



Algal bloom season

Kogolup Lake south and wetlands in Rockingham were the first to experience algal blooms this season.

Depending on weather patterns, the algal bloom season runs from October to March each year. This season's blooms began in early December. Algae and algal blooms are a natural part of ecosystems, however, excess nutrients have caused an increase in their frequency and intensity and this creates risks to health and threats to the natural balance of ecosystems.

Algal blooms in the upper Swan River were particularly persistent at the start of summer. The Swan River Trust (SRT) predicts more frequent algal blooms in Perth and Melville water due to heavy winter rains. Some blue-green algal blooms are potentially toxic.

Water and Rivers Commission spokesperson Jeff Kite said the risk of algal blooms in rivers and wetlands could be reduced by improving fertiliser use, reducing soil loss and buffering nutrients entering wetlands in stormwater or groundwater.

"One of the most important things community conservation groups can do is to look at options to reduce direct discharge into wetlands such as re-establishing fringing vegetation which filters nutrients and other pollutants before entering wetlands," Mr Kite said.

Dramatic growth of floating weeds azolla and lemna, expected in the Canning River above Kent Street Weir, will provide habitat for birds and insects and reduce the risk of algal blooms by using up nutrients and restricting light.

Seagrass build-up creates offensive odours and cause problems for boat moorings and propellers in South Perth and Mosman Park-Peppermint Grove foreshores and along the lower Canning Estuary.



Forest Crescent Primary school students monitoring water quality in the Canning River as part of the Ribbons of Blue program.

Research into the causes and cures of algal blooms is being done as part of the Swan Canning Cleanup Program. Nutrients have built-up in the river sediment over the last 100 years and it will take a long time to restore the balance.

The SRT believes that the only long-term solution is better catchment management including strategies such as improving fertiliser use and reducing soil loss. The community has a pivotal role.

One of the most important things that community conservation groups can do is to look at options to reduce direct discharge into wetlands.

Algal blooms should be reported to your local council and the Water and Rivers Commission (Michael Allen 278 0389).

In conjunction with the Health Department, the Commission will determine the health risk and warn the public accordingly.

General enquiries about algal blooms in the Swan and Canning rivers or Peel-Harvey Estuary should be directed to the SRT on 278 0400 or the Peel Inlet Management Authority on 535 3411.

Algal blooms can seriously effect wildlife. Botulism, a bacterial poisoning related to nutrient enrichment of wetlands, causes paralysis and death in water birds. The birds lose the use of their legs, wings, and neck and eventually drown or are eaten by predators.

Waterbird Conservation Group president, Joan Payne said there was a 50-80 per cent recovery rate if the birds were treated early.

If you would like to offer the group assistance or need advice on caring for sick birds call Joan on 371 1670.

"Management bodies such as local councils should take more responsibility," Ms Payne said.

"Botulism and algal blooms are just symptoms of poor management. It's getting very difficult to find volunteer help, so we need to put more pressure on the management bodies to act," she said.

"Problems often occur in the same places. We need to change management practices in the long term."

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) has a register of volunteers who look after sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. If you need help call the duty wildlife officer on 334 0224 (all hours).

A wildlife carers' list is also available. This booklet can help locate volunteers in your area with an interest in your particular wildlife problem. If you are interested in becoming a registered wildlife carer, CALM runs a basic training course.

Call 334 0333 and ask for Terry Hales.

Ecoplan Update

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



In contrast to the last year, this year's winter rains seemed to extend right through spring and now summer is finally upon us. Hopefully it's a good opportunity for groups to take a breather after a long winters work in the bushland, recharge the batteries, and consider next year's program. Or perhaps like many individuals within groups, there is a mad rush to get those grant applications in.

Summer will remain busy for Ecoplan. We recently held the Ecoplan "Great Southern" metropolitan bus tour looking at the issues facing bushland groups and how they are tackling them. More on that inside. Thanks to all the "tourists" whose energy gave much to a long day in the field. Thanks also to the hosts and presenters for each area we visited; Fremantle Council Bush Regenerator Mary Appleby at Samson Park, The Friends of Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre for putting on a great morning tea and in particular Denise Crosby and Jim Connolly who led that portion of the tour. Also Bob Goodale of the Rockingham Naturalist Club and Jeff Anderton of Port Kennedy Land Conservation District Committee. Many of those who participated were keen for

more such tours and this is something Ecoplan will pursue in 1997.

Congratulations are in order for all those finalists and of course the winners of the John Tonkin awards, see Congratulations to Tonkin winners inside for more details.

