

Ecoplan News

Issue 8 Summer 1994

DEPOSIT

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Councils value community: study

A report prepared for the Department of Environmental Protection has found many local authorities understand the value of community involvement in managing conservation areas.

The report by volunteer graduate, Paddy Strano, showed some councils worked hard to involve the community in preparing and implementing management plans for System 6 areas but that the main restriction to increased involvement was time and money.

As reported in the last edition of Ecoplan News, Paddy was recruited to look at the experiences of local government authorities in respect to problems, resolutions and community involvement in preparing and implementing management plans for System 6 areas.

About 20 local authorities involved in the management of about 40 System 6 areas were recommended in the 'Red Book' to prepare management plans for System 6 areas.

Paddy found that 11 authorities had recently worked on management plans; these authorities were targeted for his study.

The good news...

Paddy said it was encouraging to find many local government authorities recognising the importance of community consultation and participation in management plan preparation and implementation.

Several authorities also showed recognition of the importance of community education as a part of a management strategy, producing fact sheets and 'green plans' for interested members of the public.

Examples of local authorities being aware of the value of working closely with community groups include two councils proposing to train staff members in regeneration work, to enable them to help with community group projects.

One particularly supportive council has also employed a community liaison officer.

Other encouraging findings include the incorporation of five-year reviews of management plans by some councils and a few have considered on-going monitoring programmes.

The not so good news...

A widespread stumbling block to the

formulation and effective use of management plans seems to be the competition for limited council resources, particularly time and finance.

The results of this study will be incorporated into a more extensive resource 'package' to be prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection. This will be made available to local authorities and interested community groups.

The package will include: guidelines for preparing management plans, a list of potential sources of funding, suggestions for where certain types of information or knowledge may be found and suggested options for resolving problems that may occur during the preparation and implementation process.

Paddy's study has again shown the two-way benefits of the Department of Environmental Protection's voluntary work experience programme.

Not only has the department gained valuable information but Paddy has also benefited from the workplace experience, working to strict deadlines and fine-tuning his report writing skills.

Radio pair look Beyond the Swan

Two young university graduates who share an interest in public radio and the environment, have produced a 12-part documentary aimed at informing Perth people about the West Australian environment beyond the city boundaries.

Cathy Drake and Shona Kennealy mounted the project through funding from the Gordon Reid Foundation.

Cathy and Shona travelled around the State talking to people living in a wide variety of environments,

including woodlands, estuaries, coastal, pastoral and desert regions.

The resultant 'Beyond The Swan — A Journey Through Western Australia' series was being broadcast on radio RTRFM 92.1 every Tuesday (9am) and Thursday (7pm) during February and March, ending on March 24.

For further information
see page 12





Ecoplan update

—with Roxane Shadbolt and Margo O'Byrne, EPA community involvement co-ordinators



Greetings and best wishes for a new year full of energy, enthusiasm and optimism in all conservation matters!

With 1994 being declared the Year of the Family it is certainly an opportune time to focus community attention on the need to protect and nurture our environment to secure it for the well-being of future generations.

Before I launch into the latest Ecoplan news, Margo would like to say :

"Thanks to all who made the trip to CALM's Hills Forest for the Ecoplan end of the year function.

It was a wonderful chance to get together and celebrate the achievements of the past year and to acknowledge the valuable contributions of many volunteers.

Awards were presented by Fiona Keating on behalf of the EPA to Kirstan Tullis and Miles Hitchcock from Bayswater Greenwork, David Wake from Quinns Rocks Environmental Research Group, Lynda Arnold from Friends of Marmion Marine Park, Kate Tauss and Laurie Boyland from Friends of Yellagonga, Jenny Bradford and Bruce Chugg from Gosnells, Joanna Seabrook and Robert Watkinson-Slough from the Eastern Hills, and Harry de Jong from Kwinana.

Congratulations to these people and congratulations also to all of the quiet achievers who go on from week to week working away to look after the environment."

1994 heralds a new era for Margo O'Byrne in her role of community involvement co-ordinator as Margo will now be working part-time.

A new person will be appointed soon to help share the load.

In the meantime it is my privilege to step in temporarily to cover the time needed to appoint the new staff member.

With my background including environmental teaching and research work, (including time spent in Europe, Papua New Guinea, Antarctica, Victoria and NSW) I am thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to learn about Ecoplan, Department of Environmental Protection urban conservation issues and the high degree of community involvement in protecting Perth's urban bush.

Attending the first regional co-ordinators meeting for 1994 was a great introduction for me.

A picnic dinner on the banks of the Swan

River provided an ideal situation to meet enthusiastic, committed volunteers and to discuss future directions for Ecoplan 1994.

Ways of facilitating further regional co-operation between community groups and local and State government departments were discussed.

Ecoplan training programmes suitable for individual group needs were discussed, and these workshops will be run regionally on topics such as plant identification, budgeting skills for community groups, meeting facilitation skills, negotiation skills, conflict resolution skills, preparing a funding submission.

Other training for those who are newcomers and not quite sure where to start will be held throughout the year. If you are interested in any of these sessions, please call us on (09) 222 7054 or (09) 222 7015 and we will add your name to the list.

Lyn Barnes also attended the regional co-ordinators meeting, making a valuable contribution to the discussions, with insights she gained from her study of motivations and possible barriers to people's involvement in landcare volunteer groups. We carry some of her findings in this edition of Ecoplan News.

Having only been involved with the Department of Environmental Protection for a matter of a few days at the time of writing this article, I am impressed and encouraged by the level of concern and commitment shown by people affiliated with Ecoplan.

1994 promises to be a year to achieve further important developments in the urban conservation field — and no better time than the present for planning activities for the year ahead.

In this edition some groups have already reported several upcoming events to remember.

With new resolutions fresh in peoples minds, I would like to end with a plea:

Ecoplan News aims to keep you informed about local, regional and general conservation matters but to do so, we need you continuing support.

Letters, articles, calendars of events, photos and stories from individuals, groups and government departments are all essential to keep everyone in touch with the "Big Picture".

Please include in your new year's resolutions, the promise to continue to contribute material to Ecoplan News!

New names, faces in environmental protection

In case you hadn't noticed, there have been some name changes and new faces at the EPA.

