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# Ecoplan News

Issue 18 Winter 1996

## Ecoplan Awards

Eight Ecoplan awards were given out at Ecoplan's fifth birthday celebrations to recognise those who had made a significant contribution to their local environment.

Paying tribute to the audience, Margo O'Byrne reminded everyone at the awards that the environment was better because of their contributions. This year's winners were:

- Warwick and Joan Boardman who have continued their difficult battle to save bushlands in South Perth.
- Jill Williams who has made significant contributions to the Urban Bushland Council and the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators.
- Maureen Campbell from the Friends of Crestwood Bushland.
- Regina Drummond who has worked tirelessly to achieve recognition and protection for the Brixton Street Wetlands and also made significant contributions to their on-going management.
- Cathy Dixon and Joy Unno who were both awarded for their wonderful work in the Yellagonga Regional Park.
- Jenny Johnson who has been involved with the Hovea Ratepayers Association, watsonia control, bush regeneration and the volunteer fire brigade in her area.
- Herbert Titelius was also awarded for his long-term efforts with the Hovea Ratepayers Association.

Ecoplan contributors gathered before the birthday celebrations to look at Ecoplan's achievements during the past five years. Margo said about 20 dedicated Ecoplan contributors attended the two and a half hour workshop to look at the "learnings" or the things that perhaps in hindsight they'd have done differently. "We spent the first hour and a half on those three

aspects and developed quite an amazing set of achievements," Margo said.

"After that we looked at some ideas for where we could go from here including the programs that we want to carry through to the next five years and a vision for the five years ahead.

"In the vision we developed what we might like to do, and outlined ways of achieving our goals.

"The objectives and strategies will be worked through and sent back in draft form to the participants to make sure that they are a true representation of what was said at the seminar."

A final copy will appear in the Spring Ecoplan newsletter.

Margo said one of the common themes that came out of the seminar was that Ecoplan should basically continue what it has been doing.

"This includes continuing to network and make sure that groups share stories,

### Special Fifth Birthday Edition of Ecoplan News!

In the centre pages of Ecoplan News Margo O'Byrne, who has been coordinator of Ecoplan since its inception, reflects on the achievements of the past five years. Long time Ecoplan contributors, Brett Tizzard from the Armadale Settlers and Margaret Robertson from the Friends of Ellis Brook also recall how their groups have developed over the years.

ideas and other ways to help each other," she said. The seminar also felt that Ecoplan should continue to advocate on behalf of community groups to government so that areas of government would respond to community groups with a more positive attitude. Other ideas included looking at ways to perhaps pay part-time regional advisers, people already active in their area, to pass on skills and support new groups.



Maureen Campbell receives an Ecoplan award from Conservation Branch manager Gary Whisson and Ecoplan coordinator Margo O'Byrne.



# Ecoplan update

— with Roxane Shadbolt and Jon Elder, DEP community involvement co-ordinators



Winter is here, and the busiest time of the year is upon us again. The Ecoplan/Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV), Bushland Care Days are in full swing. We have already held workdays with the Canning River Residents Environmental Protection Association, the Friends of Queenda Creek, City of South Perth Environmental Association and the Hovea Ratepayers Association. These workdays involved plantings, removing of exotic species and fencing to protect bush remnants.

Thanks to all the enthusiastic volunteers from the ATCV and the well organised groups which have hosted some very enjoyable days. Thanks too to bush regenerator John Robertson for sharing his knowledge and helping plan some of the workdays to get the most value to the bush with all the extra help.

It's great to see councils such as Gosnells, Kalamunda, Canning and Mundaring supporting the community groups by making the ATCV available to work along side groups for extra days. Everyone is welcome on the days so feel free to give John/Margo a call for more information on 222 7096.

There have been changes in the Ecoplan

office. Margo O'Byrne is temporarily working on the System Six Update Process and in the meantime, Roxane Shadbolt from the community support branch at the department will be filling in. Roxane will be available on Thursdays and Fridays on 222 7054. I will also be available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Margo reports that the Environmental Weeds Action Network is moving along well and that the department will resource the network over the next year through Ecoplan and catchment management. The network held a meeting open to all at 2pm at Greening Western Australia on 27th of July, 1996.

Ecoplan recently held a successful workshop in Bunbury to follow up the introductory training workshop held in March. Margo will have more on that in this edition.

Ecoplan turned five in June this year and to celebrate, a birthday party was held at the Wetlands Education Centre on Saturday 22 June. In the afternoon, about 25 long term associates of Ecoplan, some of whom are also involved in community groups, the Urban Bushland Council, Conservation Council, Waterbird Conservation Group and the

Department of Environmental Protection attended a "search" conference. The aim was to review what Ecoplan had achieved and learned during the past five years and to discuss directions for the future. Being relatively new to Ecoplan I was amazed to see the whiteboard filled with the achievements over the past five years. Thanks to all the participants who gave their consideration and opinions. We are working on getting together all the ideas and suggestions and producing a summary of the findings which will help us plan for the next five years.

In the evening about 35 people attended talks, the presentation of awards and supper. Thanks to Brett Tizard of the Armadale Settlers Common and Margaret Robertson of the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley who presented inspiring talks on what their groups have achieved over the past few years. Congratulations to Joy Unno, Herbert Titelius, Regina Drummond, Cathy Dixon, Warwick and Joan Boardman, Jenny Johnson and Gill Williams who received awards for their contribution to protecting West Australia's environment over the past five years.

*By Jon Elder.*

## David Bellamy launches new marine lobby group

Well-known environmentalist David Bellamy gave an inspiring talk to a packed audience in the Perth Town Hall in May to launch the WA branch of the Australian Marine Conservation Society. Professor Bellamy is the honorary vice president of the Society. Since the launch, the WA branch has had its inaugural meeting.

