

# Ecoplan News

Issue 19 Summer 1996

## Councils Employ Bush Regenerators

Bush regeneration recently took a great leap forward with the proposed appointment of bush regeneration staff by the Fremantle and Melville councils.

The City of Fremantle recently appointed Mary Appleby to a temporary part-time position as bush regenerator. This is the first time such a position has been offered by a local council in the metropolitan area.

Mary's position is funded from August, 1996 until the end of June next year, however Fremantle City Council's Environmental Projects Officer, Tony Baird, is fairly confident that with increased awareness funding can be obtained to extend her contract.

The City of Melville is employing two full-time permanent bush regenerators. The first position will be advertised in October and the second in January next year.

Environmental Programs Coordinator at Melville Council, Mark Street and Tony Baird have been keen to get bush regeneration staff on board for several years.

"I haven't really got the time to get out into the bushland, so it's a good opportunity to employ someone to do some on the ground work with local communities," Tony said.

"With bushland you have to be there to see what's happening, to do the monitoring, to evaluate planting and weeding strategies and look after fauna."

"We've got about 40 bushland reserves vested in the city of Melville and we want to maintain them," Mark said.

"We want to protect the bush, improve it, and restore it and it will be made possible having someone trained in bushland maintenance."

In previous years Melville council has employed bush regenerators for about three months in the year.

Mark said growing public demand to maintain bushland reserves and pressure from the council's environmental advisory committee, which includes councillors, community members and council staff, were crucial in obtaining the full-time positions.

The new appointees will contribute to educational activities, take guided walks in bushlands, respond to injured wildlife, monitor fire control, undertake water sampling and seed collecting and work with volunteer groups, such as friends groups associated with Wireless Hill, Blue Gum Lake and Point Walter."

The Shire of Denmark employed Diane Harwood for six months earlier this year. She was the first bush regenerator employed by a local government in this State.

In the metropolitan area, the City of Stirling has been training staff in bush regeneration for some years.

Mary Appleby has studied horticulture and botany and has worked in conservation for about eight years on various urban bushland projects in Melbourne. Her key tasks are getting the community and schools involved in urban bushland, and monitoring and evaluating bush regeneration techniques.

"I'd like to take a fairly scientific approach to evaluate past control techniques and to monitor what's happening on the ground, so we can establish cost effective ways of doing things," Mary said.

"I'd like to really research the sort of things we're using for revegetation and try to restrict plants to local seed."

Mary said she would also like to inspect the more pristine remnants

and develop a model to indicate original and present species growing in the region.

"One of the important things is to evaluate techniques for weed control," she said.

"In the past, there have been very occasional weeding days which have only touched on this immense problem.

"I'd like to convince council that it's an ongoing problem which needs to be solved."

If you would like to become involved in bush regeneration in Fremantle contact Tony Baird or Mary Appleby on 430 2314.



Mary Appleby at Samson Park.

# Ecoplan update

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



Another busy winter has passed with groups working hard to remove introduced weeds and get their plantings completed. The Ecoplan/Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) "Bushland Care Days" have finished for the year and proved to be great fun and a great success in helping groups achieve their goals. The feedback from local groups, local authorities & ATCV volunteers was fantastic. The local groups also received great turnouts, none greater than the Hovea Ratepayers Association who also involved neighbouring residents, the local Rotary Club and Local Bushfire Brigade. Like many other "host" groups a sausage sizzle was held and all involved had a great time.

Thanks to all the local groups for very enjoyable days and we are looking forward to the 1997 program. Thanks too to all the ATCV and its volunteers who helped out, and also to Bush

Regenerator, John Robertson who helped plan some of the days.

The recently formed Friends of Bob Blackburn Reserve has held its first public meeting and first busy-bee targeting lupins and gladiolus. The reserve is on the corner of Williams and Challis roads in Armadale so if you're keen to get involved give Stacey Wallace a call on 399 7068. Good luck guys!

There have also been shufflings within Ecoplan. Many thanks to Roxane Shadbolt who was working part-time on Ecoplan while Margo O'Byrne was temporarily working on the System 6 Update report, and, welcome back Margo.

You might have been lucky enough to catch the Urban Bushland display in the Landcare tent at the Perth Royal Show. The display was jointly organised by Ecoplan, Kirstin Tullis of the Urban

Bushland Council and Tony Eyres of the Conservation Council of WA. Congratulations to the many community bushland groups who volunteered to set up their individual displays throughout the show, they looked great and showed much of what people are doing in bushland areas.

Ecoplan has completed its review of the past five years with the aim of developing a vision for the next five. We have included the major findings of the review in the centre pages. The review included a questionnaire which drew a great response and the results are shown inside.

The Environmental Weeds Action Network has also been busy with displays at the opening of the Swan-Avon Community Catchment Centre, the Wildflower Society's "Spring Fling" and the Royal Show. If you're interested in becoming a member contact Tony Baird on 430 6135.

## ECOPLAN BUS TOUR

Are you interested in seeing what friends groups are doing in their patch? Would you like to talk to others about how they are regenerating their area? Then join with Ecoplan for a bus tour of the south western suburbs to look at various friends groups and their activities and how they are dealing with looking after their area.

**Time:** 8.15am - 5.30pm

**Where:** Meet at the City of Perth car park behind the bus port at 8.15am for departure at 8.30am. (Parking is available free of charge on Sunday)

Return to Bus Port at 5.30pm

**When:** Sunday 17 November 1996

Please bring a cut lunch, hat, sturdy shoes and something to drink.

For further details and to **book your place on the bus**, please contact:

Jon Elder (222 7096) or

Margo O'Byrne (222 7054)

## Ecoplan Christmas Wind-up

The end of another busy year is upon us! This year the Ecoplan wind-up will be held the Karakamia Sanctuary, Lot 201, Lilydale Rd, Chidlow.

The evening will begin at 4.30pm on Sunday, December 1. All those coming are asked to bring their own picnic dinners. Tea and coffee will be provided.

In the evening Karakamia resident manager, Andre Schmitz will talk on the history, aims and success of the sanctuary.

Unfortunately numbers are limited so you will need to RSVP soon. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call Jon Elder 222 7096 or Margo O'Byrne 222 7054.

## Ecoplan Now Has E-Mail

Ecoplan is now connected to E-Mail and if you wish to send in any information (such as regional reports which are due 2 December) the addresses for Margo O'Byrne and Jon Elder are as follows;  
margo\_o'byrne@environ.wa.gov.au  
jon\_elder@environ.wa.gov.au

Thanks Cathy, once again for all your valuable help getting this edition of Ecoplan News together.



# Recollections of the Beelias Wetlands

"We didn't realise it then but we really grew up in nature's kingdom." This is how Maurice Fortini recalls living near Bibra Lake from the 1930s to 1970s. His memoirs are included in *Recollections of the Beelias Wetlands*.

Funded by the shires of Cockburn, Kwinana and Melville, the Water and Rivers Commission and Alcoa and written by Cathy Drake and Shona Kenneally, *Recollections of the Beelias Wetlands* is based on observations of long-time local residents. The Beelias Wetlands are a vital part of our local heritage and they have changed dramatically in the lifetimes of many older residents. The booklet contributes to a sense of place and local history in the natural environment and graphically illustrates the extent of changes that have occurred.

