

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
environment
AWARDS 2009

It gives me great pleasure to present the winners and finalists of the 2009 WA Environment Awards.

Now in their eighth year, the awards are one of the key avenues for the Western Australian State Government to recognise and acknowledge environmental excellence in Western Australia.

In addition to highlighting the outstanding efforts of individuals, community groups, businesses, corporations and government agencies in enhancing and protecting our environment, by showcasing these achievements, the State Government plays a key role in highlighting the efforts of entrants to the wider community.

The outstanding calibre of this year's entrants is inspiring. I have no doubt that you will be impressed, as I have been, with the standard of entrants featured within this booklet.

I am particularly impressed with the diversity and innovation of the 2009 entries, which cover a myriad of environmental areas across the 11 award categories.

Applications from more than 100 small-to-large-scale projects were received this year; all motivated toward conserving and enhancing our environment.

The efforts of all applicants, regardless of size or the availability of supporting resources are valued. Grass-roots projects that come from the heart of local communities often hold broader applications.

This year we have split the category that rewards the contribution of community groups into two – metropolitan and regional. The State Government recognises that living in a regional area presents unique challenges in terms of environmental protection and conservation. With regional areas covering the vast majority of the State, their ongoing commitment to positive environmental projects is vital.

As Minister for Environment, I have been fortunate to work with many environmental groups in WA and I believe that anyone involved in the protection and enhancement of our environment is a winner in their own right.

Thank you to the judges and awards' sponsors, including Edith Cowan University, Packaging Stewardship Forum, Publishers National Environment Bureau, Royalties for Regions, Sustainable Energy Development Office, Western Power, the Waste Authority and Whiteman Park.

I look forward to celebrating this important event with you all tonight.

Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC
Minister for Environment



Waste Authority
Sustainable Energy Development Office



ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS



PACKAGING
STEWARDSHIP
FORUM

Waste Authority

The Waste Authority is responsible for the strategic direction and development of a new State-wide, long-term waste strategy for the continuous improvement of waste services, and waste avoidance and resource recovery in Western Australia. This includes the setting of targets for waste reduction and resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill. It will also play an important role in advancing product stewardship and extended producer responsibility in Western Australia.

Sustainable Energy Development Office

The Sustainable Energy Development Office (SEDO) was established to deliver the State Government's sustainable energy policy. Its role is to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Western Australia. SEDO provides programs ranging from rebates for renewable energy equipment to public information services and engages with all sectors of the community.

Edith Cowan University

Edith Cowan University (ECU) is a large multi-campus institution with more than 22,000 students. Committed to breaking down barriers to education, ECU is considered a pioneer in the development of alternative entry pathways to higher education, helping Western Australians reach their full potential.

ECU's focus on teaching and research is inspired by engagement and partnerships. The university works closely with private and public sector organisations, locally and overseas, in designing its study programs. Research is undertaken in collaboration with industry working towards solving real problems across the social, economical, physical and environmental spectrums.

ECU is proud to be supporting the WA Environment Awards and strives to be a leader in environmental education. As a large organisation, ECU is committed to reducing the environmental impact associated with its operations by conducting its activities in a socially and environmentally responsible manner and encourages staff, students and the broader community to do the same.

Royalties for Regions

Royalties for Regions is an historic agreement that underlines the State Government's long-term focus on regional development throughout Western Australia.

Through Royalties for Regions, the equivalent of 25 per cent of the State's mining and onshore petroleum royalties will be returned to the State's regional areas each year as an additional investment in projects, infrastructure and community services.

Royalties for Regions projects are being implemented right across the State, giving people in regional areas new opportunities to help shape their own future and plan for longer-term sustainable development.

Packaging Stewardship Forum

The Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council was established in 2006. The forum works with partners across Australia to deliver industry recycling, litter reduction and education programs on behalf of its members, who consist of Australia's major beverage companies and their packaging suppliers.

The forum's highly successful 'Do the Right Thing' anti-litter campaign has proven to be a strong litter prevention message, with more than 80 per cent of people recognising that 'Do the Right Thing' means put your waste in the bin, and with more than 300 towns and cities around Australia taking the 'Do the Right Thing' message to their communities.

Publishers National Environment Bureau

The Publishers National Environment Bureau was formed by the major Australian newspaper and magazine publishers in 1990 to represent their interests in recycling. Since then, a series of industry waste reduction agreements with the Commonwealth and State governments has seen newspaper recycling levels increased from 28 per cent (at the start of 1990) to almost 78 per cent last year, making Australia a world leader in recycling old newsprint. The paper is de-inked at the Norske Skog Mill in NSW and then used in the manufacture of new newsprint here in Australia.



Western Power

Western Power is the principal electricity transmission and distribution business in Western Australia and is committed to sustainable development. Western Power supports the protection of the natural environment and the preservation of biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.

Western Power's Environmentally Sensitive Area Program is an excellent example of the organisation's ability to respect biodiversity values while providing a safe sustainable electricity supply for the Western Australian community. The Carbon Neutral Program is another key aspect of its environmental protection focus, one that results in direct benefits to the environment by improving the State's biodiversity. Furthermore, Western Power will continue to advocate for sustainable work practices in the electricity supply industry in Australia.

Whiteman Park

Whiteman Park is one of the largest metropolitan parks in the world. Situated on the Swan Coastal Plain, where the majority of Western Australians live, the Park embodies those experiences that make living in Western Australia unique – the space, isolation, fragile landscape, biodiversity and climate that shape the lifestyle and the very spirit of the people of Western Australia. The Park, with more than 650,000 visitors each year, is committed to preserving and enhancing biodiversity and a sustainable future for Western Australians.

WA Environment Awards also supported by:

Corporate Theatre Productions

Established in 1989, Corporate Theatre is famous for creating cutting-edge corporate events that captivate, excite and motivate. Whether it is a conference, awards night, product launch or annual general meeting, Corporate Theatre's creative and production resources will design and stage your event with style and imagination – in any venue – in any location. With 20 years of experience, Corporate Theatre offers clients a complete production service from concept and creation through to management and production.

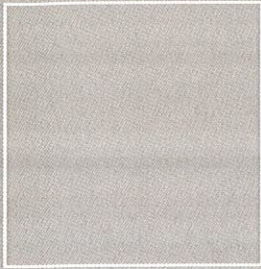
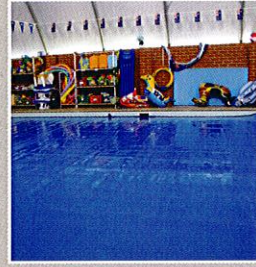
Sandalford Wines

Founded in 1840, Sandalford Wines is one of Western Australia's oldest and largest privately owned wineries and is proud to sponsor the 2009 WA Environment Awards through the 'Element' range of wines. These everyday wines offer fantastic value for money and over-deliver on quality. Most of the wines within the 'Element' range come from 50-year-old vines grown in WA's Swan Valley. Sandalford Wines is Western Australia's first winery to utilise an artificial wetland concept for the treatment of all winery liquid waste. After treatment, the quality of this resource is such that it is used to irrigate the gardens and lawn areas which surround the winery environs.

Overall Environment Awards Winner



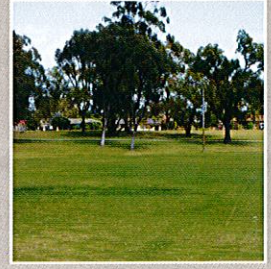
Overall Environment Award Highly Commended



Corporate Business Leading by Example Award



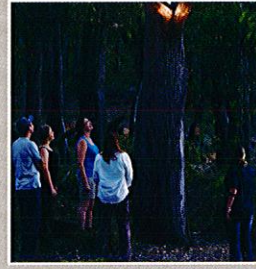
Government Leading by Example Award



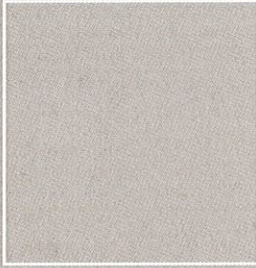
Small Business Leading by Example Award



Biodiversity Conservation Award



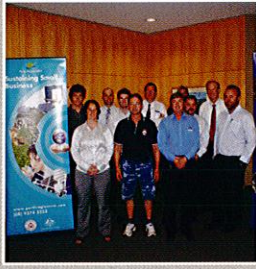
Bush, Land and Waterways Award



Coastal, Marine and Estuarine Award



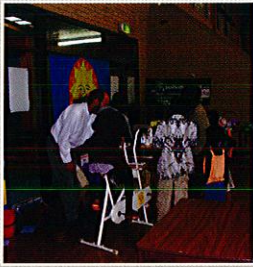
Environmental Education and Communication Award