The City of Gosnells "Earth Fest" was held on Sunday 17 November. Many thanks to Unice Robinson who helped so much in organising the various community groups involved in the day. More than 15 groups associated with bushland were involved and Unice reports that attendance and interest in their displays was excellent. The Friends of Mary Carroll Park for instance managed to get more members for their committee and volunteers for workdays which is great.

The Save our Bushland Campaign sponsored by the Wildflower Society and the Urban Bushland Council held a seminar to promote a moratorium on land clearing on 2 November at UWA. An article about the seminar is on page 3.

Ocean Care Day probably suffered a little from the change in dates from Sunday 1 December to the following Sunday and attendance was probably a little less than

expected. Ecoplan and other groups such as the Friends of Bold Park, Friends of Marmion Marine Park and City Beach Primary School mounted displays to showcase what groups are doing coastal environments.

Finally, the Ecoplan end-of-year wind-up was held at Karakamia Sanctuary in Chidlow on Sunday 1 December. About 35 Ecoplan volunteers came along for the twilight picnic, drinks and cakes. As evening fell, manager Andre' Schmitz explained the history and objectives of Karakamia Sanctuary and then led us on a guided night-walk. Because the sanctuary has been able to exclude feral cats and dogs, natives animal populations such as the Woylie (Brush Tailed Bettong) and Quenda (Southern Brown Bandicoot) have expand rapidly. Plenty were seen throughout the walk. Thanks to Andre' for his hospitality and excellent commentary during the walk, which was enjoyed by all!

Note: Although Karakamia is not officially open to the public, small groups can go on a guided evening walk for \$5 per head. This is an excellent activity for a friends group looking for an outing.

Contact Andre' Schmitz on 572 3169.



Autumn Ecoplan

Forward your news, activities and Regional Reports for the Autumn Ecoplan News by 4 March 1997. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words. Thanks to all contributors! Please note Margo and Jon have changed their phone numbers. (see page 7)

Write to:

Ecoplan
Department of Environmental Protection
Westralia Square
141 St George's Tce
PERTH 6000

Email:

margo_o'byrne@environ.wa.gov.au
jon_elder@environ.wa.gov.au

Up-coming Ecoplan events

Ecoplan Training

An introduction to urban bushland course will be run by Ecoplan in February 1997. Issues covered in the course include flora and fauna of the Perth area, principles and practices of bush regeneration, how to set up a friends group and keep it going, how decisions are made at local and State government level.

This course is aimed at interested members of the public, members of new groups and interested members of friends groups who may wish to find out a little more how things work.

Course dates: Participants are encouraged to attend all four sessions on Tuesday 11 February, Tuesday 18 February and Tuesday 25 February. A field day in a local reserves on Saturday 22 February will be a component of the course.

Venue: Greening Western Australia, 1118 Hay Street, West Perth.

Seed Collecting Workshop.

9am - 1pm. Sunday 9 March Ellis Brook Valley

All you ever wanted to know about native seed collection with Margaret Robertson.

The Ecoplan Great Eastern Bus Tour.

8.30am - 5.30pm. Sunday 23rd March.

See the issues facing different bushland reserves in the eastern metropolitan area and how different groups are tackling them.

For more information and to register for any or all of these, call the Ecoplan Coordinators Jon Elder (265 3439) and Margo O'Byrne (265 3405).

Environmental Weeds Action Network - Annual General Meeting.

ALL WELCOME! Saturday 24th February, 1997 - Greening Western Australia, 1118 Hay St West Perth.

The Ecoplan Bus Tour of the Southwest

by Jon Elder

On Sunday 17 November 1996, 17 bushland carers took the Ecoplan bus tour of bushland groups in the South-West metropolitan region.

Despite clashing with triathalons, family 'fun walks' and the return of a yachting hero, which saw the meeting point in the city cordoned off, those participating found their way to the busport. The bus driver even ran a road block to get the day under way.

The first stop was Samson Park where Fremantle Council's bush regenerator, Mary Appleby outlined the issues facing the friends group as we moved through the reserve.

The next stop was the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre where the president of the friends of the centre Jim Connolly and education officer Denise Crosby discussed how they were tackling bushland care. Special thanks to the friends group for providing a great morning tea.

After a quick lunch near Lake Richmond the tour group was amazed by the undertakings of the Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah Naturalists' Club. Our host Bob Goodale outlined the management role the group has adopted for reserves in the area and plans for an education centre.

The last stop was Port Kennedy where Jeff Anderton discussed the Port Kennedy Land Conservation District Committee and the role the group has played in the management of the area. The highlight of the visit was a walk through the 1000 hectare Scientific Park and an inspection of the vermin proof fence that is currently under construction.