With no notes in hand David Bellamy looked pretty exhausted when he stepped on stage, and from his anecdotes of his travels all over the world trying to solve environmental problems and make television programs and movies, you can see where the exhaustion comes from. But, once his stories and messages started to take shape and his passion and mastery in storytelling took over he had the audience enthralled. The audience were treated to a truly global view of marine conservation.

The condition of the marine environment in many areas of the world is gloomy and it's often left out of the conservation picture. Sometimes it makes us just feel more and more powerless hearing about how bad things are in our environment. But David Bellamy would have given a lot of local jaded environmentalists a bit more fuel in their fire and a bit more reason to keep pushing for what they know is right.

The Australian Marine Conservation Society was formed in 1965. Since then it was produced many reports and surveys and played a key role in increasing awareness of marine and coastal issues. For further information on the WA branch of the Australian Marine Conservation Society call Giz Watson on 220 0662.

## Ecoplan Questionnaires

Thanks to those who filled out an Ecoplan questionnaire — we have had more than 33 per cent returned. Those who got their questionnaires in before the fifth birthday celebrations on June 22 were in the running to win a copy of *Managing Perth Bushlands*.

(The winner was Fettes Falconer). However, if you still haven't filled in a questionnaire it's not too late to provide your feedback. Contact Jon if you need a copy. It's anticipated that results from the questionnaires will be collated for the Spring Ecoplan News.





# Thanks Margo

By Gary Whisson, Manager  
Conservation Branch

It has been Margo's skill in community liaison, her dedication, humour and spirit that has contributed so much to the establishment and success of Ecoplan in its first five years.

Thanks Margo!

## Completion of the 'Easy Walk Trail'

The Ellis Brook Valley easy walk trail was officially opened in late June. The Friends of Ellis Brook Valley (Inc) and the Rotary Club of Maddington provided the walk trail designed specifically for people with walking disabilities or walking difficulties towards the end of 1995. The easy walk trail is situated in the beautiful bushland of the Ellis Brook Valley Reserve and it allows people, who would not normally be able to observe native flora and fauna in their natural habitat, to do so. The Ellis Brook Valley Reserve is on the eastern edge of the Darling Scarp and access is gained from Rushton Road, Martin.

The trail is about 500m long and has seats located every 50m. It has two

picnic tables, both with wheelchair access. At each seat and picnic table interpretation signage will tell the user a little bit about what they can expect to observe along the trail. This project is a first by a community conservation group in that it has been designed and funded totally by volunteers. The labour for the installation was provided by participants of a New Works Opportunity program. Go and take a look at the trail!

Enquires to Heather Bowler (president) on 459 2045 or Margaret Robertson (secretary) on 459 8852.

## Using Environmental Legislation

Environmental Defenders Office is conducting an environmental law seminar for community groups later this year. The seminar will be called 'Understanding Environmental Legislation and How to Use it to Better Protect the Environment'. To register your interest call Margaret Robinson at the EDO office on 221 3030 or Joan Payne on 371 1670.

## Join the Environmental Weeds Action Network

The Environmental Weeds Action Network is the only body devoted solely to the problem of environmental weeds. It is hoped that this new community group will be successful where other initiatives have failed due to

its singled- minded purpose. Attempts to make a concerted effort to control weeds have so far failed to substantially increase awareness of this issue, assert legislative changes and to prevent the sale of plants which have potential to become weeds. The Network is asking people to join. A preliminary draft agenda has been compiled. Contact Patrick Piggot at the WA Herbarium on 334 0495 or Joanna Seabrook on 299 6816.

## Launch of WWF in WA

The World Wide Fund for Nature has officially launched its WA branch. It is expected that WWF conservation activities in WA will increase with the addition of the Perth office. Future directions for campaigning in WA are being decided. Michelle Handley is in the local WWF office on 220 0678.

## Winter plantings on the increase

Men of the Trees has an extensive planting program throughout the metropolitan area and into the country. In July and August the group will be planting in Toodyay, Pinjarra, the Peel Region, Woodanilling, Corrigin and Hazelmere. If you would like to lend a hand contact Men of the Trees on 250 1888 between 8.30am and 3pm seven days a week. The planting days are a lot of fun.

Western Power has a commitment to plant 200,000 local tree seedlings this year in the Narrogin district to address land degradation, protect rivers and streams and restore habitat. It is looking to plant one million trees in the longer term. Western Power is working with local catchment groups and Landcare officers. The plantings, that will include more than 30 different species, will take place from June to August and volunteers are drawn from Western Power staff and their families. Enquires to Cliff Morris on 326 4961 or Shona Kennealy on 326 6463.

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



Ecoplan/ATCV workdays are in full swing again so come along and join in the fun. It's a great way to discuss ideas and solutions to problems and see what others are up to on their patch. If you want to help out, contact Ecoplan Coordinator Jon Elder on 222 7096. The photo shows the Hovea Ratepayers Association and ATCV working alongside each other to remove introduced weeds in Falls Park, June, 1996.





## Swan River Community Forum

Another successful event on World Environment Day was a community forum on the progress of the Swan River Clean up. Researchers and government representatives talked about the studies and projects being undertaken to ensure a healthier Swan River. A book of abstracts was available at the forum. Representatives from four subcatchments: Bayswater, Bennett Brook, Canning and Ellenbrook, also talked about their experiences with integrated catchment management.

One of the issues often brought up was how difficult it can be to change the attitudes of the wider community to effectively implement ICM. Rosemary Glass and other community group representatives did a great job of explaining how change does occur with persistence.

The forum was also an opportunity to launch the Rivercare Directory. This very useful booklet lists rivercare, catchment and support groups throughout the Swan-Canning region. The booklet is free and available from the Swan River Trust on 278 0400.

