



Community turns out for Bold Park



Some of the children who worked on removing lupins.

Helpers flooded in for Bold Park's Ecoplan/AlintaGas/Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers work day on 14 September 1997. Friends of Bold Park coordinator, Norma Calcutt, said that the 106 registered helpers attest to strong community concern for the bushland.

"The local community hadn't really been given the opportunity to work in the bush before, but I think they have wanted to," said Norma.

"There was so much enthusiasm on the day to get in there and do something. It was a tremendous boost to the Friends group."

Norma believes that the success of the day was due to thorough planning and publicity. Although many more people turned up than expected, the Friends were well prepared.

Eight team leaders were assigned a particular area to weed. One of the team leaders took family groups which included children. Primary and preschool children were assigned weeds, like lupins and soursob, which were easy to pull.

There were two food captains. Friends and ATCV coordinator, Bernie Riegler,

managed to quickly acquire more bread, drinks and sausages for the many hungry helpers' BBQ lunch.

Successful targeting of many groups in the local community was a key reason for such a good turn out.

"We mailed fliers to our many members and did a letter box drop in the immediate vicinity. We told the Floreat Primary School and parents associated with the school about the event, and the local community newspaper ran an article with a photo a week earlier. There was a good response from each of these avenues on the day," said Norma.

Helpers dropped in throughout the 9am to 3pm work day, staying for varying lengths of time. Most people did an average of three hours work.

The date had been fixed early in the year. It turned out to be the same day as the Wildflower Society's Spring Fling at nearby Perry House.

"This actually worked out well because people on nature walks from the Spring Fling were really interested in what we were doing. It added an extra dimension to their experience," said Norma.

"It also added to the workers' experience too: to have so many people interested in what they were doing. There was even one person who went to the Spring Fling in the morning and joined us in the afternoon."

The Friends achieved their optimistic goal of weeding a very large area in the park. Bridal creeper, gladiolus, watsonia, pelargonium, fumeria, freesias, cazmanthe, soursob and lupins were the key weeds removed. The Friends collected a list of helpers and will harness community enthusiasm again next year!

"Groups intending to organise work days for the first time should take the time to talk to those who have already run successful work days," Norma advised.

The Friends of Bold Park gained invaluable advice talking with the Friends of Shenton Bushland whilst planning their work day. *If you would like advice on running successful work days call Norma on 9384 4274.*

Wildflower Society Bushland Survey Project

In 1997 over 100 Wildflower Society and community group members have been involved in plant surveys across the southwest which have helped groups know and manage bushlands. Funding came from the Save the Bush Fund and a State Government Community Conservation grant, with support from Ecoplan and CALM.

A successful application to Bushcare will support an expanded program in 1998 that will increase the focus on management issues. Those interested in joining the 1998 program or wanting to nominate an area for surveying should contact Ann Gunness through the Wildflower Society on 9383 7979.

As we look back on the 1997 year and take a well earned rest over the hot summer months, it is a good time to reflect on the achievements of the year and re-charge our enthusiasm for the year to come. We would like to take the opportunity to wish seasons greeting, to all Ecoplan News readers.

In early November Ecoplan together with the shire of Mundaring held a series of introductory training workshops for interested participants in the hills area. Sessions were well attended and thanks to a group of enthusiastic speakers and participants a lot was learned. Thanks to the shire of Mundaring for sponsoring the workshops and to all speakers for their valuable contribution.

Early December saw both Jon and Margo in New Zealand to present papers at the Nature Conservation in Production Environments conference. The conference was sponsored by the CSIRO and the University of Auckland. Margo presented a paper on Ecoplan which was well received and Jon gave a presentation on developing community stewardship of a recreational fishery in the Ord River which is the work he does with the Fisheries Department (his other part time job) while not working with Ecoplan. Jon's paper was voted one of the best of the conference by a group of high school students who attended as observers. These conferences provide valuable opportunities for exchange of ideas and information. It would seem that the participation of community members in nature conservation in the urban areas of WA is higher than in corresponding areas in New Zealand. It was great to see Perth's hardest working weeder, Andrew Thomson at the conference. Andrew has put in up to 400 hundred hours this year weeding a number of reserves in the Perth area. Jon stayed on in New Zealand for a well deserved holiday and will be back at work on 5 January.

Ecoplan is presently negotiating with the city of Mandurah to co-sponsor an introductory workshop for volunteers in the Mandurah area in February.

Display boards available for loan:
Don't forget Ecoplan has a couple of sets of display boards which are available to bushland groups to borrow. Call Margo or Jon for more information on Ecoplan resources.

1998 Bushland Care Days:
Negotiations are under way with Alinta Gas to seek continued funding for the Ecoplan/ATCV bushland care days in 1998. Letters calling for expressions of interest will be sent out in February 1998 to bushland groups. In the meantime, you can call Margo or Jon to register your group's interest in hosting a work day.

