

# Ecoplan News

Issue 14 Winter 1995

## Minister recognises volunteers' efforts

Environment Minister Peter Foss presented the annual Ecoplan awards to volunteers on 17 May, to mark National Volunteers' Week.

Mr Foss awarded 11 Ecoplan volunteers with certificates and a copy of Bronwen Keighery's book *Bushland Plants Survey*.

This year's winners from the north-west region were: Jackie Harvey of Friends of Yellagonga for her work managing the group's nursery; David Taggart for his continued and consistent work with Yellagonga; and Natalie Reeves from the Quinns Rocks Environment Group for her major contribution through the preparation and editing of the publication *Discover Your Local Bushland*.

The south-west region winners were Ben Carr and Carina Calzoni for their work in setting up the Friends of Woodman Point groups.

The central region winners were Linley Hann for her ongoing and consistent support of Bayswater Greenwork and Margo McGurk for her work with Bayswater Greenwork especially in Kiara reserve.

In the south-east region Lyn Barnes was awarded a certificate for her contribution to Ecoplan through her survey of community landcare volunteers and Heather Bowler was recognised for her ongoing work with the Friends of Ellis Brook valley.

In the hills region, Brian Crute was recognised for his consistent and conscientious support of the Friends of Hudman reserve and Leonie Campbell for her efforts as the co-ordinator of the Hudman Road group



*Peter Foss talking with Laurie Bayland, Margo O'Byrne and Daniel Bayland.*

Each year Ecoplan recognises the outstanding efforts by volunteers and presents awards on a regional basis. This year's awards were presented at a special morning tea held at the Department of Environmental Protection's offices in Perth.

DEP chief executive officer Dr Bryan Jenkins welcomed guests and thanked people for their important contribution to the environment.

Many volunteers attended and several groups put up displays, which the Minister took the opportunity to view.

Mr Foss was pleased to present the awards recognising outstanding efforts by volunteers associated with Ecoplan.

He used the opportunity to emphasise the important role that volunteers played in helping to conserve the environment.

Mr Foss said that although statistics tell us that one in three Australians volunteered an average of four and a half hours a week of their time he knew that many put in a lot more hours and an enormous effort to help the environment.

## Huge turnout for night walk

The Friends of Star Swamp were caught by surprise recently when about 150 people turned up for a night walk.

The group has been running night walks for several years and has, over the past two or three years, built them up as a regular event. Usually numbers are fairly low, often around ten or twenty.

David Pike from the friends group largely attributed the huge turnout to the publicity the walk received.

David said that in the past the group had only advertised in the *Stirling Times*, but

recently the *Wanneroo Times* had picked up the advertisements as well. For the most recent walk, both papers carried a small article about it in the middle of page three, right where everyone would see it.

"I've never seen so many people," David said. "It was phenomenal."

"Although we weren't really well prepared (for such a huge turnout), there weren't any problems."

The Friends of Star Swamp plans to hold its next night walk in spring.



# Ecoplan update

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

This time of year is always busy for community groups with lots of planting days and the start of weeding activities following the onset of the rains.

Things have changed again in staffing with Ecoplan. Jill Harris has resigned to set up her own consultancy. We wish Jill all the best and thank her for her valuable contribution to Ecoplan. At present Margo is working full-time until someone is appointed to share the position.

Since the last edition of the newsletter we have had training sessions for new Ecoplan volunteers. Twenty-five people attended a series of four workshops held at the Naturalist Club Hall at Nedlands. It is always so encouraging to meet people interested in finding out more about the environment. One of the highlights of the sessions was the opportunity to explore the roles played by people and government in the 'Who Decides' role play. Thanks to Trevor and Regina Drummond for their excellent representation of developers. This role play activity was devised for the department by Jill Harris as a tool for school and community groups to explore the issues faced by all parties in land conservation and land development.

National Volunteers Week gave the department an opportunity to recognise the work of all volunteers in a ceremony held on May 17. The Hon Peter Foss, Minister for the Environment, presented awards to 11 volunteers in recognition of their contributions to the environment (see article on page 1). The morning tea provided an opportunity for the Minister to meet various groups and see some interesting displays on the great work being carried out in our local bushland areas.

Although two workshops were scheduled over the past three months they were both unfortunately cancelled because of lack of numbers registered. As we need to book halls and line-up presenters for these workshops we need to have definite numbers to proceed. Several people have now expressed interest in the 'Presenting Your Ideas' workshop and this has been rescheduled for Saturday 23 September. If you have already registered you will be sent further information closer to the date. If you would like to attend then pick up your telephone, ring Margo on 222 7054 and let her know (the sooner the better). The other workshop is on the effective use of the media. Again several calls came in after the workshop was cancelled. We have

rescheduled this for Saturday 21 October. If this is a topic which interests you, then please register your name and we will send you further details.

Activities have started for the ATCV/ Ecoplan/friends groups workdays with the first two workdays being very successful. On June 10, the Friends of Yellagonga — with a bit of help — managed to demolish their nursery and stack it for transportation to a new site at Landsdale farm school. The Manning primary school bush regeneration group erected fencing around their bushland area and planted out local species as well as the ever needed weed control. Thanks to both of these groups for a fantastic effort and especially to the ATCV for their enthusiastic and dedicated workers. With lots more helpers tasks can be tackled and completed. We look forward to more successful projects over the coming months.

Ecoplan is very pleased to join with the Wildflower Society and CALM volunteer programme to take part in the Bushland Plant Survey for 1995. This survey will involve detailed floristic field work and workshop sessions at the WA herbarium. This is an excellent opportunity to increase your plant identification skills as you will be working in small teams with a experienced botanist, as well as contributing information to the important update of System 6. Look in the coming events pages for details of dates and call Bronwen Keighery if you would like to be part of this project.

The fire seminar organised by the Urban Bushland Council (see article in this issue) should be of interest to all involved in caring for urban bushland and I'm sure will provide an excellent forum for discussion of all issues relating to fire.

## Discover your local bushland

After much hard work, the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group recently launched its book *Discover Your Local Bushland*. The book, which was edited by group members David Wake and Natalie Reeves, was based on a series of workshops on bushland that the group held in 1993.

Natalie said they decided to put the book together to keep a record of the workshop series and to act as an introductory text for people starting to learn about the bush.

"The interest in it has taken us by surprise," Natalie said.

"Lots of people have been really interested — individuals, community groups, and people from government departments."

*Discover your Local Bushland* provides a reference on finding out about and caring for urban bushland in Perth. It includes a description of the soils and vegetation of the Perth area, information on growing local plants and regenerating bushland, and a discussion on the need to save urban bushland. Suggestions are made as to how individuals and groups can help and a list of contacts and useful references is provided.

The book was printed for the Quinns Group by Ecoplan. It has been so popular that a reprint is already being arranged.

To obtain a copy contact Natalie Reeves on 384 5567, David Wake on 305 1591 or Margo O'Byrne on 222 7054.

## Sympathy

Earlier this year, George Arnold from the Friends of Marmion Marine Park died. George contributed much to the group and will undoubtedly be sadly missed by all. Deepest sympathy to Lynda and family.



# Farewell from Fay

*Fay Mumme* attended the first series of Ecoplan training courses held in 1992 and was one of the original regional co-ordinators appointed to be Ecoplan's eyes and ears on the ground. Fay recently resigned from her honorary position as Ecoplan north-west regional co-ordinator.

The following article was written by Fay in reflection on her three years as a regional co-ordinator.

Over the past three years or so it has been my pleasure to act as Ecoplan's voluntary regional co-ordinator for the north-west metropolitan region.

Through Ecoplan I have enjoyed meeting up with other people with similar interests in working for the good health of our natural environment. Being able to encourage others to take an interest in their local environment has given me great satisfaction. The icing on the cake for me was the opportunity to continue my education in the environmental area through training sessions, seminars, workshops, conferences, and so on.

Although I have moved out of the regional co-ordinator's position, I look forward to being able to continue as an Ecoplan volunteer. Talking to school children and helping teachers, in particular, has given me the greatest buzz. I highly recommend it to other volunteers who have some time available during the week.

I would like to take the opportunity to express special thanks to Margo O'Byrne, and to wish my successor Laurie Boylan well in his efforts in this region.

**Editor's note:** Ecoplan acknowledges Fay's work as a regional co-ordinator, and in particular thanks her for her willingness and enthusiasm in bringing new people into Ecoplan. Thanks Fay.

# Understanding our wetlands

*Understanding our wetlands* was the title of a seminar held on 31 March at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre by the Australian Institute of Horticulture. Ecoplan sponsored **Cate Tauss**, chairperson of Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park to attend the seminar. This is Cate's report of the day.

Wetland management is perhaps not an occupation traditionally associated with the horticulture industry. These days, however, many agencies staffed by horticulturalists, (such as local authority parks departments) are becoming involved in this field. The Australian Institute of Horticulture therefore put together a very topical programme for its recent seminar which brought together some of Perth's foremost wetland experts.