## New Swan Catchment Centre

With the help of national landcare funding and major contributions from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Water and Rivers Commission, a new community resource centre for community people to have access to information and support in catchment management is soon to be opened. The Swan Catchment Centre is at 108 Adelaide Terrace, opposite the main entrance of the Hyatt Hotel. The centre will include information about bushland management and key issues, such as weeds. Watch out for an official opening soon.

## Plant Facts with REX

New WA-developed software will provide people with information on 2400 plants across Australia. The program 'The Revegetation Expert' was developed by Greening Western Australia, Conservation and Land Management and the Department of Agriculture with seeding funds from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. The REX program is designed so that you can find just the

right plant for the right environment. You can, for example, search for WA trees with good nesting habitat or salt tolerant shrubs that have red flowers. The program includes trees, shrubs and understorey plants. As well as a ready guide to native plants it also has a diary function for recording your own notes, a glossary and feature articles on revegetation issues.

The program is aimed at farmers, gardeners, landscapers and others. REX will cost less than \$100 and will be available on floppy disc or CD ROM. The CD ROM version also has 650 photos of plants. The Revegetation Expert is available from many book and computer shops or can be ordered directly on 1800 244 060. Enquires to Lucy Brescianini on 481 2144.

## Tonkin Entries Due

Don't forget to put in your nominations for the John Tonkin Greening Awards by the end of July. The annual awards recognise outstanding achievements towards the conservation or establishment of vegetation that contributes to land, water and nature conservation. Guidelines and nomination forms are available from Greening Western Australia on 481 2144.

Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Bushland Conservation
- Business
- Community Group
- Education
- Farm Forestry
- Government
- Individual Endeavour
- Local Government
- Media
- Primary Producer

## Coming Events

### International Wetlands Conference

Intercol, the international association of ecology, presents its fifth international wetlands conference Wetlands for the Future in Perth from 22-28 of September. Enquires on 380 2433 or 380 3181.

### 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'. Enquires 291 9306 or PO Box 568 Kalamunda 6076.

### Environmental Education

A two-day workshop for K-12 teachers entitled 'Environmental Education Across Australia' on the latest in environmental education in Australia will be held on 10 and 11 August by the Australian Association for Environmental Education and Deakin University at the Perth Zoo. A cost of \$35 includes lunches and study guides. Contact Elaine Horne on 388 1355 (w) or 444 0606 (h).

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 2-4 August and 16-18 August. 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.

## Marine and Coastal Kits

A free resource file on saving our coasts and oceans for schools and community groups is now available. The package contains practical information on forming groups, fundraising, putting together a newsletter, giving talks, getting involved in beach clean ups, sand dune stabilisation and revegetation, and information on marine pollution and ecology. The general nature of much of the material makes it useful for a broad range of community groups. For further information contact Giz Watson on 220 0662.

Where the Land Meets the Sea: A Practical Coastal Education Kit for Community Groups and Schools has been produced by the Tasmanian Environment Centre. The kit explains how to work with natural coastal processes and ecosystems while attempting to 'fix up' problems such as dune erosion and weed invasion. There's information on revegetation strategies and activities for teachers. The kit is relevant to coastal communities in southern Australia. It costs \$20 plus \$7.50 postage from the Tasmanian Environment Centre, 102 Bathurst St, Hobart 7000 or telephone 002 345 543.





# Ecoplan five years on

I am reminded of the words of the poet Wordsworth "Five years have passed - five summers with the length of five long Winters....." and while Ecoplan has taken up a large part of my life, I would see it more as time which has passed quickly and been filled with great activities and wonderful people.

During the past five years I think the issues of urban bushland have come of age. The sustained efforts of many individuals and community groups have been rewarded by being able to access more resources and in many cases develop strong working relationships with the managing authority. There is still a long way to go, but many gains have been made.

When I look back at the regional reports the Ecoplan News of the past five years I am humbled to see the enormous achievements of so many people. The

teaching of bush regeneration courses by APACE and the formation of Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (WA) have obviously made a significant impact on our collective knowledge of caring for bushland.

The establishment of the Urban Bushland Council has given a framework for individual community groups to look at urban bushland issues in the context of the whole of Perth and to address some of these issues. The very successful Burning Our Bushland Conference in 1994 and the networking and achievements from this conference are testimony to this.

Ecoplan has been able to play a role in acting as a catalyst and has given community groups a voice. Ecoplan has worked with other government and non-government organisations to produce

resource material such as the "Controlling Weeds in Wetlands and Waterways" poster with the Swan River Trust and the excellent manual "Managing Perth's Bushland" with Greening Western Australia and the Ministry for Planning. It is this combination of shared resources and knowledge which makes this information useful and available to those working in bushland.

The review which we are undertaking at present has highlighted some valuable achievements, lessons and produced some visions for the future. Thanks to everyone who has given support to the program and to Jill Harris, Jenni Alford, Roxane Shadbolt, Cathy Drake and Jon Elder who have all made significant contributions towards the success of Ecoplan.

by Margo O'Byrne

## Community groups look back at the past five years

It was a cosy Saturday night on June 22 at the Wetlands Education Centre, Bibra Lake and we were treated with rousing talks from Brett Tizzard and Margaret Robertson, who have been with Ecoplan since its early beginnings. Here are some excerpts from their retrospective of the past five years.

In 1989, Brett Tizzard became part of the management team for the Armadale Settlers' Common and he has been involved in the reserve ever since. In 1991 Brett did an Ecoplan training course and met other a lot of other people interested in bushland management.

"Just by talking over a cup of tea and a scone I realised that among this gallant band were more problems, solutions and success stories than I ever imagined," Brett said.

