



Friends of the Moore River Estuary Inc.
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FOMRE Newsletter – April 2016

Dear Friends of Moore River Estuary,

Have you been wondering what has been happening in a favourite part of your world? Read on and keep motivated. Included in this newsletter:

- 1. **NOW** Annual General meeting invitation
 - 2. **& NOW** Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 million
 - 3. **SHORTLY** The NACC 2016 Photography Competition: ‘Nature in Focus’ is now open!
 - 4. **GOOD NEWS** WA Landcare Network Forum 2016 - Friday 20th May Fairbridge Village Pinjarra
Citizen Science
Healthy Estuaries Project , water monitoring activities
 - 5. **VERY GOOD NEWS** Updated Website
 - 6. **NOT SO GOOD NEWS** 4WD vandalism
 - 7. **EXTREMELY GOOD NEWS** Beautiful beach
 - 8. **NEW – sort of!** Save Moore River bumper stickers
 - 9. **NEWS THAT IS GOOD!** Many sources!
 - 10. **NO NEWS** Sale of land south of Moore River
- FOMRE MEMBERSHIP**

1. NOW An invitation to FOMRE’s AGM.

Notification of 2016 Annual General Meeting
Saturday April 23rd 2016 Guilderton Community Hall @ 10.00
 You are invited to attend FOMRE’s 2016 Annual General. Please support us as we continue to champion the long term health and wellbeing of the Moore River Estuary. Your support remains as vital as it ever was as we maintain an active watching brief on the future of the estuary.

2. & NOW Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 million (GGP3.5) FOMRE Response and call for public submissions. Public comment is open to 13th May 2016

WA has recently been presented with a unique and precious opportunity to protect and formally resolve the land use conflict on south side of Moore River estuary. Please read on.

The residents of Perth are being asked to comment on a game changing proposal that will affect the quality of our lifestyle here in Perth for the next 30 years. The environment within which we live is currently being determined by the Australian and Western Australian Governments with the release of its draft *Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 million (GGP3.5)*. The GGP3.5 will **replace** project-by-project EPBC assessments of

development proposals – if a development fits within the acceptable actions of the Strategic Assessment, it will not be further assessed under the EPBC Act. At its centre the GGP3.5 is a Strategic Conservation Plan; identifying what will be done to protect the Matters of National Environmental Significance, regional threatened species, Ramsar wetlands and such like.

<https://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Consultation/StrategicAssessment/Pages/Default.aspx>).

Two very important components that FOMRE can address in these documents are:

- Carnaby Cockatoo conservation and
- The impact of the plan on the Moore River Estuary (MRE) at the northern most point of the Strategic Assessment Area (SAA).

While the GGP3.5 deals with the Swan and Peel Rivers, the southern bank of the Moore River lies on the northern portion of the Swan Coastal plain. Taking its proximity to Perth and the northern strategic assessment areas into consideration it would be an apposite step to finalise the northern boundary up to the south side of the Moore River.

An opportune moment to extend the scope of the Green Growth Plan by 1 -2 km north currently exists. In April 2016 the property that **is currently owned by the Moore River Company (MRC) has been recently (2015) placed onto the market (with limited or no expressions of interest proffered).**

By acquiring the land owned by Moore River Company it would then be added to the important northern conservation areas of Perth metropolitan area including Wilbinga Conservation Park (Due to the large size and continuity of these lands they have been identified as being fundamental in the success of the GGP3.5) our fractious and protracted controversy would be resolved to the satisfaction to all concerned.

To this end FOMRE has prepared a response to the GGP3.5 and is to be found on our website.

www.savemooreriver.org

We urge you to write in your own submission on your own form.

Members are encouraged to visit the following sites for further information.

Public comment on the draft Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 million is open to 13th May 2016.

<https://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Consultation/StrategicAssessment/Pages/how-to-make-a-submission.aspx>

Mapping of the spatially related conservation commitments from Action Plans F and G and of the proposed new conservation reserves (Phase 1 and 2) referred to in Action Plan H is available online at:

<https://espatial.planning.wa.gov.au/mapviewer/Index.html?viewer=greengrowthplan>.

The draft paper, Williams MR., Yates CJ., and Barrett GW. In prep (a). *The impact of hypothetical land-use scenarios on the population viability of the Endangered Carnaby's cockatoo* is now available and can be downloaded from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website at:

<https://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Consultation/StrategicAssessment/Documents/DRAFT%20Carnaby%27s%20cockatoo%20PVA%20Report%20March%202016.pdf> (Please note that this paper is a draft and is undergoing peer review for publication in a scientific journal. It is also important to note that the draft paper does not consider the effects of proposed draft Green Growth Plan's Conservation Program (Action Plan H) on the species, including the establishment and management of new conservation reserves, revegetation initiatives and breeding enhancement programs.)

