



## Volunteers deserve protection



*Elizabeth Buters removing watsonia at Brixton Street Wetlands.*

What would happen if a bushland volunteer was seriously injured when treading on broken glass or while using a brush cutter?

What would happen if bushland work caused a tree to fall or a fire to start and property was seriously damaged?

There are hundreds of volunteers working on bushland conservation throughout WA, but very few have adequate accident and public liability insurance.

The need for adequate insurance cover was discussed last November at a meeting convened by Ecoplan.

Linda Taman has since been employed to look at insurance options for community bushcare groups. Both public liability and voluntary workers compensation cover have been investigated

"The more I look into it, the more I see how ineffective the current situation is," Linda said.

"What really concerns me is that it

would only take one serious incident to occur where a group or individual was held liable, and many people would be discouraged from doing bushland work. We really don't want that to happen.

"Most bushland groups I have spoken to say that they have been worried about this for some time."

In other Australian states, an insurance policy is necessary in order to become incorporated. Surprisingly, this is not a requirement in WA.

If groups are not incorporated then individuals can be held liable.

Warwick Boardman, from the City of South Perth Environment Association (COSPEA) is concerned because his group is not incorporated.

"It is inconvenient for all groups to become incorporated. There is too much bureaucracy involved," he said.

"We'd like to ask people from the community to help us, but we want the peace of mind that it is completely safe."

The Ministry for Planning has accident and public liability insurance for volunteers, but this is not well known. CALM has a system which covers registered volunteers on land managed by CALM or activities initiated by CALM.

Local councils have insurance policies for volunteers who work on council run programs such as Meals on Wheels. It seems that bushland groups could be included in this type of council cover, if the local authority is prepared to sign an agreement for the group to work in bushland areas vested with the council.


Most of the councils in NSW (150 of them) have taken out a collective insurance policy designed specifically for bush care and landcare workers.

Linda will also be drawing up guidelines on health and safety, including the safe use of herbicides and power tools. These guidelines will look at how volunteers should behave to ensure their health and safety, what to do when an accident occurs to ensure that insurance claims will be valid and list incidents that are not covered by policies (eg skin cancer, Ross River virus).

Currently there is a policy which individual bushland groups can join which will give adequate and appropriate cover. This policy is with Aradley Insurance Brokers. Their policy was set up for Land Conservation District Committees in the eastern states and costs \$63 a year for each group.

This policy covers the use of power tools, herbicides and brush-cutters. Workers are covered even if they are not a member of the bushland group, but are simply helping out on a particular day.

Call Linda Taman on 9377 5621 if you would like to discuss insurance issues.

 Although summer is usually not such a busy season, we know that many people have put a lot of time into developing grant applications for the Natural Heritage Trust.

Congratulations to the groups who have obtained funding through the Community Conservation Grants. This funding should enable a lot of important work to be carried out.

With the weather cooling down and rain starting, groups will invariably become busier as weeds rear their heads and planting season begins! Here's hoping for the right weather at the right time.

**Ecoplan has been busy over the past months.**

In conjunction with the City of Mandurah we conducted introductory volunteer training sessions and these were a great success. A key outcome was the resolution of local council officers and community bushland volunteers to identify specific areas of local bushland for the protection and support by "Friends of.." groups. We'll keep you posted on these efforts.

Feedback received from the training was particularly positive with much of the credit due to guest speakers Mike Bamford, David Kaesehagen, Bronwyn Keighery and Bob Goodale. Many thanks are due to City of Mandurah officers Bryce Bunny and Kylie Carmen-Brown for their organisational efforts and most importantly all the participants who gave their time and energy.

Ecoplan is also busy organising the bushland care days for 1998 and a launch of the program is planned for May.

Following a meeting of concerned group leaders late last year, the Department of Environmental Protection contracted Linda Taman to investigate the many

issues involved with insurance cover for community bushland groups.

Linda contacted a large number of community groups and found that only three groups had insurance cover for their work in bushland areas. A final report on insurance issues, together with some guidelines for groups will be available from Margo or Jon by 30 April 1998.

Well done to the Shire of Mundaring for organising a supper to thank all the community bushland volunteers. More than 100 volunteers attended, together with councillors and council staff. It was a great opportunity for people from various groups to meet and share experiences, and to know that their efforts are appreciated.

Congratulations to the Perth branch of the Wildflower Society for a very successful workshop on Tuart woodlands which took place in March. The workshop was well attended, and informed speakers discussed the biology, occurrence and management of Tuart woodlands. Proceedings from the workshop will be available later this year.

## Winter Ecoplan

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the Winter Ecoplan News by 1 June 1998. You can write, fax or email. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words. Thanks to all contributors!

