



Ecoplan training in demand



A group of people attending the Ecoplan, Great Eastern Bus Tour.

A dramatic increase in the number of people wanting to do Ecoplan courses and become bushland volunteers shows that there's a rapidly growing community interest in urban bushland.

The Ecoplan Introductory Training Sessions helps conservation groups and individuals get involved in the protection and management of urban bushland.

Over 60 people applied to do the Training Sessions in February and some unfortunately had to be turned away because the venue was full.

Ecoplan presenter John Dell of the WA Museum, said he was pleasantly surprised by the many new faces.

"There were so many people doing the course who were new to the local long term conservation movement," he said.

"The great enthusiasm of the participants was a highlight for me. It shows that there is a strong and rapidly growing local awareness and interest in bushlands in the community. I think even five years ago not nearly as many people would have interested in such a course."

Ecoplan coordinator Jon Elder said it was wonderful to see an increase in young people, such as university and school

leavers who wanted to make a difference in their environment.

"University students, particularly those studying environmental and related fields, were keen to get hands on experience in the bushland," he said.

Ecoplan courses cover local flora and fauna, the role of State and local government in bushland protection, practical information on bush regeneration and other tips, such as forming groups and keeping them going.

"Presentations on flora and fauna of the Swan Coastal Plain by John Dell and Department of Environmental Protection contract botanist Bronwyn Keighery, were not only informative, they kept the audience totally enthralled," Mr Elder said.

"We are also lucky that there are now many very experienced volunteers in Perth who are willing to share their experiences in these sessions."

Brett Tizard, Jenny Johnson and Laurie Boylan presented practical aspects of bush care and how these groups are tackling the issues.

Members of several new bushland friends groups attended the course. Leonie McRae is the vice chairperson of the

Friends of Talbot Road Reserve which was formed last December.

"We are at the beginning of a long learning curve and the training course was the best place to start," she said.

"We began by rubbish collecting in the reserve and we are now looking at bush regeneration and other activities.

"The course helped us learn to how pace ourselves, how to access appropriate resources and funding, how to network within the community and what issues we might face in the future.

"As beginners we were very grateful that everyone was so willing to share information with us."

Howard MacCallum and daughter Catherine have been involved in the Friends of Blue Gum Lake in Melville since they moved to the area several years ago. They found the course very helpful.

continued on p.3

1997 Ecoplan/ATCV Bushland Care Days

Ecoplan will again be organising the very successful Bushland Care Day program over the following months. Like previous years, Ecoplan is contracting the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers to work alongside friends groups and their workdays and busy bees. One exciting aspect is the number of local governments who contract the ATCV to work extra days alongside groups within their area, or carry out larger work programs in other bush reserves.

If you are interested in your group becoming involved, there may still be some Ecoplan sponsored ATCV days available so contact Jon Elder on 265 3439.

Ecoplan Update

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



It has been "all the go" within Ecoplan over the past few months. There seems to be a real surge in interest in bushland, particularly with new friends groups forming. Some of the new groups include the Friends of Falls Rd, Talbot Rd, Hollywood and Bob Blackburn Reserves. Best of luck to all these groups in their endeavours in the future.

Increasing interest in bushland issues is also highlighted by the numbers attending the recent Ecoplan Introductory Training Sessions, over 50 participants, an Ecoplan record!

Thanks to all those attending who made the three evenings at Greening Western Australia and a field trip to Shenton Bushland so enjoyable. The feedback we received which was extremely positive and will help us plan for even better training sessions.

Ecoplan is very lucky in that there are so many wonderful people working within the bushland 'network' that can give presentations at sessions such as these. Thanks to Department of Environmental Protection Contract Botanist Bronwyn Keighery, WA Museum's Senior Technical Officer John Dell, City of

Gosnells Horticultural Officer Wayne Van-Lieven and Bush Regenerator John Robertson who gave fantastic and informative talks. Thanks also to Jenny Johnson (Hovea Ratepayers Association), Brett Tizard (Armadale Settlers Common) and Laurie Boylan (Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park) who also gave great talks from the community volunteer perspective. On an interesting note both Laurie and Brett attended some of the first Ecoplan Training Sessions as participants.

On Sunday 9th March, Margaret Robinson assisted by Heather Bowler (both of the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley) ran an excellent Ecoplan Seed Collecting Workshop in Ellis Brook Valley. The day was enjoyed by over twenty people and again unfortunately we had to turn people away. This highlighted the calibre of people Ecoplan is lucky enough to have available for such workshops.