Insurance outcomes: A meeting was held on 11 November to look at the issue of insurance for community groups. Unfortunately the guest speaker from the insurance industry was unable to attend, but those present took the opportunity to share ideas about insurance cover for community conservation groups and particular issues for inclusion in any policy.

There is a need for policies to cover public liability as well as voluntary worker accident insurance. If there is enough common interest, then a collective policy can be taken out thereby reducing the premium for any individual group. Ecoplan is contracting someone to work on this issue with the view to having a policy in place by 1 April 1998.

A questionnaire will be sent out to all groups early in the new year seeking expressions of interest for inclusion in a collective insurance scheme. Please discuss this issue at your group meetings and let us know your particular needs, so that we can proceed. For further information please contact Margo or Jon.

Conservation Council turns 30!

At the annual Conservation Council of WA dinner on 29 November 1997 the Council celebrated 30 years of campaigning for the environment. The council is an umbrella body for 66 community environmental groups across WA. Rachel Seiwert has been the Council's hardworking and multi-talented coordinator for an inspiring ten years.

Two awards were also announced on the evening. Naomi Segal won the Bessie Rischbieth Conservation Award for her many years of campaigning, in particular towards the successful banning of organochlorines in WA and Australia in the early 1990s. Geraldine Capp, environmental journalist from the West Australian, won the Peter Hunt Award for Excellence in Environmental Journalism for her coverage of a broad range of environmental issues over several years, in particular landcare and salinity issues.

Congratulations also to Greening Western Australia which celebrated its 15th birthday in 1997! Also to Joanna Seabrook who received an award for her long-standing contribution to GWA and conservation.

Autumn Ecoplan

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the Autumn Ecoplan News by 2 March 1998. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words. Thanks to all contributors!

Write to:

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4th Floor Westralia Square
141 St George's Tce
PERTH 6000
Telephone: Switchboard 9222 7000

Email: margo_o'byrne@environ.wa.gov.au
Telephone: 9222 7052

Email: jon_elder@environ.wa.gov.au
Telephone: 9222 7191
Fax: 9322 1598

Thanks to Cathy Drake for preparation of this newsletter.

Weedbusters take action

Two important events marked the first day of National Weedbusters Week, 12 October 1997. The Minister for the Environment, Cheryl Edwards, officially launched the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) and *Western Weeds*, a guide to the environmental weeds found across WA.

Western Weeds, by Penny Hussey, Greg Keighery, Roger Cousens, John Dodd and Sandy Lloyd, is the first comprehensive book on weeds in WA, covering the identification of 800 weeds. An impressive 700 copies of the book were sold before the launch and many have been sold to overseas buyers, from the US to Kenya.

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National Heritage Trust funding

In the 1997/98 funding round, \$4.9m was allocated to Bushcare projects in WA. Around 74 per cent of these funds was allocated to community groups and the rest went to State agencies for community-based projects. The metropolitan region in WA attracted \$187,599, or 4 per cent of the 1997/98 Bushcare funding. CALM will be using most of their funds to employ rural community-based Bushcare workers, produce a booklet on nature conservation covenanting and develop regional access to flora identification and information.

In the coming 1998/99 Bushcare funding round for WA, 15 per cent of the \$14.5m allocated is likely to go to urban (metropolitan and regional) projects. Limited funding, however, will be available for new projects from the Landcare and Rivercare components of 1998/99 NHT as funds are needed to continue existing programs in these areas.

Start planning your projects now. A series of information seminars will be run during February to help groups refine their applications. Well planned and written applications that show an integrated approach, such as collaboration between government agencies and community groups and across catchments, are preferred. Grants are given on a dollar-for-dollar cost-sharing basis. This may include in-kind contributions, such as voluntary work hours.

Groups interested in applying for Bushcare funds are encouraged to call Anne Sandenburg on 9481 2144 or Keith Claymore on 9334 0333 for further information. The closing date for 1998/99 NHT applications is 6 March 1998 and funds will be allocated in September. Application forms are available by calling 1800 198 231.

In WA an additional \$350,000 will be distributed to Urban Bushcare projects as part of the 1997/98 round before 30 June 1998. The closing date for applying for these additional funds is 31 January 1998.

STOP PRESS

What Makes a Good Bushcare Project?

Are you interested in funding for your organization?

Thinking of submitting a proposal for National Heritage Trust funding ?

If you would like to understand the criteria for selection of projects for National Heritage Trust funding, see some examples of good projects, and find out how to fine tune your application then come along to this workshop

Where: Greening Western Australia, 1118 Hay St, West Perth

When: Wednesday 28 January 1998

Time: 7.30 pm

For further information about this meeting phone Margo 9222 7052 or Jon 9222 7191.

Congratulations to Tonkin winners!

