

Conservation estate growing

Ecoplan continues to play its part in driving the protection of Perth's System 6 conservation areas, says an Environmental Protection Authority report released last month.

The 130-page Red Book Status Report was released by EPA chairman Barry Carbon on February 17 at Parkerville Primary School.

The report said public involvement had been an integral part of the formulation of the EPA's Red Books which made hundreds of recommendations for establishing WA's conservation estate.

"There are strong community expectations about the implementation of these recommendations and opportunities for on-going involvement by people and groups in the care and management of the conservation areas," the report said.

Ecoplan had in part grown out of this expectation.

"System 6 areas have greatly benefited from the Ecoplan programme with schools and community groups adopting areas such as the Swan River foreshore near Garratt Road bridge, Yellagonga Regional Park, the Ellis Brook Valley and Mary Carroll Park wetland near Gosnells, the Armadale Settlers Common and the Parkerville System 6 area," the report said.

On a broader front, the report said Western Australia's conservation estate had more than doubled to about 17.4 million hectares in the past 17 years.

Conservation reserves now cover about seven per cent of the State.

Barry Carbon said good progress had been made in implementing recommendations for 12 regions — or systems — into which the Red Books divided the State.

Almost all recommendations were implemented in some systems and more than 70 per cent in most.

Barry said the major exceptions to the high level of implementation were System 6 and System 7 (Kimberley), where 35 to 45 per cent of recommendations were implemented.

"Over the next two years the EPA will continue to direct much of its implementation efforts to the area around Perth which provides the greatest challenges," he said.

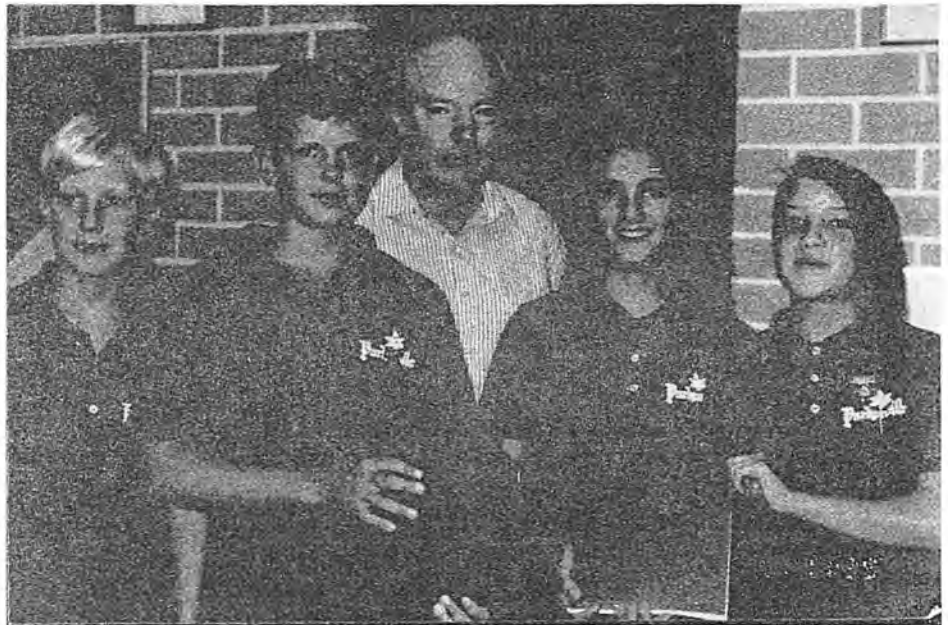
"In System 6 a special effort will be made to implement the recent government decision to create a new land category of regional park and to

finalise reservations in the Beeliar Regional Park and Leda areas.

"I'm sure that the spirit of co-operation among all agencies working on Red Book recommendations will continue to ensure good progress on their implementation."

Copies of the report are available from the EPA.

Parkerville Primary School presentation



Parkerville Primary School students (left to right) Robert Beaton, Daniel Kaars, Bill Frost (teacher), Katrina Lapham and Karlina Knowles with their Red Books.

Parkerville Primary School was a natural choice for the release of the Red Book Status Report last month.

A key part of Ecoplan was the suggestion that schools "adopt" a System 6 area to help protect it and Parkerville School has done just that with System 6 area (M22) which surrounds the school.

The area is used for plant and animal research and is a habitat for several rare and endangered species.

Guided by teacher Bill Frost and gardener Brian Marshall, Parkerville students are taking part in an

experiment to combat dieback in trees in the surrounding bush.

