

# Gnangara Park targeted for Clean Up to Fix Up Day

ONE hot Friday in late February, scores of people could be seen descending on Gnangara Park in a spirit of cheerful determination.

The motley crew included CALM staff and representatives from the Water Corporation, the Water and Rivers Commission, the Australian Army's 13 Brigade, Irwin Barracks, Clean Up Australia, and local shires.

There they were, togged up under shady hats, and wearing sturdy boots, insect repellent and sunscreen, ready to kick off the Clean Up Australia Campaign that began Australia wide the following Sunday.

## Clean up to fix up

Their specific aim that Friday was to clean up Gnangara Park, and was the first of three Clean Up to Fix Up events planned for 1998.

The Clean Up 2001 Campaign goal is to repair 2001 environmental assets (of which Gnangara Park is the largest project site in WA), and restore them to the Australian community by the year 2001.

Its long-term objectives are:

- To actively promote community involvement,
- To develop partnerships with Government agencies (including industry, community groups and individuals) to create

sustainable solutions to environmental problems,

- To showcase Australian technology through its successful application to environmental problems such as habitat rehabilitation, conservation of rare and endangered flora, and fauna breeding programs;
- To help reduce unemployment by creating job opportunities in association with repairing and conserving environmental assets.

## Team spirit

By encouraging a more closely integrated multi-agency spirit between WA government agencies, industry, community groups and individuals, it is hoped that a sense of ownership of Gnangara Park will develop, and lead to more consultation and active participation in the park's planning and management.

Unfortunately, some sections of the community still tend to regard public lands as just open space on which to dump rubbish (even asbestos and cars!), and Gnangara Park is no exception.

The Gnangara Park that CALM will create over the next 30 years will cover 50,000 hectares from Gnangara Road to the Moore River—more than 100 times the size of Kings Park, and the biggest

native bushland reserve near any major city in Australia.

## Meeting objectives

Plans for Gnangara Park meet Clean Up to Fix Up objectives in aiming to restore natural habitats that protect threatened species of native plants and animals, as well as restoring and maintaining local bushland, parks and community recreation

areas.

The Clean Up 2001 initiative promises long-term community benefits for the area that comprises 23,000 ha of pine plantations and 27,000 ha of native bushlands including banksia and tuart woodlands, jarrah and marri stands, and wetlands.

Some areas will be transformed into a living 'conservation ark' for

rare plants and those hovering on the brink of extinction. Plant species from other parts of WA will also be grown.

The conservation ark concept will extend to native animals.

Several thousand hectares of land have been earmarked for enclosure inside a feral animal-proof barrier.

This will provide a

sanctuary in which colonies of native species that once roamed freely will be available for park visitors to see.

## Water protection

Water Resources Minister Dr Kim Hames, who launched Gnangara Park Clean Up 2001, said the park would continue to protect one of the metropolitan area's most vital underground water

sources—the Gnangara Mound—and help keep it unpolluted.

*Project officer Bill Cuthbert, clerical officer Deb Wheeler and nature conservation planning officer Teresa Gepp are happy to get out of the office and not get their hands dirty. All are with CALM's Perth District (Wanneroo). Photo by Therese Jones.*