Here are a few of the 1997 Greening Western Australia John Tonkin Award winners and finalists. Winners of the Bushland Conservation Award, **the Richardson family**, have for generations, preserved 70 per cent of their *Lowlands* property as magnificent remnant banksia woodland. Midge Richardson and Mark Angeloni accepted the award. Finalists were **Patsy Hill**, the driving force behind Friends of Quenda Creek, **Aquinas College** and **Basil Schur**.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group won the Community Achievement Award and finalists were **Patsy Hill**, **APACE Greenskills Denmark** and **Lake Monjinup Development Group**. Environmental communicator, **Cathy Drake**, won the Community Awareness Award. **East Victoria Park Primary** and **John Forrest Senior High School** shared the Education Award. Finalists were **Bullsbrook District High** and **Central Midlands Senior High**.

Tuart

(*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*)

The tree and the community with which it lives

On Saturday 21st March the Wildflower Society of WA - Perth Branch, in co-operation with the Departments of Conservation and Land Management and Environmental Protection is organising a day's seminar/workshop on Tuart - the tree and the community with which it lives.

The workshop will be held at CALM's Wildlife Research Centre at Woodvale from 10am to 3.30pm. Before lunch expert speakers will consider: the nature of variation in the Tuart species, the biology of Tuart, the variety of communities in which Tuart grows and the flora and fauna of Tuart communities. After lunch a series of Tuart reserve managers from throughout the community will address Tuart management issues in a workshop session.

Register by sending \$20 (waged) and \$10 (unwaged or minimum waged) to Tuart Workshop, Wildflower Society of WA (Perth Branch) PO Box 837 NEDLANDS 6009. Registration will allow for teas and lunch and a copy of the proceedings of the workshop. A programme and location map will be sent to all registered.

Contact Bronwen Keighery (H9381 4062, W9222 7028) for further information.

continued from previous page

The book is already undergoing a second print run. *Western Weeds* costs \$25 and order forms are available from Agwest Seed Quality at Agriculture WA by calling 9368 3721.

National weed strategy project manager, John Thorp, will speak at the next EWAN AGM on 21 February 1998 (see *What's On* section). EWAN will focus on bridal creeper until June 1998, when another environmental weed, possibly *watsonia*, will be nominated as the focus for the next twelve months. WA is one of the few States without a State weeds strategy. It's hoped that one will be developed soon. For further information on EWAN call Joanna Seabrook on 9299 6816.

Central Region South Perth Bushlands

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

Four hectares of banksia woodland near Gillon Street in Karawara, owned by Homeswest, is to be cleared for residential development early in 1998. This is despite four years of effort by local community members. It is a statutory requirement that 10% of any redeveloped land should be set aside as public open space. It was hoped that this 10% would be remnant bushland, but unfortunately it will be a grassed area. If this had been successful at least 1.5 hectares of the bushland would have been retained.

John Feldman has been liaising with City of South Perth environmental officer, Mark Taylor, to collect as much native plant seed as possible from this bushland before it is destroyed. Also, when the bushland is cleared, the intention is to mulch the understorey plant species and the seed-bearing branches of the tree species to produce a seed-rich mulch for spreading in weed-free areas of other bushland in early winter 1998.

The final management plan for the Goss Avenue and Koonawarra Primary School bushlands in Manning has been approved by the City of South Perth. The draft management plan for Davilak Reserve in Manning has been released for public comment and the final report should be available in early 1998.

The rehabilitation committee for Milyu Nature Reserve have engaged an environmental consultant to prepare a management plan for the area. This has been funded by a \$4000 grant through Greening WA's Chain of Diamonds program. Community consultation on the management plan is expected to start in late 1997 and the management plan will be finalised in the first half of 1998. Issues to be addressed in the management plan include weed control and restricting dog access to the reserve. Milyu Nature Reserve, just north of the Como jetty on the South Perth foreshore, is a refuge for international migratory wading birds from October to April each year.

Andrew Thomson has been busy removing weeds (mainly veldt grass) from Davilak Reserve in Manning. The reserve has a few tree species (Banksia, Casuarina and Eucalyptus) but practically no understorey species. Andrew has found seedlings of about seven understorey species, mostly within the drip zone of the trees. He has carefully weeded around these native plant seedlings to aid their recognition when the extensive area of surrounding veldt grass is regularly mown by Council workers.

For further information contact John Feldman on 9368 3739 (w) or 9450 5661 (after 6pm).

Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre

This has been a busy season with the implementation of the Gordon Reid Foundation major grant. The Friends now have a garage erected on-site. It houses the landcare vehicle, a seed sorting bench and storage facilities.

Greening WA's Chain of Diamonds workshops on seed collection and propagation were held at the Centre. Linda Taman renewed our hope with the discovery of six wetlands species that the cows had overlooked! Luke Sweedman and Bob Dixon have volunteered to run a workshop on collection and storage of seed from the banksia

woodland. Many thanks! We are fired up for the commencement of the seed collecting program.

Workdays have concentrated on the removal of outbreaks of watsonia, bridal creeper and freesias. Our annual gladiolus pull is reducing the population. Arum lilies are now spreading into drier areas and will be targeted next year. A program to control foxes and rabbits is also under way.