Using techniques developed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management the students use specialised equipment to inject trees with neutralised phosphorous acid which kills the dieback bacteria.

At the release, Environmental Protection Authority chairman Barry Carbon presented Parkerville students with the first officially released copy of the Red Book Status Report.

He also presented the school with the two-volume Flora of the Perth Region.



Ecoplan update

— with Margo O'Byrne, EPA community involvement co-ordinator

Summer for many people seems to have been a time for getting things done and there have been several remarkable achievements through EcoPlan.

The first EcoPlan Conference was on the weekend of February 13 and 14. Many EcoPlan volunteers attended the conference and helped to make it a success.

I thank all who gave their support to the conference either by their active participation or good wishes for our success.

Thanks in particular to all those who made presentations at the conference and those whose quiet contributions behind the scenes enabled things to run smoothly.

Thanks also to all who took the time to get together displays of what is happening in your own area — many people commented to me that it was encouraging to see so much going on.

Thanks, too, to Brett Tizard for organising the Saturday night social gathering. It was a great opportunity to get to know people a little better.

Many exciting things have happened in Perth in the past few months to help protect Perth's bush.

The 130-page Red Book Status Report was released by the EPA chairman Barry Carbon at Parkerville Primary School on February 17.

Staff, students and parents at the school welcomed us and school gardener Brian Marshall demonstrated the school's work combating dieback in the surrounding jarrah bush of System 6 area M22.

The opening of the Field Study Centre at the Armadale Settlers Common in

January was a very exciting afternoon and congratulations to all who have worked so hard to make this dream come true.

Friends of Ellis Brook Valley have had a lot to contend with.

A serious fire through the reserve in January (which unfortunately was deliberately lit) burned out some 900 hectares of the reserve. However, if anyone ever doubted the capacity of the Australian bush to regenerate then a visit to the valley will lift your spirit.

The friends group has planned several activities to encourage people to visit the valley and take an Ellis Brook Break. Details are in the article on page 3.

Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park have managed to attract funding from the LEAP programme and have started a training programme with 15 young people in Wanneroo.

Bayswater Greenwork together with a local Workpower group have established a nursery of wetland plants and are working towards a management plan for the Garratt Road area.

The Eastern Hills group had its first meeting and members are beginning to set themselves objectives.

On Sunday March 21 the Urban Bushland Council was launched. The council will work to provide a united voice on the issues of urban bushland. We wish the council well in its endeavours.

This is a time of consolidation for EcoPlan and I will be working with any group of people who would like further help in adopting a local System 6 area. Just give me a call at the EPA if you need help.

Armadale gets study centre

On the sweltering afternoon of January 30, a small group of people dragged itself away from the WACA — where the Australian cricket team was putting in a respectable performance — to witness a dream come true.

The Armadale Settlers Common field study centre was officially opened.

The centre is on the common and will be used as a study centre for local school and community groups.

Armadale Mayor Roger Stubbs congratulated the members of the Armadale Settlers Common Committee for their hard work and handed over sets of keys to Brett Tizard committee secretary and to Ian Blackburn, former Mayor and former committee chairman.

Highlight of the afternoon was a look at the plans for the construction of an Aboriginal food and medicine garden being built by participants in the local Aboriginal Job Link project.

One aim of the project is to generate pride in heritage and cultural awareness, informing the wider community of Aboriginal culture, while including Aboriginal people in community development.

The field study centre was built using \$52 500 from the Federal Government and staff and equipment from the City of Armadale.

It is hoped the centre will feature permanent displays on plants and animals physical features of the reserve as well as management issues such as fire control, feral animals.

It is planned to hold an open day at the centre in September.

Seed harvest prompts warning

Environmentalist Joanna Seabrook has sounded a warning against the impact of commercial seed gathering on the future of the West Australian bush.

In her book *Seeds of the Bush* — yet to be published — Joanna has devoted a chapter to the dangers of over exploiting native plant seeds through commercial seed collection and wildflower harvesting.

Joanna says both industries are open to

abuse, with little prospect of adequate policing in WA's vast areas of bush.

Only licensed collectors may take seeds or flowers from the bush. But Joanna says the industry now removes many tonnes of seeds for export and local use, threatening the survival of some species.

"The case to establish seed farms grows stronger as the need for revegetation is more widely perceived," she writes.

"Seed and plants for flowers can be

grown in the same way as the farming of any other crop.

"This would be preferable and probably more financially rewarding in the long term than collection from the wild, where the scarcity of the plants makes the collection of large amounts of seed or flowers both difficult and damaging to ecosystems."

