

Making Headlines:

Arid Timbers

Industry Updates

Biomass Fuel Pellets

Bioenergy in the Avon Case Studies

Olives

Tools and Resources

The 2007/08 AVONGRO Committee

Upcoming Events



AVONGRO

Wheatbelt Tree Cropping Incorporated

economic development and sustainable production

Edition 5

Summer 2007

FOCUS ON A TREE FARMER

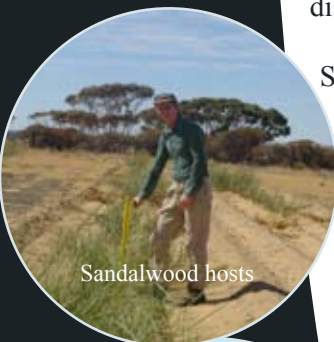
FATHER AND SON - MAURICE AND PETER BARNES OF YELBENI

The Barnes family have been living on this property in the eastern wheatbelt since 1912 after Maurice's grandparents arrived from Lancashire late the previous year. The farm is now comprised of 4,000 hectares with Peter the fourth generation working the land. They have about 3,200 hectares of arable land which is mostly put to wheat and barley with some lupins and have a drought reduced flock of 2,000 sheep. The family have been keeping rainfall records since the 1930's and can show that the average annual rainfall for their farm over that time is around 300mm per annum with this decade showing trends of a more evenly distributed rainfall pattern throughout the year.

Since 2002 Maurice, wife Corrie, and Peter have planted around twenty hectares of Brushwood, using largely *Melaleuca atroviridis* (upland) which can be used either for oil or Brushwood fencing and plan to plant a further twelve hectares in 2008. In 2006 they worked with the Avon's Native Plant Industries Project Officer, Tim Emmott of Greening Australia WA, putting in sixteen hectares of mixed sandalwood host species using both seedlings and trialling the direct seeding of over thirty species. Sixty kilograms of sandalwood seed were planted in March 2007, using fourteen provenances of sandalwood from the Central Wheatbelt. The Barnes also have about 30 hectares of *Acacia saligna* on a water gaining site which they feared would go saline and is now used as a fodder reserve.

Maurice in particular hopes that tree crops will be a serious option for farmers in the future and is concerned that climate change will see a major change in the way the land is farmed, he said, 'a few generations down the track this could be pastoral country and if we can't grow annual crops then we need to grow perennials'. If he were forty years younger and knows what he knows now, Maurice would put excess profits from cropping into farm forestry as he feels that climate change will see the demise of wheat growing in the area.

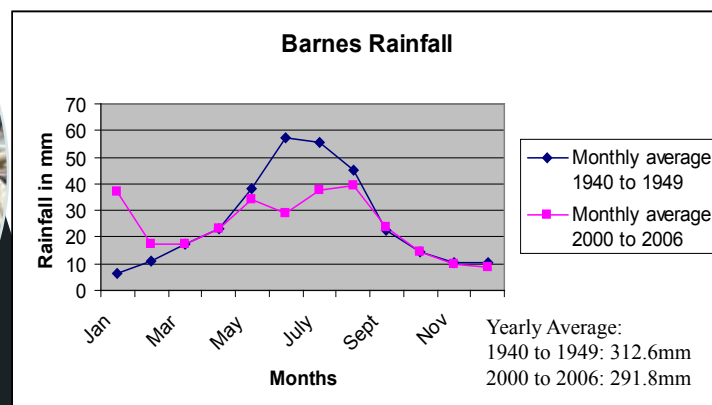
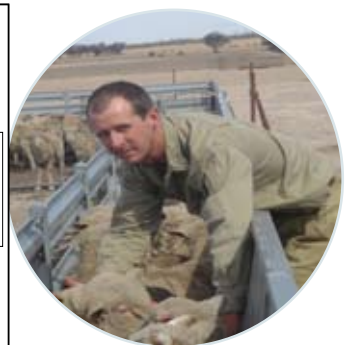
Peter will be taking over the farm so Maurice and Corrie will be taking a back seat in making decisions about future tree crops on the farm. Peter finds block plantings easier to work around than alleys and is keen on fodder shrubs for his livestock enterprise.