Brett is a Regional Coordinator for the South East Region. He describes this role as 'giving the new players a helping hand.'

In his talk he quoted Spencer Beebe (American President of the Ecotrust):

*Saving the Planet has never been an issue of money, but rather a matter of resourcefulness and motivation of individuals.*

"Ecoplan is about empowerment. It's about providing some of the resources referred to by Spencer Beebe. When odds seem insurmountable, the people who make up Ecoplan can give you a helpful hint or that extra boost to turn it around," Brett said.

He thanked Margo O'Byrne, in particular, for being there as a friendly ear to bash and shoulder to cry on.

"There is still a long way to go before urban bushland is

recognised for the treasure it is and we no longer have to fight to save, protect and care for it. But the journey will be faster and more enjoyable by banding together and working as a team," he said. "Ecoplan is one such team and I hope that the next five years prove to be at least as successful as the first five."

Margaret Robertson, who four years ago formed the Friends of Ellis Brook, said that she formed the group because she was sick of hounding the council.

"They wouldn't do anything, so we decided to do it ourselves and form a friends group," she said.

Four years later the list of achievements and activities at Ellis Brook is very long. The friends group have undertaken six rehabilitation projects so far. Since its inception the group has raised \$22,468; \$8 444 from their own fundraising, \$10,124 from grants and \$3,900 from community support (eg Rotary Maddington, Armadale Training etc).

In addition, Margaret calculated that the value of the voluntary contribution by her group in the past four years totals \$87,400 (seedlings planted and hours spent on voluntary bush care), making the total contribution of the group at \$109,868!

"Our members are our lifeblood, but it doesn't necessarily take 30 or 40 people to form a friends group. We started off with just three or four and our core is now seven members," she said.

Margaret Robertson and Brett Tizzard are among the most experienced community bush carers in Perth. They provide a fantastic wealth of information and support to Ecoplan and other bush carers.







1. Spiny Tailed Gecko — Brixton Street Wetlands



2. Removing Lupins with the Friends of Lake Gwelup



3. Watsonia removal with the Friends of Quenda Creek in Gooseberry Hill



4. Brian Marshall and volunteers during Ecoplan Introductory Volunteer Training, Parkerville Primary School



5. Planting with the Friends of Samson Park



6. Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands removing Bamboo



7. Members of COSPEA, from left to right, Warwick Boardman, Cheryl Dibb, Andrew Thomson, Angela Carr and Bridgette Boyd with the litter collected from the Canning River foreshore reserve on Clean Up Australia Day



8. Botanist Bronwen Keighery (centre) on a site visit during Introductory Volunteer Training in Bunbury



9. Roleystone Dieback Group





## Central Region

### Friends of Shenton Bushland

by Janice Marshall

Our workshop on Monitoring the Flora held on Saturday 8 June attracted members from 13 other groups, 12 of our own members, and two from the Nedlands Council Parks and Gardens Department, making up just over 40 participants. We were also pleased to have present Penny Hussey of CALM and Save the Bush and Helen Halliday and Shareen Wall from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency.

The message from all three speakers, Dr Don Burnside, David Kaesehagen and Bronwen Keighery, was to be clear about why you are doing any monitoring, and know what questions you want answered because this will guide your choice of method. Also you must remember that it is a long-term process and so you have to consider how you are going to keep all the records and to be certain that they mean something to other people who will follow you. Finally, don't be over-ambitious. By monitoring your regeneration work you can feel satisfied that you are doing something which, all too often, is overlooked. The results obtained will enable you to make informed decisions about future management of the bushland.

The Friends are glad they used their national landcare program consultancy grant in this way and that the benefits could be shared with others. Other portions of the grant are being spent on a reference library, herbaria, tools, public displays and monitoring. For further information contact Janice Marshall on 381 4051.

### Bayswater Greenwork

by Kirsten Tullis

#### Community wants to keep bushland

Members joined by other community people have been busy at Altone Road (formerly Kiara) Wetland planting seedlings in degraded parts. We have grown 3 000 seedlings or so, financed by a Community Conservation Grant, to add to those planted in the previous three years. We've so far, more through good luck than planning, dodged the rain, though we welcome its generous proportions.

In the meantime we are wondering about the future of a 15 hectare bush block nearby; the Kiara TAFE Site which we nominated for the System 6 Update. TAFE has told LandCorp, the owner, that it doesn't need the site for a college. LandCorp would like to sub-divide the area for housing, and earlier this year

engaged consultants to undertake a public consultation process — a positive move. Essentially four options were presented in a letter box drop and open day; three of those were for a housing development and one was 'do nothing', that is leave it as it is.

Results from the 85 submissions clearly show around 50 per cent of the respondents preferred to keep the bushland. Since then the local community has become even more interested in the site's future and a new group has formed called the Kiara Progress Association — in part to query what had happened to their TAFE college. A public meeting of 60-70 unanimously called for no urbanisation but for the area to be a TAFE institution or bushland.

In the past weeks Bayswater Greenwork and the KPA have joined together and door-knocked a substantial part of the local area with a petition to Parliament and a class submission to the Ministry for Planning (the land is part of the North-East Corridor Amendment). These called for the area to be retained for education and/or conservation and passive recreation. We collected 550-plus submission forms, finding that 90-95 per cent of people came out against urbanisation!! Of the 90 people Greenwork doorknocked more than half wanted it for conservation and recreation.

If LandCorp wins the rezoning to urban it will leave some of the bush. This is not enough and we call for all the bush to be retained and properly managed. With seemingly plenty of already cleared land available nearby surely a land swap is in order, so that the community and environment will benefit.

