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Ecoplan News

Issue 16 Summer 1996

New guides out for bushland managers

19 MAR 1996
G.P.

A surge in interest in Perth's bushland saw the launch of two important publications late last year — *Managing Perth's Bushlands* and *Burning Our Bushland*.

Managing Perth's Bushlands — *Perth's bushlands and how to manage them*, contains a wealth of information about the origin of ecology, threats and ways to manage Perth's bushland. It traces the growth in interest in the protection of Perth's bushland and describes the major plant communities of the Perth metropolitan region. Disturbances on urban bushland areas are also discussed along with suggestions on how to limit or eliminate them.

The manual contains information on how to re-establish native vegetation, plan a regeneration project and importantly, where to get more information if required on any of the topics covered.

With the increasing involvement of different individuals and bodies in urban bushland, *Managing Perth's Bushlands*

attempts to gather information available from a confusing range of sources, or sources not readily available. The manual will help the individual or group become familiar with the issues and processes concerned with bushland areas.

Of particular interest are the descriptions of the 357 weed species known to occur in the metropolitan area. Given the threats placed on urban bushland from weeds, Greening WA special projects manager and co-editor of the manual Martine Scheltema feels the publication is important because it details both chemical and physical techniques for controlling weeds.

Since the launch of *Managing Perth's Bushland* by Dr Steven Hopper, Director of Kings Park, the initial response has been excellent according to Greening WA General Manager Murray Edmonds.

While *Managing Perth's Bushlands* does not claim to be the definitive work on urban bushland, it is envisaged it will

become an essential reference for all involved in caring for remnant bushland in the Perth metropolitan region. Beyond that, it will provide an introduction for those wanting to know more about the bushland around Perth, as well as being a source of useful information for those involved in managing bushland outside the metropolitan region.

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Ecoplan heads for Bunbury

Ecoplan will undertake a training program in the Bunbury area on the weekend of 22, 23 & 24 February 1996. A request for this was made to the DEP during the System 6 update regional visits last year.

Ecoplan co-ordinator Margo O'Byrne said there were many people working in Bunbury and the surrounding areas who were keen to look after the environment. "We want to assist these people and help find some new recruits," she said.

Sessions will cover the special values of the local environment, importance of the local flora and fauna, and will be friendly and interactive. They will look at how people can work together, the role of state and local government, bush regeneration and draw from the experiences of people who have undertaken local community care for bushland.

The course will be conducted at the Department of Agriculture meeting room. For further details please contact Margo O'Byrne (09) 222 7054 or Jon Elder (09) 222 7096. Carolyn Switzer (097 255 268) may also be contacted in Bunbury to express an interest in attending.



Martine Scheltema, Dr Stephen Hopper and Joanna Seabrook (to whom the manual is dedicated to), at the launch in Kings Park.



Ecoplan update

— with Margo O'Byrne and John Elder, DEP community involvement co-ordinators



Seasons Greetings to all readers of Ecoplan News. We hope your Christmas was a peaceful one and that the New Year brings the fulfilment of hopes and dreams.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in activities over the past few months. Thanks to all who attended our final two workshops in 1995 and to Bevan Bessen for conducting the *Presenting Your Ideas* workshop and to Jillian Harris for presenting the *Media* workshop. Feedback from all participants was very positive and I hope that people will be able to put new skills into practice.

Special thanks to the Friends of Yellagonga and in particular Cate Tauss for hosting a wonderful evening at Lake Joondalup in late November for the Ecoplan Christmas party. Despite the threat of rain we managed a balmy summer evening. About 60 people participated in a walk led by Cate to look at the successful bush regeneration work which had been undertaken by the group. Thanks also to Eric McCrum and Phillis Robertson for sharing their valuable knowledge with us. As the light faded the kangaroos joined with us at the edge of the lake. It was our joy to be wonderfully entertained by didgeridoo player and story teller, James Webb and his uncle Peter who performed some energetic traditional Aboriginal dancing for us. Thanks to James and Peter for their wonderful entertainment.

A special thanks to Cathy Drake who worked with Ecoplan for a few weeks in September and October and for her tremendous effort with the spring newsletter.