### Write to:

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### South Region -

Denise Crosby and Rex Sallur  
☎ 9417 8460

### North-West Region -

Laurie Boyland ☎ 9409 1409

### Eastern Hills Region -

Jenny Johnson ☎ 9295 4467

### Conservation Council of WA

☎ 9220 0652

### Urban Bushland Co-ordinator -

Joan Payne ☎ 9371 1670

### Environment Centre of WA

☎ 9227 7881

### Greening Western Australia

☎ 9481 2144

### APACE

☎ 9336 1262

### Swan Catchment Centre

☎ 9221 3840

### Urban Bushland Council -

Mary Gray ☎ 9221 3840

Newsletter compiled by  
Cathy Drake

## Bush Care Days breakfast

The Ecoplan-AlintaGas-Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) Bushland Care Days are on again in 1998.

The first 'care day' will be held at Armadale Settlers Common on Saturday 17 May. Prior to this the Hon Minister for the Environment Cheryl Edwardes will officially launch the 1998 program over breakfast at the Common.

Ecoplan volunteers and those involved or previously involved in the 'care days' are invited to attend. Breakfast will be served at 8.30am and keen volunteers may stay for the day. RSVP to Christine on 9222 7375 by Monday 11 May.

Bushland groups interested in hosting a day should call Jon Elder on 9222 7191. If you're interested in helping out on a day call ATCV on 9339 3902.

## Sydney's Friends get organised

It's great to see the growing number of urban bushland groups getting more and more organised, and co-ordinating with catchment groups and local government.

It seems that this trend is also happening in the east.

Warringah Shire in northern Sydney has more than 500 volunteers involved with over 50 reserves. An environment officer co-ordinates and assists the volunteers with technical advice, basic training, information

materials, tools, mulch, refuse removal and plants for regeneration projects.

Five field days are held annually. These are opportunities for training and socialising. In a recent survey, weed eradication and restoration of degraded areas was given as the main activities undertaken by volunteers.

Ring Margo or Jon on 9222 7052 if you would like a copy of the Warringah Council's management strategy for weed and fire control.

## Native gardens with style

Local native plants can be used to construct many attractive styles of home gardens.

Greening WA's Perth Plants program has been running workshops on using natives in home gardens. Six brochures have been written how to create a Mediterranean, formal, coastal, cottage, bush or water garden using native plants.

The brochures include species lists and site

plans. They are available from retail nurseries in the Perth Plants program, including Waldecks in Bentley, 'On Vine' in Middle Swan and Kingsley, Wildflower Nurseries in Bibra Lake and Wembley, Garden Harmony, Bayswater Garden Centre, Zanthorrea and Fremantle Community Nursery. GWA also offers a garden landscaping service using native plants.

## Lobbying for a State weeds strategy

At least 60 people attended the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) AGM.

John Thorp, national weed strategy project manager, ran a workshop on the important ingredients for developing the State weeds strategy.

Joanna Seabrook and Judy Fisher subsequently discussed the strategy with the Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, on behalf of EWAN. EWAN members have also been talking to the Nursery Industry Association (NIA) about weeds sold in nurseries.

NIA have been very co-operative and have offered EWAN display space at their Garden Week event in April. EWAN recently received Natural Heritage Trust funds for assisting groups to develop effective techniques for weed control.

## Conservationists Honoured

Conservationists have recently been recognised with prestigious awards. Joanna Seabrook and Eric Singleton were awarded Order of Australia medals earlier this year.

Joanna is well known for her pioneering work on seed orchards, direct seeding and other revegetation techniques. She has contributed to a huge number of conservation projects and is currently a driving force in the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN).

Joanna was also the winner of Greening Australia's 1998 national award for long term contribution to the organisation.

Eric Singleton initiated the Bayswater Shire's Singleton Bird Sanctuary, established on an old rubbish dump site. He has been the warden at the sanctuary, treating injured birds and releasing them back into the wild, for many years.

Conservationists, Jenny Johnson and Bryn

Davis, recently won local government citizen of the year awards.

Jenny, Ecoplan's eastern hills region co-ordinator, won the award from the Mundaring Shire for her bushland conservation and fire brigade work since 1991. Jenny was nominated by the Jane Brook Catchment Group and she told Ecoplan News that she is very grateful for the support she has received from the local community.

Bryn Davis won the citizen of the year award from the City of Fremantle. Bryn was one of the initiators of the Ecoplan program. In the Fremantle area he is well known for planting trees and has initiated many local projects, including the Fremantle Green Plan. Tony Baird, Fremantle's Environmental Officer, said that Bryn has made significant contributions toward making Fremantle a greener place to live.