The conversation during the breaks and on the bus was fast and furious as participants discussed what they had seen. Feedback from the group suggested more tours in the future and possible areas to visit next time. Ecoplan is keen to pursue this in the new year.

The day was a great success thanks to all those involved, in particular the hosts and presenters whose enthusiasm for "their patch" contributed so much to the tour.

Congratulation to Tonkin winners

Congratulations to the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park (FYRP) who scooped the Community Group Award in the 1996 John Tonkin Greening Awards. FYRP impressed the judges by "achieving far more than its small membership would suggest, by involving a huge number of other organisations" and "creating a formidable network". Friends of Ellis Brook Valley and the Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the WA Naturalists' Club received special commendations and the Toodyay Naturalists' Club and Roleystone Dieback Group were worthy finalists.

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club won the Bushland Conservation Award. FYRP, Port Kennedy LCDC and Diane Harwood were finalists in this category. Diane won the Individual Endeavour Award for her bush regeneration work in Denmark.

Western Power received the Business Award for their greening challenge of planting over a million trees on farms by the turn of the century. Congratulations to all the other winners and finalists.

Congratulations to Barbara Churchward winner of the 1996 Bessie Rischbieth Award and Frazer Guild from the Sunday Times winner of the 1996 Peter Hunt Award for Excellence in Environmental Journalism presented by the Conservation Council of WA.

Barbara, an environmental activist for 30 years, has been involved in a range of conservation issues in WA including forests, wetlands, marine and coastal issues and World Heritage listing. She provided vital leadership when the conservation movement was going through difficult times in the 1980s. Frazer Guild has had a personal commitment to reporting environment issues over many years.

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

Seminar sparks clearing debate

The first seminar in the Wildflower Society of WA and Urban Bushland Council Save our Bushland campaign was held on November 2. An impressive range of speakers entertained and provoked useful debate on the merits of declaring a moratorium on land clearing in this state. Issues included compensation for farmers and the problems of protecting locally significant bushland.

Campaign coordinator James Duggie said the current state of bushland clearing in this state was at crisis level and called for community action and a moratorium on clearing until appropriate legislation could be put in place. Another seminar is planned to look at solutions and community strategies. For further information about the campaign call 383 7979.



Another year's work for ATCV

In 1996, more than 200 willing workers from the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) were involved in 33 work days, mainly on weekends. Funding from Ecoplan and local councils enabled ATCV teams to help 15 urban bushland friends groups with tasks such as weeding and planting.

Many more exciting projects are planned for 1997 in urban and rural areas. ATCV sends teams of volunteers all over the state on projects such as biological surveys, fencing of remnant vegetation, walk trail construction and coastal rehabilitation. If you would like to be involved call ATCV on 474 3445.

Central Region

South Perth Bushlands

by John Feldman, City of South Perth Environment Association (COSPEA)

Cheryl Dibb and her supporters have encouraged submissions to the South Perth Foreshore Management Plan to support the proposed tree planting program and retention of existing mature flooded gums. This is to counter the submissions from some residents in the area who want the tree planting program reduced or stopped and some existing trees removed to enhance their views across Perth Water to the city.

John Feldman has cleared, mounded the soil and applied mulch around the base of about 250 surviving *Acacia saligna* seedlings in the Milyu Nature Reserve, the river foreshore between the Narrows Bridge and Como jetty. These seedlings were planted in May by children from South Perth, St Columba and Wesley Primary Schools to colonise the area before other species such as sheoak and melaleuca are planted on their leeward side. Cooperation between the City of South Perth and CALM has enabled the seedlings to be watered about once a fortnight during the summer.

Andrew Thomson has continued to remove weeds from the melaleuca and banksia woodland in the Goss Avenue bushland, Manning. Weed removal has created firebreaks along existing paths. Weeds have also been removed at the base of mature trees. The City of South Perth have agreed to mow firebreaks around the perimeter of the bushland, rather than ploughing which tends to encourage weed growth. These efforts should prevent disastrous summer bushfires like the one that occurred two years ago.

For further information contact John on 368 3739 (w) or 450 5661 (a/h).

Aquinas students kept busy

Students from Aquinas College have planted about 400 salt sheoaks near the shoreline around Aquinas Bay on the Canning River. Coordinator Jan King has overseen the design and construction of three information signs detailing the flora and fauna values in the area and rehabilitation work in progress. One sign will be erected on the north side of Mount Henry Bridge and the other two near the shoreline of Aquinas Bay this summer.

Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre

Denise Crosby, education officer, has been busy developing and testing new lesson plans at the centre. Visitors have included primary and secondary students, Workskills and LEAP project participants, community

groups and delegates from the Intecol international wetlands conference. For further information on educational activities call Denise on 417 8460.