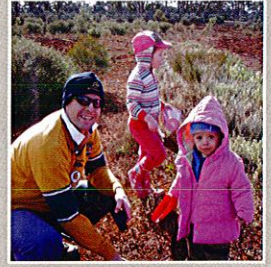
Resource and Waste Management Award



Community Energy Efficiency Award

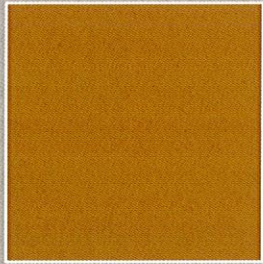
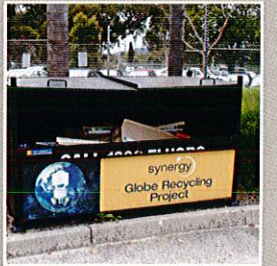
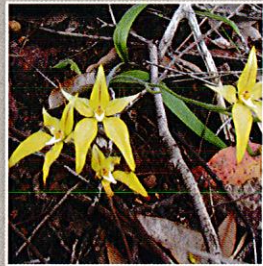
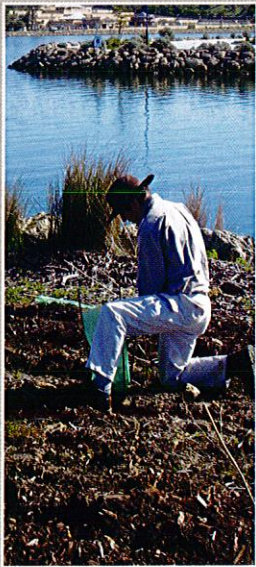
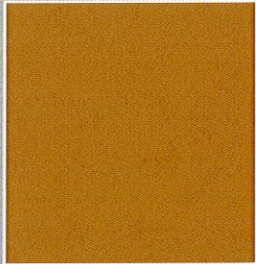
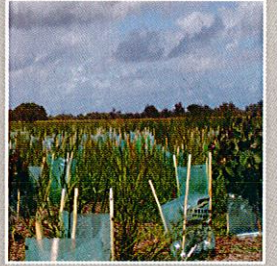
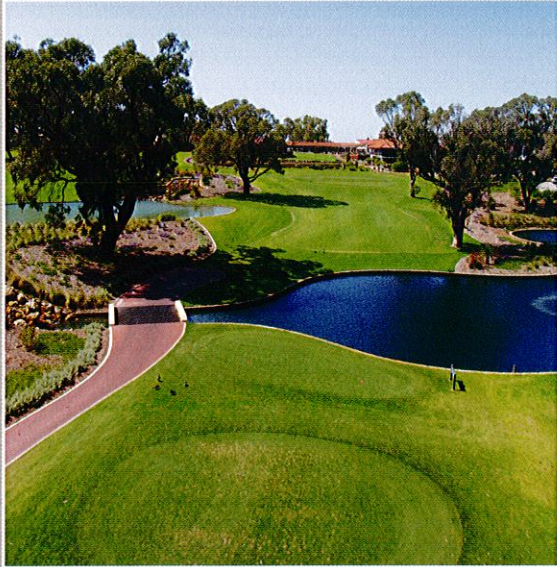
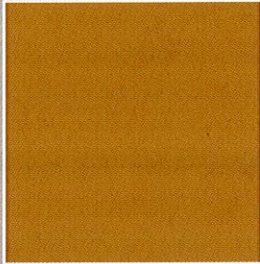
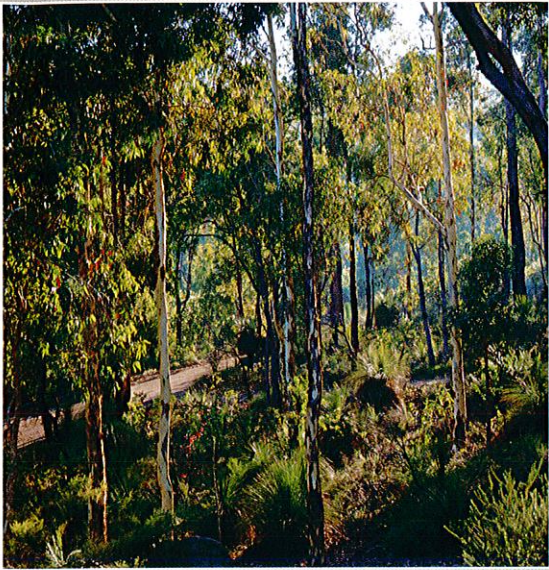
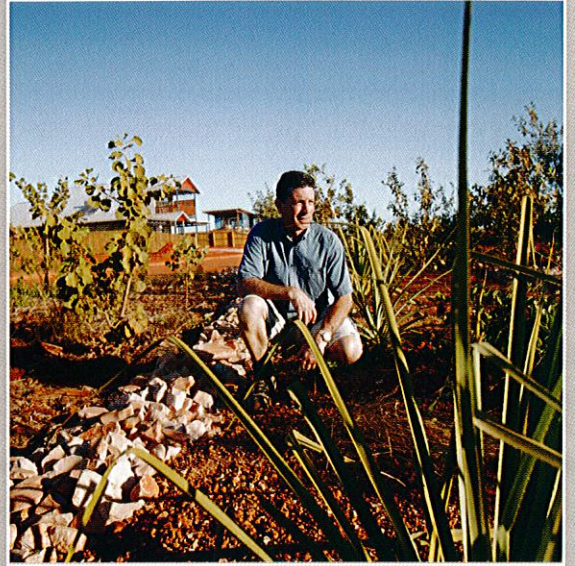
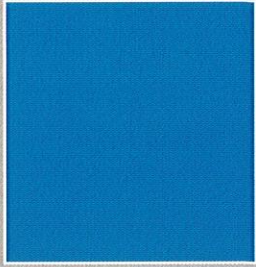
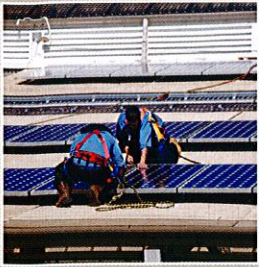


Community Achievement – Regional Award



Community Achievement – Metropolitan Award





Overall Environment Awards Winner Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG) is a leading not-for-profit community environmental group that has been working within the community to improve the environment in and around Kalgoorlie-Boulder for the past 35 years.

KBULG's vision is for a *'better environment and better lifestyle for the community of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and its visitors'*, with a mission to *'communicate, educate and participate'*.

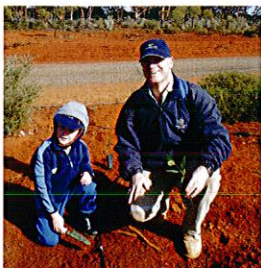
Through public awareness, education and action, KBULG involves the entire Kalgoorlie-Boulder community,

including residents, businesses, industry, schools, community groups and visitors. The organisation provides meaningful, worthwhile community projects that rehabilitate and enhance the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's environment while fostering community spirit.

Activities include a Junior Landcare Education program that is run at local primary schools. This year, KBULG has more than 100 students enrolled in the program, which sees them learn about the Goldfields environment, local flora and fauna as well as recycling, being waterwise and embracing sustainable living.

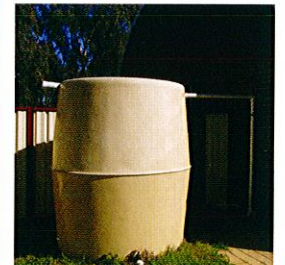
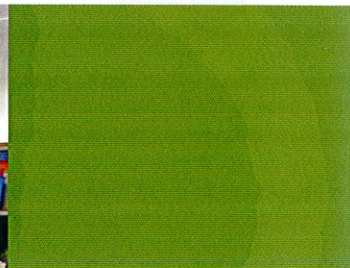


Congratulations to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group for being named the overall winner of the Western Australian Environment Awards 2009.



For the wider community, events include annual tree-planting days, waterwise garden competitions, 'Bag a Biter' annual weed competition, 'Rethink! Reduce – Reuse – Recycle Week' and the bi-monthly meeting native plant group.

KBULG is an excellent example of integrated environmental management by a landcare group. Its community involvement spans all generations and involves a wide canvas of environmental management, landcare, waste management and water wise recycling.



Highly Commended **Seadragonz Swim School**

Environmentally friendly and sustainable swim school

Seadragonz Swim School has developed a utopian learning environment while significantly minimising its carbon footprint. It is leading the way for more environmentally friendly swim schools in Australia.

It is a learn-to-swim centre that embraces all the concepts of a utopian learning environment while considering the factors that make swimming pools unhealthy to the environment, and water and energy hungry.

Child drowning is the leading cause of death in young children in Australia and learning to swim from an early age is helpful in addressing this issue. However, swimming pools use a lot of water and can pollute water systems. In addition, heating and other operational costs are expensive.

Seadragonz Swim School has successfully become a leading 'green' swim school. The business continues to look at ways to improve on the initial project including

investigations into the use of wind and solar power for energy and other forms of water disinfection.

This small business has developed systems that reduce costs (building design, energy consumption) and also has taken measures to reuse all waste water with well thought out treatment and end use for different origin and quality water. It also has found uses for most if not all surplus/redundant equipment and items through community donations.

It is an exemplary project and a significant investment and financial risk for such a business.

Seadragonz Swim School stands out as a major achievement for a small business that has invested significantly in non-core activity with no external support.

Winner Wesfarmers Premier Coal *Ngalang Boodja Mine Lake Aquaculture Project*

Local innovation and international vision has seen Wesfarmers Premier Coal take a leadership role in the establishment of the Ngalang Boodja Mine Lake Aquaculture Project – a research aquafarm that implements leading technologies for the sustainable rehabilitation and future commercial use of mine voids.

This ground-breaking environmental initiative has linked large-scale mine rehabilitation with Aboriginal education and training to create a feasible, sustainable and vibrant new centre for marron farming in Collie.

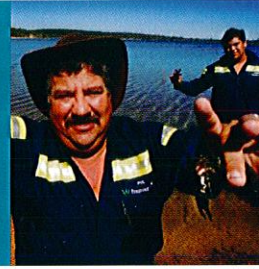
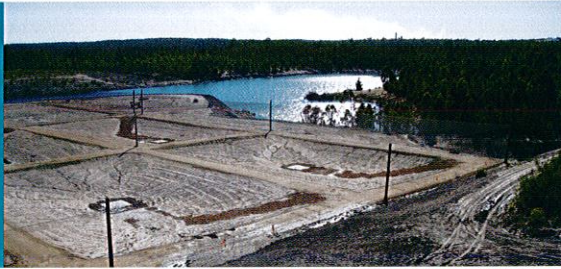
The conversion of a former mining facility into a community asset is providing opportunity and direction to the township of Collie, and ownership and

environmental reward to those workers involved in its continued growth and success.

The project has successfully developed techniques in water treatment, while increasing WA's marron production and providing additional benefits of education in aquaculture.

The project has the potential to create a freshwater industry development hub that will play a critical role in the growth and profitability of the industry in WA. It also showcases how aquaculture can integrate within the State's mining operations to deliver tangible benefits to the local community and WA.

CATEGORY



Corporate Business Leading by Example Award
SPONSORED BY CORPORATE THEATRE

Finalist St John of God Health Care *Caring for each other and the environment*

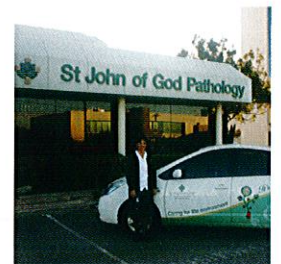
The values of environmental sustainability and caring for the Earth are at the very core of the vision and mission of St John of God Health Care (SJGHC). As a leading provider of health care and outreach services in WA, NSW, Victoria and New Zealand its ethos is one that '*demonstrates ecological concern and respect for the Earth*'.

In WA, SJGHC services consist of hospitals in Subiaco, Murdoch, Geraldton and Bunbury, a pathology laboratory in Osborne Park and associated collection centres and head offices in West Perth and Osborne Park.

SJGHC has reinforced a strong commitment to environmental stewardship by establishing an environmental capital expenditure fund for projects to

reduce energy, water and waste. A total of \$1.5 million has been allocated for 38 capital projects ranging from installation of rainwater tanks, water recycling systems, flow regulators for taps and showers, water wise landscaping, waterless urinals and major efficiency upgrades to plant and lighting.

Energy and water saving projects at SJGHC facilities are projected to save 25.3 million litres of water, almost 794,000 kilowatts of electricity and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 691 tonnes.





