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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
environment
AWARDS 2010



Winners' book

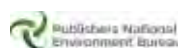


Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



Department of **Regional Development and Lands**
Waste Authority
Office of Energy



Foreword



As Minister for Environment, I am extremely honoured and proud to recognise and acknowledge environmental excellence in Western Australia.

This excellence is once again on show in the WA Environment Awards and it gives me great pleasure to present the winners and finalists for 2010.

The awards highlight the unwavering commitment to environmental care and biodiversity conservation that individuals, community groups, businesses, corporations and government agencies have in our community.

By recognising these achievements and promoting the outstanding efforts of entrants, we can further encourage greater involvement in the wider community in achieving environmental goals.

In its ninth year, the awards showcase a wide range of environmental projects being undertaken throughout the state. The calibre of entrants this year is outstanding and the innovation and diversity of the projects is very impressive.

More than 90 applications were received across the 11 categories, and this booklet gives an overview of 44 projects that really stood out and are our finalists. Although not all entrants were successful, they are to be congratulated for their ongoing efforts in conserving and enhancing our environment.

I have had the opportunity this year to visit some of the metropolitan and regional projects of winners from last year and it has been fantastic to see first hand the tremendous work being done by our winners, from small community groups to larger corporations.

The awards program is an excellent avenue to reward environmental excellence and one of a number that the state government have in place to support community effort and involvement.

As Minister for Environment, I would like to congratulate the finalists and winners of the 2010 Environment Awards – your outstanding work is truly appreciated by all Western Australians.

I would also like to acknowledge the judges and Awards' sponsors – Packaging Stewardship Forum, Publishers National Environment Bureau, Royalties for Regions, Office of Energy, Rheem, Western Power, the Waste Authority, Swan River Trust and Whiteman Park.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Donna Faragher'.

Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; YOUTH



Department of Regional Development and Lands
Waste Authority
Office of Energy



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.

Swan River Trust

The Swan River Trust is an authority established by the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, to coordinate government and community efforts to protect the Swan Canning Riverpark. The Trust's work contributes to the government's social and environmental responsibility goal, working with others throughout the Swan Canning Catchment to protect the Riverpark, and enhance ecological and community benefit and amenity. The Trust's vision is a healthy river for all forever, resilient to climate change, population and development pressures, and enjoyed, shared and nurtured. The rivers face increasing pressure from human activities, as well as a legacy of cumulative impacts.

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 2010 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.

Rheem Australia

Rheem Australia is the home of Australia's premium brands in the water heating, pool heating, space heating and air conditioning industries. They are committed to delivering product excellence and providing challenging opportunities for their people. Rheem Australia's leading brands include Rheem, Solahart, Edwards, Vulcan, Raypak, Paloma, Everhot, Aquamax and Accent Air.

Rheem Australia's Welshpool factory in Perth is the organisation's Solar Water Heaters Centre of Excellence and the source of their majority of our domestic and export solar products.

Australian-made Rheem-branded products are market leaders throughout Australia, New Zealand and Europe.

Rheem Australia's current focus is on making sustainable, low emissions water heating as accessible as conventional water heating – from installation costs, to running costs, to maintenance and longevity.

Overall
Environment
Awards
Winner



Overall
Environment
Awards 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



Rivers, Estuaries and
Wetlands Award



Environmental
Education and
Communication
Award



Resource and Waste
Management Award



Community Energy
Efficiency Award

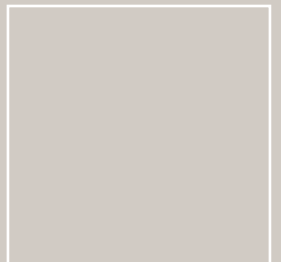
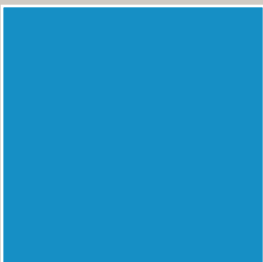
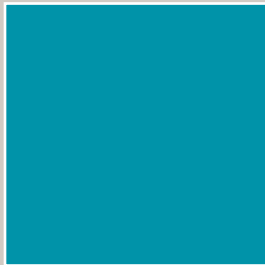
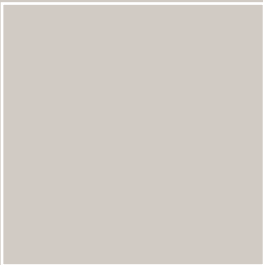
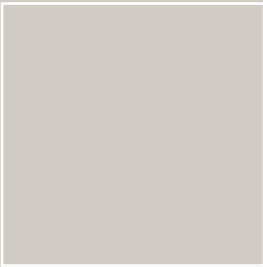


Community
Achievement –
Regional Award



Community
Achievement –
Metropolitan Award





Overall Environment Awards Winner

Green Skills

Regional Program 1989 to 2010

Green Skills is a not-for-profit environmental organisation established in 1989, focused on the promotion and demonstration of sustainability. From its Murdoch, Albany and Denmark offices, Green Skills operates a diverse range of environmental sustainability programs, employment programs and environmental skills training in metropolitan and regional areas.

Green Skills is one of the first environmental organisations of its kind in WA and, since its inception, has been a leader in developing innovative environmental projects, generating community awareness on environmental issues, encouraging community involvement in on-ground activities, and generating environmental career

opportunities. This is achieved through four social-enterprises – Ecojobs, Green Skills Projects, Green Skills Training and Centre for Sustainable Living.

Green Skills' revenue is invested in building capacity within the organisation and financing its community environmental projects, community education and advocacy programs. Its project management activities and training and employment programs aim to maximise the involvement of unemployed and underemployed groups, particularly youth and Indigenous groups, as well as other disadvantaged groups. It also targets those seeking training and employment opportunities in more remote regional areas.



Congratulations to the Green Skills Regional Program for being named the overall winner of the Western Australian Environment Awards 2010.



Green Skills' regional projects have made a tangible difference. It pioneered the first fencing subsidy program to encourage farmers to fence off rivers and creeks. Funds and labour were made available to boost the project and this gained momentum as the project evolved. Such support has now been taken up as standard practice by key government agencies.

Green Skills is partnered with farmers, government agencies and other NRM groups to develop plans for 18 of the most important wetland groups between Walpole and Esperance, and funnels funds towards fencing, revegetation and weed control.

Green Skills is also involved in assisting emerging sectors—such as organic agriculture, seed collection, eco-tourism, farm forestry, landcare and energy auditing—get off the ground by developing new training courses to enhance skills and contributing to environmental rehabilitation. We also provide education and training to all sectors of the community including school children, youth, under employed, unemployed, Indigenous people and women.

