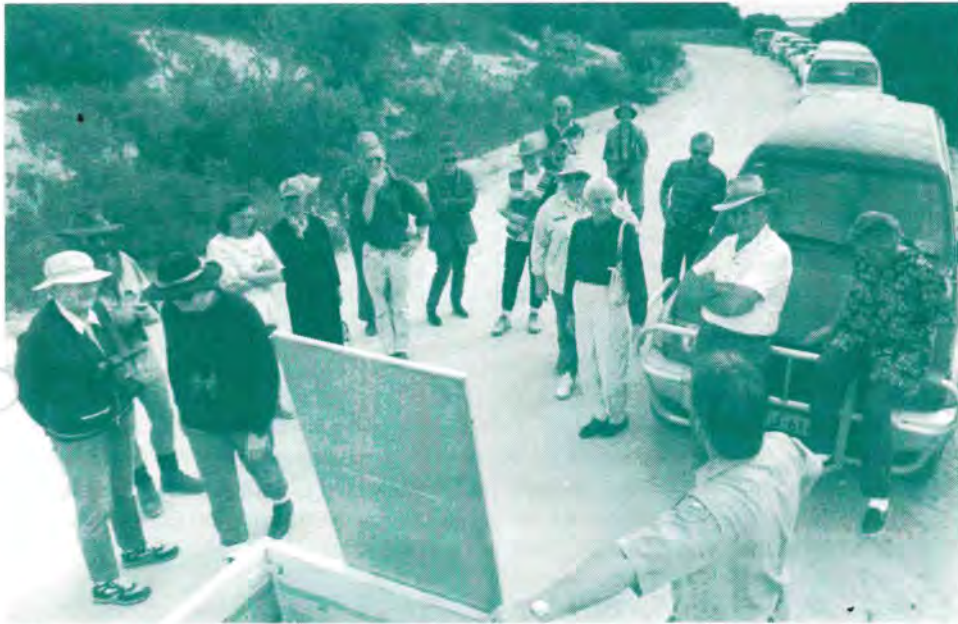


# Ecoplan News

Issue 17 Autumn 1996



CALM Ranger Peter Morris explains management options and the rehabilitation at the Leschenault Peninsula. Photographer: Paul Verhagen. Courtesy of the South West Times.

## Bunbury training

The Ecoplan team moved south to hold its first country training session in Bunbury. The idea of the training sessions was suggested last July during System 6 update talks as local community groups were anxious to spread the word about their activities and to recruit potential new members.

The March weekend saw some 40 people come together to listen to various speakers, discuss topics and explore ways of working together.

Ecoplan co-ordinator Margo O'Byrne said special thanks were owed to Leschnault Catchment co-ordinator Carolyn Switzer, who was extremely helpful in recruiting interested participants and taking registrations, as well as organising the catering and last minute details.

"Thanks also to Agriculture WA for the use of their facilities, to the Dardanup P&C for the catering, and to CALM for speaking about fauna in the area and for

the provision of a slide projector when ours broke down," Margo said.

"Peter Morris, the CALM ranger for the Leschnault Peninsula met with the group on Sunday morning and showed us over the area and the work which had been done on dune rehabilitation.

"Gordon Paine from the Bunbury Naturalist Club has been involved with CALM in the relocation of ring tailed possums to the peninsula and was able to radio track a possum for people to observe.

"Diane Harwood, a bush regenerator working with the Shire of Denmark, presented an excellent talk on the principals and practices of bush regeneration and showed us slides of her work.

"One important point Diane mentioned was that she always makes contact with all the neighbours in the area before she starts work to inform them of what she is doing," Margo said.

"Brian Clay explained the work carried out by the support group for the Meelup Regional Park, which was extremely helpful to others who were looking to become involved in community management of reserves.

"Jon Elder led the group through the role play *Who Decides* and people very willingly entered into the spirit of the exercise."

Margo said one of the really encouraging aspects of the weekend was the willingness of elected councillors from three local shires to join in as both speakers and course participants.

"Peter Eckersley from the Shire of Harvey told us of the Shire's roadside verges study, Margaret Smith from the Capel Shire told of the excellent work being done in dune restoration and Lyn Kearsley spoke of projects in the Bunbury area," she said.

"All councillors also gave us valuable insight into the workings of local government and how community members can get their point of view across. Thanks very much to all speakers for an outstanding effort."

Some of the outcomes of the weekend:

- The Busselton Naturalist Club and others in the region would like to conduct a bush regeneration course in the area.
- Bunbury Naturalist Club will help the Capel Shire LCDC project at Gelorup to plant along the creek line.
- Some people in the area would like a weed identification workshop and Bunbury Naturalist Club may be able to assist.
- A data base of contacts in the area will be put together by Ecoplan and distributed to all participants.
- Further work will be carried out on the development of a management plan for Reserve 1167.
- A field herbarium from System-6 Update program is to be presented to the Bunbury Naturalists Club.



