

LEAP for achievement

The first graduates from the Bayswater Landcare and Environment Action Programme were presented with certificates by Bayswater Mayor John D'Orazio last month.

This was the culmination of six months' hard work by Miles Hitchcock, the project co-ordinator for the programme.

Ecoplan News spoke to Miles about LEAP after the graduation.

"It is great to see these young people completing this course — there is a tremendous sense of achievement for everyone, especially those who had never finished anything before," Miles said.

"They had to find the ability to stick at it through difficult situations and learn many new skills.

"Seeing the process through from seed collecting and setting up a nursery to planting out was a very satisfying experience.

"You could actually see people learning."

The advantages for the community group, Bayswater Greenwork, have been many.

As well as introducing young people to environmental issues and helping them with training skills, bush regenerators have been working regularly in the reserve. This task has been slow going for the dedicated but small volunteer Greenwork group.

Work undertaken by the LEAP project contributed to the continuing rehabilitation programme for the System 6 river foreshore area in Bayswater.

The area has severe weed invasion and the project involved site preparation and concept planning, developing access to degraded areas and using the Bradley method of bush regeneration and weed removal.

The project also raised and planted 2000 local native trees and shrubs in the wetland.

When asked about a community group undertaking a LEAP project, Miles said: "The challenge for a network of volunteers is to form a really good team. You will need a team to co-ordinate the project rather than an individual.

"It is a six-month responsibility for the sponsor group. There is a large grant to administer and much unforeseen support for the participants may be needed, such as social and education support.

"You have to put the training needs of the participants first and the project aims second. If you are not willing to



Project co-ordinator Miles Hitchcock with fellow workers from Bayswater Greenwork helping rehabilitate river foreshore.

work eight hours a day with 10 or 15 young people from a variety of backgrounds, needs and interests then forget it," Miles said.

"They have to come first."

The LEAP programme seeks to integrate on-the-job training with off-the-job learning of TAFE units.

"It is a fairly new idea in education where participants are taking TAFE units and applying them to real project work," Miles said.

"This requires quite a bit of planning and interaction between the co-ordinator and TAFE trainers to ensure that course work is relevant to the project requirements.

"I think LEAP co-ordinators need a great deal of support from their group, whether that comes from community members or conservation volunteers.

"You also need a good training place which is comfortable and welcoming to teenagers and

reasonably accessible to public transport.

"Selection of participants is really very important — you need to make sure about the mix of the group and it's good to have some enthusiastic people.

"It would be better to recruit people through a one- or two-day seminar at the start. A 15 minute interview is not enough to tell if someone is suited to the programme.

"You really want people who will last the whole six months."

The LEAP project at Bayswater has trained several young people in environmental and social skills and equipped them for further training or work.

"They all want to come back and have a reunion at Garratt Road after winter to see how things are going," Miles said.

"I think many of the participants will have an ongoing connection to this reserve.

"As for me, maybe I'd do it again."



Ecoplan update

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

Wetland seminars continue to be well attended.

At the seminar presented by Bernie Masters and Geoff Bott there were 60 people who heard about wetland creation.

The seminar series will continue after September.

If you would like to present a topic, or suggest a particular topic for discussion please contact Shirley Balla at the Water Authority on (09) 420 3242.

At the Ecoplan conference a recommendation was put forward that we set up a database of groups working in urban landcare as a way of groups learning from each other.

Margaret Robertson has been working with me to develop a questionnaire so that we can keep a database of friends groups.

A copy of the questionnaire will be sent out soon.

Please take the time to complete the questionnaire and return it to the Ecoplan Co-ordinator.

On the subject of questionnaires, many of you will have completed the information required by Gary Burke from Institute of Science and Technology Policy at Murdoch on feral animals and weeds.

Gary has received further funding from the Gordon Reid Foundation to carry on with his work, and we will print an article

in the next *Ecoplan News* about his findings.

Quinns Rock Environmental Research group had an afternoon workshop in early April to look at strategies for gaining more community participation.