Christine Semenuik (consultant to the Water Authority), provided an overview of the classification of wetland types and their vegetation assemblages which immediately broadened participants' perceptions about the diversity of wetland ecosystems. Some of the problems experienced in the conservation of this diversity were then explained by Joan Payne of the Conservation Council of WA.

The Department of Environmental Protection was represented by Vaughn Cox, who is drafting the new Environmental Protection (South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands) Policy 1995. This policy aims to prevent further loss and degradation of wetlands and wetland types, and to promote wetland creation and restoration in rural areas. Significantly, it gives some protection to the important vegetation of wetlands. The implementation of this rural policy will undoubtedly provide useful learning experiences for urban landcare groups.

Kathy Meney of Kings Park, who is at the fore-front of research into the uses of native rushes and sedges for nutrient stripping in wetlands, talked about measures for improving invertebrate habitat diversity and water quality; both primary goals in wetland management.

The vexing problem of *Hydrocotyle* infestation of the Canning River was discussed by John Pierce of the Agriculture Department. He stressed the need for early intervention and therefore minimum application of herbicides. He raised a very important issue regarding the higher toxicity of Round Up (which is a glyphosate formulation containing an added surfactant), compared with glyphosate

without surfactant. He said the addition of the surfactant, in this case, increases the toxicity of the product by about 175 times in an aquatic species such as *Daphnia magna* — further proof of the need for extreme caution with 'off the shelf' herbicides.

Advances in the management of the nuisance of midges around wetlands have been made by the City of Cockburn. Darren Walsh explained some of the factors exacerbating this problem: rising water levels, removal of vegetation buffers, water temperature rise, decreasing water quality, and unshielded lights attracting midges to unwisely sited housing. The City of Cockburn has shown leadership in developing a buffer policy with regard to controlling the rezoning to urban uses of land within a 0.5 - 1km radius of wetlands. It has also implemented monitoring to establish the severity of specific midge infestations before implementing chemical control, thus decreasing chemical use.

After lunch, Tony Poynton from the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre and Bob Dixon from Kings Park led a tour of Bibra Lake. The problems posed for management by the degradation of this wetland prompted a lively discussion. Gassing rabbit burrows and the use of cheap, innovative fencing plans were some successful strategies. Unfortunately, many plantings around the lake in the past have been non-local species, which may have weed potential and are less useful to fauna than the local species. The excess nutrients in the lake itself, the high water levels due to catchment clearing, and the explosion of the seagull population were most evident. Of interest were the extensive stands of *Melaleuca teretifolia* in shallow water showing some waterlogging stress.

John Pierce concluded the day by demonstrating spraying equipment used for weed control.

The organisers are to be commended for arranging such an interesting programme and for putting the stewardship of Australian natural systems onto the professional horticulturalist's agenda.



# Regional reports



## North west region

from Laurie Boylan

### Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park Inc. (FOYRP)

#### Nursery up, up and away

Thanks to a great turnout on Saturday 10 June 1995, the FOYRP Volunteers Community Nursery at Joondalup has been completely dismantled and packaged, ready for transport.

A very successful day saw more than 20 volunteers involved in a smooth operation that came out right on budget. Several volunteers came to us through the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers. This was with great assistance from the Department of Environmental Protection.

All estimates expected the task to be completed in one day and we managed it comfortably, thanks to the many hands available in dismantling the larger wall structures. It was a fantastic effort by all.

Transportation details are being tidied up, and should see us out and off to our new site within a week. Jackie Harvey, who is the nursery manager, said it was great to get the task completed in a short time span, making it easier to manage remaining plant stocks yet to be planted. Our new home will be Landsdale Farm School. Thanks to the school's enthusiasm and acceptance, we have the use of the school's nursery and its facilities during the changeover. This means continued nursery operations during the relocation. That will reduce the stress level on Jackie.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Cate Tauss said it was absolutely fantastic that in just over two years of operation, the nursery and its volunteers had produced more than 13,000 plants which have been planted into Yellagonga Regional Park as well as several nearby sites including Hepburn Heights and Clarkson Primary School. Other groups including the WA Wildflower Society have produced plants in the nursery for sites such as Yanchepp National Park. Men of the Trees have also arranged plants for planting at Perry's Paddock in Yellagonga Regional Park.

Special thanks to the Wanneroo City Council and Landcorp for use of the land and facilities at Joondalup. It is significant

that these authorities recognise and assist community groups to benefit the community and the bushland. Thanks to the Department of Environmental Protection for all the assistance and support, especially Margo and Eitan for help on the day.

#### Perry's Paddock

Mike Norman from Men of the Trees arranged a successful planting day in Perry's Paddock on 28 May. Five hundred and fifty trees were planted.