The Kiara TAFE site is a valuable bit of bush of variable condition, ranging from very good and almost weed-free to degraded. It is the last sizeable piece left in the district. Whiteman Park is the closest significant bushland. Apart from its ecological and social values it has been a marvellous seed source for regeneration projects by us and other community groups. We'd hate to lose it.

## Swan Region

### CRREPA

#### Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association (Inc)

Notes from Margo Ross

#### Yagan Wetlands

The group has contributed to the production and implementation of the Yagan Wetland Reserve Management Plan (Bullcreek Inlet). The plan was

written by Jenna Brooker and it incorporated the regeneration plan written by CRREPA and approved by the Canning City Council. The public submission period for the management plan has now closed. The group is now implementing restoration and regeneration of the wetlands. The wetlands are heavily invaded by exotics such as blackberry, arum lily, morning glory, lantana, pampas, kikuyu, fig, paspalum and others.

#### Lower Canning River

In conjunction with the Swan River Trust the group is contributing to a foreshore management policy for all of the Canning River and foreshore in the City of Canning.

CRREPA has been particularly concerned about the water quality of the lower Canning River and the group monitors water quality regularly at five different locations. The Swan River Trust helps the group with the monitoring. Some of the results have been particularly bad. Between the Rossmoyne foreshore and Salter's Point the trust recorded the second highest reading of phosphate in the State — even worse than recordings from Peel-Harvey Estuary. There is much concern about frequent sewage spills in area and that the current system seems to rely on sewage flowing into the river during power failures and at other times all too frequently. The lower Canning River has a lot of sewerage outlets into river. This is a critical issue for the management of the entire river system and the government need to pay more attention to this problem.

#### Plantings

CRREPA has been very busy planting fringing vegetation, *Juncus karussii*, which is nutrient stripping. It's also an aesthetically pleasing way to prevent erosion. Twelve thousand *Juncus karussii* were donated from Greening Western Australia and planted in seven locations on Rossmoyne-Shelly foreshore. A Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation grant enabled the planting of \$5000 worth of rushes and understorey plants in the Yagan wetlands recently.

CRREPA has just applied for a state government conservation grant to fund signage to increase public awareness, set up a bird observation area, help with the establishment of a seed nursery for understorey plants and, most importantly, to fund large scale weeds removal which no group has been able to tackle so far.

The group will be donating \$250 worth of plants to Rotary to plant on mounds (part





of the Yagan Wetlands Reserve Management Plan) to shield against the traffic noise from Leach Highway and encourage more wetland birds back into the area. The group also donating \$250 worth of plants to Sherwin Lodge retirement home on the boundary of the Yagan wetlands to replace exotic grass with a local seed orchard.

#### Join CRREPA

CRREPA needs volunteers with time on their hands to help to deal with a mountain of correspondence. Some of the activities the group gets involved in include water testing, weed removal, rubbish collection, bird watching and macroinvertebrate studies. Margo Ross says the community group is on a high learning curve. Joining fees are \$5 for a family, \$1 for students and \$2 for a school class. Call Margo Ross on 457 7827.

#### Henley Brook and West Swan landcare project

by Bevan Carter

#### Caversham Natural History Probed

The Henley Brook and West Swan Landcare Project is proceeding steadily.

A report on the history and flora of the Caversham Airfield Base has been completed and copies are available for reading. Although the area has been continually grazed from the earliest days of the colony there is still plenty of native vegetation remaining on the site, some of it in very good condition.

Trying to find out the vegetation on the site at the time of the wadjella [European] arrival is not an easy task, but information comes from unexpected sources. The survey map drawn up by Chauncey for the proposed road west of the river has a surprising amount of information on the vegetation on the route of the road. All sitings were taken from significant trees.

For example, under the heading 'Distance and bearing to a marked tree':

- 85 WNW to White Gum (E Wandoo)
- 140N by W to Mahogany (E marginata)
- 57 w by S to large red gum (E callophilla)

In fact, there is enough information for a surveyor to trace the route and see if any remains of the trees are still there. The map itself has incidental comments such as 'banksia forest' marked on it. A report on all the information collected to date should be available by the end of July. For further information contact Bevan Carter on 279 8777.

#### Hills Region

#### Quenda Creek, Gooseberry Hill

By Patsy Hill from the Nature Reserves Preservation Group, Kalamunda

Quenda Creek was a hive of activity on 8

and 9 June with 29 ATCV and local volunteers removing lovegrass and planting local species of sedge, *Juncus pallidus*. Greening WA provided the plants which were split in two, so that there was a total of more than 1600 plants. The Shire of Kalamunda sponsored the second field day and assisted by removing 170 bags of weeds which were collected by volunteers. It is hoped that the upper slope swamp can be restored to better provide habitat for local frogs and the quenda. Quenda Creek Reserve is now part of the Darling Range Regional Park, linked to the historic Zig Zag railway track and it is encouraging to note that the Wildflower Society has taken on the section of reserve adjoining ours as a restoration project. Enquiries to Patsy Hill on 257 1379.

#### Eastern Hills Region

by Jenny Johnson

Rain! — the essential ingredient for bushland regeneration has arrived and the hills groups are tackling their tasks with renewed vigour!

#### Plantings

Hovea Ratepayers with ACTV replanted Falls Park, Hovea on Saturday June 29 and Brookside Park, Parkerville on Saturday July 27 with more than 9000 trees, shrubs and ground covers granted by Greening Western Australia, Alcoa, Mundaring Shire and community donations. The Parkerville Primary School Mundaring Lions, Parkerville and Hovea residents will be helping us in this project on weekdays and weekends. Any other volunteers who could help us on our bushland care days would be most welcome. Treatment of watsonia by the Parkerville Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, by way of spraying and controlled burning, has removed most of the watsonia which has covered the Jane Brook waterway for at least 30 years.