Although the group is small, it remains undaunted in its work for the local environment.

The week 10 to 16 May was celebrated throughout Australia as National Volunteers' Week.

Organisations were asked to acknowledge the work of volunteers.

About 45 Ecoplan volunteers attended a function at the Environmental Protection Authority at which they were thanked for their many hours of dedicated work.

Many groups put up displays, including Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park, Friends of Marmion Marine Park, Central-South Ecoplan group, Port Kennedy LCDC, Bayswater Greenwork, Friends of Ellis Brook Valley and Armadale Settlers' Common.

Groups took the opportunity to show the new Minister for the Environment what was going on at a local level in Perth's bushland reserves.

Thanks to all who attended and special thanks to those who put up displays on the day.

Ecoplan is getting together a new display which can be used at shopping centres, school information sessions and the like.

Thanks to all who have contributed photos and slides for the display. These will be returned as soon as printing is completed.

Plans are under way for the training course to take place in Mundaring in late July and August.

If you would like to register for this course, or have a friend who would like to attend, please call me at the Environmental Protection Authority for a registration form.

In the longer term, we are looking at a training session in the south west metropolitan area in October.

Bushland killers

"Killers At Large" is a photocopy of information on domestic and feral cats which has been compiled by a group in the Youth Conservation Corps programme at Parkerville.

It is important reading for anyone interested in the effects of domestic and feral cats on our bush.

Copies are available from the Community Involvement Co-ordinator at the Environmental Protection Authority by telephoning (09) 222 7054.

Coming events calendar — Stirling area

JULY	24th, Saturday	8am	Friends of Star Swamp	Monthly nature walk. Meet corner Castle and Hope streets, North Beach
	24th, Saturday	9.30am	Friends Marmion Marine Park	Monthly beach walk. Meet at Centaur Monument, Hamersley Pool
	25th, Sunday	12 noon	All groups	Weeding day at bushland around Mt Flora Complex, Elvire Street, Waterman
AUGUST	8th, Sunday	2pm	Friends of Trigg Bushland	Winter nature walk. Meet at Elliott Road, Trigg
	14th, Saturday	8am	Friends of Trigg Bushland	Monthly nature walk. Meet at Elliott Road, Trigg
	22nd, Sunday	8pm	Friends of Trigg Bushland	Lupathon. Meet corner Karrynyup and Jeanes roads, Karrynyup
	28th, Saturday	8am	Friends of Star Swamp	Monthly nature walk. Meet corner Castle and Hope streets, North Beach
CONTACTS	Friends of Star Swamp Bushland	Contact Christine on (09) 447 2983		
	Friends of Marmion Marine Park	Contact Lynda on (09) 342 5091		
	Friends of Trigg Bushland	Contact Robyn on (09) 341 6209		

• Special event •

Tuesday, 20 July at 7.30pm.

Wildflower Society's annual auction of rare and unusual plants at Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Drive, Kingsley

Bring your money!

Conservation network needed world-wide

An international conference on the role of local communities in conservation will be held in Western Australia next year.

The conference is being organised by the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, the Centre for Conservation Biology, Auckland University, the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management and World Wide Fund For Nature.

The conference is to look at the problems stemming from the environmental impact of economic development.

Topics include the need for community involvement in conservation, the role of communication and education, and the roles of groups such as the media, local government, mining companies and environmental consultants in conservation.

The organisers said most countries have state agencies charged with stewardship and management of animal and plant communities.

But limited resources mean that these agencies can not do the job alone and

need the help of the community.

In most agricultural and pastoral areas most land supporting native species is privately owned or managed, and needs to be managed in a manner sympathetic to nature conservation if conservation is to be realised.

Community links between land holders and other individuals, groups, conservation agencies and conservation biologists are as essential to effective nature conservation as links across the landscape, organisers said.

The conference is to be held in Geraldton on Sunday 15 May to Friday 20 May 1994.

Five full-day sessions are planned and an invited speaker will begin each session, followed by contributed papers.