Through all our projects and initiatives, we respond to the changing needs of the community and the funding available.



Highly Commended **Woolworths Limited**

Zero Food Waste by 2015

As part of Woolworths Limited's Sustainability Strategy established in 2007, the company set the objective of diverting all food waste from landfill for beneficial uses by 2015. This has become a multifaceted project which involves Woolworths working with its suppliers, employees, customers, the national charity Foodbank, local charities, farmers, zoos and local and national governments in order to realise this ambitious target.

A significant element of this project is the Woolworths Fresh Food Rescue Campaign. Through this campaign the company will:

- rescue its surplus food (fit for human consumption) from the waste stream and turn it into meals for those in need

- implement a \$2 million grants scheme for food relief charities such as Foodbank, to enable it to expand its capacity to receive, store and distribute hundreds of tonnes of food, which would otherwise go to waste.

The project also involves developing waste minimisation initiatives with Woolworths suppliers, educating customers about minimising food waste, adopting smarter in-store practices to reduce its surpluses, composting (of which some organic material is used by EarthPower to generate electricity used to power homes), and donating food not fit for human consumption to farmers, zoos and nurseries to be used as animal feed and fertiliser.

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CATEGORY

Finalist Parmelia Hilton Perth

Leading Sustainability

The Parmelia Hilton Perth made a commitment to the environment to reduce energy consumption, carbon dioxide emissions and waste output by 20 per cent and water consumption by 10 per cent by 2014.

The hotel is committed to the advancement of renewable energy as a source of power for its operations to reduce carbon footprint and develop a viable commercial infrastructure for powering its buildings.

These commitments are primarily driven by the Parmelia Hilton's Environmental Committee, whose members are dedicated to training and providing tools for team members to share best practices and improve environmental performance. To achieve goals, sustainability practices have been implemented throughout the hotel.

Results to date include a five per cent decrease in electricity consumption, 16 per cent decrease in waste and a 28 per cent decrease in water consumption.





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



Winner Department of Health

Fiona Stanley Hospital Project

When it opens in 2014, the Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) will be the major tertiary hospital in Perth's south metropolitan area and the campus will cover an area equivalent to four city blocks.

The hospital is being built on a 32-hectare site in the southern suburb of Murdoch. WA Health is committed to ensuring the environmental values of the site are not lost by investing more than \$5 million in on-site conservation programs and a further \$2.3 million in off-site programs.

These programs include: plant salvage and seed collection for reuse in the final landscape; rehabilitating degraded areas of Beeliar Regional Park and other local reserves by using topsoil from the FSH site and seeding and plant propagation from seeds collected within

the park; fauna relocation for quenda and a range of reptiles and amphibians; and funding local conservation programs and research.

The principles of sustainability also underpin the design of the hospital buildings including: passive solar design to help maintain indoor temperatures and reduce the use of heating and cooling systems; fresh air control systems to improve indoor air quality and reduce the reliance on air conditioning systems; and minimised water consumption through the use of low-flow fixtures and rainwater collection for irrigation.

CATEGORY



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



Finalist Health Environmental Awareness Team of Royal Perth Hospital

The Health Environmental Awareness Team (HEAT) of Royal Perth Hospital is a group of staff volunteers who encourage and inform hospital staff on environmental and sustainability issues. The hospital executive supports the initiative and has given permission for staff to have two hours off per month to develop and implement environmental initiatives.

Some of the team's achievements during the 2009–10 year include:

- donations and transport of superseded hospital equipment nationally and internationally
- initiation and improvement of various recycling programs
- introduction of a HEAT website

- film nights and lectures
- hosting a Living Smart course
- introduction of a quarterly award for sustainability initiatives
- the 'Greener Hospitals' conference
- presentations at local and interstate events.

HEAT has an enthusiastic committee that meets monthly and a mailing list of about 180 concerned staff members. Being one of the state's biggest employers, the Health Department has a large carbon footprint. It is the team's aim to encourage, inspire and educate staff to reduce this environmental impact, while upholding the excellent standards of patient care for which the hospital is renowned.

Finalist Durack Institute of Technology

A culture of sustainability

The Durack Institute of Technology has worked to establish a culture of sustainability across its staff and student population. This has been achieved through a concerted effort to implement leading edge technologies and initiatives, backed up by promoting and encouraging students and staff to become actively involved in sustainability initiatives and the environment in which they live and work.

During 2009–10, the Durack Institute implemented the following significant projects and programs:

- installed a 17.5kW renewable energy system consisting of a 15-metre wind turbine and a 90 solar panel array
- designed and successfully implemented an aquifer storage recovery (ASR) system to reduce the institute's reliance on potable scheme water by more than 65 per cent

- established a sustainability governance committee structure to monitor and implement sustainability initiatives, with energy, water and waste management working groups
- enhanced the institute's Sustainability Promotion and Education Committee (SPEC) to involve staff and students in identifying and promoting sustainability across the whole institute population
- adding the Diploma of Sustainability onto the institute's delivery scope to complement existing qualifications in Conservation and Land Management and Environmental Science (Management).



Finalist Department of Corrective Services

Hakea Prison Recycling Program

Hakea Prison, a maximum-security facility, manages male prisoners remanded in custody to appear in court and those newly sentenced. The prison employs more than 400 staff, managing approximately 900 prisoners.

In May 2010, Hakea Prison introduced a recycling initiative to significantly reduce the amount of waste sent to the Waste Transfer Station (WST) as landfill.

The prison has leased, with the option to buy, three pneumatic waste presses to compress cardboard and paper products, plastic, tin and aluminium cans. The cardboard and plastic is pressed into bales—weighing approximately 100 kilograms each—which are then transported to a local recycling plant and sold, with the revenue used to offset the operating cost of the prison.

Prior to the introduction of the Recycling Program, Hakea was delivering approximately 12 cubic metres of waste to the WST daily. By separating the recyclable items from the general waste, this has been reduced by 40 per cent. The prison was also paying a contractor to remove the cardboard.

Since then, Hakea has employed a permanent, full-time vocational support recycling instructor to examine further opportunities to reduce the prison's carbon footprint, while training prisoners in recycling processes which equips them with vital job skills to use upon release into the community.



Finalist City Of Stirling

Million Trees Initiative

"Plant one million plants into the ground, within the City of Stirling boundary, by the year 2020."

The City of Stirling developed the 'Million Trees Initiative', the mechanism through which ecozones for groundwater conservation and ecological links for promoting biodiversity are being implemented.

The initiative was approved by the City of Stirling in November 2008 and implemented in 2009. It is being undertaken via a staged approach with the bulk planting of vegetation across the city commencing in 2009, and running in parallel with aerial survey work project. This will assist the city to develop vegetation cover targets and associated strategies to achieve these targets into the future. The city is excited about the future of greening its suburbs and increasing vegetation cover.

