful in obtaining three grants – including \$160,000 in funding for the delivery of municipal services – for the Dunjiba Community at Oodnadatta.

This will be used for landscaping, dog control, administration, waste disposal and dump maintenance.

The Indigenous Coordination Centre grants also include \$26,000 for a women's leadership project and \$34,000 for an arts/cultural (storytelling) project.

The storytelling project aims to bring together young and old in the Aboriginal community through shared stories, and to encourage families and individuals to become involved in the welfare of the elderly.

Federal funding at work

The one-off grants announced under the Australian Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program last year have been put to good work in outback communities.

The \$100,000 allocated to the Outback Areas Community Development Trust (the Trust) was used in seven "ready-to-go" community projects.

A \$5000 community hall upgrade on the west coast of South Australia provided a much needed contribution to the Fowlers Bay Progress Association, with the kitchen now available for events and sporting functions.

Other projects to receive funding were:

- Marla Racing and Gymkhana facilities upgrade - \$10,000
- Marree hall renovations - \$20,000
- Andamooka community hall upgrade - \$15,000
- Andamooka waste management - \$25,000

- Lyndhurst community hall upgrade - \$5000
- Aroona Council tennis court lights - \$20,000

Upgraded airstrips

The upgrade of the Glendambo and Marree airstrips was recently finished.

Both projects are among several grants from the Australian Government's *Remote Aerodrome Safety Program* helping outback SA airstrips to meet all-weather safety standards.

With additional assistance from the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, more than \$3m was awarded in the previous round

of funding for upgrading the William Creek, Marree and Marla runways. Other work was previously funded for Manna Hill.

New legislation

Funding for infrastructure and essential services in the 36 communities covered by the Trust is part of new State legislation currently before parliament.

The Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Bill aims to meet the administrative and management needs of outback areas, as tourism, mining and changing demographics make providing adequate services and infrastructure ever more difficult.



Alice Springs GAB fest a success

Nearly 40 people attended the first national workshop on the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) and its springs, organised by the SA Arid Lands (SAAL) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board.

The Board's project *Allocating water and maintaining springs in the GAB* is funded by the National Water Commission under the Raising National Water Standards Program.

It has a budget of \$17m over four years and an operating staff of approximately 40 people spread across five agencies and universities.

Held in September in Alice Springs, the event was the first of two national workshops to be organised by the Board.

Their primary aim is to disseminate data and results among the multi-disciplinary project staff and facilitate discussion on potential cross-border planning issues.

Attendees included representatives from all stakeholder groups, including mining, pastoral, indigenous, science and management.

The highlights

Presentations were made by the key people involved in water resource planning for the GAB from the NT, Qld and SA Governments.

Andy Love (chief hydrogeologist for the project), presented emerging data being used to develop a new hydrogeological model for the GAB.

Laurence Clarke (Flinders University) spoke about endemism in several key aquatic flora species from the artesian springs.

Davina White (University of Adelaide)



presented data on using hyperspectral data to monitor the extent of, and changes to, wetland area associated with springs.

A facilitated discussion session examined workable management outcomes from different stakeholder perspectives.

Further information

Water Program Manager (NWI)
8648 5977



Photo: Arid Recovery

Have you seen a Woma Python?

The SAAL NRM Board is collecting sightings of Woma Pythons over the coming months to build a better picture of their number and distribution.

Not much is known about Woma Pythons and it is thought that they may be declining in some areas.

Those working or travelling in outback SA are best-placed to see these harmless snakes.

We are interested in how common Woma Pythons really are. Are they becoming rarer in some areas? How long do they live? Are there many small ones around?

If you have seen a Woma Python

recently or in the past we're keen to hear about it.

To report your sighting...

Fill in the survey form (enclosed in this edition of ATO) or contact our Community Fauna Recovery Officer 8671 1083 or reece.pedler@saalnm.sa.gov.au

Your chance to win \$100 fuel!

Every survey form accompanied by a photo of a Woma Python and its GPS coordinates will be eligible to win one of five \$100 fuel vouchers.

Jumping Cholla is cactus

The Kingoonya NRM Group recently located the last few remaining Jumping Cholla plants at Bulgunnia Station.

Successive diligent control measures combined with the accurate location of infestation and treated areas over the last 10 years has enabled the Bulgunnia team to thwart the spread of the Jumping Cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*).

One of a number of invasive species of cacti in the Arid Lands region, the Jumping Cholla (pronounced "choy-a") is considered to be one of the most feared and hated groups of cacti in its homeland of south-west America.

Hollow spines attach readily to anything that passes nearby; when the spines come into contact with moisture, their tips curl to firmly attach to a boot, livestock or car tyre ensuring successful relocation.