Awarded to a business, corporation or organisation for leadership, commitment and excellence in sustainable business practice or conservation.



Finalist CSBP Limited

Expansion of CSBP Limited's nutrient-stripping wetland at its Kwinana industrial complex to reduce the level of nitrogen in process effluent stream and minimise environmental impact on the local marine environment.

For more than a decade, CSBP Limited has worked to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous loads in industrial wastewater discharge generated from its manufacturing operations at Kwinana.

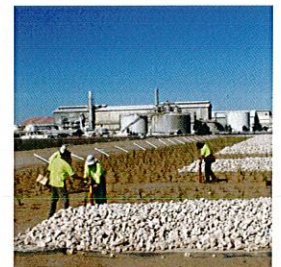
In 2004, CSBP constructed a pilot nutrient-stripping wetland at its Kwinana industrial complex to treat industrial wastewater prior to discharge to Cockburn Sound and then, from October 2005, to the Sepia Depression Ocean Outfall Line (SDOOL).

This pilot wetland was an important part of the development of CSBP's approach to water management on site and was the first of its kind in Australia constructed to treat industrial wastewater. While the pilot wetland was effective in removing metals (such as copper, iron and aluminum) from wastewater, nitrogen removal efficiency of the pilot wetland was less than expected.

In June 2009, CSBP completed a \$2.1 million expansion of the wetland to assist in further reducing the nitrogen load in wastewater prior to discharge and increase stormwater holding capacity for the site.

The project involved the construction of two additional cells of a revised design to complement the original pilot cell built in 2004. Both of the two new cells can hold and process approximately 2,000 cubic metres of wastewater per batch.

The expanded wetland improves the sustainable management of CSBP wastewater by providing a permanent treatment option for suitable streams, in a low-energy, natural approach. The practical demonstration of a diverse approach to wastewater management also provides a positive example for industry.



Winner City of Stirling

Water Smart Parks

The majority of the City of Stirling's parks and reserves are maintained through an extensive irrigation system comprising 360 bores covering 740 hectares of irrigated areas in 450 parks and reserves across 30 suburbs.

Endorsed by the Department of Water, the 'Water Smart Parks Strategy' is the first stage of the city's broader Groundwater Conservation Strategy, which will address the needs of climatic change and future availability of groundwater, while reducing the city's water usage, delivering cost savings in maintenance.

This strategy leads into the city's plan for a centrally controlled irrigation management system, which is linked to soil moisture probes and weather stations. This will ultimately enable the system to make its own

decision on how much water to apply given climatic conditions at the time.

'Water Smart Parks Strategy' achievements include designated 'water smart' reserves and the implementation of hydrozones and ecozones, the development of a Citywide Water Conservation Plan, a schedule to upgrade all inefficient irrigation systems on council land, a program to introduce graduated use of groundwater on all reserves and a communication plan to promote water smart reserves and the associated Million Trees initiative.

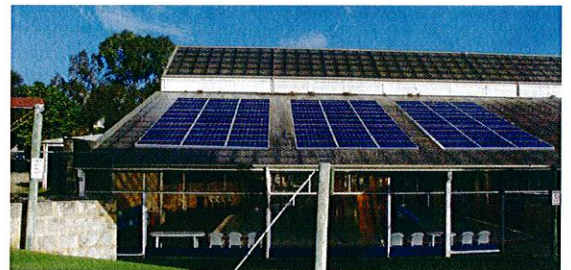
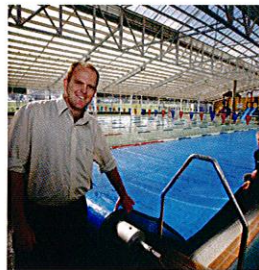
CATEGORY



Awarded to a government body, including local government authority, for leadership, commitment and excellence in sustainability or conservation.

Government Leading by Example Award

SPONSORED BY THE PUBLISHERS NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT BUREAU



Finalist City of Fremantle

Carbon Neutral Project

On 1 July 2009, the City of Fremantle became the first carbon neutral council in WA and the second in Australia. This project has taken less than four months and represents a radical new approach to carbon neutrality that prioritises action over aspiration.

The carbon neutral project builds on work done during the last decade through the Cities for Climate Protection program and other internal initiatives, and represents a dramatic extension of these efforts. Carbon neutrality is a well understood process encompassing measuring baseline emissions, reducing energy use, switching to cleaner fuels and offsetting residual emissions. The latest inventory shows that the city emitted 5,759 tonnes of CO₂e greenhouse emissions. In 2009–10 there will be zero net greenhouse emissions.

The city recognises that carbon neutrality is a continuous improvement process and therefore is continuing to increase energy efficiency and raise public awareness. Two current projects that build on the city's carbon neutral position are the construction of the largest grid-connected solar farm in Perth (29.4kWp) and a demonstration retro-fit sustainable home, currently under renovation.

Events are being run to promote the carbon neutral work that the city has done and to encourage individuals and other organisations to reduce their carbon footprint. The city is working with community groups such as the Sustainability Fiesta to increase carbon literacy throughout the community.

Finalist Synergy

Carbon Permit Supply Agreement with the Forest Products Commission

In 2008, Synergy formed a partnership with the Forest Products Commission (FPC) for the planting of 6.5 million trees throughout regional WA. This 31-year contractual relationship involves a series of annual large-scale plantings which provides Synergy with the right to significantly expand the number of trees planted during the next 10 years. The partnership will achieve both environmental outcomes and generate carbon permits for the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

At the time of the agreement, this partnership was the largest forest carbon sink in Australia. During the next 30 years, the 6.5 million trees planted in 2009 will store carbon equivalent to offsetting the emissions of more than 1.1 million passengers flying from Perth to Melbourne return.

Synergy and FPC's partnership provided renewed vigour in the biosequestration sector with a number of other electricity companies following Synergy's lead.

As at July 2009, the project had successfully met its target to secure 5,000 hectares of land and planting is well under way.

In addition, the partnership will provide many other environmental and farming benefits to WA. These include mitigating the progression of salinity in targeted areas on the farms in which the trees are planted and supplementary benefits such as providing shelter for livestock, ancillary support for ongoing efforts to address soil erosion and providing an additional, more stable source of farm income in the Wheatbelt region.



Finalist LandCorp

Regional Sustainable Infrastructure Decision Model

LandCorp, the State Government's land and property development organisation, has created a unique infrastructure decision-making model designed to provide fit-for-purpose, sustainable infrastructure planning options for regional communities.

The LandCorp Sustainable Infrastructure Decision Model (SIDM) challenges conventional thinking and practices by revolutionising the way infrastructure services are planned and created.

Led by LandCorp and developed through a comprehensive stakeholder consultancy process including engaging leading consultancies, other WA Government agencies and technical experts, and incorporating a peer review process, SIDM focuses on optimising energy, water and wastewater infrastructure planning.

The model gives planners the flexibility to assess a number of planning options for projects that have unique requirements. It can be applied across different scales of development and levels of planning, enabling key decisions to be made supported with a clear business case.

SIDM is a highly specialised analytical tool that identifies appropriate, best practice, fit-for-purpose infrastructure solutions for towns throughout WA – providing outcomes which address environmental, cultural, economic, policy and regulatory requirements, and accommodate future growth.

Since its initial application in Hopetoun, SIDM is beginning to gain wider acceptance and adoption by other WA Government agencies. It is now being applied in other infrastructure projects including one in Gracetown.

Finalist Town of Cambridge

Wembley Golf Complex ISO 14001 EMS Implementation

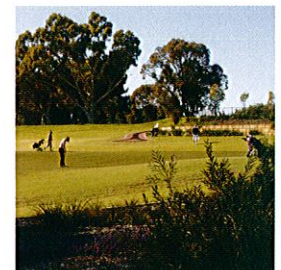
The Wembley Golf Complex has developed and implemented an ISO 14001 compliant Environmental Management System (EMS), confirming its commitment to environmental management and conservation.

The Wembley Golf Complex covers 122 hectares of land and includes several important areas of remnant bush identified by the Department of Environment and Conservation. This includes a dense stand of flooded river gums, not commonly found in the metropolitan area. The Town of Cambridge also has one of the densest populations of grass and tuart trees in the metropolitan area.

In total, 22 hectares of bush have been designated as having possible conservation value within the course. For this reason the Wembley Golf Complex is recognised as an area of significant environmental, social and economic value.

Through the implementation of the EMS a tree health survey is conducted on a regular basis, a bush regeneration program is in place and bird counts are undertaken to determine the effect of the system on biodiversity.

The main focus of the EMS is to ensure sustainability and to protect the natural features for generations to come. According to an external ISO 14001 audit performed on the complex in May 2009, the Wembley Golf Course is the only environmentally endorsed golf course in Australia.



Winner Seadragonz Swim School

Environmentally friendly and sustainable swim school

Seadragonz Swim School has developed a utopian learning environment while significantly minimising its carbon footprint. It is leading the way for more environmentally friendly swim schools in Australia.

It is a learn-to-swim centre that embraces all the concepts of a utopian learning environment while considering the factors that make swimming pools unhealthy to the environment, and water and energy hungry.

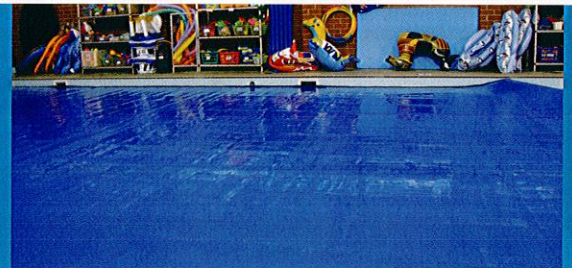
Child drowning is the leading cause of death in young children in Australia and learning to swim from an early age is helpful in addressing this issue. However, swimming pools use a lot of water and can pollute water systems. In addition, heating and other operational costs are expensive.

Seadragonz Swim School has successfully become a leading 'green' swim school. The business continues to look at ways to improve on the initial project including investigations into the use of wind and solar power for energy and other forms of water disinfection.

This small business has developed systems that reduce costs (building design, energy consumption) and also has taken measures to reuse all waste water with well thought out treatment and end use for different origin and quality water. It also has found uses for most if not all surplus/redundant equipment and items through community donations.

It is an exemplary project and a significant investment and financial risk for such a business.

CATEGORY



Small Business Leading by Example Award

SPONSORED BY THE PACKAGING STEWARDSHIP FORUM



Finalist Jack in the box

As a marketing and advertising agency based in the beautiful town of Busselton in the State's south-west, Jack in the box seems a little out of place in an environmental award setting. However, when Director Scott Robinson read an article about the fact that sunny Busselton could be washed away in a matter of a few hundred years due to global warming, he felt it was time to stand up and set an example for the business community.