We welcome Jon Elder to Ecoplan. Jon started working two days a week (Tuesday and Wednesday) in early November and is settling in well (his career development is outlined in the "New Arrivals" segment on page 8). Some of you may have met Jon in his role as supervisor with the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Jon is keen to gain further experience of what is going on in urban bushland groups. If you would like to invite Jon out to your patch then just give him a call on 222 7069.

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Burning Our Bushland - Proceedings of a conference about fire and urban bushland arose from the successful conference staged in August last year. President of the Urban Bushland Council Mary Gray said that the conference held two distinct goals. "The first was to draw together all sectors interested in the burning of our bushland including community groups, scientists researching various aspects of fire, bushland managers, arson investigators, and fire fighters and secondly to reduce the incidence of fires and the ecological damage they cause," Ms Gray said.

Some very positive developments have arisen from these proceedings. One such development is a working group under the chairmanship of Darling Range MLA John Day. The working group is looking at the fire services and ecological and environmental issues in urban bushland. Included in the group are representatives from the three fire services; Fire Rescue Service of WA, Bushfires Board of WA and Conservation and Land Management. Also included are the Department of Environmental Protection, Conservation Council of WA, Urban Bushland Council and the Ministry for Planning. There is also consultation with the WA Municipal Association.

WA Fire Rescue Services representative Richard Robertson, felt the conference proceedings were an excellent feedback to the fire services which now recognised the need to include environmental expertise in fire management strategies. Mr Robertson said the working group furthered understanding between those groups concerned with preserving urban bushland. "Traditionally the fire services have been concerned with effects of fire on the environment but there is much to learn," he said.

The proceedings have also given rise to greater dialogue between individual groups and the local fire brigades to work towards better management strategies to protect our priceless urban heritage.

Publications available

MANAGING PERTH'S BUSHLANDS - Perth's Bushlands And How To Manage Them.

Published by Greening Western Australia, *Managing Perth's Bushlands* is a practical guide giving descriptions of Perth's bushlands, management techniques and conservation solutions.

Cost: \$15 (if purchased before 29 February). Contact Greening Western Australia on Ph: (09) 481 2144 or Fx: (09) 481 0024.

BURNING OUR BUSHLAND - Proceedings of a Conference about Fire and Urban Bushland.

Published by the Urban Bushland Council (Western Australia), *Burning Our Bushland* contains the proceeding of the successful conference held in August 1995 aimed at improving understanding about the ravages of fire and the need for better fire management practices.

Cost: \$10. Contact Kirstin Tullis on Ph: (09) 271 3549 or Mary Gray on Ph: (09) 271 5707

MORE ECOPLAN EVENTS

Workshop On Planning Your Year

Saturday 9 March. 1.00 pm - 4.30 pm

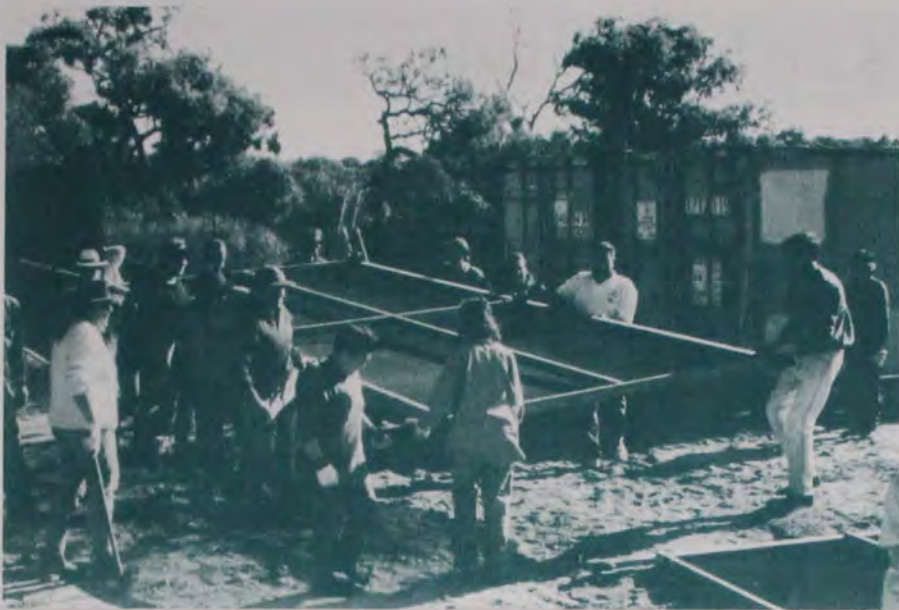
Herdsmans Lake Environment Centre, Cnr Selby/Flynn St. Wembly.