Here are some quotes from the booklet:

*The flowers were absolutely magnificent - you could find a patch of orchids as big as this room. Well, you couldn't put a pin between them...they were beautiful to see...Now I can't find one in the district, now I never see one...it's a shame...the rabbits do the damage, and horses.*

*Violet Spencer, Yangebup Lake*

*...times of plenty until the whites came in and moved us on...we lived off the land in that area. We had wildlife - kangaroos, possums, turtles, all the ducks...and all the berries...there was plenty of food there.*

*Andy Jackson, Aboriginal custodian, Bibra and North Lake*

*The swamp was our playground. You never used to go out in those days ... didn't have many toys, we made our own fun ... we made canoes and boats ... We used to get a sheet of corrugated iron, bend it over, nail a piece of wood either end ... and then get bitumen to seal all the holes up.*

*Frank Favazzo, Market Garden Swamps*

*I started off as a kid going in there for the great adventure into the jungle ... for a small boy there's a hell of a lot exploring in there.*

*Don Miguel, Long Swamp*

Watch out for a launch of the booklet and accompanying display posters in October. The display posters will be available from Cockburn City Council after the launch on loan to community groups within the shires of Cockburn, Melville and Kwinana for functions and displays. If you are interested in attending the launch call Darren Walsh.

For further information and copies of the booklet contact Darren Walsh (Cockburn) on 411 3444, Mark Street (Melville) on 364 0625 or Paul Rokich (Kwinana) on 419 2222.



*Alma Marle and Jack Clementi (left), Wattleup Lake about 1930.*

## New standards for herbicides

The National Registration Authority is now assessing the effect of glyphosate products on aquatic organisms such as frogs. The action by the NRA is a result of concerns raised by findings of a study commissioned by the DEP. Glyphosate products include herbicides such as Round-up.

Studies showed that the surfactant contained in the herbicides caused the potential threat rather than the glyphosate itself. As a result NRA has made some changes to the conditions of

registration for products. These changes will prompt the introduction of new formulations that are more sensitive to aquatic environments. If products are not reformulated, labels will warn against using the product in or around water bodies and drains. (These changes won't apply to products for use in the home garden.) Manufacturers were advised in September and the new conditions will be in place June 30, 1997.

The review report on glyphosate and a fact sheet are available from NRA chemical review section on 272 3213.



## Bessie Rischbieth conservation award

Established in honour of a pioneer of the conservation movement in WA, this award is given annually by the Conservation Council of WA to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the WA environment. The recipient need to have been actively involved in the conservation movement for a number of years and displayed qualities of integrity, perseverance, courage and commitment. The Conservation Council is also taking nominations for the Peter Hunt Award for Excellence in Environmental Journalism for journalists in the print media. Nominations close November 8. For further information call 220 0652.

## South-West Focus: The Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre

The Busselton Shire Council has decided to waive the centre's weekly rent which takes great burden off finances. The centre has an extensive library which has just been re-organised. Donations to the library are most welcome. The centre will host the State Forum of Environment Centres soon (tentatively November 2 and 3). A directory of local contacts for information on environmental issues is currently being prepared. Current areas of concern are the rivers and waterways, beach erosion and sand dune vegetation destruction, salinity due to rising water tables, ocean care, the extinction of forest flora and fauna, ecotourism and keeping the main street of Busselton unique, relaxed, friendly and comfortable for residents and visitors.

Volunteers are needed to staff the environment centre. The shifts are 10am - 1pm or 1pm - 4pm. For further information call 097 542 049 or drop into 23 Prince St, Busselton.

Please send *Ecoplan* activities and news from the Bunbury region.

## Resources at the new catchment centre

The Swan Catchment Centre has officially been opened. The centre is a community resource centre for people to have access to information and support in catchment management in the Swan catchment. The centre is adorned with fabulous photos by Harry de Jong. The displays and blown-up photos can be borrowed by community groups.

Apple Macintosh and IBM Computers are available for word processing and other applications. You can also access the Internet for information. A new software program available for use at the centre, detailed in Winter *Ecoplan News*, called The Revegetation Expert, or REX program, has information on 2400 plants from across Australia. You can, for example, search for WA trees, shrubs and understorey plants with salt tolerance or particular fauna associations.

The centre will hold talks and training sessions on catchment management issues. There are various leaflets, maps and publications available. Meeting and training rooms are available to community groups working on catchment issues.

The information line for recording requests for information and advice is 325 5320. The centre is across the road from the Hyatt Hotel, 108 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth and open Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and Sundays 2pm - 5pm. For further information call 221 3840.

## Birds on farms

*Birds on Farms* is a new national survey by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU). It involves bird surveys four times a year for at least two years in different habitats on WA farms. The surveys will look at the success of revegetation programs in bringing birds back to rural areas, identify factors which are important to maintain bird diversity and identify species that are declining. If you would like to offer your services as an experienced bird watcher, know a farmer who would like to participate, or would like to find out more call Brenda Newbey on 337 5673.

# Ecoplan Review

Having recently celebrated its fifth birthday, Ecoplan decided to use this opportunity to step back from everyday activities and review the achievements of the program to date and set directions for the future.

Staff from the Department of Environmental Protection and about 15 members of various Friends groups and the Conservation Council sat down to look back and review the past five years in a facilitated search conference. They looked at what Ecoplan set out to achieve, what has been learned along the way, and how to continue the valuable work of Ecoplan.

In conjunction with the search conference, the Ecoplan staff sent out 300 questionnaires to people who had attended Ecoplan training. Of these, 124 were returned. The graphs on the following pages show the results of this survey.

## Background

Ecoplan started in 1991 when members of the voluntary conservation movement approached the then EPA to set up a program for the development of community ownership of System 6 reserves. These objectives were:

- to develop public ownership of System 6 areas;
- to raise community awareness of System 6;
- to create or motivate existing action groups to seek and/or get involved in the implementation of System 6 recommendations, and;
- to have a co-ordinated framework for the implementation of System 6 recommendations.

## Achievements

Ecoplan has provided a working model to facilitate government and community groups working together to protect urban bushland. It has helped to empower volunteers by offering support, information,

networking and training opportunities. Ecoplan has increased awareness of conservation issues and developed the protection of reserves.

## Vision for the future

The workshop evolved a vision for Ecoplan for the next five years.

In the best possible world, Ecoplan would be a well resourced partnership between the community and the government which will:

- support and train a growing number of conservation volunteers and community bodies to participate in conservation of urban bushland areas;
- transfer the values of such volunteers to a greater number of people, that is to increase community awareness of the importance of conservation;
- extend its influence so that all levels/departments of government will be committed to protecting and maintaining urban bushland; and
- encourage more local councils to be more actively supportive.

## Objectives

- To provide support, resources and training opportunities to both new and established groups and individuals.
- To involve local government in the Ecoplan network.
- To expand into other regions such as the South-West of WA.
- To protect urban bushland. In particular conserve System 6 areas:
  - to achieve implementation of the recommendations of the System 6 report; and
  - to complete the System 6 update.
- To get more people involved.