Perry's Paddock is part of the Yellagonga Regional Park (vested in Wanneroo City Council Historical Society).

Many tuart and marri seeds were gathered from the area and propagated in the FOYRP Community Nursery for the memorial planting project. Mike is very pleased with the results and went to extensive lengths to involve some 23 local residents living next to the planting site. Mike says they even included a fun event by way of an Olympic relay watering competition to complete the task. We must find out more about this when next we see Mike. It's encouraging to hear the local people who attended say they would like to see more of their neighbours involved.

Thanks to Wanneroo City Council for its enormous support towards the project.

#### Little Feet Festival — Joondalup City

The FOYRP has been actively involved again in this annual event, which was held on 13 May 1995. Speaking for the group the enthusiastic Cathy Dickson said the new promotional theme encouraging people to sow seeds and potting their own seedlings proved overwhelmingly successful. Cathy says the promotional displays attracted parents while children got active in playing with the dirt.

#### Lake Goolelal

Planting began in late summer with Melaleuca species and has since continued on an almost weekly basis for the numerous other indigenous species. Organisers Michael Wilson and David Taggart are enthusiastic about on-going events and both are quite vocal on the huge success from last year's plantings at the same sites. David attributes the success to regular follow-up watering, mainly by bucketing from the nearby lake. Michael did express concern about obvious removal of many

plants after planting. Investigations show that the removed plants show a clear path to lake views from some nearby houses.

### Friends of Hepburn Heights and Pinnaroo Bushland

More than 5000 trees have been planted during the past three weekends, under the guidance of the Friends of Hepburn Heights and Pinnaroo Bushland. Alan Lloyd says there has been a wonderful response with more than 90 people on the first day and 20 people each day since. It is amazing what a few dedicated people can achieve. Alan is grateful to the few who attend regularly.

There will be on-going weeding and rubbish removal and, no doubt, on-going removal of ticks also (for the volunteers that is). Thanks go to Wanneroo City Council for its enormous support. The council already have commitments to its 'green plan' plantings, but still provide watering trucks for these other plantings.

#### Quinns Group turns 10

Quinns Rocks Environmental Group recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. The group formed in June 1985 to protect the local environment. Over the past 10 years it has been active in promoting community awareness, raising concerns over local issues and working on conservation projects.

Ten years ago Quinns Rocks was surrounded by bushland; today it is increasingly surrounded by suburbs. With urbanisation the sense of place that makes the area special diminishes. Despite this the group continues its work for conservation.

Some of the group's actions include:

- Campaigning for waste reduction and recycling and against (unsuccessfully) the Mindarie rubbish tip.
- Speaking out about urban sprawl along the coast north of Perth and seeking better planning including community involvement and retention of bushland.
- Surveying flora and fauna in bushland around Quinns Rocks and helping to look after local reserves, including rubbish clean-ups and bush regeneration.
- Holding walks, talks and workshops, helping with projects in local schools and publishing a book on Perth's bushland and a leaflet on growing local plants.
- Lobbying for protection of Neerabup



National Park and the implementation of System 6 conservation proposals for the area.

The Quinns Rocks Environmental Group is an example of what communities can do to look after their local environment. For more information about the group contact Karyn Shaw on 305 1405 or David Wake on 305 1591 or write to Quinns Rocks Environmental Group, PO Box 27, Quinns Rocks 6030.

#### Friends of Marmion Marine Park

At its annual general meeting, the Friends of Marmion Marine Park elected new office bearers and committee. The office bearers are: Angela Dowzard (president); Tina Barnes (vice-president); Lynda Arnold (Secretary) and Don Poynton (Treasurer). Recent activities have included the regular monthly beach walk, specimen nights and the annual trip to Rottneest. The next Rottneest trip is already booked — a weekend in June 1996!

#### Hills region

from Robert Watkinson-Slough

#### Like a jig saw coming together

Parkerville Primary School is delighted to have just received an environmental education grant from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories. The grant is towards integrating lesson plans and care of the System 6 area M22 into the school's environmental education curriculum. The school sits in the middle of the M22 reserve and for several years school children, led by school gardener Brian Marshall, have done a lot of work in the reserve. Many of the teachers at Parkerville have held lessons in the bush.

The Hovea ratepayers learned in April that they too had been successful getting a grant. This grant, from the Gordon Reid Foundation, will be used to rehabilitate Falls Road reserve in Hovea.