The Ecoplan "Great Eastern Bus Tour" set out on Sunday 23 March to look at the issues facing groups working in bushland in the eastern side of the coastal plain and scarp and how they are tackling them. Many thanks to the

"hosts" of each bushland site visited, Jan King of Aquinas college, Elizabeth Buters of Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands, Brett Tizard of the Armadale Settlers Common and Kim Sarti of the Bungendore park Management Committee.

Like the previous bus tour the conversation between sites and in the breaks was fast and furious and many ideas were shared. The joke of the day was Kim Sarti recollecting the activities of the Bungendore Park Management Committee being misquoted in the local paper, a tree mortality study was quoted as; "...a tree morality study..." One can only guess what happened to the amoral trees, or possibly these were considered introduced species.

Finally happy travels goes to one Margo O'Byrne who is off on long service leave until the middle of August. We hope you enjoy the break which is well deserved. Ecoplan will be downsized a little in the meantime and I'll try to my best on two days a week; Mondays and Tuesdays if you need to contact Ecoplan, otherwise the operators will take your calls and I'll return them as soon as possible.

Autumn Ecoplan

Forward your news, activities and Regional Reports for the Winter *Ecoplan News* by 3 June 1997. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words. Let us know what you would like to see in your newsletter. Thanks to all contributors!

Margo is on long service leave until the middle of August. Enjoy Europe Margo!

Write to:
Ecoplan
Department of Environmental Protection
4th Floor Westralia Square
141 St George's Tce
PERTH 6000

Email:
jon_elder@ environ.wa.gov.au



Tracking bird movements in the suburbs

A workshop was held in March to discuss the coordination of bird studies in the Kings Park/Bold Park area in the western suburbs. Concerns had been raised by Harry Recher, who built on studies in Kings Park by Vincent Serventy going back to the 1920s. He found that several bird species had declined and three (the scarlet robin, splendid wren and yellow breasted robin) were now locally extinct in Kings Park.

The workshop focused on building on existing studies and initiating new studies to learn more about the movement of birds along bush corridors, along the river, the coast and between remnant bush and bush gardens. With this information it is hoped that decline of bird species can be avoided.

It was decided that there would be a particular emphasis on the western suburbs in the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU) garden birds study. The Mount Claremont Bird Banding Project will expand its scope to include a site at Kings Park, and perhaps other bushlands at when birds are abundant. A network of observation sites where regular simultaneous counts would be conducted on bird species, numbers and movements is envisaged.

It is hoped that land managers, researchers and 'friends' groups will become involved in various projects. Volunteers will be needed and information on how to get involved will be available soon. The project may expand to others urban areas. For further information call Ray Wills on 480 3623.

continued from p.1

"There has recently been a bushfire on the southeast side of Blue Gum Lake and it really needs some looking after," Catherine said.

"Now I have much more background knowledge on bush regeneration that I can bring to the group and I hope to get involved more in regeneration in the future.

"The field trip on the Saturday to Shenton Bushland was particularly useful. We got to see bushland in good condition and compare it with more degraded areas."

Catherine is studying marine science at Murdoch University, she and her father are both interested in broadening their knowledge of environmental issues.

Mr Elder said that those who missed out on the training sessions have been placed on the EcoPlan mailing list which will keep people informed about future courses and opportunities.

Smogbusters

Federal government funding for Smogbusters, a Conservation Council of WA project to raise awareness and promote action for cleaner air and sustainable transport, has run out. It is hoped that funds can be obtained from elsewhere to keep the initiative going. If you would like to continue to be a part of community action on these issues keep in contact with the Conservation Council on 220 0652.

Swanbourne management plan welcomed

Early this year the Nedlands City Council adopted the Allen Park and Environs Management Plan. The plan recommends that the 8.5 ha of national trust listed bushland in Swanbourne including part of Allen Park, Melon Hill (owned by the army) and Wood Sayer Street walkways has regional significance and recommends several areas be rezoned from urban to parks and recreation. Bush regeneration is part of a five year plan. The bush itself includes corridors and vegetation types from the coast to remnant tuart, marri, jarrah and peppermint woodland. The plan was welcomed by Friends of Allen Park.

The management plan was written by Ecoscape environmental consultants in liaison with the council's parks and gardens with the help of a panel which included representatives of community and sporting groups, and the army.



Staff support for catchment centre

The Swan Catchment Centre has been boosted by the appointment of a manager, Peter Nash, acting network coordinator, Caroline Seal and promotions officer, Tony Whitbread. Tony is employed half time and is available to give advice to community groups on how to go about publicising activities and events.

Caroline Seal is developing networks and providing support mainly to groups involved in Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) across the Swan Catchment (from Gingin to Serpentine and the hills).

Mary Gray is helping groups plan, set goals and put ICM into practice. Barbara Jones provides administrative support for some of the bigger groups in the catchment and takes care of the facilities at the centre.

Funding for the next phase of the Swan Avon ICM regional initiative has been applied for from the Natural Heritage Trust. This regional initiative seeks to coordinate and support activities by local government, community groups and State Government agencies across the catchment.

Advice on foreshore or catchment management and resources such as computing (including internet access), meeting rooms, photocopiers, faxes and a library are available at the centre. Call Barbara to book meeting rooms.

To contact the centre call 221 3840 or drop into 108 Adelaide Tce, East Perth. You can also visit the Swan-Avon web site at <http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon> or email the centre on swancc@wrc.wa.gov.au.

Weeds network news

John Dodd gave a presentation on exotic plant introductions and the law at the first AGM of the Environmental Weeds Action Network (Inc) in February. One of the interesting aspects of his talk was statistics he quoted from a 1996 CSIRO NIRN report as follows: *During the period from 1971 to 1995 among the introduced plants that became problem weeds, 65% were introduced for ornamental use in horticulture, 7% were introduced for agricultural purposes and the most probable reason for the introduction of 20% could not be determined.*

There was a demonstration of weed burner at the meeting and the network intend to research whether it might be a useful tool to use in urban bushland. The network have produced an informative pamphlet entitled *Let's Weed Australia*. For further information contact Johanna Seabrook on 299 6816.

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.

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

Central Region

Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre

Centre Landcare officer Rex Sallur is heavily involved in maintaining over 10,000 young trees in the Bibra Lake Reserve and at the nearby Australian Paper Plant. Last winter's plantings are getting special attention and the survival rates are good, despite the intense heat of summer. Trees planted in 1994 and 1995 are receiving follow up attention including weed control and occasional watering. The nursery is now fully reticulated and the centre has more than 1000 young plants ready for this year's planting season.

Several groups use the centre as a meeting place. The Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society are planning to base themselves here soon. Teachers and students regularly use the centre resources. The 1997 educational program will include professional development courses for teachers, development of lesson plans and strengthening links with local schools. Funds for badly needed office equipment including fax, computer and photocopier have been sought.

The Friends of Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre provide strong support for the centre's activities. The group meet on the first Saturday of each month to hear a guest speaker and discuss projects. A grant has recently been awarded to the group from the Minister for the Environment to purchase a mulcher to use in the tea tree removal project. The group also submitted a grant application to purchase a 4WD vehicle for landcare work and to do research in the Bibra Lake Reserve. Friends are also involved in bird surveys, watering gardens and weed removal.

For further information about the centre call 417 8460. To contact the Friends group call Jim Connolly on 417 7318.

Foreshore policy

The management policy for the City of Canning Foreshore Reserves prepared by canning foreshore community advisory committee in consultation with the Swan River Trust will be available mid year. The comment period for the draft of the policy has closed. For further information contact the City of Canning Parks and Reserves on 231 0655.

Bushlands In South Perth

by John Feldman

With 'Clean Up Australia' day on the first Sunday in March this year it is worth noting the following.

Over the last six months I have removed more than 2,400 litres of litter from two foreshore reserves and three urban bushland areas (Banksia woodland) within the City of South Perth.

About 80 per cent of this litter comprises plastic bags and drink containers. The plastic bags are mainly supermarket shopping bags and fish bait bags. The drink containers include aluminium cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles and cardboard cartons. Much of this material is recyclable.

Some of the more objectionable material collected included used disposable nappies,

syringes and other paraphernalia associated with glue-sniffing and taking of drugs.

This litter not only despoils the natural environment but poses a serious threat to wildlife especially in marine and riverine areas.

Most people would not litter their own residential backyard, so they should not litter the community's backyard - our natural environment. Take your litter home or place it in the public rubbish bins provided and help Keep Australia Beautiful.

North West Region

Friends exchange marine tours

In February the Friends of Marmion Marine Park (FOMMP) hosted The Friends of Shoalwater Islands Marine Park (FOSIMP). The visitors were treated to a touch pool activity at North Beach, a snorkel in ideal conditions, and a visit to the Mt Flora Museum, Star Swamp and CSIRO Marine Labs.

The Friends of Shoalwater Islands Marine Park returned the favour in March and invited the Friends of Marmion Marine Park to a tour of Shoalwater Marine Park and Penguin Island. Activities included a workshop on community based environmental monitoring, a talk on little penguin radio tracking, and historical and natural history talks on Penguin Island.

