



## Volunteers integral part of bushcare

The outstanding success of metropolitan conservation groups dedicated to the maintenance of urban bushland was officially recognised last month by Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes.

Mrs Edwardes launched the Department of Environmental Protection's 1997 Bushland Care Days program, an initiative of the DEP's Ecoplan program, and paid particular tribute to the commitment and enthusiasm of all volunteers caring for bushland.

The launch was held at the Landsdale Farm School, home of the Friends of Yellagona Regional Park's (Inc.) community nursery.

"The Bushland Care Days program assists community groups and 'friends' organisations, protect and maintain bushland in the metropolitan area," Mrs Edwardes said.

"Ecoplan, with the assistance of Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV), works alongside community groups on workdays and busy-bees, looking after important areas of bushland in urban areas.

Mrs Edwardes said a number of local government organisations had already recognised the benefits of the Bushland Care Days project.

"Local Councils such as Mundaring, Fremantle and Kalamunda have contracted the ATCV for extra days to work alongside bushland volunteer groups in their local area.

"This program is significant because of the practical contribution community groups make to the conservation of bushland for the benefit of the wider community," the Minister said.

AlintaGas is now a partner in the 1997 Bushland Care Days program. AlintaGas will provide equipment and publicity for the workdays while meeting the costs of contracting the ATCV and Ecoplan management of the program.

AlintaGas public affairs officer Bridget Tighe said the project was a good example of how groups could work together to gain positive environmental outcomes.



ATCV project co-ordinator, Penny Everingham at the Bushland Care Day held with the Friends of Talbot Road Reserve.

"This project has the right ingredients as it links business with community groups, local government, the DEP and ATCV to achieve results in urban bushland conservation," she said.

Professional bush regenerator John Roberston has been an integral part of the project helping some of the groups plan for the workdays and ensure that the best outcomes are achieved for the bushland.

Ecoplan co-ordinator Jon Elder said workdays planned for 1997 would help to raise the profile of urban bushland and the valuable work being done by volunteers.

"From June to October, ATCV volunteers will help 13 bushland 'friends' groups take care of their special bushland patches," he said.

"Planting, rubbish removal, dieback control and construction of rubble drains are all part of the program."



(from left) Jackie Harvey, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, Jon Elder and Laurie Boylan at the launch of the 1997 Bushland Care Days program.



The rain has finally arrived and marked the beginning of a busy time for bushland groups getting their hands dirty. It's exciting to see the level of activity in groups across the metropolitan area and a read through the Regional Reports inside confirms that the weeding and planting season is upon us.

Ecoplan has been kept busy organising the 1997 Bushland Care Days in conjunction with the ATCV and AlintaGas.

Thanks to Renee Waters and Bridgit Tighe of AlintaGas for all their support on the program and especially to Simon Tohmas who worked part time on Ecoplan for a month helping organise the 'Days.' Thanks also to the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park (Inc.) and the Landsdale Farm School for hosting the launch.

Special thanks goes to John Robertson of Robertson Bush Regeneration who helped some of the groups plan for their

workday to get the most from all the extra help in their bushland.

Ecoplan is again supporting the Bushland Plants 1997 Survey Program managed by the Wildflower Society of WA and here's hoping for a really successful program. This is a great opportunity for volunteers with little or no experience to gain some knowledge of bushland survey techniques (see inside for details).

On Saturday 24th May Ecoplan and City of Fremantle bush regenerator Mary Appleby held a one day training session on bush regeneration for those working in the area. The day was a great success and thanks to the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre for providing the venue. Thanks must also go to the presenters, Bronwen Keighery, Brett Tizard, John Robertson and Mary Appleby.

It is worth saying again that Ecoplan is lucky to benefit from the knowledge and experience of the those working both

professionally and as volunteers in the urban conservation network. The quality of these presenters brings much to Ecoplan training sessions and workshops, and can be measured by the increasing interest from those wishing to become involved in urban bushland issues.

Brett Tizard is also currently updating *Reality Dreams and Pathways: A Manual for Preparing and Implementing Management Plans*. The updated manual will be available soon free of charge through Ecoplan.

Finally an apology to those who are finding it difficult to contact Ecoplan. Margo O'Byrne is on long service leave and I will be in the chair for two days per week, normally on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you can't get through just leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon I can. Hope everyone meets all their goals and enjoys themselves in 'their patch' over the winter.

## Nominations for Greening Awards

Don't forget the closing date for nominations for the Greening Western Australia's annual John Tonkin Greening Awards is Thursday 31 July. Details and nomination forms are available from Lucy at GWA on 9481 2144.

## Spring Ecoplan

Forward your news, activities and Regional Reports for the Spring Ecoplan News by 22 August 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!

