

Ecoplan update

System 6 — Ecoplan has come a long way since its launch at Samson Park (M72) on April 12 by the Environment Minister Bob Pearce and WA Conservation Council president Phillip Jennings.

Ecoplan seeks to involve community groups and schools in looking after urban bushland and reserves nominated in the System 6 Red Book.

The Environmental Protection Authority and conservation group members had put together a package of information about Ecoplan but needed help to spread the message.

A call for volunteers issued in suburban newspapers in May this year prompted an encouraging response.

The Environmental Protection Authority's community involvement co-ordinator Margo O'Byrne said she had more than 100 calls from people wanting to become involved in looking after the environment.

"Calls came from students, mothers of young children, full-time workers and retired people and everyone has something to contribute," Margo said.

"Forty-five people attended the training sessions held at Environment House and many are now working in their local System 6 areas and talking to local schools about how they can become involved.

"In the training sessions we tried to give people the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle.

"We covered the nature of System 6 recommendations, the role of local council, the role of the Department of Planning and Urban Development and the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

"We also looked at the Conservation Council, Greening Australia, the

Environment Centre, Wetlands Conservation Society and other community conservation groups."

Margo said she felt confident that with such a team of enthusiastic volunteers a lot could be done to promote Ecoplan and to develop a better understanding of and care for System 6 areas.

"The good thing about Ecoplan is that it provides an opportunity for everyone to join in as they wish," she said.

"People have all sorts of interests and talents and it is great to see that contribution.

"Some people are talking with schools and community groups, one person has designed a computer-based information system for Ecoplan, another person is using his skills to draw display maps of System 6 areas.

"Bayswater Greenwork came along as a group and attended the training sessions so that the whole group is able to understand and take part in the care of the river foreshore, as well as look toward other neighbouring System 6 areas."

EPA chairman welcomes Ecoplan volunteers

"Welcome to Ecoplan and welcome to the first edition of Ecoplan News.

As Ecoplan volunteers you will have become aware of the high priority the Environmental Protection Authority places on this project.

You have already begun to play a vital role in urban conservation and on behalf of the EPA, I thank you for your efforts.

Together, I hope we can protect forever the special parts of the environment near Perth.

Ecoplan News will help keep Ecoplan volunteers and others up to date with the latest happenings in System 6 — Ecoplan and on the urban conservation scene generally.

I also hope it will serve as a forum for



Ecoplan volunteers to share their ideas and experiences."

Barry Carbon
EPA chairman.

Conservation Council

More than a third of the metropolitan System 6 areas are under threat. Many have had their natural values eroded and others have been entirely lost. This abysmal state of affairs cannot continue. Our conservation estate is far from adequate, and areas identified in the System 6 Study represent an absolute minimum number of areas which should be totally protected.

Although it is more than eight years since the recommendations in the System 6 Red Book were endorsed by Cabinet, few of these recommendations have been fully implemented.

I have been appointed by the Conservation Council of WA to co-ordinate

community action directed towards the full implementation of all metropolitan System 6 recommendations.

In this regard I will be liaising with the EPA and other relevant bodies to establish the current status of System 6 areas and to ascertain threats, both imminent and long term.

Also I am currently looking at identifying areas which were not included in the System 6 Study and which have significant nature conservation values. Any assistance you can give me in this task would be appreciated.

My role will be principally that of a co-ordinator and I hope to be able to assist

groups and individuals by facilitating networking and the sharing of information as well as offering overall support.

I hope that together we can achieve some real gains for the environment and that your involvement with the voluntary conservation movement gives you enjoyment and satisfaction.

Joan Payne

ECOPLAN CO-ORDINATOR

FOR THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WA

Letter

Dear Ed,

"If I had my time again..."

This is your Ecoplan correspondent out there on the frontline.

On Friday, September 6, I lobbed into John XXIII High School, to make my first Ecoplan presentation with a specific reference to Lake Claremont, M48, the nearest System 6 area to the school.