FOMMP have organised a trip to Rottnest for the June long weekend. Marine activities last summer included a snorkelling, a night reef walk, touch pool activities, specimen nights and guest speakers. Many more activities are planned this year.

For further information on Friends of Marmion Marine Park call Lynda on 342 5091 or Tina on 341 6193. To contact Friends of Shoalwater Marine Park call Marie Mitchell on 527 7776.

Quinns Rock Environmental Group

The group is working on a landcare project which should provide a case study of vegetation change on the urban fringe. Last year 21 vegetation types were recorded along the 5-6km transect through the study area. The transect ran from the coast south of Mindarie Keys, east along Tamala Rubbish tip, through Neerabup National Park and finished on Wanneroo Road. Nicky Robinson has been appointed as consultant botanist and she will prepare a report describing the remnant vegetation of the study area. A recent vegetation mapping workshop looked at changes to vegetation cover using aerial photos from 1965, 1985 and 1995.

The newly opened Clarkson Community High School are keen to involve students in taking care of local bush. The Quinns Rock Environmental Group prepared a report on managing local bushland at the school and how to use local plants in landscaping, and will help with seed collecting and growing local plants.

A brochure has been prepared on growing local plants. Some of the plants that the group recommend to grow in your garden are chenille honeymyrtle, cockies tongue, coastal daisy, native wisteria and grey cottonhead.

In the lead up to the State Election last December the group wrote to all lower and

upper house candidates in their region about concerns relating to the Burns Beach Bushland and Neerabup National Park and noted their comments.

The proposed urban development north of Burns Beach, east-west roads through Neerabup National Park and the ongoing fight to save the bushland on the corner of Burns Beach Road and Marmion Avenue are key concerns for the group this year.

For further information call David on 305 1591 or Renata on 305 9382.

Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park (Inc)

by Laurie Boylan.

The group conducted a very successful nature walk on Saturday 15 March at Lake Goollelal. We had the Minister for the Environment Mrs Cheryl Edwards attend among the 45 people who participated. Phylis Robertson conducted the tour. We went to extra effort in promoting the event, at the suggestion of some ideas from Jenny Johnson from Hovea Ratepayers, and this seemed to produce results in the large number of people that turned up.

We are still very active in nursery work, watering the plantings in the park. Some of the money from awards and grants is proving very useful to purchase a pump for tree watering. The regular monitoring of our Piezometer Sites for recording movement of surface and sub-surface water in the wetlands is a task that requires regular attention, but is revealing some interesting results. More to follow as soon as the data is crunched. If anyone is interested in getting involved in some easy and interesting work that takes you into the wetlands contact Joy Unno on 307 6382.

Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland

In a recent CALM report, *Threatened Plant Communities on the Swan Coastal Plain*, the Koondoola Regional Bushland was described as a "highly diverse and unusual banksia dominated community." The high plant diversity lies mainly in the shrub understorey.

Koondoola Bushland is 135 hectares of banksia woodland bordered by Marangaroo and Alexander Drives, Koondoola and Waddington Avenue, Rendell Place and Beach Road. Koondoola means 'place of the emu' and the bushland is home for many bandicoots.

A new fence has been erected to stop the dumping and burning of stolen cars in the bushland. The shire removed six car bodies and other rubbish last year. The shire also put in limestone walk paths last October to serve the public and to facilitate access for the Fire and Rescue Service. (Although we hope the fire brigade won't be needed!)

The Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland run free nature walks every second Saturday of each month at 8am. Meet at the north eastern end of the junction of Koondoola and Burbridge Avenues. The Friends aim to encourage community interest in the bushland by conducting photography and art workshops and developing a bush guardians program for school students. The group has produced their

first edition of the *Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland Newsletter!*

For further information contact Phylis on 349 9105.

Hills Region

Contributors Jenny Johnson, Una Bell, Lee Daughtrey and Laurie Martisson

Eastern Hills groups fear bushland auctions

The proposed auction of 22 reserves in the Mundaring area announced by the DOLA in February jolted the hills residents out of their summer lethargy. The friends of reserves groups achieved memberships beyond expectations as the community responded to the shock. There are now about 600 people registered to join existing and newly formed bushland groups. There are five bushland groups in Hovea alone and six in Parkerville. Residents are keen to show all concerned that they are willing to share the maintenance tasks to lower the costs to both the local government and the state.

Pressure from residents and the Mundaring Shire has resulted in a deferment of the auctions until after consultation with all relevant authorities. It has been a classic story of a lack of communication. The Mundaring Shire has been carrying out an evaluation of the reserves over the past few years and is anxious that this study be an important basis for any decisions on the future of the reserves. More recently, there as been two native title claims covering all of the crown land in the Shire of Mundaring.