Write to:  
Ecoplan

Department of Environmental Protection  
4th Floor Westralia Square  
141 St Georges Tce  
PERTH 6000

Email: jon\_elder@ environ.wa.gov.au  
Fax: 9322 1598

Newsletter compiled by: Cathy Drake



## Protecting Lake Richmond

Lake Richmond, listed on the Register of the National Estate, is a deep, fresh, permanent lake which 4000 years ago was part of Cockburn Sound. Thrombolites, rare sedimentary structures built by micro-organisms that represent the earliest forms of life are found at the lake. The lake is also home to 109 bird species, including migratory waders from the northern hemisphere.

There are more than 50 members of the Friends of Lake Richmond, which is a subsidiary of the Kwinana, Rockingham and Mandurah Branch of the Naturalists' Society. The Friends held a planting morning on 5 July at Lake Richmond (see *What's On* page 7), with Rockingham City Council staff and other locals. Volunteers learned about the environmental values of the lake. For further information about the Friends group call Bob Ann Goodale on 9527 4289.

## 1997 Ecoplan/AlintaGas/ATCV Bushland Care Days

### Completed

15 June	Friends of Talbot Road Reserve, Stratton
22 June	Friends of Hilton Bushland/ Hilton P&C, Hilton
6 July	Friends of Hollywood Reserve, Nedlands
12 July	Friends of Hepburn and Pinnaroo Bushland, Padbury

### You Can Help!

2 August	Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park
3 August	Friends of Shenton Bushland Inc., Shenton Park
23 August	Friends of Allen Park, Swanbourne
31 August	Friends of Blue Gum Lake, Melville
6 September	Friends of Brookside Park (with Hovea Residents and Ratepayers Association Incorporated), Parkerville
14 September	Friends of Bold Park Bushland Inc., City Beach
27 September	Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands, Kenwick
19 October	Friends of Ellis Brook Valley, Martin

If you can help out on any of these days call ATCV on 9339 3902.

## Fire management plans

The urban bushland council is continuing talks with fire services to bring ecological considerations into fire management planning. Fire and rescue services have been very co-operative since the *Burning our Bushland* conference in August 1995. Fire services have been drawing up fire management plans for particular bushland areas, sometimes with community group input. These management plans were discussed at the Urban Bushland Council meeting on 1 July (see *What's On*) where community members were encouraged to join in discussion with representatives of the Fire and Rescue Service and Bush Fires Board. For further information call Kirsten Tullis on 9271 3549 (h) or Mary Grey on 9221 3840 (w).

A fire management workshop was held on 13 June for the Bennett Brook System 6 area. This workshop was initiated by the Bennett Brook Catchment Group, chaired by Bevan Carter and organised by Linda Taman, who is the new group co-ordinator. Talks were given by Robert Bropho (Swan River Valley Nyungar Community), John Dell (on the fauna of the area), botanist Bronwen Keighery and the Bassendean Fire Brigade.

## Weedbuster week!

Weedbuster week, 12-19 October 1997, will focus on raising awareness of weeds and the problems they cause right across the country. A register of events will be compiled. Events may include field days, weed removal demonstrations, weeding events, workshops or seminars, or any other related activities. Promotional kits for participants include posters, badges and stickers. To become involved simply register your event by filling out a registration form from Greening WA (call 9481 2144), Landcare offices or the Scout Association. For further information call John Holmes on 08 96 226 100.

### Greenteach conference

Greenteach, 'teachers for the environment', are holding a weekend conference at Nanga Bush Camp in Dwellingup, 3-7 September 1997. The theme for the conference is *Learning in the Environment* and it will be fun, educational and challenge participants' perspectives with many new ideas for teaching. For further details contact Elaine Horne on 9338 1355(w) or 9444 0606(h).



## Plant surveys and workshops

Six sites have been chosen for the Wildflower Society/Save the Bush/CALM/Ecoplan Bushland Plant Survey Project for this year. Volunteers will survey bushland at Baker's Hill, Clackline, Merredin, Woodanilling, the Whicher Range (Bunbury), Manjimup and Coolbinia (an urban bushland block adjacent to the Coolbinia Primary School). There will be follow-up plant identification sessions at the WA Herbarium. Volunteers are also needed to provide extra support by helping at other times with plant identification and field herbaria.

Two one day workshops on plant survey techniques, one in August at the Cockburn Wetlands Centre and one in November in Denmark, will also be run (dates to be confirmed). These workshops are designed for those who have little or no survey experience. Volunteers interested in participating in the surveys and workshops were asked to respond by 27 June. A social evening and casserole night with viewing of slides and specimens from the 1996 plant surveys will be held at Perry House, Floreat on 18 July. Late applicants should get in touch with the project co-ordinator Ann Gunness on 9524 2221 as soon as possible.

## Ecoplan has moved !!!!

The community involvement co-ordinators for Ecoplan are now located on the 4th floor of Westralia Square. New telephone numbers are Margo O'Byrne 9265 3405 and Jon Elder 9265 3439.