All cliches aside, everything that could go wrong did so.

After having organised several key items including VCR, overhead projector, and determined the age and class size of my audience, I arrived late by five minutes to begin at 9.40am.

Neither piece of equipment worked to begin with and the teacher had not been able to track down half the class.

Soldiering on bravely, I addressed the class of eight from whom I found out that this class time was an odd unused period with no particular significance.

That was the sum total of response I managed to elicit for the period ending at 10.30am.

Indeed, I seemed to be in the room by myself, talking to myself no less.

It was, however, not all gloom. Personal strength in the form of indifference to the

circumstances, a simplified approach (and the arrival, half way through, of another overhead machine) made the time fly by.

In summary: the biggest thing missing was the students' attention and their subsequent recognition and respect for the humble speaker.

This could have been — and will be — dealt with by establishing the following before class time:

Find out if environmental education or ecology is part of the class curriculum.

Establish the presentation as part of several exercises that might include a field trip and environmental science activities so that the class can place the information in an important context and have something at stake in learning the stuff, otherwise it's not worth being there.

Possibly have the teacher test the class at a later date on the information to give them another reason for listening.

Make sure that the classroom is not a laboratory but a small tutorial room. The smaller the class size, the better the opportunity to be "related" to the audience.

Begin the presentations with a very clear global environmental vision touching on global environmental and social issues before moving to the local context. This

may also grab the imagination and attention of the class at the beginning.

Make sure to be there at least five minutes before to make sure all necessary machinery is in order.

If possible, organise a few activities or open ended questions to ask individuals to take part in.

If possible obtain slides of the area and some flora and fauna as well as "management issues" slides such as rubbish dumped on site.

In general, it needs to be recognised by the teacher/organiser that as volunteers we are giving up free time with no guarantee of any interest on the part of the audience.

The information being presented is part of a broader global initiative and is not a one-off trivial exercise that can fill in time.

By taking this approach I believe we establish respect in the community for System 6 and its supporters — the public at large — and achieve optimum impact without burning ourselves out.

Here endeth the lesson and a most rewarding experience.

Phillip Gabriel

Ecoplan volunteer.