For further information please contact—

Dr Denis Saunders
CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology,
LMB No 4 PO
Midland WA 6056.

Telephone (09) 252 0111 or facsimile (09) 252 0134.

Community information

Men of the Trees

Our big news is that anyone can now make tax deductible donations to *Men of the Trees* through our new *Men of the Trees Public Environmental Gift Fund*.

Anyone wishing to do so should contact Chris Fyfe on (09) 386 5654.

We still need planters.

Plantings coming up are —

Corrigin, 31 July-1 August.

Contact Robin Campbell on (09) 384 8674

Other plantings happen from time to time quite suddenly, so it pays to keep in touch with the Nursery on (09) 250 1888 or fax (09) 250 2735.

Milyu Nature Reserve

Friends of Milyu is a community group formed to help the South Perth Primary School, the South Perth City Council, the Perth Zoo and the Department of Conservation and Land Management in restoring the foreshore for migratory and local birds.

By joining this community group you can enjoy being part of the transformation of the badly disturbed land into a foreshore with natural features to protect birdlife.

For further information, contact Catrina Luz Aniere, Friends of Milyu Community Representative on (09) 368 1219.

Energymobile heads west

The Victorian Energymobile display will be in Perth in August.

It allows people to experience alternative technology by using real equipment and working models.

Features of the display include —

- solar- and wind-powered energy systems
- a working hydro-electric system
- energy-efficient appliances

- a working solar water heater
- a solar cooker
- solar and wind pumping systems, and
- energy-saving house design.

Venues —

- Esplanade, Fremantle, 17 August
- Forrest Place, Perth, 18-19 August

For further information and group bookings, please contact Chris Baillie at *Apac Green Skills* on (09) 336 1033.



Courtesy Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy

Workshop

The Western Australian Herbarium will hold a one-day workshop on the bushland weed *Watsonia* on Wednesday 4 August 1993.

The workshop is designed to bring together scientific and community knowledge about *Watsonia* and practical experiences of its control.

It is intended to develop plans and priorities which may lead to control of the *Watsonia* problem, including engendering support for grant applications.

For further information please contact Mary Gray or Patrick Pigott at the herbarium on (09) 334 0495.

Regional reports

North West Region

Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park

The Yellagonga Bush and Wetland Regeneration Project (our LEAP training scheme) is in its last month. Participants have collected seed from the park, and planted them at the Landsdale Farm School nursery, while a shadehouse, donated by Landcorp to the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park through the project, is being built.

The seedlings will be planted out later this year by the Friends and the local community.

The LEAP trainees also have dispatched pepper trees, and other undesirable species from the park and will continue to eradicate weeds throughout the project which ends in August.

Supervisors report that the going is tough sometimes, but that any advances made by the group makes it all worthwhile. Inquiries about the LEAP scheme can be made to Kate Tauss on (09) 448 0058 or Phillippa D'Arcy on (09) 305 5056.

Although the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park seemed to be successful earlier this year in having a community member sit on the Interim Management Committee for the park, this idea has since met opposition from some of the other members on the committee.

The extent of the community's role in the management of the park therefore remains uncertain.

As usual we will need to be patient while the wheels of Government move slowly, and there will be no easily won concessions.

Fay Mumme is currently surveying people who live around the park to try to identify current awareness about the park, and the level of community interest in participating in its future.

This is being done with the help of a grant from the Social Advantage initiative (local conservation). It is hoped that the relevant authorities will be interested in the results in order to more efficiently target the community.

A good time was had by all who attended and helped out at our information and activities stall at the Little Feet Festival in May.

Now that we have our promotional and display materials in place — many thanks for help from Margo and cohorts — we're finding it a lot easier to mount a display with a minimum of effort.

The children made an endless variety of crafts and artwork from bush materials and scraps.

It was truly a delight to see them have so much fun and come up with such wonderful creations.

Next year, Landcorp intends to get the community more involved in planning, sponsoring and setting up the event. This will allow Joondalup community to mature with ever-increasing independence from the "parent" body.