On top of this, students doing the Advanced Certificate in Landcare at Midland TAFE with lecturer Doug Monk are finding practical opportunities in helping local community projects. They are presently involved in setting up a native seed orchard in Old Parker Road, Parkerville. Another of the students Robyn Rudeforth is managing the Eastern Hills Wildflower Society's seed orchard in Darlington.

Damien Lukitch is the new co-coordinator (working with Judy Chambers) for Hudman Reserve. He has already been liaising with Mundaring Shire in the care of the reserve.

It is hoped to publish the results of the group's user survey of the reserve in the Hills Gazette in August.

Mundaring Shire councillors have been extremely delighted with the local community's interest in doing something practical to maintain the beauty of the local reserves. Just last month the community environmental advisory body presented its recommendations on how the shire might help these groups. That report is now being considered by the councillors.

Friends of Greenmount began working on watsonia control last year. They can already see results and plan to continue their successful work this year on the areas they mapped out. Contact Lee Daughtry on 299 6874.

#### South west region

##### Friends of Samson Park

The City of Fremantle has been conducting rabbit eradication in Samson Park. The original numbers were estimated by spotlighting and the warrens located. Various methods of control were considered and fumigation with phostoxin was considered the best option as this would not effect local domestic animals. As the park is isolated bushland surrounded by suburban dwellings eradication should be possible. Rabbit populations are being monitored and further fumigation will be carried out if necessary.

Revegetation is being carried out concentrating on understory species. A user survey of the park was conducted with 262 replies. Results indicated a high level of usage (about 100 visitors each day) with overall support for bushland and rehabilitation activities. A review of the management plan for the reserve is being undertaken and will be released for public comment in the near future.

##### Port Kennedy

On a beautiful sunny morning on 13 June the Port Kennedy Land Conservation District committee hosted the launch of the new LEAP (Landcare and Environmental Action Program). The LCDC are running a double LEAP program over the next six months with 32 participants. The programme was launched by the Hon Kim Beazley who spoke of the importance of this type of training to the young people involved, and by Sen Christabel Chamarette who spoke of the importance of Port Kennedy as a conservation area. The participants will gain skills in erosion control, fencing, planting and various conservation issues.

#### South east region

##### Friends of Ellis Brook Valley

In June the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley celebrated Arbor Day by planting 300 trees in an area of the valley where rehabilitation has just begun.

There was a good turn out of group members and a few extras. The planting was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Maddington. The next tree planting in Ellis Brook Valley will be held on Wednesday 12 July, from 9am to 11am, to coincide with the next Ellis Brook Break.

#### Central region

##### Manning Reserve Bushland

Warwick and Joan Boardman, Angela Carr and other members of the friends group were delighted with the assistance from the ATCV at their recent bushland workday on 17 June. The collective of helpers worked to erect a fence along the path which leads through the bushland to the nearby school. Planting of understory species was carried out, including the kangaroo paws which were grown from seed collected in a local area just before it was cleared for a housing development. This seed had been given to residents at a nearby nursing home who grew it in their nursery for the friends group.

## Seedlings available

Greening Western Australia want to hear from people interested in obtaining seedlings for revegetation projects.

The seedlings are available through the Alcoa-sponsored Plants for Conservation programme. Groups may receive up to 15,000 seedlings and land managers up to 3000.

The seedlings will go to projects aimed at maintaining biodiversity by linking areas of remnant vegetation, creating buffers around existing vegetation, rehabilitating habitats and controlling land degradation and loss of water quality.

The closing date for applications is 18 August 1995. For more details and copies of the guidelines and entry forms contact Susan at Greening WA on 481 2144.



# What's on



JULY

- Wednesday 26 July Men of the Trees, mulching at Shenton Park Hospice. Contact Jenny Young on 382 1329.
- Saturday 29 July 1 pm – 4 pm First day of nine-week APACE Introduction to Bush Regeneration course at Kings Park. Phone 430 5729.
- Sunday 30 July 9 am – 1 pm Friends of Star Swamp Lupin-a-thon Meet at Groat St Shelter, North Beach.
- Monday 31 July 1 pm – 4 pm First day of nine-week APACE Introduction to Bush Regeneration course at North Fremantle. Phone 430 5729.
- Monday 31 July Closing date for John Tonkin Greening Awards.