Results from the weeds survey identified suitable sites for the spreading of soil. One hectare will be trialed initially. The sand mining company Rocla is providing technical expertise and machinery and donating truck time. Thanks to the Murdoch branch of the Wildflower Society, Wetlands Conservation Society, Kings Park, City of Cockburn, the Centre and Joanna Seabrook for assisting with the project.

Regular work days are held every Tuesday from 9am to noon and on the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome.

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

Friends of Blue Gum Lake

Students from Brentwood Primary School borrowed photos of lake creatures from a member of the Friends in order to decorate a bus shelter in Moolyean Road with Blue Gum Lake as the theme.

A banner depicting the reserve, designed and painted by a small group of the Friends, will be displayed near Canning Bridge from December 1997. Melville Council supplied an artist to supervise the project.

In October the Friends planted approximately 50 hakea plants that were grown in Carroll Tree Tubes. In early December they were still doing very well!

For further information call Marion Watson on 9316 1324.

Friends of Shenton Bushlands

Notes from Janice Marshall

The Friends have experienced their first fire. It occurred on 30 October 1997. We are hoping to hand on what we are observing and learning to the wider community through regular information sheets on the noticeboards in the bushlands.

The Friends are holding a seminar on 4 April 1997 (see What's On section) on direct seeding and encourage other groups to attend and share their experiences. The group meets every Sunday 8am to 10am to work in the bushlands. Groups leaders are rotated to share the load.

For further information call Janice on 9381 4051.

North Fremantle Wetland Project

Virtually all wetland habitats along the Swan River have been partially or completely destroyed. The need to re-establish a wetland habitat in North Fremantle was highlighted during the development of the North Fremantle Foreshore Management Plan, written in consultation with the community. The City of Fremantle have since developed the North Fremantle Wetlands Concept Plan. The plan includes ongoing community input and art

projects that will highlight the cultural and historical heritage of the area.

For further information call Tony Baird on 9430 2314.

North West Region Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park (FYRP)

Notes from Laurie Boylan

FYRP are pleased that the Water Corporation's proposed sewer line extension along the eastern park boundary has been deferred until an EPA review is done. The group hold committee meetings every month and there are activities planned every weekend. The FYRP AGM was held in mid-December.

Using community-based work orders

With planting completed for 1997, the nursery is back in production. Nursery stock is looking healthy for planting next year. Several thousand plants have been propagated with much help from groups of people on Ministry of Justice community-based work orders. These workers range from those with unpaid fines to those on parole. They have been employed, with much success, since November 1996.

Advice to other groups thinking of using this program is to make sure you say up front that supervisors will be needed for the group. This makes the program manageable. The supervisors manage the groups and introduce newcomers to tasks. They do an excellent job and also do a considerable amount of work themselves. Nursery manager, Jackie Harvey, manages the work orders program for the FYRP. Jackie briefs the supervisors on tasks to be done and keeps her own records of achievements. The groups have been doing a really good job. Many have been very impressed with the voluntary hours put in by FYRP members and gain extra respect for the environment. If you would like to find out more about FYRP's experience using community work order groups call Jackie on 9409 1412.

Yellagonga wetlands seminar

The Yellagonga wetlands seminar held in mid-November 1997 was a great success. Over 40 people attended and the Minister for the Environment opened the proceedings. The seminar focused on community expectations in the management of the Yellagonga Regional Park. It was coordinated by Bea Somers and Sandy Evans.

Copies of the papers presented at the seminar and general enquires about the seminar can be directed to Cate Tauss on 9309 5241 or Bea Somers on 9306 3497.

For further information about FYRP call Laurie on 9409 1409.

The Quinns Rocks Environment Group

The group is seeking to retain bushland north of Burns Beach, one of the most significant remnants on the metropolitan coast. It is also trying to make sure that bushland on the Quinns Rocks Primary School grounds is retained and appropriately managed. The sale and development of some of these bushlands has been proposed, to raise funds and because of the perceived fire risk. However, the group sees that

there are ways of reducing the fire hazard to protect students and staff, and also protect the bush and its educational value for the school. Greater awareness of the importance of bushland is needed if it is to be maintained.

Land clearing for urban development and associated infrastructure is causing loss and fragmentation of bushland in and around Quinns Rocks. The group is trying to protect local biological diversity. Research on remnant vegetation, including how vegetation cover has changed and strategies for conservation, is being undertaken as part of the group's landcare project.

A community workshop is planned for March 1998 to discuss issues and ideas for retaining remnant vegetation and biodiversity in a rapidly developing area. The project will provide a basis for keeping more bushland at Quinns, and elsewhere in Perth's urban fringe.

If you are interested in this workshop call Karyn Shaw on 9305 1405 or David Wake on 9220 0658 (w).