## Swan-Avon web site re-launch

Riverlink, the web site for the Swan-Avon Integrated Catchment Management Program now includes a regularly updated calendar of events and local community and natural resource information. Surf the site at <http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon>. Feedback and input on the site is welcomed.

The Environment Centre of WA has an events calendar on the web: <http://www.iinet.net.au/~ecwa/main/calendar.html>.

## World Environment Day

Keep the eyes of the world focused on the environment!

Plan something special, like local displays, walks or talks, for World Environment Day on Friday 5 June.

It is also Arbor Day. Men of the Trees and the Gould League are holding talks in schools. If you would like to find out about these call Jocelyn Millward on 9250 1888.

The Department of Environmental Protection, groups from the Conservation Council of WA, Water and Rivers Commission and Fisheries will be holding concerts at the Fly By Night Club. All proceeds will go to the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers for marine and coastal projects. There will be performances from primary schools during the day, and an under-age and over-age rock concert in the evening.

## Understanding your Environment

The Australian Association for Environmental Education (WA) is holding a conference which includes practical workshops from May 1 to 3. The conference covers a wide range of topics and is aimed at a broad audience: teachers, academics, industry representatives and community group members. For further information call Les Longwood on 9360 6457 or email [longwood@essun1.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:longwood@essun1.murdoch.edu.au).



# Group Profile: Friends of Ellis Brook Valley



*John Bowler and John Robertson installing a boot scrubber to prevent the spread of dieback in the Ellis Brook Reserve.*

## Spectacular Ellis Brook

The Ellis Brook reserve, in Martin covers 1 654 hectares and is home to an incredible variety of nearly 600 indigenous plant species, including 17 priority species and one declared rare flora.

Central to the reserve is the 'sixty-foot falls' cascading down the Darling Scarp. The creeks, heath lands and granite outcrops, marri-wandoo, jarrah-marri and wandoo woodlands and the ridge hill shelf vegetation provide a rich experience for visitors to the reserve. Rare plants include a stand of salmon white gums. There are magnificent stands of zamias and grass trees.

A favourite image of member Heather Bowler is watching the wrens, parrots and other birds drinking and bathing in the few small remaining water pools left in the creek in early summer.

### The Friends

Founded in June 1992, there are about 23 group members, including a core of six very active members.

The Friends received a special commendation in the John Tonkin Greening Awards in 1996 (community group category). They estimate that from June 1992 to April 1996 they made a contribution of \$12 900 worth of seedlings, \$74 500 in voluntary work hours, and \$22 468.13 in grants and fundraising: making a total of \$109 868.13!

There are many other benefits to the community that cannot be measured. The group grows about 1 500 plants for the reserve each year.

A comprehensive herbarium, funded by the Friends, contains almost 500 local species, including one declared rare flora and 17 priority species. The herbarium has helped show others the value of the area and has given the group credibility, for example, when applying for grants.

The booklet, *Ancient Origins: A Natural History of Ellis Brook*, costs \$5 or \$2 (slightly fire damaged) from the group. A brochure on bush walks is also available.

### From Scouts to the elderly

Over the years, the Friends have led many walks with a huge range of visiting groups, including schools and naturalists. A group of Japanese students were

particularly thrilled with the animals and plants they saw. The Friends greet visitors from the Carinya Retirement Village for afternoon tea in the reserve every year. Maddington Scouts and Maddington Rotary help out each year with planting. The Ecoplan Christmas BBQ was held in the valley in 1994.

Recently six new lots were added to the reserve, so more helpers are needed with tasks like weeding and planting, organising events, growing plants and writing grant applications. Even picking up the odd bit of litter really helps!

### Meetings and activities

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month, and work days on the third Sunday of the month (meet at the entrance to the valley at 9am) or join Margaret and Heather on any Wednesday morning for a visit to the reserve, please phone first.

Access to Ellis Brook is via Rushton Road, the gate is open 8am to 5pm. See 'Regional Reports' for more news.

Contacts: Margaret Robertson 9459 8852 and Heather Bowler 9459 2045.





## APRIL

15 Wednesday-17 Friday

WA Estuarine Research Foundation technical forum on Swan-Canning Rivers. Call Marie Anderson 9278 0360.

17 Friday 7.30pm

Night walk with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Bring a torch. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

17 Friday-19 Sunday

Environment Centre of WA weekend course on facilitating change. (See 'Resources' section.) Call Karel 92254103.

18 Saturday 7am

Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 9387 6079.

18 Saturday 8-9am

Bushwalk at Lake Gwelup on the third Saturday of every month. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

18 Saturday-27 Monday

WA Nursery Industry Association Garden Week activities and displays at Perry Lakes. