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In this issue

- REC Forum
- Roadside Award
- Bathurst Copper Butterfly
- Mid-Western RVIP
- New Significant Roadside Signage
- Further Funding for Roadside Projects
- Roadside Weed Resistance
- Upcoming Workshops

Latest news from the REC

- The main recent activity of the REC has been the organisation of a NSW Linear Reserve Environmental Management Forum (see details below).
- The REC has released its 2010-11 Annual Report. Electronic copies are available from the REC Executive Officer.
- The REC was recently interviewed by Lachlan CMA to provide linear reserve environmental management input into the CMA's revised Catchment Action Plan.

Upcoming REC Forum

Save the date – 30 October 2012

The Roadside Environment Committee will be hosting a NSW Linear Reserve Environmental Management Forum in Sydney on **Tuesday 30 October 2012** at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

The forum is for land managers such as local councils and government agencies. It will focus on current strategic issues and operational aspects in linear reserve environmental management. It will include guest speakers, a panel for Q&A, and a workshop session focusing on ways to manage competing and complex issues in the linear reserve environment. The forum will also provide an excellent opportunity to network with other land managers involved in managing these reserves.

Registration for this free event opens soon and advice will be sent to land managers. For more information contact the REC Executive Officer.

Deadline soon- NSW Roadside Environmental Management Award

The LGSA Excellence in the Environment Awards recognise outstanding achievements by local councils in managing and protecting the environment. For the second year running the REC will sponsor the Roadside Environmental Management Award category. Last year's overall winner was Mid-Western Regional Council.

Entries close **3 September** and all councils are encouraged to put forward an entry for the 2012 Roadside Environmental Management Award category. The Awards website includes all details on how to apply

<http://www.lgaconference.lgsa.org.au/events-training/environment-awards>

Bathurst Copper Butterfly

Bathurst Regional Council was successful in receiving a Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project (RVIP) grant from NSW Environmental Trust to implement the Protecting and Connecting Bathurst Copper Butterfly Habitat project.

The endangered Bathurst Copper Butterfly (*Paralucia spinifera*) is known to exist in a limited range of the Central Tablelands of NSW between Bathurst and Hartley. The butterfly has a unique set of requirements including being restricted to elevations above 900m, requiring the Native Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa subsp. lasiophylla*) as a food source and having a symbiotic relationship with a small black ant species *Anonychomyrma itinerans*.

David McKellar © 2008



Photo courtesy of Bathurst Regional Council

The project involves weed control across 26 kilometres of roadsides in High Conservation Value Road Reserves in areas of known or potential butterfly habitat. The butterfly requires a vegetative structure that allows for sunlight throughout the day; larger weed species such as Pine, Hawthorn and Firethorn can shade areas of otherwise suitable habitat. Additionally, it is understood that the prevalence of the Native Blackthorn as well as native grass species seeds provide a food source for the attendant ant *Anonychomyrma itinerans*.

The first round of targeted weed spraying was completed in May 2012 with follow-up spraying due to be completed by January 2013. Woody weed removal across the project site is in progress at present, with work expected to be completed in August 2012.

There are two identified areas where revegetation works will occur to connect existing fragmented butterfly sites. The total area of revegetation works will encompass 660 metres of roadside area with the planting to be completed in groups of 55 plants. Planting groups will be dominated by Native Blackthorn and complimented by grass and rush plantings that anecdotal evidence suggests will provide a food source for the attendant ant species.

It is expected that this project will increase the number of butterflies as well as suitable available habitat. Additionally, by providing habitat linkages, it is expected that individual butterfly populations will be able to interbreed providing increased genetic transfer. It will take several years of annual monitoring to know if this project has been successful in increasing the number and range of the Bathurst Copper Butterfly, however, the benefits of reduced weed numbers and increased native vegetation in High Conservation Roadside Areas will have an immediate impact.

Further Funding for Roadside Projects



The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW have received a further \$1 million from the NSW Environmental Trust to hold another round of funding for roadside vegetation projects. Once again, councils must have a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP), or similar plan to be eligible for this funding. Councils with draft plans are encouraged to ensure these are completed prior to the opening of the next round of funding, to ensure their eligibility.

It is anticipated that a call for applications will be made in October 2012, with projects ready to commence early in 2013. Councils are encouraged to start scoping possible projects to ensure they are ready to respond to the call for applications, once announced. Funding will be targeted to councils not funded in the previous round. There will also be an opportunity to fund a project which is coordinating roadside environmental management activities at a regional scale.

For more information please contact: Kirsty McIntyre, LGSA at kirsty.mcintyre@lgsa.org.au or 9242 4055.