As an organisation that works closely with regional businesses, Jack in the box was in a position to lead by example and encourage others to embrace the 'green' message. The method was through a marketing campaign which shocked, awed and, importantly, raised awareness of the need to preserve our environment.

The campaign was supported by a myriad of community activities, events, sponsorship and internal initiatives, including a dedicated website. The results were a change in attitude for Jack in the box's entire staff, and the many businesses they encounter.



Finalist Tranen Revegetation Systems

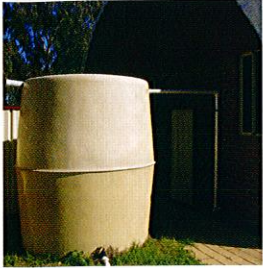
Since 2002, Tranen Revegetation Systems has been involved in more than 380 revegetation, seed collection and consulting projects from Jurien Bay to Bunbury, with the majority based in the greater Perth metropolitan area.

It has been responsible for planning and implementing numerous revegetation projects undertaken in the greater Perth area during the past two years. Some of the significant achievements from 2008 and 2009 include:

- planting 640,000 seedlings, and direct seeding of 117 hectares, using only locally occurring native species on 75 individual revegetation projects for 49 clients;
- collecting and banking 488 kilograms of provenance native seed from 301 species for 35 projects for 26 clients;
- intensively managing weeds covering more than 300 hectares of bushland; and
- undertaking revegetation in a variety of difficult conditions including coastal, wetland, estuarine, hills and bushland environments.

Indirectly, Tranen Revegetation Systems has contributed further through involvement with education, training and knowledge including school group and community planting days across Perth, seed collection training for Landcare groups, Apace, and Indigenous organisations, presentations to industry at domestic and international conferences and submissions of peer reviewed publications.

Seadragonz Swim School stands out as a major achievement for a small business that has invested significantly in non-core activity with no external support.



Finalist Integral Development *Integral Sustainability: Modelling the Way*

Integral Development is one of Perth's most unique leadership development consultancies, providing a comprehensive range of best practice services such as leadership programs, coaching and sustainability programs.

Its aim is to assist leaders to develop successful organisations that are highly ethical and innovative, and enrich people, the society and the natural environment in all they do. It undertakes a wide range of initiatives to educate leaders and implement appropriate sustainability practices within its own company and client organisations.

Internally, it works to minimise its environmental impact by actions such as reducing the number of fluorescent lights, purchasing 'green' chairs and desks, using filtered tap water rather than bottled water, purchasing indoor plants, maintaining a worm farm, recycling paper, discussing sustainability in staff meetings and offsetting all its carbon emissions.

It has held workshops on 'Leading Practices in Sustainability' for clients and stakeholders, facilitated sustainability strategy sessions, published articles on sustainability, interviewed the Chairman of Interface Carpets – the largest modular carpet manufacturer – and one of TIME's environmental champions Ray Andersen. Through the Integral Institute it runs a 'Global Integral Leadership Study' on exceptional social and environmental leaders.

Awarded to a small business that has demonstrated leadership, commitment and excellence in sustainable business practice or conservation.



Winner Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Karakamia Woylie Project: providing a long-term haven for a critically endangered species in Western Australia

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is an independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation of Australia's threatened wildlife and ecosystems.

During the past 15 years, AWC has established a population of endangered woylies and safeguarded them against threats that have decimated the species elsewhere.

Widespread at European settlement, woylie numbers plummeted to near extinction due largely to predation by foxes and cats. The species responded positively to the Department of Environment and Conservation's Western

Shield baiting program and, by 1996, became the first Australian vertebrate to be removed from endangered species lists. Tragically, despite this initial success, woylie numbers have again shown a precipitous decline with a loss of more than 80 per cent of the population in the past 10 years.

In 1991, AWC established the Karakamia Wildlife Sanctuary in the Perth Hills, fenced it and eradicated feral predators before reintroducing woylies in 1994. This was WA's first translocation of a threatened species into a privately managed conservation area. Karakamia's founder population of 36 woylies has grown to more than

CATEGORY



Biodiversity Conservation Award

SPONSORED BY WESTERN POWER



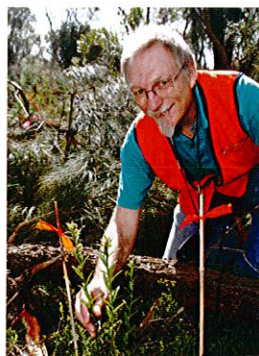
Finalist Dr Eddy Wajon

Preserving, Protecting, Propagating and Promoting our Plants

Dr Eddy Wajon has been involved in the conservation, management and revegetation of public and private bushland. He has published books on WA wildflowers and given talks on conservation and the State's flora.

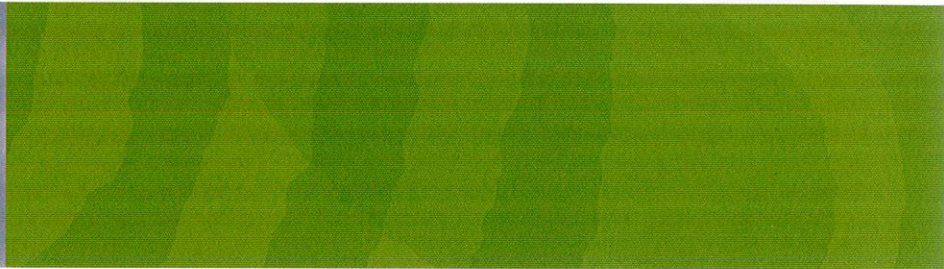
Dr Wajon owns two bush blocks in Gondwana Link, one of which is revegetated cleared farmland. He has managed both blocks to control feral plants and animals, and encourage nesting birds. The two properties have hosted numerous State, national and international groups involved in Gondwana Link activities or those interested in flora and revegetation.

Dr Wajon has been instrumental in the preservation and management of Ken Hurst Park in Melville as a conservation reserve. He has self-published four colour guides to spring wildflowers of WA and contributed photographs to local planting guides and wildflower calendars. Through the WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group and the Friends of Ken Hurst Park, he has lobbied for the conservation of remnant vegetation affected by the construction and management of roads, airports, hospitals and other infrastructure. He has worked with Main Roads WA to reduce clearing, conserve environmentally sensitive areas, revegetate degraded areas, transplant rare flora and assist communities in managing their local nature reserves.



450, with another 600 translocated elsewhere. Karakamia protects the only population of woylies in WA that is not in steep decline and is therefore critical for the species' survival.

AWC also conducts, facilitates and supports research to better understand the species and improve future management. Regular guided spotlighting tours inform the public about the plight of woylies while providing a rare opportunity to see this animal in its natural environment.



Finalist **Birds Australia**

In 2000, following the formation of the then Department of Conservation and Land Management's recovery team for Carnarby's black-cockatoos, Birds Australia WA took up the challenge and instituted the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Recovery Project. Since then, this community-based project has provided the main focus for recovery actions for the species.

Following the initial phase of the project, field work with landholders focused on priority breeding areas in the northern Wheatbelt and Great Southern.

In 2006, the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Recovery Project South Coast began. On-ground works on the south coast include the identification and monitoring of breeding sites, and the protection and management of breeding and feeding habitat through fencing, weed control, revegetation and the brokering of voluntary management agreements and conservation covenants.

The south coast project has been a major success with 35 local landholders now involved in the recovery of this iconic bird and 23 new nesting sites discovered.

Finalist **Mike Whitehead**

The Kemerton Wetland Conservation and Enhancement Project

The Kemerton Wetlands are one of the last remaining aggregates of wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain that are still in relatively good condition so are of significant conservation value.

Four years ago, Mike Whitehead started work centred on the long-term conservation of these wetlands that included promotion of the values of the wetlands, rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, research and, where possible, community involvement. Community members have played an important part in rehabilitation work and it is hoped they gained as much from the wetlands as the wetlands gained from their efforts.

Most of the high value wetlands are now protected and the project has engaged the support of local industry and natural resource management groups. As well as securing the future of these significant wetlands it is hoped that the work will provide knowledge for other projects elsewhere.

Awarded to an individual, group or organisation for outstanding achievement in conserving Western Australia's biodiversity.

Winner Greening Australia, Alcoa of Australia and Harvey River Restoration Taskforce

Nell's Block: restoring a landscape for wildlife on the Swan Coastal Plain Damplands

Nell's Block is a seasonally inundated dampland adjoining two large drains within the Harvey Drainage System. Sites such as this on the Swan Coastal Plain, are of high ecological value and yet up to 80 per cent have been destroyed through clearing and drainage. Presently, there is little recorded data available on successful restoration techniques and methods to restore these once biodiverse habitats.

However, thanks to a 10-year management agreement between project partners Greening Australia, Alcoa of Australia and the Harvey River Restoration Taskforce, this 16.5-hectare site is providing a unique opportunity to undertake scientific research at the paddock scale to

assist in filling the gaps in our knowledge of restoring biodiversity to these sites.

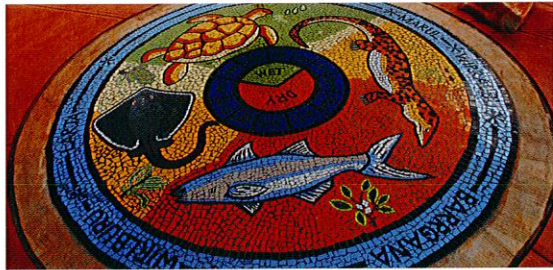
Vital to the ongoing success of Nell's Block is the breadth of stakeholders involved. During the past 18 months, community members have contributed close to 3,000 hours of time. In what is a tough and challenging landscape to restore – extremely wet in winter and dry cracking clays in summer – the project is already witnessing the return of thriving populations of floral, faunal and fungal species. There is no greater motivator to those working in landscape restoration than witnessing such returns. Nell's Block is already successfully achieving this.

CATEGORY



Bush, Land and Waterways Award

SPONSORED BY WHITEMAN PARK



Highly commended and Finalist LandCorp

Januburu Six Seasons Residential Estate, Broome

LandCorp's Januburu Six Seasons is a residential estate for up to 340 lots, four kilometres from the Broome town centre, close to iconic Cable Beach. Covering 42.5 hectares, Januburu Six Seasons stands apart from other regional developments due to its:

- innovative water-sensitive design to reduce possible pollutants;
- landscaping in harmony with the natural environment;
- reflection of the cultural heritage of local Indigenous people; and
- climate-sensitive lot and housing design.