3. SHORTLY Opportunities to enjoy the landscapes, people and issues that are required to keep our backyard healthy and/or restored to health abound. Participation brings so many benefits. Not least the creative experience, meeting new people and most rewarding the increase in awareness and sharing of knowledge! Two such activities that have come to FOMRE's notice are:

'Nature in Focus' NACC Photographic competition. Five categories, \$500.00 in prizes! **Applications close 2 May 2016** <http://www.nacc.com.au/event/2016-nacc-photo-competition>

WA Landcare Network (WALN) is hosting its 2nd Community Landcare Forum on Friday 20 May at Fairbridge Village in Pinjarra. This is an all day event from 8.30 am - 5 pm. Hands-on land carers, planners and policy makers are invited to participate. <https://sites.google.com/a/landcarewa.org.au/landcarewa-org-au/events/waln-forum-2016>

When other such events are brought to our attention they will be posted on our website.

4. GOOD NEWS Citizen Science <http://www.nacc.com.au/people-passion-healthy-estuaries-guilderton>) As you are all aware optimising the health of Moore River estuary is at the forefront of FOMRE's commitment. Petitions, submissions and deputations have been a major component of our hard work. However actual on ground activities are also an essential component of our remit.

A good news story is FOMRE is participating in a new citizen science project that aims to monitor water quality of the estuary. With encouragement by FOMRE, the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council NACC successfully sought funding through Lotterywest to purchase the necessary water quality meter, and also developed a comprehensive sampling and analysis plan. In October last year, FOMRE members and NACC undertook water monitoring training with Department of Water staff in preparation for the start of regular monitoring. Samples will be collected four times per year from five sites along the estuary.

An inspiring article *People + Passion = healthy Estuaries at Guilderton* is provided in the NACC newsletter. Please take the time to read visit this site as it is full of interesting news pertaining to the area we value so highly.

5. VERY GOOD NEWS - www.savemooreriver.org is active!

Recently FOMRE, Guilderton Community Association and the Guilderton Visitor Centre put their heads together and revitalised our website. We recognised that the previous one was not performing as well (plus it had been hacked badly by spammers). Thus we sought assistance from *OM4*, a local web design and development company, to create an attractive and relevant website. We encourage you to have a look, comment and contribute. A dynamic website is an effective website. You will notice the new website address is www.guilderton.wa. **However if you use the original web address it will redirect you to this one.** Please explore and share!

6. NOT SO GOOD NEWS- 4WD vandalism <http://www.gingin.wa.gov.au>

A very fast way of destroying habitat is for it to be driven over. Vegetation is damaged, wheel ruts become indelible and attract other would-be drivers, soil is compacted or alternatively the soil crust is disturbed and then blown or washed away. Weeds, Dieback and litter accompany such behaviours. Worse yet it is potentially dangerous to people using the beaches (or driving the vehicles). Unfortunately in recent times there has been an increase in off road vehicles visiting Guilderton beach and driving on 'The Desert'. FOMRE has reported several of these infractions to the Shire of Gingin and the Moore River Company. The 4WD problem is markedly less since a meeting in December between Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Shire of Gingin Moore River Company and the Guilderton Community Association. The following was inserted in the December *Moore River News*:

4WDs, Trail Bikes and Dune Buggies at Guilderton.

Guilderton town and the land at Moore River South is surrounded by beautiful bush that is well worth protecting. Recent invasions of off-road vehicles are currently threatening this bush in many places.

Simply put, no vehicles are allowed on the beach or foreshore within 2.6kms south of the groyne.

They are also prohibited on private land, the river foreshore and the Reserve.

This means that vehicles entering at Wilbinga may not come north, and that no vehicles should ever be seen from the upper lookout or on the river foreshore.

North of the groyne vehicles may access the beach and there is an unmaintained 4WD track to Seabird. Other areas have been fenced off while we revegetate them. Please stay on the tracks.

The Moore River Estuary gets very busy in summer with visitors. We ask all recreational vehicle drivers to be sure to only go to designated off-road areas. These are mainly at Lancelin.

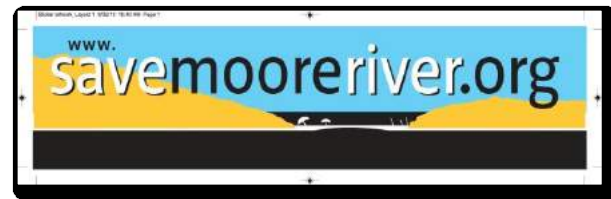
*The peace and safety of river and beach goes means that 4WDers desire to 'go bush' needs to take them elsewhere. We will be very glad of your co-operation.
Photos of the selfish few who ignore the rules can be sent to Gingin Shire who promises to warn then prosecute. Email works fine!
Thanks from the Friends of Moore River Estuary.*

7. EXTREMELY GOOD NEWS Beautiful Beach

We knew we had a wonderful place in Guilderton but now it has been NATIONALLY recognised! In August 2015 Guilderton was awarded with the iconic Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Clean Beaches Award for 2015 (Burleigh Beach in Queensland came in at a close second). Guilderton also took home the award for Environmental Education. Australian Clean Beaches judge Averil Bones said “the most exceptional element of environmental education that occurs in Guilderton is embodied in the community’s ongoing efforts to preserve the environmental values of the beach and estuary system.” Visit <http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/news/28/guilderton-win-australian-clean-beaches-awards-2015> for a full version of this good news.