Joanna points to what she sees as the major problems to be faced.

Continued on page 7

Valley oasis makes inspired recovery

Ellis Brook Valley Reserve in Gosnells is proving an inspiration for one group of Ecoplan volunteers.

The 1450 hectare reserve was in January badly damaged by a fire — deliberately lit — but Ecoplan volunteer Margaret Robertson still manages to see the bright side of this.

She says the reserve is testimony to the ability of the Australian bush to regenerate but also the fire has exposed some rubbish in the bush which is now being removed.

Margaret is a member of the Friends of Ellis Brook Reserve which is System 6 area M80. The area — which is managed by the City of Gosnells — will become part of the Darling Range Regional Park.

The valley supports many plant communities, and some of the flora species found there are classified as rare and endangered.

"Interacting with these plants are many animal species, probably the most visible being the Western Grey Kangaroo, numerous reptiles and many species of birds," Margaret says.

"We have a large colony of Splendid Fairy Wrens living along the brook line, whose antics are delightful to watch, if you are lucky enough to actually see them."

The Friends of Ellis Brook Valley (Inc) was founded in June, 1992 when a need for community involvement was seen by a group of local people.

"Up until this time the valley had been a haven for off-road vehicles, which were systematically destroying the bushland," Margaret says.

"Rubbish dumpers were also creating huge problems for the bushland, because, of course along with the rubbish came the introductions of weeds, grass weeds being prominent."

These weeds included prickly pear, fennel, grape vines, geranium plants, alopecurus species, bugle lilies, cape

lilac trees, tree lucerne, morning glory vine and the list goes on.

Since its foundation, the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley has initiated several programmes in the reserve, including bush regeneration, seed collecting, restoration of badly degraded areas, control of off-road vehicles, environmental education and regular rubbish clean ups.

"We have found that by increasing public awareness of the valley, the user profile has changed, and the incidents of rubbish dumping, off-road vehicles, and vandalism has decreased — which is encouraging to say the least," Margaret says.

"Unfortunately the valley suffered a devastating fire in January this year, and yes, it was deliberately lit. As a result of the fire there is now a lot of work to do."

The Friends will be monitoring weed re-growth, and removing the weeds systematically at the regular work sessions.

The group also will be removing from the bush the now visible rubbish, such as old car bodies, glass, and general household items.

"We have already begun this task, with a very successful day held on Sunday, March 14, and another is planned for the fourth Sunday in April. All help will be greatly appreciated," says Margaret.

Regular work sessions in the valley are on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, beginning at 8.30am and finishing about 11am.

The Friends of Ellis Brook Valley (Inc) meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 7.30pm.

Take an Ellis Brook break

The Friends of Ellis Brook Valley have launched a new programme this year — the "Ellis Brook Break".

This is for anyone who wants to get out of the house for a couple of hours, and try something different. You could try: a nature walk, learn about bush regeneration, pull out some weeds, partake in a flora survey (you don't have to be a botanist), vegetation mapping, or — just sit by the brook and enjoy pleasant company and a cuppa.

An Ellis Brook Break is not designed to have you exhausted, and feeling as though you've had a two-hour work out. It's meant to be interesting and relaxing.

Ellis Brook Breaks are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (9am-11am) between March and November. As interest grows, it is planned to extend the Break to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

The best thing is — it's free! The only thing you bring is yourself, for morning tea, and a chair to sit in.

For further information please contact Margaret Robertson on (09) 459 8852 or 018 953674.

Conference sets goals

The Ecoplan conference held in February by the EPA has been hailed a success.

About 20 speakers addressed the conference at the Perth Zoo on issues ranging from "wildflowers and creepy crawlies" to bush regeneration and making submissions for funding.

EPA community involvement co-ordinator Margo O'Byrne said 21 recommendations were made at the conference and these would be summarised and responses sent to participants.

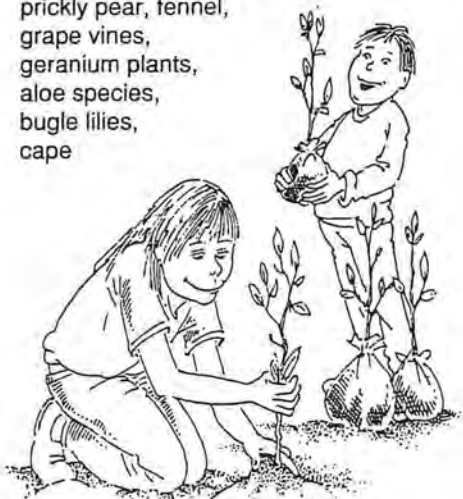
"The conference drew on some the experiences gained in the two years since Ecoplan was launched and on the

vast experience of some of the speakers who have been involved in environmental protection for many years," Margo said.

"Many people have told me that the conference had given them valuable information to help tackle the projects they are running in their local System 6 areas."

Conference speakers included EPA chairman Barry Carbon, Wetlands Conservation Society president Phil Jennings, Conservation Council Ecoplan co-ordinator Joan Payne and APACE Aid president David Kaeshagen.

Several Ecoplan volunteers addressed the conference and organised displays.



Regional reports

Central South Region

Carina Calzoni reports that Ecoplan members from the central south region found the Ecoplan conference very worthwhile and would like to thank the organisers for an educational and well-run weekend.

"Setting up a display meant that we established concise aims and priorities for our regional group, so the conference was very valuable for us," Carina says.

Thanks to Mark Horton from CREW (Canning River Estuary Watercare) who gave a very entertaining talk on behalf of the group.

• Bull Creek (M74)

Bull Creek reserve is a degraded area that surrounds Leach Highway just after Bull Creek Drive.

The Melville City Council is reviewing a management plan for the area and recently held a meeting for interested residents to express opinions on the plan.

The next step will be to form a "Friends of Bull Creek" group and implement the plan. This would be an good opportunity for people who have done the bush regeneration course to do some hands-on work in a reserve.

For details contact Carina on (09) 364 6443 or Sharon on (09) 337 8646.

Central Region — Bayswater

The Landcare and Environment Action Plan project at Garratt Road Bridge has been running for six months.

The LEAP participants have been very busy making firebreaks, removing pampas grass and direct seeding melaleucas and eucalypts.

A bushfire — usually an unwelcome event — burnt half the area severely in December but proved to be a blessing in disguise.

The area which was burnt contained most of the weed communities, and the fire provided easy access to the area to control the regrowth (as opposed to fighting through two-metre high bracken and pampas grass).

Bayswater Greenwork has recently applied for a Landcare grant.

If the bid is successful, the grant will supply money for two activities, production of a management plan for M51, and wages for a co-ordinator

South East Region

LEAP training programmes at the Armadale Settlers' Common got off to a flying start.

The federally funded Landcare and Environmental Action Program (LEAP) will give the participants a solid grounding in the theory and practice of horticulture.

WESTREK, a youth training organisation, is running one of the programmes based on the Wildflower Walk.

This garden will display the spectacular wildflowers of Western Australia.

The 15 young people built a rain water tank stand in the first days of the project and look set to create something special.

The Aboriginal food and medicine garden is taking shape, stone paths and markers are in place and the planting schedule is on track.

This garden will concentrate on food and medicine plants found in the South-West but will contain examples from the Kimberley and beyond.

• Many hands made light work at the Armadale Settlers' Common during the recent Clean Up Australia Day.

Friends of the Common were helped by the Armadale Recreation and Earth Discovery Scheme, 1st Armadale Cubs.

to work 12 hours a week supervising volunteer work in the area.

This will allow the group to continue the good work started by the LEAP participants.

Bayswater Greenwork still has Saturday morning workdays at Garratt Road — contact Linda Taman (09) 271 9832.

Finding friends

Friends of Ellis Brook Valley Margaret Robertson is compiling a list of groups working in bushland reserves.

Margaret is designing a form which will be sent out to all known individuals, local governments, conservation groups and anyone else interested in preserving bushland.

If you would like to contribute to this information and you are not presently on the Ecoplan mailing list, please call Margo O'Byrne on (09) 222 7054.

Men of the Trees News

• Sat 1 May 1993 — 10am to 4pm

• Field Day

Theme of Landcare — Trees for all Reasons.

Talks, demonstrations, stalls and childrens' activities. Free admission.

• Planting Programme

June 1993 Yericoin

Katanning 1 (midweek)

Pinjarra

Amery Acres

St Barbe Grove

July 1993 Pickering Brook

Katanning 2 (midweek)

Mundaring

Gt Eastern Highway Bypass

Amery Acres

Amery Acres (midweek)

Please phone the nursery for exact dates and details.

• Arbor Day, 11 June 1993

Men of the trees (MOTT) volunteers available for Arbor Day talks.

Contact MOTT nursery on (09) 501 888

Three free seedlings available for a donation.

• Seed collecting trip

Easter Seed collecting trip to Corrigin.

Contact Robin Campbell on

(09) 384 8674

• Children of the Trees Fundraising

Join us on the paddlesteamer "Decoy" with entertainment and light refreshments provided.