An afternoon workshop aimed to help your group plan activities for the coming year. Topics covered include;

- planning for bush regeneration;
- working to avoid burn-out;
- successful application and acquittal of grants;
- how to tap into programs such as World Environment Day, National Landcare Month and Clean-Up Australia Day to attract more helpers to your group;
- looking after the social aspect of your membership; and
- insurance for your group.

The workshop is open to everyone and is free-of-charge. For more information contact Ecoplan co-ordinators Margo O'Byrne (222 7054) or Jon Elder (222 7096).





ATCV volunteers and the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park dismantle the community nursery for relocation.

Extra hands for workdays

After a successful pilot program run last year with 10 community groups, Ecoplan is looking to increase the number of working days the Australian Trust For Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) is available to work along side friends groups.

Last year, the ATCV volunteer workforce thoroughly enjoyed working in urban bushland areas along side the local groups.

Ecoplan is evaluating the success of last year's program and the feedback from community groups, the ATCV and vesting agencies of the worksites has been excellent.

If you are interested in getting the ATCV to your workdays contact Margo O'Byrne (222 7054) or Jon Elder (222 7096) at the DEP. **ALSO** there is a meeting for those groups interested in working with the ATCV at 7.30 pm Wednesday 20 March at Greening WA (1118 Hay St, West Perth) to help plan for a well organised, fun and productive day!

DON'T MISS OUT!

Nominations called for Ecoplan awards

Each year awards are presented during National Volunteers Week (May) to volunteers who have contributed to the protection of the environment through outstanding work in their local environment.

Last year the awards were presented by the Hon Minister for the Environment at a morning tea hosted by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Nominations are being sought for the 1996 awards. You may nominate yourself or others and awards are given on a regional basis.

Nominations close on 31 March 1996.

If you wish to nominate, please give details (need be no more than one

page) about the person you are nominating, which group they work with (if working with a group), the kind of work they have been doing and the reason for nominating and send this to the Ecoplan co-ordinator, Conservation Branch, Department of Environmental Protection, 141 St Georges Tce, Perth 6000.

For further information about the awards contact Margo O'Byrne (222 7054) or Jon Elder (222 7096).



MONEY MONEY MONEY

Training Sponsorship for Community Groups

The Swan River Trust — through the Swan-Canning Clean-Up Program — will help community groups and volunteers to access training courses in areas such as better meeting skills, water quality monitoring, how to access funding, and bush regeneration.

The Trust can help to support groups to access a variety of courses on offer in Perth. To apply, simply write to the Trust giving details of the training course, including:

- course name, location and cost;
- who wishes to attend; and
- how your group and its projects would benefit.

The budget is limited with the principal criterion being benefits to river water quality and the environment.

Assistance is also available to organise suitable speakers for your group meeting and workshops. Some funding is also available to pay speakers' fees. To request a speaker's fee, write to the Trust with information on:

- the purpose of the meeting;
- who is expected to attend; and
- and why you would like to pay a speaker.

There is no deadline for requests and for more information phone Tim Larcombe on (09) 327 9730.

National Landcare Program

The program will help communities and individuals adopt ecologically sustainable management of Australia's environment and natural resources. The program brings together the community grants component of the Commonwealth Government's One Billion Trees, Save The Bush, Waterwatch (Ribbons of Blue) and the Land and Water programs.

Potential applicants should take advantage of a seminar to help develop and present an application at Greening Western Australia (1118 Hay St West Perth), 7.00 pm Tuesday 27 February.

The closing date for applications is 15 March 1996.

For more information about attending the seminars or general enquiries about the program contact Jon Glauert on Ph: 368 3475 or Fx: 368 3946.