Further information

If you find an unknown weed species please contact the SAAL NRM Board for identification 8648 5977.



'EMU' - register your interest today

The SA Arid Lands NRM Board is undertaking a pilot Ecosystem Management Understanding (EMU) project for landholders in the Arid Lands region south of the Dog Fence - and applications are now open.

EMU is an informal approach incorporating pastoralist experience and knowledge with scientific expertise.

Pastoralists learn to identify and read landscape processes, condition and trend and apply this information to daily management practices.

The SAAL NRM Board's pilot project will be implemented by SAAL NRM Board staff and landscape ecologist Hugh Pringle.

About EMU

EMU was initially developed by landscape ecologists Ken Tinley and Hugh Pringle to facilitate sustainable rangeland management.

It has been adopted by pastoralists in the Murchison Gascoyne catchments (WA), the southern Northern Territory and more recently in the Marla-Oodnadatta NRM district.

Despite their vast size and few hands it is possible to manage pastoral leases effectively by focusing on landscape function to identify critical areas.

Natural and human-induced processes drive changes to landscapes, their surfaces, and vegetation structure and composition.

Identifying these processes and their impacts (eg the action of rainwater) assists with the development of 'best fit' ecological and sustainable pastoral management practices.

How it works

An initial property visit identifies baseline property features and



Aerial survey of key sites is an important component of the EMU program

areas of concern which are plotted on clear plastic overlays to develop a property map.

Landscape processes and key areas of the property are further investigated with a fly over and site visit and a visual record is developed of air and ground photos.

These activities provide a way of tracking change and making timely, strategic and relatively simple management interventions in specific areas or sites that can have far-reaching positive consequences.

It is a way of working with the natural processes rather than against them.

How to apply

If you are a land manager in the Arid Lands region south of the Dog Fence this is your chance to combine your knowledge with ecological science to develop sustainable land management practices.

Contact Janet Walton or Kurt Tschimer 8648 5977 for details.

Call for 2009/10 pest control and land rehab projects

Interested in doing pest control or land rehabilitation works on your property? Expressions of interest are sought from interested land managers who are looking to do on-ground activities.

The SA Arid Lands (SAAL) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board has secured funds through the Australian Government's 2009/10 Caring for Our Country program to provide technical support and funds for on-ground works that address priority weeds and pests or improve land condition.

Several pest animal and weed species have been selected for coordinated management. However the Board will also consider funding projects for other species considered a local, high priority.

Fill in the expression of interest form below and return this to the Port Augusta office before 15 January 2010.

Project applications will be assessed against regional priorities and each other to ensure the limited funds are spent in the most effective manner.

Expressions of interest will be reviewed according to regional priorities and available funding.

Project activities and funding amount will determine how many applications are approved. Successful applications will include some land holder contribution to project costs, either in-kind or cash.

Those deemed most suitable will be developed into project applications with the assistance of Board staff who will contact the land manager directly.

Further information 8648 5977

PEST MANAGEMENT AND LAND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS 2009/2010 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please attach additional pages if necessary

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name _____ Property _____

Contact Details _____ District Group _____

ACTIVITIES FUNDED

Feral Animal Control Programs

Rabbit control Feral goat control Camel control

Land Rehabilitation Program

Contour furrowing Direct seeding Water ponding

Weed Control Programs

Cactus Athel Pine Mesquite & Parkinsonia Buffel Grass African Rue

Indicate which activities you are interested in and provide details of the proposed project (ie. area to be treated, method, your contribution, and the amount of funding being sought).

Funding for activities not listed will be considered if details provided _____

I am able to have this project complete by May 31, 2010: Yes No

Signed: _____

Date: __/__/__

Return to SAAL NRM Board, PO Box 2227, Port Augusta SA 5067 or fax (8648 5976) by 15 January 2010



Government of South Australia South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

Work begins on Oodnadatta – Hamilton Station Road

Resheeting and realignment of a 28km section has begun on the Oodnadatta – Hamilton Station Road.

Ceduna Bulk Hauliers won the contract, and began establishing their camp and transporting in earthmoving equipment in early October.

Work on the preparation and formation of the subgrade for the first 8km is under way and expected to be ready for resheeting in mid November 2009.

Completion of the project will eliminate the worst performing sections of the Oodnadatta – Hamilton Station Road, providing significant benefits to all road users, communities, local businesses, and pastoral and tourism industries.

The works include forming and sheeting of the Hamilton Sandhills for a distance of 22km, construction of 3km road realignment to provide access through an area prone to flooding, rehabilitation of borrow pits and drainage mitigation works on the approach to Fogarty's Claypan.

It is anticipated that the works will be completed by the end of February 2010.

