

Ecoplan News

Issue 13 Autumn 1995

Fighting dieback in the bush

The Roleystone Dieback Group has a 'dieback trailer' available for loan to other groups working to control dieback. The trailer has six tree injectors, seven hand held spray packs and six back-pack spray units. It is a self-contained dieback fighting unit.

The group bought the equipment through grants it received from Alcoa and a group called Protection of Earth and Wildlife. The gear will be hired free of charge, although whoever hires it will need to pick it up from Roleystone.

People are welcome to use it to treat bush on private property as well.

The Roleystone Dieback Group formed in the middle of 1994 with the intention of fighting dieback in the Roleystone area. Since then, the group has had regular work days in reserves around Roleystone.

Trees and shrubs are treated using Fosject, a phosphoric acid based chemical that has been successfully used to prevent dieback killing plants.

Large trees are injected with a solution and smaller plants, such as blackboys (*Xanthorrhoea*) and Zamia palms (*Macrozamia*), are sprayed. Care must be taken when applying the chemical, as too much can damage the plants.

The Roleystone Dieback Group holds regular demonstrations on how to treat dieback infected plants.

A research project at Murdoch University is studying the effectiveness of Fosject spraying on blackboys and other dieback-susceptible plants. The Roleystone Dieback Group will apply the results of the results of this study when they become available next spring.

For more details contact Ian Colquhoun on 397 6813.



Members of the Roleystone Dieback Group giving a jarrah tree the Fosject treatment.

New approach to work days

This year, Ecoplan will use a new approach to get people working in the bush. Special work days will be organised involving a local group, Ecoplan volunteers from other areas and the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Groups will be able to nominate specific work days on which they would like extra help. These nominations will be assessed on their merits and some work days arranged.

Groups will need to provide a minimum of eight people from their own group or local community (or family or friends or anyone else you can get along). Ecoplan will meet the administrative costs of getting the ATCV volunteers along.

The ATCV volunteers will come with a trained supervisor, who will show them what to do. A minimum of 10 ATCV volunteers will attend and work for the entire day.

Ecoplan volunteers who, for one reason or another, have not been able to join in with a group on a regular basis will also be encouraged to attend. The work done on these days can be anything that fits in with the on-going management of the area,

preferably in line with a management plan. It may be tree planting, weeding, building paths, rubbish collecting, seed collecting or anything else that needs to be done.

Priority will be given to System 6 areas and other areas of recognised regional significance.

The nominations will need to have the support of the vested authority for the reserve (and it would be very pleasing to see actual involvement from the local authority or other management agency with vesting of the land). In addition, work proposals in non-System 6 areas will need to be consistent with the purpose and long term management interest for the area.

Interested groups can contact Margo O'Byrne or Jill Harris on 222 7000 to get further details and a copy of a nomination form. Nominations for work days need to be in by 1 May so the dates for the year can be set.

Interested individuals should also contact Margo or Jill to have their names put on a list to be informed about when and where work days will be.



Ecoplan update

— with Margo O'Byrne and Jill Harris, DEP community involvement co-ordinators



There seems to be so much happening just now that it's hard to know where to begin. There have been changes around the office, with both Margo and Jill now working three days a week, and lots of planning happening for the year ahead.

The arrangements in the office actually mean slightly more resources to Ecoplan, to take account of the System 6 Update work — Jill is in on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Margo is in on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This means that you should always be able to catch one or the other of us.

We have been having discussions with the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers and has come up with a plan to get more people in the bush on work days. Basically, the idea is that groups come up with work days and we sponsor the ATCV to put extra hands on deck on those days. There are details in the article on page 1.

It's also time for another round of introductory training. As this newsletter

goes to press, the sessions are part way through. We have taken a slightly different approach with this series and run them on a Wednesday evening with the field session on a Sunday morning. The idea of this was to give people who work on weekends an opportunity to participate. There will be another introductory training session in August. That one will be held on Saturday mornings as usual.

There are also many other training opportunities available this year, all aimed to help you increase your skills and knowledge in areas relevant to your work in the bush.

Once again, the bush block course will be run up at CALM's Hills Forest. This is a general course for people who own bush blocks to learn how to manage them. It covers dieback, fire, weeds and bush regeneration and could be recommended to anyone with an interest in bush protection on private land.

Do you ever get stuck when putting

together a display? On the weekend of 13/14 May there will be a half day workshop to show you just how best to go about exactly that. Come along with your ideas and problems in mind and spend an interesting half day learning how to attract your audience.

On 18 June you will be able to build on these presentation skills with a workshop on using the media. This will show you how to make the most of opportunities that arise and how to create opportunities where they might not otherwise exist. The emphasis will be on local papers and radio.

There will also be opportunities to learn about flora and fauna surveying. Details of the flora survey days are included in the article on page 7. The fauna surveying workshop will be in spring. Watch out in the winter edition of Ecoplan News for details.

We have also been talking about doing some leadership training with group leaders and potential leaders. This would be designed to encourage those who have the inclination, but not quite the confidence, to lead a group. It would also give those who lead groups more ideas on motivating people and keeping a group together.

Waiting in the wings as this newsletter goes to print is an exciting new publication from the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group. The group has put together a book called Discover Your Local Bushland. After much hard work Natalie Reeves and David Wake have edited a collection of essays that will be an invaluable reference to anyone with an interest in Perth's bushland. Congratulations David and Natalie on a sterling effort. Copies will be available through Ecoplan by early April 1995.

New wetlands award

A new award for wetland conservation will be given at this year's Landcare awards.

The wetlands award, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection, will recognise outstanding work in wetlands conservation. It will carry a prize of \$3000.

As in previous years, there will also be the Living Streams Award (\$1000), sponsored by the Waterways Commission, Water Authority and Department of Agriculture, for a significant project to rehabilitate a drain, creek, river or estuary foreshore.

These two State Landcare Awards will be selected from entries submitted for consideration in the National Landcare Awards.

Entries for the 1995 Landcare Australia Awards are invited from individuals, groups and organisations involved in caring for the land. The categories for the awards are:

- Telecom Landcare Education Award
- Telecom Landcare Local Government Award
- Combined Rural Traders Community Group Award
- National Landcare Program Individual Landcarer Award
- Roundup Landcare Primary Producer Award
- BHP Landcare Research (or Innovative Technology) Award
- Ansett Landcare Business Award
- Ford Landcare Media Award
- ANCA Landcare Nature Conservation Award
- BP Landcare Catchment Award

For further information contact Steve Garrad, (National Landcare Awards) 368 3984, Jill Harris (Wetlands Conservation Award) 222 7051 or Karen Majer (Living Streams Award) 327 9777.

Note on your entry for a national award if you wish to be considered for one of the State awards.

Deadline for winter edition

The deadline for the winter edition is Friday 16 June. Please send contributions to the Editor, Ecoplan News, Department of Environmental Protection, 141 St George's Terrace, Perth WA 6000. Fax: (09) 322 1598. For information phone (09) 222 7051.



Proposed fire seminar

The Urban Bushland Council is planning to run a seminar on fire this winter.

The plan is to have a two day seminar concentrating on the biological values of bushland and how they are affected by fire.

After such a hot, dry summer, during which many urban bushland areas have been burnt, fire is a topic of great interest among people working in bushland. The high frequency of fires in some urban bushland areas is of particular concern.

Kirstin Tullis from the Urban Bushland Council said that fire is such a big issue the council thought it was important to get together all the players with an interest or concern about it.

The Urban Bushland Council has applied to the Minister for the Environment under the community grants programme for funding to run the seminar.

More details are available from Kirstin Tullis on 271 3549 (after hours).

Find out about ferals

The proceedings of the Conservation Council's seminar entitled Impact and Control of Feral Animals in South-Western Australia are now available.

The seminar was held at Edith Cowan University, Churchland Campus in November last year.

A diverse range of speakers from around Australia addressed topics including Government feral animal control policy, the impact of feral predators and competitors on Australia's ecosystems, feral bees, introduced aquatic species, and biological control of feral animals.

Workshops addressing topics such as aquatic fauna, invertebrates, birds, threatened species, urban cats and feral cats were also held.

The seminar proceedings include background papers from all the speakers and summaries of the workshop sessions.