Environment Minister Kevin Minson last month announced the new Environmental Protection Authority.

At the same time the staff of the Authority became known as the Department of Environmental Protection.

The EPA now refers only to the five-member authority, headed by newly-appointed chairman Ray Steedman.

Dr Steedman is chairman of the Australian Institute of Marine Science and has been consultant and contractor in many projects in WA involving environmental issues.

Retired Department of Fisheries director Bernard Bowen has been appointed EPA deputy chairman.

Other authority members are Dr Christine Sharp, an EPA member for the past four

years; Chris Rowe, a lawyer who has had an interest in several mineral and petroleum companies, mainly overseas; and Dr Brian Logan, reader in geology at the University of WA.

In announcing the new authority, Mr Minson said the Government believed the EPA should not be overly representative of either pro-development or conservation interests.

"Individuals have been selected on merit and as far as is possible, I have tried to ensure members do not represent any particular constituency," Mr Minson said.

The changes followed amendments to the Environmental Protection Act which came into effect last month.

The department, headed by acting chief executive officer Colin Sanders, will provide administrative services and technical and professional advice on environmental issues to the Minister for the Environment and to the EPA.

Departmental officers will continue to be involved in System 6 Ecoplan and urban conservation.

Review on for Wanneroo System 6

Conservation areas in Wanneroo are under review.

The Coalition for Wanneroo's Environment will review the values and status of System 6 areas in the City of Wanneroo, looking at how well our bushland, wetlands and coastal zone are being cared for.

Action on the System 6 recommendations, management issues and threats to conservation areas will be checked.

Wanneroo includes 12 System 6 areas, including Yanchep and Neerabup National Parks, Lakes Joondalup and Goollelal, the eastern chain of Wanneroo wetlands, Marmion Marine Park and the coastal strip between Burns Beach and Two Rocks.

Coalition spokesperson David Wake said the project would provide information and raise public awareness of local conservation areas.

Wider issues such as how adequate conservation reserves are and the impact of population growth and urbanisation will also be tackled.

David, a local conservationist and Murdoch University student, will work on the project to produce a report and brochure by June of this year.

Community input to the study is welcome. If you would like further information, contact David Wake at home on (09) 305 1591 or at work on (09) 220 0652.

Volunteer makes the difference

Congratulations to Port Kennedy champion Jeff Anderton who recently received a 'Difference Award for Volunteers' for his voluntary service to the community.

Jeff is the president of the Port Kennedy Land Conservation District Committee.

The award formally recognises Jeff's years of service, personal effort and exceptional group leadership.

The award was presented to Jeff on the United Nations International Volunteer Day in December last year when the Volunteer Centre of Western Australia hosted a garden party attended by Premier Richard Court in honour of the award-winning volunteers.

Feline feral foes



Ferals are neither cute nor cuddly — they pose a destructive threat to native birds and animals.

Feral cats in particular present a perennial problem for land and wildlife conservation workers.

Gooseberry Hill resident Patsy Hill recently returned from a holiday to the Ormiston Gorge National Park in the MacDonnell Ranges where she found a very effective display highlighting the dangers of feral cats to native animals and birds.

Two posters and a booklet entitled "Ma Supial's Handbook" have been produced by Kaye Kessing and Ali Garnett for sale.

The posters are from the series produced for the display: 'Feral Cats' (see photo) and 'The Hard Times'.

The booklet (which waives copyright for educational use) includes a play script, educational puzzles and games suitable for primary school students.

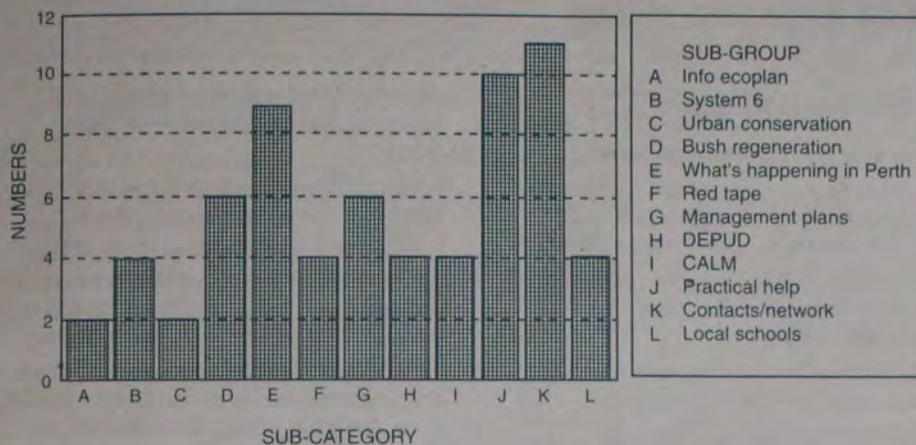
Patsy believes these materials are well worth promoting and so has volunteered to act as a distributing agent.

If you belong to any organisation that is able to reach a wide market for the materials and can relieve Patsy of the distribution responsibilities, she would be pleased to hear from you.

Meanwhile, individuals, community groups or schools interested in buying posters (\$11 each plus postage) or booklets (\$4 each plus postage) should contact Patsy on (09) 257 1379.



GRAPH II: AREAS PEOPLE WANT TO LEARN MORE



- SUB-GROUP
- A Info ecoplan
 - B System 6
 - C Urban conservation
 - D Bush regeneration
 - E What's happening in Perth
 - F Red tape
 - G Management plans
 - H DEPUD
 - I CALM
 - J Practical help
 - K Contacts/network
 - L Local schools

Also, since Ecoplan involvement, 17 per cent of respondents have helped to formulate a new group, and 19 per cent have become more deeply involved.

Active involvement

At the time of the survey, 49 per cent of Ecoplan respondents were volunteering time to a project. Most people attended projects within 20 minutes' travel time from their homes.

Reasons for attending a project

The main reasons for volunteering are

evident in Graph III. The three main reasons (help to save the environment, learn about the environment, and to provide a heritage) also were listed as the main reasons why people volunteered for Department of Conservation and Land Management projects.

However, social reasons, work experience and skills, and personal growth and satisfaction were important when considered in further detail.