This project is part of the State Government's Rural Road Improvement Program and the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery Program with a total cost of of \$2.13m.



Government of South Australia

Department for Transport,
Energy and Infrastructure

Outback Calendar

Bird Watching Walk, Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden
Sunday 6 December

Last day to provide feedback
draft Regional NRM Plan for the SA Arid Lands NRM region
29 January 2010

If your event or meeting date has been set, let us know. *Across the Outback* is published bi-monthly.
Please email any additions to jenny.barker@sa.gov.au

Have you joined *The Australian Rangeland Society*?

The Australian Rangeland Society is an independent and non-aligned association of people interested in the management and sustainable utilisation of resources in natural or semi-natural landscapes, such as grasslands, shrublands and woodlands.

Members of the Society are generally interested in one or more of the businesses conducted in the rangelands, as well as the well-being of remotely living people and communities.

Rangelands are broadly defined and include drylands and wetlands, or any other environment where natural ecological processes predominate in land use.

Typically, rangeland businesses harvest plant or animal production, mine resources, provide recreation or manage biodiversity.

New members are welcome.

Existing members come from a wide range of occupations, and include owners and managers of businesses, members of non-government organisations, scientists, communicators, government administrators, natural resource management facilitators and community leaders.

Given the diverse activities and needs of people in the rangelands, the Society exists to provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas and information amongst people who live remotely or are concerned about rangeland issues in their work.

Further information

www.austrangesoc.com.au

Membership benefits

- *The Rangeland Journal*
International standing, high impact, four issues per year, hard copy and online access via CSIRO Publishing to all past papers and papers in press
- *The Range Management Newsletter*
Informative, hard and online copies, and three issues per year
- Email distribution of job and publication alerts
- Online services including discussion forums, an annual Membership Directory, online membership payments, access to minutes of Council, Publications Committee and Annual General Meetings
- Reduced biennial conference fees
- Opportunities to apply for research grants and travel fellowships
- Information for personal development (eg further education, jobs and discussion forum)
- Links with international rangeland bodies, including the International Rangeland Congress

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

FREE ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Tell us how The Australian Rangeland Society can attract more producers and land managers to win a free membership for the producer or land manager of your choice

To enter:

Nominate a producer/land manager for one annual ARS membership
and

Tell us your idea(s) for encouraging producers and land managers to become members

Entries should be a maximum of one A4 page. Send to:

Dr Carolyn Ireland (Secretary), The Australian Rangeland Society, 13 Woodland Close, Aldgate SA 5154
or cireland@irimpl.com.au

The two best ideas will win a free membership for their nominated producer and winning ideas will be published in the ARS newsletter.
Council's decision will be final.

Kindly donated by a member of the ARS on the condition that preference is given to producers or land managers.

Pimelea poisoning guide to fight a \$50m problem

A new guide is available to help cattle producers in the battle against pimelea poisoning, a \$50 million a year problem for Australia's producers.

Understanding Pimelea Poisoning of Cattle is being distributed to producers around the country as part of a joint initiative between Primary Industries and Resources South Australia, AgForce, the University of Queensland and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

The new guide will help landowners identify the risk factors, particularly when weather conditions may be more favourable for Pimelea growth and how they can proactively reduce the risk for stock.

The booklet details a number of trials and case studies, describing the symptoms of poisoning, treatments and management strategies.

What is Pimelea?

Pimelea is a native plant that is found in the drier parts of South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland – between a third and a half of Australia's pastoral country.

If cattle eat the plant, it can result in constriction of the pulmonary blood vessels, anaemia, diarrhoea and even death.

Pimelea poisoning can have

serious economic consequences for cattle producers, including reduced production, the cost of supplementary feeding and stock losses.

Identifying and measuring toxins

One of the key outcomes of the project was developing the laboratory procedures to identify and measure the toxins in Pimelea.

This information is vital to Pimelea poisoning research and helps us understand how the toxin persists in the environment and works in the animal.

Herbicide trials

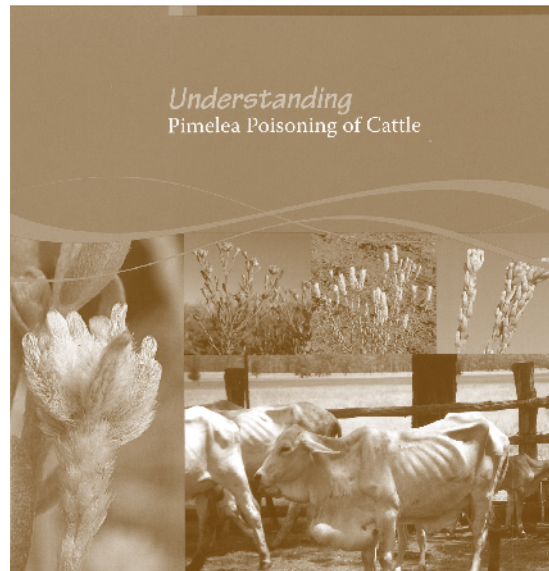
The Pimelea initiative also included trials of herbicides to identify the most effective controls for the plant.