Copies of the proceedings cost \$10 (or \$5 for community groups) plus \$2 postage and are available from the Conservation Council. Send a cheque with your order to Conservation Council of WA, 79 Stirling Street, Perth WA 6000.



Ellis Brook 'Breakers' sharing morning tea at Ellis Brook Valley.

Take a break at Ellis Brook

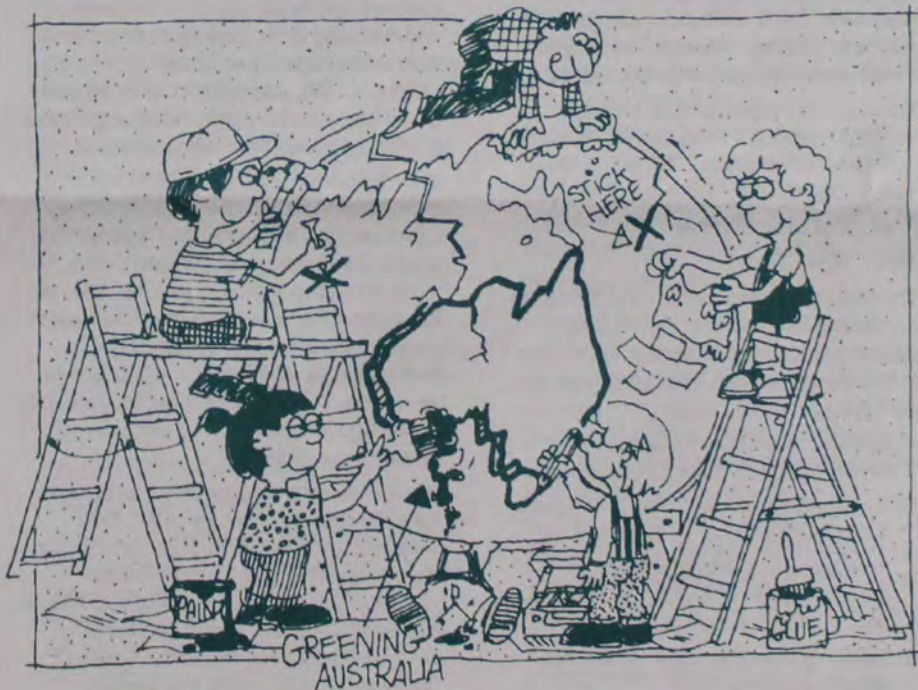
Getting new members along to groups is not always easy, but Friends of Ellis Brook Valley has come up with a means of doing so.

On the second Wednesday of every month the group hosts an "Ellis Brook Break". The breaks begin at 9am and finish at about 11am. People bring their own morning tea and spend the morning in the valley. Sometimes there is a planned activity, such as the hillside stabilisation carried out at the March break. Sometimes the 'breakers' go for a

walk in the valley. Whatever they do, the emphasis is on having a good, peaceful, relaxing time — nothing too strenuous.

Group president Margaret Robertson said she thinks people enjoy going on the breaks because they are 'something different'. The group has successfully recruited new members through the breaks.

The next Ellis Brook Break will be on Wednesday 12 April at 9am. Phone 459 8852 for more information on the breaks.



Around the globe, community groups are working for the sustainable use of natural resources



Regional reports



North west region:

Quinns Rock Environmental Group

from David Wake

The Australian Conservation Foundation is doing a national survey about community environmental monitoring. Across the country many people and community groups are monitoring the state of their environment. At Quinns, we do this through our flora and fauna survey in the remnant vegetation assessment.

We have 15 permanent 100 square-metre quadrats (survey sites) in bushland in local reserves. For each site, vegetation structure and condition has been described and all flora listed. By resurveying sites over time we will be able to record how the community changes, for example the presence and extent of weed species. We have also started a survey of fauna in local reserves, particularly reptiles.

The remnant vegetation assessment will give us some basic information on the extent and condition of bushland. Changes can be monitored. This will help us advocate for the conservation of some of the natural landscape.