'Januburu' means 'our country' in the local Indigenous language and the 'six seasons' are the divisions in the year recognised by the Yawuru community (formerly known as Rubibi). LandCorp has sought to create a community that genuinely responds to those seasonal rhythms.

The estate uses local native plant species which are drought-resistant and need little maintenance once established. It also has drawn on the Indigenous cultural heritage to name streets and parks, design the landscape and encourage a connection to regional open space (Minyirr Park).

One-quarter of the total site has been given over to public open space (3.5 hectares) and a cultural corridor, Magurr Par, comprising regional open space and conservation sites (7.53 hectares).

Awarded to an individual, group or organisation for outstanding achievement in restoring or rehabilitating degraded or contaminated land, and/or in the conservation of our catchments and waterways.

Finalist Esperance Regional Forum

Working with the community to protect and maintain the Lake Warden Wetland System

Esperance Regional Forum (ERF) undertakes a broad range of projects restoring and rehabilitating degraded land and catchments, with efforts especially concentrated within the Lake Warden Wetland System.

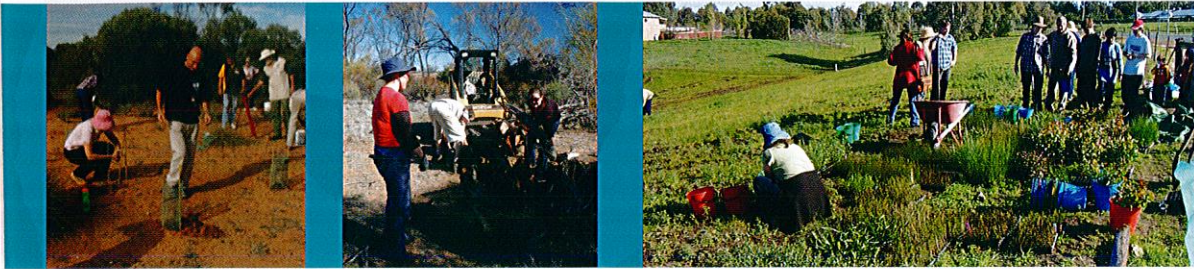
ERF implements 'The Lake Warden Strategic Recovery Catchment Plan' by working closely with land-holders and stakeholders to ensure all understand the importance of this catchment and why it's necessary to secure its sustainable future.

Over the years, ERF has worked hard to educate and facilitate farmers, small land-holders, school children and the larger local community on the benefits of land care, accessing knowledge and programs offered by relevant stakeholders, holding workshops of key issues (such as

catchment care, weed invasion, pest control, sustainable housing, as well as carrying out restoration work).

Under ERF's coordination, creek lines have been revegetated, perennial pastures planted, fences erected to prevent stock damage, and regular 'volunteer-based' biodiversity tree planting days have occurred to stop surface water run off, correct soil erosion and prevent the advancement of salinity.

Native animal and plants are now recovering within the catchment and there is an overall increased public appreciation of our wetlands. Everyone knows Esperance has beautiful beaches, but it's only now, through hard work and promotion by ERF, that people are realising that our wetlands are just as wonderful and well worth saving.



Finalist Koora Retreat

Koorarawalyee Water Reserve Restoration

Koorarawalyee Water Reserve Restoration has seen an important culturally historic water source in the Goldfields region restored through community efforts.

Koorarawalyee Water Reserve was used by travelling Indigenous people as a water source before European exploration. Indigenous guides led explorer C.C.Hunt to this water and grazing resource. He had labourers sink a well here on his third expedition on 1 June 1865 and used it on the 1866 expedition.

The water supported travellers to the goldfields and Hobson's Club Hotel. Other wells were sunk to access precious water seeping from the granite outcrop. A reservoir and harvest walls were constructed in 1895 to collect and store seven million litres of rain water for use by the steam trains to the Goldfields as they stopped at Koorarawalyee Siding. The reservoir and its infrastructure fell into disrepair from the 1920s.

Nearby Koora Retreat Centre volunteers and visiting groups have restored the soak, Hunt's well (named Quardagin or Quardanoologin Well), Koorarawalyee Rock Reservoir, harvest wall infrastructure and grazing areas of this water reserve. This has required historic research, earthworks, herbaceous and woody weed and feral animal control, digging 300 cubic metres of mud from the reservoir and well, fencing, track and creek line erosion control, propagation of local provenance seedlings, re-vegetation and development of a conservation and management plan that has been accepted by the Department of Regional Development and Lands.

Finalist The Chittering Landcare Centre

The Chittering Landcare Centre works in two catchments, the Ellen Brook and the Brockman River. Operating over the past 10 years the centre staff and volunteers have planted more than one million trees, encouraging landholders to protect their waterways and the remnant vegetation on their land. The centre was recognised by the Australian Government in 2008 as the operations of the centre and staff:

- benefited water quality by holding nitrogen and phosphorus loads stable despite increasingly intensive land use;
- protected biodiversity and the extent and quality of native vegetation despite development pressures; and
- enabled the Chittering Landcare Centre to build strong, positive relationships with local government, with the aim of making urban developments at the rural-urban interface more sustainable.

The centre works with the Department of Agriculture and Food to conduct workshops for small landholders to build understanding of land management issues relating to erosion, salinity, biodiversity, pests, diseases and weeds. Property planning workshops further encourage these landowners to manage their properties sustainably.

Another achievement by the dedicated land carers at the centre is the development of a regional herbarium attached to the WA Herbarium.



Winner Conservation Volunteers Australia and Woodside Perth Coastal Conservation Program

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) is Australia's leading practical, community-based conservation organisation.

In 2007, CVA collaborated with Woodside Energy, coastcare and the Rottnest Island Authority to create a two-year conservation program, aimed at tackling coastal degradation hands-on, to help rehabilitate Perth's most degraded beaches.

Working in partnership with local councils and community Coastcare groups, the program is injecting approximately 10,000 community volunteer hours into priority coastal conservation projects across the Perth metropolitan region.

Engaging hundreds of volunteers and Woodside employees, the program seeks to rehabilitate Perth's coastline, while increasing the community's understanding of coastal conservation and highlighting the fragility of metropolitan beaches.

The outcomes are making a marked difference to Perth's coastline. From the north to the south and across to Rottnest Island, large expanses of invasive plant species have been removed and native coastal seedlings planted in their place. More than 2,000 kilograms of marine debris has been collected and important walking trails to control visitor access erected. At Rottnest Island, two large active dune blow-outs have been stabilised and fencing has been constructed to prevent further dune trampling.

CATEGORY



Finalist Port Bouvard Ltd

Port Bouvard Foreshore Management Program

Rehabilitating more than 18 hectares of coastal and estuarine foreshore and planting in excess of 100,000 seedlings, Port Bouvard Ltd initiated a series of management programs during a period of eight years which stabilised, rehabilitated and protected the foreshore environment. Over the years, a variety of wildlife has returned to the area including several species of terns and plovers which have started to nest.

Creating dual-use paths, signage and restricting vehicle access, the Port Bouvard development has effectively managed recreational users while preserving the foreshores to reflect abutting Wannanup and Caddadup reserves and their unique ecological traits.

Employing new technologies including a weed inversion program, Port Bouvard Ltd was able to reduce weed infestation by 95 per cent within the first 12 months and this has continued to be sustained with minimal ongoing maintenance by the local council.

The company also has been heavily involved with local community groups and government agencies throughout the implementation process and was showcased by the Peel Harvey Catchment Council for its sensitive water urban design principles.

With 2,200 homes established in the estate, the foreshore areas have been enhanced and provide added amenity with a Surf Life Saving Club, viewing platforms, barbecues and controlled beach access.

As a result, what was once deemed as degraded foreshore has now been returned to a standard that is an asset to both the local community and the Peel area.

Furthermore, the program delivered a series of CVA training workshops, to build capacity in community coastcare groups to successfully recruit volunteers and manage them in future conservation projects.



Awarded to an individual, group or organisation for outstanding achievement in the protection, sustainable use or enhancement of our coastal marine and estuarine environments.



Winner Perth Region NRM

Improving the Environmental Performance of Small Business

Using a range of communication and education strategies, Perth Region NRM has engaged with the small business sector to achieve on-ground improvements in environmental performance and to build capacity for more sustainable business practices.

In providing assistance through a variety of approaches Perth Region NRM has recognised the unique needs and dynamics of small business, particularly light industry. It is understood that while small business owners are generally willing to 'do the right thing' for the environment, they are generally time and resource poor and unaware of where to access appropriate assistance, and this limits their capacity to make positive change.

Through valuable collaborative partnerships with a range of local governments and business associations this project completed more than 6,000 visits to small businesses across WA by the end of June 2009. Specific on-ground achievements included significantly improved skills and knowledge for business operators, a reduction in the discharge of pollutants from businesses into the environment, higher rates of waste recycling and more efficient use of resources, particularly energy.

As a non-regulatory organisation, Perth Region NRM has focused on effective communication and education to achieve these objectives. From on-site advice and newsletters to education material and expert guidance,

CATEGORY



Environmental Education and Communication Award

SPONSORED BY EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY

Finalist Environment House

EnviroEd from a High Street shopfront: 8 years in 8th Ave

Environment House (EH) was founded in late 2000, when it took on a shop, offices and backyard at 61 Eighth Ave, Maylands. The idea was to provide an environmental resource and campaign centre with the novel attraction of an eco-shop, with products providing useful talking points as well as raising funds.

As well as sourcing products not then available in WA, EH has become an awareness-raising 'one-stop shop' (sometimes for zero profit) about products hidden away in mainstream stores, for example cheap bulk vinegar and bicarb soda for household cleaning, door snakes, door seals and compost bins. Fair trade organic tea, coffee and chocolate were also included for their awareness-raising potential, and great taste, with thousands of explanations given about what Fair Trade means.

With support from the Cool Communities program in 2002-04 and support from Lotterywest and the Sustainable Energy Development Office from 2005 to 2008, EH developed an energy efficiency community education program, running hundreds of workshops and energy audits for visitors and, working through community agencies, for disadvantaged householders, including many refugee families. Many auditees recruited elsewhere made their way to the shop, curious to see where their advisory service came from.

Hosting three batches of Edith Cowan University primary teaching students for a fortnight-long practicum on community environmental education, and the flow-on effects, was a highlight in the development.

EH has been an important part of the lives of hundreds of volunteers and many thousands of members of the public who have visited Eighth Ave during the past eight years. This partnership of caring people has moved Perth a few notches towards more eco-sustainable living.

Finalist Derby District High School

Fishing Line Recovery Bin Project

Derby District High School is located in the State's West Kimberley, 220 kilometres from Broome. It has 554 students from Kindergarten to Year 12, of whom 80 per cent are Aboriginal.