Central Region

Kiara Wetland

By Kirstin Tullis and Margo McGurk of Bayswater Greenwork (Inc)

Our small wetland and bushland reserve, just over a hectare in size, continues to keep a small number of volunteers busy. This year we planted more than 3000 local tree and understory seedlings. We have another 300 for next winter in the pipeline, funded through the Community Conservation Grant program. Many people helped in this year's plantings, even on one cold rainy day. As well, nearly every Saturday morning for an hour or two, a couple of us have visited the site, mainly to weed. Thankfully, rubbish is less of a problem. We submitted Kiara Wetland to the System 6 Update. We also submitted a larger bush area nearby on Morley Drive, in the hope that the impending development proposal can be halted or at least kept to a minimum and a substantial area conserved.

Disheartening things have happened at our wetland. Someone spirited away a few mature Grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea sp.*). Other people, we suspect small and not so small boys, pulled up newly-planted seedlings and trampled reeds. Recently a very cleverly built cubby house made from broken saplings made an appearance. We also had quite a few seedlings die, despite the good winter rains.

On a brighter note we found a few more native plants, bringing the total up to 124, a new lizard and some wonderful bright red velvet mites. In winter the frog chorus was delightful.

Baigup Wetland

By Miles Hitchcock of Bayswater Greenwork (Inc)

A lot of our efforts over the past two or three years in this large and somewhat problematic wetland reserve are starting to "set seed". Notably, A board-walk has been built just near Garratt Road Bridge thanks to the efforts of a Westrek LEAP group. The group also built a fine information shelter and picnic table, providing facilities to raise the awareness

of its reserve status among the many locals who use the area.

The LEAP participants, under the advice of Greenwork members and Ministry for Planning field officer Mark O'Neil, removed a tonnage of weeds (paspalum, blackberry, typha) and also planted several hundred trees (flooded gum, paperbark, acacia saligna) around the board-walk area. Thank you to the kids at Infant Jesus Primary School and Men of The Trees who grew and donated the trees, and to Cliff and John Holland from Westrek and the LEAP participants.

Members and friends have helped with tree plantings and also have been weeding around the previous years' tree plantations. Readers may remember the angst we suffered when these plantations were burnt by a hot fire last summer — the good news is that nearly half or more of the seedlings appear to have survived, and many are thriving and starting to make a significant habitat change at last.

Some trees planted in 1992/93 in other areas of the wetland are genuinely thriving. Flooded gums over 5m high and even trees planted as seedlings last summer are well over head height now. The future for Baigup might just be bright!

Henley Brook & West Swan Landcare Project

By Bevan Carter

The object of the project is to do a flora and fauna survey of the area bounded by Gngangara Road (north), Whiteman Park (west), Reid Highway (south) and the Swan River (east). At the point where Bassendean sands connect with the clay adjacent to the Swan River, water from the Gngangara water mound rises to the surface. A number of creeks, Henley Brook, St. Lennards and Wandoo run into the Swan from this area. This abundance of water meant that the area was very quickly developed in the early days of the colony and much of the bush on the heavy ground was cleared. The beautiful jarrah trees have gone, as have the giant Marri and Wandoo trees.

Large stands of Banksia and Melaluca with their associated understoreys

remain, particularly in the Caversham airfield base and Saunders and Henley streets. Every Tuesday for the past four months volunteers have done flora surveys and the bulk of the survey work on the two pieces of remnant bush has been completed. Around 150 species have been identified in the airfield base and a similar number has been found at Saunders Street. The group is also monitoring the complex surface and subterranean water system in the area with the assistance of Geography students from UWA.

In addition to continuing surveys of the smaller pieces of bush the volunteers are now looking at several bird-watching activities. These will take place early on Tuesday morning at 6 am for the next few months. For more information contact Bevan Carter on 279 8777.

North East/Hills Region

Koondoola Bushland

The friends of Koondoola Bushland are a newly formed group who are keen to promote and protect the unique bushland of Koondoola. We are conducting guided walks through the bush every second Saturday of the month at 8 am till 9 am. The meeting place is at the end of Rendell Way, Koondoola. We are also mapping car bodies for removal and teaching bush regeneration skills. In a flora survey of the Swan Coastal Plain the area was identified as a type 20A floristic community with new species still being found. Community Type 20A is a *Banksia attenuata* woodland over a species rich heath. This is one of the most threatened community types on the coastal plain. If you wish to join in on a walk please come along, or to join our group contact Phyllis Robertson on 349 9105.

