



Get on Board

Rocc's on a roll at All Transport Industries

Think mechanical workshop, add in a crash repair component and you'd be forgiven for drawing a mental picture of an average cluttered industrial site.



This was the case for Regency Park based company, All Transport Industries, until a few years ago. But that has all changed since Managing Director Rocc Giglio was visited by officers from the Street Smart River Clean Pollution Prevention program.

The program, a partnership of the Board and the Cities of Charles Sturt and Port Adelaide Enfield, sees project officers undertake environmental site reviews and provide technical advice and training to businesses in an effort to help them become more efficient and better managers of stormwater.

Project Officer Nathan Ward recalls a colleagues first visit to Rocc's premises.

"All Transport Industries was your average large truck repair business, with all the associated potential environmental impacts on the Port Adelaide River Estuary," explains Nathan.

"Today, it stands as a beacon to environmentally responsible business practice, so much so that we've put the company forward as part of our WaterCare Business Recognition Scheme," adds Nathan.

Rocc Giglio is, of course, delighted to be recognised but stresses he's doing it and more because it's the right thing to do.

"I needed a helping hand, a plan to prioritise and tackle our shortcomings and that's precisely what the Street Smart River Clean Pollution Prevention program has provided.

"We have since addressed all the recommendations made in the plan and now have spill kits and extensive bunding around all oil drums. We have introduced an emergency response plan that will ensure that, in the case of a spill, we will stop anything entering the stormwater system."

"We've gone beyond the recommendations, too, and now

recycle a lot of the plastic parts off vehicles brought in for crash repairs, as well as all oils, coolants and paints. We also installed rainwater tanks and use this water in the wash-down bays, as well as on our lawns and rose gardens.

"Our housekeeping has improved too, thanks to a number of staff awareness raising exercises. The mechanical workshop and spray booths are now regularly cleaned and tidied to remove any chance of pollutants finding their way into the stormwater system," adds Rocc.

You can hear his passion for the program in his voice and can be sure of one thing: Rocc Giglio will keep on rolling towards an environmentally-friendly future, regardless of what recognition comes or doesn't come his way. ●



From the Presiding Member YVONNE SNEDDON

While we focus attention on the natural resources we are working to protect and improve, it is important that we don't lose sight of the human resources needed for the task.

Unlike some other types of volunteer work, helping out on environmental projects can be tough, dirty, and challenging. Seeing a weed pop up in the same spot as the one you removed last week can be enough to make people ask "why do I do it?" But in speaking with volunteers the reason seems universal - the sense that they are making a difference.

In this edition of the newsletter you will see that the Board now has a community directory listing over 150 groups across the region that are making a difference in their local area.

The Board acknowledges and congratulates these and all other groups and individuals who are actively involved.

Volunteers are an integral part of our business and we would like to extend a genuine invitation to everyone who is interested in NRM related issues to get involved in the development of the Board's NRM Plan.

You can read more about how the Plan is progressing in this edition. For information on how you can have your say, visit our website.



Get on Board

Inside

- Wetland launch 2
- Boards take on a new look 2
- Sustainable Landscapes 3



Boards take on a new look

NRM Boards across the State have a new look.

The newly adopted design has been specially created to raise awareness of the Boards and show the diversity of issues we deal with.

The corporate look consists of a string of iconic natural resource features including flora, fauna and land use emblems. Each Board selected a unique colour and icon that would be used to differentiate their Board from the seven other NRM Boards and the State NRM Council.

In the case of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, we have opted for a modern purple colour and an echidna as our icon.

Why an echidna? Because echidnas are compact animals that show great strength and determination for their size – which is not dissimilar to the Board – we are a modestly size organisation with a committed staff keen to do what it takes to get the job done!

Connecting like-minded people

Linking environmentally-minded people with local action groups has become easier, thanks to a new online database.



Plover Patch members Stephanie and Michael Fuller.

The web based resource, which is an initiative of the Board, is designed to help community groups promote their work and attract new volunteers.

Currently more than 150 environmental groups have their information posted on the site which is located at www.amlrnrm.sa.gov.au.

One group hoping to attract new members through the database is the Plover Patch Group at Morphett Vale.

Michael Fuller, coordinator of the Plover Patch Group, said the Board's database initiative was a terrific idea and would be of great benefit to groups such as his.

"From the day we started work on our site, the thing that has held us back has been a lack of volunteers," said Mr Fuller.

"Lots of people are concerned about the environment but not many are committed enough to be actively involved. The 'doers' are rare.