## Environment Centre for Rockingham

On 14 June 1997 building works began for the Rockingham Regional Environment Centre opposite Lake Richmond (see *Protecting Lake Richmond*) on Safety Bay Road. The centre will provide environmental resources and information for the community and tourists. It will host courses, workshops and plant propagation and permaculture projects. Local environmental projects will be promoted and volunteer efforts co-ordinated from the centre. Local environmental groups will be able to hold meetings at the centre. Walks from the centre will include the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, Rockingham City and Lake Richmond.

The centre was initiated and funded by the Kwinana, Rockingham and Mandurah Branch of the Naturalists' Society and the Rockingham City Council. It is hoped that the centre will become self-funded as soon as possible. Local businesses are asked to contribute. An honour board with the names of all those who donated \$200 or more in the first two years will be hung at the centre. Volunteer help is needed in fundraising, building and construction, accounting and auditing, tree planting and tea making! If you can spare any time call Bob or Ann Goodale on 9527 4289.

### Tree planting season

Once again, Men of the Trees has an extensive tree planting program from June to August in country and some urban areas. Urban plantings in June and July include 2000 trees to be planted in Kiara-Lockridge, 3000 planted in the Peel Harvey Region, 2800 at Hazelmere, and 800 in Canning Vale. The Kiara-Lockridge seedlings were all raised by Urban Bushland Council secretary, Kirsten Tullis, who is also co-ordinating the two planting days. If you would like to help out or would like more information on Men of the Trees call 9250 1888.

## Central Region

### Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre

There was a 90 per cent survival rate for the 700 trees planted last winter and this year the revegetation program will be expanded to include understorey species. Trials with Carroll Tree Tubes will be possible thanks to the support of the Chain of Diamonds program. Attempts are being made to contain an outbreak of Caltrop (*Tribulus terrestris*). The woody, spiny burrs were probably transported by vehicles. A fun day was spent recently with Neville Passmore and the television crew filming footage on environmental weeds for the ABC's *Gardening Australia* program.

The centre's educational and information service is expanding through generous support of the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation small grants program. Funds will enable the purchase of a computer, fax machine, printer and photocopier. Visitors to the centre are most welcome to browse the books, videos and pamphlets in the library. Visits by students, teachers and community groups are available by appointment.

The Friends of Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre have begun to remove Victorian Teatrees. They were pleased to receive a major grant from the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation to undertake regeneration of degraded banksia woodland with Kings Park researchers. The grant will enable capital purchases including equipment for smoking techniques and a landcare vehicle. The March bird counts were completed for Bibra, North and South Lakes by the Friends.

For further information call Rex Sallier or Denise Crosby on 9417 8460. To contact the Friends group call Jim Connolly on 9417 7318.

### Henley Brook and West Swan Landcare

by Bevan Carter

The final report of the Henley Brook and West Swan Landcare Project will be available by the end of July. The aim of the project was to undertake an audit of the natural and cultural resources of the area bounded by the Swan River, Gnarara Road, Lord Street (Whiteman Park) and Reid Highway. The area includes the catchments of Henley Brook, Minchin Creek, St Leonards Creek, Wandoo Creek and the eastern side of Bennett Brook.

The report will include an archaeological and ethnographic survey, hydrological information, such as surface water flow, a soil map, nutrient levels in bores and creeks, post settlement history and land use, and the results of flora and fauna surveys.

Initial development of the Ellenbrook housing estate coincided with some interesting changes in water table levels in wetlands and bores more than two kilometres away at Henley Brook. It seems that the consequences of urban development on land with a high water table is unpredictable.

Further urban development is proposed in large sections of the study area which also have very high ground water levels. Such a development

would cast grave doubts on the viability of remnant bush and wetlands in the area and adjacent Whiteman Park.

For further information contact Bevan Carter on 9279 8777.

### South Perth Bushlands

by John Feldman

Last March a series of unwanted BMX bicycle 'humps' were made along a walking track on the east side of Salter Point Lagoon near the Canning River. This area is a System 6 reserve vested in the City of South Perth and it has fringing foreshore vegetation important for the survival of native fauna, including waterbirds.

Unfortunately, the six 'humps' or mounds of soil, each three quarters to one metre in height and two to three metres long, have been constructed along the walking track by digging out the topsoil from adjacent areas over tens of square metres and up to a depth of 30cm. This has completely destroyed native understorey plants, in particular, the ground cover of samphire shrub. The area has been further denigrated by the use of litter in the construction of these soil 'humps'. Plastic crates, 200 litre metal drums and extensive amounts of green outdoor carpet has been used. The City of South Perth was contacted and the area has been restored as best as possible.