Sandalwood hosts



Melaleuca uncinata v. spicata plantation



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A Word from the Chairman



Ian Hall, Chairman of AVONGRO
Wheatbelt Tree Cropping

Welcome to this fifth edition of the AVONGRO newsletter. Once again it is being produced thanks to funding from the Avon Catchment Council.

Our 2007 AGM was extremely interesting. A fantastic line-up of speakers presented us with the latest updates and possible new directions for tree cropping in the Avon:

- Dr Henry Brockman, the Department of Agriculture and Food WA's Senior Development Officer for Renewable Energy Alternatives (Bio-Fuels), gave a very interesting presentation on his work trialling *Moringa oleifera* as a possible perennial tree crop that can produce biodiesel. We will be watching his progress with interest.
- Roger Underwood, committee member and forester, gave an overview of the Bioenergy Case Study Report.
- Dr Liz Kington gave an overview of the Avon Catchment Council's support of tree crops, highlighting how tree crops are being funded through a range of Council projects.
- Helen Job, community member and Southern Brook Landcare Group member, gave an update on the status of the local Brushwood industry showing an example of a Brushwood fencing panel made from locally grown plantation Brush.
- Lorna Timbers, representing the Australian Sandalwood Network, spoke about the Sandalwood Industry Development Plan and Peer Mentoring Program.
- David McFall, Upper Great Southern Oil Mallee Association, gave a comprehensive overview of the cross-regional project between the South West Catchment Council region and the Avon Catchment Council who are jointly funding 1.4 million mallees both in the 2007 and in the 2008 planting seasons - an extremely impressive 2.8million in just two years!

I would like to thank outgoing committee member and Treasurer, Fleta Redding. Fleta has been with us since the inception of AVONGRO and has put many hours of effort into the organisation. I will also take this opportunity to welcome new committee member, Peter Harding of CY O'Connor TAFE to the committee. Training is a very important part of the future for tree cropping so Peter's expertise will be invaluable. A full list of the new committee can be found on the back page of this newsletter. We do however still require a Treasurer so if you feel you would like to join our committee in this role, please contact Monica to discuss what is involved.

The next months will be pivotal for AVONGRO and tree cropping in the Avon Region. You will be aware that as with all other national funding, the funding for Private Forestry Development Committees (PFDCs) currently only goes until June 2008, however we do know that the Commonwealth is lobbying strongly to keep all nineteen national PFDCs funded for a further three to five years. Regardless of the outcomes of this, AVONGRO has several very exciting projects on the go including:

- A review of the Avon River Basin Tree Crops Development Strategy (funded by Lotterywest).
- Progressing the findings of the Bioenergy Case Studies.
- Assisting the Brushwood, Sandalwood and Oil Mallee industries with their Industry Development Plans.
- Compiling a Monitoring and Evaluation framework according to the new national MERI framework.

As always, we value everyone's support and welcome discussions on tree cropping directions for the Avon. All the best for your harvest, Christmas and New Year.

Ian Hall
AVONGRO Chairman

'A sustainable commercial tree crops industry integrated with existing regional land use systems which enhances the social and environmental benefits for the Avon River Basin.'

A Look in the Back Yard

by Peter Jones, Renew Environmental Services:
08 9729 2290, peter@renewenvironmental.com.au

It may seem obvious that planting the right tree in the right location is critical to any successful forestry project. Likewise locally endemic tree species are generally best suited to the local climate, soils and provide a cornerstone for local ecosystems.

However a casual observation of tree planting patterns in Western Australia shows a preference for exotic tree species (I include eastern states species of eucalypt) and a desire to “push” higher rainfall species into “lower” rainfall areas. We have continually overlooked our arid backyard.