# Ecoplan update

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



The last few months have been busy for many people writing submissions for funding from both the National Landcare Program and the Gordon Reid Foundation. I wish you all success in your applications.

Ecoplan has moved south of the metropolitan area to hold our first training and information session in Bunbury on the weekend of the 22, 23 and 24 March. Thanks to all who were involved in the preparation for the weekend and in particular, Carolyn Switzer for her tremendous help. Thanks also to all the speakers who gave so willingly of their time. Bronwen Keighery, Bernard Bischoff, Kim Williams and Peter Morris from CALM in Bunbury, Cr Peter Eckersley from Shire of Harvey, Cr Margaret Smith from Shire of Capel, Cr Lyn Kearsley from City of Bunbury, Diane Harwood from the Shire of Denmark and

Brian Clay from the Meelup Regional Park. Thanks also to all the participants who contributed their time and effort to make the weekend worthwhile. It was valuable to learn of the work being undertaken by many groups and individuals in the area. The enormous value of the weekend was to share common visions and build local networks.

The Urban Bushland Council are to be congratulated for their wonderful exhibition of urban bushland which has been on display at the Museum of Western Australia. I am sure that all who visited the exhibition were impressed by the diversity of photographs and information about the values of our bushland.

Thanks to all who attended the workshop on *Planning for Your Group* which was held at Herdsman in March. Despite the extreme heat of the

afternoon we learned a lot and shared ideas about how to plan for group activities.

An Environmental Weeds Action Network has been formed following a meeting held at Greening WA in February. A turnout of some 45 people from community organisations and government departments, as well as interested individuals, expressed their concern about the many issues surrounding environmental weeds. A core group was elected to develop some guidelines for the network and some plans for action. Contacts for the group are Joanna Seabrook, 15 Rabon Way, Boya, ph: 299 6816 and Patrick Pigott, Herbarium, CALM Como, ph: 334 0495

Planning is underway for the bushland care workdays for 1996. If your group is interested in participating, please contact Margo O'Byrne or Jon Elder on 222 7000.

## Survey uncovers threatened plant community

A plant community thought to have been lost to early agricultural clearing of the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain has been located during floristic survey for the System 6 Update.

This plant community found on Muechea Limestones was one of two plant communities considered to be 'presumed destroyed' in the most recent regional survey of plant communities on the Swan Coastal Plain. This 1994 report, "A Floristic Survey of the Southern Swan Coastal Plain": by N Gibson, B Keighery, G Keighery, A Burbidge and M Lyons is the basis for the System 6 Update work on the Swan Coastal Plain.

The Muechea Limestones are discussed in early reports on the soils of the Swan Coastal Plain and mapped along the eastern side of the Plain on environmental geology maps from south of the Moore River National Park to Harvey. But, the only known reference to the plants of the Muechea Limestone community was found in an obscure letter by James Drummond — the first botanical collector in the start — describing the plants in 1847.

Survey work for the System 6 Update in 1994 gave some hints as to what would be expected on the Muechea Limestones when a series of coastal limestone species, including Chenille Honey Myrtle and Limestone Marlock, were found between Muechea and the Moore River National Park.

As a result of these findings, in 1995 the System 6 survey team and Val English from CALM's Threatened Species and Communities Unit spent a day systematically observing areas of remnant vegetation from roads between Ellenbrook bushland and the Moore River National Park in areas of mapped limestone.

A series of areas supporting typical limestone species were found on the roadsides and adjacent private land. Information from further survey on some of these patches by the System 6 Update team, supported by Greg Keighery from CALM who is working on species conservation on the Plain, identified a suite of communities associated with the soils as well as three

highly restricted Grevilleas not found on the western limestones.

Unfortunately, a lot of the areas where the Muechea Limestone communities were identified, are severely impacted by mining, clearing and grazing.

With the Muechea Limestones defined and located the CALM Threatened Species and Communities Unit was able to classify these communities as critically endangered. By happy coincidence the most intact remnant of the Muechea Limestones had a 'for sale' notice by the roadside. Negotiations were begun and completed quickly and CALM has now arranged the purchase, 50% of the cost to be provided by Australian Nature Conservation Authority's NRSCP. With careful management this excellent example of a Muechea Limestone community should have a secure future.

More information on these communities is found in an unpublished report by Greg Keighery and Bronwen Keighery held at CALM (Wildlife Library) and the Department of Environmental Protection.