Ellen Brook Catchment Activities

The first meeting of the Ellen Brook Integrated Catchment Group (EBICG) is scheduled for 29 January, 1996. This group represents Landcare, local government and State agencies in the Ellen Brook catchment. The role of the EBICG is to work towards coordinating



planning and research activities for the area. For more information or if you would like to be involved contact Wes Harwood on 278 0405.

North West Region

Friends of Star Swamp Bushland

By Christine Curry

Summer and the bushfires go hand-in-hand and already Star Swamp Bushland has had several fires. The first in early summer was particularly severe and burnt through about a third of the reserve.

The first attack on a small but thick patch of bridal creeper was made in November. A small group of friends took to the area with spades, crowbars and a lot of elbow grease, removing 15 garbage bags of the creeper. Further attacks are planned from April once the weather has cooled a little.

Star Swamp Bushland will be included in the City of Stirling's Australia Day celebrations on 26 January. As part of a citizenship event to be held at the Laurie Strutt Reserve, Elvire Street Waterman, the friends will put up a display of David Pike's remarkable wildflower photos and will also conduct two guided walks through Star Swamp, leaving from the display at 8 am and 9.30 am.

1996 promises to be a busy and exciting one for the Friends of Star Swamp.

Friends of Marmion Marine Park

The FOMMP were starting off the summer with a touch pool on 27 January at Mettams Pool, West Coast Drive, Trigg. The event was on the beach from 9.30 am till about 11.00 am for the public to see the creatures that inhabit our reef and to learn a little about them.

Friends of Trigg Bushland

By Robyn Murphy

More than 40 people turned up at various times throughout the day to help with Carnation Weed removal in the Trigg Bushland in October last year. We are particularly appreciative of the fantastic effort put in by Jon Elder and the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) who cheerfully worked all day clearing a large area of weed. We hope the sausage sizzle went some way towards demonstrating our gratitude to the mainly young volunteers,

and to enticing them back again later this year.

We have asked the City of Stirling to make available plants grown from seeds from the reserve for planting in the weeded area. We hope this will help our native plants get a "jump on" the weeds which will almost certainly pop up this winter.

Our thanks to Margo O'Byrne from the DEP for her help in organising the day; to the City of Stirling for carting away the weeds and supplying toilet facilities; and to our members who turned up on the day.

Our group received a grant from the National Landcare Program to map the Carnation Weed in Trigg Bushland. This was done in 1994 with the help of UWA students. We are now considering how the weed can be controlled and in the long term, eradicated. Any help in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

David Pike continues to expertly lead our monthly nature walks through various parts of Trigg Bushland. We meet on the second Saturday of every month, leaving from the Millington Reserve entry on Elliot Road, Karrinyup. Visitors are welcome.

For more information on the Friends of Trigg Bushland activities phone Robyn Murphy on 246 3954.

Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park

By Laurie Boyland

The FOYRP nursery is now back in production at Landsdale Farm School (LFS). The work was mainly done by the ATCV. Thanks to all the FOYRP people, especially Jim and Gerard Wilcox, and the ATCV supervised by Jon Elder, and Ray Hendly (LFS).

The Yellagonga Regional Park Community Advisory Committee representative for 1996 is Dr Michael Bamford of the FOYRP group. This will provide a voice for local community participation in decision making for things such as managing the park, walk/cycle trails, developments within the park and burning policy.

Perry's paddock, in Yellagonga Regional Park, is to be developed for community use as an historical site. A very successful public meeting was held to discuss the Draft Management Plan for Perry's paddock with 30 attending. The FOYRP has forwarded a submission to the City of Wanneroo, which has the

area vested in its control for management development.

Finally, each Saturday morning and some weekdays there is a lot of work in seeding and potting to be done in the nursery at LFS. If you are interested in getting involved contact Jackie Harvey on 409 1412 or Joy Unno on 307 6382.