The Friends group maintains a regular weeding programme, having lots of *Pelargonium capitatum* (Rose geranium) to deal with along with a whole list of other undesired species.

Thanks to funding made available from the City of Wanneroo and the Environmental Protection Authority, we are also hosting an Introduction to Bush Regeneration Course, starting in October.

We hope this will produce a few more leaders in the field, because Yellagonga is such a big area to cover.

Friends of Hepburn and Pinnaroo Bushland

Harry Frochter has been instrumental in getting the Friends of Hepburn and Pinnaroo Bushland going.

They hold regular meetings, have fundraising events, and have been busy saving as much of the natural bushland as possible.

Their current task is lobbying public support in commenting on the Management Plan for the Hepburn Bushland. They hope to have the remnant bushland vested in a proper authority, as well as having it named an A Class Reserve and fenced.

They're also calling for the local public to help police the area from vandalism.

Friends of Marmion Marine Park

Linda Arnold and the troops continue with their programme of beach walks for the general public.

On their last walk, one of their members, Don Poynton who is a geologist, gave an interesting talk on the formation of the coast.

This month, the group is hosting an in-service course for science teachers, which is part of their hands-on professional development.

Linda is taking a well-earned break to tour the north for a couple of months.

Inquiries in her absence can be made to Tina Barnes on (09) 341 6193.

Coalition for Wanneroo's Environment

Report from David Wake:

The Wanneroo System 6 project is proposed to provide information and promote awareness of local conservation areas.

The Coalition for Wanneroo's Environment has received funding through the Understanding Local Conservation scheme for the project.

It is planned to produce a report on the status and issues affecting local System 6 areas.

A brochure will be published to raise public understanding of these areas.

The project is an opportunity to raise concerns over System 6.

Some System 6 recommendations for Wanneroo have not been implemented, development threatens some areas and management is also an issue.

This initiative will promote awareness of these concerns, encourage action to protect conservation areas and make local people aware of System 6.

A plan for the project is being prepared. Ideas on the status report and brochure and ways of raising public awareness are welcome. Please feel free to contact David Wake on (09) 305 1591.

Learn to care

Are you interested in Landcare Education?

If so, you may like to take part in a course at the Tammin Alcoa Landcare Education Centre. These courses are available to teachers but others are also welcome to attend.

A course covers —

- An overview of the landcare ethic, aims and objectives;
- Recognition of types and causes of degradation;
- Conservation strategies;
- Field activities and strategies suitable for use with students; and
- Landcare resources

Course dates for 1993 are 8-10 August, 28-31 August, 12-14 September and 26-28 September.

For further information, please contact the Landcare education officer, Northam District Education Office, McIver House, 297 Fitzgerald Street, Northam WA 6402. (096) 22 4224.

South East Region

In the past six months there has been a lot of activity at the Armadale Settlers' Common with two Landcare Environmental Action Programmes (LEAP) in the reserve.

The Aboriginal medicine garden is now completed and the project with Westrek to finish the wildflower walk is almost completed.

Many thanks to everyone who attended and helped with this year's tree planting.

The Settlers' Common committee has bought a badge-making machine. The machine is available for hire to community groups at \$5 a day (deposit of \$20 is required and components for badges are 50 cents a badge).

If you want to know more about the machine or make a booking please contact Leanne Wakenshaw on (09) 399 0111.

The Settlers' Common management committee has begun discussions with tour coach operators with a view to running wildflower tours on the common.

Dates to keep in mind —

•17 July

Book Launch

*"Reality, Dreams and Pathways:
A Guide to Preparing and Implementing
Management Plans."*

•24 October

Walk the Wungong Gorge

Central Region

The LEAP (Landcare and Environmental Action Program) project is finished and the graduation ceremony for the 11 participants took place at the Bayswater council chambers on 13 May when local member, Kim Hames and Bayswater Mayor John D'Orazio presented the participants with graduation certificates.