"I've gotten much more out of volunteering than I ever thought I would. You get to see the fruits of your efforts over time. The people you work with are community-spirited great people who become great friends."

The Plover Patch Group, which began four years ago, is dedicated to restoring a section of the Morphett Vale Creek, west of Panalatinga Road.

Groups wishing to have their information added to the Board's Environmental Directory should contact the Board on 8273 9100. ●

Teeing off stormwater reuse projects

Adelaide took another step towards better management of its water resources with the official launch in February of a \$2.8-million wetland and stormwater reuse scheme at The Grange Golf Club.

Yvonne Sneddon, Presiding Member of the Board teamed up with Federal Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Malcolm Turnbull, Chief Executive of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation Rob Freeman and Vice President of The Grange Golf Club Kerry McGorm, to declare the Grange wetland open on World Wetlands Day.

The project is a joint initiative funded 30% by The Grange Golf Club and 70% by State and Federal Governments through the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board.

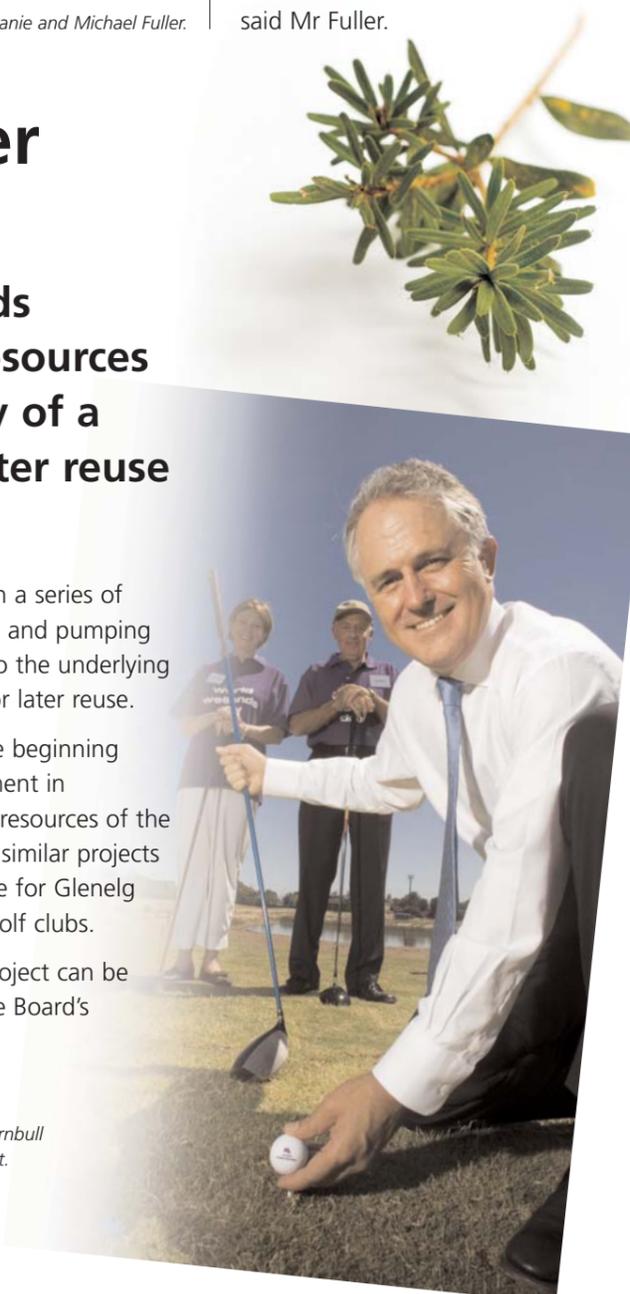
The Grange Golf Club project harvests stormwater runoff from nearly 500 hectares of surrounding

suburbs, cleaning it in a series of constructed wetlands and pumping the treated water into the underlying aquifer for storage for later reuse.

This project is just the beginning of even more investment in protecting the water resources of the Adelaide Plains, with similar projects already in the pipeline for Glenelg and Royal Adelaide golf clubs.

A brochure on the project can be downloaded from the Board's website. ●

Federal Minister Malcolm Turnbull tees up to launch the project.



Pest Management Strategy

The most comprehensive pest management strategy in Australia has been developed by the Board and is now out for public comment.