New Significant Roadside Environment Area Signage

The RVIP has updated the previously used Significant Roadside Environment Area (SREA) Signage, developed by the REC.

A template has been provided to all funded projects and projects are encouraged to use the template, where appropriate. A copy of the template can be viewed to the right.



A generic version of the template has also been produced for use on sites not funded through the RVIP. This version has space for council's logo but no reference to the LGSA or the Environmental Trust. Any council planning SREA signage can use this template. *Copies are available by contacting Kirsty McIntyre, LGSA at kirsty.mcintyre@lgsa.org.au or 9242 4055.*

Mid-Western Council Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project



In 2009, Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) undertook phase 1 of their RVIP by compiling a survey to map roadside vegetation across the entire LGA and identifying high value areas. With the assistance of the Local Government and Shires Association MWRC has undertaken the second phase in the plan to protect roadside vegetation through the implementation of the roadside markers initiative.

MWRC will be commencing the installation of the roadside vegetation markers in August. The aim of the markers is to provide on ground work crews and contractors with information about the value on the roadside vegetation. This will help to both save time and protect the valuable native vegetation.

Markers will be placed on red guide posts at the start and end of each significant area and at intervals within the identified areas. The distance of the valuable area will be displayed on the markers and arrows will clearly indicate the start and end of each section. There will be three categories of markers which will identify High Conservation Value areas including endangered ecological communities, threatened species, and areas with infestations of specific weeds that can be transferred easily by machinery.

For more information please contact: Shireen Murphy, Environment Manager, MWRC, Shireen.Murphy@midwestern.nsw.gov.au

Upcoming Workshops and Conference

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) has a number of upcoming workshops relevant to managing linear reserve vegetation.

The **9th National ANPC Conference** will be held from Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November 2012, in Canberra.

Conference themes include:

- Threats
- Conservation policy
- Plant conservation strategies
- Vegetation, soil and water context
- Ecological restoration
- Role of the NGO sector



Early bird registration is open now. Go to www.anpc.asn.au

Restoration of grassy woodland remnants workshops are being held:

- 17 and 18 September 2012, Scone NSW
- 20 and 21 November 2012, Moree NSW

The two day workshops will provide participants with the skills required to plan, implement and monitor a project to manage and restore grassy woodland

remnants.

Topics covered include:

- ecology of grassy woodlands
- weeds and weed management in grassy woodlands
- grassy woodland restoration – what do we know?
- grazing for biodiversity
- planning a management and restoration project
- flora identification skills
- identifying the natural values of a site and its threats
- identifying vegetation community type
- vegetation monitoring techniques
- where to get help including an overview of funding opportunities.

Another workshop on **plant identification for grassy ecosystems** will be held on the 24th - 25th September 2012, at Deniliquin NSW. This workshop will introduce participants to grassy ecosystems, their diversity, ecology and provide the skills and information required to positively identify a range of common grassland plants. The workshop is targeted at the beginner level, but will also provide a good opportunity for those more experienced in plant identification to refresh their skills.

Workshops on seed collection and storage, and translocation of threatened plants will also be held in November at Mt Anna Botanic Garden.

For more information on these and other ANPC workshops please visit the ANPC website www.anpc.asn.au and click on courses and workshops or call the ANPC office on 02 6250 9509.

Resistance Weeds a Roadside 'Time Bomb'



Managing roadside vegetation is about to get a lot harder with the discovery of 136 glyphosate-resistant populations of annual ryegrass and fleabane along roadsides from Queensland to Western Australia.

Andrew Storrie, Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group (AGSWG) chief executive officer says half of all populations tested positive for resistance during the first ever roadside weed survey in 2011.

The discovery was part of a project looking at the management of glyphosate-resistant weeds in non-agricultural areas funded under the newly-completed National Weeds Program managed by Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC).

While annual ryegrass and fleabane were the most common glyphosate resistant weed species found, resistant awnless barnyard grass was also found in channels and drains in NSW and Queensland.

A/Prof Preston says the best approach is to actively monitor for weeds that survive glyphosate applications and ensure they do not set seed by whatever means is suitable for the particular situation. "On roadsides and rail tracks weed survivors are easy to spot, but there needs to be a system in place within the

organisation so everyone on the team, from financial controllers to sprayers, all work to prevent resistance developing," he said.

For more information on managing glyphosate resistance visit the AGSWG web site www.glyphosateresistance.org.au or www.grdc.com.au/weedlinks

The aim of this newsletter is to share information about the management of NSW linear reserve environments and profile the NSW Roadside Environment Committee (REC). For more information on the REC, including how to create roadside vegetation management plans, go to: www.rta.nsw.gov.au/rec