Why people continue to offer support

Most people want to be able to see and enjoy the results of their work, and to feel a sense of pride and achievement in the work done.

Social reasons also were very important for people continuing to volunteer — that is, group rapport, a sense of belonging to the community, and to a lesser degree, a desire not to let down their group.

When deciding whether to continue to actively support a project, social reasons were again very important.

Other factors

People who have a clear vision or goal for their area generally volunteer a greater number of hours.

People who volunteer more hours feel more 'ownership' towards their area.

About one half of active volunteers think that they would be able to volunteer more hours if they were paid some money.

Obstacles

A lack of time and other commitments comprised the majority of reasons why people could not attend the course, projects, or could not become more deeply involved.

Discouragements

Discouragements that active volunteers encounter are summarised in Graph IV. This shows the importance of the perceived lack of help for regeneration, lack of funds and bureaucratic red tape. The low bars on the right hand side represent extra answers gained from the free response questions, and are therefore probably not as minor as they appear.

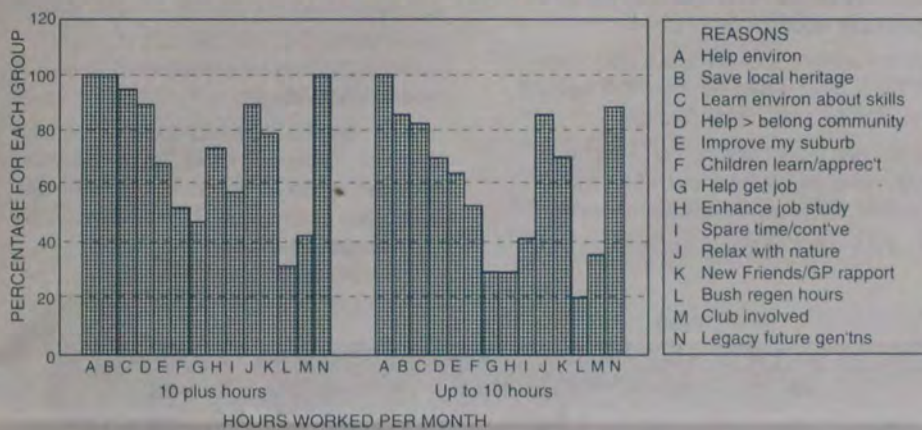
A trend

A trend was evident whereby the main reasons why people volunteered (save / learn about the environment, protecting heritage) and the main causes for discouragement (lack of help for regeneration, lack of funds, bureaucratic red tape) were the same for both new and 'long-standing' volunteers. However, these commonly felt motivations and discouragements were more strongly felt in the case of those who gave the most hours to volunteer projects.

Maybe their higher levels of motivation may explain why these people keep going, even when things get tough, and they are faced with more disappointments than those who are less involved.

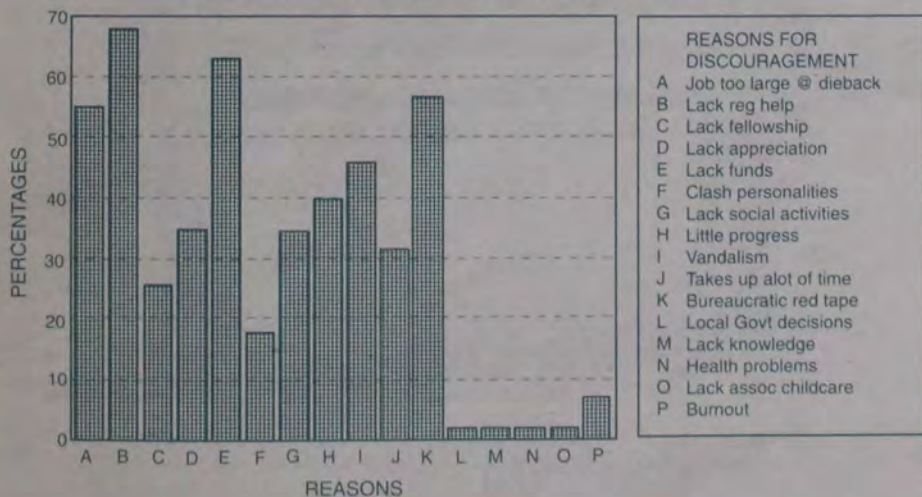
Should you have any questions or require further information about this study, Lyn can be contacted on (09) 397 6547.

GRAPH III: WHY PEOPLE VOLUNTEER FOR A LANDCARE PROJECT



- REASONS
- A Help environ
 - B Save local heritage
 - C Learn environ about skills
 - D Help > belong community
 - E Improve my suburb
 - F Children learn/apprec't
 - G Help get job
 - H Enhance job study
 - I Spare time/cont've
 - J Relax with nature
 - K New Friends/GP rapport
 - L Bush regen hours
 - M Club involved
 - N Legacy future gen'tns

GRAPH IV: DISCOURAGEMENT FROM PROJECTS



- REASONS FOR DISCOURAGEMENT
- A Job too large @ dieback
 - B Lack reg help
 - C Lack fellowship
 - D Lack appreciation
 - E Lack funds
 - F Clash personalities
 - G Lack social activities
 - H Little progress
 - I Vandalism
 - J Takes up alot of time
 - K Bureaucratic red tape
 - L Local Govt decisions
 - M Lack knowledge
 - N Health problems
 - O Lack assoc childcare
 - P Burnout

Volunteers: who are they? asks survey

Student Lyn Barnes recently completed a survey which gives some interesting insight into the profile of people who volunteer.

Lyn is a student of the 'Population, Resources and Technology Course' run by the Institute of Science and Technological Policy at Murdoch University and did the survey with the Department of Environmental Protection.

The study analysed the responses to a questionnaire that was sent last year to Ecoplan volunteers (who had undergone Ecoplan training) and to members of volunteer groups at Mary Carroll Park and Armadale Settlers Common (who had not received any Ecoplan training).

Lyn's particular interest was in landcare groups. She wanted to find out more about the motivations leading to involvement in landcare groups and the barriers preventing or limiting such involvement.

Lyn has already spoken to several Ecoplan Regional Co-ordinators who were especially interested to note the importance of social aspects in ensuring on-going involvement of volunteers in landscape projects.