On Clean Up Australia Day, the Quinns Group and the Surf Life Saving Club collected rubbish from beaches, the foreshore reserve and roadsides at Quinns Rocks. Over 40 bags of rubbish was collected. Items picked up included bits from foam cray floats, plastic wrappers, wire, old sign posts, car parts, glass and aluminium. Recyclable items were separated for recycling. Thanks to Natalie Reeves and Karyn Shaw for organising the clean-up.

For more information contact Miguel or Teresa Castillo 305 1045, Natalie Reeves 305 1992, Karyn Shaw 305 1405 or David Wake 305 1591.

Friends of Lake Gwelup

from Carole Chantry

The Friends of Lake Gwelup was formed in September last year with the objective of returning Lake Gwelup as near as possible to its natural condition. The group intends to do this by:

- Removing introduced plants and revegetating with indigenous species;
- Encouraging the well-being of indigenous flora and fauna;
- Monitoring and helping with the implementation of the City of Stirling's reserve management plan;
- Lobbying authorities over issues that affect the reserve; and

- Increasing public enjoyment of the area through environmental awareness.

March was a busy time for the friends group — it produced its first newsletter and put in a big effort cleaning up around the lake on Clean Up Australia day.

Every third Saturday of the month, the group organises a guided nature walk. Meet at the Scout Hall in Huntriss Road at 8am. A special night walk will be held on the 19 May. Meet at 7.30pm. For more information about the group write to 22 Waldemar St, GWELUP 6018 or ring 244 1681.

Friends of Yellagonga

from Cate Taulss

Lately, I was falling into the trap of thinking that tree planting was just a band-aid measure. But what a surprise I got when the Yellagonga contingent trudged down to the lake in February to plant the remaining 500 paperbarks. When we arrived at the out-of-the-way lake edge, where we'd toiled last year planting paperbarks — they were tall and beautiful and doing very well. When we planted them, the shoreline was very degraded, covered in weeds such as paspalum, Typha and couch grass. We doubted whether any of the trees would even survive, let alone grow so beautifully.

Some people, no doubt daunted by heavy losses from seedlings planted in winter, are surprised when I tell them we are planting in summer, but it seems our efforts are paying off.

On Australia Day, the Friends of Yellagonga supplied 150 locally sourced and grown native shrubs to the 'new Australians' as a memento of their 'new' Australian citizenship. We also gave them information on how to grow the plant and the importance of thinking global and planting local.

We are growing local tuarts and marris for Perry's Paddock (a historic village being developed in the Yellagonga Regional Park by the City of Wanneroo) as part of the Australia Remembers programme. We will be planting the trees with Men of the Trees as a memorial grove to the people who perished in World War Two, and hopefully as a fitting reminder of what we all can do for peace and a more certain environmental future for our children.

We are also planning a guided spring walk for the public along the age-old Yabera Budgera heritage trail. The trail runs through Yellagonga Regional Park, Neerabup National Park and Yanchep National Park. It has been documented that Aboriginal people walked along this route or nearby following the bush tucker that teemed

around the Wanneroo wetlands. So start breaking in your walking shoes. (It's about 24km from Lake Joondalup to Lake McNess.)

We are still looking for a new site for our Yellagonga Community Nursery. We have raised tens of thousands of plants in the past two years at our borrowed Joondalup site, but the site is to be sold in June and we must move.

Friends of Star Swamp

from Christine Curry

Star Swamp Bushland Reserve has had a few small fires over summer, including a burnt out stolen car, but fortunately there have been no major blazes to date.

The swamp itself has dried out almost completely, a good thing for the paperbarks and a bonus for Clean Up Australia Day. A group of volunteers was able to clear the area normally under water of plastic bags, old tyres and other rubbish.

Following the enormous success of the autumn nocturnal walk last year, we decided to have two nocturnal autumn walks in 1995. The first was held in March, with the second scheduled for 21 April.

Friends of Star Swamp Bushland celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and a big celebration is planned for later in the year, probably in conjunction with the annual spring walk.

Central Region:

Bayswater Greenwork

from Miles Hitchcock

Bayswater Greenwork held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 15 March. A new committee was elected: President — Michael MacShane; Vice President — Margo McGurk; Secretary — Wayne van Lieven; Treasurer — Bev Lockley.

We decided to scale back our efforts for this year and get back to the work we originally set out to do — we have been distracted in the past couple of years by trying to do everything. While this has been great and we've been able to achieve a great deal, our efforts are not sustainable at that level.

We will still have representatives on various community committees, such as the Baigup Management Committee, but our emphasis will be on getting out into the bush.

Every second Saturday, at 9am, we will meet at Baigup and work either in Baigup or at Kiara Wetlands — the next one being the 8 April. For details contact Michael MacShane on 228 0501.



The Baigup Management Committee is currently considering running a Landcare and Environmental Action Programme (LEAP) at Baigup. This would be a real boost in getting the implementation of the management plan underway.

Success Hill Action Group

from Kaye Pearson

The group has been busy collecting information for the management plan. To date, the inventory side of the plan is well under way. John Dell has been contracted to do some fauna trapping and spot-lighting; group member Ron van Delft is leading the bird survey work, with teams of two frequenting three study areas; we are working with Ribbons of Blue to monitor the water quality and with Bronwen Keighery on the flora and vegetation survey.

A recent fire caused some concern and we will delay further fauna trapping until spring when the vegetation begins to regrow.

In all the work, we are working with the Swan Valley Noongar Community and it was with them that we applied for, and received, National Landcare Programme funding to do the fauna surveying. On Sunday 12 March, Robert Bropho from the Noongar community had a ceremony at the spring and children planted trees. In that section, there is a lot of lantana which we are trying to remove.

The next job on our agenda is to have a meeting of all the players and kick off the process to write a management plan.

Henley Brook and West Swan Locality Groups

from Bevan Carter

I have just been appointed environmental co-ordinator for the Henley Brook and West Swan Locality Groups. The group is interested in the piece of land between Whiteman Park and the river (eastern side), Gngangara Road and the new Reid Highway.

The group successfully obtained funding from the National Landcare Programme to appoint a co-ordinator for six months initially.

We will be concentrating on base-line environmental studies looking at water quality in the creeks, flora and fauna studies. Interesting bits of bush included within the boundaries are at the Caversham air base, the Aboriginal area near Saunders Street and near Bandyup Women's Prison.

Third year geography students from UWA, local schools and the local community will be involved in the studies.

For more information contact Bevan Carter on 279 8777.

South East Region:

Armadale Settlers' Common

from Brett Tizard

Fire, fire and more fire

Churchman's bushland, Forrestdale Lake, Armadale Settlers' Common, Lloyd Hughes Reserve and Rowley Road bushland have all suffered from fires since the last Ecoplan News. During the Labour Day long weekend, the Armadale Settlers' Common had 10 separate fires. Bring on the rains.

Tourist body recognises the environment

The Heritage Country Tourist Association encompasses the municipalities of Gosnells, Armadale and Serpentine-Jarrahdale. Following a re-organisation of the Board of Management, it has been recommended that two of the 11 directors have environmental responsibilities. One director will be responsible for the Natural Tourism Sites and the other will have a general environmental protection role. This is a major change of focus for a tourism organisation and further developments will be watched with interest.

Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day this year was marked by a distinct lack of rubbish. That's not to say there was not any, but the volume of small rubbish items such as drink cans and hamburger wrappers was drastically reduced. The recent fires in the Armadale Settlers' Common allowed access to several larger items that were covered by the understorey. At this rate we might not need Clean Up day in the future.

Canning River Regeneration

The Armadale City River Care Group and the Swan River Trust have joined forces to clean up the upper Canning River. An environmental officer has been appointed by the Swan River Trust to co-ordinate activities aimed at repairing the river. The project is supported by the local community and private landholders alike.

No Serpentine-Jarrahdale environmental officer?

The Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale was one of the first councils to appoint an environmental officer. However, the shire's environmental officer recently resigned and it seems unlikely that anyone will be appointed to take over from him. This would be a real loss.

Friends of Ellis Brook Valley

from Margaret Robertson

The Annual General Meeting was held on 27 February and a new committee elected. The new committee is: President — Margaret Robertson; Vice President — John Bowler; Secretary — Heather Bowler; Treasurer — John Robertson; Committee (1) — Greg Bremner; Committee (2) — Marc Lane.