## Strategies

Here we looked at some of the ways we could practically achieve our goals:

- Encourage local councils to employ environmental officers.
- Support the network of volunteers through:
  - newsletters;
  - regular meetings;
  - holding or sponsoring people to attend conferences;
  - training workshops; and
  - access to the World Wide Web.
- Complete the System 6 Update and publish recommendations.
- Gain government commitment to the protection of System 6 areas.
- Help to establish groups in regional areas.
- Increase funding (especially discretionary), resources and more DEP staff support for the Ecoplan program.
- Develop a more visible profile by making more use of the media.
- Continue training courses including more practical ones in bushland management.
- Conduct an annual workshop/conference for the sharing of ideas and advising on particular issues and activities.
- Replace regional co-ordinators with "advisers" people who are experienced in group work who can help others.

While some of these strategies depend on the availability of additional resources, which is unlikely to occur, they collectively provide a basis for further development of the Ecoplan concept.

# Ecoplan Questionnaire

As part of Ecoplan's evaluation of the past five years and developing a vision for the next five, a questionnaire was circulated to 300 people who had been involved in the Ecoplan training program. Of these, 124 responses were received. The results make interesting reading. They give an insight into why people become active in urban bushland, what sorts of activities people are doing, and what prevents them from doing more.

**Figure One** shows why people joined Ecoplan, with the majority of people saying they wished to do something constructive to help the environment (34%), and those wishing to help save or improve their local area (26%). The majority of those joining with Ecoplan (**Figure Two**) cited their main influencing factor as a need to be part of a bigger network (30%), and to generate a sense of knowing what to do (34%).

**Figure Three** gives an indication of how people relate to Ecoplan; 40% consider themselves to be a part of the voluntary conservation movement with an interest in Ecoplan.

**Figure Four** demonstrates that those who become involved and associated are in for the long haul, and 75% of respondents have volunteered their time to an urban bushland project or "Friends of Group" since becoming aware of Ecoplan. This demonstrates that volunteer individuals and community conservation groups are committed to their "patch", and that a tremendous amount of work is achieved over the years to conserve these areas. **Figure Five** gives an indication of the main activities carried out by individuals involved, and **Figure Six** gives an insight into the main causes for discouragement.

When we consider the reasons Ecoplan was created five years ago, (see Ecoplan Review) the results are particularly encouraging.

**Figure Seven** shows that 86% of respondents had a sense of ownership of the area they were involved with, and **Figure Eight** showed that 76% had a clear vision or goal for that area. The questionnaire also showed that since becoming aware of or involved with Ecoplan, 75% of respondents have volunteered their time. As can be seen in **Figure Nine**, 86% felt that Ecoplan has helped individuals share ideas and information with other groups.

When looking at the Ecoplan demographic, 62% were in the 36-55 age group. This is followed by 23% in the over 55 category, 13% in the 23-35 age group and only 2% under 22 years of age. 57.02% were female and 42.9% male.

Occupations of volunteers are shown in **Figure Ten**, with the majority comprising of those who work full time (36%) or part-time (21%), or those who are students (12%).

The questionnaire provided valuable input into a vision for the next five years and Ecoplan would like to thank all those who took the time to answer.

Some suggestions will be easier to accommodate than others, when asked; "What do you think Ecoplan should be doing in the next five years....?," half the people who forwarded suggestions included in their answer that Ecoplan should simply continue the work it's already doing. Other suggestions included encourage new groups, generate more involvement in existing groups, and raise the public profile of Ecoplan and urban bushland issues. One in particular suggested we hire more Margo's. We'll do our best, here's to the next five!

*When you're inspired by some great purpose, some extra ordinary project, all your thoughts break their bonds; your mind transcends limitations, your consciousness expands in every direction, and you find yourself in a new, great and wonderful world. Dormant forces, faculties and talents become alive, and you discover yourself to be a greater person by far than you ever dreamed yourself to be.*