While researching the effects of littering and plastic on the marine environment during International Year of the Reef, primary students from Derby District High School initiated a community education project to install fishing line recovery bins along the Derby Jetty.

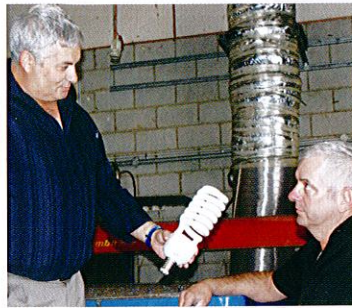
Fishers are encouraged through advertising and signage to use the bins to reduce litter and wildlife entanglement from fishing line waste.

Grants from the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley and Keep Australia Beautiful WA were secured to purchase material and signage. Local businesses also have supported the project, which has been welcomed by WA Sea Bird Rescue.

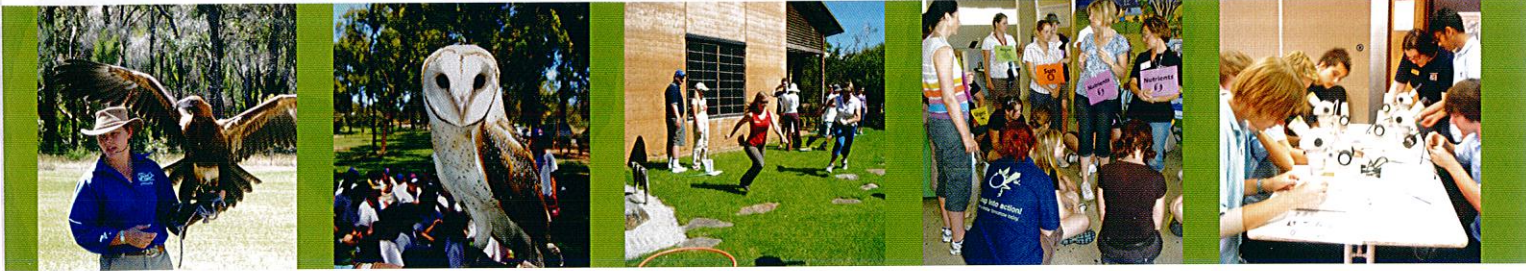
Students built the recovery bins and installed the first six in December, and plan to install more along with 'two way' signs providing additional information and promoting the message 'The Whole World Wins, Put Your Lines in the Bins'. Students and their families from the primary and high school regularly monitor and empty the bins.

To coincide with the installation, students began a concentrated advertising campaign in association with the Mary Island Fishing Club and Derby Media Aboriginal Corporation community radio 6DBY, which included a scripted radio interview and a song called 'Put Your Lines in the Bins'.

businesses have been provided with information to improve their understanding of what impact their operations have on the environment, what to do to make improvements and the reasons why this makes good business sense, including significant financial returns and reduced risks.



Awarded to an individual, group or organisation for the development and delivery of education and/or communication programs that address and contribute to the protection, enhancement and sustainability of the environment.



Finalist Yvonne Sitko

Education through Entertainment with Birds of Prey

Yvonne Sitko had a dream to develop and educate the public on birds of prey. Her dream became reality in 2005, when the Western Australian Birds of Prey Centre was established in Whiteman Park, Perth. In the past 12 months, Yvonne has excelled in education with the diversity of displays held at Whiteman Park, and also at schools, adult centres, eco-education centres, scout groups and special needs children centres throughout the metropolitan area.

Birds of prey, one of nature's top predators, play a very important part in our ecosystem. At the top of the food chain, they act as an indicator to the environment's general health. To maintain a healthy sustainable environment, humans need to co-exist with birds of prey.

Yvonne has always believed education through entertainment is a stimulating and fun way to learn. She has worked to develop educational programs in the form of flying and mobile static displays which provide a stimulating way for people to see these magnificent creatures up close, giving them an insight on how unique these birds are, what role they play in our environment and how susceptible they are to human activities.

Education through entertainment is the key to communicating with the public on conservation issues and in turn making them aware of their environment. Birds of prey are still misunderstood – they are still shot, trapped and poisoned. Through educational displays and communicating with the public, Yvonne is working to ensure the survival of birds of prey for future generations.

Finalist Western Australian Chapter of Australian Association for Environmental Education

Education for Sustainability Programs

The WA Chapter of the Australian Association for Environmental Education delivers Education for Sustainability (Efs) programs that link expertise within the network with community and educational groups. Its key programs are the following:

- Catchment, Corridors and Coasts (CCC) has been in operation for 14 years and is a three-day interactive program which provides a 'snapshot' of environmental education in WA. The journey is from the Woorlooloo Catchment through the Swan Coastal Plain to the Hillarys coast. Participants are members of community groups and youth organisations, the private sector, and local and State governments and are teachers and pre-service teachers. This facilitates developments of networks with and between practitioners, and an awareness of the resources and support across WA to help address core environmental and sustainability issues.
- Earth Day Expo has been providing primary-aged children a day of workshops from expertise in Efs. Held at Edith Cowan University's Mount Lawley campus during the past seven years, it is now expanded to the Joondalup campus and caters for more than 800 children a year.
- Geography Earth Environmental Science Year 10 Forum, conducted at the Perth Zoo, offers interactive workshops showcasing rewarding career choices for Year 10 students if they study the sciences in Years 11 and 12. For two years, the workshops have been presented by people working in key roles in government and business.
- National Science Week – Community Science Fair, is a new initiative, where modern and Indigenous science knowledge was showcased in the context of botanical and soil science, bush foods, medicines, bush crafts, storytelling and creating a bush garden for the future. Science presenters and prominent Indigenous elders led innovative and engaging sessions on how to use this knowledge to live well in a changing climate.

Winner Care For Hedland Environmental Association

Cash for Trash

'Cash For Trash' is an initiative of the Care For Hedland Environmental Association and is a Western Australian first. Under the program, residents and community groups are directly paid 10c per whole glass bottle, \$6 per bag of aluminium cans and \$5 per bag of street litter when they hand in trash.

The 'Cash For Trash' pilot utilised fortnightly collections and took place for two months, commencing on Clean Up Australia Day (Sunday 1 March 2009) and concluding Saturday 2 May 2009. An initial target of 20,000 bottles was set, however this goal was smashed by the second collection event. The target was then set at 60,000 with the final target being 25,000 in the final collection effort. This also was beaten with 106,713 glass bottles collected after the 2 May 2009 collection effort.

After the success of the pilot, it was decided to continue the program until December 2009. Collections now take place on a monthly basis and in between collection/cash payment dates there is an 'honesty' drop off system in place at the South Hedland Landfill. The new end of year glass bottle target is 300,000 bottles. Figures so far look promising with 107,829 glass bottles returned in June and July 2009 as part of 'Cash for Trash'. In total, 214,542 glass bottles have been diverted from landfill and recycled under the program.

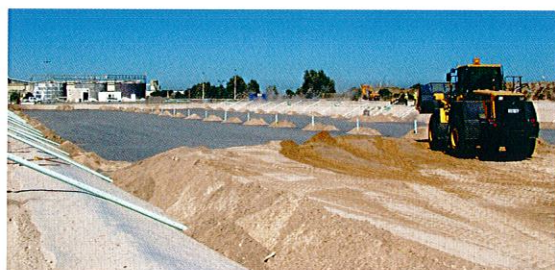
The glass bottles returned are crushed and used by the Town of Port Hedland for non-structural concrete purposes such as footpaths, road bases and drainage basins.

CATEGORY



Resource and Waste Management Award

SPONSORED BY THE WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Finalist CSBP

Expansion of CSBP Limited's nutrient-stripping wetland at its Kwinana industrial complex to reduce the level of nitrogen in process effluent stream and minimise environmental impact on the local marine environment.

For more than a decade, CSBP Limited has worked to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous loads in industrial wastewater discharge generated from its manufacturing operations at Kwinana.

In 2004, CSBP constructed a pilot nutrient-stripping wetland at its Kwinana industrial complex to treat industrial wastewater prior to discharge to Cockburn Sound and then, from October 2005, to the Sepia Depression Ocean Outfall Line (SDOOL).

This pilot wetland was an important part of the development of CSBP's approach to water management on site and was the first of its kind in Australia constructed to treat industrial wastewater.

While the pilot wetland was effective in removing metals (such as copper, iron and aluminum) from wastewater, nitrogen removal efficiency of the pilot wetland was less than expected.

In June 2009, CSBP completed a \$2.1 million expansion of the wetland to assist in further reducing the nitrogen load in wastewater prior to discharge and increase stormwater holding capacity for the site. The project involved the construction of two additional cells of a revised design to complement the original pilot cell built in 2004. Both of the two new cells can hold and process approximately 2,000 cubic metres of wastewater per batch.

The expanded wetland improves the sustainable management of CSBP wastewater by providing a permanent treatment option for suitable streams, in a low-energy, natural approach. The practical demonstration of a diverse approach to wastewater management also provides a positive example for local industry.



Waste Authority

Awarded to an individual, group or organisation for a significant contribution to resource and waste management and minimisation.

Finalist Edith Cowan University's Small and Medium Enterprise Research Centre

Developing environmentally sustainable business practices in small and medium enterprises

Since the program began, there has been a noticeable reduction in broken glass and street litter around Port Hedland. It also has been encouraging to see that each collection day consistently sees an involvement of approximately 50 per cent of children aged two to 16.

'Cash for Trash' is sponsored by Town of Port Hedland, BHP Billiton Iron Ore, South Hedland New Living Program, North West Telegraph, Spirit Radio, CMA Recycling, Transpacific Cleanaway, Pilbara Logistics and McDonalds.

Research shows that the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector may contribute up to 60–70 per cent of global industrial pollution, and indicates that the sector generally is unaware of its environmental impact. In response, Edith Cowan University's Small and Medium Enterprise Research Centre (SMERC) worked with project partner Perth Region NRM, local and State government agencies, and industry, to research and improve SME attitudes and practices in resource and waste management.

Based on its research, SMERC and Perth Region NRM developed a series of programs for SMEs in metropolitan Perth and WA regional areas, which informed them of, and provided them with, an immediately useable range of practical interventions and support mechanisms to improve their resource use and waste management practices.

Since the first project was started in Bellevue in 2005, participants have reported an increased awareness of their environmental impact and have reduced their discharge of pollutants and waste into the environment, increased their recycling efforts and implemented energy and water efficiency measures to reduce or better manage consumption. Some have even reported an improved bottom line as a result of the three SMERC programs which linked them with relevant waste disposal/recycling services and educated them about energy and water management.