The 'Million Trees Initiative' aligns with the 'Water Smart Parks' and 'Groundwater Conservation' strategies. The two main elements of the initiative are:

- mature tree protection and retention on city land and private land
- bulk re-vegetation and replanting of new trees on city land.

The city's achievements include reduced water use, enhanced vegetation cover on reserves including natural areas, enhanced transition zones between bushlands and wetlands, increased biological linking and wildlife habitat values; as well as contribution to 'climate change' amelioration.



Winner Australian Native Nursery

The Australian Native Nursery (ANN) is a family-owned business operated by mother and daughter team, Nancy and Ailsa Scade. Its mission is to grow an increasing variety of WA flora for sale, along with quality information, personal service and guidance.

Established in 1997, the nursery is in the Perth metropolitan area of Oakford and both retails and wholesales an extensive range of Australian native plants in tubestock through to 45-litre bags.

It grows more than 1,000 different species of Australian trees, shrubs, wildflowers, groundcovers, grasses, rushes, sedges and climbing plants and specialises in WA species with the range including many plants that are uncommon and difficult to source elsewhere.

The nursery is fortunate to have an exceptional blend of knowledge, from propagation and growing through to landscaping and rehabilitation. It has strong connections to the local community. As a business it is proud to take a leading role in inspiring new directions in gardening, and in helping our customers develop a consideration for the environment both in their back yard and beyond.



CATEGORY



Small Business Leading by Example Award

SPONSORED BY THE PACKAGING STEWARDSHIP FORUM

Finalist Stocktech Australia Pty Ltd *Shades of Green Fertiliser Range*

Stocktech Australia Pty Ltd manufactures and distributes the Shades of Green range of granular and liquid fertilisers, specifically designed for WA and Australian soils.

They not only assist to correctly mineralise the soil, but are environmentally safe to apply, as these fertilisers perform with minimal leaching into the waterways and stay where they are put. It is for this reason that Shades of Green fertilisers are currently the only fertilisers on the market awarded the Fertilise Wise endorsement by the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL).

Its fertilisers were independently and scientifically tested and meet all the criteria for endorsement, including:

- good, appropriate labelling for soil and plant types
- responsible levels of total dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus
- adequate levels of macro- and micro-elements for healthy and nutritional plant growth.

Its fertilisers also meet the Australian Organic standards for heavy metal levels, persistent organic pollutants and radioactive isotopes.

In a unique collaboration between a small business and a non-government organisation, Stocktech also assists SERCUL in promoting its Fertilise Wise program and endorsement process to a wider audience, whilst taking care not to infringe on SERCUL's independence.



Finalist **Solex** *Watts in the Desert*

Solex Carnarvon Solar/Wind Farm and Solar Ice-works is a leader in the implementation of existing renewable energy technology to prove the commercial viability of 'alternative use for alternative energy'.

Situated in Carnarvon WA where the desert meets the sea, Solex is leading by example to inspire the broader community for the uptake of dispersed, embedded solar photovoltaic systems.

The award-winning Solex project has proven the value and reliability of clean energy technology. The Carnarvon community now boasts the highest density of solar installations in Australia. The communities of Exmouth, Onslow and Broome have begun to roll out solar installations based on the 'Carnarvon model'. Horizon Power has commissioned large-scale solar photovoltaic installations at Marble Bar and Nullagine based on the Solex model.



Finalist **Environmental protection initiatives established by Gnaraloo Station Trust, Ningaloo Coast**

Gnaraloo is a working pastoral station and wilderness tourism business situated adjacent to Ningaloo Marine Park in the Ningaloo Coast National Heritage-listed area, 150 kilometres north of Carnarvon in regional remote Australia. The waves at Gnaraloo attract surfers, wind surfers, kite surfers, recreational fishermen and visitors from all over the world during different times of the year. Since 2005, Gnaraloo has developed and managed a number of significant new conservation initiatives to protect natural resources from onsite visitation impacts, including:

- a new triple-bottom-line ethos for developing and managing the business, based on environmental, social and economic objectives and outcomes including employing a full-time environmental advisor
- a new Gnaraloo Turtle Conservation Program to identify and monitor significant onsite rookeries of endangered hawksbill, loggerhead and greens turtles, through involvement of volunteers and DEC
- a new Gnaraloo Fox Control Program to protect the sea turtle rookeries from predation, in conjunction with DEC
- a new Gnaraloo snorkel and fish identification guide as an important environmental education initiative for visitors to site
- the introduction and enforcement of new site management policies for environmental protection, including firewood, beach/dune driving and access policies.

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



Winner Care for Hedland Environmental Association

Hedland Community Flatback Turtle Monitoring Program

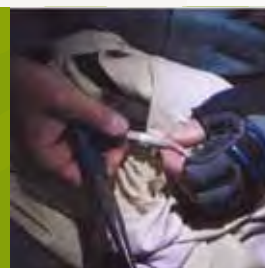
Care for Hedland Environmental Association has assisted in raising the awareness and profile of the natural environment and threatening processes within the Hedland and Pilbara areas, in a constructive and pro-active manner.

Since 2004, the association has significantly increased local awareness of flatback turtles through the establishment and implementation of the Hedland Volunteer Flatback Turtle Monitoring Program. By raising the profile of the local beach environment and promoting the significance of local nesting beaches, the association has encouraged new stakeholders to become involved in coastal management and protection.

The success of this program has increased the capacity for future conservation and management of the coastal environment locally and throughout the Pilbara.



CATEGORY



Biodiversity Conservation Award

SPONSORED BY WESTERN POWER

Highly Commended and Finalist

Dr Nic Dunlop and the South Coast Purse Seine Fishery

Shearwater Bycatch Reduction Program

In recent years, protected species by-catch issues have been identified in the South Coast Purse Seine Fishery (SCPSF). This principally involves the entanglement and, to a lesser extent, the mortality of fleshy-footed shearwaters during the retrieval of purse-seine nets in Zone 1 of the South Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery (King George Sound, Albany).

Following the high level of interactions with fleshy-footed shearwaters, members of the South Coast Purse Seine Fishery developed a comprehensive by-catch reduction program. The program has been largely driven by industry with assistance from Nic Dunlop of the Conservation Council of WA, SeaNet WA and the WA Fishing Industry Council.

The results of the by-catch reduction program have proved very encouraging. Seabird mortalities have declined to extremely low levels. Current levels are likely due to low populations of shearwaters breeding in the area and reductions in fishing effort, however there is enough evidence to suggest that the bycatch reduction program along with an increased awareness by the SCPSF has led to a steep decline in seabird mortalities.