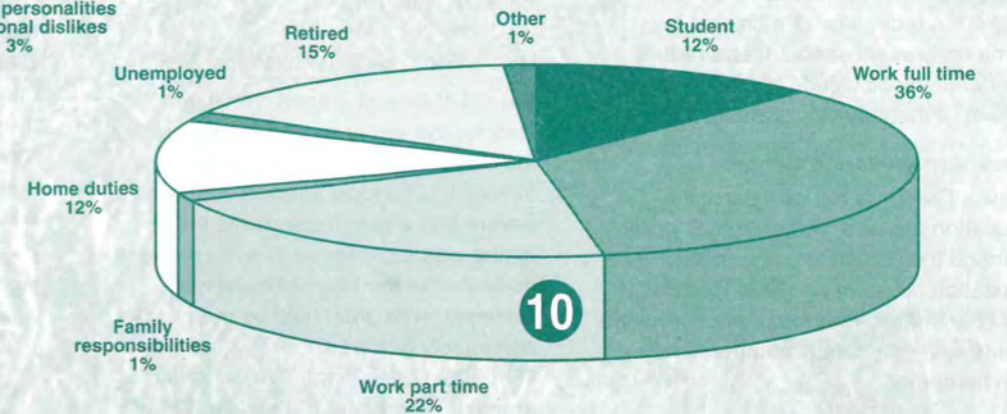
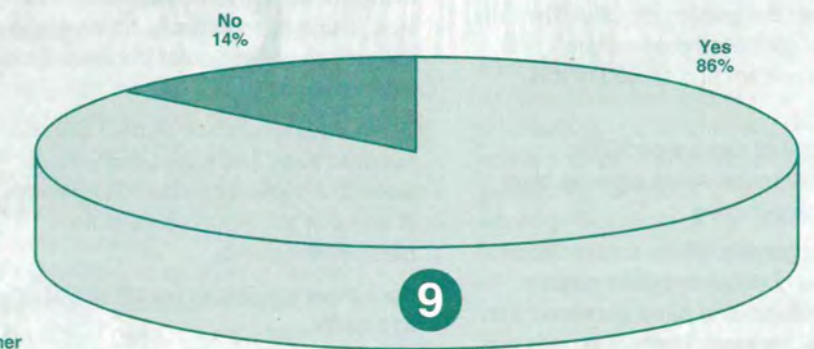
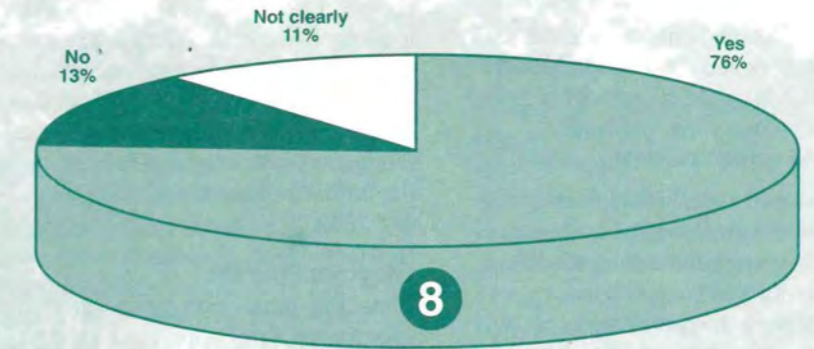
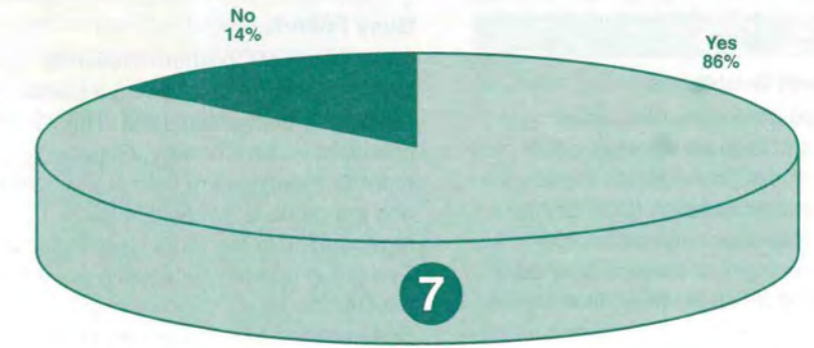
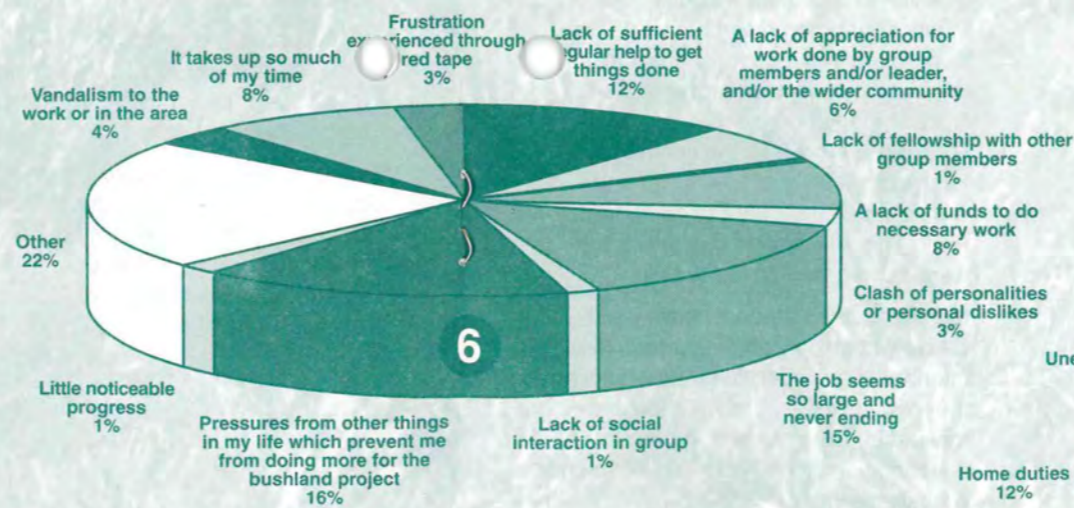
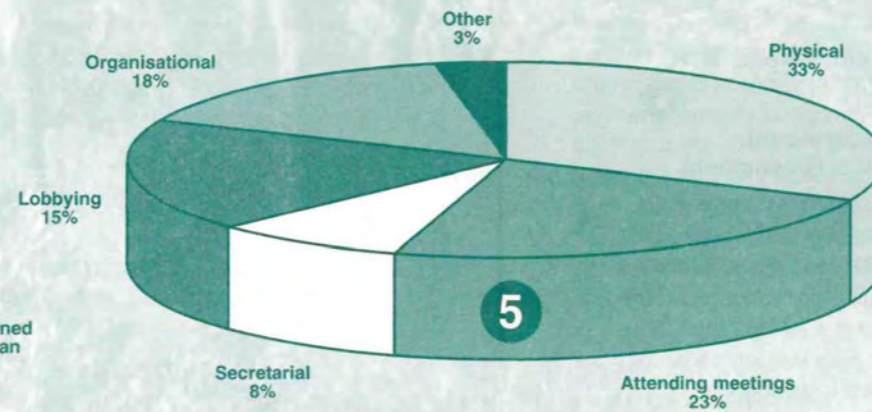
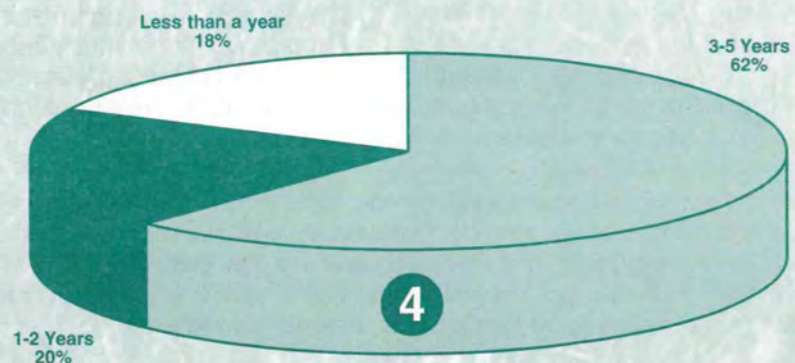
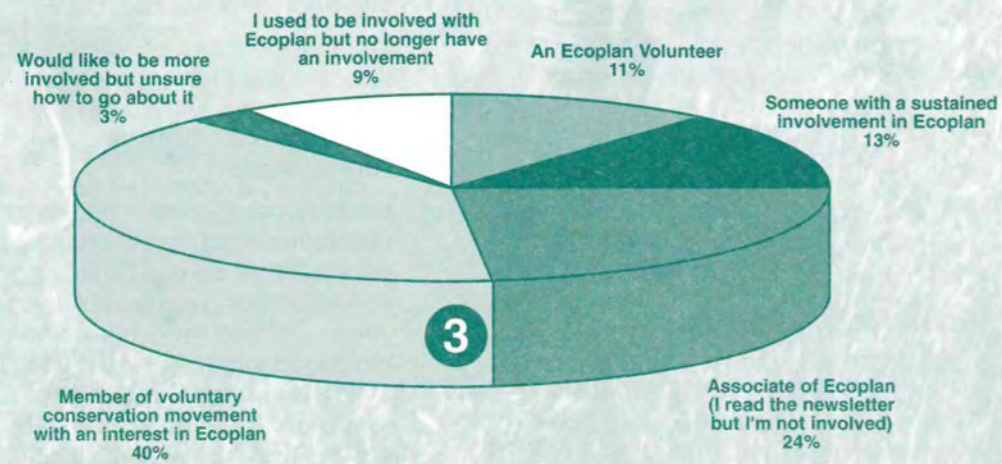
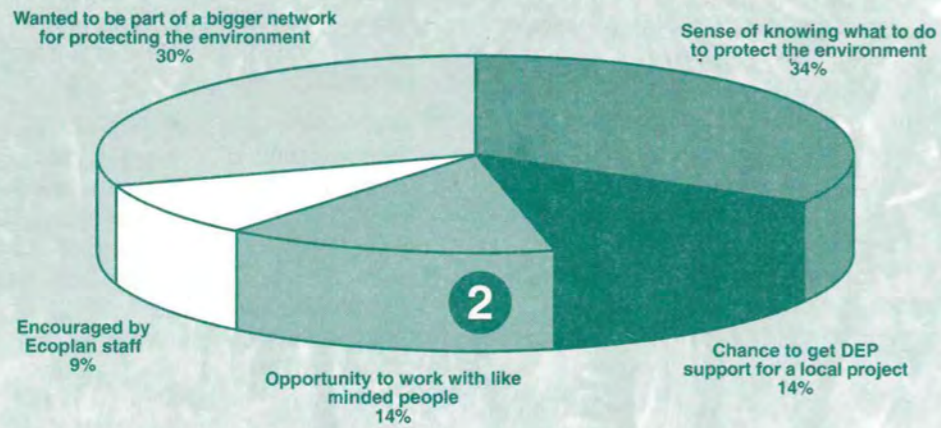
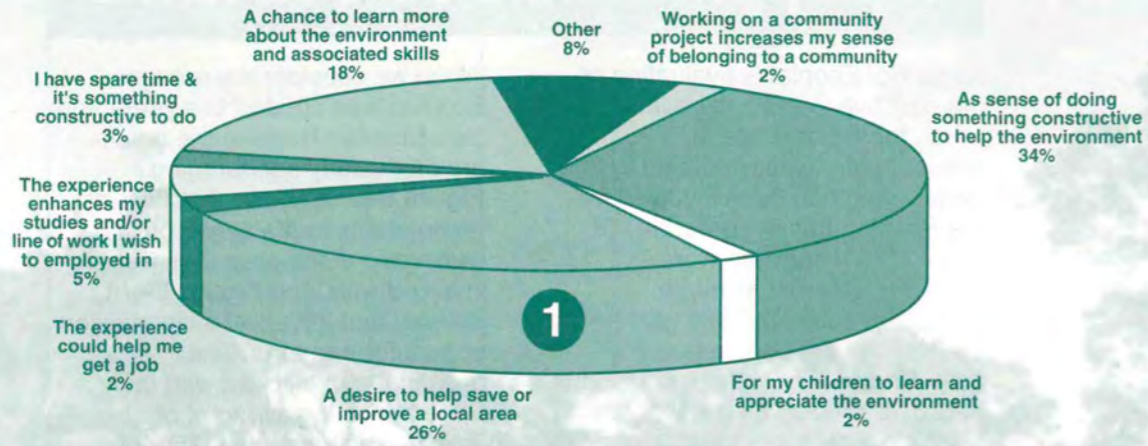
Patanjali