Finalist Riverside Primary School

Stretch Festival Trans-Cube-ation Recycled Art Project

In 2009, a Year 4 class at Riverside Primary School was involved in a collaborative public art installation for the Mandurah Stretch Festival. The project was called Trans-Cube-ation (Consumerism and Climate Change) which involved integrating an artwork on or around a cube(s) of recycled material from Cleanaway. The Stretch Festival, held in early May, is an annual community arts festival which is now in its ninth year. This year, the festival attracted approximately 30,000 spectators and participants.

Fourteen visual artists from Mandurah and the surrounding Peel communities were invited to work with different community groups to transform a recycled cube(s). Riverside Primary School was the only primary school involved in the Trans-Cube-ation art project. The students worked in collaboration with their teacher Terry Wozniuk and French artist Bénédicte Guilhon to produce an artistic maze made entirely from recycled objects.

In conjunction with the school community, the class collected enough recycled objects to produce its exciting maze showing that objects once destined for landfill can be transformed into something of beauty. The maze, an extremely popular installation on the Mandurah foreshore, attracted many of the festival's spectators.

Finalist Synergy

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Globe Recycling Pilot

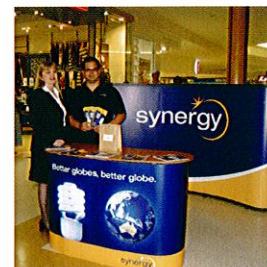
Energy retailer Synergy launched a pilot recycling program to work in unison with its 'Better Globes, Better Globe' campaign in 2008, which encouraged consumers to switch from using incandescent globes to the more energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFL).

While CFLs are more energy efficient than incandescent light bulbs, they contain a very small amount of mercury that affects landfill. As such, it is important they are disposed of and recycled in a responsible manner. Accordingly, Synergy launched a pilot recycling initiative to investigate and, in due course, establish a workable CFL recycling system.

The CFL globe recycling pilot program provided for householders to safely dispose of used CFLs and enable the globes to be 100 per cent recycled into marketable by-products.

Recycling bins were placed at local government authority properties around the metropolitan area including the cities of Fremantle, Gosnells, Mandurah, Stirling and Wanneroo, the Town of Vincent and Synergy's head office in Perth.

This initiative enabled Synergy to promote the use of CFLs while simultaneously raising concerns about their mercury content and encouraging their responsible and safe disposal in an environmentally friendly manner.



Winner Environment House

Our \$WaP (Saving Water and Power) Project

Funded by a joint grant from the Sustainable Energy Development Office and Lotterywest, '\$WaP' supported disadvantaged households to cut their utilities bills, live more comfortably and help the environment by advising them, and installing small energy and water-saving devices. As well as assisting aged, sole parent and disability pensioners, the Environment House (EH) reached 123 refugee households through some great support agency caseworkers who organised workshops, bilingual workers and visits for their clients.

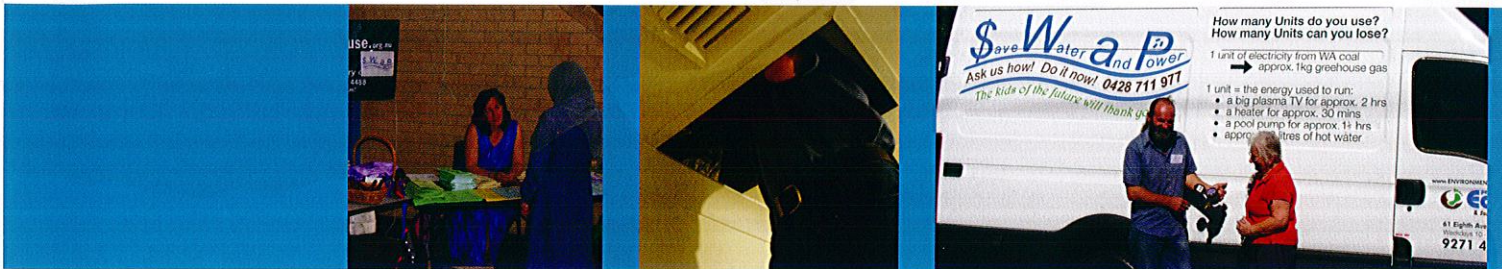
EH produced and distributed an illustrated booklet on saving water and power, which was translated into seven languages – Amharic, Arabic, Burmese, Farsi, French (for some Africans), Kirundi and Swahili. A budget was provided for some on the spot interpreting at workshops

and at-home audits where no family members or friends could play this important role.

EH energy advisor Rob Gulley's visits were made at times to catch most members of the household, involving everyone aged six and above in such experiences as getting children to see how hard it was to drive various appliances by 'driving' them on a pedal power generator.

Rob installed many hundreds of light globes, insulated hot water pipes, repaired flyscreens, insulated hot water pipes and repaired leaky hot water taps. Basic use and safety tips for electricity, gas and water were also reinforced for those who were living with their own services for the very first time, after spending time in refugee camps. For some this meant learning to ignite the gas pilot light, or to close the oven when roasting food.

CATEGORY



Community Energy Efficiency Award

SPONSORED BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



Finalist Green Lights School Fundraiser

A community survey conducted by the South Eastern Regional Energy Group (SEREG) in 2002 indicated that schoolchildren were the age group most resistant to changing their energy-use behaviour, and women were the sex most reluctant to make changes to their energy-use behaviour. A school fundraiser program was considered a great way to reach both these groups.

The 2008 Green Light School Fundraiser involved five 'switch your thinking! (syt!)' local government authorities – the cities of Armadale, Perth and Gosnells, the Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire and the Town of Victoria Park.

It involved working closely with 35 schools and community groups. More than 10,000 households received information on the benefits, both environmental and financial, of using energy efficient lighting in their homes.

The result was the successful distribution of 7,212 compact fluorescent light globes (CFLs) to more than 2,000 households – nearly 50 per cent more than the original aim of the project (5,000 CFLs).

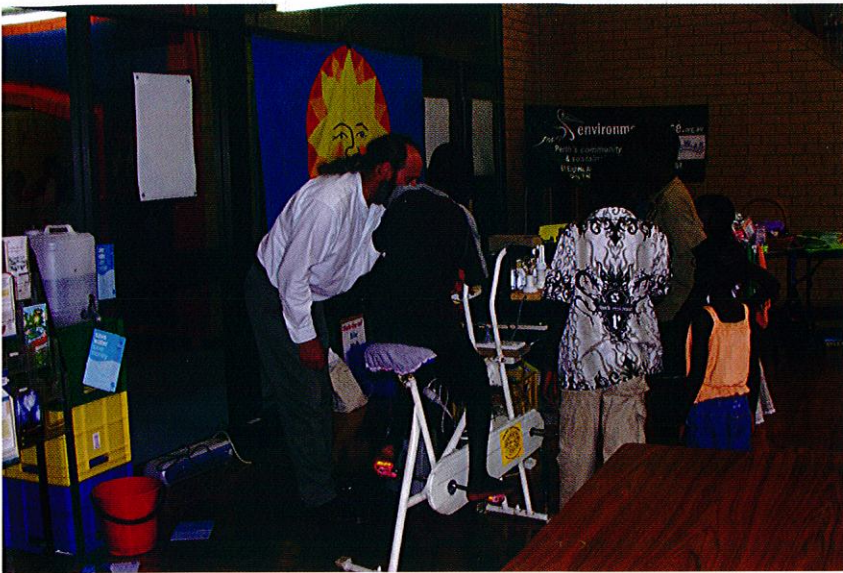
The use of energy-efficient CFLs instead of ordinary incandescent light globes will have a significant effect on reducing the region's greenhouse gas emissions and will abate some 4,327 tones of equivalent carbon dioxide over the next five years.

The project also helped participating schools and community groups raise more than \$12,000 as a fundraising initiative.

greenlight fundraiser



Government of Western Australia
Sustainable Energy Development Office



Awarded for a significant contribution to community energy efficiency.

Finalist switch your thinking! (syt!)

'Switch your thinking! (syt!)' is a campaign that aims to engage the local community's participation in a series of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the south-east region of the Perth metropolitan area.

The campaign is an initiative by the South East Regional Energy Group (SEREG), which is made up of three member councils – the Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire and the cities of Armadale and Gosnells. All three councils agree that climate change is a reality and greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, are responsible. The team has operated since 1999 under the Cities for Climate Protection Program, acting to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions, promote health and liveability in the region and work towards developing partnerships with business, industry and residents.

Syt! was launched in 2002, with the aim to link seemingly disparate projects and actions under a recognisable brand. The program was strategically designed to engage the community and as a result has pioneered in the formation of many successful partnerships and innovative projects.

Syt! was implemented in two phases. Phase 1 (June to December 2002) involved successfully launching the brand, implementing measures at corporate level within SEREG, and piloting several successful community projects, later replicated during Phase 2.

Phase 2 (July 2003 to present) involved increasing brand recognition, developing and implementing projects targeting the residential sector, and beginning to work with the commercial and industrial sectors.



Winner **Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre**

Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre is a non-profit organisation committed to the care and rehabilitation of native wildlife. Kanyana is also actively involved in education for conservation and endangered species breeding.

Kanyana has more than 120 volunteers including students from high schools and universities, overseas visitors and from the community. Volunteers staff the centre for three shifts a day, seven days a week, and provide care for sick, injured, orphaned and displaced wildlife until they are able to be returned to their natural habitat.

Kanyana is actively involved in breeding three endangered species, as well as participating in past and ongoing research projects in partnership with university researchers.

It is committed to promoting a strong conservation message and its education team visits schools, community groups and events to give the community close contact with wildlife. Kanyana also provides trainers for DEC's Wildlife Rehabilitators Course and participates in wildlife related conferences and seminars.

The centre continues to find ways to engage the community in wildlife awareness. Partnerships with mining companies to train site personnel in wildlife first aid and involvement of other wildlife carers in Kanyana's training, as well as the structured training of its volunteers, ensure the ongoing development of hands-on knowledge of wildlife care.

CATEGORY



Community Achievement – Metropolitan Award

SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION



Finalist **Nature Reserves Preservation Group**

The Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NPRG) is an incorporated community group in the Shire of Kalamunda. Its focus is bush reserves and community enjoyment of them.

The NPRG was formed in 1989 in response from the community to the Shire of Kalamunda's proposition to sell small bush reserves for housing in an effort to provide further recreational space for residents. The group was effective in saving these local bush blocks and has since formed a large number of local friends groups to care for them.

The NPRG has run continuously for 20 years with some foundation members still being involved. The group maintains a profile in the community and has worked to raise awareness of the importance of environmental issues and the need to staff local government appropriately to be able to deal with these issues. The group was instrumental in establishing a council-supported Community Environmental Advisory Committee.