#### Glen Forrest Seed Orchard

General weeding and maintenance is being carried out during winter. Seeds for this season's planting have been prepared and delivered to the various organisations, so now is resting time for this group until seed collecting starts again in November.

#### Friends of Reserves, Glen Forrest

A management plan is being formed for the reserve bounded by Glen Forrest Drive and Rycroft Road. The target for this year is to remove rubbish and weeds. It is hoped to publicise that this area is valuable bushland and anti-social behaviour such as trail bikes, rubbish dumping and timber removal will be discouraged by community awareness programs now under way.

#### Nuisance Carp

Herbert Titelius, a member of the Hovea Residents and Rate Payers Association,

is concerned about the prevalence of koi carp in the streams in the area. The carp eat the base out of the food chain (the plants in the streams) and they scrape along the bottom of the streams eating detritus and mobilising nutrients, causing algal blooms. He would like to see more awareness of the problems these fish can cause and a more responsible outlook on releasing them into streams and wetlands.

#### North West Region

#### Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park

by Laurie Boylan

Well it's been non-stop action throughout and since summer 1995. There are projects and works on all the time now and they'll be on-going. All of the projects just overlap to fit in. The community awareness generated is attracting interest from other groups wanting to get involved, such as Lions, Scouts, Guides and schools. Even bushwalkers and local residents are asking questions. To be seen is the key! The enthusiasm and diversity of interests that Cate Tauss brings to the group has led us to create and make things happen. We are involved, and authorities are considering our views, wishes and recommendations. Cate has vision and ideas.

#### Chain of Diamonds

There is a major bush regeneration effort at the southern end of Lake Goollelal. Volunteer workers, including ATCV, have been working since March on site preparation for planting by the end of June. With help from Greening WA and part funding by Alcoa there has been extensive removal of exotic weeds; grasses, shrubs and trees. A prominent sign has been erected on the site where 5000 tube stock plants will be planted and direct seeding will occur over the last two weekends in June. Even one of our City of Wanneroo Councillors, Stephen Magyar, has been actively involved and getting dirty!

#### Perry's Paddock — Walluburnup Swamp

We've been actively involved in planning proposals for development of this site to include an artificial lake. Our opposition to some of the proposals has drawn wide interest and Paul Filing, our local Federal member, has met with us on site to consider issues. There is ongoing action and work to conserve this natural wetland area. We welcome everyone wanting to get involved.

#### Community nursery

Our community nursery at Landsdale is back in full production now. It's fully stocked with flora species destined for several planting projects throughout the rest of this year. There is still some construction work to be completed. We welcome any help from those with time





of their hands for activity from seeding and potting plants to building construction.

### **Groundwater monitoring**

During May several monitoring sites were established for monitoring groundwater levels. These piezometer sites will allow monthly recordings over the next few years to measure and map patterns in the wetlands. This is frontier work to provide information that just hasn't been available to date and it will help in decision making. Surprisingly, soil samples taken indicate that the wetlands occupied areas that are now dry, possibly up to 20,000 years ago. More to be revealed later down the track.

### **Other news**

A workshop for the community to develop management guidelines for Yellagonga Regional Park is being planned for later in 1996. Any help is welcome.

A bush regeneration site at Lake Joondalup has received much attention. We've undertaken spraying for grasses control, weeding and we've also been topping up a planting site at Lake Goollelal. This is a site which had been in progress now for three years.

Fauna and invertebrate surveys have been conducted by group volunteers in project areas as part of an assessment process to help with studying the impact of projects being undertaken.

Projects and works are happening most weekends and there are even week day activities for those wanting to participate. Thanks to EcoPlan and ATCV for ongoing support which has contributed to our success. If you want more information call Cate on 309 5241, Laurie on 409 1409 (evenings), Joy on 307 6382 or Jackie on 409 1412.

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

*by Christine Curry*

#### **Attacking bridal creeper and lupins**

Friends of Star Swamp Bushland have had three bridal creeper busy-bees so far this year and have managed to remove 40 garbage bags of the weed. Unfortunately this is only about a third of the infestation, but it is hoped that by keeping up the attack with weeding days every couple of months, the area will be cleared in a couple of years.

Weeds are high on the agenda this time of year, with the annual lupin pulling days schedule for 3 August and 15 September. Lupin numbers have reduced dramatically over the past decade, but it is still necessary to have an annual 'lupathon' to keep on top of the problem. Volunteers are very welcome.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland will be

held on Wednesday 17 July at 7.30pm. The venue is the Mt Flora Conference Room, Elvire St, Waterman. The meeting will include a guest speaker and supper and any interested people are welcome to come along.

### **South East Region**

#### **Friends of Mary Carroll Park**

*by Unice Robinson*

#### **Successful plantings**

Over past 12 months the Friends of Mary Carroll Park have been busy and feel pleased with some success. In August last year 1200 trees were planted in the bird sanctuary area by 30 people from the community. Water was connected to the area and a watering brigade was organised for the hot summer months. Once a week at 7am you would see buckets full of water up and down our rows of trees. At times sadness was felt as trees began to die. We lost all the banksias. We need to review where and when to plant in the future. About 60 per cent of our trees survived and the majority are very healthy.

Two hundred trees were received from the Swan River Trust too late for planting in 1995. These were repotted on 21 November and farmed out to Friends to care for them, with some other seedlings grown by Karen. On 6 July these and seedlings, grown by Gosnells Senior High School, will be planted.

This year we joined Australia Day Clean Up and concentrated on cleaning areas not used by the public. Twentyfive people worked hard for two hours and the areas were successfully cleaned. Gosnells Primary School cleaned public access areas and they are going to do more clean-ups during the year. They will compare quantities of rubbish collected at different times during the year.