## Coming events

### International Wetlands Conference

Intercol, the international association of ecology, presents its fifth international wetlands conference in Perth from 22-28 September. The conference is entitled *Wetlands for the Future* and it will emphasise understanding our wetlands, the importance of conservation and management and the role of technology in maintaining wetlands in the future. The agenda for the conference has not yet been completed, but the conference excursions look particularly interesting. These include tours to local Perth wetlands, Rottneet wetlands, artificial wetlands at Wellard and Capel, the Peel Harvey region and Bunbury mangroves. Enquires on 380 2433 or 380 3181.

### Youth Write for the Environment

The Double Helix Science Club are holding a competition for young scientists to express in prose, poem or picture what they are doing to help the environment. Entries are due by the end of May. Contact Sue at Scitech on 481 6295.

### Sixth International Permaculture Conference

This conference will be held in Perth from September 27 to October 7 and the theme is 'designing for a sustainable future'. Enquiries 291 9306 or PO Box 568 Kalamunda 6076.

### Environmental Education for Teachers

Professional development courses for teachers and other interested community

members will be held at the Landcare Education Centre in Tammin in the heart of the Wheatbelt on May 17-19, June 21-23, August 2-4 and August 16-18.

The cost is \$40 and it includes accommodation, field trips and catering. Contact the Landcare Office at the Northam District Education Office on 096 224 224.

## Under the Soles of Our Feet

Most people would say our natural heritage in Western Australia is important, but what does this really mean to us? What is heritage? Why is it important and what can we do to protect it? Cathy Drake has produced three radio programs about natural heritage in Western Australia entitled *Under the Soles of Our Feet*.

The radio series can be heard from 21 May to 6 June 1995 on Tuesdays at 7pm and repeated on Wednesdays at 3pm on community radio station RTR FM 92.1. Copies of individual programs and boxed sets of the series are available from RTR FM, on 380 3380. The tape set is an ideal package for library and individual collections. Alternatively write to *Under the Soles*, RTR FM, PO Box 949, Nedlands and tell us what you thought of the series!

The series was funded under the Western Australian component of the National Estate Grants Program. The views expressed are those of the producer and are not necessarily shared by the funding bodies.

## A niche for volunteers

The Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) can provide an range of attractive voluntary work to suit the interests of volunteers. For a day or a week, or as a regular contributor to a urban or rural conservation program, volunteers can get involved and be proud of their achievements.

ATCV is a national non-profit organisation working with volunteers for the betterment of the Australian environment. In Western Australia the office is based at the Perth Zoo, old Mill Point Road entrance, next to the carpark.

"As planters restoring the environment we often look for niches; special places suitable for special plants, spots sheltered by a log, a hollow, a damp patch, well drained," ATCV state manager Rod Safstrom said.

"People also need special niches — ACTV can provide unique niches for a wonderful group of people."

To find out the range of activities on offer contact the ACTV on 474 3445.

## News from the urban bushland council

The Council hosted an exhibition on urban bushland held at the community access gallery at the WA Museum during March. Kirsten Tullis, who coordinated the exhibition, reported that the exhibition had been a success, however, she would like to have seen more people visit it. Anyone who did visit the exhibition would have been impressed with Kirsten's skill in displaying material. The Star Swamp display was a very important part of the exhibition and there were some fantastic photos by Harry de Jong, David Wake, David Pike and Bernard Bischoff.

The media did not pick up on it as much as Kirsten would have liked. She is considering running the exhibition again

next year with a bigger lead up and will be looking to display material at alternative venues, such as banks, where more people are likely to pass through.

Members from CALM (Keiran McNamara), Ministry for Planning (David Nunn), Environmental Protection Authority (Ray Steedman), the Department of Environmental Protection (Colin Sanders), and others were guests at a meeting of the Urban Bushland Council (UBC) in February. The meeting was held to discuss the despair experienced with the continuous loss of urban bushlands.

A similar meeting was held in November, however, few representatives

from the key agencies attended.

The February meeting addressed 10 points put forward by the UBC. These included the need to implement the *Urban Bushland Service* as outlined in the Urban Bushland Strategy, to enact and manage regional parks, to enact a moratorium on all developments and clearing in System 6 areas and other reserves, and to confine future housing development to land already cleared.

For minutes of the meeting or further information contact Kirsten Tullis on 328 4411(w) or 271 3549(h).

Public meetings of the council are held every first Tuesday of the month. Enquiries 221 3840





# What's on in the regions...



## Central Region

### Friends of Shenton Bushland

On February 13, in the cool early morning air, Nedlands Mayor Colin Barnes and several other guests and friends gathered to launch our brochure which was funded by the Gordon Reid Foundation. The artist, June Boase and poet, Adrian Stevens, who contributed to the brochure were present. Standing among the jarrahs and balgas we listened, entranced, as Adrian read his evocative poem. Bronwen Keighery then deepened our understanding of the bush with a fascinating guided walk.