Lyn's major findings are presented below:

Profile of people surveyed

A grand total of 98 questionnaires were returned and used to compile the results, reflecting a very good 59 per cent response rate.

Eleven of the 98 questionnaires were from volunteers working at Mary Carroll Park and Armadale Settlers Common. More people answering the questionnaires were women (W: 62% - M: 38%), which is indicative of the fact



that more women than men volunteer time towards a landcare project.

Fifty per cent of respondents were aged between 30 to 50 years, with a further 21 per cent over the age of 50. Eighty-two per cent of active volunteers were aged over 30.

Most people answering the questionnaire were also married (58%), again reflecting the fact that the greater proportion of active volunteers are married, most also having pre-school children at home.

Forty per cent of all respondents were employed full time, with students and part-time workers accounting for one

quarter each. Eighty per cent of active volunteers belonged to these three categories, although a greater proportion also belonged to the retired, unemployed and home duties only categories.

Between 50 and 60 per cent of the people responding to the questionnaire (and the same percentage of active volunteers), had at least some tertiary level training behind them. Those volunteering the greatest number of hours also had a tendency to be more highly educated.

Ecoplan training probed

The reasons people enrolled in the Ecoplan course are outlined in Graph I.

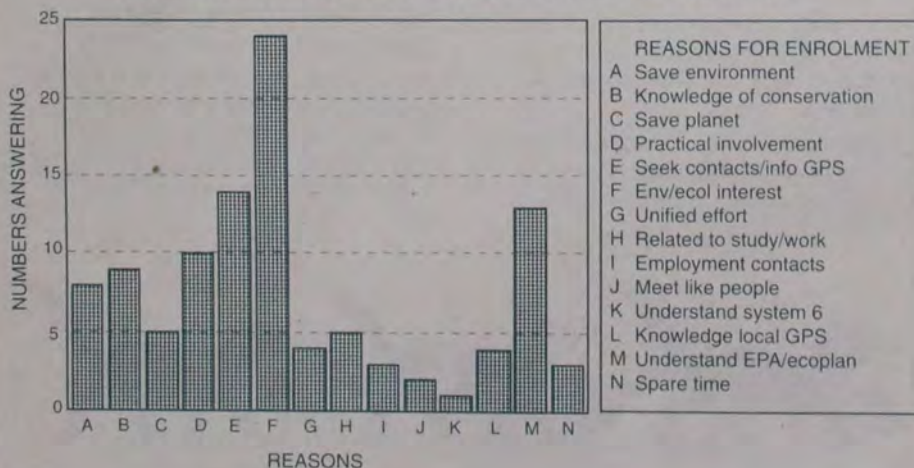
In total, 74 per cent of the Ecoplan respondents had attended one or more of these sessions.

Areas of the course found to be most helpful were firstly bush regeneration (50%), followed by information on what other groups are doing in Perth and information on System 6.

The areas that people wanted to learn more about are outlined in Graph II which illustrates the importance of: contacts / networking, how to give practical help and knowing what's happening around Perth.

Following the course, the number of people working on projects has not increased but there has been a noticeable swing in emphasis to System 6 sites by those actively volunteering.

GRAPH I: WHY PEOPLE ENROLLED IN ECOPLAN COURSE



Regional reports

Hills Region

Hudman Reserve Group Boya

Last year we struck a blow in the defence of ecosystems by removing all the standing tree lucerne, and Mt Morgan wattles at Hudman Reserve Boya.

In their place this year we are going to try the Bradley method to bring back the local plants.

We have outlined three zones and will begin spraying and direct seeding next rains with seeds collected from the reserve late last year.

In the mean time, to get some valuable information about Hudman Reserve, a user survey will be distributed in the Darlington Times newspaper in February.

We are arranging a mystery conservation trip, for 19 February. The participants will finish up at the Fred Jacoby Park at 10am for a general meeting.

Anyone interested in attending the trip, please ring Robert Watkinson - Slough on (09) 572 1489 or Leonie Campbell on (09) 299 6489.

On the 2 April there will be an information walk at 9am through Hudman Reserve Boya conducted by a local expert.

We hope the strategies for this year will maintain the camaraderie developed last year.

South East Region

Fire destroys regeneration work

A fire at the Armadale Settlers' Common in early January devastated more than 30 hectares of bushland and regeneration sites.

More than 2500 seedlings had been planted in the area by community volunteers and local school children.

These have been destroyed by a fire that is believed to have been deliberately lit.

The WA Fire Brigade and the local Volunteer Bushfire Brigade combined their efforts to save the bushland and nearby homes. Thanks to all those who helped protect the reserve.

Clean-up Australia Day

Once again, the Armadale Settlers' Common will be participating in Clean Up Australia Day, to be held on Sunday, 6 March 1994 from 9am to 1 pm.

Everyone is welcome to lend a helping hand on this important day. This year, the target area is near the corner of Settlers Road and Canns Road. Watch your newspaper for further details for an area near you.

Environmental education software available soon

Designed for upper-primary school students, TREES gives a brief outline of five types of trees found in the jarrah forest.

It includes a brief description of the trees, pictures of their leaves and nuts, information on how animals and trees interact.

This is the first of a series of environmental

education software to be produced by the Armadale Settlers' Common Field Study Centre.

Future software will include eucalyptus identification keys, flora and fauna of the jarrah forest and interactive learning games.

The software was designed for Macintosh computers and is available free, thanks to a grant from the Federal Government's "Save The Bush" programme.

For further information, contact Brett Tizard at the Armadale Settlers' Common Study Centre, Locked Bag No.2, Armadale, WA 6112.

Armadale City Rivercare group

Local residents and the City of Armadale have established the Armadale City Rivercare Group to help save the river systems in the municipality.

These include the Upper Canning River, Southern River, Wungong Brook, Neerigen Brook, Churchmans Brook and many of their tributaries.

The group is looking to combine the efforts of council, Water Authority, Swan River Trust and the local residents to combat the weeds, silting and other problems.

Councillor Pat Hart, chair of the new group, said that the river was basically in good condition but had several problems that needed to be solved.