The annual Arbor Day plantings will be held again this year, except it will be even bigger than the last two. We have loads of seedlings to plant this year. We hope there will be enough rain to sustain them throughout the summer. Again we will be joined by the local primary schools and other groups from the Maddington Gosnells area.

We will also be planting 400 seedlings on 12 July, helped by the 1st Maddington Cub Scouts.

This year's plantings have been sponsored in part by the Rotary Club of Maddington, which has donated \$700 towards a conservation project in the valley. Our thanks to the Rotary Club for their help. The money will be used to buy plant protectors to stop the rabbits munching away on our seedlings. Last year we planted 200 seedlings and the rabbits ate 190 of them.

Following the recent visit of the Prime Minister, Paul Keating, the Heritage Country Development Agency was handed a cheque for over \$800,000 to develop tourist facilities in the district. Some of this money will be spent in Ellis Brook Valley to improve the visitor facilities.

South West Region:

Friends of Woodman Point

from Sharon Gray

Group members have been busy propagating seedlings from the tuart and Rottneet cypress seeds we collected last year. We have had a good success rate with germination and are gearing up to plant the seedlings this autumn and winter.

When the rain starts, we will also be planting seedlings of other species (indigenous to the area of course!) supplied to us by the Department of Parks and Recreation. We do the planting jointly with Parks and Recreation and the rangers water the seedlings over the first few weeks if need be.

Group members have also been working on finalising our constitution, building on the work done by Carina Calzoni.

For more information about the Friends of Woodman Point ring Ben Carr on 335 5635.

Port Kennedy LCDC

from Jeff Anderton

The Port Kennedy group has been very busy recently with many projects on the go. The fauna trapping work is continuing, with much excitement created recently with the discovery of a brush tailed bettong in the area. (See article on page 8).

A programme to fence the area is also continuing, with another 400 hectares of conservation land recently fenced. The LCDC is now managing 1500 hectares of land.

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What's on



APRIL

Friday 7	Evening	Naturalists Club Meeting — Coastal Dune Ecology, John Dell and Alan Notley. Contact Alan Notley 306 1832.
Saturday 8	All day from 10 am	Men of the Trees Open Your Eyes field day at St Barbe Grove, cnr Amherst Road and Stirling Cres, Hazelmere. Phone 250 1888 for details.
Saturday 8	9am	Bayswater Greenwork work day. Meet at Baigup reserve. Contact Michael MacShane 228 0501.
Tuesday 11	Evening	Wildflower Society meeting — The role of smoke in germination, Kingsley Dixon. Phone 381 4062 for details.
Friday 14 — Monday 17		Naturalists Club Excursion to Twertup. Contact Alan Notley 306 1832.
Friday 21	7.30pm	Friends of Star Swamp — Nocturnal Walk. Meet at Groat Street North Beach entrance.
Saturday 22	8.00am	Friends of Star Swamp — Monthly morning walk. Meet at the grassed area Hope St, North Beach.
Friday 28 (evening) and Saturday 29		How to manage your bush block. Course run jointly by DEP and CALM. Ring The Hills Forest on 295 2244 for details and to register.

MAY

Friday 5	Evening	Naturalists Club Meeting — Diels, the botanist, Byron Lamont. Contact Alan Notley 306 1832.
Tuesday 9	Evening	Wildflower Society meeting — Adaptations of <i>Banksia</i> , John Pate. Phone 381 4062 for details.
Saturday 13/Sunday 14		Presenting your ideas — half-day workshop to help you put together better displays. Contact Margo O'Byrne on 222 7054 for details.
Monday 15 — Sunday 21		National Volunteers Week. Give yourself a treat!
Friday 19 — Saturday 20		Naturalists Club Yanchep Camp. Contact Alan Notley 306 1832.
Sunday 21		Wildflower Society excursion — Granite rock walk in the Mount Dale area. Phone 381 4062 for details.
Saturday 27	8am	Friends of Star Swamp — Monthly morning walk. Meet at the grassed area Hope St, North Beach.

JUNE

Sunday 4 Monday 5		Naturalists Club Excursion to Wongan Hills. Contact Alan Notley 306 1832.
Tuesday 13	Evening	Wildflower Society meeting — Algae in the Swan River, Grant Douglas. Phone 381 4062 for details.
Sunday 18		Ecoplan media skills workshop. Contact Jill on 222 7051
Saturday 24	8am	Friends of Star Swamp — Monthly morning walk. Meet at the grassed area Hope St, North Beach.