# Ecoplan Review

## Titles to Charts

- 1 Why did you join Ecoplan?
- 2 What was the main factor influencing your decision to join Ecoplan?
- 3 How do you relate to Ecoplan? Do you consider yourself to be...
- 4 How long have you been/were you associated with Ecoplan?
- 5 What are the main activities you do as part of a bushland project/friends group?
- 6 What are your main causes of discouragement?
- 7 Do you have a sense of ownership towards this bushland area?
- 8 Do you have a vision or goal for the area?
- 9 Has the Ecoplan program helped you share ideas with other individuals and groups?
- 10 Main occupation.





# What's on in the regions...



## Central Region

### South Perth Bushlands

Over the past three months, John Feldman and Andrew Thomson, two members of the City of South Perth Environment Association (COPSEA), have together spent more than 250 hours improving four areas of bushland in the City of South Perth—Gillon Street Bushland (Karawara), Koonawarra Primary School Bushland (Manning), Goss Avenue Bushland (Manning) and the "Spit" Bushland on the west side of the northern approach to Mt Henry Bridge (Manning).

More than 1000 bags of litter and rubbish have been removed. This has included such diverse items as household carpet, an old white cane chair, domestic rubbish and garden prunings.

Extensive weed removal has been undertaken in three areas of bushland. This has involved hand pulling of veldt grass and wild gladioli, and hand spraying of some the small areas of kikuyu grass, couch grass, soursob and freesias. In particular veldt grass has been removed from around the base of banksia, christmas tree and eucalypts to reduce the fuel load and potential fire hazard over the coming months. The removal of gladioli should reduce potential seed set and spread of this weed.

The removal of these weeds has revealed native prostrate growing plant species still surviving.

In the past garden refuse such as lawn clippings and discarded plant bulbs dumped in bushland have worsened the problem. Fortunately many residents are now more aware and have ceased this practice.

This removal of rubbish and weeds should improve the appearance of the bushland, reduce the fire hazard over summer, prevent seed set and reduce spread of exotic weeds and allow better growth of the surviving plant species.

### Cockburn Wetlands Centre

Denise Crosby is the new part-time education officer at the centre. She will manage the school and community education program and help Rex Sallur, the coordinator, with the promotion of the centre and maintenance of the library and resources.

### Busy Friends

The Friends of Cockburn Wetlands Centre was formed following a public meeting in September 1995. The president is Jim Connolly. Regular monthly meetings are held at the centre and the group is involved in bush regeneration in the Bibra Lake Reserve. The group recently received a grant from the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation to use regeneration techniques developed by the Kings Park Board on the degraded woodland near the centre.

The group is involved in regular bird counts at North, Bibra and South lakes. It is intended that this work will produce valuable scientific data for use in wetland management. The group plans to carry out flora and fauna surveys of Bibra and North Lake reserves. For further information contact Jim on 417 7318.

### Landcare Projects

Under the supervision of landcare coordinator, Rex Sallur, volunteers have planted nearly 1000 trees at Bibra Lake and the Australian Paper Plant in Spearwood this winter. The trees are local species, many of which were grown in the centre's nursery established by Rex. The long term aim is to re-establish the natural vegetation of the Bibra Lake/ North Lake area.

The friends group has planted several hundred trees and have used smoke water in an attempt to germinate seeds of some of the ground flora of the banksia woodlands.

For further information call Rex Sallur on 417 8460.

## Hills Region

### Eastern Hills Region

By Jenny Johnson

Hills groups rise to a challenge!

We did it! Almost. Faced with a very late start for the winter rains and followed by the July deluge the task of planting almost 10 000 local species of ground covers and understorey plants before spring was a challenge to even the most dedicated of the Hovea Ratepayers. However, with great help by many other community groups and ATCV, all but 1500 have been planted in degraded areas of Hovea and Parkerville. We will

re-pot the remaining plants ready for an early start next autumn.

Our Spring tasks will involve watsonia control by removal and spraying. A lupin and watsonia pull is planned for late September and local scouting groups will join us to earn environmental and community awards. Friends of Hudman Reserve had a workday on September 7 removing lupin, freesia and wild pea.

### Bugle Tree Creek Protection Society

This important tributary of Jane Brook has benefited by the volunteer planting of sedges and rushes and improved drainage dispersal works carried out by the Mundaring Shire. The Integrated Catchment Management Plan is being devised by the shire and it is hoped that the 'open drain' policy will gradually disappear from our water courses and natural wetland areas will become restabilised.

For further information call Jenny Johnson on 295 4467.

### Friends of Greenmount Weed assault at Greenmount

Lee and Mark Daughtry are getting ready to assault the watsonia in the Greenmount National Park, which is coming up thick and fast. It is pleasing to note that there is a lot less than there was last year. This indicates that the control program is working.

We hope to have some fine weekends in which to tackle the watsonia. Since most of our group members work, we have found that a good way to tackle the weed problems is for members to first call at the home of Lee and Mark Daughtry, who act as the central point for the distribution of Round-up and wands, when they want to do some work. This way people can attack the weeds when they have the time.

Members of the group work well with CALM who supply the Round-up. Group members have specific areas in which they tackle weeds. They are looking forward to using the new, more environmental friendly, herbicide when it is available.

For further information, or if you would like to help with watsonia control, call Lee Daughtry on 299 6874.



## North West Region

### Friends of Trigg Bushland Attacking carnation weed

After a quiet winter we stepped up our activities beginning with our popular, annual spring walk led by David Pike, a lupin removal day, and a full day working with ATCV volunteers to remove carnation weed from a badly infested area in the middle of the bushland. The City of Stirling sponsored this activity which attracted lots of local volunteers to help the ATCV crew.

Carnation weed is spreading like wildfire in the Trigg Bushland. Our group was successful in obtaining a grant to map the weed and this was completed with the help of the City of Stirling. We are now trying hand removal of the weed with winter planting of local species in a particularly degraded part of the bushland.

### Compatible recreation

We are still working on persuading the City of Stirling that organised cross country running events should be banned from the bushland, especially after a group of runners from an athletics club was recently observed clearing bush to make running tracks over the sand dunes. The Friends of Trigg Bushland strongly believes this activity is not compatible with the purpose of the reserve which is classified 'A' for passive recreation, education and conservation.

For further information call Robyn Murphy, Friends of Trigg Bushland president, on 246 3954.

### Friends of Star Swamp Bushland By Christine Curry Walks among wildflowers

After a busy and successful winter weeding program Star Swamp Bushland is alive with wildflowers and ready for an equally busy, but more socially enjoyable, series of guided walks. The monthly guided walks, held at 8am on the fourth Saturday of each month, will be supplemented during Spring with a Wildflower Walk on Sunday September 22 and a nocturnal walk at 7.30pm on Friday November 22.

### Education centre

The development of the long awaited Star Swamp Bushland Reserve Resource and Education Centre has been brought a step closer with a very generous donation by a long-time resident of the North Beach area. The City of Stirling and Karrinyup Rotary Club have also shown great support and it is

hoped that the project will be brought to fruition within the next year or so.

Planning for the resource centre will be developed through the City of Stirling, with whom the Star Swamp Bushland Reserve is vested, and in accordance with the Star Swamp Bushland Reserve Management Plan.

### Strategic planting

Friends of Star Swamp Bushland is planning a strategic planting program from 1997. Seed collected from within the reserve is in the process of being grown in City of Stirling nurseries. A spraying and planting program in parts of the reserve which are particularly degraded will be a key focus over the next couple of years.

For further information call Christine Curry on 447 2983.

### Quinns Rock Environment Group Activities

The Wildflower Society is holding bushwalks in September and October through Neerabup National Park including October 12 and 26. The Coalition for Wanneroo's Environment is holding a picnic on October 27 to meet people in local conservation groups, share experiences and find out what others are doing. (See 'What's On' section for details.)

### Pumping station

Following local opposition, including lobbying by the group, the proposed sewage pumping station has been shifted. The original plan for a pumping station in the coastal reserve near Mary Street has been dropped in favour of a site at the corner of Quinns Road and Seaham Way. This is the old bore site, already owned by the Water Corporation. Its use will avoid clearing of remnant bushland or encroachment on the coastal reserve. Concerns remain about the proposal and the associated plan to upgrade Ocean Drive. It is important that the coastal reserve be protected.

### A Blaze of Colour

Spring is a wonderful time to take a look at local bushland. Why not go for a walk and appreciate our rich flora! The bright yellow prickly Moses (*Acacia pulchella*), the white-stemmed wattle (*Acacia xanthina*), parrot bush (*Dryandra sessilis*), native buttercup (*Hibbertia hypericoides*), and blueboy (*Stirlingia latifolia*) are some of the spring blooms in the Quinns Rock area.

For further information call David Wake on 305 1591, Karyn Shaw 305 1405 or Karen Wright on 305 1992.

### Friends of Marmion Marine Park Friends share marine wonders

As the weather warms up, the friends group is organising more beach walks and activities (see *What's On* section). The annual Christmas picnic and snorkel at Clarko Beach in Trigg is planned.

The group is getting requests from school groups for walks and talks. Phyllis Robertson recently lead City Beach Primary School students on a soil sampling and analysis exercise. The children compared sand from the beach tide line, the splash line, the base of the dunes, top of the dunes and sand from the children's home gardens. The children were particularly intrigued with looking at the colours and shapes in the sand under a magnifying glass.

For further information call Tina Barnes on 341 6193 or Lynda Arnold on 342 5091.

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

by Cate Tauss

### Yellagonga vision

A workshop to be held on November 8 and 10 called the *Yellagonga Vision, A Community Initiated Plan for Management* will work toward a management plan for the regional park. The public are invited to put forward their views and a panel of experts will talk on the issues which need to be addressed. For further information call Cate Tauss on 309 5241.

### Stormwater concerns

At least 20 stormwater drains discharging nutrients, pesticides, oils, heavy metals, and refuse empty into Yellagonga wetlands. Unfortunately it appears that some of the policies formulated by the 1995 drainage study of Yellagonga Regional Park commissioned by the City of Wanneroo have been ignored in the recent construction of the Woodvale Drive sump.

This study recommended the following:

- prohibition of any newly proposed direct discharge to the lakes;
- stormwater drainage sumps shouldn't encroach within the park boundaries;
- build recharge basins in the upper reaches of a resident catchment area; and
- remove direct stormwater outfalls into lakes and replace with treatment methods involving sediment removal followed by recharge into the ground water.





The new drainage basin has been dug in the seasonally waterlogged zone within 10m of Beenyup/Walluburnup fringing vegetation, within the boundary of the wetland. Apparently, polluted stormwater is being collected and discharged directly into a costly excavation in the wetlands.

It appears that there is a similar situation west of Wanneroo Road, just north of Whitfords Avenue. Part of Walluburnup swamp is being excavated as a sump to drain development east of Wanneroo Road. In addition, there is a proposal for a large drainage basin reaching down to Lake Goollelal at the corner of Hepburn and Wanneroo roads.

All of the stake holders in the park should truly understand what constitutes a wetland, the importance of wetland buffer zones and the proper treatment of stormwater.

For further information call Cate Tauss on 309 5241.

### Friends of Korella Park Bushland

by Ken and Marilyn Zakrevsky

This group is alive and active after its official formation on June 23. In July more than 1000 plants native to the Quindalup soils were provided by the City of Wanneroo and planted by 23 volunteers.

The Mullaloo Beach Primary School year 6/7 students and their teacher Mrs Chris Hopper also planted several hundred plants. In spite of three days of squalls and gales in mid-July, the plants are looking very healthy and strong and we are marvelling at the tenacity of these local species.

Korella Park bushland has a chequered history, having been re-established with the top soil seed bank after the dunes were flattened for the school and housing about eight years ago. *Acacia rostellifera*, *Leptospermum laevigatum* (eastern states tea tree) and *Acacia cyclops* were added to the seed bank. While these three species have done the job of helping to stabilise the replaced top soil, many of the acacias have died and are now a fire hazard.