The South Coast Purse Seine Fishery won the Research and Development Award at the 2010, WA Seafood Industry Awards.



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

Finalist Conservation Volunteers Australia

Rio Tinto 'Earth Assist' program

Conservation Volunteers (CVA) is Australia's leading practical, community-based conservation organisation. CVA and the Rio Tinto WA Future Fund have come together to create an innovative, five year, conservation program. Rio Tinto is investing \$2.5 million in this pioneering education program.

Launched in 2009, Rio Tinto Earth Assist (RTEA), in partnership with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Education and Training, aims at increasing practical conservation volunteering opportunities and environmental education and communication to all WA secondary school students over the life of the five-year partnership.

The program is supported by workbooks and educational resources for students and teachers, all tools and

equipment, suitably qualified personnel, transport and a dedicated website.

During its first year, Rio Tinto Earth Assist has involved 35 schools from across WA and completed 11,400 volunteer hours through 1,813 student placements; achieving tremendous environmental outcomes and involving metropolitan, regional and remote school communities.

RTEA provides both hands-on practical activities and educational resources through three streams: Community service, Curriculum Council WA endorsed programs, and Completion of Certificate I in Active Volunteering. These three educational streams, in conjunction with practical activities, have given all WA students the opportunity to explore, learn and take ownership of their environmental community.



Finalist South Coast NRM

Project Dieback – combating the biological bulldozer in the South Coast NRM Region

Hundreds of plant species are being lost from some of the most biodiverse ecosystems of the South Coast NRM region. The advance of the invasive plant pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (dieback) had gone on unabated over a great area for too long. Enter Project Dieback (2004), a South Coast NRM initiative with the aim of finding, with community help, healthy bush, heathlands, woodlands and forests on private and public land which could be protected from the disease. At the outset there were significant gaps in knowledge; the extent of regional infestations was unknown and there was no system for deciding on priority areas for management.

The project embarked on strategic regional dieback mapping and determined that at least one million hectares of native vegetation was already affected across the south-west of WA. A regional strategy for combating the disease was then developed with community consultation and input. Many land managers had been unaware of the high level of disease impact in the region but were receptive to technical support.

Developing tools and communicating what had been lost and what could be saved became essential elements of the project. Maps, posters, pamphlets, a website, a DVD and a universal dieback signage system were all developed to engage stakeholders and to assist managers. Project Dieback, with many partners, is now focusing on on-ground action to implement local area protection plans in priority areas across the region.



Finalist Roadside Conservation Committee

The Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) was originally formed as the Road Verge Conservation Committee (RVCC) in 1969. However, due to a lack of funding, folded after 14 years of operation. In 1984, as a result of increased community concern for the conservation of roadside vegetation the RCC was formed.

Over the past 25 years, the RCC has made significant changes to roadside conservation as a result of strong partnerships with key stakeholders and committed volunteers. This has been achieved through the delivery of free training sessions for local government, state government, utility providers and community members in understanding and managing road and rail reserve vegetation.

The RCC also coordinates the Roadside Conservation Value Mapping program and the Flora Roads program which survey roadside vegetation conservation value and register roads with particular conservation value throughout the state, with a focus on the south-west.

General support is also provided to local governments and utility providers in developing roadside vegetation management plans and in helping them to reach a balance between conservation and maintaining safe road and rail networks for the people of WA.

Winner Helena River Catchment Group

Helena River Rehabilitation Project (Pipehead Dam to Scott Street)

In 2004, the Helena River Catchment Group (HRCG) decided to commence a 10-year program to rehabilitate a five-kilometre length of the Helena River from Pipehead Dam to Scott Street Bridge. This area has been settled and subject to various management actions since 1839. The project is organised in sections, of which one remains to be started.

The program aims to return the Helena River and its environs to a more natural state by controlling weeds and doing some replanting. This will improve riverine fauna habitat and water quality by diversifying the flora and re-establishing a ground layer that will help to reduce pool sedimentation. Other aims are to reduce fire hazard and to involve residents in river management.

The first completed section – Fyfe Street – has been spectacularly successful in weed control, regrowth and replanting, with the ‘fuse break/habitat island’ design proving to be well suited to the site. When commenced in 2005, one of the ecological completion criteria was given as ‘Return of red-eared firetail finches to the riverbank vegetation’. On the 18 April 2010, one of these birds was banded in a habitat island! Stages three and four are well along the way to the same satisfactory end point.



CATEGORY



Highly Commended and Finalist Friends of Poison Gully Creek

Poison Gully Creek Restoration Project

Friends of Poison Gully Creek Reserve was initiated by and comprises two very dedicated individuals, Elaine Sargent and Sylvia Netherway, who have worked tirelessly at the reserve for the past 11 years.

Under the Poison Gully Creek Restoration Project, the group has been working on the restoration, regeneration, decontamination and enhancement of a degraded section of Poison Gully Creek since 1999 whilst creating community awareness.

Initial and ongoing achievements include the removal of large amounts rubbish from the creek bed and surrounds and the removal of invasive weeds, the majority of which

are watsonia, paspalum, African love grass, tambookie, blackberry and freesia. Ongoing removal of bridal creeper, cotton bush and oxalis is also under way.

The group is also involved in direct seeding with local provenance to take place of introduced species, for example, introduced Acacia and cape lilac trees, sedges and rushes and the introduction of rust and leaf hoppers to control bridal creeper.

Fencing of sections of pathways with bollards to discourage misuse of paths has also been implemented with nesting boxes provided for possums, birds and bats.

Finalist Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group

'Foreshores Forever'

The Armadale Gosnells Landcare Groups' (AGLG) vision is: *"To protect, rehabilitate and enhance areas of degraded bushland and foreshores through the promotion of conservation and community involvement."*

In the last three years the group has attracted more than \$550,000 of on-ground funding across the 18 sites it manages.

The AGLG's achievements include:

- more than 25 hectares of foreshore and bushland areas being revegetated
- more than 360,000 native seedlings have been planted
- worked with over 70 local school and community groups
- coordinated in excess of \$200,000 worth of weed control
- contained two Weeds of National Significance on all managed sites
- erected over 500 metres of fencing for protection
- employed two full-time staff
- held over 150 community activity planting, weeding and education days
- coordinated over 4,520 volunteers
- our volunteers have contributed over 18,500 volunteer hours
- support 11 friends groups
- hold over 30 current AGLG committee members
- written and released over 30 media releases.



Finalist Department of Corrective Services

Repay WA, Work Camps and Section 95 Community Works Programs

Community work has operated as an effective sentencing option in WA since 1977. It enables offenders to repay their debts to WA for crimes committed by contributing to important not-for-profit community projects and encouraging offenders to return to law-abiding behaviour.