With the help of volunteers from the centre and others, the landcare coordinator has overseen the planting of more than 700 local species. Plastic tree guards have been erected and a weekly watering program is in place for the summer months. For further information call Rex Sallur on 417 8460.

Smoked water has been applied to a half hectare plot in the banksia woodland to simulate native seed germination with the expert assistance of Kings Park researchers, some useful and interesting discoveries have been made.

The centre's friends group who removed pink gladioli last spring as part of an ongoing program were pleased to see that there were less weeds to tackle than in previous years. The group recently received a community conservation grant for the eradication of victorian tea tree from the Bibra and North Lake reserves.

Quarterly bird counts continue at North, Bibra and South lakes. Participants on regular weekly walks have also noted birds at the lakes.

For further information contact Jim Connolly on 417 7318.

North West Region

Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park

by Laurie Boylan

At the annual general meeting in late October we were very entertained by a wonderful presentation on wetlands by Dr Vic Semeniuk. He talked to us about wetland formation, the significance of the Yellagonga wetlands and the importance of ecological monitoring.

A new committee was voted in, with Laurie Boylan as the chair. The previous committee was thanked for their wonderful efforts and the new committee have taken up the challenge for the coming year. Special thanks to Cate Tauss who resigned as president, but will continue in her role as bush regeneration coordinator.

We are very pleased that the nursery is now back to full production. I'm sure our very capable nursery coordinator, Jackie Harvey, will be kept busy over the next few months.

The FYRP are taking part in a pilot project with the Ministry of Justice. Important conservation work in the park will be carried out by participants in the community work order program and supervised by members of the friends group.

The Chain of Diamonds project is still operating in the park and despite a few setbacks, is still working well.

FYRP were delighted to be selected as the winner of the John Tonkin Greening Award for community groups. We had a wonderful afternoon tea at government house and had the opportunity to meet with other finalists. Many thanks to Greening Western Australia.

For further information contact Laurie Boylan on 409 1409

Still fighting for Burns Beach

The Quinns Rock Environment Group are still fighting to save Burns Beach bushland from subdivision. They put up a sign near the site declaring its value and the council asked for it to be taken down after a complaint.

"Developers have signs all the way down Marmion Avenue, but apparently we can't put up one sign calling for some bushland to be saved," a group spokesperson said.

A decision will be made by the EPA and Environment Minister soon. The group has produced a flier on the value of Burns Beach and what can be done to save the bushland.

We will be collecting seeds over summer including wattle, davesia, native wisteria and basketbush. Christmas tree blossoms are particularly spectacular in the area this time of year.

For further information call David Wake on 305 1591, Karyn Shaw on 305 1405 or Renata Zelina on 305 9382.

Friends of Marmion Marine Park

Hillarys Marina and Mangles Bay, Rockingham were targeted for a massive coastal clean-up organised by the Australian Marine Conservation Society (WA) last spring. In one morning 319kg of rubbish was collected from a small area at Hillarys. A scuba team collected 99kg along one section of the board walk to Underwater World. Items collected included a car stereo, witches hats, chairs, fishing rods and nets.

Hundreds participated in beach clean-ups and other activities to mark Ocean Care Day in December. The group's popular touch pool activities will continue this summer.

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

Hills Region

Eastern Hills groups

By Jenny Johnson

Last winter, the Hovea Residents and Ratepayers Association planted more than 9000 plants along Jane Brook in Hovea and Parkerville. These trees and shrubs have benefited from the spring and summer rain.

Survival rates are high. The continuing damp weather has disrupted our watsonia control program, but hand pulling remains an option.

As soon as the warm weather strikes our group, and no doubt others, will head for the shade and wait out the summer. Some of the hardy seed gatherers are waiting for the humidity levels to drop so that ripe seeds are ready for harvest.

The group has applied for grants from Greening WA/Alcoa and the community conservation grants from the state government to provide wetland plants along the exposed mud flats of Jane Brook. These plants would control erosion, retard weed growth, strip nutrients and provide habitat for local fauna.

Friends of Rycroft Road Reserve (not officially named as yet) are working on their management plan and continuing rubbish removal and weed control with assistance from the Mundaring Shire. This all band of volunteers is seeking helpers to preserve this valuable bushland. Ring Laurie on 298 8662 if you can help.

Bugle Tree Creek Society is working with the Mundaring Shire to improve the health of the creek by redirecting runoff from the roads. Some verge work carried out by the Water Corporation may cause problems if not repaired quickly.

For further information call Jenny Johnson on 295 4467.