### Double last year's litter

On Clean Up Australia Day members of the City of South Perth Environment Association (COSPEA) removed litter from the Canning River foreshore between Canning Bridge and Roebuck Drive. About 1500 litres of litter, equivalent to six 240 litre green Sulo 'wheelie' bins, was collected. The litter was made up mainly of plastic bags of various sizes and colours, aluminium, glass and plasticised cardboard drink containers. Unfortunately the amount of litter collected in 1997 was about twice that collected from the same area in 1996.

With the help of a Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation grant, Warwick Boardman and John Feldman recently replaced part of the fence surrounding the Manning Primary School bushland that was in disrepair. The fence is in place to reduce bush trampling and rubbish dumping.

For further information call John Feldman on 9368 3739 (work) or 9450 5661 (home, after 6pm)

### Fate of Gillon Street Bushland

by Warwick Boardman

Submissions about the proposed Homeswest housing development on the Gillon Street bushland in Karawara are currently being considered by the South Perth City Council. The council will make recommendations by the end of June. The City of South Perth Environment Association (COSPEA) has sent letters to the council and the housing Minister proposing that the bushland be converted to public open space in line with the objectives of the State Government's Urban Bushland Strategy. The housing Minister told the group that the development would go ahead as it would not be financially viable to keep the bushland. The group will take the matter to the

Environment Minister and will be involved in further discussions with government representatives.

### Friends of Shenton Bushland

Janice Marshall will be leading walks every third Saturday of the month until October through the bushland to increase public awareness of the area. Meet Janice at 8am at the Lemnos Street entrance and hear her talk about the local flora and fauna, the history of the bushland and the campaign to preserve it.

Nearly 600 plants have been grown from seed collected by the group and revegetation is planned for the entrance area and alongside the paths. An AlintaGas ATCV/Ecoplan bushland care day is planned to remove fountain grass, Geraldton carnation weed and veldt grass.

Bushland work days are held twice monthly. Nathan McQuoid, Kings Park's bushland manager, will be joining the group and talking about regenerating tuart and jarrah during one of the work mornings in June.

For further information call Janice on 9381 4051 or Cherie on 9381 6758.

## North West Region

### Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park (Inc)

by Laurie Boylan

The Friends are as busy as always! Successful bimonthly bird walks are conducted by Phyllis Robertson (see 19 July in *Whar's On*). Planting days continue, mainly around Lake Goollelal. Jackie Harvey has been organising work days for several groups at the Landsdale Farm School Nursery. Help with nursery tasks is appreciated Saturday mornings at 9am. Nursery stock is very healthy and we have been supplying plants for all the planting days as well as schools and council groups.

We have met with various authorities on site to advise and assess impacts on the areas we have been working on. Several issues have arisen in recent weeks that are of concern to us and also take up a lot of extra time that we had not allowed for. We are probably going to need to make some decisions about which issues we pursue further. These issues include refencing the area around our 'Chain of Diamonds' site, excavation works for road-water catchment sumps, proposed road-side parkland clearing and development bordering Lake Goollelal, road and drainage upgrades through the regional park, high density housing developments right up to the park boundary at Joondalup, and proposals for a botanical gardens development within the wetlands. These added to the recent vesting of the regional park in CALM has really got us thinking! Perhaps it's time to reassess our priorities!

For further information call Laurie on 9409 1409, Jackie Harvey on 9409 1412 or Joy Unno on 9307 6382.

### Friends of Korella Park Bushland, Mullaloo

Three stages of planting are planned over three years. Last year 2000 plants were put in as part of stage one. Another 2000 species suited to the

Quindalup soils were planted as a part of stage two on the western side of the bushland on Sunday 6 July. This area was fenced off by Wanneroo City Council last month. The western side is the most windswept, but with some strategically placed natural wind barriers the Friends hope this planting will be as successful as the stage one planting. An estimated 80 per cent of the plants planted in stage one survived our long hot summer and are growing amazingly well. So are the weeds! Geraldton carnation weed, gazinias and pelargoniums are our greatest challenge.

For further information call Ken or Marilyn Zakrevsky 9401 7132.

### Friends of Hepburn Heights and Pinnaroo Bushland

by John McMahon

The Friends of Hepburn Heights and Pinnaroo Bushland are happy to report that group membership is growing and the bushland is in good condition! The Friends are getting ready for this year's planting and weeding.

Once again Yellagonga Nursery has been attracted by the Wanneroo City Council to supply 3000 or 4000 seedlings grown from seed collected within these bushlands. At the last council advisory committee meeting the parks and gardens department said they hoped to plant some of these seedlings on road verges adjacent to the reserve to extend bird habitat and minimise the chances of exotic species spreading into the reserve.

Bob Dixon from Kings Park and Botanic Gardens has begun smoke water tests where bulldozed areas were direct seeded several years ago. We hope to see the seed bank well stimulated and growing soon. (See *Econotes* on page 6 for more on smoke germination techniques.)