3.30pm — 6.30pm.

Cost: \$20 per ticket.

Contact Rosanne or Amanda on

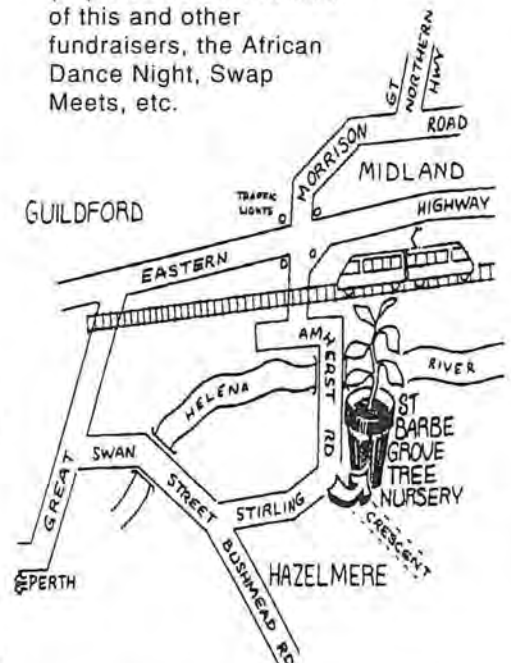
(09) 250 1888 for details

of this and other

fundraisers, the Atrican

Dance Night, Swap

Meets, etc.



St Barbe Grove Tree Nursery

North West Region

The North-West Ecoplan group is pleased to have the help of David Wake, who has had long-term interests in environmental issues.

When there's an issue to be tackled, David has never shied away from the need for publicity and submission writing, as well as founding action groups for community involvement.

He also sat on many committees and advisory groups in the past as a community representative.

One of David's major tasks in the past couple of years has been as a member of the Yellagonga Regional Park Steering Committee, which is currently disbanding to make way for the interim management committee.

One of the casualties of the State election was Labor MLA for Wanneroo, Jackie Watkins, who chaired the Yellagonga Steering Committee.

The Friends of Yellagonga, helped by Jackie, gained a place for a community representative on the park's interim management committee.

Our new Liberal Member, Wayde Smith, has also given the Friends his full support since the group's inception, in his position as Wanneroo City Councillor.

The LEAP project being run by the Friends of Yellagonga is humming along smoothly after a busy few months' planning.

Three of the group's members have been employed as part-time co-ordinators and supervisors, and one part-time supervisor was recruited externally.

Participants spend their mornings working on various projects in the park, and afternoons are taken up with doing TAFE units at the Wanneroo Youth Activities Centre.

Supervisors are very pleased with the way group members have come together as a team.

The Friends of Yellagonga have received money from Wanneroo City Council to run a bush regeneration course at the end of the year.

It is hoped that Ecoplan volunteers from the region will attend.

• The Friends of Marmion Marine Park hold regular beach walks and as part of "Sea Week" they invite the public along on a beach and reef walk.

Contact Linda Arnold on (09) 342 5091. During Sea Week there will also be all-day (free) activities at Hillarys Boat Harbour on March 28 and at Fremantle on April 4.

• It was great to meet up with other Ecoplan volunteers at the Ecoplan Conference on February 13-14.

Many thanks to the EPA for putting on the event — it was much appreciated and seemed to be wholeheartedly enjoyed by all those in attendance.

The effort put in by our speakers was outstanding.

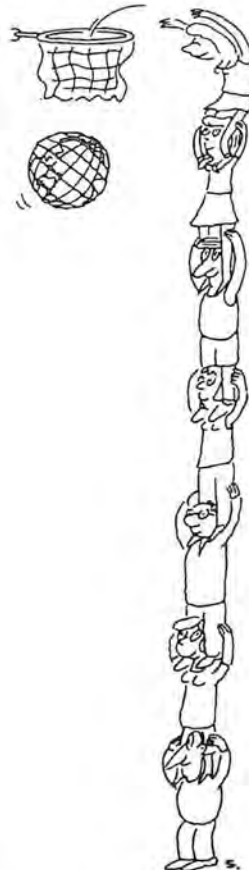
Carina's new job

Carina Calzoni, Ecoplan volunteer from the Central South Region, has been appointed as assistant co-ordinator at the Environment Centre of WA.

The Environment Centre is a non-profit educational, referral and service centre.

It has a library, a shop for green goods, gifts and books and a space for other groups to use as a base.