Quenda Creek, Gooseberry Hill

by Patsy Hill, Nature Reserves Preservation Group

The winter planting of sedges and shrubs has been most rewarding and the removal of lovegrass has reduced the fire risk. We are pleased to report that the Minister for Environment granted us funds to undertake a management plan for the Quenda Creek Reserves so we are keen to get relevant authorities and members of the community together on this. We hope that the draft report will be out in early in the new year. The group is finding a draft of Guidelines for Bushland- Wetland Management Plans supplied by Ecoplan very useful.

For further information call Patsy on 257 1379.

South East Region

Success for Brixton Street Wetlands

The Ministry for Planning has declared the Brixton Street Wetlands in Kenwick a planning control area. This places a moratorium on development of the wetlands for up to five years pending reservation, acquisition and zoning changes. The long term aim is to create a

nature reserve. Congratulations to Regina Drummond and the Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands for their long term commitment to the area.

Southern Creek Rehabilitation

The last 300m of Southernwood Creek in Gosnells is being transformed from a badly eroded drain to a living stream to provide habitat for native wildlife and strip nutrients entering the creek. The Swan River Trust (SRT), Gosnells Senior High School, Friends of Canning River Environs, the City of Gosnells, local community members Unice Robinson and Bert Cruickshank and former MP Judith Watson are all involved in the project. The City of Gosnells has committed \$4000 for a consultant to prepare a rehabilitation plan and SRT has committed \$2500 to implement the plan as part of their Integrated Catchment Management activities in the Southern River-Wungong Brook Catchment.

The Upper Canning / Southern-Wungong Rivers Catchment team want to know more about what mammals, lizards, insects and birds are found in the catchment.

If you can help call Nicole Siemon on 278 0400.

Ellen Brook Integrated Catchment Group (EBICG)

EBICG was formed last year to work towards addressing the environmental problems in Ellen Brook and develop a catchment management plan for the area. EBICG includes representatives from three shires, four state agencies, two LCDCs, the Ellen Brook Conservation Group, the Chattering Ratepayers Association and other community members.

Projects undertaken so far include ongoing water quality monitoring, grant application workshops, a catchment tour and a land use map for the catchment. This year the group will be working on building awareness of issues in the catchment and developing a draft management plan.

Bennett Brook Catchment Group (BBCG)

BBCG has received \$19,000 from the National Landcare Program and \$2600 from Waterwatch to coordinate community action in the catchment. A part-time coordinator will be employed.

Bennett Brook adjoins the Swan River near Bassendean. The 112km² catchment extends across the Shire of Swan and includes small areas in the Bassendean, Bayswater, Stirling and Wanneroo councils. It includes System 6 wetlands and part of the catchment area for the Gngangara water mound.

For further information on catchment groups in the Swan Region contact Barbara Jones or Mary Gray at Swan Catchment Centre on 221 3840.

South West Region

Fun day for new Palmyra friends group

The Palmyra Community Association held it's third annual neighbourhood day last October. The focus of the day was on Palmyra's only piece of remnant bushland, The Bill Sheehy Reserve on the corner of Leach Highway and Stock Road, Palmyra. Guest speakers, activities, bushwalks and talks entertained guests. A friends group for the reserve is being formed and David Piggott has developed a proposal for community based management of the reserve. The group are compiling a register of those interested in seed collecting over summer and planting and weeding working bees for later in the year.

For further information call David Piggott on 339 5760 or Judith Whittle on 339 2434.

Bunbury Region

Bunbury groups succeed with support

by Bernhard Bischoff

Recently the South-West Environment Centre (SWEC) in Bunbury received a landcare grant to prepare a report on The State of the Southern Bunbury Wildlife Corridor. This is an area of remnant vegetation between 600 and 800 hectares, stretching seven kilometres from the ocean to the Preston River. Bernhard Bischoff, who has lobbied for Bunbury's urban bushland for many years will be project consultant. There are almost 500 plant species in the corridor and it's important that it remains a complete and continuous transect.

Hopefully the report will persuade the Bunbury City Council and the State Government to incorporate a bushland corridor that is continuous and wide enough to ensure its long-term viability into the new Bunbury town plan due to be released for public comment soon.

The corridor attracted the attention of Ecoplan and the WA Wildflower Society in 1994 when a group of enthusiastic and experienced members of the society lead by Bronwen Keighery, under the auspices of Ecoplan, surveyed the area. It is very doubtful that we would have made such progress without their efforts. A field herbarium and extensive plant list were compiled. The SWEC and the Bunbury Naturalists Club members often feel somewhat isolated in Bunbury and were most grateful for this support.