AUGUST

- Wednesday 2 August 8 pm Friends of Marmion Marine Park library specimen night, Mt Flora Complex, Elvire St, Waterman.
- Thursday 3 & Friday 4 August Working with community organisations, training course run by Community Skills Training Centre. Contact Val on 222 6000.
- Saturday 5 August 1 pm - 5 pm Brixton Street wetlands, Towards the development of management guidelines—Information sharing on the natural values of Brixton Street wetlands. Meet at Kenwick Community Centre Kenwick Road Contact Regina Drummond 459 2964.
- Friday 11 August Gould League Day of Birds. Phone 387 6079.
- Saturday 12 August 8 am Friends of Trigg Bushland monthly nature walk, meet Elliot Road, Trigg.
- Saturday 19 August 7 am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Phone 387 6079.
- Sunday 20 August Lake Gwelup Lupin pull. Meet at the scout hall, Huntriss Rd, Karrinyup at 9 am. Contact Margo O'Byrne 222 7054.
- Friday 25 & Saturday 26 August Burning our Bushland — a conference about fire in urban bushland. Organised by the Urban Bushland Council. Contact Jillian Harris on 385 2275.

SEPTEMBER

- Saturday 26 August 8 am Friends of Star Swamp guided morning walk. Meet at the grassed area in Hope Street.
- Sunday 27 August 9 am Goosberry Hill Eradication of watsonia and pampas grass. Meet at the creek crossing Kalamatta Way, Gooseberry Hill Contact Patsy Hill 257 1379 or John Love 293 3682.
- Thursday 31 August Peer supervision and support for community workers, training course run by Community Skills Training Centre. Contact Val on 222 6000.
- Friday 1 September National Landcare Day.
- Sunday 3 September Friends of Star Swamp 9.30 am-1 pm Lupin-a-thon Meet at Groat St Shelter.
- Saturday 9 September Armadale Settlers Common Plant identification workshop. Contact Margo O'Byrne on 222 7054.
- Sunday 10 September 9 am Hudman Road reserve Lupin and wild pea pull. Meet at cnr Pine Tce, Approach Rd and Hudman Rd Boya Contact Leonie Campbell 299 6489.
- Friday 15 September Gould League Day of Flowers. Phone 387 6079.
- Friday 15 September Closing date Ecoplan News.
- Saturday 16 September 7 am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Phone 387 6079.
- Saturday 17 September Wildflower Society bushland plants survey Contact Bronwen Keighery 222 7058 (w) or 381 4062(h).
- Saturday 23 September Presenting your ideas. Workshop on putting together displays for community groups members. Contact Margo O'Byrne on 222 7054.
- Sunday 24 September 9 am Blue Gum Lake Melville Weeding lupins, gladioli. Meet at the scout hall in the reserve Kardoona Rd Booragoon Contact Marian Watson 316 1324.
- Saturday 24 September 1.30 pm Friends of Star Swamp Spring Walk and 10 Anniversary Celebrations Meet at Hope Street.

OCTOBER

- Friday—Sunday 27 to 29 September State Landcare Conference Contact Motive Conventions 322 2666.
- Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 October Wildflower Society bushland plants survey Contact Bronwen Keighery 222 7058 (w) or 381 4062(h).
- Saturday 21 October Getting the message across: media kills workshop for community group members. Contact Margo O'Byrne on 222 7054.



# Attacking bridal creeper

Bridal creeper is under siege again this year in Yanchep National Park. On 23 April, the Bridal Creeper Removal Group held its first busy bee for 1995 in Boomerang Gorge. A small group of dedicated people helped dig out the creeper, roots and all.

Volunteers from as far afield as Peppermint Grove were busy all morning, working to tidy up the section of the gorge from which the creeper was cleared in 1994. Shoots of the creeper coming up around rocks and from under logs, where the rhizomes were difficult to locate and dig out, were targeted.

Bridal creeper thrives in the moist soil of the gorge and, left unchecked, smothers native vegetation. It is spread mainly by small birds which eat the berries and then deposit the seeds in their droppings.

Already seedlings of some of the native plants that grow in the gorge are coming

up in the areas that were cleared during last year's work days.

The cleared site will be re-planted with shrubs and ground covers that have been raised from cuttings and seed taken from native plants growing in less affected sections of the gorge. They were carefully collected and propagated in the park by David Pike and members of the WA Wildflower Society Northern Suburbs branch.

Busy bees will be held once a month, on the fourth Sunday morning at 9.30 am at Boomerang Gorge. Volunteers can bring sturdy tools and gloves with them. Tools should be washed in a bleach solution to prevent any foreign organisms being brought into the park. The park will waive the entry fee for volunteers taking part in these busy bees.

For more information contact the park office on 561 1004 or Jill Vines on 561 2177.

## Tonkin time again

Greening Western Australia is calling for nominations for entries for the annual John Tonkin Greening Awards.

The awards pay tribute to outstanding achievements towards conserving the State's land, water and vegetation.