We have undergone a subtle name change as the Nedlands City Council has deleted the word 'park' from the recently vested 'A' class reserve previously known as Shenton Park Bushland.

The management plan is steadily being implemented. The council has built an attractive low limestone wall all along the Lemnos Street frontage and is considering fencing the remaining unfenced boundary to keep out determined four wheel drivers. A name sign has been erected at one entrance. When available, LEAP workers will continue to surface the circular walk trail. The Friends have been collecting seed as there are several areas that need reconstruction and the group is learning about weed removal.

We are concerned that the results of regeneration activities in our bush are not being recorded in the best possible way. There are many issues around capturing these changes in flora. We need to be able to prove the effectiveness of our efforts not only to authorities but also to ourselves. We are therefore sponsoring a workshop on Saturday 8 June so we can learn from very experienced bush regenerators and botanists. We want this to be a very practical workshop so that we will know exactly what to do! We would appreciate hearing any ideas on what other groups would require from such a workshop. Please phone Janice Marshall on 381 4051 soon.

### City of South Perth Environment Association (COSPEA)

by John Feldman

It was an early start for six members of COSPEA when they helped with Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, March 3.

They assembled on the Canning River foreshore near the Cloister Avenue overpass at 6.30am and then picked up litter on the foreshore reserve down to Roebuck Drive. Over a two hour period about 500 litres of rubbish was collected. This material was then sorted into recyclables and litter and placed in the appropriate green 'wheelie' bins provided by the council.

Over the last 18 months, COSPEA has been involved in removing litter from other areas of urban bushland within the City of South Perth. Three areas of bushland that members regularly clean up are Lot 690 Gillon Street Karawara, the northern corner of Koonawarra Primary School (Manning) and the western end of George Burnett Park (Karawara).

### Henley Brook and West Swan Landcare Project

Henley Brook and West Swan lies between the Gngangara water mound and the Swan River. The presence of surface water ensured that the area was settled in 1829. The jarrah was very quickly felled for timber and the wandoo, an indicator of good soil, was cleared so that the land could be cultivated. The poorer soils were heavily grazed. In spite of this, some good remnant vegetation is still to be found.

The Caversham Airfield Base was secured by the Commonwealth in the 1940s and three runways were constructed. The bush has been allowed to regrow and there are now good stands of marri, jarrah, banksia and melaleuca. The understorey is rich in species. Weeds are kept under control by the hundreds of kangaroos that call the base home. Part of this base has recently been rezoned in December 1994 for urban development.

Another large area of remnant bush is found between Henley Street and Saunders Street. All of this land is in private hands and some is in excellent condition. Most of the owners are committed to preserving the vegetation.

The group of volunteers identifying plants in these bushlands have a dream of publishing a book *Plant Identification for Dummies*. They have become very much aware of the rich plant life that still survives and hope to contribute to a management plan that will eradicate weeds and revegetate road verges with beautiful plants that still survive in the area.

Plant experts with time on their hands are welcome to run through our collection and name some of our mystery plants. For further information contact Bevan Carter on 279 8777.

## North East/Hills Region

### Ellenbrook Catchment Management

Almost 60 projects to improve natural resource management in the Ellen Brook area have been identified by the newly formed Ellen Brook Integrated Catchment Group (EBICG) as currently underway. These issues include the following:

- rural strategies for areas like the Darling Scarp and Bullsbrook to guide landuse development;
- on-going management of water catchment areas such as the Gngangara groundwater mound;
- investigations into possible routes of the Perth-Darwin National Highway;
- protection of environmentally sensitive areas such as Twin Swamp and Ellenbrook Swamp;
- physical works to reverse environmental degradation in specific areas, such as East Muchea; and
- water quality monitoring of sections of Ellen Brook by the Water and Rivers Commission, CSIRO and Tiwest.

"We all knew there were a lot of projects in the Ellen Brook catchment but the number of projects is still surprising," EBICG chairman Hartley Read said.

Mr Read believes that it is not an exhaustive list of projects and is sure there are many other projects which need to be identified.

EBICG has lent its support to an application to the National Landcare Program from the Chittering Valley Land Conservation District Committee and the Chittering Shire for an officer to help establish a water quality monitoring network, assess land degradation, develop subcatchment plans and coordinate on-the-ground projects in the Chittering Shire. If the application is successful there should be a person in the position around the middle of the year.

Wes Horwood, catchment coordinator from the Swan River Trust, will develop a catchment management plan in consultation with Agriculture WA and the EBICG over the next two years.