8. NEW – SORT OF! Stickers

Do you remember these? FOMRE has recognised that they are too good to not use. They convey our perennial message and advertise our website. All members will be receiving one with this year’s membership renewal receipt. In addition they will be for sale at the Guilderton Visitor Centre or you can obtain one by contacting Linda Johnson.



9. NEWS THAT IS GOOD Many sources!

FOMRE, in the course of its work has created relationships with many fascinating community organisations – nearly all of which have a newsletter, website and/or application that deliver an array of fascinating information. We commend the following for your consumption and distribution:



MOORE RIVER NEWS – <http://moorerivernews.com.au> The Moore River News is a small local publication covering the news from residents and groups in the Lower Coastal Area of the Gingin Shire, (rural residential areas of Redfield Park,

Sovereign Hill, Neergabby, Woodridge, and the towns of Seabird and Guilderton). It is usually available on the first of every month. The April 2016 issue is now available.



NACC - <http://www.nacc.globalagencies.com.au> An important ally in the management of the Moore River Estuary is the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council or NACC. One of Australia’s 56 regional NRM organisations, they are addressing national environmental priorities at the regional level. NACC is a representative group of the catchments in the Northern Agricultural Region which include the: Murchison, Hutt, Bowes,

Chapman, Greenough, Irwin, Hill and Moore. NACC delivers an array of wonderful information in a regular newsletter called NACC Notes.



Beachcomber. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/beachcomber> The fascinating things that wash up onto the beach are explained in this marvelous app. Authored by NACC one can download this free app ‘The Beachcombers Field Guide’. It describes some of the more common items you may find while beachcombing along the coast of Western Australia’s temperate (cooler) waters.

OUR RIVER NEEDS MOORE FRIENDS



Moore Catchment Council

<http://www.moorecatchment.org.au/newsletters.html>
FOMRE and Guilderton have been assisted by the support and services of The Moore Catchment Council MCC), an elected community body who represent the communities

of the Moore River and the Northern Agricultural Catchments in areas of Natural Resource Management. The role of the M CC is to promote integrated catchment management and to co-ordinate efforts to get the most effective action on the ground. MCC present a great newsletter too:



Urban Bushland Council <http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/resources/urban-bush-telegraph> - The Urban Bush Telegraph is the newsletter of the Urban Bushland Council. It is the Council's key medium for distributing news and raising awareness of current bushland and environmental issues. It has a proud history of advocacy and is a vital tool in our task of protecting our urban bushland estate. It is published quarterly. The February 2016 edition is now available



The Conservation Council of Western Australia

<http://www.ccwa.org.au> -FOMRE is a member group of this organisation. CCWA is the State's peak environmental group and stands to be an outspoken and independent voice for the

environment and communities. Of particular interest on matters pertaining to the environment view their blog or for interesting events and /or activities to join:<http://www.ccwa.org.au/events>.



Gingin Water Group

<http://ginginwater.org.au> Upstream from the Moore River Estuary is the Gingin Brook. Its waters significantly contribute to the Moore River. Over the past 4- 5 years a group of concerned

citizens have endeavoured to understand and track the way the Department of Water (DOW) controls the use of water within the ground and surface systems across the Gingin region. The Gingin Water Group is made up of a concerned group of local farmers who have observed the reduction in summer flows in Gingin Brook, bores that have produced water for decades drying up and the water level in many others falling rapidly. Their website provides for a host of information pertaining to water quality and monitoring.

10. NO NEWS.

The last FOMRE newsletter (August 2015) informed members that the Moore River Company had put their property onto the market. Expressions of Interest closed in October 2015. To date FOMRE has not heard or been informed of any progress on its sale or transfer of ownership.

Position Vacant:

Social Media Manager. Are you able to assist? If you can help we would certainly appreciate it.

FOMRE MEMBERSHIP

The 2016 membership form is attached. If you have not renewed your subs for this year this year would you please consider doing so? Subscription rates are \$20.00 per annum.

2016 FOMRE membership	\$20.00
Members Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	Mobile:
Email:.....	
Please remit:-	
Cheques to: FOMRE. PO Box 1007 Guilderton, 6041	
Bank Deposit to: Friends of Moore River Estuary:	
BSB No. 036 037 Acc. No. 321697	

A quote to remind us all of the value of 23 years of persistent effort:

“If your determination is fixed, I do not counsel you to despair. Few things are impossible to diligence and skill. Great works are performed not by strength, but perseverance.” Samuel Johnson