JULY

Friday 7	Evening	Naturalists Club Meeting — Crabs, Di Jones. Contact Alan Notley 306 1832.
Sunday 9		Naturalists Club Excursion — Fungi and Frogs. Contact Alan Notley 306 1832.
Tuesday 11		Wildflower Society meeting — Cultivation of <i>Verticordia</i> , Elizabeth George. Phone 381 4062 for details.
Sunday 23		System 6 update, Bushland Survey field day with Bronwen Keighery. See article on page 7. Phone Jill on 222 7051.
Saturday 29		Wildflower Society plant identification workshop, 1-4pm, \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Phone 381 4062 for details.

Advertising your coming events in the Ecoplan News *What's On* column can get extra hands on the ground for your working bees and bigger attendances at your talks. Send details to The Editor, Ecoplan News, Department of Environmental Protection, 141 St George's Terrace, Perth WA 6000.

Deadline for the winter edition is Friday 16 June 1995.

Learn about bush regeneration

Once again, APACE will be running the Introduction to Bush Regeneration Course this winter and spring. The course runs for one afternoon a week for nine consecutive weeks. This will be the fifth year that APACE has run the course in Perth.

Introduction to Bush Regeneration covers topics such as plant identification, weeds and weeding techniques, fire management, plant propagation and bushland condition assessment. It provides a solid basis for working in the bush. No previous experience or knowledge are required. The course costs \$200.

Dates for 1995 bush regeneration courses are:

- Course 1: Sat 6 May to Sat 8 July
- Course 2: Mon 8 May to Mon 10 July
- Course 3: Sat 29 July to Sat 28 September
- Course 4: Mon 31 July to Mon 25 September

All four courses run from 1pm to 4pm. In courses 1 and 2, there will be no session on the long weekend in June (5th).

Location of the courses is yet to be confirmed. For more details contact APACE on 336 1262.



One person can't orchestrate the group performance - everyone must contribute



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A major project of recent times has been removing a limestone groyne that was causing erosion problems in the coastal area. Erosion gullies up to two metres deep had formed.

Removing the groyne was a major operation, involving several trucks and back-hoes. The LCDC has been over-seeing the work, which the Department of Marine and Harbours paid for. The limestone is being crushed and recycled for use on roads in the reserve.

Hills Region:

from Robert Watkinson-Slough

The Mundaring environmental advisory body — a group set up to advise the shire about community involvement in caring for local bushland — has prepared recommendations to the shire from responses to 20 questionnaires on improving motivation and co-ordination of volunteers working on local reserves.



Jeff Anderton supervising the removal of the groyne at Port Kennedy.

Questionnaires were sent out to people working in the reserves and the following recommendations are to be presented to the shire:

- ◆ Shire to look into loaning equipment to volunteers
- ◆ Shire to provide training in the use of that equipment
- ◆ Environmental officer will be focal person for shire assistance
- ◆ Shire and volunteers to work together to write management plans over time
- ◆ Shire to look into insurance for people working on reserves
- ◆ Environmental person on the bush fire brigade — should be someone already on the brigade who will be able to represent environmental views to the brigade and provide a liaison with volunteer groups
- ◆ Foster co-ordination of volunteers activities and controlled burns.

It is hoped that this will build up formal rapport with the shire and voluntary groups.

Ecoplan contacts

☐ **Contact numbers:**

Ecoplan community involvement co-ordinator

Margo O'Byrne ☎ 222 7054

Jill Harris ☎ 222 7051

Conservation Council of WA

Urban Bushland co-ordinator

Joan Payne ☎ 371 1670

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

APACE

1 Johannah 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 4038

South Region

Vacant - are you interested?

North-West Region

Fay Mumme ☎ 401 2678

Central Region

Vacant - are you interested?

Eastern Hills Region

Robert Watkinson-Slough ☎ 572 1489

Register now for bushland survey

This spring, there will be an opportunity to participate in bushland survey work being done as part of the System 6 update. Three sessions are being organised. All will be led by botanist Bronwen Keighery and will follow the format Bronwen has used with volunteers in previous work on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Bronwen said that people do not need any experience to participate.