We can only do this by co-operation and the Rivercare Group will foster this co-operation between residents, the council, government authorities and anyone else interested in the river systems.

Benchmark for Yellagonga

Yellagonga Regional Park is sporting new park benches after a six-week training project for seven young unemployed people.

The project was sponsored by the Joondalup Community Foundation which with project co-ordinator, Fay Mumme from the Friends of Yellagonga, applied for funding from the Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Training.

The Department of Planning and Urban Development provided the materials and the project was overseen by the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park.



Michael Morris (trainee) and driver, Lincoln, unload a completed bench before installation at Woodvale Waters in Yellagonga Reserve Park. Photo by Graeme Hunt

North West Region

Friends of Yellagonga

Last year was a busy year for this small group of dedicated people: monthly meetings were held and two training projects were completed.

These training projects were supported by state and federal employment and training departments, the Joondalup Community Foundation and the Department of Planning and Urban Development.

A fencing project was made possible courtesy of the Gordon Reid Foundation and an APACE AID bush regeneration course for the Wanneroo area was facilitated, thanks largely to the City of Wanneroo Greenplan and Ecoplan sponsorship.

Displays also were mounted at community events at Yanchep National Park, Joondalup's Central Park, Little Feet Festival at Joondalup Station Square, and at the annual Perry's Paddock Picnic Day inside the Park.

Public exposure, together with our bush regeneration and nursery activities, continue to be our main tasks.

A survey done mid-year, besides showing that people are apathetic about completing questionnaires left in their mail boxes, showed there was little interest in joining community groups such as ours.

Like other groups, we have a lot of very busy people in our group who genuinely find they have little extra time to devote to their group's activities.

It is important for us all to be positive about the occasional contributions we make, rather than feeling negative about not having done more. So you only went to two meetings or events last year — well done for having done that much! Good advice would be to try to turn all negative thinking into positive thinking.

We will continue to write letters and articles for the local newspaper; they continue to support our efforts.

We also will continue to enlighten the public about the group and the regional park in any way we can.

Our first public exposure for 1994 is the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony for Wanneroo, where participants will receive local native seedlings from the City of Wanneroo and the Friends. Here's to another

successful year.

Quinns Rock Environmental Group Inc.

The Quinns Rocks Environmental Research Group has recently become incorporated as the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group Inc.

We are a non-profit community-based organisation working for conservation and understanding of the environment.

Through campaigning, commenting on issues, research and sharing information, promoting awareness and undertaking community projects we are thinking globally and acting locally on environmental concerns.

We have worked on several issues, including waste management and the Mindarie Tip, urbanisation and landuse planning, bushland conservation and the coastal environment.

We seek to raise awareness through the media, publications and educational activities. Surveying remnant vegetation and regenerating bushland are important projects we are undertaking.

The group ran a series of 'Discover Your Local Bushland' workshops between August and November last year at the Quinns Rocks Primary School.

Topics covered were local plants and local bushland, growing local plants, bush regeneration and saving local bushland.

The group is now working on a book based on the workshops; we will let you know when it is available.

Members of the group together with other people in the Wanneroo area recently completed the APACE bush regeneration course.

The group now plans to apply these skills to local reserves and hopes to work with the local primary school to look after bushland nearby.

The group continues to raise concerns over issues affecting local bushland, including Neerabup National Park, an important System 6 area.

We welcome new members, maintain contact with people and organisations sharing our concerns and liaise with government authorities.

Our postal address is: Quinns Rock Environmental Group Inc.

Post Office Box 27,
Quinns Rocks
Western Australia, 6030.

To talk to us, please telephone Miguel or Terresa Castillo on (09) 305 1045, Natalie Reeves (09) 305 1992, Karyn Shaw (09) 305 1405 or David Wake (09) 305 1591.

Friends of Hepburn and Kangaroo bushland

Increased community awareness of the importance of preserving bushland has been one of the group's major achievements during the past year.

We gained enormous publicity from *The West Australian's* weekend magazine in February, in a cover story, "Worth Fighting For" recounting some of the battle to protect Hepburn Heights.

From this we have inspired other groups to form and fight to protect their own piece of bushland and it even helped generate the formation of the Urban Bushland Council.

The draft management plan of the Hepburn Heights Public Open Space was released in mid-1993 by the Government management committee, finally recognising the importance of preserving the remaining area as an A class reserve, and Landcorp allocating \$80,000 for fencing to keep out vehicles and rubbish dumpers.

The 21 hectares saved will be vested with the City of Wanneroo as public open space with a new management committee to be formed, including a representative from the Hepburn Friends Group.

Most of our aims for 1993 have been achieved — getting the area fenced, ridding the area of rubbish, working with the Pinnaroo Memorial Park Authority to preserve Pinnaroo bushland and organising educational programmes.

These activities culminated in the group being a finalist in the John Tonkin Greening Awards and receiving a certificate at Government House.

The Friends Group looks forward to 1994 seeing the area declared as an A class reserve.

Anyone interested in the Hepburn group should contact Alan Lloyd on (09) 448 9270 or Harry Frochter on (09) 401 4344.

Coming events calendar

FEBRUARY

9th, Wednesday	9.00am *	Ellis Brook Valley Reserve	Planning Meeting — Regular 'Ellis Brook Breaks'
12th, Saturday	8.30am	Ellis Brook Valley Reserve	Ellis Brook Valley Reserve Project Morning
19th, Saturday	7.00am	Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre	Early Morning Bird Walk 7am at Wildlife Centre
19th, Saturday	8.00am	Hudman Reserve	Mystery Conservation Trip (see Regional Report, page 6 for details)
22nd, Tuesday	7.30pm	Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre	Gould League council meeting
26th, Saturday	9.00am	Friends of Marmion Marine Park	Beach Walk. Centaur Boat monument, Hamersley Pool, North Beach.
27th, Sunday	8.30am	Ellis Brook Valley Reserve	Ellis Brook Valley Reserve Project Morning
28th, Monday	7.30pm	Ellis Brook Valley Reserve	Annual General Meeting at 14 Kennett Street, Maddington
28th, Monday		Friends of Marmion Marine Park	Submissions close on the City of Stirling's proposals for Trigg Beach. Submissions to be made to the City.