These two factors are representative of a mindset that ignores the attributes of many medium to low rainfall tree species and a belief that brute force, in the form of artificial fertilisers, pesticides and tree breeding can overcome environmental realities. This mindset even allows one to ignore the inevitable drought conditions that all tree crops in mid to low rainfall areas will experience at least once or more during their rotation by using “average” rainfall figures to determine planting locations.

Perhaps it is now time to seriously consider pushing “lower” rainfall species into “higher” rainfall areas.

One of the reasons that this strategy is often not taken seriously is the claim that there is no existing market for those timbers. This is simply untrue. Many of the low rainfall tree species have prized qualities including, hardness, high feature grains, beautiful colours, durability and stability.

A lack of imagination in terms of marketing timber products is also a constraint. For example on a short rotation it is possible to grow a durable, straight and valuable fence or vineyard post that can be produced with a sound commercial return. Think about all those vineyard posts that will need replacing in 10 to 20 years time!

Suitable species include Salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*), Red Morrell (*Eucalyptus longicornis*) Gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*), Goldfields Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus lesouefii*) Gidgee (*Acacia pruinocarpa*) and Beefwood (*Grevillea striata*) to name a few.

Many of these species are slow growing and do not fit the requirements of investment schemes that require a return on investment over a relatively short period of time. However for those seeking to invest within natural timeframes and in species that pay dividends in terms of reduced input costs, improved biodiversity values and long term resilience then they are worth a look.

A wealth of knowledge and experience was developed in the mid nineteen nineties by a small but dedicated group known as the Goldfields Specialty Timber Industry Group (GSTIG) which examined the best method of milling, drying and potential uses for a wide range of arid timbers. Ian Kealley, DEC Regional manager at Kalgoorlie, was involved with the group from its inception and is an expert on arid timbers well worth talking to if you are considering a “look in the backyard”.



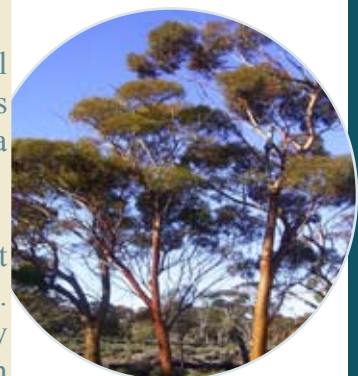
Salmon Gum



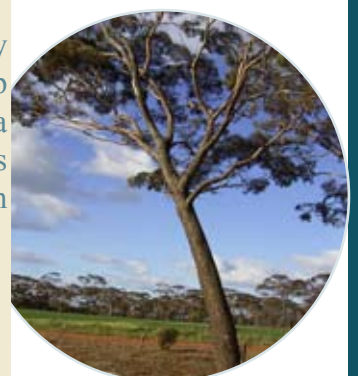
Goldfield's Blackbutt



Beefwood



Gimlet

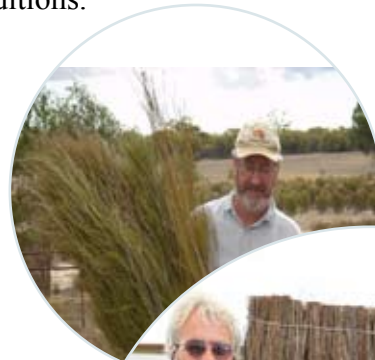


Red Morrell

Brushwood Industry Developments

There have been some exciting developments in recent times for brushwood enthusiasts. A budding collaboration between Eastern States' manufacturers of Brushwood fencing panels is creating excitement in the region. Discussions with a financial strategist indicate that a Brushwood fencing panel industry will be economically viable for all concerned as well as beneficial for the land. However as several other regions in the Wheatbelt are also planting significant areas of Brush, the Southern Brook Landcare Group and AVONGRO successfully approached the Wheatbelt Development Commission for funding for a whole-of-Wheatbelt Brushwood Industry Development Plan. Consultation for the Plan will include all key players in the Brushwood industry active in the Wheatbelt.