For further information contact Bernhard on 097 914 113.

Group Profile

Name of Group:

Hovea Residents and Ratepayers Association Incorporated

No. of members: 66

Founded: 1986

Brief aims of the group and main activities:

Our group is involved in bushland restoration, rubbish removal and increasing public awareness of local bushland. We particularly want to get the message across to the community that bushland should not be fragmented. Some groups members are involved in the Mundaring Shire Integrated Catchment Management Plan and fight to preserve the area close to streams as public open space. (The group's current activities are included in the Hills section of the regional reports.)

Bushland area(s) of interest:

System 6 reserve M22, bushland which straddles Brooking Road in Hovea and M23, the route of the old railway line from Perth to Kalgoorlie. M22, the bridal trail, is used by horses, bush bikes and walkers. Our group looks after the section in Parkerville and Hovea to the border of John Forrest National Park.

What's special about this bushland?

M22 includes relatively intact jarrah/wandoo/banksia/marri woodland. It's the biggest bush reserve in the area apart from John Forrest National Park and provides a linking corridor within the Darling Range Regional Park. Our group is removing exotics and planting locals in an old gravel pit in the south-end of the bushland.

M23 — a very important corridor which contains granite outcrops and includes part of Jane Brook, is very degraded in areas. The group has been restoring the bush for five years. This year we planted about 9000 shrubs, understorey plants and trees.

Special qualities about your group:

Many members are retired or semi-retired, but still very active and strongly committed to conservation. Activities have involved many local community groups such as the Parkerville Primary School, Mundaring Lions, local scouts and adventurers and Midland TAFE horticultural students. A number of group members are also members of the Parkerville Volunteer Fire Brigade and have contributed to developing fire control techniques



complimentary to bushland conservation.

Most successful activity or work day?

ATCV work day in June 1996 when 43 people worked all day in Falls Park (M23).

Key goals for 1997?

To revegetate the wetland areas along Jane Brook in M23 where watsonia has recently been removed. The vegetation will stabilise banks and strip nutrients. We hope to obtain grants so that we can buy wetland plants.

Contacts:

Jenny Johnson 295 4467
Herbie Titelius 298 8218
c/o PO Box 107, GLEN FORREST
6071

Ecoplan Econotes: Seed collecting

You can learn much more about your bushland plants from seed collecting and it's one of the few tasks that can be done over the hot summer months. Why not collect a few seeds for your own garden as well as the bushland?

To collect seeds from parks and reserves you must first obtain a licence from the Department of Conservation and Land Management and seek permission from the body in charge of the reserve. Contact the Flora Administration Officer at CALM regarding licences on 334 0440.

A good crop of seed usually follows heavy flowering, but this can be upset by sustained cold windy weather or sudden drought. Experienced seed collectors can predict when there will be a good crop of ripe seeds and organise seed-collecting days accordingly. Heat waves or bursts of hot windy weather can accelerate ripening in some species such as wattles.

Usually mature fruits must first be dried to release seeds. Seeds can then be air-dried by thinly spreading them on black plastic or tarpaulin and exposing them to the sun in a well ventilated shed, glasshouse or drying room. In hot weather drying takes only a few days. Make sure to extract all of the seed as the seeds at the bottom of the capsule are often the most fertile.

Seed should be sieved through wire mesh to remove impurities, and stored in air tight jars in a dry, dark, cool (10-25C) place. They can last for years, but seeds are most viable when fresh. Don't forget to label the jars with the species name, collection date and location.

The following references contain detailed information about seed collection. They can be borrowed from the Ecoplan library:

- Managing Perth's Bushland. Published by Greening Western Australia, 1995.
- Growing Understorey Seed, by Joanna

Seabrook, published, GWA 1994.

- Germination of Australian Native Plant Seed by Peter J Langkamp, published by Inkata Press 1987.
- How to Collect Native Tree Seed Easily pamphlet, published by Greening Western Australia, 1991 and available from GWA on 481 2188.
- Native Seed Collection and Storage CALM information sheet No. 5-87 and available from CALM on 334 0437.

A "hands-on" workshop on seed collecting will be held on Sunday 9 March from 9am to 1pm at Ellis Brook Valley. For further details of booking please ring Jon Elder (09) 265 3439 or Margo O'Byrne (09) 265 3405.



What's On



January

- 15 Wednesday 7-9pm 'Nightshift' bush walk at the Hills forest with CALM rangers. Other dates include 29 Jan, 12 and 26 Feb, 12 and 26 March. Other evening activities and entertainment during summer. Call 295 3247.
- 16 Thursday Monthly Waterbird Conservation Group meeting. Call 398 6417.
- 18 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 387 6079.
- 18 Saturday 8-9am Monthly nature walk at Lake Gwelup with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Call Betty 444 5640.
- 19 Sunday 8-9.30pm CALM's 'Starry Starry Night' activity. Look at the solar system through telescopes at the Perth Observatory. Other dates include 7 and 14 Feb and 14 March. Other CALM evening activities and entertainment during summer. Call 295 3247.

February

- 1 Saturday 8.30am-noon Project morning at Lake Richmond with The Naturalists' Club. Bring refreshments, gloves, tools. Meet at the corner of Lake St and Safety Bay Rd, Rockingham. Call Bob Goodale 527 4289.
- 5 Wednesday Murdoch Branch of the WA Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Robert Powell on Growing Locals. Murdoch University, Science and Computing Building. Call Diane Matthews 457 2896.
- 8 Saturday 7pm-9pm 'Aboriginal Dreaming' at CALM Hills forest. Aboriginal music, dance and stories. Other dates include 18 and 24 Jan, 22 Feb, 8 and 22 March. Other evening activities and entertainment during summer. Call 295 3247.
- 12 Wednesday Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and speaker on marine topic. Call Bernie Masters 096 272 474.
- 15 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 387 6079.
- 15 Saturday 8-9am Monthly nature walk at Lake Gwelup with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Call Betty 444 5640.
- 21 Friday 7.30pm Kwinana/Rockingham/ Mandurah Naturalists' Club meeting and talk Rushes and Sedges. Rockingham Beach Primary School, Bay View St, Rockingham. Call Diana Hitchin 527 1961.
- 22 Saturday 2 pm AGM Environmental Weeds Action Network. Guest speaker John Dodd. Plant Introductions and the Law. Greening Australia 1118 Hay St West Perth. Call Joanna Seabrook 299 6816.

March

- 1 Saturday 6.30am Breakfast with the Birds, early morning bird walk at Bibra Lake /North Lake and breakfast at Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre. Call and bookings Denise 417 8460.
- 1 Saturday 8.30am-noon Project morning at Lake Richmond with The Naturalists' Club. Constructing new board walk. Bring weather protection, refreshments, gloves, tools. Meet at the corner of Lake St and Safety Bay Rd, Rockingham. Call Bob Goodale 527 4289.
- 1 Saturday - 3 Monday WA Naturalists' Club excursion to Yunderup Field Station. Call Gordon Elliott 272 1674.
- 7 Friday 7.30pm WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Terry Houston, Entomologist in Peru at the Lecture Theatre, University Extension, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call Alan Notley 306 1832.
- 14 Friday and 15 Saturday Family Sleepover at Herdsman Lake, Life on the Beach from 5pm Friday. Call 387 6079.
- 15 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 387 6079.
- 15 Saturday 7.30-9.30pm 'Moonlight Meandering' bushwalk and story telling at CALM Hills forest. Also 28 February. Other evening activities and entertainment during summer. Call 295 3247.
- 21 Friday 7.30pm Kwinana/Rockingham/ Mandurah Naturalists' Club meeting and Threatened species unit talk on Thrombolites. Rockingham Beach Primary School, Bay View St, Rockingham. Call Diana Hitchin 527 1961.
- 22 Saturday 8am Kwinana/Rockingham/ Mandurah Naturalists' Club fun walk from the marine park to city centre. Bring lunch, weather protection and the family. Call Bob Goodale 527 4289.
- 22 Saturday 2.30pm Gould League Excursion to Alfred Cove. Call 387 6079.
- 27 Thursday Nursery Industry Association of Australia national conference begins. Call Jill Bishop 325 8252.
- 28 Friday - 31 Monday WA Naturalists' Club excursion to Bernerbinmah station, Mt-Magnet. Call D Edinger 334 0559(w).

April

- 5 Saturday 8.30am-noon Project morning at Karnup Nature Reserve with The Naturalists' Club. Bring weather protection, refreshments, gloves, tools. Meet at the corner of Karnup Rd and Baldvis Road, Baldvis. Call Don Shepherd 592 1821.

Please send us your activities in the metropolitan and Bunbury areas by 4 March 1997 for Autumn Ecoplan News.

Ecoplan has moved !!!!