Repay WA is the name used to describe community work projects carried by offenders who have been given a sentence by the courts to be served in the community.

Collectively, these offenders provide a labour force for hundreds of community projects throughout the state – many of which may not get done otherwise. Offenders regularly participate in environmental conservation projects.

The success of these programs is due, in part, to the support and the generosity of the local communities in assisting offenders to learn new work skills and providing them with the opportunity to interact – under supervision – with members of the community in a non-institutionalised environment.



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.

Winner South Coast NRM

Saving Lake Warden and Lake Gore — the South Coast's only Ramsar wetlands

Lakes Warden and Gore are the only Ramsar wetlands located on the south coast of WA. They provide critical habitat for at least 25 migratory bird species; and are home to more than 73 waterbird species, including 43 EPBC listed species. Locally, the lakes are important social and cultural assets for the people of Esperance, and are also tourist destinations.

The lakes face a range of threats, most notably a rising watertable drowning important bird nesting sites. Other key threats include land management practices, invasive species, phytophthora dieback, poor water quality and salinity. These are compounded by a lack of community understanding of the significance of these wetland areas.

South Coast NRM invested more than \$1.43 million over the past six years in a holistic approach to restore and protect these lakes. Key community and Aboriginal groups, government organisations and non-government organisations have worked together to deliver research, planning, capacity building, awareness raising and restoration.

Observations indicate the activities have been successful, with an increase in the species richness of waterbirds present in the lakes over the last few years. The investment has also achieved a reduction in weeds, an increase in scientific and community understanding and an increase in the capacity of small landholders.

CATEGORY



Highly Commended and Finalist Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group

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Finalist **Wilson Wetlands Action Group**

From weeds and arson attack to restored wetland

In early 2007, arsonists set fire to a wetland area beside the Canning River in Wilson, close to the miniature railway that loops around samphire and lagoons. Fortunately only a weedy area was burnt.

The Wilson Wetlands Action Group (WWAG), already active in the area, seized on the opportunity to revegetate the now-cleared section of land.

There were two good reasons to embark on work in this site. The first reason is that the revegetation would expand and enhance the existing samphire and general wetland area. The second reason is that it is a very public and visible site, being close to the newly built Wilson Station, part of the miniature railway system, and the Kent Street Weir with associated barbecues, canoe launch beach and Eco Education Centre.

WWAG members drew up a plan spanning several years, commencing with weed control, mulching and initial planting. The group received funding from the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program and the Department of Environment and Conservation, and scheduled regular volunteer work mornings. It chose to plant seedlings during Arbor Day 2009 and 2010, inviting children from local primary schools to assist, and anticipate a third round of planting in 2011. More than 19 species were selected and the survival rate has been very high.



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

Winner Winner WA Chapter of the Australian Association for Environmental Education

Engaging the community in every sense

The WA Chapter of Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE-WA) develops and delivers Education for Sustainability programs for every sector of the community, from the youngest to oldest members. These programs engage participants in every sense – communicating understandings and behaviours through active sensorial experiences, and bringing people of all ages together, from metro and country centres.

This is a significant achievement, considering all these efforts depend primarily on the volunteer time of members and in-kind support from partner organisations. Little Green Steps (LGS) targets early childhood, working with educators in childcare services,

kindergartens and preschools to encourage sustainable practice (for example, gardening and worm farming) for children, staff and parents. LGS was introduced to WA this year and an early years network for Education for Sustainability established by AAEE-WA.

The Geography Earth Environmental Science Year 10 Forum, conducted at Perth Zoo, offered interactive workshops showcasing rewarding career choices for Year 10 students who study sciences in years 11 and 12. For three years the workshops have been presented by people working in key government and business positions.

The three-day interactive Catchments, Corridors and Coasts has operated for 15 years, providing a 'snapshot'

CATEGORY

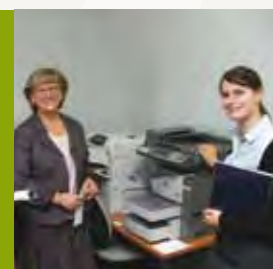


Finalist The Geographe Catchment Council

Ribbons of Blue in the South-West

The Geographe Catchment Council (GeoCatch) is an incorporated group whose mission is: *"To work with the community and management agencies to manage the catchment of Geographe Bay and its marine environment so that natural systems, people and their activities co-exist in a healthy, productive and sustainable way"*.

Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA is an environmental education program which aims to motivate and enable current and future generations to respect and take action for healthy WA waterways. In the South West, the program has been delivered in six major catchment areas by a network of regional coordinators who tailor program delivery to the environmental, social and economic needs of each catchment. This has contributed to those students, their parents, teachers and the communities looking after the environmental assets of the South West region. Implementation of the program throughout 2008/2009 resulted in contact with more than 9,000 people in more than 140 school and community groups across six sub-regions in the South West.



Finalist South East Regional Energy Group

Switched on Business and Industry

The Cities of Gosnells and Armadale and Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire are working together as the South East Regional Energy Group (SEREG) to promote energy and resource efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction through community education.

SEREG delivered the Switched on Business and Industry (SOBI) project from February 2008 to December 2009 to small-to-medium-sized businesses in the cities of Gosnells and Armadale. The project involves conducting environmental audits and assisting them develop comprehensive and practical energy, water, waste and transport efficiency actions plans.

More than 150 businesses participated in the project and received a free environmental assessment, individually tailored business sustainability report, one-on-one mentoring and opportunities to access sustainable business management skills training and advanced resource efficiency workshops.

Collectively, participating businesses saved the following:

- more than \$68,000p.a on reduced energy, water, waste and transport costs
- 460,245 kWh of electricity and natural gas (first 12 months)
- 66,350 litres of potable water (first 12 months)
- mitigated more than 440 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (first 12 months).

Overall, we reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill per year by over 118,800 litres (first 12 months).

of environmental education in WA from upper catchment through the coastal plain to the coast. Participants include community members, youth, pre and in-service teachers, private sector, and local and state government employees. Catchments, Corridors and Coasts develops networks with and between practitioners, and promotes WA programs/resources that address environmental/sustainability issues.



Finalist Conservation Volunteers Australia

Rio Tinto 'Earth Assist' program

Conservation Volunteers (CVA) is Australia's leading practical, community-based conservation organisation. CVA and the Rio Tinto WA Future Fund have come together to create an innovative, five-year, conservation program. Rio Tinto is investing \$2.5 million in this pioneering education program.

Launched in 2009, Rio Tinto Earth Assist (RTEA), in partnership with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Education and Training, aims at increasing practical conservation volunteering opportunities and environmental education and communication to all Western Australian secondary school students over the life of the five-year partnership.