Rycroft/Glen Forrest Drive

A name has still not been decided on for this area but a management plan has been forwarded to Mundaring Shire. Vehicle intrusion into the bushland areas is an ongoing problem and the future of the bushland is uncertain due to the proposed selling of reserves in the area.

Hovea Residents and Ratepayers Assoc. Inc.

We are hiding out in the shade until the rain arrives. Plans are in place to replant wetlands with a grant from the Greening WA 'Chain of Diamonds' project. Some ground preparation should be possible in the cooler autumn weather and community work days are planned.

Tackling salinity

A third season of planting in Bugle Tree Park is planned to combat increasing salinity problems, which have hampered plans to re-establish blackbutt along creek lines. There has been more aid in these matters now that the Integrated Catchment Management Plan for Mundaring has gained momentum and an officer has been appointed to coordinate this plan for the Mundaring and Swan shires.

Greenmount National Park

Removal of rubbish and treatment of vast areas of watsonia will be the main objectives of the group this year.

For further information on the Eastern Hills region call Jenny Johnson on 295 4467.

Quenda Creek friends clean up

by Patsy Hill

Friends of Quenda Creek joined forces with the Wildflower Society for Clean Up Australia Day on the 2nd of March and tackled the rubbish in the railway reserve, adjoining Quenda Creek, Gooseberry Hill.

The Shire of Kalamunda has recently paid for and installed signs at two sections of the Quenda Creek reserves. They read 'Quenda Creek Nature Reserve and Wildlife Corridor' and display the shire and the Nature Reserves Preservation Group logos.

We have another busy winter ahead. Greening WA has given us a verbal agreement for more sedges and local shrubs for creek rehabilitation. The shire is sponsoring a number of ATCV field days to focus on weed control in the upper reaches of Quenda Creek. The Quenda Creek Management Plan is well under way - but it's a big job! A public display and library display set will be ready by March.

For further information call Patsy on 257 1379

South East Region

Weed control after summer fires

The Star Swamp Bushland was subjected to several bushfires over summer, about a third of the reserve was burnt in one fire and several other smaller areas have also suffered.

The ongoing weed spraying program by the City of Stirling has been extended to include spraying burnt out areas as soon as weeds, such as veldt grass, appear. It is hoped this will keep down weed regrowth.

An extensive program of bridal creeper removal is planned for the winter months, beginning in May. The extent of freesia invasion will be mapped and we will then investigate the best methods for eradicating them.

A full colour brochure, with a map and notes on the history, environment, flora and fauna of the Star Swamp Bushland Reserve is now available. Copies are available from libraries, the City of Stirling and from the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland.

For further information on the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland call Christine Curry on 447 2983.

South West Region

Brixton Street Wetlands

The weather has cooled down and once again the Friends are holding regular clean-up days on the third Saturday of each month, 9am to noon, beginning on 19 April. Everyone is welcome. Suitable footwear, gloves, hat and sunscreen are advised and any hand tools you can bring are appreciated.

The Friends have been involved in discussions with Main Roads, the City of Gosnells and various government agencies regarding the proposed Roe Highway extension. The council want Main Roads to put a temporary road through the wetlands along side Brixton St so that Brixton Street can remain open to traffic during the construction of the Roe Highway.

We feel that leaving this road open would cause long term damage to the wetlands, destroy significant plants and provide additional impediments to the movement of wildlife such as bandicoots. We would like to see Brixton Street remain temporarily closed as the stress that this area will feel during the construction period will be terrific without the added stress of vehicle traffic.

During meetings in 1993 it was accepted that there would be a temporary closure of Brixton Street during the construction of the Roe Highway, but now it seems that parties are unwilling to honour this commitment and we are concerned about what seems to be an increasing disregard for environmental standards.

For further information contact Regina Drummond on 459 2964.

Bunbury Region

Networking with Bunbury groups

by Carolyn Switzer

Bunbury Naturalists' club ran a very successful plant ID workshop in February. Local botanist, Libby Sandiford, demonstrated identification of four major plant families. She has offered to run more workshops in spring.

The 'Franklandia Reserve' on North Boyanup Road now has a front fence and padlocks on it to prevent dumping. This is a credit to the Naturalists' Club successful liaison with Capel Shire and Main Roads. The group is continuing their floristic survey of the reserve and are keen to survey a small neglected nature reserve across the road that borders the Preston River and contains very different species.

A public workshop involving Australind High School was held by the Australind Bushland Council in March to develop a management plan for Treendale Reserve. Wildflower Society members from Perth helped survey this significant A class reserve last year. Alcoa will help fund the management plan, signs, fencing and weed control.