If you would like to be involved in the EBICG or have your say on the future of Ellen Brook contact the Wes Horwood on 278 0405 or Hartley Read on 571 8011.

### **Mundaring**

by Jenny Johnson

Days of 40 degrees and granite outcrops radiating heat ensured that most Hills Groups decided to rest in the shade until the cooling breezes of autumn. By then, burnout problems that may have blunted some members enthusiasm should be just a memory and all will tackle the coming tasks with renewed vigour.

In conjunction with the Mundaring Shire, Mundaring Lions, Parkerville Primary School, Parkerville Volunteer Bushfire Brigade and local residents, the Hovea Group is planning to replant sections of the Bridle Trail (M21) burnt out in January's bushfire. The fire did have a bonus. The group and the Bushfire Brigade had previously sprayed vast areas of watsonia and we hope that the majority of the corms will not germinate this winter. Ten thousand understorey seedlings, including those supplied by Greening Western Australia, need to be planted along the reserve in Falls Park, Hovea to complete a project to restore bushland after removing weeds. The M22 reserve abutting Brooking Road in Hovea, which at present is mostly under Government Properties Office control, should be included in Mundaring Shire's Reserve Plan. When this is achieved the Hovea group will implement revegetation plans that have been held back due to the uncertainty of plans for the area.

The Friends of Hudman Road Reserve in Boya are also 'resting' but hopefully will be active again soon. Mundaring Shire is encouraging local community groups to become carers for waterways and reserves in the shire. Public meetings conducted by the shire in conjunction with the newly formed Water and Rivers Commission will hopefully encourage more groups to become involved in landcare and bush regeneration schemes.

### **Help Required in Darlington Area**

Judy Love, her husband and Mrs Dot Kirk are regular rubbish collectors in bushland reserves near Bilgoman Pool. Judy has contacted *Ecoplan* as they would appreciate some assistance in their rubbish collection activities. If you live in or visit the area and would like to help in this important work please contact Judy on 299 6989.

### **Quenda Creek, Gooseberry Hill**

By Patsy Hill from the Nature Reserves Preservation Group, Kalamunda

A very successful work day for watsonia removal was held in August last year with local volunteers supported by ATCV. More than 150 large plastic bags filled with the dreaded watsonia were kindly taken away by the shire for disposal.

Thanks to lobbying by John Love this work was followed by a three day targeted spraying of watsonia, away from wetland areas, by the Ministry for Planning. The follow up spraying is now scheduled for the Ministry's 3-5 year program.

We were successful last year in being granted an allocation of 500 seedlings from Greening Western Australia and planting is scheduled for May/June this year. We are also negotiating with Dorothy Redreau for revegetation of degraded wetland areas under the *Chain of Diamonds Project*.

Ironically, as our work increases, neighbours continue to illegally chop down trees or mow down ground cover.

### **North West Region**

#### **Quinns Rock Environment Group**

Through a fauna survey of local reserves the group is building up a list of animals inhabiting Gumblossum Reserve, Wattle Park and the Coastal Reserve. Among animals recorded in the survey were a bandicoot and reptiles not recorded previously. These included a Western Bluetongue, Jan's Banded Snake, Marbled Gecko and the Black Striped Snake.

A community workshop held last November discussed the values of bushland in local reserves and how they could be kept and looked after. Using information from the flora and fauna surveys, the workshop report is being drafted. It will provide a basis for conservation of local bushland

A management plan is being drafted for Wattle Park. It will discuss issues affecting the bushland and how it should be managed to protect ecological and social values. Weed control and rehabilitating degraded areas are key concerns. For more information contact Natalie Reeves on 384 5567.

Remnant vegetation west of Wanneroo Road between Burns Beach and Eglington will be studied under our Landcare project. A workshop was held in February to help plan the project. It will involve mapping vegetation, looking at vegetation change over time, considering issues like urban development and proposing strategies for retaining bushland. To find out more

contact Karen Wright on 305 1992 or David Wake on 305 1591.

#### **Friends of Star Swamp Bushland**

by Christine Curry

As the cooler weather approaches and the likelihood of bushfires diminish the focus for the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland Reserve will shift from a monitoring role to more 'hands-on' projects. Weeding is high on the agenda this year with an attack on the patch of bridal creeper scheduled for May/June and plans underway to map the epidemic of freesias throughout the reserve, with a view to implementing a staged poisoning program over the next few years.

Lupin numbers in the reserve have been on the increase after coming close to being eradicated over the past decade. A big campaign is planned for later in the year to get back on top of the problem.