John Dell from the WA Museum and others from the CALM Herbarium recently surveyed Hepburn Heights. Forty two bird species, 19 reptiles and two frog species were found. The birds and reptiles are thriving in the bushlands, but the absence of mammals is sad. There are some grey kangaroos in the reserve, but no smaller mammals. The bush is dense enough to introduce possums and bandicoots and there is a possibility that CALM may try this. There are a few domestic cats in the reserve, but foxes and rabbits are now rarely seen.

For further information call John McMahon on 9401 9581 or Tim Morald on 9307 8371.

## Hills Region

by Jenny Johnson, Una Bell, Laurie Maddison, Lee Daughtrey, Herbie Titelius, Brian Marshall and Florence Watson

### Winter wetland plantings

Early rains have been a bonus for the Hovea Residents and Ratepayers Association (Inc), who are involved in the Jane Brook Restoration Project. Weed control has been under way since the weather cooled and the watsonia sprouted! Grants from Alcoa/Greening WA and the State Government of more than \$8000 will ensure many wetland species can be planted to stabilize mudflats, improve water quality and

add to the aesthetics of the area. All we need are many hands to plant them! There's an AlintaGas ATCV/Ecoplan bush care day on 6 September (see cover article).

### Bugletree Creek Protection Society

Liz Weston, the catchment landcare officer for the Swan-Mundaring region has planned a Living Streams workshop to be given by Dr Luke Pen from the Water and Rivers Commission on 16 August (see *What's On* section). Bugletree Creek has been chosen as the hills site for the project. All interested people are welcome to attend. Contact Liz or Una at Mundaring Shire on 9290 5666.

### Rycroft/Glen Forrest Drive

This reserve has now been vested in Mundaring Shire, so it's future seems more secure. Rubbish clean-ups in the bushland are ongoing and seedlings are to be planted in July. A formal name for the reserve is still under discussion.

### Greenmount National Park Friends

This group has been working with the rangers from the adjoining John Forrest National Park, who also administer Greenmount National Park. Watsonia removal is still the greatest challenge and will be ongoing for years. The local paper, *The Darlington Review*, has been featuring articles on the group to attract more members.

### Hovea Conservation Park

The group associated with this park, formally M22 east, has been busy removing stinkweed, tagasaste and Victorian ti-tree during the past months. A large stand of sisal has defied efforts to date and any suggestions on tackling it would be most welcomed.

### Parkerville Village Reserves

Plans are under way for the Parkerville Primary School to participate in weeding and planting in these reserves. There are five reserves attached to M22 and they surround the school. A mini management plan is being prepared, but it is contingent on the future decisions about the reserves by state and local governments. Many of these areas have high social and cultural heritage values.

### Clifton Quarry and Bridle Trail East

Work days have been held at both of these sites in Parkerville. Junk from the past 100 years was hauled out of the tangle of exotic plants that have overtaken these sites. The two groups associated with the areas will need to remove bamboo, blackberries, watsonia, kikuyu, robinia and castor oil bush before revegetation commences. ATCV will be approached to help out in spring.

For further information on the Eastern Hills region call Jenny Johnson on 9295 4467.

### Planting at Quenda Creek

by Patsy Hill

This has been a busy winter so far for the Friends of Quenda Creek. A range of understorey plants, sedges and trees were planted with local volunteers and the

Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers on 21 June, 5 and 19 July. Funding was provided by Greening WA, the Shire of Kalamunda and a community conservation grant. This winter there will be a special focus on the 'kids of Quenda Creek'. We plan to involve local children and school groups in revegetation work.

Preparation of the reserve's management plan is well under way. A public questionnaire was very successful in gauging community support for our work. It confirmed the importance of bushland protection and creek restoration as priorities to the local community. The management plan is expected to take another few months to complete.

For further information call Patsy Hill on 9257 1379.

## Bunbury Region

by Nadene Schiller

### Preston River condition survey

The Leschenault Catchment Co-ordinating Group (LCCG) has been working to support the community of Donnybrook to gain a better understanding of the Preston River. The LCCG formed a steering committee from Donnybrook community members who volunteer their knowledge, opinions and skills to direct activities which will contribute to the sustainable management of the whole river.

With the help of private consultants, the committee rated the condition of the banks along the Preston River in April. This information has been mapped and distributed to government departments and other interested people.

### DRIP's foreshore plan

The Donnybrook River Improvement Program (DRIP) has completed a draft management plan for sections of the Preston River foreshore in Donnybrook. The draft plan discusses key issues, such as drainage management, fire management, appropriate planning, weed eradication, public access and native flora and fauna management, and includes possible recommendations for management. Copies are available from LCCG.