These were aimed at Queensland producers with smaller more intensive holdings.

The aim is to give producers as much information as possible about the plant and its controls to help them put in place their own management strategies.

Further information

For Pimelea poisoning information or to obtain a copy of the guide call 8648 5160



The front cover of the new guide *Understanding Pimelea Poisoning of Cattle*



Pimelea simplex

Congratulations...

to the Blinman/Parachilna Pest Plant Control Group

The Group were recognised at the 2009 State Landcare awards in Adelaide in November for their role in raising the profile of invasive Oleander and Cactus in the Flinders Ranges.

The award was accepted on behalf of the Group by Lorraine Edmunds.

Lorraine thanked the nine landholders, Angorichina Tourist Village, contractor Frank Bernhardt and the four volunteer groups involved (Blackwood Church of Christ, Adelaide Bushwalkers, Adelaide Retired Persons and Adelaide Toyota Landcruiser 4WD Club). She also acknowledged the personal, practical and financial support of the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and government funding.

The Group, who also picked up a special commendation in the 2009 Premier's NRM Awards, is now in the running for the 2010 National Landcare Awards in Canberra.

Watch out for more on this Group and its remarkable accomplishments in the next edition of *Across The Outback*.



Your Natural Resources Management Board

The SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) works with all natural resources management issues across the region including soil, water, weeds and feral animals.

The Board works at the strategic level but also implements on-ground projects and has a number of staff in the region.

Your NRM Groups

There are five Natural Resources Management Groups (NRM Groups) based on its five districts. A sixth Group will soon be established in the North East.

These Groups are the on-ground contact for the community, feeding district information or concerns up to the Board so that they can be dealt with.

If you are not sure which district you belong to, visit www.saalnm.sa.gov.au and download from the front page a map of the region and its six districts.

How to be heard

If you would like to discuss any NRM activities please contact one of the people listed below. Alternatively contact the Board's office on 8648 5977.

Gawler Ranges NRM Group

Sandy Morris (Chair)

Angus McTaggart
Catherine McTaggart
Jane Anderson
John McMahon
Leonard Newton

SA Arid Lands NRM Board

Chris Reed (Presiding Member)

Brenton Arnold
Carolyn Ireland
Geoff Mills
Trevor Whitelaw
Katherine Moseby
Leanne Liddle
Bill McIntosh
Janet Brook

Northern Flinders NRM Group

Leonard Nutt (Chair)

Nicki DePreu
Stony Steiner
Keith Bellchambers
Janet Coulthard
Simon Duke
Keith Slade

Marla-Oodnadatta NRM Group

Douglas Lillecrapp (Chair)

Mabel Lochowiak
Mark Fennell
Tony Williams
Kelli-Jo Kovac
Kylie Fuller
Gordon Warren

Marree-Innamincka NRM Group

Janet Brook (Chair)

Murray Tyler
Darren Wilson
Andrew Johnston
Raylene Ogilvy

Kingoonya NRM Group

Julie Mould (Chair)

Rick Mould
John Bayley
John Reed
Shane Miller

Have you seen a Woma Python? - you could win \$100 fuel!

Every survey form accompanied by a photo of a Woma Python and its GPS coordinates will be eligible to win one of five \$100 fuel vouchers. See page 6 of *Across The Outback* for more details or call the SA Arid Lands NRM Board 8648 5977. Post your completed survey form to Threatened Fauna Recovery Officer PO Box 693 Roxby Downs SA 5725.

CONTACT DETAILS

Name _____

Phone number (optional) _____

Email address (optional) _____

Can the SA Arid Lands NRM Board contact you about your sighting? YES NO

SIGHTING DETAILS

When did you see the python? Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____

Or approx time of year? Dec-Feb Mar-May June- Aug Sept-Nov

What time of day? Morning Afternoon Evening Night

Size of python (approximate length): _____

LOCATION

Nearest named place & distance (eg approx. 10km north Montecollina, Strzelecki Track) _____

GPS Co-ordinates: _____

What type of habitat was it in? Sand Dune Sand Plain Gibber Plain/Flat Creekline

Other (please specify) _____

What was it doing? Moving Basking Hunting Sheltering

Other (please specify) _____

COMMENTS/OTHER DETAILS (eg weather at the time of sighting, any distinctive markings, etc). *Attach extra page(s).*