Greening Western Australia's chairman Brett Loney said the awards were aimed at recognising 'doers' — those West Australians who were getting their hands dirty conserving the State's vegetation cover.

"By recognising these achievements, Greening Western Australia hopes that others will be inspired to undertake similar initiatives," Mr Loney said.

Ten awards are presented each year in the categories of bushland conservation, business, community group, education, farm forestry, government, individual endeavour, local government, media and primary producer.

Entries close on Monday 31 July 1995 and winners will be announced at a ceremony on Wednesday 25 October 1995. For more information contact Greening Western Australia on 481 2144.

## Thanks Jill

Jillian Harris left the Department of Environmental Protection in May to set up her own consultancy. Jill worked on the Ecoplan programme and several other community and schools programmes during her three years with the department — two of her notable achievements were the role play activity 'Who Decides' and *Teaching Among the Trees*, a case study of environmental education. Jill's work with Ecoplan is held in high regard by those who worked with her at the department and valued by many volunteers and groups. We wish Jill every success in her new work.

## Ecoplan contacts

### ☐ Contact numbers:

Ecoplan community involvement co-ordinator

Margo O'Byrne ☎ 222 7054

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**

Laurie Boyland ☎ 409 1409

**Central Region**

Vacant - are you interested?

**Eastern Hills Region**

Robert Watkinson-Slough ☎ 572 1489



## Hot topics up for discussion

Hardly a week went by last summer when we weren't bombarded with news of yet another bush-fire in the Perth metropolitan area. Will next summer be as bad? The Urban Bushland Council hopes not and, to help make sure, is holding a conference at the end of August.

*Burning our Bushland — the impact and control of fire in urban bushland* will be held on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 August 1995.

Mary Gray, president of the Urban Bushland Council, said that fire was one of the major concerns of the council.

"With Perth's long dry summers, the pockets of bushland in urban areas are particularly susceptible to fire," Mary said.

"Although the Australian bush is adapted to fire, frequent fires can devastate small patches of bush. Many fires in Perth are caused by arson and we are keen to get everyone together to work out what can be done to reduce the problem."

Mary said that may mean setting up special fire-watch programmes, running educational programmes, or taking other measures to prevent bush fires.

"We hope to get together urban bushland managers, community representatives, fire fighters, arson investigators, journalists and anyone else interested in the issue to nut out some possible solutions," she said.

The conference has been made possible by funding from the Minister for the Environment and the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the conference or presenting a talk or workshop should ring conference organiser Jillian Harris on 385 2275 during office hours.

*Ecoplan News* is published by the Department of Environmental Protection

# System 6 update

The EPA has recognised that there is a need to review and update the recommendations contained in the System 6 reports and also the coastal plain portion of System 1.

The update programme is expected to take about two and a half to three years to complete. Priority in the early stages of the programme has gone into the field survey programme which can only take place over the spring flowering periods.

A steering committee comprised of senior representatives from key state government agencies, local government and an EPA member has now been established and has met and considered key issues and objectives for the programme.

A technical working group with a wide ranging interest in the programme is meeting regularly. A workshop with involvement from various experts from government and the community was held recently to help formulate the criteria needed to establish the guidelines for the review.

A series of public meetings were held early in July throughout the area affected by the update.

These meetings provided an opportunity for the community to find out more about the update programme and provide input if they were aware of areas they believed to be of significance.

The public now have until August 18 to identify any bushland they believe has high conservation value and should be recommended for government protection.

Information kits are available to be sent out to people.

The kit explains what the System 6 Update is about, what the selection criteria are and how to go about nominating areas for inclusion in the update report.

To get a copy of the information kit call the Department of Environmental Protection on 222 7127 between 8am and 5pm on weekdays.

## Managing change in Landcare

*Managing Change in Landcare* is the title of the state landcare conference to be held on September 27, 28 and 29. The conference aims to build on the success and enthusiasm generated at the inaugural state landcare conference in 1993.

The conference will focus on the joint topics of landcare and integrated catchment management, with papers on the themes of environmental change, social change and government change.

For more information contact Motive Conventions on 322 2666.

POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERTH  
WEST. AUST.  
6000



Department of Environmental Protection  
Westralia Square  
141 St George's Terrace  
Perth WA 6000

If not claimed please return to Box S1400, GPO, Perth WA 6001

Printed on 100% recycled paper

EPA 0720-0795-700



## Programme

### Day One

8.30 am Registrations

9.00 am Welcome, Mary Gray, Urban Bushland Council

9.05 am Official opening

#### 9.15 am Community perspectives

A series of talks where representatives from community groups will share their experiences and thoughts on fire in urban bushland.