The NPRG has written many submissions on issues such as Shire of Kalamunda District Conservation Strategy, protection of bushland through the subdivision process, development of the BGC brickworks, town planning scheme amendments and Perth Airport Draft Environmental Strategy.

Since 1996 the group has attracted funding of \$70,899 for environmental projects in areas such as Crumpet Creek and Rocky Pool, both of which are on DEC-managed land. These projects represent their commitment to the local area and their ability to create great working relationships at State and local government levels.

Awarded to an individual or group for leadership, commitment and excellence in the protection and/or conservation of the Western Australian metropolitan environment.



Department of
Environment and Conservation



Finalist Conservation Volunteers Australia and Woodside Perth Coastal Conservation Program

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) is Australia's leading practical, community-based conservation organisation.

In 2007 CVA collaborated with Woodside Energy, Coastcare and the Rottnest Island Authority to create a two-year conservation program aimed at tackling coastal degradation hands-on, to help rehabilitate Perth's most degraded beaches.

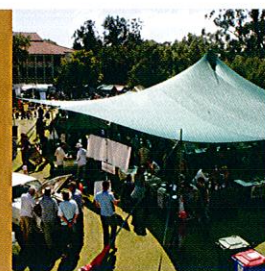
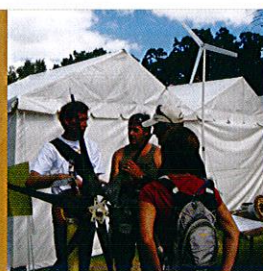
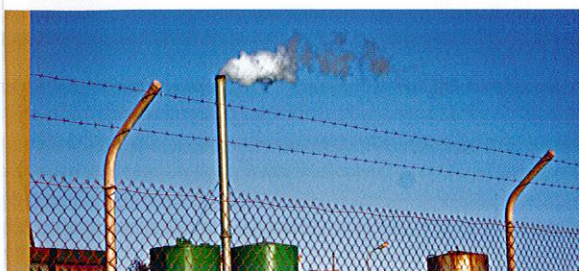
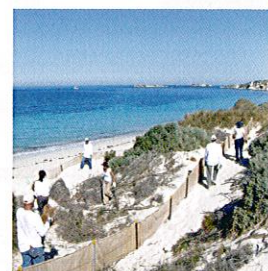
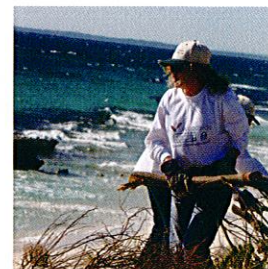
Working in partnership with local councils and community coastcare groups, the program is injecting approximately 10,000 community volunteer hours into priority coastal conservation projects across the Perth metropolitan region.

Engaging hundreds of volunteers and Woodside employees, the program seeks to rehabilitate Perth's coastline, while increasing the community's

understanding of coastal conservation and the fragility of metropolitan beaches.

The outcomes are making a marked difference to Perth's coastline. From the north to the south and across to Rottnest Island, large expanses of invasive plant species have been removed and native coastal seedlings planted in their place. More than 2,000 kilograms of marine debris has been collected and important walking trails to control visitor access erected. At Rottnest Island, two large active dune blow-outs have been stabilised and fencing has been constructed to prevent further dune trampling.

Furthermore, the program delivered a series of CVA training workshops, to build capacity in community coastcare groups to successfully recruit and manage volunteers on future conservation projects.



Finalist Alliance for a Clean Environment

Alliance for a Clean Environment (ACE) was founded in 1996 in response to community concerns about industry, environment and human health. In the past 10 years it has become a leading non-government body working with the community to advise, refer and inform. Working for social justice, environmental health and the community's 'right to know', ACE is composed of an alliance of community organisations who share knowledge and support.

The executive committee of ACE is manned by two full-time and five part-time volunteers, with expertise ranging from environmental science to activism, engineering, chemistry and social work.

ACE has been actively involved in researching and lobbying for improved industrial and environmental standards including the *Contaminated Sites Act* and the Government Inquiry into the waste control fire in 2001 Bellevue Health Surveillance Register. ACE has provided support and information for groups and individuals across WA, including those from Brookdale, Kwinana, Bellevue and Esperance. It has conducted surveys and held important public meetings and health forums (National Public Health Forum – *Not in my Backyard*, Contaminated Sites Conference – *Towards an Environmental Health Platform in WA*). ACE continues to play a significant role questioning and seeking environmental improvements and social justice for the betterment of the WA public.

Finalist Jonathon Thwaites

Jonathon Thwaites has organised and staged the Perth Sun Fair, which is the biggest sustainability event in Perth. He has achieved this by working with numerous sustainability groups in Perth and throughout Western Australia including the Conservation Council of WA.

The fair addresses the issues of sustainable and renewable energy technology and sustainable living practices, their availability and the practical implications, limitations and advantages of their application. It enhances the ability of the general public to make informed decisions in relation to sustainable technology and lifestyles, reducing the negative effects of their impractical use and the resulting perceived failure of technology or lifestyle changes.

The Perth Sun Fair is designed to be inclusive to ensure non-profit groups and business and government bodies have equal representation. By being a non-profit project, the fair asserts its independence from any particular interest group, maintains its credibility as non-partisan and provides an unbiased representation of a great range of groups.

The fair has grown strongly since its inception in 2004 where 2,000 people visited on the day and 20 organisations took part, to the 15,000 people who attended this year and the 100 organisations that took part. Jonathon is confident that these numbers will significantly increase next year. Sun Fair is a free event and it pays its own way.

Winner Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG) is the leading not-for-profit community environmental group working within the community to improve the environment in and around Kalgoorlie-Boulder for the past 35 years.

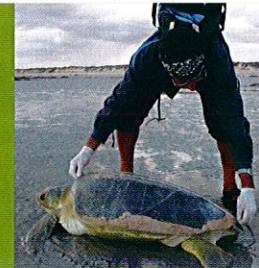
KBULG's vision is for a *'better environment and better lifestyle for the community of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and its visitors'*, with a mission to *'communicate, educate and participate'*.

Through public awareness, education and action KBULG involves the entire Kalgoorlie-Boulder community, including residents, businesses, industry, schools, community groups and visitors. The organisation provides meaningful, worthwhile community projects

that rehabilitate and enhance the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's environment while fostering community spirit.

Activities include a Junior Landcare Education program taught at local primary schools. This year KBULG has more than 100 students enrolled in the program that sees them learn about the Goldfields environment, local flora and fauna as well as recycling, being waterwise and embracing sustainable living.

For the wider community, events include annual tree planting days, waterwise garden competitions, 'Bag a Biter' annual weed competition, 'Rethink! Reduce – Reuse – Recycle' Week and the bi-monthly native plant group.



Community Achievement – Regional Award

SPONSORED BY ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS

Finalist Tangaroa Blue Ocean Care Society

Since 2004, this society's South West Marine Debris Project has grown both in the numbers of volunteers and the amount of coastline that has been cleaned creating a successful long-term project aimed at addressing marine debris through various activities including school and community presentations and clean-up activities, monthly monitoring, data presentation and clean-up tools.

The 2008 annual Cape to Cape Beach Clean Up engaged 571 volunteers covering 72 beaches. In October 2009 the event will expand to form the South West Beach Clean Up, targeting beaches between Perth and Walpole.

Data from the Monthly Monitoring Project has provided a unique long-term data set on marine debris affecting the south-west. This data has been used by local, State and Federal government agencies for strategic planning and to aid education to help mitigate marine debris in our waters.

School presentations and beach clean-ups engaging students in both the issue of marine debris and proactive solutions to mitigate it in their local area have taken place in more than 15 south-west schools in the past two years. It is hoped that the information and experience given to students will help to instil a stewardship for the marine environment in youth that will stay with them and create good behaviour in relation to littering.

In 2008 the Tangaroa Blue Ocean Care Society expanded the Marine Debris Project to include projects in the north-west region of WA, Far North Queensland, Fraser Island, New Zealand and Hawaii.

Finalist Shell EcoVolunteers

An initiative of Conservation Volunteers Australia with the support of Shell Australia

Shell EcoVolunteers by Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) is aimed at protecting critical nesting habitats and collecting valuable scientific data on the nesting range of sea turtles in the Kimberley region, with a focus on the Australian flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*).

At present, limited scientific and biological data exist on flatback sea turtles of the Kimberley region.

Two key community-based programs have been developed:

- The Cable Beach Community Based Monitoring Program engages the Broome community and visitors in daily beach walks for the four-month nesting season. Nest, track counts and hatchlings are recorded. Training of volunteers and local school presentations are key components of this program.
- The Eco Beach Monitoring Program engages teams of volunteers to patrol beaches for 40 nights to record scientific data from nesting flatbacks. Actions include flipper tagging, DNA sampling, turtle measurements, nest protection, hatchling emergence, marine debris surveys and community education by best practice viewing protocols. Documenting long-term sand temperature changes relative to climate change and satellite turtle tagging for migratory purposes are also planned.

Overriding these two field programs is the creation of the CVA Sea Turtle and Volunteering Information Centre in Broome, to further the community's understanding and awareness of nesting sea turtles in the Kimberley region.



Finalist SmartBurn

More Heat in Your Home and Cleans the Air for Tomorrow

Peter Hutchison is a Western Australian scientist who has demonstrated responsible sustainable environmental community leadership by inventing and promoting the simple-to-use SmartBurn product that reduces smoke haze and particulate emissions by up to 50 per cent from domestic wood heaters.

This exciting low emission technology improves the combustion process in the fire, enabling the fire to burn up to 17 per cent hotter, at the same time removing soot and flammable sap in the chimney flue, reducing a chimney fire risk.

Peter has helped the community by encouraging wood heating householders around Australia to prevent an estimated 890 tonnes of smoke haze and particulate emissions from entering the atmosphere by using the SmartBurn device.

It is his objective to prevent 1,000 tonnes by 2010 and an estimated 355 tonnes per year from the 24,000 new wood heaters sold annually in Australia.

Knowing that firewood is an environmentally sustainable and carbon neutral biofuel, through SmartBurn Peter is assisting the community to tackle climate change, reduce global warming and our ecological footprint by encouraging householders to reduce their dependency on fossil fuelled sources of energy.

Peter is extremely active in the protection and conservation of our environment by promoting, highlighting and encouraging sustainable environmental awareness to communities who use wood heating through his totally unique 'to the world' SmartBurn invention.

Awarded to a community group or individual for leadership, commitment and excellence in the protection and/or conservation of the Western Australian regional environment.