### Unconventional water management

In early June the LCDCs of the Geographe Bay Region hosted a talk by farmer, Peter Andrews, on how to reduce salinity. Peter turned his degraded farm in eastern Australia into a productive, economical one by reversing a severe salt problem. Peter said that rising salt was due to bad water management. He suggested tackling salinity by slowing the flow of water courses and recharging the water table to almost surface level. His visit coincided with the launch of the Vasse-Wonnerup salinity project, which aims to tackle salinity by spreading water across paddocks.

For more information on Peter Andrew's approach and the Vasse-Wonnerup project call Will Oldfield on 08 9752 1688. The Leschenault Catchment Co-ordinating Group can be contacted on 08 9780 6268.

# Group Profile

## Armadale Settlers' Common celebrates its centenary!



Armadale Settlers' Common Management Committee cut the 100th Anniversary cake.

### Background:

Originally set aside in 1897 for 'commonage and timber for settlers', the Common is now an important urban bushland reserve managed by the community. In 1989 the City of Armadale established the Armadale Settlers' Common Management Committee, made up of 11 local community members and one local councillor. Initially the committee produced a management plan and these recommendations have been applied ever since.

### Friends of the Armadale Settler's Common:

The Friends group, soon to become incorporated, participate in activities and keep a vigilant eye on the Common,

giving plenty of feedback to committee members. There are about 100 'Friends' and some visit the Common almost every day.

There is a strong feeling amongst the committee and the 'friends' that they are managing the Common on behalf of everyone in the community. The reserve is on the edge of the rural-urban fringe. As the suburbs move closer, more pressure may be put on the bushland, however, the supportive community network should be able to retain the Common.

### The field study centre:

The centre, on the corner of Triton Crescent and Albany Highway, Bedforddale, is home to several environmental organisations in the region including the

Upper Canning Southern Wungong Catchment Team. Seminars and workshops on bushland management and nature studies are held there. Primary school, high school and tertiary students regularly visit. The centre has a library, workshop, seed library and picnic area.

### Diverse bushland:

The 380 hectares of bushland consists mainly of jarrah-marri forest, but there's a variety of vegetation types from the foothills, up the scarp to the Darling Plateau. Wandoo and Blackbutt are found on the slopes at the edge of the scarp. Bush walks range from easy 40 minute walks to more challenging 1-2 hour walks, with some signage.

### Cherished memory:

The cubs, scouts, brownies and guides helped with tree planting on the coldest and wettest day of the year about three years ago. It was so bad that the scouts and guides gave up, but the younger cubs and brownies gave their all! Despite aching cold hands there was a great deal of fun.

### Contact person:

Brett Tizard 9497 4038  
(email: [btizard@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:btizard@cyllene.uwa.edu.au))

Brett has been Ecoplan's regional co-ordinator for the South East Region for six years.

Visit the Common's website on <http://www.general.uwa.edu.au/u/btizard/>

### Meetings/Activities:

The Friends group meet every third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at the field study centre. Watch out for a bush walk series in Spring!

## Ecoplan Econotes: Smoke germination

In trials over the last few years researchers at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens found that smoke, not fire or heat, causes the regeneration of many native plants. Seventy species (in 38 genera) out of a total 200 species tested so far have showed a positive response to smoke treatment. Some species germinated only when treated with smoke.

Researchers don't yet know exactly why it works, but the discovery has vast applications for the native cut flower industry, nurseries and home gardens, bushland regeneration, mine rehabilitation and for germinating rare species and other species that have been very difficult to grow from seed. These include *Verticordias* (feather flowers), *Geleznowia* (yellow bells)

and *Stirlingia* (blue boy). In tests so far, germination of kangaroo paws, *Lechenaultia*, *Pimelea*, *Hovea*, *Conospermum*, *Stylidium* and *Isopogon* improved greatly after smoke treatment. Why not try your luck on a species that you have had difficulty germinating?

### Methods:

- Apply smoke water to the soil surface at about one litre per square metre or soak seeds in smoke water for 3-4 hours. Dry the soaked seeds then sow straight away. Smoke water is made by bubbling smoke from fresh plant material through water. In the field smoke water can be applied to large areas to stimulate the soil seed bank.

- Apply smoke directly to the seeds for about one hour.
- Smoke can be applied to punnets with sown seed for one hour in a smoke filled tent. An old camping tent could be used. In the field a tent can be used to stimulate germination in small areas. All smoke treatment in the field should be done before the onset of winter rains.

Smoke treatment can reduce predation by insects and improve seedling growth. Ecosystem Management Services (9375 3731) and The Friends of Kings Park (9480 3634) sell smoke water. Bob Dixon is currently undertaking smoke water trials at Bibra Lake and Hepburn Heights. For further information call Bob on 9480 3628.

# What's On



July

- 18 Friday 5pm Drinks and informal talk with a representative from Birds Australia (formerly the RAOU) about the *Birds on Farms* project and other bird surveys, Greening Western Australia, 1118 Hay St, West Perth. Call 9481 2144.
- 19 Saturday 8am Bushwalk and talk by the Friends of Shenton Bushland every 3rd Saturday of the month until October. Everyone welcome. Meet at the Lemnos Street entrance. Call Janice on 9381 4051.
- 19 Saturday 9am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 387 6079.
- 19 Saturday Bimonthly bird walk at Lake Goollelal, Kingsley. Call Phyllis Robertson 9349 9105.
- 19 Saturday and Sunday 8.30am Tree planting in the Rockingham area with the Kwinana, Rockingham and Mandurah Branch of the Naturalists' Club. Meet at Lake Richmond, corner of Safety Bay Rd and Lake Street. Call Bob Goodale 9527 4289.
- 21 Monday 75th Anniversary to Men of the Trees!
- 22 Tuesday 7.30pm Darling Range Branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Eric McCrum on fungi, mosses and lichen, St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Contact Fay Riding 9291 7510.

August

- 2 Saturday Project morning at Karnup and Baldvis Nature Reserves with the WA Naturalists' Club. Meet at the Karnup Nature Reserve, corner of Karnup Road and Baldvis Road. Call Don 9592 1821.
- 2 Saturday WA Naturalists' Club *young naturalists* excursion to the Perth Zoo. Call Alan Notley 9306 1832 or Gordon Elliott 9272 1674.
- 7 Thursday Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Liz Brown on the pollinators database, Cockburn Wetlands Centre. Call Diane Matthews 9457 2896.
- 10 Sunday WA Naturalists' Club excursion to Boonanarring Reserve, near Gingin. Call Alan Notley 9306 1832 or Gordon Elliott 9272 1674.
- 12 Tuesday Perth Branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Kings Park bushland manager, Nathan McQuoid on bushland management. Call Angela Hearn 9361 1360.
- 16 Saturday 9am Workshop on *Living Streams* with Dr Luke Pen from the Water and Rivers Commission, hosted by the Bugle Creek Protection Society and the Mundaring Shire at Parkerville Hall, Seaborne Road. All welcome. Call Liz or Una 9290 6666.
- 16 Saturday 7am Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 9387 6079.
- 19 Tuesday Northern Suburbs Wildflower Society plant sale and action at Kingsley Hall. Call Joyce Woodyatt 9401 5719.
- 23 Saturday 2.30pm Gould League Excursion to Bold Park. Call 9387 6079.
- 26 Tuesday Darling Range Branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Bruce Maslin on acacias. Call Fay Riding 9291 7510.

September

- 1 Sunday - 4 Wednesday State Landcare Conference in Geraldton. The focus will be on responsibilities in undertaking landcare work, financial concerns and future implications. Call the conference co-ordinator on 08 99 21 3344.
- 2 Monday 6pm Free Lecture by well known author and palaeobotanist Mary White on her latest book *Listen, our Land is Crying* at the Perth Zoo, hosted by Greening WA and the Wildflower Society of WA. Call Greening WA to register 9481 2144.
- 5 Thursday 7.30pm WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Eric McCrum on *Liverworts and lichens* at the University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call Alan Notley 9306 1832 or Gordon Elliott 9272 1674.
- 6 Saturday WA Naturalists' Club *young naturalists* bushwalk to Greenmount National Park. Call Alan Notley 9306 1832 or Gordon Elliott 9272 1674.
- 14 Sunday The Wildflower Society of WA's *Spring Fling*, wildflower displays and activities at Perry House, Bold Park. Call 9383 7979.
- 20 Friday and 21 Saturday Family Sleep-over at Herdsman Lake, *Spiders and Long legged wonders* from 5pm Friday. Early morning bird walk at 7am Saturday. Call 9387 6079.
- 20 Friday - 29 Sunday Kings Park Wildflower Festival!
- 23 Monday 7.30pm Northern Suburbs Wildflower Society meeting and talk by David Pike on *Regeneration programs in the northern suburbs* at the Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Dr, Kingsley. Call Brian James 401 6847 or Joyce Woodyatt 401 5719.
- 26 Friday 7.45pm Eastern Hills Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Warren McCarthy on *Community fireguard/bushfires - to evacuate or stay and protect your house* at the Octagon Hall, McGlew Rd, Glen Forrest. Call Margaret McCrum 9295 3344.
- 27 Saturday - 29 Monday WA Naturalists' Club excursion to Mount Lesueur. Call Alan Notley 9306 1832 or Gordon Elliott 9272 1674.

Note: 1997 AlintaGas Bushland Care Days with 'Friends' groups and ATCV are listed on page 2.

Please send us your activities in the metropolitan and Bunbury areas by 22 August 1997 for Spring *Ecoplan News*.