Coalition for Wanneroo's Environment

By David Wake

The Coalition recently commented on the draft management plan for Koondoola Open Space. This is an important bushland area covering 136ha of Banksia woodland, Flooded Gum, Paperbark woodland and sumpland.

It includes Banksia woodlands rich in endangered species and identified in the Swan Coastal Plain floristic survey. A brief survey found four species of frog, 18 reptiles and 26 birds. The Western Brush Wallaby inhabits the area too.

Management issues for Koondoola Open Space include reducing the incidence of fire, controlling weeds, excluding vehicles and promoting public awareness and involvement. To become involved in a friends group formed last year to help look after the bushland contact Phyllis Robertson on 348 8105.

To find out more about this and other conservation issues contact the Coalition: Jill Brown on 305 8073 or Cate & Ray Tauss on 309 5241.

Quinns Rock Environmental Group

By David Wake

Through it's ecology project, the group is surveying flora and fauna in three local reserves: Gumblossom Reserve, Wattle Park and the coastal reserve in Quinns Rocks. Training workshops were held last year covering plant identification, vegetation and fauna.

As a part of the project, a community project was held in November to discuss the values of local bushland and management issues and needs. It highlighted the significance of local bushland to retain native flora and fauna and keep natural places in the increasingly urban landscape. Lack of protection and frequent fire and weeds were the main problems identified; community awareness is needed to address them.

Comments from the workshop will be used to produce a conservation proposal

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for the bushland. The group is also drawing up a management plan for Wattle Park. Over the next year remnant vegetation between Burns Beach and Eglinton will be documented and conservation strategies devised through a local Landcare initiative.

The group recently made a submission on proposed development affecting bushland north of Burns Beach. This important remnant of coastal bushland is partly covered by System 6 recommendations M2 and M6.

For more information contact Karyn Shaw on 305 1405 or David Wake on 305 1591.

South East Region

Friends of Ellis Brook Valley (Inc)

By Margaret Robinson

Summertime, although not spent in the Valley, is a busy time for us and we have already sown about 4500 seeds for planting this year.

This year looks like being an extremely busy one for the friends again. The work on our Herbarium will continue, and with nearly 400 species identified and catalogued, we are now looking for those elusive species which have escaped our attention.

This year we are also going to catalogue the weed species found in the Reserve. The friends group has all but eliminated four weed species in the reserve over the past four years. These being Pattersons Curse, Cotton Bush, Fennel, and Watsonia. It is only through the commitment, and long term dedication of members that this has been achieved.

Graffiti has also been targeted this summer, and thanks to the hard work of John and Heather Bowler, you would be hard pressed to find any in the main recreational areas in the valley.

Another area of activity this year will be the establishment of a picnic area. We will be working on this project with the Rotary Club of Maddington, which has supported the friends group with time and money over the past two years.

Work will also continue on our Easy Walk Trail which has been specifically designed for people with wheelchairs or with mobility problems. This was designed by the friends group, and partly funded by Rotary, Maddington.

Dieback research is continuing in the Reserve, and it is sad to report the

disease is well established in several areas. The friends group will undertake a public education program for users of the Reserve this year and hopefully, while unable to stop its establishment, we will alert people into stopping its spread and the hygiene necessary to control it.

It is also our fourth birthday this year. We have survived, and have the satisfaction of knowing that, as a group, we have made a difference to our reserve, both in management terms, rehabilitation of degraded areas, and public education as to the value of this conservation area.

Our Annual General Meeting for 1996 will be on the 26 February at 7.30 pm. This is my final year as president, and I must say the past three years have been exciting, frustrating, rewarding, exhausting, etc. etc. and then some. It all goes with being closely involved with conservation.

Anyone wishing to know anything about the friends or wishing to join us contact myself 459 8852 or our secretary, Mrs Heather Bowler 459 2045.

Armadale Settlers' Common

by Brett Tizard

Fire and the Environment

A meeting of community groups caring for bushland together with representatives from all fire services was held recently at the Armadale Settlers' Common Field Studies Centre. The meeting addressed by Richard Robertsen of the WAFB, discussed issues surrounding fire management and "environmental fire fighting". The cooperative approach that exists was praised but the need for further education and awareness programs was highlighted.