During its first year, Rio Tinto Earth Assist has involved 35 schools from across WA and completed 11,400 volunteer hours through 1,813 student placements; achieving tremendous environmental outcomes and involving metro, regional and remote school communities.

RTEA provides both hands-on practical activities and educational resources through three streams: Community service, Curriculum Council WA Endorsed Programs, and Completion of Certificate I in Active Volunteering.



Finalist Edith Cowan University

The Energy Challenge Project

The Energy Challenge Project is an alliance comprising Amaro Primary School; Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School; Bunbury Primary School; Dalyellup College's Hartog Road Campus; Edith Cowan University's Bunbury Campus; the South West Branch of the Australian Association for Environmental Education and BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina. Kingston Primary School and Geographe Green have recently joined.

Each educational partner is reorienting their operations as well as their teaching and learning towards sustainability. The project team, comprising representatives from each partner organisation, has been meeting twice per school term for nearly five years.

Each school has reduced their per capita energy consumption – two schools by 16 per cent. Each school has whole school sustainability projects in place while the university faculty is in the process of incorporating sustainability into every degree. Each individual in the project team has sustainability as their guiding principle, and BHP Billiton-Worsley Alumina now has extensive programs in place to educate workers and improve energy efficiency.

Project learnings and school curriculum material has been developed to freely share nationally – and even internationally – via the project's website.



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 Department of Fisheries, Friends of Marmion Marine Park and Padbury Senior High School

Perth Beachcombers Education Kit

The Perth Beachcombers Education Kit is a fun and interactive education resource for Western Australians to discover and understand more about coastal and marine life.

Developed for a broad audience, information can be adapted to suit the level of the participant. The kit includes a field guide, carry bag, poster and an interactive CD containing information sheets and activities.

The field guide is designed to assist beachcombers to identify the items they find washed up on the beach. By discouraging the removal of this biological matter, it helps minimise their ecological footprint. The poster highlights significant marine conservation areas in the Perth metropolitan area. These areas include marine parks and fish habitat protection areas, which play an important part in conserving our marine ecology and protecting biodiversity.

The CD covers beachcombing basics, currents, coastal processes and human coastal uses and impacts. Sections can be completed individually depending on the user's area of interest, or as an integrated program which links to the WA school curriculum.

The kit has been distributed to all Perth metropolitan schools, various community groups and organisations and interested educators.

Winner South East Regional Energy Group

Switched on Business and Industry (SOBI)

The cities of Gosnells and Armadale and the Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire are working together as the South East Regional Energy Group (SEREG) to promote energy and resource efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction through community education.

SEREG delivered the Switched on Business and Industry (SOBI) project from February 2008 to December 2009 in an effort to engage and educate a traditionally difficult sector to work with – small-to-medium-sized enterprises.

The SOBI project assisted small-to-medium-sized businesses in the cities of Gosnells and Armadale to implement environmental best practice by conducting environmental audits and assisting them develop comprehensive and practical energy, water, waste

and transport efficiency actions plans.

More than 150 businesses in Gosnells and Armadale participated in the project and received a free environmental assessment, individually tailored business sustainability report, one-on-one mentoring and opportunities to access sustainable business management skills training and advanced resource efficiency workshops.

Collectively participating businesses saved the following:

- saved more than \$68,000p.a on reduced energy, water, waste and transport costs
- saved 460,245 kWh of electricity and natural gas (first 12 months).

CATEGORY



Finalist Denmark Tip Shop and Recycling Education Centre

A Green Skills' community enterprise

Green Skills is an innovative registered not-for-profit organisation that has been leading the way since 1989 in developing and managing environmental projects that assist all levels of our regional and metropolitan communities to effectively implement a vision for a sustainable future.

Since 2001, the Denmark Tip Shop, run by Green Skills, has made a major contribution towards resource diversion, waste minimisation education and social equity in the Shire of Denmark. It operates out of the Shire of Denmark's Waste Transfer site and links to council and Cleanaway waste minimisation activities. It runs with six part-time staff, and other volunteers and community workers. It diverts a significant volume of mainly domestic resources and items from landfill, provides a low-cost source of valuable items and resources for south coast residents, has an active sustainability education program, and links closely to innovative music and art projects.

In March 2010, Greens Skills ran a major seminar promoting Tip Shops to councils and community representatives from across the region. Its facilities and programs have expanded in 2009–10 thanks to support from the WA Waste Authority, Foundation for Rural Renewal, the local shire and Lotterywest. It represents an outstanding model for other WA country towns on a community-managed waste minimisation initiative.

Finalist Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council

A new life for old mattresses

In its first year of operation, the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council's (EMRC's) mattress recycling project has given new life to more than 9,300 old mattresses.

Between December 2008 and February 2009, the EMRC conducted a three-month mattress recycling trial. The trial was extremely successful and in May 2009 the project became permanent; making it WA's first and only mattress recycling service.

Mattresses, which would otherwise be sent to landfill, are manually dismantled and the components sorted for recycling. Springs are sent to scrap metal merchants for recycling, foam is re-used in flooring underlay, and timber bases are shredded and re-used in particleboard manufacture and poultry bedding.

If laid end-to-end, the number of mattresses recycled by the EMRC during the first 12 months of operation would stretch more than 20 kilometres. If stacked on top of each other, the pile would soar more than 285 metres – higher than Perth's tallest building.

Mattresses are accepted from all over Perth, from a wide range of industries including mattress retailers and manufacturers, hotels, landfill operators, local governments and charitable organisations.

By providing this sustainable disposal option for mattresses, they can now be diverted from landfills – helping to conserve airspace and prolong the life of WA landfills.



- saved 66,350 litres of potable water (first 12 months)
- mitigated over 440 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (first 12 months).

Overall, the project reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill per year by over 118,800 litres (first 12 months).



Finalist Department of Transport

Living Smart Household

The Department of Transport's Living Smart Household is an innovative behaviour change initiative that helps thousands of households reduce their carbon footprint and combat climate change.

Living Smart Household builds upon the methodology of the highly acclaimed Travelsmart Household program of encouraging a change to more sustainable travel behaviours by also assisting reductions in energy and water use and waste disposal.

After selecting a number of personalised information leaflets, households can take part in a meter reading and eco-coaching service in which ongoing support and advice make changes to daily habits easily achievable.

Prompts and incentives, Home Sustainability Assessments and free Living Smart community courses augment the program and foster further change.