## Ecoplan contacts

### □ Contact numbers:

Ecoplan community involvement co-ordinators  
 Margo O'Byrne ☎ 9265 3405  
 Jon Elder ☎ 9265 3439

Conservation Council of WA  
 Urban Bushland co-ordinator  
 Joan Payne ☎ 9371 1670

WA Conservation Council  
 79 Stirling Street  
 PERTH ☎ 9220 0652

Environment Centre of WA  
 PO Box 7375, Cloisters Square  
 WA 6850 ☎ 9227 7881

Greening Western Australia  
 1118 Hay Street  
 WEST PERTH ☎ 9481 2144

APACE  
 1 Johannah Street  
 NORTH  
 FREMANTLE ☎ 9336 1262

Volunteer Centre of WA  
 79 Stirling Street  
 PERTH ☎ 9220 0676

Urban Bushland Council  
 PO Box 326  
 WEST PERTH 6872  
 Enquiries:  
 Mary Gray ☎ 9221 3840 (wk)

□ **Ecoplan community contacts:**  
**South-East Region**  
 Brett Tizard ☎ 9497 4038

**Bunbury Region**  
 Carolyn Switzer ☎ 097 806 268

**South Region**  
 Denise Crosby and  
 Rex Sallur ☎ 9417 8460

**North-West Region**  
 Laurie Boyland ☎ 9409 1409

**Central Region**  
 Anyone interested? ☎ 9222 7000

**Eastern Hills Region**  
 Jenny Johnson ☎ 9295 4467

# Resources

## Seeds, seedlings and advice

Greening Western Australia's *Trees and Seeds for Diversity* program offers seeds, seedlings and advice to conservation groups undertaking revegetation projects. Advice and assistance in direct seeding, seed collection, storage and preparation, project planning and site monitoring, and 5,000 - 20,000 seedlings are available for projects working in partnership with Greening WA.

Approximately 15,000 local native tree seedlings from Marrinup Nursery will be provided. It is envisaged that high quality revegetation using the latest and best revegetation techniques will be the result. For further details call Dorothy Redreau at Greening Western Australia on 9481 2188.

## Updated urban bushland directory

The Urban Bushland Council's 1997 *Urban Bushland and Community Group Directory* lists 107 community groups and 136 bushland areas which cover a total of 23,860 hectares and was launched by the Minister for the Environment Hon. Cheryl Edwardes MLA at the Urban Bushland Council meeting in May. The first edition of the directory, printed in 1994, was very popular with community groups, libraries and government departments and the 1997 edition is twice the size! This shows the growing interest and concern for urban bushland.

The booklet was produced with funding from the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation and voluntary input from the

Urban Bushland Council. Copies are available at \$5 each, plus \$2 postage, from UBC at PO Box 326, West Perth 6872. A limited number of free copies are available for community groups. For further information call Mary Gray on 9221 3840(w) or Kirsten Tullis on 9271 3549(a/h).

## Bush Regeneration Courses

APACE AID (Inc) is offering four courses in bush regeneration this year. The popular *Introduction to Bush Regeneration* courses cover bush management, bush regeneration techniques, plant identification, herbarium preparation, plant propagation, direct seeding, weed control, site mapping and project planning. The fundamental principles of bushland regeneration espoused by the 'Bradley Method' is a key focus. The course costs \$200. Registration forms are available from APACE on 9336 1262.

### Course dates:

21 June - 16 August (Saturdays 1.00pm-4.30pm)

23 August - 18 October (Saturdays 1.00pm-4.30pm)

15,16,17,18 September (8.30am-4.30pm)

1,8,15,22 October (8.30am-4.30pm)

## Reader's Digest Environmental Awards

Community groups and schools working on environmental projects are eligible for these awards. The winning community group will receive \$15,000 and a total of \$10,000 is

offered in the primary and secondary schools categories. Last year attracted over 230 entries from across the country and the winner of the community group category was the *Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby* from NSW. Entries close on 3 October 1997. For entry forms and further information call 1800 817 626 (freecall).

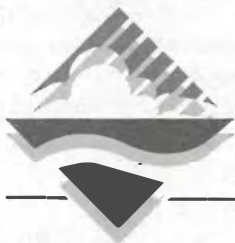
## Preventing dieback spread

The Tree Society has produced a comprehensive pamphlet on the nature of dieback (caused by the soil fungus *Phytophthora*), how to recognise its impact in bushland, prevent its spread and treat infections. The pamphlet was funded by the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation. It particularly focuses on minimising dieback spread in urban areas. Copies are available by calling 9370 2201.

## River restoration resources

The Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation (LWRRDC) has produced six booklets on riparian management. Topics include stream bank stability, water quality, retaining riparian vegetation and other biota, and managing stock. For copies call Catherine Stefaniak on 06 299 6044.

A free video entitled *River restoration... an introduction*, based on the Mary River in Queensland, but applicable to river restoration across Australia, is available by calling LWRRDC on 06 257 3379. Central to the video is the ten step restoration program developed by innovative Canadian hydrologist Bob Newbury.



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

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