Bungendore Park Management Plan

The Draft Management Plan for the award winning Bungendore Park will soon be completed and ready for three months of public comment. Keep an eye open in the new year for the release of the plan.

New Works Opportunity Programs

A series of four "new opportunity" works were completed recently in the Armadale area with two of these programs having an environmental focus. A joint initiative between the Federal Government and the City of Armadale, these programs are similar to LEAP schemes but target adults. The conversion of the old Shale Quarry has transformed the disused site

into a place for picnics. Weed removal and safe access were high on the list of projects. The second project was based at the Armadale Settlers' Common Field Studies Centre. Once again weed control was an important part of the program along with the construction of several paths and an outdoor classroom area.

History of Churchmans Bushland

The Churchmans Bushland Association were treated to a discussion on the history of that reserve. A varied and checkered history, probably similar to much of Perth's urban bushland, was presented by Adrian Choules, a local resident. On a more serious note, the fate of the reserve is under a cloud, with discussions continuing between the Association, MFP and the local council.

Canning Catchment Activities

Roley Pool on the Canning River was once a focus for recreation activities in the Armadale district. It supported a local swimming club and was a popular destination for many visitors to the area. The area is becoming increasingly degraded with large quantities of silt filling the pool, introduced plants choking the river and dumping of rubbish.

Armadale City River Care is Starting weeding activities on Saturday 10 February at 7 am. People with power tools such as chainsaws or brushcutters are welcome to work on Friday evening 9 February from 4 pm, in preparation for the manual work on Saturday.

Also a workshop to discuss Blackberry control will be held at Lot 31 Armstrong Road, Roleystone on Saturday 3 February.

For details, contact Pat Hart on 496 1634.

Looking for a challenge?

Then why not become a volunteer regional co-ordinator. Regional co-ordinators meet bi-monthly and exchange ideas and issues between local community groups working in the region and with the EcoPLAN co-ordinators. Nominations are needed for the central and eastern hills regions. And yes, you may nominate yourself!

To nominate or for further information contact the EcoPLAN co-ordinators Margo O'Byrne (222 7054) or Jon Elder (222 7096).



What's on



FEBRUARY

		Australian Trust For Conservation Volunteer Tasks at Capel, Creed Station (Kalgoorlie) and others. Phone the Perth Office on 470 3445.
3, Saturday		Gordon Reid Foundation Small Grants Program applications close.
3, Saturday		Blackberry Control Workshop at Roleystone. Contact Pat Hart on 496 1634.
10, Saturday	7.00 am	Weeding working-bee with Armadale City River Care at Roley Pool, Canning River. Contact Pat Hart on 496 1634.
10, Saturday	8.00 am - 9.30 am	Friends of Trigg Bushland guided bushwalk. Meets Millington Reserve entry on Elliot Rd, Karrinyup. Contact Robyn Murphy on 246 3954.
13, Tuesday	7.45 pm	Wildflower Society (Perth Branch) Presentation. Robert Bropho; Forests and Woodlands of his Youth. Naturalists Club Hall, Meriwa St, Nedlands. Phone 381 4062.
17, Saturday	7.00 am	Early morning bird walk at the Herdsmans Lake Wildlife Centre. Phone 387 6079.
24, Saturday	8.00 am	Monthly guided walk in Star Swamp. Meets at Hope St grassed area. Contact Christine Curry on 447 2983.
27, Tuesday	7.00 pm	National Landcare Program seminar to help develop and present applications. G.W.A. Building 1118 Hay St, West Perth. Contact Jon Glauert on 368 3475.
2, 3 & 4, Saturday, Sunday & Monday		Landcare Awareness Tour. The Men Of The Trees tour of innovative farms in the South West. Accommodation provided. Cost \$20, BYO food and bedding for the first day. Bookings essential. Phone 250 1266.
9, Saturday	8.00 am - 9.30 am	Friends of Trigg Bushland guided bushwalk. Leaves from Millington Reserve entry on Elliot Rd, Karrinyup. Contact Robyn Murphy on 246 3954.
9, Saturday	1.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Ecoplan Planning Workshop. Herdsmans Lake Environment Centre, Cnr Selby/Flynn St, Wembley. Contact Margo O'Byrne (222 7054) or Jon Elder (222 7096).
12, Tuesday	7.45 pm	Wildflower Society (Perth Branch) Presentation. Stephen Hopper; Wandoo Woodlands. Naturalists Club Hall, Meriwa St, Nedlands. Phone 381 4062.
15, Friday		Closing date for contributions to Ecoplan News Autumn Edition.
15, Friday		Closing date for National Landcare Program applications.
16, Saturday	7.00 am	Early morning bird walk at the Herdsmans Lake Wildlife Centre. Phone 387 6079.
16 & 17, Saturday	5.00 pm	Gould League Family Sleepover. "Banksia Woodland Life". Phone 387 6079.
20, Wednesday & Sunday	7.30 pm	Ecoplan/ATCV Workdays planning meeting. G.W.A. Building 1118 Hay St, West Perth. For those groups expressing an interest in working with the ATCV on their work days.
22, 23 & 24, Friday, Saturday & Sunday		Ecoplan Introductory Training Sessions in Bunbury. Contact Margo O'Byrne (222 7054) or Jon Elder (222 7096).
23, Saturday	8.00 am	Monthly guided walk in Star Swamp. Meets at Hope St grassed area. Contact Christine Curry on 447 2983.
30, Saturday	10.00 am	Men Of The Trees Field Day at Hazelmere, corner of Amherst Rd and Stirling Cres. Australian Trust For Conservation Volunteer Tasks at Creed Station (Kalgoorlie) and others. Phone the Perth Office on 470 3445.