6th, Sunday	9.00am	Armadale Settlers Common	Clean up Australia Day (see Regional Report, page 6 for details)
8th, Tuesday	8.00pm	Friends of Marmion Marine Park	* Desmond Lord to speak on Wastewater 2040 (ocean outfalls). Venue: Mt Flora Museum, Elvire Street, Waterman.

MARCH

9th, Wednesday	9.00am	Ellis Brook Valley Reserve	Ellis Brook Break: Seed Collection (BYO Morning Tea)
12th, Saturday	8.30am	Ellis Brook Valley Reserve	Ellis Brook Valley Project Morning
12th, Saturday	2.30pm	Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre	Gould League Excursion Pelican Point
18/19th, Fri-Sat	5.00pm	Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre	Family Sleepover 5pm "The World of Insects"
19th, Saturday	7.00am	Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre	Early morning Bird Walk 7am at Wildlife Centre
23rd, Wednesday		Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre	World Water Day
23rd, Wednesday		Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre	World Meteorological Day
27th, Sunday	8.30am	Ellis Brook Valley Reserve	Ellis Brook Valley Project morning
28th, Monday	7.30pm	Ellis Brook Valley Reserve	General Meeting : 14 Kennett Street, Maddington

APRIL

2nd, Saturday	9.00am	Hudman Reserve	Information Walk (see Regional Report, page 6 for details)
8th, Friday	**	Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre	"Day of Animals" (Gould League)
16th, Saturday	7.00am	Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre	Early morning Bird Walk 7am at Wildlife Centre

* The Ellis Brook 'Break' meeting, on 9 February will be a planning meeting to organise activities for each meeting beyond the first three, which for convenience, have already been planned. Although 'Break' activities are usually organised for everyone to join in, the third session, on 13 April, will involve an orienteering exercise and a reasonable level of fitness will be assumed.

** Everyone is welcome to attend any Gould League event. For more information and/or a copy of the complete 1994 Calendar of Events, please contact: WA Gould League (Inc.), Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre, cnr Selby & Flynn streets, Wembley 6014. Phone: (09) 387 6079 Fax: (09) 387 3492

For further details: - Ellis Brook Valley Reserve events: Contact Margaret Robertson on (09) 459 8852
- Marmion Marine Park events: contact Lynda Arnold on (09) 342 5091

Volunteers wanted

Do you want to improve the ailing shores of the Swan River and your revegetation skills at the same time? Bayswater Greenwork (Inc), a community group of volunteer bush regenerators, has just received a Federal Landcare Grant to fund and (most importantly) implement a management and rehabilitation plan for the Swan River saltmarshes. This is a large System 6 wetland near Garratt Road Bridge in Bayswater.

The plan also is funded by Stirling and Bayswater City Councils, landowners and the Department of Planning and Urban Development.

Bayswater Greenwork is looking for volunteers to help implement the plan. Most of the work involves weeding and preparing disturbed areas for planting local species.

A good way to help would be to form a small keen group and "caretake" a chosen area — preparing, planting and maintaining it at your

convenience.

All tools, advice, safety gear and seedlings would be supplied by Bayswater Greenwork.

The group would be happy to provide a written appreciation (listing skill gained, hours etc) for any work completed.

If you are interested, please contact the grant co-ordinator, Miles Hitchcock, on (09) 370 1213 (Thur-Fri) or (09) 272 5429 (Mon-Wed) office hours.

Community Information

Now is the time to think about participating in one or more of several conferences happening in 1994.

Three conferences of particular relevance to people interested and involved in environmental conservation are described below.

VOLUNTEERS '94

(5th National Conference on Volunteering)

Location: Perth

Dates: 5-8 April, 1994

Organised by: The Australia Council for Volunteers Inc.

Theme: Increasing the awareness of volunteers, encouraging the capacity of local leadership and establishing relationships among volunteers in Australia and New Zealand.

Format: Keynote addresses, followed by a wide choice of concurrent workshops and presentations.

The listing of all workshops and presentations is too extensive to reprint here. Of particular interest is the community volunteer seminar to be held on Day Two of the conference. This half-day session, run by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, is to be held at the Herbarium. Delegates will be asked to develop a 'creative challenge statement' to be presented to the plenary session at the end of the conference.

Registration of Interest:

Promaco Conventions Pty Ltd

ACN 008 784 585

Unit 9A,

Canning Bridge Commercial Centre

890-892 Canning Highway

Applecross, WA, 6153

THE ROLE OF NETWORKS

Location: Geraldton, WA

Dates: 15-20 May, 1994

Organised by: CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, WA

Centre for Conservation Biology, University of Auckland, New Zealand

World Wide Fund for Nature, Australia

Department of Conservation and Land Management, WA

Theme: Nature Conservation: Role of Remnants of Natural Vegetation

Role of Corridors

Reconstruction of Fragmented Ecosystems, Global and Regional Perspectives

Format: Speaker, followed by structured workshops.

Likely subjects:

The need for community participation in conservation;

Community-driven conservation projects;

Linking scientists and community groups;

Conservation and education;

Conservation biology and change;

Landcare groups and property owners in conservation; Media and conservation.

Registration of Interest:

Dr Denis Saunders

CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology

LMB No 4

PO Midland

Western Australia, 6056

Tel: (09) 290 8111

Fax: (09) 290 8134

A VISION FOR A GREENER CITY:

The Role of Vegetation in Urban Environments

Location: Fremantle, WA

Dates: 4-6 October, 1994

Organised by: Greening Australia

Theme: Looking at issues related to vegetation in urban and surrounding environments

Format: Presentation of papers and case studies; forums for discussion (three sessions):

The environment of urban areas

Planning for conservation and development

Management of urban environments

Registration of Interest:

Motive Conventions

GPO Box M973, Perth, 6001

Tel: (09) 322 2666 Fax: (09) 322 1417

Natural resource kits on offer

Greening Western Australia has put together 20 'Regional Natural Resources Identification Kits' to help community conservation groups protect and promote awareness of local plant species.

The kits — produced as part of Alcoa's 1993 sponsorship programme — are designed to foster local and regional herbaria which will be linked to the State Herbarium.

The information will be useful for local communities and provide a permanent record of the State's vegetation for future generations.