Since early this year, Helen Job and husband Mike have been conducting monthly cutting trials of *Melaleuca atriviridus* to ascertain the optimal height and time of year for potential mechanical harvesting. They were assisted in designing the layout of the trial by the Avon's Native Plant Industries Project Officer, Tim Emmott of Greening Australia WA. Helen and Mike have been manually cutting the plants level with the ground and at 6". So far their trials have shown that there is no difference in the height or time of year the plants are cut with all growing back well. A mechanical harvester will be cutting at a height of approximately 6". Trial plots have been set out with sixteen, six year old plants cut every month. Yields have been better than expected with an average of 60 to 70 kilograms per sixteen plants - at 2,000 stems per hectare this gives an average of just over eight tonnes per hectare. Helen expects the second harvest to yeild even better. Helen is keen to trial *Melaleuca uncinata* var *uncinata* as she feels this has the best form for local conditions.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are pleased to acknowledge the Wheatbelt Development Commission for the funding provided to compile a whole-of-Wheatbelt **Brushwood Industry Development Plan**. If you are interested in contributing to the Plan, please contact AVONGRO.



Oil Mallee Industry Developments

The Oil Mallee industry is progressing in leaps and bounds thanks to the many years of Research and Development by the Department of Environment and Conservation, the visionary thinking of the farmers in the Oil Mallee Association, the dedication of the Oil Mallee Company staff and the tenacity of Professor Syd Shea over the years. It seems that finally their combined persistence is paying off with some major steps forward.

There is now national interest in oil mallees as a unique farming system for Australia's broadacre dryland farming areas. The Oil Mallee Association and its supporters have managed to attract major funds to progress this industry to the extent that a national Oil Mallee industry body is being explored.

Some new initiatives include:

- Creating an integrated process to convert mallee residue from eucalyptus oil production into fuel briquettes. This is the first stage of developing and marketing a range of products to include wood pellets and fire lighters. Creating products from residue is an essential step to generating multiple income streams from mallee processing. (funding through DAFF's New Industries Development Project)
- Exploring a national Oil Mallee industry body - this included a national workshop in Canberra in October 2007 and will include a national conference in Western Australia in March of 2008. (funding through DAFF's Sustainable Industries Initiative (SII))
- National Taking Stock and Setting Directions will complement the SII project, creating a snapshot of where the industry is at the moment and developing strategies for the future. (funding through DAFF)
- A WA Oil Mallee Industry Development Plan is being compiled with the assistance of the Forest Products Commission. (funding through the NAP Strategic Reserve)
- Drought-proofing the north-eastern Wheatbelt is a project which aims to help farmers become accustomed to incorporating mallees into their farming systems. Initially this will entail planting 600 hectares at 1,000 stems per hectare in the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC) region. (funding through NACC and the AgFund)
- One of the new Future Farm Industries CRC's programs has a focus on woody perennials, in particular oil mallees, and will be actively progressing the building of a prototype oil mallee harvester that can harvest a consistent 75 green tonnes per hour, building on previous investment from the OMC, DEC and Verve with Commonwealth funding.

Also - AVONGRO's Bioenergy Case Studies identified oil mallees as a key feedstock for future bioenergy industries.

National Oil Mallee Conference

Conference: Friday March 14th 2008
Cost: \$220 (incl GST)

Field Trip: Saturday March 15th 2008
Cost: \$ 55 (incl GST)

Contact: Oil Mallee Company of Australia 08 9433 1244



Biomass Fuel Pellets

by Gavin Harper, Plantation Energy:
08 9316 1722, gharper@plantationenergy.com.au

Biomass fuel pellets are a clean and easily transportable form of renewable energy that has become increasingly popular in recent years. The pellets are made of densified, or compressed, wood particles – typically sourced from sawmill waste or plantation harvest residues. Provided that they are manufactured from wood that is derived from a sustainably managed forest plantation – that is: whatever timber was felled to produce the wood will be replaced by replanting of coppice regrowth, then the pellets are classed as renewable and hence carbon neutral. As such, users who substitute all or part of their fossil fuel consumption with biomass pellets have the potential to claim benefits for their net reduction in carbon emissions. This has driven the growth of the pellet market, particularly in Europe where a carbon trading system currently exists.