We now need to monitor the growth of these plants and learn what strategies are the most successful. The next two summers will determine how well we achieve our objectives of establishing an environmentally aesthetic bushland for the benefit of local flora and fauna and to provide residents with bushland for passive recreation.

## Central Region

### Manning Primary Bush Group

By Warwick Boardman

#### Crucial fencing and mowing

Manning Primary Bush Group was lucky to get EcoPlan help before the last school holidays to get internal fencing erected. However, more external fencing still seems to be a priority as a lot of garden refuse has been dumped this year. This has only been a minor problem in the past.

We have also been fortunate in that the South Perth City Council loaned us a heavy-duty slasher mower for a weekend. It was better at cutting veldt grass, and also wider than a household mower and so it got the job done quicker. A whipper snipper can finish the job off closer to the plants we want to keep. Poisoning and pulling up freesias will be next on the agenda (before they seed).

The fencing and fuel for the mower have been financed by a grant from the Lotteries Commission's Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation. The Foundation refused funding for a slasher mower so the council's contribution has been essential for mowing the areas around the perimeter. Kangaroo paws planted last year are doing very well. They are from seeds collected under pine trees now replaced by aged persons' homes.

The school might take part in the council's Green Teams initiative as part of *Clean Up 2001*. This would mean more certainty in the management of the school's bushland in the future. Contact Warkick Boardman 450 5117.

## South East Region

### Brixton Street Wetlands, Kenwick

by Regina Drummond

#### Beating bamboo, watsonia and trail bikes

We had a very successful work day on July 13. Thank you to ATCV people, EcoPlan and everyone else who came to help on the day. We have finally beaten the bamboo with man and machine.

The wetlands look wonderful. There's a lot of water, heaps of water birds, and other birds, and the flowers are just everywhere, and it's going to get better.

We have been attacking the watsonia. Thanks to the constant efforts of Elizabeth and Nick the areas of watsonia are shrinking. We are planning to make one Saturday a month a work day.

Whether we work or simply admire the surroundings will remain to be seen.

There are still trail bikes getting into the wetlands, but CALM is looking to adjust the pedestrian gates to make things more difficult for the bikes. Thanks to CALM for its very prompt attention with our fencing problems.

#### A passion for frogs

On July 31, more than 72 people attended a talk by John Dell on frogs. We had a great night. The talk was held in the hall on the corner of Brixton Street and Kenwick Road. It backs onto a wonderful piece of wetland teeming with frogs and proposed for housing. We went outside and listened to an array of frogs which John named and described. Little do they know that their days are numbered. Would you like to know more about this area?

For further information call Regina Drummond on 459 2964.

### Bungendore Park, Armadale

By Kim Sarti

#### Bushwalks and birds

Bungendore Park Management Committee has been quite busy lately. On the June long weekend some 80 people attended the Sunday bushwalks conducted by the committee in the park. The new pamphlet *Birds of Bungendore Park* was also released. This year's community planting day was held on June 22 and three local schools contributed in the following week. A total of 3137 seedlings have been planted since our long-term program to restore disused gravel pits and degraded areas began.

At afternoon tea following the community planting day, the Member for Armadale, the Hon. Kay Hallahan, released the *Birds of Bungendore Park* report of the bird survey conducted over the past three years. Some 82 species have been recorded. The report is an annotated species list with photos of vegetation types, some line drawings and a full colour insert of 23 birds to be found in the park. Copies of the report are available from the committee; PO Box 54, Armadale at \$12.00 each plus \$1.50 postage and packaging.

Throughout October the City of Armadale is organising Sunday morning walks to different bushland areas within the shire. The Bungendore Park walk is to be held on October 27, meeting at the Admiral Road entrance, Bedforddale at 9.30am. Light refreshments after your walk will be available with funds from the Armadale-Kelmscott Lions Club.



# What's on



October

- 25 Friday and 26 Saturday A Community Guide to Environmental Law seminar presented by the Environmental Defenders Office, 33 Barrack St, Perth on Friday 6 - 8.30pm and Saturday 9am - 5pm. Enquiries 221 3030.
- 26 Saturday 8am Monthly walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at the grassed area, Hope Rd (cnr of Castle St), North Beach. Enquiries Christine Curry 447 2983.
- 26 Saturday 10am Beach walk with the Friends of Marmion Marine Park. Meet at Centaur Monument, West Coast Drive, North Beach. Enquiries Tina Barnes 341 6193.
- 26 Saturday 2.30pm Gould League Excursion to Booragoon Lake. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 26 Saturday 1pm Part of a series of Wildflower Society bushwalks through Neerabup National Park by David Pike. Meet at Hall Rd, Wanneroo. Enquiries David Wake on 305 1591, Karyn Shaw 305 1405 or Karen Wright on 305 1992.
- 27 Sunday 9.30am Bungendore Park bushwalk. Meet at the Admiral Road entrance, Bedfordale. Refreshments available after walk. Other Sunday walks held during October by the City of Armadale.
- 27 Sunday 8.30am-4.30pm RAOU (Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union) Open Day and free bird walks to celebrate National Bird Week. Perry House, 71 Oceanic Drive, Floreat (at the foot of Reabold Hill). Enquiries 383 7749.
- 27 Sunday 2pm Share conservation experiences at the Coalition for the Wanneroo's Environment Picnic at Landsdale Farm School. Enquiries David Wake 307 6382.
- 1 Friday 8pm WA Naturalists' Club talk by Vincent Serventy, *The Flight of the Shearwater*, at the Naturalists Hall, 63 Meriwa St, Nedlands. Enquiries Alan Nottley 306 1832.
- 2 Saturday 9.30am - 1.30pm Wildflower Society of WA seminar; "Towards a Moratorium on Land Clearing." Simmons Lecture Theatre, General Purpose Building 3, UWA. Enquiries James Duggie 383 7979.
- 6 Wednesday 8pm Monthly meeting with the Friends of Marmion Marine Park. Meet at Centaur Monument, West Coast Drive, North Beach. Enquiries Lynda 342 5091.
- 8 Friday and 10 Sunday *The Yellagonga Vision*, community workshop working towards a management plan for the Yellagonga Regional Park. Will include a panel of experts. Public invited to attend. Edith Cowan University, Joondalup. Enquiries Cate 309 5241.
- 10 Sunday WA Naturalists' Club excursion to Success Hill and Bennet Brook. Nonmembers welcome. Details and Enquiries Alan Nottley 306 1832.
- 15 Friday 7.30pm Naturalists' Club meeting and the discussion topic is insects. Rockingham Beach Primary School, Bay View St, Rockingham. Enquiries Ann Goodale 527 4289.
- 16 Saturday 8am Monthly nature walk with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at the scout hall, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Enquiries Betty 444 5640.
- 16 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 17 Sunday 8.15am-5.30pm Ecoplan Bus Tour. Meet at the City of Perth carpark. Enquiries Jon Elder 222 7096 or Margo O'Byrne 222 7054.
- 17 Sunday Peter Bindoon will talk about the Aboriginal use of native plants at the Perth Garden Club. Enquiries June 446 6813.
- 18 Monday and 19 Tuesday 8.30am-4pm ATCV urban bushland restoration at sites within the Canning River Regional Park. Enquiries Dan Huxtable 474 3445.
- 20 Wednesday 7 - 9pm Join CALM staff on a night walk and experience the John Forest National Park at night. Bring a torch. Lots of other forest activities throughout the year. Enquiries 295 2244.
- 22 Friday 7.30pm Nocturnal walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Groat St, North Beach entrance. Enquiries Christine Curry 447 2983.
- 23 Saturday 8am Monthly walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at the grassed area, Hope Rd, North Beach. Enquiries Christine Curry 447 2983.
- 23 Saturday 10am Marine Specimen Touch Pool with the Friends of Marmion Marine Park. Meeting area yet to be decided. Enquiries 342 5091 or 247 2053.
- 26 Saturday 2.30pm Gould League Excursion to Kings Park. Enquiries 387 6079.
- 28 Thursday and 29 Friday *Kids Helping Kids* Children's Environmental Conference, Perth Zoo. Enquiries Catrina Aniere 368 1219.
- 30 Saturday 8am Summer Walk with the Friends of Trigg Bushland, Elliot Rd, Trigg. Enquiries Robyn 246 3954.
- 30 Saturday Excursion with the Naturalists' Club to 'Gooralong', Serpentine. Enquiries Diane Hitchin 527 1961.