If your group needs a base, a place to meet or has any enquiries please phone Carina on (09) 321 5942 or call into the centre which is at 587 Wellington Street, Perth near the corner of King Street.



Often the best work happens when people are also having a good time!

Ecoplan contacts

□ Contact numbers:

Ecoplan community involvement coordinator
Margo O'Byrne ☎ 222 7054

Conservation Council of WA
Ecoplan coordinator
Joan Payne ☎ 397 6380
WA Conservation Council
79 Stirling Street
PERTH ☎ 220 0652

Environment Centre of WA
587 Wellington Street
PERTH ☎ 321 5942

Greening Western Australia
1118 Hay Street
WEST PERTH ☎ 481 2144
Education Officer, Annie Ilett

APACE
1 Joanna Street
NORTH FREMANTLE ☎ 336 1262

Volunteer Centre of WA
79 Stirling Street
PERTH ☎ 220 0676

Community Skills Training Centre
227 Stubbs Terrace
SHENTON PARK 6008

□ Ecoplan community contacts:

South-East Region
Brett Tizard ☎ 497 3469

Central-South Region
Sharon Linton ☎ 337 8646
Carina Calzoni ☎ 364 6443

North-West Region
Fay Mumme ☎ 401 2678

Central Region
Linda Taman ☎ 271 9832

Eastern Hills Region
Robert Watkinson-Slough ☎ 527 1489
Jan Pitman ☎ 377 9241

Letters

Please keep letters short and address them to:
The Editor, *Ecoplan News*, C/- Westralia Square, 141 St George's Terrace, Perth WA 6000.
Fax 322 1598. Letters may be edited for legal reasons, space or clarity.

Queens Park preservation

Dear Editor

It is encouraging that many people have emerged from the community, wanting to protect their local bushland.

This is occurring all over Perth, including many of the inner suburbs such as Shenton Park, Belmont, Redcliffe and Queens Park.

Most of the bushland issues relate to preservation, and concern has arisen in the community, when they realise that bulldozers are on their way.

Some of the older suburbs have only small remnants of bushland left, and for the residents these patches are of great local importance.

An exception to this is the large area of bushland in Queens Park, bounded by the rear of Bagoda Street, Maniana Road, Gibbs, Luyer and Station streets and Welshpool Road and extends north across the main road to bushland adjoining the Welshpool industrial area.

The City of Canning is preparing a working paper which will examine the site and community demands for active recreation and associated facilities.

This document will be available for public comment in the near future. (You can register your interest with the City of Canning, so you get a copy).

Concerns about the plans to establish an active recreation area were conveyed to the EPA on October 22, 1992.

The EPA advised it would await a formal proposal before deciding on assessment.

Losing sight?

Dear Editor

Unfortunately, we little people are losing the battle for the environment, partly because we are not aware of developments, and partly because of the complicated system we have to go through to reply to a CER or PER, and also when it gets to the stage of appeal, we then have to pay \$10 for the privilege of being heard, and our appeals are turned down anyway.

I feel that the EPA has lost sight of its objective to protect the environment at all costs, and has instead been concerned with pacifying the local shires and developers (big money) at the expense of the environment.

Penny Ford
Singleton

Based on the EPA's attitude to urban bushland which is not System 6, it is almost certain that it will not formally assess the proposal.

An "informal advice" decision by the EPA would leave the Queens Park bushland open to the same abuses as other areas which were subject to the infamous EPA "informal advice" decisions, for example the Roleystone golf estate, Paganoni wetlands and woodlands, Millendon scarp subdivision etc.

However, the most scandalous example

of an "informal advice" was the Secret Harbour golf estate development south of Rockingham, where the fragile environment — Interim Listed on the Register of the National Estate and of international significance for science — is currently being decimated.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in the preservation of the remnant bushland at Queens Park should contact Joan Payne on (09) 220 0652.

Joan Payne
Conservation Council of WA's
Ecoplan co-ordinator

Management strategy questioned

Dear Editor

With the release of the draft Darling Range Regional Park and Landscape Study comes optimism that a large number of System 6 recommendations, have moved a big step closer to implementation.

This rosy picture is in contrast to what is happening to the draft Jandakot Land Use and Water Management Strategy, which was released about the same time.

The strategy was warmly welcomed by many in the community, as it sought to protect the Jandakot groundwater mound from pollution — so our children and their children can have uncontaminated water — and also to set aside the most important remnants of the banksia woodland and wetlands in the Jandakot region as part of a Botanical Park.

It should be noted that the strategy confirms that only 5% of banksia woodland remains — this is an appalling situation which you would think might have invoked sufficient concern by Government agencies to see that the fragment that remains is protected.

Not so!

Even before the public submission period has closed, the strategy has already been undermined.

It appears that a landowner applied to clear remnant banksia woodland to run cattle, on land in the study area and which was also identified for rural landscape and conservation zoning.

This zoning allows land to remain in private ownership but seeks to protect conservation values by placing special controls on the land, to prevent

inappropriate development which would destroy these values.

After receiving local council approval, the application to clear was referred to the EPA for its consideration.

Despite a strong letter from the Conservation Council condemning the application and bringing the matter to the attention of the Chief Executive Officer, the EPA has opted for informal advice which makes any conditions related to clearing, unenforceable.

The Conservation Council of WA is appalled at the EPA's spineless attitude towards protecting remnant banksia woodland.

It is possible that the EPA may have created a precedent which could prevent the strategy's objectives being met and that the proposals to establish a Jandakot Botanical Park and protect the groundwater, could now fail.

If this occurs then they must accept the blame.

Joan Payne
Conservation Council of WA's
Ecoplan co-ordinator



Coming events

◆ Wildflower Society

Lecture by Dr Steve Hopper
Local Bushland — Discovery in Your Backyard
Wednesday 21 April at 8pm — Octagon Theatre University of WA
Cost \$10 including light refreshments
Tickets from the Wildflower Society
(09) 383 7979

◆ Bush Regeneration Courses

Three courses will be run this year. The first two will be held in Fremantle and the third north of Perth. The nine-week course will cost \$200 and the dates are:
Saturday 24.7.93 — 18.9.93
Monday 30.8.93 — 25.10.93
Saturday 9.10.93 — 4.12.93
Courses run from 1pm to 4pm. Contact: Susan Lovell, APACE on (09) 336 1262.

◆ Greening WA Workshops

Points to consider when planning a revegetation programme.
Practicalities of seed collection and plant propagation programmes.
Workshops will be held at APACE from 9am-4pm on these days:

Saturday 4 April 1993
Friday 29 May 1993
Wednesday 24 June 1993

These courses are free, though a small charge will be made for lunch, morning and afternoon tea.

Bookings through Susan Lovell at APACE (09) 336 1262

◆ Professional development courses for teachers

The Conservation Council of WA is sponsoring professional development courses for teachers.

Interested community members may join these tours subject to available space.

Contact: Elaine Horne, Conservation Council (09) 220 0652.

SEMESTER 1

•Wed 5 May — 8.30am to 11.30am
Primary Environmental Education
Greenteach Initiative. Morning at Glengarry Primary School Cost: \$25

•Mon 10 May — 10am to 3pm
Wetlands and Groundwater. *Tour of Jandakot wetlands and groundwater stations* Cost: \$42

•Wed 12 May — 9am to 3.30pm
Alternative Energy
Tour to Solar house, Murdoch Energy Research Institute, Solar Energy Info Centre Cost: \$44

•Wed 26 May — 9am to 12 noon
Bushland
Morning at Ellenbrook Cost: \$25

•Thur 27 May
Secondary Environmental Education
Greenteach Initiative. Half day at Gosnells Senior High School .. Cost: \$25

•Thur 3 June — 9am to 4.30pm
Forests
Tour of Dwellingup. Bus will be provided. Cost: \$60

•Wed 16 June — 9am to 3.30pm
Pollution
Tour of Murdoch University then Kwinana. Bus provided from Murdoch. Cost: \$48

◆ Wetlands Seminar Series

Seminars will be held in the EPA training room on the 9th floor of Westralia Square, 141 St George's Terrace, Perth. Contact: Leanne Harris (09) 222 7038.

•Thur 29 April — 3.30pm
Wetland creation and restoration.
Bernie Masters and Geoff Bott.

•Thur 20 May — 3.30pm
Applications of wetland evaluation systems in Western Australia.
Alan Hill (Water Authority of WA)

•Thur 17 June — 3.30pm
A city and its swamp sett(ling): Decolonising Perth's wetlands.
Rod Giblet (Curtin University of Technology)

◆ City of Wanneroo Community Planting Programme 1993

The City of Wanneroo Green Plan wants people for tree planting on Sundays between 2 May and 20 June 1993.

Details are as follows:

Lilburne Park — Sunday 2 May
Gumblossom Park — Sunday 9 May
Marangaroo Conservation Reserve — Sunday 16 May
Warwick Conservation Reserve — Sunday 23 May

Shepherds Bush Park — Sunday 13 June
Montrose Park — Sunday 20 June
Contact: David Saunders, City of Wanneroo (09) 405 0333.