The Living Smart Household pilot program in Joondalup and Mandurah is expected to achieve a 10 per cent reduction in energy, water use, and car trips. This is supported by meter reading data and comprehensive survey results, which indicated:

- a 44 per cent increase in switching off standby power
- a 30 per cent increase in taking shorter showers
- a 41 per cent increase in trips taken by bicycle.

The success of this pilot program attracted funding and support from the Perth Solar City consortium to use Living Smart Household to engage with 10,000 households in Perth's eastern metropolitan area.



Highly Commended entrant Phillip Sharp: Recycling Tree- lopping waste in firewood time

"While Phillip didn't make it as finalist this year, the Resource and Waste Judging Panel and endorsed by the Executive Judging Panel, acknowledged him for his innovation and one-man efforts."

Finalist RoeROC Regional Organisation of Councils

RoeROC Regional Waste Facility

The development of the Roe Regional Organisation of Councils (RoeROC) Landfill site was undertaken to allow the four shires that make up the regional organisation, Kondinin, Kulin, Corrigin and Narembeen, to operate a waste station using best practices.

This project was established after the then Department of Environment's inspection of the Kondinin rubbish site in 2005 found that the site was getting perilously close to the watertable. Strong recommendations were made from the Department of Environment and the Environmental and Health Officer to move the site. During this time the shires of Narembeen, Corrigin and Kulin found their sites to be nearing the end of their lifecycle and also needed new sites.

Each shire installed transfer stations in all of the five major towns and a regional rubbish site which is located in the shire of Kondinin. Each transfer station is equipped to take all waste, recycling material, green waste, white goods, wood and chemical drums. Recyclables are taken by Avon Waste to their materials recycling facility in York; all remaining waste is taken to the Bendering Regional Landfill site.

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

Winner Western Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS)

Climate Change Readiness for Community Services

The Climate Change Readiness for Community Services project prepares community service organisations in the Perth metropolitan area to deal with the impacts of climate change, such as increased energy tariffs, by providing free energy and greenhouse audits and funding to retrofit their buildings.

The project recruits and trains job seekers from the south-west corridor of Perth, to be energy and greenhouse auditors. After one month of training, the job seekers are employed with WACOSS for an additional five months, where they conduct energy audits on community service organisation across Perth.

The job seekers prepare a detailed report for the community services, with recommendations on how

they can reduce their energy and water use. These recommendations cover behaviour changes as well as minor and major structural changes to buildings that will improve energy efficiency. The job seekers also provide information to the community service staff on how changing their behaviour will reduce energy use at work and at home.

Over the length of the project, 700 energy and greenhouse audits will be completed. Of these audits, 400 will receive minor retrofits of up to \$1,000 and four will receive a major retrofit of up to \$25,000.

CATEGORY

Community Energy Efficiency Award

SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF ENERGY



Government of **Western Australia**
Office of **Energy**



Awarded for a significant contribution to community energy efficiency.

Finalist Green Skills/Denmark Environment Centre

Green Town Denmark Walpole

A community-led initiative that drew the support of Western Power, local governments of Denmark and Manjimup, the Great Southern and South West development authorities, the Denmark Community Wind Farm, Green Skills, the Denmark Environment Centre the Water Corporation, Greens MP Paul Llewellyn, Denmark Chamber of Commerce, and community businesses to plan for innovative ways of meeting local energy challenges.

The towns of Denmark and Walpole are at the end of the energy grid line which has caused power blackouts, particularly at peak tourism times. A standard response is to increase infrastructure capacity which is very expensive and requires significant clearing of vegetation and does not address the issue of ever increasing energy consumption levels per head of population.

The community called on Western Power to work together with the community to come up with solutions that addressed the peak in energy demand by reducing consumption and thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time increase local production and storage of energy through renewable sources that also contributed to local business development.

This partnership of community, local government, government agencies and utilities and business has been actively working for the past three years and has been highly successful.



Winner Canning River Regional Park

20 years of work in CRRP

Canning River Regional Park (CRRP) is a 266-hectare reserve along the Canning River, less than 10 kilometres from the CBD. Bordering the Canning River, it includes bushland remnants, parkland and recreation areas, and historic sites such as Woodloes Homestead (now a museum), Masons Landing and Kent Street Weir.

Some areas are significant natural environments, but much of the area, having been used for various purposes over the years (such as farming, wood-collection and rubbish tip) is in a degraded state, though significant progress has been made in redressing the situation over the past 20 years. A good deal of that progress is attributed to the work of Canning River Regional Park Volunteers (CRRPV).

CRRP Volunteers Inc is a small but enthusiastic group of 25 members who provide a variety of services to support the park. Working closely with the Department of Environment and Conservation, the group has five project sites currently active. Several earlier sites are being monitored.

As a group, CRRP Volunteers have also tackled feral bee hives within the park, carried out regular bird surveys, published a book about the park and supported numerous other events and activities which relate to the park, conservation or environmental education in the local community.



CATEGORY



Finalist Perth Region NRM

CoastCare Program

The CoastCare Program is a highly successful and engaging community-based program assisting with the rehabilitation and restoration of the Perth coastal environment.

The CoastCare Program employs two incredibly passionate, committed and hard working CoastCare Officers: Craig Wilson, the South Metropolitan Officer who works along the coast from Fremantle to Rockingham and Kate Sputore, the North Metropolitan Officer, who works along the coast from Cottesloe to Wanneroo. Both officers have been part of the program since early in its inception and its success can be contributed to their tireless effort and enthusiasm.

The CoastCare Program, funded through Perth Region NRM, has been in operation for the past five years. Since its beginning in 2005, the program has been actively engaging a wide range of coastal stakeholders and providing assistance to both local governments and community groups in addressing priority coastal issues and assisting them in the implementation of on-ground projects.

Achievements of the CoastCare Program and the officers include:

- assisting community groups and local governments with the development and implementation of on-ground coastal projects

- establishment of successful working relationships with the metropolitan community CoastCare groups, local governments, industry and other stakeholders
- planting more than 40,000 native plants at 26 locations over the past year
- more than 1,000 volunteers participating in program over the last year
- establishment of the 'Adopt a Beach' schools coastal education program
- receiving \$95,000 in corporate sponsorship and more than \$35,000 of in-kind support over the past year.

The CoastCare program was an integral part of organising committee for the 2009 WA State Coastal Conference.



Finalist Neil Goldsborough

Ongoing volunteer involvement in multiple environmental projects

Infectiously passionate and pro-active about volunteering for environmental causes, Neil Goldsborough spends most of his time on his newest project – MERGE – Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group.

Other roles in which he has contributed consistently over many years (and continues to do so), that merit his nomination for a WA Environment Award, include:

- volunteer, Bush Ranger Unit at Rossmoyne SHS
- instructor, Bush Ranger Unit at Rossmoyne SHS
- peer tutor, STAR Programme
- coordinator, Friends of North Lake
- volunteer, The Wildflower Society (Murdoch Branch)
- volunteer, Office of Commercial Services at Murdoch University.