Hills Region

Eastern Hills groups

Jenny Johnson

What an eventful 1997 it has been for bushland in the Eastern Hills! This year the Swan—Mundaring Catchment officer, Liz Weston, was appointed and the creation of Mundaring Landcare (Integrated Catchment Management) and the Jane Brook, Helena River and Blackadder Creek Catchment Groups followed. 'Hands-on' Friends groups have been working on reserves and watercourses following ICM best practice guidelines.

In 1997 we were inspired by an early break to the season with the May rains, but a dry winter followed. Planting projects in many areas were thwarted by Mother Nature and, reluctantly, hand watering of plantings became necessary in dampland areas. A summer rainstorm would be a real blessing.

In spite of these difficulties, in the Hovea—Parkerville area over 1400 community work hours have been spent weeding, and planting more than 10 600 local species of shrubs, ground covers and wetland plants in the surrounds of Jane Brook. Similar efforts have been carried out in Rocky Gully, Darlington and around Blackadder Creek.

The Swan—Mundaring Community Catchment Group was successful in the 1997-1998 National Heritage Trust funding round. A project officer will be appointed to coordinate community projects. 1998 should be a GREAT year in Hills!

For further information call Jenny Johnson on 9295 4467.

South East Region

Friends of Ellis Brook Valley (Inc)

by Margaret Robertson

The Friends of Ellis Brook Valley are winding down their activities in the reserve for the summer period. Activities will commence with renewed energy and enthusiasm in February and volunteers will be much appreciated. On 14 December we had an end-of-year walk followed by dinner with members. Our AGM is planned for 23 February 1998 at 7.30pm.

Our nursery activities will be continuing over summer. We have already propagated almost 1000 plants. Many more are needed and help would be appreciated.

This year we have been kept busy with dieback spraying and control. We covered 5.7 hectares on our Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/ATCV bushland care day and have covered another 1.3 hectares since.

Weed control, mostly watsonia removal, has begun in Lots 1 and 2 Rushton Road. These lots, along with Lots 3—6, have been added to the reserve as part of the Darling Range Regional Park process. The beautiful Rainbow Bee-eater can be seen from October to January in these areas. Another very special inhabitant, whose habitat is declining on the scarp and coastal plain, is the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

The Friends group is planning a free Eco-Foot Rally in March. This event will be styled like a car rally, but walking instead of driving! Details will be available after Christmas.

A BIG thank you to Ecoplan for supporting us, and indeed to the contribution by all conservation groups throughout the year. We hope to see you 'out there' in 1998.

For further information call Margaret on 9459 8852.

Armadale City BushCare

by Kim Sarti

The Armadale City BushCare steering committee was formed in June 1997 and is an association of the many groups in the Council area that are managing and preserving our ever-diminishing remnant bushland and wetland reserves. The aim of the steering committee is to make recommendations to the Armadale Council on the formation of a peak bush care group to act as an advisory body to the Council and to disseminate information to community groups and individuals interested in bush care.

In September a public workshop was held to discuss bushland and wetland management and a framework for effective environmental management within the Council. A directory of Armadale City BushCare groups was presented to each Armadale councillor. The directory contains contact names and phone numbers of bush care group representatives and describes the location and special features of associated reserves. A joint environmental display by all the groups was held at the Kelmscott Agricultural Show in October.

Friends of Lloyd Hughes Park

This recently formed group organised a letter drop to adjacent landowners concerning rubbish in the park. A clean-up by neighbours was conducted in December. The increased awareness of this problem has been effective. One person was spotted dumping rubbish by a neighbour and the ranger was notified. The embarrassed person was then seen removing the rubbish and taking it home again by wheelbarrow.

Bungendore Park

Bungendore Park celebrated its centenary on 12 October 1997. To celebrate this milestone the Bungendore Park Management Committee conducted a bushwalk and released its book, *A Walk with Time: The Bungendore Park Story*.

This natural history book has 65 black and white illustrations and 58 colour photographs. It allows the reader to follow land developments over time and discover the plants and animals that live in this 500 hectare reserve in Bedfordale. The book costs \$21 (including postage) and is available from PO Box 54, Armadale, 6992, and at selected outlets in Armadale for \$18.95.

For further information call Kim Sarti on 9390 5788.

Bunbury Region

Nursery becomes community-driven

by Carolyn Switzer

Community management is now in place at the Leschenault Landcare Nursery. This nursery has provided seedlings for revegetation in the Leschenault Estuary catchment for the past seven years. With Water and Rivers Commission sponsorship it will now be directed by a committee of landcare enthusiasts. Once again, volunteer work will be a critical part of the operations. About 600 volunteer hours were clocked up last season.

The first busybee produced actions that typically happen when committed volunteers get together. Australind Bushland Council member, Peter Eckersley, persuaded nursery manager, Pat Hatfield, to collect seed from their bush reserve. The nursery will now produce seedlings for Australind revegetation work. This fits exactly with the nursery's emphasis on growing local species. Growing more rushes and sedges for waterway zones is to be a developing emphasis.