For information on activities and meetings, contact Unice Robinson 398 7126 or Carol Matison on 398 2967.

#### **Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands (Kenwick)**

*by Regina Drummond*

#### **Brixton Street comes alive for winter**

The Brixton Street Conservation Reserve managed to escape being burnt this past summer and now, with the cooler weather and a little moisture, the bush is coming alive again with the wonderful sounds of the frogs. We have also seen lots of evidence that bandicoots are alive and getting on with it. The place is greening up and it's exciting to see so many different seedlings coming up all

over the place due to the fence which keeps out the vehicles. All we need now is lots of rain!

We have been very fortunate to have so much help from Rod Martyn in CALM. The latest assistance was the ripping up, by machine, of some of the ever expanding firebreaks near the railway crossing at the Brixton Street end. We hope these will now re-grow, with a little help. Bollards have also been installed in these areas to prevent vehicle access.

Again this year we have been very lucky to be granted a work day with EcoPlan and the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers and this is to be on Saturday 13 July. The day's work has been planned with CALM's help and we are looking forward to an enjoyable and productive day. We meet in Alton Street, Kenwick at 9am. Contact Regina Drummond on 459 2964 for more information.

#### **Special patches in Bunbury**

Bernhard Bischoff reports that there are still some good patches of remnant bushland left in the City of Bunbury and that the pressure on these patches is enormous. Bernhard belongs to several groups in the region including the Bunbury Naturalists Club and the Bunbury Environment Centre. A major part of Bernhard's effort to conserve these patches of bush is spent writing submissions and keeping up to date with planning developments proposed by local councils and others. There is a need to get the message across to councils to have more commitment to conservation. Bernhard believes that networking with EcoPlan in Perth is very valuable.

One area of particular concern is the southern Bunbury wildlife corridor. The corridor is seven kilometres from the ocean and it runs east-west to the Preston River. The soil types change from the Quindalup sands to the Pinjarra Plains. The potential here to have a reserve with a wonderful cross section of soil and vegetation types. Enquiries to Bernhard on 097 914 113.

#### **Spring EcoPlan News**

Please forward your Regional Reports and other news for the Spring EcoPlan News by Monday September 2. Please keep your regional reports within 250 words if possible (or longer if covering several groups). Thanks to all contributors!

Write to:

EcoPlan  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Westralia Square,  
141 St Georges Tce  
Perth 6000  
Telephone: Jon Elder (09) 222 7069  
Fax: EcoPlan (09) 322 1598







August

- 2 Friday Professional development courses for teachers and others at the Landcare Education Centre, Tammin on 2-4 August and 16-18 August. The cost is \$40 and it includes accommodation, field trips and catering. Contact 096 224 224.
- 2 Friday 8pm WA Naturalist's Club meeting at University of WA Extension Building, Clifton St, Nedlands. Guest speaker Dr Neville Marchant from the WA Herbarium will talk on historical botany. Visitors welcome. Enquiries, Alan Notley, 306 1832.
- 3 Saturday 2pm 'Lupathon' with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Groat St, North Beach. Contact Christine Curry on 447 2983.
- 10 Saturday The WA Naturalist's Club Serventy Memorial Lecture Birds of Kings Park will be given by Professor Harry Recher at Building 18, Lecture Theatre, Churchlands Campus of Edith Cowan University. Cost \$5 or \$4 concession. Enquiries, Alan Notley, 306 1832.
- 10 Saturday and 11 Sunday A two day workshop for teachers on the latest in Environmental Education in Australia at the Perth Zoo. 10am-4pm Contact Elaine Horne on 388 1355 (w) or 444 0606 (h).
- 17 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Enquiries 387 607
- 18 Sunday Ecoplan/ATCV work day. Weeding with the Friends of Canning River. Greenfield St carpark, Cannington. Enquiries, Jon Elder 222 7096 or Jo Stone 458 3669.
- 24 Saturday 8am Monthly walk with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Hope St, North Beach. Contact Christine Curry on 447 2983.
- 24 Saturday 2.30pm Gould League Excursion to Point Peron. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 25 Sunday Ecoplan/ATCV work day with the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park. Meeting place TBA. Enquiries, Jon Elder 222 7096 or Joy Unno 307 6382.
- 25 Sunday WA Naturalist's Club excursion to Boonaring Reserve, Gingin. Non-members welcome. Enquiries, Alan Notley, 306 1832.
- 30 Friday Wildflower Society Bushland plant survey at Konnonogoring from the 30 August to the 1 September.

September

- 1 Sunday 9am - 3pm Ecoplan/ATCV work day with the Friends of Blue Gum Lake. Meet at Scout Hall cnr Sicklemore and Karoonda Rd. Enquiries, Jon Elder 222 7096 or Marion Watson 316 1324.
- 6 Friday WA Naturalist's Club meeting. Talk by Greg Keighery on pollinators at the Lecture Theatre at Royal Perth Hospital. Visitors welcome. Enquiries, Alan Notley, 306 1832.
- 7 Saturday 9am - 4pm Ecoplan/ATCV work day with the Friends of Hudman Reserve. Meeting place TBA. Enquiries, Jon Elder 222 7096 or Leonie Campbell 273 0328
- 8 Sunday Ecoplan/ATCV work day with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meeting place TBA. Enquiries, Jon Elder 222 7096 or Joy Unno 307 6382.
- 14 Saturday and 15 Sunday Forest weekend with the Perth Branch of the Wildflower Society. Contact Brian Moyle on 330 1754.
- 15 Sunday 9.30am 'Lupathon' with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Groat St, North Beach. Contact Christine Curry on 447 2983.
- 20 Friday Wildflower Society Bushland plant survey at Popanyinning from 20-22 September.
- 21 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 22 Saturday Intercol international wetlands conference Wetlands for the Future from 22-28 of September. Enquiries on 380 2433 or 380 3181.
- 22 Sunday 2.30pm Spring walk with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Hope St, North Beach. Contact Christine Curry on 447 2983.
- 27 Friday The Sixth International Permaculture Conference from 27 September to 7 October. Enquiries 291 9306 or PO Box 568 Kalamunda 6076.
- 28 Saturday WA Naturalist's Club wildflower camp to Eneabba from 28-30 of September. Enquiries, Alan Notley, 306 1832.