As part of DRIP (Donnybrook River Improvement Program) Andy Evans of Collie has created huge piles of dead honeysuckle for the council to remove. Rae McPherson is coordinating volunteers, from school students to senior citizens, to work on the riverbanks.

With the help of National Landcare funding the Leschenault Catchment Coordinating Group has initiated the Preston River Foreshore Survey. A public meeting was attended by about 50 people and the survey will first concentrate on the irrigation district, covering Glen Mervyn Dam downstream to Argyle. Dr Luke Pen from the Water and Rivers Commission will run workshops to introduce locals to foreshore assessment methods.

Ecoplan was the link that put these groups in touch with each other and some beneficial connections have been formed.

Carolyn Switzer is the new Ecoplan Regional contact in the Bunbury Region. (Thanks Carolyn!) Contact her on 097 806 268.

Group Profile



Bronwen Keighery demonstrating techniques to the Friends of Shenton Bushland and others on monitoring the flora.

Friends of Shenton Bushland

Approximately 20 members, founded in 1993.

Come and visit!

The 24.5 hectare jarrah-banksia woodlands of Shenton Bushland thrive on the crest of an old coastal dune. Sheoaks, firewood and candlestick banksias, grass trees, wattles, zamias, some tuarts and plenty of honeyeaters can be seen along the 1.7km walk trail. There are at least 109 plant species!

A special feature is the many fine specimens of jarrah showing the spreading, coastal form. Mature jarrahs are quite rare in the region, even in Bold Park and Kings Park. The bushland provides a corridor for birds travelling between these larger bushlands.

Where is it?

It's only 6km west of the city centre. The main entrance is on the northern edge of the bushland, on Lemnos Street, Shenton Park. Hospital patients and staff from Lemnos Hospital and the Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital, and many locals, find tranquillity there!

Achievements

It was an inspiration to many urban bushland carers in 1993 when the strength of community action reversed the decision to use the land for a light industrial development. It is now an A class reserve vested in the City of Nedlands. The friends group was formed to achieve this aim and the group now work closely with the council to care for the bushland.

Last June, the group ran a practical workshop on bushland monitoring, covering issues such as recording, processing and storing data. It was enjoyed by bushland carers from several groups.

A detailed yearly timetable shows at a glance the priorities for the year under the categories of monitoring, regeneration and restoration. This working document includes seed collecting, planting and weeding (noting the best times for various species).

About the Friends

This friendly group is made up of men and women of all ages who are strongly committed to consensus decision making. There is a range of expertise in the group allowing for a spread of responsibilities.

Key aspirations for this year

The group plan to increase community awareness and participation in bushland. The permanent quadrats will be monitored again using photography and point sampling. Weeding and planting of degraded areas will continue and the group plan to try some direct seeding.

Contacts

Paul Harrison 387 5006
Susan Worley 381 6360

Work mornings: 8am, 1st and 3d
Sundays in the month

Meetings: 8-9.30pm, 2nd Thursday in
the month, Jolimont Primary School
Library

Ecoplan Econotes: Weeds vs natives

As part of her research for a masters in science on soil seed banks at the University of WA Botany Department, Judy Fisher has uncovered some interesting and practical information.

Her studies have been based in Bold Park and she believes they are applicable to bushlands elsewhere. In badly degraded areas she found few native seeds and abundant weed seeds stored in the soil. This seems predictable, but perhaps more surprisingly was her finding that bushland in good condition contained abundant native and weed seeds in the soil. She found roughly 66 000 (good condition bushland) to 445 000 (poor condition bushland) weed seeds per cubic metre of soil.

Her studies imply that if a fire should go through urban bushland in good

condition there are plenty of weed seeds waiting to germinate with the first rains. Unfortunately Judy found that weed species tend to germinate more quickly than native seeds, and they generally require less water (particularly grass weeds, such as veldt grass). Native species often need more moisture to break their dormancy.

Judy said that knowledge of the composition of the seed bank is vital for a long term integrated ecological approach to controlling weeds in urban bushland.

"Removal of one particular weed species may provide the opportunity for more weeds, perhaps another species, to successfully germinate from the ample weed seed stored in the soil," she said.

An integrated approach may include direct seeding using local seed and

planting local natives that cover the ground fairly quickly. Resprouters (plants that regenerate by resprouting from buds beneath the bark or rootsock), such as *Helichrysum cordatum* (coastal daisy bush), *Allocasuarina humulis* (dune sheoak) and *Conostylis candidans* (grey cottonheads), can do this job fairly well.