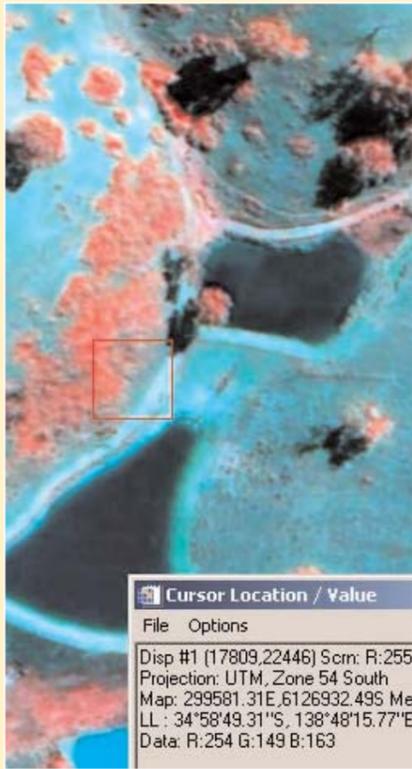
The Strategy addresses all vertebrate pests and weeds across the Board's region, including those in aquatic environments such as waterways and the Gulf St Vincent.

It outlines an integrated, coordinated and cooperative approach to pest management and is the first time such a strategy has been developed to address all known pests in a region.

The Strategy has been developed in the context of a risk management framework and discusses, in broad terms, appropriate methods for pest and weed control both in the agricultural sector and other environments.

Climate change has also been a consideration as management regimes will need to be mindful of variations in rainfall and temperature.

Public comments on the draft Strategy are invited by 23 May 2007 in writing to the Board. Copies of the Strategy can be downloaded from www.amlrnrm.sa.gov.au ●



Satellite image capable of pin-pointing weeds in the landscape.

New weapon in fight against weeds

Satellite images that can differentiate between species of weeds could well help in the Board's fight to control weed infestations across the region.

The Board is undertaking a pilot study into the effectiveness of satellite data in mapping weed infestations in a 100 square kilometre area and, if successful, will employ the technology to map its entire region.

David Hughes, the Board's Senior Adviser, Sustainable Landscapes, said the satellite mapping would save many hours of on-ground work identifying and mapping weeds and monitoring the success of control and reduction methods.

"The satellite images allow us to see the extent of a weed problem, prioritise the infestation against others in the region, and identify the best method of control," said Mr Hughes.

More than 2000 weed species have been recorded in the Board's region, an area which is home to 70 per cent of the State's population and significant agricultural and environmental assets.

The satellite images allow staff to identify the most prevalent woody weeds in the region, such as blackberry, broom and wild olive.

"It is very effective in highlighting shrubby species with distinctive foliage and shape. So we're able to, for example, distinguish between different species of broom," said Mr Hughes.

"Satellite technology continues to improve and at the same time, the price has reduced greatly. The data is at such a high resolution that plants as small as 60cm can be identified."

The trial will continue over the coming months to further consider the viability of satellite imaging as a weed management tool. ●

Sustainable Landscapes take shape

The Board's new Sustainable Landscapes Program is taking shape and three new service areas have been created to ensure its effective delivery. The service areas are North, Central Hills and South Coast.

To oversee the implementation of the new program in these areas, the Board has appointed Michael Garrod, John Wood and Martin Weidenbach as Area Managers in these respective areas.

It is the Board's aim that the Sustainable Landscapes Program will deliver an integrated model of assistance to help land managers achieve effective stewardship of the region's natural resources.



Newly appointed Area Manager from the left Martin Weidenbach (South Coast), John Wood (Central Hills) and Michael Garrod (North).

The Program is a new approach to NRM in the region providing educational and on-ground works support services to land managers in partnership with the community.

While a new program, the Sustainable Landscapes Program has been built using the experiences and successes of the past to achieve a flexible and integrated model of delivery that will meet the needs of the Board and those land managers and stakeholders involved. ●

Planning to better use our water resources

Work associated with Water Allocation Planning has been keeping staff and stakeholders busy during the past months.

A number of Prescribed Areas exist within the Board's area, each of which requires a separate Water Allocation Plan.

In February, a series of community workshops were held to explain the science behind water allocation in the Western Mount Lofty Ranges.

In the same month, the Minister for Environment and Conservation adopted the new McLaren Vale Water Allocation Plan which revised the existing Plan.

The Plan for the Northern Adelaide Plains is progressing with

investigations currently taking place on allocation and sustainable yields. While in the Barossa, the Plan for this area is undergoing community consultation.