◆ Friends of Marmion Marine Park

•March 28
Seaweek begins.

•April 25 1993 — 9.30am
Beach walk at North Beach.
Meet at the Centaur monument.

•May 11 1993 — 8pm
General meeting/Speaker night.
Mt Flora Conference room.

•May 15 1993 — 3.30pm
Beach walk at Trigg Beach.
Meet at the boat ramp next to Trigg rock. Bring shoes suitable for reef walking.
Contact: Linda Arnold (09) 342 5091.

Seeds of the bush

From page 2

She says demand for seeds for revegetation and export, especially from scarce plants is growing all the time, but ironically this is placing extra pressure on these species.

Naturally, seed and flower collectors try to take the best of the crops leaving only the poorer plant specimens to reproduce. Joanna says this disrupts the bush's own natural selection with ill-effects for gene pools.

"It needs to be understood that many Australian flowering plants are pollinated by specific insects which may only be present in mature form when the plant is flowering," she says.

"This interdependence means that, if material is removed from the plants, either as seed or flowers, the habitat of the pollinator is interfered with and the future of both the pollinator and the plant species may be at risk."

Joanna also says effective policing of seed collection and flower harvesting industries is extremely difficult and therefore inadequate.

"Malefactors have to be caught red-handed actively picking or loading unlawful seed, or flowers," she says.

"A truckload can always be said to have been taken from private property or some such story."

Serious permanent damage also is caused by the intrusion of vehicles into the bush. Tracks and ruts lead to erosion and disruption of habitat. There is also the problem of the spread of the various species of dieback.

Joanna believes the whole issue of seed and flower harvesting and its legislation needs re-thinking.

She says commercial seed collection and wildflower harvesting should be phased out in favour of farming both industries, possibly with some protection and encouragement during their establishment.

"Consideration should be given to allowing some seed to be taken from reserves to establish seed production," she says.

"This could be carefully carried out by Government officers. Reserves were set aside for the protection of species and the genetic pool resource for the future.

"Perhaps the future is here now."

Yellagonga has friends

Being a self-appointed guardian of Perth's Yellagonga Regional Park, insists Fay Mumme, is very much about being a member of a team.

Fay is co-ordinator and founding member of the Friends of Yellagonga, but she is very quick to hand out the accolades to her colleagues who have volunteered countless hours to "adopt" and look after a very special part of Perth's environment.

The 1500-hectare Yellagonga Regional Park includes lakes Joondalup and Goollelal and Wallubuenup and Beenypup swamps.

These wetlands are some of Perth's most important and were recommended for protection in the EPA's System 6 study.

The final plans to set up the park were released in November last year, marking an important step in the implementation of the EPA's recommendations for conservation reserves in the System 6 area.

Fay said vesting of Yellagonga would pave the way for formal management and protection of the park by the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the City of Wanneroo. CALM would be responsible for conservation areas and issues and the City of Wanneroo for developing recreational facilities.

A more secure future for the park became one of Fay's goals when she was bitten by the environment bug during her university studies.

"It would have been in the late 1980s when I really started to feel interested in

the park," Fay said.

"I was gaining knowledge of the issues through my studies and knowledge of the local environment.

"It appeared to me that there was no public profile of the area and that not many people were aware of the planning process or the fact that they could take part in it."

A planning review exercise for a geography unit confirmed Fay's suspicions that even local residents were largely unaware of the treasure at their doorsteps.

"I was surprised at how little people knew of the park — they didn't even know what it was called," she said.

"When I asked people if they knew they could participate in the planning process I just got blank stares.

"I suppose I was shocked in a way but it was very telling for me and I felt that something had to be done to create public awareness of the park.

"It was around that time that I saw an advertisement for the EPA's Ecoplan training for volunteers and this seemed to fit exactly.

"This was a way that with the help of the EPA I could help create public awareness, and from this awareness we believed that a sense of ownership for the park would develop."



About six months after Ecoplan training, Fay's next step was a letter to the local paper which prompted a "small but quality response".

"We have people with a wealth of knowledge about the area and hope that schools will use us for excursions to the park for botanical tours," Fay said.

Fay said public awareness of the park continued to grow, helped by frequent displays at local community events.

"From here we hope to have our members represented on a community advisory committee for the park and on an interim management committee," she said.

"We have had tremendous support from government agencies such as the EPA, CALM, the Department of Planning and Urban Development, Landcorp and the City of Wanneroo.

"But it's a case of give and take — they can help us and we can help them."

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