Anyone wanting plants for landcare purposes can get an order form through the Land Conservation District Committees in the region.

For further information call Carolyn Switzer on (08) 9780 6268.

Bunbury town planning amendments

by Bernhard Bischoff

The new Bunbury Town Planning Scheme 7 is due to be released for a three month public comment period at the end of 1997. It is expected that it will include proposals to rezone a part of the 'Maldens' from residential to conservation. However, it is also proposed to rezone about 150 hectares of remnant bushland owned by Homeswest and Bunbury City Council to residential, commercial and industrial. This will threaten the quality and the long term survival of the Southern Bunbury Wildlife Corridor. This corridor is of State significance because it represents the only intact cross-section of aeolian and alluvial soil formations across the Swan Coastal Plain. It is approximately seven kilometres wide, from the ocean to the Preston River. Enquires about submissions regarding the town planning scheme should be directed to the Ministry of Planning in Perth on 9264 7777 or Bunbury on (08) 9791 0577.

Bernhard has been researching the natural history of the wildlife corridor. It is a fascinating story that goes back to somewhere around the beginning of the last centomillennium (ca. 100 000 years BP) when, he believes, the first Bassendean sand dunes began to form.

For further information call Bernhard on (08) 9791 4113.

Group Profile

Donnybrook River Improvement Program (DRIP)



Donnybrook River Improvement Program Committee from left Liz Elkington, Hugh Sommerville, Jean Hearman (oldest member), Alison Companti, Ethel Farley, Daniel Jeffreys (youngest member), and Rae McPherson.

The members

The DRIP committee was formed at a community planting day held by the Donnybrook-Balingup Shire and South West Development Commission in 1994. The seven committee members are locals with diverse backgrounds.

The youngest member, Daniel Jeffreys, is 16. He brings much enthusiasm and energy to the group and encourages other young people to become involved. He recently organised a stall at the Lions Christmas Fair.

DRIP Chairperson, Rae McPherson, won the individual achievement award in the 1997 Greening South West Awards, presented by the South West

Development Commission and sponsored by Worsely Alumina.

The river

The group focuses on 2.2 kilometres of the Preston River between the Boyup Brook Road turn-off and the bridge at Bridge St, Donnybrook. The river runs parallel to the South West Highway, behind the main shopping centre in Donnybrook.

DRIP member, Jean Hearman, is currently writing a local history on this part of the river, where there was once a jail, flax mill and a school. The group hope to develop a tape on the local river area that can be sold at the

tourist centre. Signs are currently being developed for the river walk.

DRIP Aims

- Revitalise the foreshore as a central recreational area feature in the town for locals and visitors.
- Stabilise the river banks with native vegetation so that the river can be a more effective wildlife corridor.

It will take about 20 years to restore the river so that native plants outnumber weeds. So far 7000 native plants have been planted! The three worst weeds are honeysuckle, watsonia and cane. An inspiring day spent on site with Dr Luke Pen in 1995 was pivotal in planning the direction for the group. DRIP work very successfully with the local Shire and the Water and Rivers Commission.

Thanks to local students!

Donnybrook District High School students, many of whom come from families that live along the river, have contributed an invaluable 1650 work hours from 1995 to 1997! In 1997 24 students, worked with DRIP for an hour and a half once a week as part of the school's community-based learning program.

Contact person

Rae McPherson (08) 9731 2074

Meetings

Apple Cyber Cafe, 7.30pm on the second Monday of each month.

Keeping the meetings short, only one hour, has helped maintain enthusiasm.

Ecoplan Econotes: To plant or not to plant?

Planting trees might look good in media photos, but it's often not the best way to recover bushland. Tein McDonald advocates encouraging natural regenerative processes in bushland as much as possible before any planting or seeding is done.

Tein recently completed her PhD on bush regeneration and has spent 15 years working in the bush. At her talk at APACE on 25 September 1997 she urged bush regenerators to experiment with her ideas.

Tein believes that the bush has a resilience that we often underestimate and the best way to rehabilitate it is to aid Nature's own recovery capacity. Get to know the bushland. Key sources of degradation, like grazing or excessive nutrient inputs, may need addressing first. Consider what seeds are likely to be stored in the soil and how they might be triggered. Many native seeds

can persist in the soil for decades. The condition of the soil is critical. Perhaps preliminary treatments, like ripping severely compacted soil, may be necessary.

Excluding the bushland from grazing or slashing, removing choking weeds, applying light tillage, using smoked water or burning debris in piles on the site are some of the methods that can trigger regeneration in degraded bushland. Try selected methods in a small area first to find out what responds best.

Work out from a core area which is in good condition. Be prepared for disappointments and pleasant surprises! Be ready to control the weed that also has an unexpected regenerative capacity.

Why not experiment by comparing areas that have been encouraged to regenerate on their

own with others that have been planted or seeded with local species? Share your findings! There is much more information available on planting trees than regenerating the bush, and all bush regenerators can contribute to increasing our knowledge.