November

- 1 Sunday 4.30pm Ecoplan Christmas Party. Karakamia Sanctuary. RSVP to Margo O'Byrne 222 7054 or Jon Elder 222 7096.
- 7 Saturday 9-12am Project morning at Lake Richmond with The Naturalists' Club. Bring refreshments, gloves, tools, litter bags. Meet at the corner of Lake St and Safety Bay Rd, Shoalwater. Enquiries Bob Goodale 527 4289.
- 16 Monday and 17 Tuesday 8.30am-4pm ATCV urban bushland restoration at sites within the Canning River Regional Park. Enquiries Don Huxtable 474 3445.
- 14 Saturday Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah Naturalists' Club excursion to the Perth Zoo followed by BBQ. Enquiries 527 4289, 527 1961 or 592 1821.
- 21 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Enquiries 387 6079.

December

- 1 Sunday 4.30pm Ecoplan Christmas Party. Karakamia Sanctuary. RSVP to Margo O'Byrne 222 7054 or Jon Elder 222 7096.
- 7 Saturday 9-12am Project morning at Lake Richmond with The Naturalists' Club. Bring refreshments, gloves, tools, litter bags. Meet at the corner of Lake St and Safety Bay Rd, Shoalwater. Enquiries Bob Goodale 527 4289.
- 16 Monday and 17 Tuesday 8.30am-4pm ATCV urban bushland restoration at sites within the Canning River Regional Park. Enquiries Don Huxtable 474 3445.
- 14 Saturday Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah Naturalists' Club excursion to the Perth Zoo followed by BBQ. Enquiries 527 4289, 527 1961 or 592 1821.
- 21 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Enquiries 387 6079.
- Bunbury Region**
- 9 Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting and talk by Andrew Brown from CALM on orchids of the southwest with the Busselton Naturalists' Club, Performing Arts Centre, Busselton High School. Enquiries Bernie Masters 097 272 474.
- 13 Sunday Whale watching with the Busselton Naturalists' Club in Geographe Bay (on a boat). Approximately \$30 per adult. Bookings Bernie Masters 097 272 474.
- 20 Sunday Bus excursion, *Life in our Wetlands*, with leaders Elizabeth Berge and Brendon Kelly, Ribbons of Blue officers. Bookings Bernie Masters 097 272 474.
- 2 Saturday and 3 Sunday (tentative) The State Forum of Environment Centres will be held at the Busselton-Dunborough Environment Centre. Enquiries 097 542 049.
- 13 Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting with the Busselton Naturalists' Club and talk by George Seddon *The Future Eaters; Early Human Impacts on Australia's Environment*, Performing Arts Centre, Busselton High School. Enquiries Bernie Masters 097 272 474.
- 24 Sunday Excursion with the Busselton Naturalists' Club to the Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre and a walk around Big Swamp and Leschenault Inlet Ecomuseum lead by Eric Wright, Water and Rivers Commission. Bookings Bernie Masters 097 272 474.

Please send us your activities in the metropolitan and Bunbury areas by 2 December 1996 for Summer Ecoplan News

# 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



## Tips for running community groups

The Ministry of Sport and Recreation, the Volunteer Involvement Program and the Australian Sports Commission have produced a very useful set of fliers and small booklets on running clubs. Although the information is aimed at sporting clubs much of it is useful to all kinds of community groups. The first two in the following list of available topics seem among the most useful.

The Role of the Secretary (booklet)

Chairing a Meeting (booklet)

Starting your Club (booklet)

Clearing Your First Hurdle, A Guide for Club Secretaries

Brainstorming

Club Cashbox Clues, A Guide for Club Treasurers

Club Meetings, Hints for the President/Chairperson

Club Problems? Solutions can be Painless

Share the Load and Delegate, A Guide for the Overworked Committee Member

Take the 'In' out of Ineffective (about streamlining tasks)

These titles are available by calling 387 9700.

## A new look at WA wetlands

A new book, *Western Australian Wetlands of the Kimberley and South-West*, edited by Rod Giblett and Hugh Webb draws on science, literature and Aboriginal cultural studies to look at perceptions and values of wetlands. A chapter by Philip Jennings, President of the Wetlands Conservation Society, focuses on the history of wetland conservation in WA. There are some breathtaking photographs by Simon Neville and Jiri Lochman.

The book is published by Black Swan Press and the Wetlands Conservation Society and can be ordered from Black Swan Press, Curtin University,

GPO Box U1987, Perth 6001, for \$20 plus \$3 postage. For further information contact Rod Giblett on 351 2544.

## Bridal creeper and watsonia proceedings

The proceedings of a bridal creeper symposium held at CALM, Como last October, incorporating proceedings from a workshop on watsonia in 1993, is now available from CALM and Greening WA for \$12.50. Editors of the proceedings are David Lamont, Patrick Pigott and Greg Keighery.

## Resources

A booklet on resources, programs and courses in Environmental Education has been produced by Greentech, the Department of Environmental Protection, Murdoch University and the Australian Association of Environmental Education. It's mainly aimed at schools, but is useful for others. It's available from Peter St Clair-Baker on 474 0365.

Australian Association for Environmental Education has produced an updated Environmental Contacts poster sponsored by the Keep Australia Beautiful Council. It is useful for the walls of community centres (or just your study). It's a quick easy guide to 30 contacts, programs and resources. For further information call Peter Dingle on 360 2569, Jane Rosser on 447 3317 or Peter St Clair-Baker on 474 0365.

There are a few *Community Resource Guides* left. These booklets contain contacts and resources on the environment, social justice and other community issues in the metropolitan area. They were produced by the Environment Centre of WA with funding from the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation. Most importantly, there will be an update sometime in the future and Rowena from the Environment Centre is looking to include any conservation groups that were left out of the current edition. Enquiries to Rowena Skinner on 227 7881 or ecwa@inet.net.au.

*Ecoplan News page 12*

*Ecoplan News*

is published by the

Department of Environmental Protection



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

POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERTH  
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6000

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

Printed on 100% recycled paper

DEP 1057-01096-900