RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT
THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

Recovery Team	THROMBOLITE (STROMATOLITE-LIKE MICROBIOLITE) COMMUNITY OF A COASTAL BRACKISH LAKE (LAKE CLIFTON) RECOVERY TEAM
Reporting Period	**Calendar year 2008**

Current membership

Member		Representing
1. Chair	David Mitchell	Nature Program Leader, DEC Swan Region
2. Exec Officer	Jill Pryde	DEC Species & Communities Branch
3.	Jim Lane	DEC Science Division
4	Stephen Dutton	Nature Conservation Officer, DEC
5.	Dr Brenton Knott	University of Western Australia
6	Fiona O'Connor	Coordinator, Lake Clifton Landcare Group
7	Jane O'Malley	City of Mandurah
8	Amanda Willmott	Water and Wetlands Officer, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
9	Anthony Barr	CSIRO (corresponding member)

Dates meetings were held	22 July 2008 and 24 November 2008.
One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for *WATSNU*	**Summary** • A comprehensive monitoring strategy was developed by DEC Hydrologist, Matt Forbes. The aim of this document is to set up a monitoring regime to ascertain the age, extent, health and diversity of the thrombolite community of Lake Clifton. This will enable an assessment of hydrological threats to the thrombolites, lake water levels and vegetation degradation. This will assist evaluation and mitigation of threats and will compliment existing research projects. • Data loggers and a rainfall gauge were installed. This equipment will support the monitoring program. • A PhD project has commenced. The broad objective of this research proposal is to evaluate the impact of water salinity and nutrient levels on the aquatic biota in Lake Clifton. • A community nomination was submitted by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council to the Commonwealth that will seek the listing of the TEC under the EPBC Act. The nomination is currently in the assessment phase.
List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team	• A rain gauge was installed at the residence of a Lake Clifton Friends Group representative, (lies on the eastern side of Lake Clifton). There has previously been no accurate rainfall data available for the Lake Clifton area. • Loggers to measure EC, water level, temp and pH have been installed in temporary housing at the end of the boardwalk. • Loggers installed in one shallow bore on lake edge and one on Lake Clifton Road; • Mineral analysis of thrombolites has been completed, one from Martins Tank and the other from Lake Clifton. Data was similar for both lakes.

	• Two transects to collect vegetation data were installed within the Yalgorup National Park. One was located near the boardwalk at Lake Clifton and one near Preston Beach. This is part of a project seeking to identify suitable fauna habitat sites. This was an initiative of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council. • Jim Lane has continued to monitor the water level, salinity, pH and nutrient status at Lake Clifton. Salinity has shown the greatest change, but depth has also undergone significant change. • Brenton Knott continues to assist the Fragyle group. This group aims to promote community awareness of the values of the Yalgorup Lakes system and surrounds. • The City of Mandurah continues to be involved in bushland management around Lake Clifton with the aim of producing a rehabilitation plan. • The Friends of Lake Clifton group have carried out weeding days targeting fleabane, Geraldton carnation weed and cotton bush. • Funds provided by DEC have enabled the employment of a contractor to remove woody perennials - jack pepper, apple of Sodom and olive trees. .
Assessment of progress towards meeting criteria for success (from Recovery Plan)	Until the monitoring strategy has been in place for a specific time, it will be difficult to assess recovery against criteria for success for the TEC.
Assessment against criteria for failure (from Recovery Plan)	The current Interim Recovery Plan (IRP) covers the period 2000-2009 and states that the criteria for failure are significant and sustained detrimental changes to water quality or water levels in Lake Clifton, significant decline in area of living thrombolites, major shift in composition of the microbial community. It cannot currently be determined conclusively if any of the thrombolites are alive.