All participants were congratulated on completing the course and special mention was given to Miles Hitchcock and Michael McShane who worked tirelessly with the group.

Miles will be employed for a further month to help find employment for the participants.

On Friday, 4 June the Bayswater integrated catchment management group organised the *Big Rescue* to transfer native plants from a future housing site in Dianella to the banks of the Bayswater main drain.

About 20 people helped, including local residents, staff from the Office of Catchment Management, Men of the Trees and members of Greenwork.

At last report, all plants were doing well.

Funding for the management plan for Garratt Road is under discussion and it seems likely that a plan will be prepared before the end of the year.

A successful quiz night was held at Bayswater Hotel on 23 June.

Greenwork has helped Workpower — an employment agency for people with intellectual disability — to set up a nursery specialising in native wetland plants.

Kathy Meney, an ecologist from Kings Park, is acting as consultant to the project.

Greenwork has helped by seeking out a suitable site for a nursery, introducing Kathy to Workpower and marketing wetland restoration plants and expertise.

Workpower has successfully applied for a LEAP project and Linda Taman will be acting as the co-ordinator of this project.

Rescued plants find a new home on the banks of the Bayswater main drain thanks to local residents, staff from the Office of Catchment Management, Men of the Trees and members of Bayswater Greenwork.



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

People for Environmental Protection

Dear Editor

People for Environmental Protection (PEP) has formed as a result of community concerns about recent WA Government announcements which threaten the natural environment and the independence of the Environmental Protection Authority.

I am writing to inform your readers of PEP's philosophy and objectives and to invite interested people to join our forum.

PEP believes that the Environmental Protection Authority has performed a critical function in the protection of WA's environment.

It provides a strong and independent statutory vehicle for advice on and consideration of environmental issues in government decision making.

We believe that the Environmental Protection Act has served the community well because it embraces the following fundamental principles —

- independence from direction by Government
- provision for public participation
- primacy of environmental protection
- non-sectional representation on the Authority, and
- public accountability

PEP supports the retention of these features but also believes there should be an independent appeals process established for environmental decision making and that there should be improved access for public participation.

On another front, PEP believes that development should not compromise the conservation estate, particularly A class reserves.

These areas have been set aside because they are ecologically significant or geographically representative or both. Such areas are under-represented in WA and internationally.

Consequently PEP cannot support activities which may lead to development in the conservation estate.

Response to the PEP's formation has been very encouraging — we have been formally constituted and have an elected committee.

So far, we have met the Minister for the Environment and written to all Members of Parliament drawing their attention to last year's review of the Environmental

Protection Act and to the recommendations of the Ramsay committee's report.

On Sunday May 30 we conducted a seminar on the future of environmental protection Western Australia — a seminar attended by about 150 people.

On Wednesday June 23, the Hon Phillip Pental, former Opposition spokesman on the environment and now Government backbencher, addressed a

small group on his views on environmental protection.

PEP is committed to reminding the Government of its responsibilities towards environmental protection in Western Australia.

People interested in joining PEP should call me on 018 954 892.

Fran Chambers
President
People for Environmental Protection

Jandakot groundwater and Creery wetlands concern

Dear Editor

Jandakot Land Use and Water Management Strategy

This document was released for public comment late last year. It seeks to protect the groundwater in the Jandakot Mound and establish a Jandakot Botanical Park.

However, a few landowners are unhappy about any restrictions, to protect groundwater, being placed on their activities (although the strategy is not retrospective and would only affect future activities) and others do not support the Botanical Park.

Consequently there have been a number of clearing proposals for land identified either for a landscape protection zoning, or for inclusion in the park.

There also appears to have been illegal clearing of a pristine woodland block identified for the Botanical Park and Planning Control Area No 23. The conservation movement has requested the Department of Planning and Urban Development to take legal action.

On the bright side, the Government has announced the purchase of the two blocks, bounded by Anstey and Keane Roads in Forrestdale.

These blocks are floristically rich with vegetation complexes now rare on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Together with an adjacent Government Reserve they will become a part of the Botanical Park.

Delays to the establishment of the Botanical Park have been costly with some of the most important banksia woodland areas originally intended for inclusion, being lost.

It is critical that the park proceed without

any further delay. If you are interested in progress on the park, please contact Joan Payne at the Conservation Council of WA on (09) 220 0652.

Creery wetlands

It is distressing to learn that the EPA has accepted a Modified Concept Plan for the Creery wetlands and insisted on a formal assessment of this proposal, with full public input.

There is considerable interest in these wetlands because of their importance to migratory birds — many of whom fly there from as far away as Siberia.

The previous proposal for a canal estate on the wetland, and which was formally assessed, was vigorously opposed by the community and conservation movement.

However, it should be noted that the previous Minister for the Environment, Jim McGinty, upheld the Conservation Council of WA's appeal against the EPA recommendations, acknowledging the grounds of appeal which were —

- that the site is of outstanding conservation value, and its conservation is essential to meet Australia's obligations to the Ramsar, Japan Australian Migratory Bird Agreement and China Australian Migratory Bird Agreement; and
- that the Creery wetlands were being considered as the nucleus of the proposed Peel-Harvey Regional Park and that on the basis of the evidence presented the EPA should have recommended acquisition of the entire site for conservation purposes.

The question that many people are asking is why has this matter been reconsidered? Surely these scientific facts have not changed.

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

Collectors seek seed diversity

Dear Editor

As recognised professional seed collectors and traders, we should like to take issue with some of the points arising from your article "Seed harvest prompts warning" (*Ecoplan News*, Autumn 1993).

The article reflects views of Joanna Seabrook who is a well respected contributor to landcare in Western Australia.

In common with Government regulation, the article falls into the trap of treating wildflower and native seed collections as being similar to one another in their purposes and activities.

It fails to recognise that —

With the wildflower industry, success is measured in terms of export dollars, whereas 90 per cent of native seed harvested in WA is used in this State's landcare activities.

- rather than "threatening the survival of some species", recycling of native seed for landcare in WA results in restoring habitats and our natural heritage. Seed is just one of several ingredients that should be recycled — others include fresh weed-free topsoil and vegetative litter. All of these have inestimable value, and when gathered, kept fresh and conserved can be re-used as essential raw materials for landcare.

The mining industry is a major player in this process.

The care and professionalism which many miners are now applying to their revegetation programmes provides a great opportunity for safeguarding species diversity, re-establishing local species that existed prior to the land disturbance, and providing essential funds for research.

Rather than hampering these processes with increasing regulation, restriction and Government fees, more emphasis should be placed on encouragement.

Each year there is demand for plant species which have not been commercially collected before, and about which very little is known.

The experience of the seed industry is that seed orchards are practical and economical for some of the common seeding species, but they will never meet the requirement to restore a full range of local species after land disturbance in WA.

At this stage in the development of landcare in WA, access to genetic diversity in the wild is essential and the

doors should be left open for seed collection.

Imagine WA's landcare needs being solely reliant on a handful of entrepreneurial seed producers who had successfully bulked up on seeds collected from a relatively small number of parent plants.

Let's not stop seed collectors having access to the genetic diversity that Joanna is championing.

Large areas of remnant bush across the State should be made available and managed for seed production to maintain genetic diversity and quantity of production.

Let's get away from this limiting notion of orchards, which may be appropriate for wildflowers but not for the many thousands of seed species with their multiple variants.

On the subject of policing, WA Native Seed Industry Association members are a responsible group of professionals.

Our collectors are licensed, supervised, and work with Department of Conservation and Land Management officers to ensure established procedures are followed when in the bush.

We are also now represented in the WA

Landcare conference

The first State Landcare conference in Western Australia will be held at the Hilton Regency Hotel on 6-8 October 1993.

For further information, please call John Duff at the Department of Agriculture on (09) 368 3282.