Each kit is housed in a purpose-designed cabinet and contains:

- ◆ a 24-book library (including field guides for eucalypts, banksias, weeds and several wildflower identification books)
- ◆ Census of the Vascular Plants of WA, Green, WA Herbarium 1985
- ◆ Our Wild Plants, Plant community description cards
- ◆ Revegetation Guide to the Central Wheatbelt, Department of Agriculture 1991
- ◆ Herbarium equipment (including files, cards, plastic sleeves, triplicate field notebook, specimen tags, tweezers, glue, tape, hand lens, scalpel blades, seed collection bags, and examples of pressed specimens)

Other support offered includes identification workshops and notes on how to make a herbarium.

Groups interested in obtaining a kit — such as urban bushland management groups, wetlands societies etc — should contact Greening Australia (WA) to prepare a detailed expression of interest.

Participants in the programme will be asked to contribute \$100 which is the only cost involved, aside from guaranteeing to insure the cabinets and contents.

The closing date for expressions of interest is Thursday 31 March 1994.

There are only 20 kits available — so, be quick or you may be disappointed.

CONTACT: Greening Australia (WA) Inc.
1118 Hay Street, West Perth, 6005
Telephone: (09) 481 2144
Facsimile: (09) 481 0024

Field day speakers wanted

Men of the Trees will be having its annual field day on Saturday 9 April 1994. The theme will be "Living soil — it's up to all of us".

Children's activities, theatre and music around the theme will be staged. Food and drinks will be available as well as ample shady space to relax in between demonstrations, talks and other attractions.

Tentative running time is 10:30am to 4pm. Your organisation would be most welcome to set up a stall, free of charge, to disseminate information or sell material related to your organisation. There will be a

series of short lectures and demonstrations around the field day theme. As well as speakers from Men of the Trees, other presenters are being sought from sister organisations.

So if you have a topic that you would like to present, feel free to contact either Chris Ferreira (09) 524 1176 or Terry Howlett (09) 294 2153.

Grants for landcare

Applications are now invited from community groups and local government for landcare grants as a part of the National Landcare Program.

The grants are available for projects which help rural and urban communities solve the natural resource management and nature conservation problems in their local area.

Projects could include on-ground activities relating to vegetation and wildlife habitat, community education and training, resource inventory (surveying and mapping), planning, investigations and trials, demonstrations and monitoring.

A seminar outlining the guidelines, the types of projects funded and how to complete the application form will be held at Greening Western Australia, 1118 Hay Street, West Perth at 7pm on Thursday, 17 February 1994.

The closing date for grant applications is 25 March 1994. For more information contact:

Penny Hussey: Save the Bush (remnant vegetation), phone: (09) 334 0438

Martine Scheltema: One Billion Trees (revegetation), phone: (09) 481 2144

Jon Glauert: Land & Water and City Landcare, phone: (09) 368 3475

'94 grants offer due soon

The Gordon Reid Foundation's Community Conservation Grants for 1994 will be advertised on 21 February and the closing date for submissions is 21 March, 1994.

As most of you already are aware, the Foundation is particularly interested in "hands-on" land conservation and regeneration projects.

Priority areas include:

- ◆ "native remnants threatened by increasing suburban and urban fringe areas"; and

- ◆ "areas of native ecosystems (that) through various disease and feral animal introductions have been threatened with further degradation. The remediation lies in innovative management, research and education approaches to alter the trends".

For further information and forms, contact: The Executive Officer

The Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation

PO Box 1113, Osborne Park, 6917

Tel: (09) 340 5272, Fax: (09) 340 5274

Wanted: community volunteer leader

The Lake Claremont Management Committee is looking for volunteer help to co-ordinate its rehabilitation programme for Lake Claremont and adjacent bushland.

The committee, formed in 1992 and consisting of community volunteers and a Claremont Council representative, is seeking one or more people to help with the following:

- ◆ co-ordinating the activities of the "Friends of Lake Claremont", which includes watering, weeding around the native plants.

- ◆ co-ordinating the provisions of supplied equipment such as tools, plants, and rubbish bags.
- ◆ liaising with the Lake Claremont Management Committee and council officers.

The committee will reimburse any expenses incurred and would welcome the person as a non-voting participant at its monthly meetings.

For further information please telephone Mr Ron Brooks at the Town of Claremont on (09) 384 1377.

Letters

Letters are welcome on urban conservation, in particular news of volunteer activities and shared experiences. 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.

System 6 areas 'under threat'

I write to let readers know about two System 6 areas, in Wanneroo threatened by development proposals.

Snake Swamp

A proposal to develop part of Snake Swamp in Landsdale and to change a dampland into a permanent lake has been put to the Environmental Protection Authority.

Snake Swamp is a seasonal wetland off Gnaragara Road. It is part of the eastern chain of Wanneroo wetlands, System 6 area M8. While degraded, the dampland is habitat for the rare southern brown bandicoot and is a remnant of Swan Coastal Plain wetlands.

The developer proposes reducing the area of the wetland on its land which would be protected as public open space. The plan proposes a trade-off where the developer would rehabilitate part of the area by creating a deepened lake.

The loss of part of Snake Swamp is

unacceptable. The whole of Snake Swamp should be protected as open space. The proposal lacks detail, fails to recognise the importance of damplands and doesn't recognise the function of the site as a bandicoot habitat.

A decision on the environmental acceptability of this proposal would have implications for the rest of Snake Swamp and for other wetlands in System 6. We are concerned about trade-offs allowing the loss of wetlands in return for so-called rehabilitation by developers.

Snake Swamp needs to be protected. Rehabilitation plans for the area should protect its conservation values. The current proposal must be rejected.

Neerabup National Park

The Water Authority plans to build a large water reservoir in Neerabup National Park which is covered by System 6 recommendation M6.

The site is in a System 6 area and

bounded by the national park. The bushland to be affected is in good condition and central to the southern part of the park.

Construction of a reservoir would mean the loss of significant bushland and impact on the surrounding park.

Alternatives to the Neerabup reservoir must be fully investigated in the environmental review.

This should not simply be on the basis of capital cost but take account of environmental implications.