The pellet manufacturing processing is driven by dual needs – the cost and energy consumption in the process need to be minimised, while a tight specification has to be adhered to in the finished product. For Plantation Energy Limited, who are currently establishing a major pellet manufacturing facility near Albany in WA, these challenges have been addressed through many years of preparatory trials and research. Extensive field trials have been carried out to determine the best collection and processing techniques and to gain a good understanding of the quantities of residues that can be generated from different types of plantations and harvesting processes. Trials into the nutritional impact of residue removal have also been part of this process. Plantation Energy have also conducted pelleting trials and laboratory analysis of the finished pellets to ensure compliance with the rigorous European specifications with respect to ash and moisture content, physical characteristics and heating value.

Because the market for pellets is currently centred in Europe, the cost of shipping becomes a major issue, leading to a need to have large scale production, storage and shipping facilities. Plantation Energy will initially produce 185,000 tonnes of pellets from the Albany facility, with plans to increase this to 250,000 tonnes over time. Today the market for pellets within Australia is very small, but Plantation Energy have plans to grow this market to complement the initial export focus.

In summary, the production of biomass pellets offers a valuable way of utilizing biomass material that would otherwise be wasted and turning it into clean and renewable energy – forming part of Australia's contribution to global carbon emissions reduction.

For more information about Plantation Energy Limited and their plans, visit their website:
www.plantationenergy.com.au.

Facts and figures:

Pellet specifications:

Dimensions 6-8mm by 20-25mm

Heating value 17-18 MJ/Kg @ 10% moisture

Moisture 8-12% by weight

Bulk density around 600-650kg/M3 loose



Bioenergy in the Avon - Case Study Report Summary

On Tuesday August 7th, the Minister for Energy the Hon Francis Logan accepted the 'Bioenergy in the Avon - Case Study Report' compiled for AVONGRO by Enecon Pty Ltd with funding from the Sustainable Energy Development Office. Four bioenergy technologies were considered:

- Wood pellets – an immediate opportunity could exist and further development work is recommended;
- Fast pyrolysis – available commercially, but likely to be limited by markets in the short term;
- Biomass to liquid fuels – not commercial scale yet, but expected to be so in the next five years; and
- Biomass to ethanol – has just received major funding support in the US, which means commercial scale plants are very likely in the next five years.

Further data on each technology, and implications for farmers are detailed in the full report which can be found on the AVONGRO website along with all PowerPoint presentations from that day.

Overseas advances

Developments overseas have significantly enhanced the prospects for progressively developing a major bioenergy industry in the Avon catchment. The European Community's proactive pursuit of renewable energy has created major markets for biomass pellets. In the US, Canada and Europe, technical, legislative and funding developments mean there is a real likelihood that several processes to make liquid fuels from biomass will be commercially demonstrated in the next five years.

Two of the technologies reviewed (pellets and pyrolysis) are commercially available now. The report says that of those (pellets) has large, well established product markets and may offer an immediate opportunity for growers.

The remaining two technologies (ethanol and synthetic diesel) have clear, well-funded and managed pathways to the first commercial plants.

Pellet plants and fast pyrolysis plants both need biomass at 100,000 tonnes per year or less (green basis). In contrast, each commercial scale plant for ethanol or synthetic diesel next decade will require at least 500,000 tonnes and possibly more than one million tonnes of biomass per year.

The report claims that the scale of tree planting possible in the Avon catchment is enough to support multiple new bioenergy businesses. Sufficient land could be available to enable biomass production to reach several million tonnes per year. If planting is carried out with due regard for hydrology, ongoing farm operations and other factors, these levels of planting will also achieve environmental benefits across hundreds of thousands of hectares.

For all of these technologies it will be possible to engage with experienced equipment suppliers or technology providers. It remains to be seen how the farm forestry industry will develop and engage with the biomass processors to develop this opportunity.