System 6

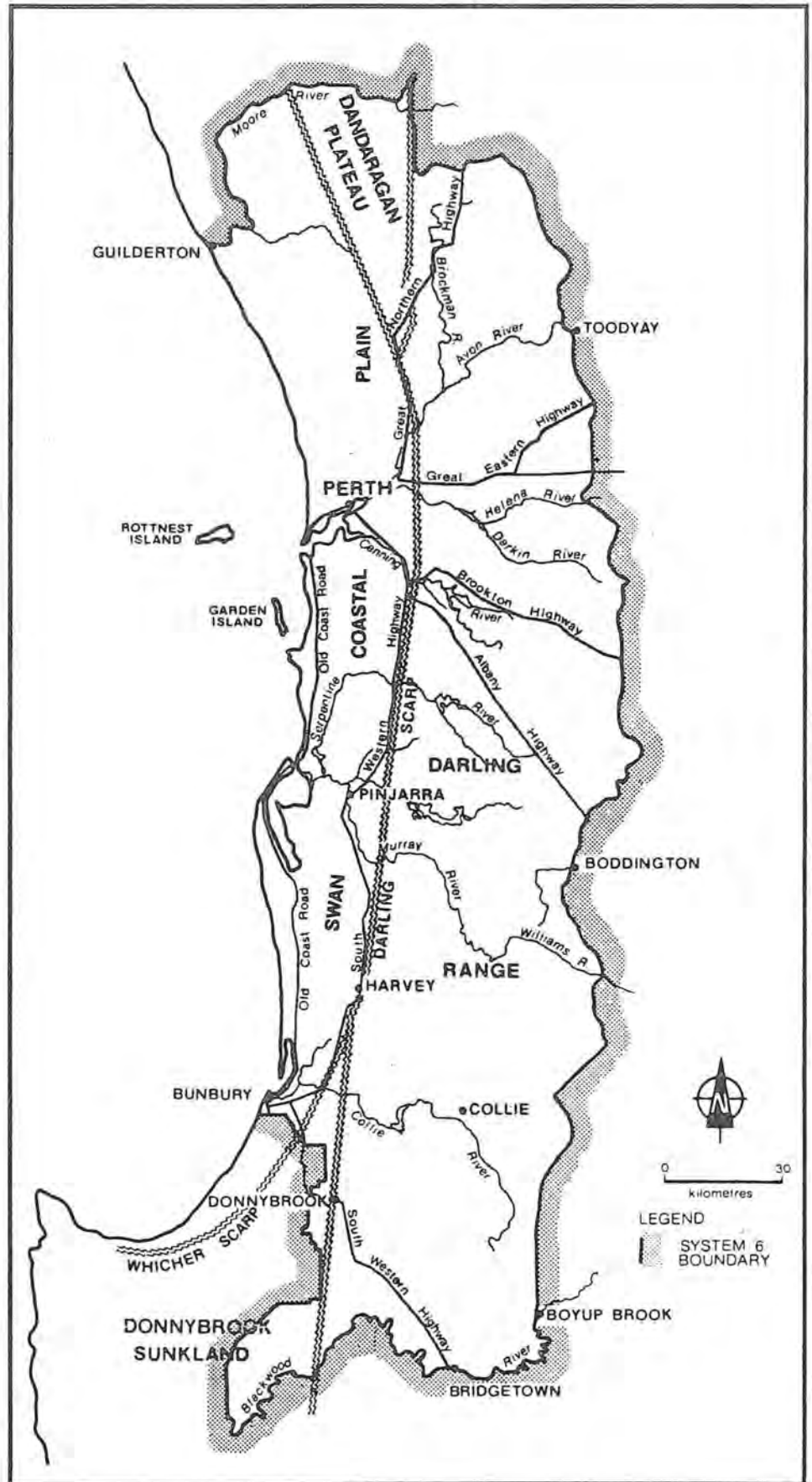
In 1972, the Environmental Protection Authority began a major study of Western Australia's need to set aside special areas for conservation and recreation.

The State was divided into 12 regions or systems, based on geography and human activities.

The State was examined system by system to define areas which should be set aside for reserves because of their particular value for flora, fauna, landscape, geology or recreation.

System 6 includes the highly populated areas around Perth. It extends from Moore River in the north to the Blackwood River in the south and inland as far as Toodyay.

System 6 — Ecoplan is a strategy adopted by community conservation groups and the EPA to encourage people to help look after areas nominated in the System 6 Report as being worthy of protection.



Regional reports

South East Area

The South East Area Group is up and running and meeting each fortnight at Jenny Bradford's house in Kelmscott.

Anyone interested in joining the group or coming to a meeting should telephone Peter Ducie on 398 1504.

The area covers Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Armadale, Gosnells and the Canning council areas.

We have set general objectives: to identify and give priorities to System 6 areas which are under the greatest threat in our region; to identify areas which we feel should be included in System 6 and to generate public interest in System 6.

Our specific objectives include:

- Armadale Earthcare Week.
- Primary School Programme — starting with the Mary Carroll Park and one of

the local schools, we are working on a presentation structured for Year 2 level. We hope that, when completed, we can utilise the presentation in most Year 2 classes after a period of familiarisation of the local System 6 area. Presentations for other years will follow.

- We are compiling a computer disk-based resource bibliography with around 200 environmental resources listed and are producing a newsletter for our region. The first issue will be the 'Armadale Earthcare Week' edition.
- We also will include a diary of events such as tree planting or clean-ups, organised by System 6 local community groups together with any other non-System 6 news.

Armadale Earthcare Week — building a local community network

Are you having difficulty reaching a large audience?

Do you want the local residents to hear of your group or activities? Do you want a large volunteer base?

If so, consider taking over your local shopping centre for a week.

The 1991 Armadale Earthcare Week is based at the Armadale Shopping City from October 14 to 19.

It is being organised by the Armadale Settlers' Common Advisory Committee and the Armadale Recreation and Earth Discovery Scheme.

The event will combine static and active displays from environmental groups and government organisations.

The displays contain local and regional elements with emphasis on what is happening in the district.

Meanwhile, plans are afoot that could soon see Earthcare Week on the move.

The South East Metro Ecoplan Group plans to take Earthcare Week to other shopping centres in its area.

What about your district? An Earthcare Week is easy to organise and provides a great opportunity to "spread the word" in your neighbourhood.

For those considering a similar exercise of their own, the week-long display for Armadale employs two people. The wages total to \$1200 including preparation time with a further \$250 for equipment and consumables.

For more information, contact: Brett Tizard, Secretary, Armadale Settlers' Common Advisory Committee, PO Box 69, Armadale, WA, 6112. Telephone 497 3469 or 224 3137.

Bayswater Greenwork reports

The Ecoplan volunteers from Bayswater Greenwork are now well on the way to restoring their chosen System 6 area, M51 — the river foreshore downstream from Garratt Road bridge.

A visit to the site revealed that a cycleway had been put through the middle of the area, and that there was heavy weed infestation.

We started to get a picture of the problems facing the area as we arranged meetings on site with the various authorities involved.

These included the EPA, the Swan River Trust, Department of Planning and Urban Development and the City of Bayswater.

We also invited Kathy Meney from Kings Park and David Kaesehagen from APACE to give us ideas about how to tackle the weed problem.

The process involved many meetings and we received a lot of support from Margo O'Byrne and Fiona Keating from the EPA and Verity Klemm of the Swan River Trust. Many thanks!

The geography students from the University of WA needed a project to take

on for second semester and Verity directed them to M 51.

They are now doing a study of the area's hydrology, a vegetation survey and an invertebrate survey.

After gathering the information we had to decide on a plan of action. A weed control programme was worked out, based largely on manual extraction by volunteers.

Margo McGurk printed some pamphlets for a letterbox drop to the area, and we held our first workday on Sunday, September 8.

Despite the driving rain and gale-force winds we had eight hardy souls there for two hours, and removed a large pile of weeds.

We are running workdays every Saturday from 9am to 11am, so if any other volunteers would like to come and see what we are doing, please feel welcome.

Another problem we will look at next year is the ownership and vesting of the area.

It is owned by DPUD but the department wants to pass vesting of the area to some other body, such as Swan River Trust, the Department of Conservation and Land Management or the City of Bayswater.

Coming Events

Ecoplan tour of System 6 areas

Here's a chance to bring the family out for the day, meet up with other Ecoplan volunteers and look at some of the System 6 areas.

Northern areas

Saturday, November 9 at 10.30am.

Meet at Neil Hawkins Park, Boas Ave, Joondalup and on to other local System 6 areas.

Bring a picnic lunch, and the family and make a day of it. Contact Margo O'Byrne on 222 7054.

Southern areas

Saturday, October 26 at 10.30am.

Meet at Mary Carroll Park (M76) Eudoria Street, Gosnells, then on to other local System 6 areas. Bring a picnic lunch and make a day of it. For more details contact Margo O'Byrne on 222 7054.

Bobtail Bush Bus family day

October 14-19 at 9am.

Meet at the City of Armadale administration centre (Jull Street, Armadale). Bus to Roleystone, Armadale and Forrestdale Lake for a Wildflower Wander. Sausage Sizzle lunch provided. Return to City of Armadale about 3.30pm. All this for \$3 adults and \$2.50 for children. Seats are limited. Contact Melina George, City of Armadale, 909 0111 for bookings. This is an Armadale Settlers' Common Advisory Committee/Office of the Family SUMFUN project.

Community Skills Training Centre

The Community Skills Training Centre runs courses for people working in community organisations. If you call the centre they will send you a calendar of courses available from July to December 1991 or you could come and look at the one in Margo's office next time you are in. Titles for coming courses include "Networking for Support"; "Learning from Conflict"; Volunteer Co-Ordination Training"; "Becoming a Good Leader"; "Women and the Challenge of Transitions". For further information about the centre call 382 0712.

Community Implementation of System Six Committee meeting

Tuesday, November 12 at 5.30pm - 7.30pm.

7th Floor Conference Room
Environment House
1 Mount Street
PERTH

System 6 — Ecoplan regional co-ordinators meeting

Saturday, November 23 at 9.30am - 11.30am.

1st Floor Training Room,
Environment House
1 Mount Street,
PERTH

Meet Margo...

A face familiar to System 6 — Ecoplan volunteers is the EPA's community involvement co-ordinator Margo O'Byrne. Margo — who joined the EPA in April this year — symbolises the importance given to Ecoplan by the Authority.

The EPA believed that even with the effort already being made by its own officers and members of the conservation movement, a person dedicated to community involvement in the project was vital to ensure its success.

Margo came to the EPA from the Department of Planning and Urban Development where she was on secondment from the Department of Employment and Training (DET).

A quick scan of her curriculum vitae shows a wealth of experience that makes her so well qualified for her present job.

Margo has an extensive background in community involvement projects, illustrated, for example, by her work with DET promoting women in non-traditional occupations to schools and community groups during extensive travels throughout the State.

Margo also has worked as a volunteer counsellor for the Family Planning Association of WA, giving her an understanding of what motivates people to work as volunteers, what their needs and responsibilities are.



Information

Display maps

Ecoplan volunteer John Robertson of Maddington has offered to help make display maps of local System 6 areas.

John has done this for the south-east region for use in shopping centre displays.

If you would like to discuss this further, please telephone John on 459 8852.

System 6 — Ecoplan Resource Bibliography

A Macintosh computer-based resource bibliography is being prepared for Ecoplan by Brett Tizard of Armadale.

The bibliography will list resources in categories such as wetlands, jarrah forest, fish regeneration and recycling.

The cost and location of the resource will also be listed in the database to be made available to schools and community groups.

Most schools should own a Macintosh but we will have a print-out available as a substitute.

If you know of any great, good or even just okay environmental resources please tell us.

A short workshop may be arranged to familiarise volunteers with the bibliography.

Please send contributions to Margo O'Byrne or to Brett Tizard, 45 Dawson Street, Armadale. If you would like to become part of the distribution network for the bibliography, contact Margo.

Funding

The Gordon Reid Foundation has funding for grants to community-based, non-profit groups which are run mainly by volunteers.

Priority is given to groups which are involved in practical projects to restore, protect, manage or monitor their local environment.

Grants of up to \$3000 for each organisation over two years may be made to eligible groups.

Initially, there will be one funding round advertised with a closing date of November 30, 1991.

Enquiries to:

The executive officer

The Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation

PO Box 410

SUBIACO WA 6008

Tel: 381 7511

Ecoplan contacts

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Conservation Council	
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Luci Ravi	321 5942
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Greening Australia education officer	
Annie Ilett	481 2144
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APACE	
1 Joanna Street	
NORTH FREMANTLE	336 1262
Volunteer Centre of WA	
79 Stirling St	
PERTH	220 0676
Community Skills Training Centre	
227 Stubbs Terrace	
SHENTON PARK	382 0712

Ecoplan community contacts

South East Region	
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Central North Region	
Sonya van Mierlo	344 2749
Central Region	
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North East Region	
Fred Clausen	296 1451
Mandurah	
Bill Tate	535 7727

Ecoplan

System 6 — Ecoplan is a joint venture between the Environmental Protection Authority and the voluntary conservation movement.

It is supported by the Conservation Council of Western Australia, the Environment Centre of WA, Greenforce, the Helena Valley Boya Association and the Ministry of Education.

Ecoplan News will be published every two months and your contributions, including photographs and graphics are welcome.