This is one of several proposals which would whittle away bushland remaining in Neerabup National Park.

System 6 cannot be treated as a convenient place to locate utilities — System 6 areas are valuable and too much has been lost from them already.

David Wake

Coalition for Wanneroo's Environment / Quinns Rocks Environmental Group

March for weeds

March is National Landcare Month and this year's theme is "weeds".

The month provides an opportunity for landcare and other conservation groups to publicise any "weedy" activities they may have running.

At a recent meeting at the Department of Agriculture, representatives from government and non-government authorities 'brainstormed' ideas to raise awareness of weed problems in bushland, wetlands, coastal environs and farmlands.

The meeting looked at ways of furthering the education and distribution of information about weed identification and eradication methods.

Suggestions of ways to participate in weed-related activities during National Landcare Month included:

- ◆ weeds workshops
- ◆ weed eradication forums
- ◆ weed walks
- ◆ weed pulls
- ◆ weed identification competitions

Weed control and eradication tasks are often done in Spring so some of the proposed workshops or forums may be held later in the year.

This timing would be suitable to further promote community awareness of weed problems by linking in with Landcare Day on 2 September.

Many of the proposed events focusing on weeds for National Landcare Month are still in the initial planning stages. To find out more, keep in touch with the Ecoplan office and other landcare organisations.

Incidentally, the Department of Environmental Protection is funding a study by 'Ecoscape' environmental consultants, David Kaesehagen and Ben Carr, to compile a descriptive listing of the 'Top Forty Environmental Weeds in Perth's Urban Bushland'.

This will include each weed's botanical name, common name, brief description, distribution, associated soil types, dispersal, control and disposal.

This information will provide a valuable resource to Ecoplan volunteers in the near future.

Foundation funds for fencing

Remnant bush near Lake Goollelal should be secure from the threat of rubbish dumping, thanks to a Gordon Reid Foundation grant to the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park.

The \$3,000 grant allowed the community group to build a fence around 3-4 hectares of bush on Bindaree Terrace.

Friends of Yellagonga chairperson Dot Parker said increased urbanisation in the area during the past 15 years had led to environmental degradation caused in particular by domestic rubbish dumping and widespread weed

infestations.

Dot said the funding was vital to and greatly appreciated by community groups which aimed to do more than simply provide a free service pulling weeds.

The group has fenced off the bush remnant to reduce rubbish dumping, complementing its programme of weeding and replanting to restore the area to its former natural beauty.

The group also actively encourages local residents and schools to value and preserve their local bushland.



Bush rehabilitation - A community project; Bindaree Terrace.

What Is CouncilNet ?

CouncilNet is a new electronic information network designed to enhance communication of environmental matters.

Participants equipped with the CouncilNet software, manual and personal computer and Modem, can access the system which operates across Australia and overseas.

Sponsored by the Department of the Arts, Sport, Environment and Territories, CouncilNet already includes up-to-date information on issues such as waste, contaminated sites, urban development, coastal degradation, water quality, greenhouse issues and environmental policy.

Who Might Benefit From CouncilNet?

Local government officers, community

groups and other environmental experts who want to share expertise on environmental information could benefit from participating in CouncilNet.

How Do You Join CouncilNet ?

To participate in CouncilNet, a \$70 subscription fee includes the provision of a comprehensive user's manual, software and two hours' free time in the first month.

There is a \$12 a month administration fee and on-going costs of 40 cents a minute peak on-line costs (or 20 cents a minute off-peak).

For further information about CouncilNet, contact: Sara Williams at the Municipal Conservation Association: Ross House, Ground Floor, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000.

Brisbaneshows the way

Brisbane City Council is showing what can be achieved when a local government is committed to protecting an environment faced with rapid suburban development.

Brisbane is the sixth-fastest growing area in the world, with an expected population increase of one million people in the next 20 years.

To protect the environment during present and future development, the council has established a comprehensive environmental management programme.

The programme covers bushland acquisition and management, waste management; air quality, urban renewal and consolidation; public open space and conservation of waterways.

Bushland acquisition and management would be of particular interest to Ecoplan.

Brisbane City Council has been able to implement several important conservation measures using substantial funds to buy and protect the city's bushland.

About \$4 million — raised by a specific levy of \$25 per ratepayer — is set aside annually for this purpose.

This has allowed a three-year bushland protection programme involving the purchase of 1047 hectares of bushland.

Other steps included:

- ◆ implementation of vegetation protection ordinances, resulting in a 10-fold reduction in clearing
- ◆ employment of 1000 young people by a Bushland Rehabilitation Unit
- ◆ planting of 17,000 trees in the past two years
- ◆ the establishment of 35 community-based bushland management committees.

Ecoplan contacts

☐ Contact numbers:

Ecoplan community involvement co-ordinator
Margo O'Byrne ☎ 222 7054

Conservation Council of WA
Urban Bushland co-ordinator
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 Manager, 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
Carina Calzoni ☎ 339 6205

North-West Region
Fay Mumme ☎ 401 2678

Central Region
Linda Taman ☎ 370 1213 (w)

Eastern Hills Region
Robert Watkinson-Slough ☎ 527 1489

No.	Date	Programme title
CENTRAL		
1	4, 6 Jan	On the Shores of the Swan
2	11, 13 Jan	Woodland to Wheatbelt
3	18, 20 Jan	Red Sand Wilderness
SOUTHERN		
4	25, 27 Jan	Fringe Dwellers, Forests of the South-West
5	1, 3 Feb	Kwongan Richness
6	8, 10 Feb	Estuaries; Where the River Meets the Sea
7	15, 17 Feb	Nullabor Horizons
NORTH		
8	22, 24 Feb	Pastoral Country; More Than Just Scrub
9	1, 3 Mar	Coastal Treasures; Ningaloo and Cape Range
10	8, 10 Mar	Kimberley Country
11	15, 17 Mar	Island Sanctuaries
12	22, 24 Mar	Beyond the Swan; Synopsis

Continued from page 1

Cassette copies of individual programmes (\$10) or the whole series (\$110) are available from Arts Radio Ltd. Beyond The Swan, c/o RTRFM, PO Box 949, Nedlands, 6009 Enquiries: (09) 380 3380

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