The nocturnal walk planned for April will give the Friends of Star Swamp a perfect opportunity to increase people's awareness of the beauty of the area and will hopefully provide the incentive for people to come along to busy-bee weeding and other activities as they come up during the year. It is hoped that it will encourage people both to enjoy and take responsibility for the preservation of the pockets of urban bushland still intact. For further information contact Christine on 447 2983.

#### **Friends of Marmion Marine Park**

The touch pool and twilight beach activities have been very popular particularly since recent advertising in *Earth 2000* (for the next activity dates see the *What's On* section). The group are planning a long weekend in June at Rottneest. Campaigning by the group to replace Norfolk island pines with indigenous trees at Trigg Beach Carpark has been a success. The group are now looking to lobby for the replacement of pines along West Coast Highway. For further information contact Lynda on 342 5091.

### **South East Region**

#### **Friends of Ellis Brook Valley (Inc)**

Margaret Robertson from the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley reports that they always have a lot on in Ellis Brook! The disabled walk trail is nearing completion and is due to be finished by end of April. It was sponsored by Rotary Club of Maddington and the Friends group. They have just finished a huge graffiti removal project. Some of the graffiti had been there at least 33 years before the old Barrington Quarry closed in 1963.

*Continued on page 6*



Most of the graffiti was removed from rock faces. In May, June and July the Friends group will be planting in the valley. Anyone who wants to help plant trees contact Heather Bowler 459 2045 or Margaret Robertson on 459 8852.

Don't forget the regular monthly Ellis Brook break on the second Wednesday of every month from 9-11am. Bring morning tea. Margaret says that the 'breaks' are to get people out there doing something completely different to what they would normally be doing at home.

### South West Region

The following four reports are by Harry de Jong.

#### The Spectacles Working Group

The Spectacles working group is a team of people representing the Town of Kwinana, conservation groups, CALM, water agencies, and Alcoa. We have been in recess for over a year while the government sorted out land ownership issues. During this time the group lost about \$5000 worth of equipment. This included the top of the bird hide (6x4m), board walk railings removed with a chainsaw and wooden table and benches which were lifted out of the ground. The group has been reformed and held it's first meeting on Wednesday 28 February. Some items discussed included;

- security;
- creating a 'Friends of the Spectacles';
- public tours of the Spectacles;
- bird life at the Spectacles (by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union), and;
- assistance by 'The New Kwinana' Satterley's Real Estate Group.

For further information contact Harry de Jong on 419 2085.

#### Cockburn Cement Wetland Project

Ken Rotman, environmental officer at Cockburn Cement, is trying to create a wetland inside the boundaries of Cockburn Cement. To do this he would like to create a friends group to assist him with difficult tasks, such as bridal creeper removal. Ken can be contacted on 411 1000 (w), 411 1150 (fax) or 335 6814 (h).

#### Friends of Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre

A new friends group has been formed called The Friends of Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre. The centre is situated on Hope Road in Bibra Lake. The group submitted an application to the Gordon Reid Foundation for

Conservation for a small grant. The group plan to carry out;

- flora surveys;
- seed collection from the area;
- weed control;
- selective planting and seeding;
- bird surveys, and;
- follow up flora surveys and a local herbarium.

For further information contact the group's secretary, Ian Millar on 337 7374.

#### Peel Landcare Group

In the past three years the Peel Landcare Group, an enthusiastic group of landholders in the Kwinana-Rockingham area, has been assisted in planting 60,000 trees with support from private and government sectors. The group will be taking on an educational role in the community and held a very successful information evening called 'Trees and Getting Started' in March to provide tree planting advice and recruit new members. For further information on activities and future meetings contact call Jan Paul van Moort on 531 1788 or Chris Ferreira on 319 3356 or 524 1176.

#### Peel Preservation Group

One of the issues of concern to the PPG is the development proposals in the Lake Clifton catchment. The PPG are concerned about the effect of landuse on the stromatolites, thrombolites and microbialites and the complex hydrology of the area. Some of these structures are already dead. The group would like to see an Environmental Protection Policy in place and a moratorium on development until suitable research is carried out.

## Peel-Harvey new releases

The scientific study of *Samphire Marshes of the Peel-Harvey Estuarine System of Western Australia* and a full colour educational poster on the same topic have been completed. The two new releases follow a small educational booklet on the samphire flats also produced by Murdoch University scientists and the Peel Preservation Group. The poster was funded by the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation. The book covers topics such as invertebrate and vegetation distributions associated with saltmarshes and recommendations for management and conservation. In launching the book Graham Chittleborough said there was a need for a solid database on our ecosystems in order to plan effectively.

"Our saltmarshes fell into the neglected category; regarded as unattractive, of little direct economic value, a haven for sandflies and mossies," he said.