Judy concludes that because there tends to such abundant weed seeds in the soil in very disturbed bushland (most urban bush) frequent fires can cause vastly increased weed problems. The best that can be done is to encourage a low fire frequency.

You can call Judy on 380 2219 or email judyf@cyllene.uwa.edu.au to discuss her research.

What's On



May

- 1 Thursday evening Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Shona Kennealy from Western Power on the *Endangered Plant Rescue Program* at the Cockburn Wetlands Centre, Hope Road. Call Diane Matthews 457 2896.
- 2 Friday 7.30pm WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Kevin Kennealy on *USA National Parks* at the University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call Alan Notley 306 1832 or Gordon Elliott 272 1674.
- 3 Saturday 8am Landsdale Road Conservation Park monthly nature walk. Meet at the car park of Landsdale Farm School. Call Tim 343 1222.
- 10 Saturday 8am Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland monthly nature walk. Meet at the north east end of Burbridge and Koondoola Avenues, Koondoola. Call Phyllis 349 9105.
- 10 Saturday 9am-1pm Eastern Hills branch of the Wildflower Society annual plant sale at Octagonal Hall, McGlew Rd, Glen Forrest. Call Margaret McCrum 295 3344 or Maureen Edwards 295 2438.
- 11 Sunday Excursion to Garden Island with the Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society. Call Diane Matthews 457 2896.
- 11 Sunday 10am-2pm Mother's Day Tree Planting at Piney Lakes, Berndt Avenue, Winthrop organised by Greening Western Australia and the Cancer Foundation. Call Dorothy 481 2188.
- * 13 Tuesday 8pm Perth branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by John Scott on *Biological Control of Weeds* at the Naturalists' Hall, Merriwa Street, Nedlands. Call Jim Barrow 384 9671 or Angela Hearn 361 1360.
- 15 Thursday 8.30pm-6pm City of Gosnells wildflower tour/trout fishing/wine tasting for seniors. Call Nick or Leonie on 391 3222.
- 17 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 387 6079.
- 17 Saturday 8am Bi-monthly bird walk with the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park. Meet Cnr Meadowweir Place and Lakeway Drive, Kingsley. Call Cathy 307 3640 or Cate 309 5241.
- 17 Saturday 9am-noon Monthly clean-up day at Brixton Street Wetlands (every third Saturday of the month). Everyone Welcome. Call Regina 459 2964.
- 18 Sunday Friends of Trigg Bushland AGM. Guest Speaker, Mike Banford of the RAOU. Contact Robyn Murphy 246 3954
- 24 Saturday 8am Star Swamp bushland guided walk. Meet at the grassed area, Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 447 2983.
- 24 Saturday 7-9pm Night bush bike ride as part of the CALM Hills Forest program. Other activities throughout autumn include bush walks, canoeing, Clydesdale wagon rides, abseiling and nature activities. Call 295 3247.
- 24 Saturday 2.30pm Gould League Excursion to Herdsman Lake. Call 387 6079.
- 31 Saturday Friends of Trigg Bushland Nature Walk. Led by David Pike. Meet at the south of St Marys School, Elliot Rd, Trigg at 8am.
- 31 May - 2 June Long weekend Rottnest island trip with the Friends of Marmion Marine Park. Call Linda 342 5091.

June

- 1 Sunday CALM Hills forest, Mundaring special family fun day, *Native Animal Encounters*. See and learn about birds, insects, reptiles and mammals, including the numbat and chuditch. Call 295 3247 for more information.
- 4 Wednesday WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY Plan something that will grab local and media attention!
- 6 Friday 7.30pm WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Bob Goodale on *Remnant Bush Management by Community Groups* at the University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call Alan Notley 306 1832 or Gordon Elliott 272 1674.
- 10 Tuesday 8pm Perth branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Greg Keighery on *The Australian Heaths - The Epacridaceae* at the Naturalists' Hall, Merriwa Street, Nedlands. Call Jim Barrow 384 9671 or Angela Hearn 361 1360.
- 17 Tuesday 7.30pm Northern Suburbs branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Hazel Dempster on *Maintaining Container Grown Plants* at the Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Drive, Kingsley. Call Brian James 401 6847 or Joyce Woodyatt 401 5719.
- 20 Friday and 21 Saturday Family Sleepover at Herdsman Lake, *Fungi - The Weird Ones* from 5pm Friday. Call 387 6079.
- 28 Saturday 8am Star Swamp bushland guided walk. Meet at the grassed area, Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 447 2983.
- 28 Saturday 2.30pm Gould League Excursion to Greenmount National Park. Call 387 6079.
- 21 Saturday 8am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 387 6079.
- 22 Tuesday 7.30pm Darling Range Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Eric McCrum on fungi, mosses and lichen, St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Contact Fay Riding 291 7510 or David Ayre 255 2107.
- 27-29 Wildflower Society state conference, Albany. Call 383 7979 for information.