Margaret Robertson, Friends of Ellis Brook Valley.

David Wake, Quinns Rocks Environmental Group.

Jeff Lewis, Bungendore Park Management Committee.

Brett Tizard, Armadale Settlers Common.

Cate Tauss, Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park.

Alan Lloyd, Friends of Helpburn-Pinnaroo Bushland.

10.20 am Morning tea

#### 10.30 am Historical and ecological perspectives

Stephen Hopper, Kings Park and Botanic Gardens.

Patrick Pigott, UWA.

Boyd Wykes and Bill McArthur, HMAS Stirling Garden Island.

Bruce Ward, CALM.

12.00 pm Lunch

*A scrumptious lunch will be provided*

#### 1.00 pm Workshops and walks

Tony Poynton, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, *A closer look at Bibra Lake and its recent fire history.*

Jeff Lewis, Bungendore Park Management Committee, *Post-fire monitoring for community groups.*

David Ward, CALM, *Grass trees and fire history.*

Angas Hopkins, CALM, *Fire in Banksia woodland.*

#### 1.45pm What happens to the animals?

John Dell and Ric How, WA Museum.

Michael Brooker, CSIRO.

Keith Smith, WA Native Animal and Bird Hospital.

Gordon Friend, CALM.

3.15 pm Afternoon tea

#### 3.30 pm Managing with/without fire

Bronwen and Greg Keighery, Botanists.

David Kaesehagen, Australian Association of Bush Regenerators.

Eddie van Etten, Edith Cowan University.

Rick Sneeuwjagt, CALM.

5.00 pm End of day one

### Day Two

#### 9.30 am Approaches to fighting fire

Rod Safstrom, Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Mark Norton, Student, Edith Cowan University.

Len Knight, Farmer and volunteer fire-fighter.

Tony Pestell, Shire of Swan.

11 am Morning tea

#### 11.20 am Arson and publicity

Mal Cronstedt, Bush Fires Board of WA.

Tony Carter, Arson Council of WA.

Rick Scupham, Police Arson Squad.

Patrick Cornish, The West Australian.

12.30 pm Lunch

*More scrummy food*

#### 1.30 Looking for answers

John Day, MLA for Darling Range.

Pat Hart, Community fire fighter.

Philip Jennings, Conservation Council of WA.

#### 2.30 So where to now?

A final plenary session to take us forward.

3pm Close of conference.

*Tea, coffee, cakes, wine and net-working.*

Urban Bushland Council (WA)

# Burning our Bushland

**A conference about fire in urban  
bushland**

To be held at the  
**Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre**  
Hope Road  
Bibra Lake  
Western Australia

**Friday 25 August  
Saturday 26 August  
1995**

## Registration form

Yes! Please register me for the *Burning our Bushland* conference.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration fee enclosed:

\$30 full registration

\$20 one-day only:    Friday

                                 Saturday

Please make cheques payable to the Urban Bushland Council (WA).

### Send registrations to:

**Burning our Bushland conference**

**Urban Bushland Council (WA)**

**PO Box 326**

**WEST PERTH WA 6872**

**Registrations should reach the Urban Bushland Council (WA) by Friday 18 August 1995.**

## Burning our Bushland

Hardly a week went by last summer when we weren't bombarded with news of yet another bush-fire in the Perth metropolitan area. Will next summer be as bad? The Urban Bushland Council (WA) hopes not and, to help make sure, is holding a conference at the end of August.

### *Burning our Bushland*

is a conference for anyone interested in urban bushland and the effects fire has on it; It is a conference for people who want to contribute to the solution.

### *Burning our Bushland*

will bring together people with a broad range of interests in fire in urban bushland — community group representatives, scientists, land managers, and arson investigators.

### *Burning our Bushland*

aims to:

- Bring together people interested in the impact and control of fire in urban bushland;
- Share information and experience between those people;
- Work towards reducing the incidence and impact of fire in urban bushland.

## Registrations

Full registration    \$30

One day only        \$20

Registration includes a copy of the proceedings, lunches, morning and afternoon teas. The cost has been kept down by the generous support of the Minister for the Environment and the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation.

To register, please fill in the attached form, cut along the dotted line and return it, together with a cheque (made payable to the Urban Bushland Council) to:

Burning our Bushland  
c/- Urban Bushland Council  
PO Box 326  
WEST PERTH WA 6872

**Notification of registrations will not be sent. Participants will simply collect their name tags from the registration desk at the conference on Friday 25 August.**

For more information please contact conference organiser Jillian Harris on phone/fax (09) 385 2275.