October

- 4 Friday WA Naturalist's Club meeting. Guest speaker to be confirmed. Naturalist's Hall, Meriwa St, Nedlands. Visitors welcome. Enquiries, Alan Notley, 306 1832.
- 11 Friday Wildflower Society Bushland plant survey in the Bunbury area from the 11-13 October.
- 19 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 20 Sunday WA Naturalist's Club excursion to Ellis Brook, Gosnells. Non-members welcome. Enquiries, Alan Notley, 306 1832.
- 21 Monday APACE Greenskills course in Landcare Coordination and Integrated Farm forestry training from 21 October to 20 December in Boyup Brook and Albany. Contact 098 48 1019.
- 26 Saturday 2.30pm Gould League Excursion to Booragoon Lake. Enquiries 387 6079.

Closing date for Spring Edition of Ecoplan News - 2 September 1996

#### Regular Wildlife Walks

1. First Saturday of the month:  
Meet at the car park of the Landsdale Farm School, corner of Landsdale and Erindale Road.
  2. Second Saturday of the month:  
Meet at Koondoola Open Space, junction of Koondoola Ave and Burbidge Ave (northern end).
  3. Third Saturday of the month:  
Meet at the scout hall on Huntriss Road for a walk at Lake Gwelup. Enquiries to Betty Murphy on 444 5640.
  4. Fifth Saturday of the month (this happens only four times a year!):  
Walk with the Friends of Trigg Bushlands. Meet on Elliott Rd, next to St Mary's School.
- All walks are from 8-9am mostly by Phylis Robertson and/or David Pike. Look at plants, insects, birds, frogs and more. Enquiries to Phylis on 349 9105.

# Ecoplan contacts

#### Contact numbers:

Ecoplan community involvement co-ordinator

Margo O'Byrne ☎ 222 7054  
Jon Elder ☎ 222 7096

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  
PO Box 7375, Cloisters Square  
WA 6850 ☎ 227 7881

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





## Local plants for your garden

Bush Plants For Perth Gardens was launched on World Environment Day, 5 June. The free booklet was distributed to schools, councils and community organisations to encourage the use of local plants in Perth gardens.

The booklet covers 75 plants, all with colour photos. You can, for example, covers plants for particular soil types or ones that will attract birds, produce scent or are suitable for pot plants. Planting more local plants in gardens will provide more habitat for fauna, increase water efficiency, and local plants will not become a threat if they escape to nearby bushlands.

Bush Plants For Perth Gardens was compiled by Denise Crosby and produced by Greening Western Australia, the National Trust, the Wildflower Society of WA, the Urban Bushland Council, the Nursery Industry Association and Kings Park and Botanic Gardens and sponsored by the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation. Enquiries to Greening WA on 481 2144.

## More on growing locals!

Growing Locals; Gardening with Local Plants in Perth is a fantastic new book by Robert Powell and Jane Emberson. The book is written both for home gardeners and for planners of public parks and it includes an extensive plant list for the Perth region.

This new book links plants to soil types across the metropolitan area. The book is available from the Western Australian

Naturalists Club, PO Box 156, Nedlands 6009 or telephone 370 2080. It's a very affordable \$19.50 (plus \$5.30 postage) and well worth it. Copies are also available from Greening WA and WA Naturally, the new CALM information centre in Fremantle, corner of Henry Street and Croke Street (telephone 430 8600).

## Community resource guide

The Environment Centre is putting together a Community Resource Guide with the help of a grant from the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation. It will cover about 50 organisations in detail and include several hundred other contacts. The guide is expected to be out in July. Enquiries to Karel on 227 7881.

## A Vision of Australia's Vegetation

Greening Australia (the national body) has released a final copy of Australia's Vegetation: A Community Perspective. The 15-page document describes itself as 'a broad statement of direction outlining a vision and set of practical strategies to achieve sustainable vegetation'. It recommends strategies which it says should be adopted by different sectors and groups within Australia. Free copies are available on (06) 284 8585.

## Monitoring kit available

The Land Management Society has produced a Farm Monitoring Kit to

support its popular Farm Monitoring Handbook. The kit and the handbook concentrates on whole farm planning as a means to more sustainable agriculture. It is designed to save time and costs on comprehensive farm monitoring. The kit contains instructional information, data recording sheets and equipment to monitor 14 different environmental indicators including pH, salinity and soil testing. For further information contact LMS on 450 6862.

## WA Agriculture Review

A discussion paper reviewing natural resource management and viability of agriculture in WA was released on 12 June for public comment. Opportunities for community consultation will be available through meetings over the next few months. Submissions will be accepted until the end of October. For further information about the review contact Helen Allison, Agriculture Western Australia, on 368 3719.

## New book on weed biology

The Biology of Australian Weeds is a new book which reviews Australia's worst weeds in parks, farms and waterways. It covers in detail descriptions, history, distribution, legislative restrictions and methods of management of weeds. The book has 314 pages and costs \$59.50 from the publishers; RG and FJ Richardson, PO Box 1108, Frankston, Victoria, 3199 (telephone 03 9787 3804 or email on <r.richardson@dce.vic.gov.au>).

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