One person can't orchestrate the group — everyone must contribute

Flora Industries Advisory Committee to interact with Government for the future development of seed supply and knowledge.

At present, CALM is regulating and charging fees, but has neither objectives nor a long-term strategy to assure the supply of native seeds for revegetation in WA.

The present regulatory framework for seed collection is mistakenly confused with a strategy for wildflowers.

Joanna's suggestion that the whole issue of flora harvesting and its regulation needs re-thinking is absolutely right.

Let's examine objectives, strategies and technical feasibilities in depth instead of rushing to impose restrictions on access to the land that provides the resource that is essential to safeguard and restore our natural heritage for future generations.

Greg Hill
Operations Director
Australian Revegetation Corporation Ltd

Letters continued page 8

Gosnells community planting and activities calendar

Sunday 11 July

9am Mary Carroll Park — wetland habitat recreation

9am Ellis Brook Valley — revegetation continues

Sunday 25 July

9am Mary Carroll work continues

9am Ellis Brook — weed removal and rubbish Sunday pick up

Sunday 8 August

9am Mary Carroll work continues

Sunday 22 August

9am Mary Carroll work continues

For further information —

- Friends of Mary Carroll Park.

Contact Jenny Bradford on (09) 495 1529.

- Friends of Ellis Brook Valley.

Contact John or Margaret Robertson on (09) 459 8852.

Protection wanted for dampland

Dear Editor

For many years I have enjoyed visiting the System 6 area M53 in Forrestfield to admire the rather unusual and beautiful flora of the south-western dampland section in particular.

Accordingly, I was quite dismayed when I saw the earthworks and constructions which have encroached upon this dampland area first appearing.

I remember thinking at the time that it was the most hideously inappropriate piece of urban planning I had ever seen.

The dampland section of M53 is relatively small and it still confounds me why it was not fully purchased and protected by appropriate Government authorities years ago.

This area is truly a jewel. Between Dundas Road and the old Maida Vale Road alone such uncommon species as *Byblis gigantea*, *Banksia telmatiaes*, and *Verticordia lindleyi* may be found growing amongst the low Ti-tree heath — as can an ancient *Kingia* more than five metres in height.

The System 6 Study Report of 1981 referred to the importance of the M53 area as a whole and to the uniqueness of the dampland's composition — as far as the Perth area is concerned — in particular.

Can the EPA please make it clear how much of M53 is going to be protected and perhaps even explain its dismal failure to prevent the present level of destruction and unsightly developmental encroachment?

Yours faithfully

K. McLean
450 Sydenham Street
Redcliffe WA 6104

•The conservation values of the M53 area which you have outlined were recognised by the System 6 study. Some parts of it are special. We have tried for years to get the area properly planned and protected. Now the Department of Planning and Urban Development is preparing a consultative environmental review document to reserve part of the area. The Environmental Protection Authority will assess this and make recommendations to Government.

I encourage you to make a submission during the public consultation phases of the assessment. I am aware that one approval for an expansion to the Fire Brigade "sneaked through" several years ago. This may be the clearing you saw. Any further development must be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority.

Barry Carbon
Chairman
Environmental Protection Authority

Award nominations wanted

Greening Western Australia is calling for entries for the coveted John Tonkin Greening Awards for 1993.

The awards recognise outstanding endeavours towards conservation and the establishment of native vegetation in the State.

Greening WA's chairman Frank Schaper said that by recognising and rewarding this work it was hoped that others would be inspired to participate in similar activities.

Eight awards are being offered this year —

- **Individual Endeavour Award**
- **Primary Producer Award**
- **Community Group Award**
- **Education Award**
- **Local Government Award**
- **Government Award**
- **Business Award**
- **Media Award**



Closing date for entries is Friday, August 20, 1993 and winners will be announced at Government House Ballroom on Friday, November 5, 1993.

The awards, which were started in 1985, are sponsored by the State Government and managed by Greening Western Australia.

For further information and entry forms, contact Greening WA on (09) 481 2144.

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