While actively involved in these projects, Neil has taken on roles from tree planting, weeding, fauna surveys, fungi surveys and allied data collection activities to more organisational roles such as planning revegetation program for wildlife corridors and monitoring program for endangered species like Carnaby's black cockatoo.

Above all, Neil deserves to be recognised for the inspiration that he offers people in the community, especially our younger generation of school and university students; he is a beacon of experience and knowledge, and is enthusiastic about sharing these. Multiple outstanding service awards from the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Inspirational Volunteer Award from the City of Cockburn say it all.



Finalist Conservation Volunteers Australia

Rio Tinto 'Earth Assist'

Conservation Volunteers (CVA) is Australia's leading practical, community-based conservation organisation. CVA and the Rio Tinto WA Future Fund have come together to create an innovative, five-year, conservation program. Rio Tinto is investing \$2.5 million in this pioneering education program.

Rio Tinto Earth Assist aims at increasing practical conservation volunteering opportunities and environmental education and communication to all Western Australian secondary school students over the life of the five-year partnership.

The program is supported by workbooks and educational resources for students and teachers, all tools and equipment, suitably qualified personnel, transport and a dedicated website.

Over its first year, Rio Tinto Earth Assist has involved 35 schools from across WA and completed 11,400 volunteer hours through 1,813 student placements; achieving tremendous environmental outcomes and involving metro, regional and remote school communities.

RTEA provides both hands-on practical activities and educational resources through three streams: Community service, Curriculum Council WA Endorsed Programs, and Completion of Certificate I in Active Volunteering. These three educational streams in conjunction with practical activities has given all WA students the opportunity to explore, learn and take ownership of their environmental community.



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

Winner Green Skills

Regional Program 1989 to 2010

Green Skills is a not-for-profit environmental organisation established in 1989, focused on the promotion and demonstration of sustainability. From its Murdoch, Albany and Denmark offices, Green Skills operates a diverse range of environmental sustainability programs, employment programs, and quality environmental training in metropolitan and regional areas.

Green Skills was one of the first environmental organisations of its kind in WA, and since its inception, has been a leader in developing innovative environmental projects, generating community awareness on environmental issues, encouraging community involvement in on-ground activities, and generating environmental career opportunities.

Green Skills achieves this through the work of

our four social-enterprises:

- Ecojobs
- Green Skills Projects
- Green Skills Training
- Centre for Sustainable Living

Green Skills' revenue is invested in capacity building its organisation and financing community environmental projects, community education and advocacy programs. Its project management activities and training and employment programs aim to maximise the involvement of unemployed and underemployed groups, particularly youth and Indigenous groups, as well as other disadvantaged groups and those seeking training and employment opportunities in more remote regional areas.



Highly Commended and Finalist

Tangaroa Blue Ocean Care Society

Western Australian Marine Debris Project

In 2004, the South West Marine Debris Project was created to target marine debris in the state's south-west. In 2010, the project expanded across WA to areas from Perth to Augusta, Broome, Geraldton, Jurien Bay, Walpole, Denmark and Albany.

The WA Marine Debris Project has become a successful long-term project addressing marine debris through community clean-up events, school and community presentations and workshops; monthly monitoring and data reporting.

The 2009 South West Beach Clean Up engaged volunteers from Perth to Walpole who removed marine debris from 74 beaches. In October 2010, the event expanded to cover beaches between Geraldton and Albany.

Data from monthly monitoring activities has provided a unique long-term data set on marine debris impacting WA. This data has been used by local, state and federal government agencies for strategic planning and education to help mitigate marine debris in our waters.

School presentations engaging students in both the issue of marine debris and proactive solutions to mitigate it in their local area have taken place in 27 WA schools over the past three years. It is hoped that the information and experience given to students will instil a long-term stewardship for the marine environment.



Finalist The South Coast Licensed Fisherman's Association

The Fishute

The South Coast Licensed Fishermen's Association operates out of one of the oldest fisheries in Australia, existing since the first settlement of Albany and surrounding districts. The licensees are third and fourth generation fishermen.

The fishermen of the South Coast Licensed Fishermen's Association (SCLFA) target species such as black and silver bream, King George whiting, yellow eye and sea mullet, Australian salmon, yellowtail scad, blue swimmer crabs, leatherjacket and Australian herring.

The SCLFA typically fishes the estuarine waters of the south-coast of WA, and during normal fishing operations undersized fish, namely black bream, are regularly gilled in the nets. Although the species is quite resilient, often-surviving interactions with fishing gear, fishing activities attract large numbers of pelicans that prey upon the released fish before they have the opportunity to escape.

Early in the 2009 fishing season, Paul Benson, the President of the South Coast Licensed Fishermen's Association (SCLFA), expressed concerns to the WA SeaNet Extension Officer regarding high rates of predation on fish released during gill netting. After trialing many different forms of a fish escape device they finally developed the 'fishute'. Trials have proven very successful and the rollout of the fishute to all members of the SCLFA is under way. The fishute will increase the sustainability of the fishery allowing juvenile fish that would otherwise fall prey to feeding pelicans a strong chance of reaching maturity.

Paul Benson of the SCLFA was awarded a commendation for the Environmental Award at the 2010, WA Seafood Industry.



Finalist **Greenbushes Ratepayers and Residents Association**

Greenbushes Pool Project

The Greenbushes Ratepayers and Residents Association has been instrumental in developing the Greenbushes Pool Project.

The multi-faceted project includes development of a management plan to protect the environment of the pool and provide opportunities for managed community access. This plan was then used as a guide to implement various components of an action plan including the installation of a gazebo and a new boardwalk/walk trail in 2010 to protect native vegetation, defining car park areas and entrance roads to stop vehicles accessing the water's edge, providing a gas barbecue to stop people lighting open fires and installing information panels to educate about the flora and fauna.

The management plan was developed by the Greenbushes Ratepayers and Residents Association with help from the Blackwood Environment Society and funding from the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes. It followed a risk assessment of the pool by the shire, Department of Environment and Conservation, Greenbushes R and R and Greenbushes mine to assess risk management issues.

The Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes partnered with the group to obtain \$123,000 funding from Royalties for Regions for materials for the boardwalk project. Then the local community sprang into action with many people, including members of the Ratepayers and Residents group donating 1,500 hours to constructing the boardwalk.



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



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

www.dec.wa.gov.au/waea

This booklet is printed using vegetable-based inks on recycled paper made from post-consumer waste, elemental chlorine free and is ISO 14001 and FSC certified