MARCH

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

Urban Bushland Council

PO Box 326

WEST PERTH 6872

Enquiries:

Mary Gray ☎ 221 3840 (wk)

□ Ecoplan community contacts:

South-East Region

Brett Tizard ☎ 497 4038

South Region

Harry de Jong ☎ 419 2085

North-West Region

Laurie Boyland ☎ 409 1409

Central Region

Anyone interested ☎ 222 7000

Eastern Hills Region

Anyone interested ☎ 222 7000



System 6 update heads bush

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is continuing to coordinate the System 6 update program into 1996. The draft report with the updated recommendations is expected to be completed and released for public comment near the close of this year.

The public responded positively to the DEP's call for bushland areas to be submitted for consideration in the System 6 update program with a total of 343 areas referred from 203 respondents. These areas were then categorised according to their location and availability of botanical information, and prioritised. Many of the areas were already included in System 6 or surveyed so a repeat visit was not required. A field program was initiated to collect information on the vegetation and floristics of the unsurveyed areas as well as some additional areas identified through the program.

The initial phase of this field program only considered bushland on the Swan Coastal Plain and focused on collecting floristic information. It was completed in December 1995 after surveying a total of 89 areas, 63 of which were submitted to the program by the public.

The next phase of the field program is to begin a field assessment of bushland areas on the Darling Scarp and Darling Plateau and to process, analyse and interpret the floristic information for the bushland areas on the Swan Coastal Plain.

As a result of this year's field program on the coastal plain, two new populations of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) were discovered in 1995, adding to the two new DRF populations discovered through the program in 1994. One species of sedge was also rediscovered (*Lepidospermum rostratum*), having last been located in 1947. In addition to these highlights many new populations of priority flora taxa have also been found.

The Department of Environmental Protection would like to thank all those members of the public who took the time to submit areas of bushland for consideration in the update program.



New arrivals

Jon Elder is now working part-time in the Conservation Branch on Ecoplan with Margo O'Byrne. Jon finished his under-graduate degree in Applied Science (Fisheries) in 1992 and moved from far-north Queensland and the aquaculture industry in 1994 to study a Master of Science (Natural Resource Management) at UWA.

Since moving to Perth, Jon has worked as a Team Leader for the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers since its successful re-introduction to WA in late 1994.

Jon also is a lecturer at Curtin University and a research assistant for a small environmental consulting firm.

Jon will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays on ph: 222 7096 and fx: 322 1598.

Ecoplan News page 8

Ecoplan News

is published by the
Department of Environmental Protection

POSTAGE
PAID
PERTH
WEST. AUST.
6000



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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

DEP 0841-0196-700