July

What's on in the Bunbury Region

May

- 10 Saturday Plant propagation workshop with the Bunbury Naturalists' Club. Call Gordon 097 972 673 or Shirley 097 957 181.
- 13 Tuesday 9am Flora survey every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Franklandia Reserve, North Boyanup Rd with the Bunbury Naturalists' Club. Call Gordon 097 972 673 or Shirley 097 957 181.
- 14 Wednesday Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Dr Jonathon Majer of Curtin University on *Revegetation of Urban Areas - Opportunities for Wildlife Conservation*. Call Bernie Masters 097 272 474 or Ken Jack 097 553 967.
- 15 Thursday 7.30pm Bunbury Naturalists' Club monthly meeting and talk by Bob Chandler on *Forests* at The Dolphin Discovery Centre. Call Gordon 097 972 673 or Shirley 097 957 181.
- 25 Sunday Busselton Naturalists' Club excursion *Seals and Seabirds* (and maybe Humpback Whales!) boat trip off Augusta. Call Bernie Masters 097 272 474 or Ken Jack 097 553 967.

Please send us your activities in the metropolitan and Bunbury areas by 2 June 1997 for Winter Ecoplan News.

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

New Books

Burke G (1996) *More Than Pests; the strategic significance of feral animals and invasive plants for nature conservation and landcare in Western Australia* Institute for Science and Technology Policy, Murdoch University.

This book is an introduction to the topic and it has plenty of reflection on how the problems might be tackled. It's available from ISTP, Murdoch University, Murdoch 6150 for \$15. Gary Burke can be contacted on 360 2600.

Hopper S, Cappill J, Harvey M, George A (editors) (1996) *Gondwanan Heritage; Past, Present and Future of Western Australian Biota* Surrey Beaty and Sons in association with the Australian Systematic Botany Society and Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

This book is based on a conference held in 1993. It's aimed mainly at scientists, but there's lots of fascinating details for those who aren't. It costs \$80. (If you can't afford it try ordering it from your local library.)

Wetland vegetation booklets

CALM and the Water and Rivers Commission have produced two free booklets on the native vegetation of wetlands in the southwest. *Native vegetation of freshwater rivers and creeks in South-Western Australia and*

native vegetation of estuaries and saline waterways in South-Western Australia contain descriptions, diagrams and propagation details about riverine grasses, herbs, samphires, sedges and rushes, shrubs and trees. Many of the plants listed are also found in association with Swan Coastal Plain wetlands in the metropolitan area. It is hoped that the booklets will be used by community landcare and rivercare groups and others interested in identifying species. The booklets are available by calling Karen Majer, Water and Rivers Commission on 278 0353.

Living Streams Posters

A poster entitled *Living Streams - I can do that!* with tips on protecting streams, drains and foreshores was produced for National Landcare Month, March 1997, by the Water and Rivers Commission. Copies are available from Karen Majer on 278 0353.

John Tonkin Award Nominations

Greening Western Australia has reassessed the categories to be included in the annual John Tonkin Greening Awards. The number of categories have been reduced but each category has a broader scope and judges are not limited to one award per category. The closing date for the 1997 nominations is

Thursday 31 July. Details and nomination forms are available from GWA on 481 2144.

State and National Landcare Awards

Entries for this year's State Landcare Awards are due by 5 June and the winners will be announced at the Landcare Conference in Geraldton in September. The categories for the awards are individual landcarer, community group, local government, nature conservation, research, education, business, catchments, primary producer and media. State winners in each category will be submitted to the National Awards.

For information and entry forms contact Monica Durcan on 291 8249 (phone and fax) or email her on mdurcan@ois.net.au.

Living Streams Award

The Living Streams Award is open to individuals or groups who have achieved significant results or initiated a significant project to rehabilitate a drain, creek, river or estuary foreshore. To enter just note on your entry to the National Landcare Awards that you wish to be considered for the Living Streams Award as well. The winner will receive \$1000 to assist their project. For information and entry forms contact Monica Durcan on 291 8249.



If not claimed within 7 days, please return to
Westralia Square, 141 St George's Terrace, Perth, Western Australia 6000
GPO Box S1400, Perth, Western Australia 6001

Department of Environmental Protection

Ecoplan News
is published by the
Department of Environmental Protection

POSTAGE
PAID
PERTH
WEST.
AUST. 6000