"Now, at last, that is changing. With publications like this ... we have a database which all may use. We can appreciate their role as ecotones linking land and aquatic habitats."

## Frogs and reptiles of Perth

*A Guide to the Frogs and Reptiles of the Perth Region* by Brian Bush, Brad Maryan, Robert Brown-Cooper and David Robinson was published late last year by University of Western Australia Press. The book details the habitats, characteristics and other snippets of information that is known about the variety of frogs and reptiles of Perth. All of the photos in the book are of species found locally. You'll find the bearded dragon from King's Park, the dugite from City Beach and the marbled gecko from Shenton Park.

As well as details about individual species, the book also contains background information on the frogs and reptiles of Perth such as characteristics of their distribution, rare and endangered species, information about the various families, identification keys and information on snakebite.

When Harry Butler launched the book late last year he paid tribute to the contribution made by amateur naturalists to our knowledge of the local environment. The four authors met through the WA Naturalist Club. The book is a culmination of their passion for reptiles and frogs over many years of voluntary study.

"I always considered myself privileged to be interested in herpetology," said Brad Maryan at the book launch. He also advocated "if you know something share it."

From Yanchep to Mandurah and inland to the Darling Range there are approximately 90 species of reptiles in Perth and for a city of this size that's very impressive in world terms! According to WA Museum curator Dr John Dell, Perth is probably one of the richest cities in the world for reptiles.



# What's on



# Ecoplan contacts

## ☐ Contact numbers:

Ecoplan community involvement  
co-ordinator

Margo O'Byrne ☎ 222 7054

John Elder ☎ 222 7069

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

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**

Jenny Johnson ☎ 295 4467

May

- 1 Wednesday 8pm Library specimen night with the Friends of Marmion Marine Park. Mt Flora Complex, Elvire St, Waterman. Contact Lynda on 342 5091.
- 5 Sunday 9am Join the Friends of Star Swamp for a 'Bridal Creeper pull'. Meet at Ada St, Waterman. Contact Christine on 447 2983.
- 7 Tuesday 8pm Wanneroo and Northern Suburbs Naturalist's Club meeting will be on invertebrates of Beenyup Swamp at McDonald Reserve, Forest Ave. Padbury. All welcome. Enquires K&M Zakrevsky 401 7132.
- 8 Wednesday 9-11am The Ellis Brook 'break' happens on the second Wednesday of every month. Bring morning tea. Contact Heather Bowler 459 2045 or Margaret Robertson on 459 8852.
- 8 Wednesday 7.30pm Octogon Theatre Wildflower Society Talk John Pate "Adaptations of Native Plants to the WA Environment".
- 12 Sunday 10am - 2pm Mother's Day Tree Planting at Piney Lakes, Berndt Grove, Winthrop. Plant a tree for mum! 3000 seedlings to be planted. For information contact Greening Australia on 481 2144.
- 14 Tuesday 7.30pm Wildflower Society of Western Australia, Perth branch presentation on Kimberley Forests and Woodlands at the Naturalist's Club Hall, Meriwa St, Nedlands. Enquires 381 4062.
- 18 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 21 Tuesday 7pm Radio documentary series on natural heritage in Western Australia. Under the Soles of Our Feet can be heard from 21 May to 6 June 1995 on Tuesdays at 7pm and repeated on Wednesdays at 3pm on community radio station RTR FM 92.1. Enquires 380 3380.
- 25 Saturday 8am Friends of Star Swamp monthly nature walk. Meet at the corner of Castle and Hope st, North Beach. Contact Christine on 447 2983.
- 25 Saturday 9.30am Friends of Marmion Marine Park monthly beach walk. Meet at the Centaur Monument. Contact Lynda on 342 5091.
- 26 Sunday 9.30am Bridal Creeper Removal, Yanchep National Park. Contact Jill Vines, 383 9377(wk), 561 2177(AH).
- 15-26 May Walking track construction work in the Stirling Ranges National Park with the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Enquires 474 3455.
- 29 Wednesday 7.30pm Australian Association for Bush Regeneration (AABR) present Kate Tauss on bush regeneration in Yellagonga Regional Park at Kings Park. Contact David Kaesehagen on 339 2300.