A CD ROM of Tein's work can be accessed at the Department of Environmental Protection library. It cannot be borrowed, but hard copies can be made of relevant sections. Margo has a copy of Tein's notes for those who are interested. Call her on 9222 7052.



What's On



January

- 12 Monday — 16 Friday *Catchments, Corridors and Coasts*, Australian Association for Environmental Education's (AAEE) five-day environmental education course for teachers and other environmental educators. Costs \$99. Call Jeanette Huston 9574 6039.
- 13 Tuesday 8am—7pm AAEE's *Agricultural Catchments and Corridors* bus tour through the Avon catchment. Costs \$30 (\$20 members), including lunch and morning tea (sponsored by Alcoa). Call Jeanette 9574 6039.
- 17 Saturday 8am Friends of Lake Gwelup monthly nature walk. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.
- 18 Sunday 8.30am Early-bird morning walk with the Friends of Bennett Brook. Meet at Clarrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham. Call Linda 9271 6901.
- 24 Saturday 8am Monthly walk with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at the corner of Castle and Hope Sts, North Beach. Call Christine Curry 9447 2983.
- 28 Wednesday 7.30pm What makes a good bushcare project? Workshop on NHT grant applications at Greening Western Australia, 1118 Hay St West Perth. Call Margo 9222 7052 or Jon 9222 7191.
- 31 Saturday 8am Summer nature walk with Friends of Trigg Bushland. Meet at Elliot Rd, Trigg, near St Mary's. Call Robyn 9246 3954.

February

- 5 Thursday 7.45pm Murdoch branch of the WA Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Eric McCrum on *Mosses, Liverworts and Lichens* at Cockburn Wetlands Centre, Hope Rd. Call Diane Matthews 9457 2896.
- 6 Friday 7.30pm WA Naturalists' Club AGM, University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call 9306 1832 or 9272 1674.
- 10 Tuesday 7.30pm Perth branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Roger Fryer on the Kings Park display at the Chelsea Flower Show in London, at Shenton Park Community Centre, cnr Onslow & Herbert Rds. Call Bronwen 9381 4062.
- 21 Saturday 2pm Planting with the Friends of Bennett Brook at Clarrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham. Call Linda 9271 6901.
- 21 Saturday 2pm Environmental Weeds Action Network AGM and talk by John Thorp, national weed strategy project manager, at Greening Western Australia, 1118 Hay St West Perth. Call Joanna 9299 6816.

March

- 5 Thursday 7.45pm Murdoch Branch of the WA Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Alan Lowrie on *Stydlidiums* at Cockburn Wetlands Centre, Hope Rd. Call Diane Matthews 9457 2896.
- 6 Friday 7.30pm WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on *Photography* at the University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call 9306 1832 or 9272 1674.
- 7 Saturday 8.30am A guided tour of the banksia woodland regeneration project at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre. Call Denise 9417 8460.
- 6 Friday WA Naturalists' Club excursion to Penguin Island. Call 9306 1832.
- 11 Wednesday 7.30pm The first in a series of five bush regeneration forums held by AABR (WA) on aspects of bush regeneration, at Greening Western Australia (check address as GWA are moving premises, 9481 2144), \$2 for nonmembers. Call Janice 9381 4051.
- 14 Saturday 2—4pm Weeding with the Friends of Bennett Brook at Clarrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham. Call Linda 9271 6901.
- 15 Sunday 9am—12noon **WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WAS 40TH BIRTHDAY** Champagne and orange brunch for members and friends at Perry House, Oceanic Drive, Floreat (\$10 per person). Call 9383 7979.
- 21 Saturday 10am—3.30pm Tuart workshop, CALM Wildlife Research Centre at Woodvale. Contact Bronwen Keighery (h)9381 4062 (w)9222 7028.
- 27 Friday Helpers are needed for the Conservation Council of WA all-day street appeal in the city. Call 9220 0652.
- 28 Saturday 10am—4pm Men of the Trees *Festival of the Trees* family day in Hazelmere. Groups are invited to have stalls, food, entertainment, learn about the environment. Call 9250 1266.
- March 29 — April 5 National Seaweek '98. Seaweek information and a community resources kit is available from Barbara Jensen 02 6685 7067 or email bjensen@om.com.au.
- 3 Friday 7.30pm WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on *Bandicoots* at the University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call 9306 1832 or 9272 1674.
- 4 Saturday Direct seeding seminar and discussion with Friends of Shenton Bushland. Grace Vaughan House, 227 Stubbs Tce, Shenton Park. Call Janice 9381 4051.
- 10 Friday — 13 Monday WA Naturalists' Club excursion to Jaurdie Station, near Southern Cross. Call 9339 6613.