"Volunteers will work in small groups with someone who knows the plants, so they don't need any previous experience with plants," Bronwen said.

"After each field session, we will have a follow-up session at the WA Herbarium. People don't have to come along to the herbarium, but if they do, they will learn how to identify the plants."

The field sessions will be held on Sunday 23 July, Sunday 17 September and over the weekend of 7/9 October. People may attend one or two sessions, or all three. The first will be held north of the river, the second south, and the weekend excursion will be held in the Bunbury region. The follow-up herbarium sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings: 16 August, 4 October and 25 October.

Bronwen said it was important for people to register if they wanted to be involved. They could rest assured that the sessions would go ahead on those dates and that, rain, hail or shine, either she or Greg Keighery would be there.

For more details and to register interest in going, contact Bronwen on 381 4062, or Jill Harris on 222 7051.



Bettong discovered

A brush-tailed bettong was recently found at Port Kennedy. The bettong (*Bettongia penicillata*) is gazetted rare and endangered.

Once common, this small marsupial is now restricted to a few areas in the South-West of WA and Queensland. Before the discovery at Port Kennedy, it was believed the animal was extinct in the metropolitan area, with the closest known colony at Dryandra State Forest.

The bettong was found during volunteer mammal trapping work. It was dead when found, probably due to stress caused by being in the trap, as they are believed to be extremely sensitive animals.

Jeff Anderton, from the Port Kennedy Land Conservation District Committee, said the volunteers' fauna study work had revealed the presence of seven rare and endangered species in the area.

"Over a three-month period, we have trapped 213 bandicoots," Jeff said.

Dunnarts, echidnas, tiger snakes, and many other reptiles and birds have also been recorded in the Port Kennedy area.

Jeff said that the rich fauna is due to the rabbit and fox bating programme that has been carried out in the area over the past few years.

News on System 6 update

Work proceeds on the System 6 update. Last year's floristic data has been collated and is being analysed, although it is too early to say exactly what it will reveal. About 140 extra survey sites in System 6 areas were added, during the drought shortened flowering season, to the 509 sites surveyed for the floristic study of the southern Swan Coastal Plain.

A small steering committee and a technical committee are being established to respectively oversee and undertake most of the government work on the update. The Conservation Council will be represented on the technical committee to provide a source of input from the conservation minded community. The first meetings will be held shortly, where one of the first tasks of these groups will be to consider the criteria proposed to be used to assess potential System 6 areas.

Once the criteria have been finalised, the community will be asked to nominate areas that they consider are likely to meet the criteria and should be considered for inclusion as System 6 areas. These sites will be reviewed and considered as potential sites for survey during this coming winter-spring flowering season.

The Department of Environmental Protection is also proposing to conduct a telephone-based fauna survey, asking the community to ring in and report sightings of selected species of fauna. The concept is based on a successful phone survey

conducted by CALM wildlife research about 18 months ago to get more information of the southern brown bandicoot distribution in the metropolitan region. The species to be surveyed have not been selected yet, but will be chosen based on their believed threatened status in the System 6 area and presence of clear distinguishing characteristics that will assist in identification. Stay tuned for further announcements on these initiatives.

The Environmental Protection Authority recently gave interim protection, pending finalisation of the System 6 update, to about 40 special areas on the Swan Coastal Plain representing threatened or poorly reserved plant community types. These areas were identified through the botanical work done by Neil Gibson and others, as detailed in the "Floristic Survey of the Southern Swan Coastal Plain", and a survey of "Remnant Vegetation on the Alluvial Soils on the Eastern Side of the Swan Coastal Plain" by Bronwen Keighery and Malcolm Trudgen.

Maps of these special areas have been distributed to local government authorities, key government agencies and the Conservation Council of WA. The Environmental Protection Authority considers that the value and integrity of the areas identified on these maps needs to be protected. Until finalisation of the System 6 update programme, any development proposals likely to impact on these areas should be referred to the EPA for environmental assessment.

For more information contact Kevin McAlpine on 222 7055.

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