June

- 4 Tuesday 8pm Wanneroo and Northern Suburbs Naturalist's Club discussion will be on Antarctica at McDonald Reserve, Forest Ave. Padbury. Enquires K&M Zakrevsky 401 7132.
- 5 Wednesday World Environment Day.
- 7 Friday Arbor Day - plant some trees and understory!
- 7 Friday 8pm Naturalist's Club discussion will be on Landscape expeditions. Naturalist's Club Hall, Meriwa St, Nedlands. Enquires Alan Notley on 306 1832.
- 8 Saturday 9am Monitoring Flora Workshop with Friends of Shenton Bushland. Contact Janice Marshall on 381 4051.
- 11 Tuesday 7.30pm Wildflower Society of Western Australia, Perth branch present Greg Keighery on the Pea Family. Naturalist's Club Hall, Meriwa St, Nedlands. Enquires 381 4062.
- 14 & 15 Fri. & Sat. 5pm Gould League family sleepover; The Reptile World. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 15 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 22 Saturday 8am Friends of Star Swamp monthly nature walk. Meet at the corner of Castle and Hope Sts, North Beach. Contact Christine on 447 2983.
- 22 Saturday 2.30pm Gould League Excursion to John Forest National Park. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 23 Sunday 9.30am Bridal Creeper Removal, Yanchep National Park. Contact Jill Vines, 383 9377(wk), 561 2177(AH).
- 29 Saturday 1pm Planting day at Bungendore Park, Armadale. Contact Kim Sarti 390 5788.
- 20 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 20 Saturday 1pm Planting day at Armadale Settlers Common. Contact Brett Tizzard on 497 4038.

July

### Some Activities in the Bunbury Region

#### May

- 8 Wednesday 7.30pm Family meeting with the Busselton Naturalists Club where Brian Bush will be talking about snakes. Busselton High School. Contact (097) 272 474.
- 16 Thursday 7.30pm A discussion by Gordon Paine about travelling in the bush with the Bunbury Naturalist's Club at the Bunbury Dept. of Agriculture.
- 19 Sunday Excursion with the Leeuwin Conservation Group to the Forest Grove section of state forest south of Witchcliffe. Enquires (097) 272 474.

#### June

- 12 Wednesday 7.30pm Busselton Naturalists Club discussion about fire in the natural environment. Busselton High School. Contact (097) 272 474.
- 20 Thursday 7.30pm Bunbury Naturalist's Club discussion about orchids and their conservation. Bunbury Dept. of Agriculture.
- 23 Sunday Tree planting with the Busselton Naturalists Club. Contact (097) 272 474.

Please send us your activities in the Bunbury Region  
Closing date for Winter Edition of Ecoplan News - 14 June 1996

Bunbury Region





Wildflower Society members and friends march down Reabold Hill to launch the Bushland Conservation Fund. Photo: Bronwen Keighery

On Saturday, 10 February 1996, around 80 Wildflower Society members and friends met on Reabold Hill to launch the *Wildflower Society Bushland Conservation Fund* and *Save Our Bushland Campaign*. Emeritus Professor Bert Main addressed the gathering and then the group walked down the hill under a colourful display of banners and posters.

The new fund will be directed at supporting a campaign to raise awareness in the community of the intrinsic value of our unique bushland. To concerned individuals and groups the loss of our irreplaceable bushland has gone too far. There is still no recognition of bushland as a valid 'land use' in planning, and no general restrictions on the clearance of native vegetation.

The *Save Our Bushland Campaign* will focus on the need for an immediate moratorium on clearing of native

vegetation throughout the state. Such a moratorium would ensure that native vegetation is taken into account in land use decisions. To lift the moratorium on any area it must be established that the clearance will not result in the loss of heritage values or land degradation. This will help change the focus of efforts to conserve bushlands from those striving for recognition and retention to those more focused on management and restoration of our degraded lands.

The *Save Our Bushland Campaign* will be run by a part-time manager under the direction of a Wildflower Society committee. The part-time manager will keep the values of bushland in the public eye. Already sufficient funds have been raised to employ the manager for five months. Donations are tax deductible and should be sent to the Wildflower Society Bushland Conservation Fund, PO Box 64, Nedlands 6009.

## The Role of Conservation Networks

*Nature Conservation 4: The Role of Networks*, edited by Denis Saunders, John Craig and Libby Mattiske was launched on April 19. The book is a result of a most successful conference on the role of networks in creating successful conservation action in Geraldton in 1994. Fourth in an excellent series on nature conservation, the book contains papers from conservation networkers from all over Australia and the world. It is published by Surrey Beatty and Sons. Contact Denis Saunders on 290 8111.

## Shenton Bushland Pamphlet

A wonderful new pamphlet on the Shenton Park bushland (Lemnos Street) has been produced with the help of a Gordon Reid Foundation Grant. It has a map of the area and information about the park and its environment. For information contact the Friends of Shenton Park Bushland (Paul Harrison) on 387 5006 or Nedlands City Council on 386 2414.

**Many thanks to Cathy Drake for the preparation of this newsletter.**

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*Ecoplan News*

is published by the

Department of Environmental Protection

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

DEP 0897-0596-700