Groundwater in the central Adelaide area is likely to be prescribed and the process for developing this area's Plan will soon commence.

For more information contact the Board on 8273 9100 or visit our website at www.amlrnrm.sa.gov.au ●

Get involved in the Board's NRM Plan

Do you have any thoughts and suggestions or want to be involved in consultation on the NRM Plan?

If so, go to the NRM Plan section at www.amlrnrm.sa.gov.au and leave your feedback on what you think should be considered and included in the development of this important document.



Keeping up with the Express



The Board produces a monthly e-newsletter called "Echidna Express".

This newsletter provides regular updates from the Board as well as snippets that may be of interest to community groups and individuals active in the NRM field.

If you would like to receive this newsletter contact bill.zissopoulos@adelaide.nrm.sa.gov.au



Green Crew leads the way

While the grass on some school ovals is wilting with the effects of the drought, one local High School has used ingenuity to turn its oval into a green oasis.



From left to right, Mark Webb, James Mathews, Tim Dickinson, Mathew Harmati, Jessica Renaglie, Peter Weantoni.

Using an automated irrigation system and a tank 'farm', Gawler High School is now able to harvest around 90% of the water it needs for grassed areas from stormwater – that is an amazing 1.5 million litres.

To highlight the great impact of the water harvesting project, a recent rain of only 30mm netted over 180,000 litres of water.

The school's smart irrigation practices include the use of a tensiometer to

determine the moisture of the soil and identify when best to water.

This exciting project has been driven by the School's Green Crew, a group of dedicated students from the school who wanted to play their part in applying sound environmental principles throughout the school. In addition to water, the Green Crew has also initiated recycling initiatives and has also been educating other students on being green.

Gawler High School, with the help of Mark Webb and the Green Crew, are showing a great example of how schools and other community-based organisations can make a difference. ●



NRM Plan Update

A key component in the development of the Board's new NRM Plan is the compilation of a 'State of the Environment Report'.

The report brings together information and data to form a comprehensive snapshot of the environment. It is then used to develop a plan of how to best manage the natural resources in the region.

The effort in preparing this report has been extensive, including technical studies as well as input from key experts, staff and relevant stakeholders. The draft report is now being finalised.

Produced in parallel with this report has been the development of the resource condition targets for the Board's region. These targets describe the desired condition for an environmental asset that should be achieved over the next 20 years. These have been grouped into five themes within the Plan: Land, Water, Biodiversity, Marine and People.

One of the most important aspects of developing the Plan is ensuring that the community and stakeholders have a say on what is included.

The Board's consultation efforts are now well underway, with surveys being distributed to seek feedback on the Plan's visions and goals, and to investigate broad issue priorities.

Over the coming months, there will be a series of forums open to partner groups and the public to obtain consensus on outcomes and to help prioritise strategies and actions.

For more on the Plan visit our website at www.amlnrm.sa.gov.au ●

Waterwatch watching more than water

Teachers attending a recent snake awareness seminar may have sat with their feet off the floor at the beginning, but by the end of the night they were more comfortable sharing the carpet with some amazing reptiles.

The seminar was hosted by the Waterwatch Southern Adelaide Program as part of their teacher development program.

While the name Waterwatch may imply a watery focus, over the years this popular schools and community program has expanded beyond water to deliver education activities covering a host of other environmental topics such as land and biodiversity issues.



Visit the waterwatch website at www.waterwatchadelaide.org.au for their range of activities. ●



Making a Show

The Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre put itself and other environmental programs on display at the recently held Mt Pleasant Show.

With the help of a \$3,500 Community Awareness Grant from the Board, the Resource Centre coordinated a large marquee at the popular rural show.

A host of groups took up space in the enormous tent including the likes

of Fishcare, Waterwatch, Upper River Torrens Landcare Group, Native Animal Network and the Grassy Ecosystem Project to name a few.

Congratulations to all involved for creating such a comprehensive and informative NRM exhibit. ●

On course

Here is a sample of just some of the courses on offer through the Board's Land Management Program.

Organic Farming

A 5 week course. Learn all about Organic Farming, the history of the industry, certification processes, organic pest and weed control, plus more.

WHERE Gawler

WHEN early May

CONTACT Melissa on 8568 2948

Farm Machinery for Small Properties

All you have ever wanted to know about a selection of tractors, slashers, spray units and calibration. Tillage and direct seeding implements will also be on display.

WHERE Victor Harbor

WHEN 2nd June

CONTACT Andy on 8391 7500