Impediments identified in establishing a bioenergy industry in the Avon include:

- No reliable pricing for delivered mallee biomass to enable potential processors to undertake detailed studies of the viability of new businesses;
- Lack of a harvester for mallee trees, which have a unique set of harvesting requirements not fully addressed by existing equipment;
- The need for targeted planting close to proposed processing sites, thus lowering delivery costs;
- The absence of a carbon trading market that could provide farmers with the funds to establish commercial quantities of trees.



Minister for Energy, the Hon Francis Logan accepts the Bioenergy Report from Col Stucley of Enecon

The Olive Industry in WA

A brief overview by Mike Baker, Chairman, West Australian Olive Council

Contact: Executive Officer, Carolyn Lawrence

0417 385 863, clawrence@oliveswa.com.au

In January 2007, Dick Taylor, a Food and Trade officer of DAFWA commented “The olive industry in Western Australia is emerging as an important horticulture industry which is attracting public interest and investment.”

“It is one of the leading industries for managed investment which gives it the opportunity to achieve scale and adopt modern technology which will make it competitive on the global scene. It is a primary value-adding industry as its products have to be processed to be sold to consumers. This processing occurs mainly in regional areas which has investment, employment and tourism benefits.”

Whilst olive trees have been planted in Australia since early colonisation, it is only in the last 10 to 15 years that the industry has been rapidly expanded and developed with modern commercial practices.

The majority of world olive production comes from the Mediterranean countries of Spain, Italy, Greece, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia and Morocco, which in 2004/5 accounted for around 90% of oil production and 70% of table olives. Mediterranean countries also account for the majority of consumption of olive oil and olives. Australian production of olive oil now exceeds our consumption, but imports continue to be strong, and much of our oil is exported to USA, Europe, China, etc. The Australian production total is less than 1 per cent of world production. Of the 12,000 tonnes of oil produced in Australia in 2006, WA accounted for 2,500 tonnes.

A “large enterprise” is considered to be one that has at least 80 ha of olives and this might contain 20,000 to 30,000 trees. The largest enterprises in WA have groves of 400 ha to 1,000 ha. The large enterprises produce over 85 per cent of the olive fruit and are highly mechanised with over-the-row harvesters costing \$0.5m or more.

There are hundreds of boutique groves dotted around WA from Geraldton down to Albany ranging from a few hundred trees to several thousand trees. Gourmet shops now have numerous brands of WA olive oil on their shelves, and the large enterprises have penetrated the supermarket shelves. One of the large enterprises in WA produces their table olives in York and you will now find these in our supermarkets. Another large table olive producer in Geraldton also distributes throughout WA. There are a number of boutique producers of table olives.

The olive industry in WA has evolved around eight regional associations across the state, and each region has a seat on the West Australian Olive Council. The Council also has a number of large enterprises as direct members in recognition of their economic impact. There are a couple of non-voting members including the Department of Agriculture and Food. In turn, the Council nominates a representative to the board of the Australian Olive Association, which also has three large enterprises directly elected to the board.



Tools and Resources

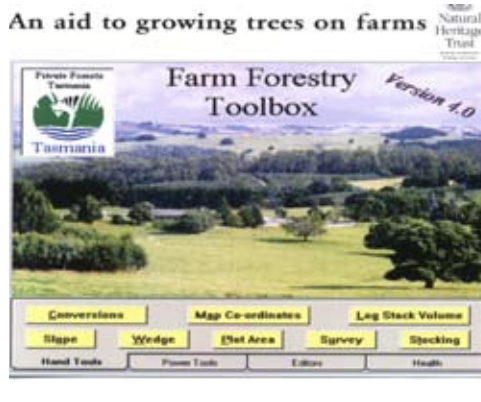
There are several interesting resources around that can help land managers decide on the best tree crop for them. Firstly, the AVONGRO website covers a wide range of topics. It will be updated with new developments and printed resources so well worth a regular visit. AVONGRO has also, with assistance, produced two economics resource packages. To receive email or hard copies, please contact the Executive Officer.



www.avongro.com.au



The Farm Foetry Toolbox version 5 will be available shortly. While the Toolbox does have a focus on sawlogs, it has some interesting features that will be useful for land managers in the Avon. Maps can be inserted, there is a stocking calculator, and you can enter in your own costs and returns for any tree crop resource and the Toolbox will calculate the Net Present Value (NPV) and Internal Rate of Return (IRR). Contact any PFCO Executive Officer for your free copy.



The Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) has a very wide range of free publications on planning and managing forest carbon sinks. A very useful CD set is also available which helps to measure carbon sequestration on any site in Australia. Free copies of all of these resources can be obtained by contacting the AGO: www.greenhouse.gov.au



Can I harvest my trees?

Under the Environmental Protection Act, any WA native trees that you are specifically planting for commercial purposes do not require a permit to harvest. This does not however apply to Sandalwood which comes under its own Act.

You will require a Commercial Producer's Licence in the year that you intend to sell any harvested native plant material be it fruit, nuts, seed, timber or any other part of a Western Australian native plant. This is issued by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

If you are growing plants that are not Western Australian natives you do not require either of the above permits however if the plants you are planting are very exotic it will be important to ensure that they are not potential weeds.

You may need to apply to harvest through the Department of Water if you are in a Country Area Water Supply area.

You may also need to apply for planning permission to plant commercial trees.



2007 at a Glance

Throughout 2007 there were many local and national events, here are just a few of the highlights. Many of the local events (*) were organised by the Avon's Native Plant Industries Project Officer with funding from the Avon Catchment Council and supported by Greening Australia.

January:

Special Australian Sandalwood Network meeting, Northam *

February:

- State PFDC meeting, Perth
- AVONGRO selected as one of six PFDC Case Studies as part of national PFDC review
- Visit to the Avon by DAFF's Forest Industries Branch representative: Robin Neilsen
- Oil Mallee Field Day, Koorda*

March:

- National PFDC meeting for training in Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI), Melbourne
- Introduction to Farm Forestry workshop, Avon*
- Farm Forestry Toolbox workshop, Northam
- Oil Mallee Field Day, Harrismith*

April:

- Sandalwood Field Day, Toodyay*
- Introduction to sandalwood production training course, Narrogin and Pingelly in conjunction with Geoff Woodall of the Centre of Excellence in NRM *

May:

- Ten year celebration of Trees South West, Bunbury

July:

- State meeting of PFDCs and Farm Forestry Development Officers, Albany
- MERI training for the Avon, Northam
- Sandalwood Peer Support training, Grass Valley*

August:

- *Bioenergy in the Avon* - release of Case Studies, York
- WA Agroforestry Working Group meeting, York
- Scenario Planning Investment Framework workshop, Northam
- State PFDC meeting, Perth
- Presence at the Dowerin Field Days

September:

- Producer Collaborative Business Models workshop, Northam

October:

- Sandalwood Field Day, Mt Marshall
- National Oil Mallee Forum, Canberra
- State PFDC meeting, Perth
- WA Agroforestry Working Group meeting, Perth

There is a lot more going on behind the scenes, contact AVONGRO for more information.

Our major funders and supporters

All Private Forestry Development Committees are funded primarily by the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry through the Natural Heritage Trust with matching cash and in-kind support from a range of State Government agencies. In Western Australia the Forest Products Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Food WA contribute financially as well as in-kind.

Sandalwood Industry Developments

As many of you may be aware the Australian Sandalwood Network (ASN) has been in a holding mode since the departure of Tim Emmott. While there has been some confusion, rest assured the ASN is still strong and thriving. Lorna Timbers, who worked with Tim at Greening Australia in Northam, has been holding the fort admirably and has offered to remain on the ASN committee as voluntary Secretary. There are also moves afoot to put in some paid help for the Network. Newsletters are still planned as is an autumn field day - so stay tuned.

Thanks to Tim, the ASN received funds from the Wheatbelt Development Commission for an Industry Development Plan. This has assisted in leveraging more funds from the Forest Products Commission and other key players in the Sandalwood industry. The Plan is nearing completion and will be an invaluable guide to assist a whole-of-industry approach to the future.