What's on in the Bunbury Region

January

- 13 Tuesday 8am Flora survey with the Bunbury Naturalists' Club at Franklandia Reserve, Boyanup Rd (track opposite West Dardanup Rd).
- 17 Saturday 5pm Picnic and murr forest possum spot-lighting at the Wonerup picnic site, Layman Rd, with the Bunbury Naturalists' Club.
- 24 Saturday 10am—3pm Leschenault Community Nursery busybee, Johnstone Rd, Bunbury.

February

- 19 Thursday Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on birds by Olga Green and Rita Watkins at Agriculture WA, North Boyanup Rd, Bunbury.
- 22 Saturday Manea Park day walk with the Bunbury Naturalists' Club. Bring lunch and meet at the car park, rear of Southwest College, Robertson Dr.

March

- 19 Thursday Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Brendan Lepschi of the WA Herbarium at Agriculture WA, North Boyanup Rd, Bunbury.
- 22 Saturday 9am Guided Collie River walk in Australind with Bunbury Naturalists' Club. Meet at Brunswick River Bridge, Paris Rd. For Bunbury activities call Shirley (08) 9795 7181 or Gordon (08) 9797 2673.

The Busselton Naturalists' Club activities and meeting program will be available by early February 1998. Call Bernie Masters (08) 9727 2474.

Please send us your activities in the metropolitan and Bunbury areas by 2 March 1998 for Autumn *Ecoplan News*.

The Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (WA) will hold five forums in 1998 on aspects of bush regeneration, such as site preparation, planting and sowing, mulching, weed control and reconstructing plant communities. See 11 March metro listing for details on the first forum.

Ecoplan contacts

□ Contact numbers:

Ecoplan community involvement co-ordinators
Margo O'Byrne ☎ 9222 7052
Jon Elder ☎ 9222 7191

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

Swan Catchment Centre
108 Adelaide Tce
EAST PERTH 6004 ☎ 9221 3840

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 ☎ (08) 9780 6268

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

Arum lily symposium

Almost everything you want to know about the insidious bushland weed, the arum lily, is contained in the proceedings of a symposium held in August 1997 at HMAS Stirling on Garden Island. The proceedings cover the weed's biology, its threat to the natural environment and agriculture, and various control programs currently in place in the southwest of WA. Limited copies are available at no cost from Dr John Scott on 9387 0644.

Gordon Reid Foundation grants

Funding for 1998 small grants (up to \$5,000) from the environmental funding arm of the Lotteries Commission, the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation, opened on 8 December 1997. Funds are usually exhausted by April or May, so apply as soon as possible in 1998. Expressions of interest for major grants from the Foundation can be submitted throughout the year. For grant guidelines, including 1998 funding priorities, and application forms, telephone 9340 5270 or fax 9340 5274.

From scientists to surfers

Coast to Coast 98: From scientists to surfers, a coastal management conference, aims to attract participants ranging from engineers to community groups. The conference will focus on sharing responsibilities in managing coasts. There will be

international speakers, plenty of workshops and pre-conference tours to parts of the southwest coast. It will be held from 29 April to 1 May 1998 at the Sheraton Ballroom Perth. Organisers aim to keep the costs down and hope to attract many community members. For further information call Kelly Croxon (RHK public relations) on 9328 5022.

1998 has been declared the International Year of the Ocean. For information on activities call Edwina Davies Ward on 9220 0662.

Publications

A free booklet called *Are There Seeds in your Wetland? Assessing Wetland Vegetation*, produced by the Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation, is available free on 1800 020 157.

Pollination in Western Australia: A Data Base of Animals Visiting Flowers includes 4000 records of birds, insects and mammals visiting native plants. It is available for \$25 (plus \$6.50 postage within WA) from the WA Naturalists' Club, PO Box 156, Nedlands, WA 6909 or by calling 9370 2080.

The Tree Society have released a booklet on establishing and caring for native trees in gardens. If you would like a free copy of *Steps Toward Tree Conservation in a Western Australian Garden* call the Tree Society on 9370 2201. Copies of the Society's

comprehensive pamphlet on preventing dieback are also still available.

Conservation and Land Management's updated *Wildlife Carer's List* is available to bushland groups by calling Terry Hales on 9334 0333. It is a regional list of volunteers who will care for sick and injured native animals.

Hakeas of the Wheatbelt by Jennifer Young is a new book detailing 44 plants found in the agricultural region, many of which also do well in gardens. The book is particularly useful for revegetation projects. Copies cost \$15 and are available from Penny Hussey on 9334 0530 (w).

1998 Banksia Awards

There are 13 categories in these national awards. Nominations close 16 February 1998. Application kits are available from the Banksia Foundation, 2 Walmer St, Abbotsford, Victoria 3067 or by calling

Smogbusters

Smogbusters is a Conservation Council of WA project to raise awareness and promote action for cleaner air and sustainable transport. Federal Government funding for the program has been reinstated at least until April 1998. If you would like to be a part of community action on the issues call David Wake on 9220 0658.



If not claimed within 7 days, please return to
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PO Box K822, Perth, Western Australia 6842

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