The community involvement co-ordinators for Ecoplan are now located on the 4th floor, Westralia Square.
New telephone numbers are Margo O'Byrne 265 3405 and Jon Elder 265 3439

Ecoplan contacts

☐ Contact numbers:

Ecoplan community involvement co-ordinators

Margo O'Byrne ☎ 265 3405
Jon Elder ☎ 265 3439

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 ☎ 222 7000
Anyone interested

North-West Region
Laurie Boyland ☎ 409 1409

Central Region
Anyone interested ☎ 222 7000

Eastern Hills Region
Jenny Johnson ☎ 295 4467

Resources

Video gift for dedication

Send in a photo and caption of your group member(s) involved in wetland, river or catchment restoration, such as weeding bushland or planting local trees, and you can win a copy of the new video 'Living with Streams' by the Swan River Trust and Water and Rivers Commission. Send photos to Tim Larcombe, Swan River Trust, PO Box 6740, Hay Street East, East Perth 6892. For further information call Tim on 278 0400.

Making sense of water monitoring

Initiated by the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, a new booklet Understanding Water Quality on the Swan Coastal Plain can help those who know how to measure water quality indicators but need some information on making sense of their data. For a copy call Tim 278 0400.

Wetland Inventory

Published by the Water and Rivers Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection, Wetlands Mapping Classification and Evaluation is a comprehensive inventory of the extent, condition and value of all wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain. It is for sale at the Water and Rivers Commission and has been distributed to libraries, government authorities and some community groups. The Water and Rivers

Commission received a special commendation in the government section of the 1996 John Tonkin Greening Awards for their work on wetland mapping. Copies are available at a cost of \$40 from Mike Allen on 278 0389.

Saving Urban Trees

The Tree Society's new booklet So You Want to Save That Tree - A Guide to Urban Tree Protection explains how to save trees when time is short and how to protect trees in the long-term before a threat appears. The booklet was funded by the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation. Copies are available by phoning 370 2201.

Dieback Review

Review of Dieback in Western Australia: A Report to the Western Australian Minister for the Environment is available from the Environment Minister's office on 421 7777.

Gordon Reid Foundation Grants

There is now no closing date for applying for grants from the environmental funding arm of the Lotteries Commission, the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation. Applications for grants of up to \$5000 will continue to be assessed until the year's budget allocation is exhausted. For a funding policy and

application guide telephone 322 1850 or write to Mr M Crouch, Executive Officer, Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation, Lotteries Commission, PO Box 6725, EAST PERTH, 6892. The foundation's home page address is: <http://www.wt.com.au/~crouch>.

Churchill Fellowships

Churchill Fellowships are awarded annually to those who have achieved in their field and wish to travel overseas to gain experience and knowledge which can benefit the Australian community. No specific qualifications are required. An average award of \$15,000 will cover living expenses and fares. For an information booklet and application form send a self-addressed envelope to:

Application Forms,
The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust,
218 Northborne Avenue, Braddon ACT 2612.

Applications close February 28, 1997.

Traineeships

Grants are available to employers to take on trainees for a 12-month period, much like an apprenticeship, in the areas of land conservation, restoration and waste management. Employers who take on a trainee will receive a grant of \$1250. Employees spend 39 weeks on the job and 13 weeks in off-the-job training. For details contact traineeship coordinator Anne Birt on 227 8000.

Ecoplan News
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NATIONAL LANDCARE MONTH - 1997

March is National Landcare Month and the theme for this year is **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**. In Western Australia, this theme will be complemented by an emphasis on the promotion of salinity action and effective water management.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR LANDCARE MONTH

Date	Event	Contact
27 February	Launch of Landcare Month as a media event Launch of State Landcare Awards	Monica Durcan Ph: (09) 291 8249
7-8 March	Wagin Woolarama	
9 March	Seed Collecting Workshop with Ecoplan	DEP Margo O'Byrne or Jon Elder Ph: 222 7000
15-16 March	Fairbridge Landcare Fun Days	Gary Heady, Pinjarra Community Catchment Centre Ph: (09) 531 1788
17 March	Tour of Ron Watkin's Property - Frankland River	Gaye Chambers, Land Management Society Ph: (09) 450 6862
18-21 March	WA Farmers Federation Golden Jubilee Conference and Trade Fair at Ferndale	Colin Mann WAFF Ph: (09) 325 2933
22 March	Men of the Trees Field Day at Hazelmere	Carol Lewis Ph: (09) 250 1888
23 March	Bus Tour of Urban Friends of Bushland Groups	DEP Margo O'Byrne or Jon Elder Ph: 222 7000
29 March	"Save the Earth" gig at City Farm	Rosanne Geddes, City Farm Ph: (09) 325 7229
Every Thursday evening in March	Early evening talk by experts on various Landcare related topics at City Farm	Rosanne Geddes City Farm Ph: (09) 325 7229

For further information on National Landcare Month ...Ring Monica Durcan on (09) 291 8249