The Network now also has its own website: www.sandalwood.org.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are pleased to acknowledge the following for the funding provided to compile a whole-of-industry **Sandalwood Industry Development Plan**:

Wheatbelt Development Commission
Forest Products Commission
Australian Sandalwood Network
Avon Catchment Council's Native Plant Industries Program
UWA's Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management
Great Southern Development Commission
Rewards Group
Wescorp
Timber 2020



AVONGRO Membership Form

ABN: 33 120 830 918

Membership to AVONGRO is open to anyone with an interest in tree cropping.

Membership fees (includes GST):

State Government	\$550
Commercial Industry (more than 5 employees)	\$275
National not-for-profit organisations and smaller businesses (less than 5 employees)	\$110
Volunteer groups (LCDCs, Conservation Groups...)	\$55
Farmers/growers/community members	\$20

Post this form with your payment to:
Monica Durcan, Executive Officer
56 Broadway Road
BICKLEY WA 6076

Yes please, I/we would like to join AVONGRO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State/Post code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Payment of \$ _____ is enclosed

AVONGRO Committee 2007/08:

Ian Hall (farmer) - Chairman
Mike Carter (Forest Products Commission) - Vice Chair
Roger Underwood (forester and consultant)
Simon Dawkins (Oil Mallee Company and Oil Mallee Association)
Helen Job (Southern Brook Landcare Group)
Peter Harding (CY O'Connor of TAFE)
Monica Durcan (Executive Officer and Secretary)

Independent Advisors to the Committee:

Liz Kington (Avon Catchment Council)
Prue Dufty (Department of Water)
Department of Environment and Conservation
Juana Roe and Trevor Lacey (Department of Agriculture and Food WA)

Vacancy on the Committee:

Treasurer

Other projects, not included in this Edition:

- Direct seeding trials - part of Geoff Woodall's larger trials. AVONGRO's component (funded by Lotterywest) is in direct seeding of pelletised oil mallee seed.
- Working with SEAVROC (South East Avon Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils) on a Low Rainfall Tree Crop Planning Policy.
- A working group has formed under AVONGRO to bring landholders with existing plantings together with mining companies wishing to offset their Scope 3 emissions.

Upcoming events 2008:

March, Carbon Forum, Quairading
Contact Damien Priest 08 9645 0236

March 14 and 15, National Oil Mallee Conference and optional field trip:
Contact the Oil Mallee Company 08 9433 1244

March 31 to April 3, State NRM Conference, Bridgetown:
Contact the Boyup Brook Telecentre Phone 08 9765 1169

Disclaimer
The information provided in this newsletter have been collated from the best available information at the time of writing. Please check with a reputable revegetation advisor prior to making any decisions based on the information presented here.

AVONGRO Associates:

Avon Catchment Council
Tel. Andrew Prior 9690 2250
www.avonnrm.org.au

Forest Products Commission
Tel. Mike Carter 9302 7488
www.fpc.wa.gov.au

Greening Australia (WA)
Tel. 9621 2400
www.greeningaustralia.org.au

Department of Environment and Conservation
Tel. 9334 0186
www.dec.wa.gov.au
www.calm.wa.gov.au

Department of Agriculture and Food
Tel. Mr Kim Brooksbank 9892 8444
www.agric.wa.gov.au

Oil Mallee Company
Tel. Simon Dawkins 9433 1244
www.oilmallee.com.au

Oil Mallee Association
Tel. Mike Kerkmans 9961 1242
www.oilmallee.com.au

State PFDC Liaison Officer
Tel. Richard Moore 9780 6100
www.fpc.wa.gov.au

Australian Sandalwood Network
Tel. 9621 2400
www.sandalwood.org.au

Acknowledgements

This Avon Catchment Council project is delivered with investment from the State and Australian Government through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

Photos courtesy of Peter Jones, Mike Baker, Mike and Helen Job, Gavin Harper and Monica Durcan

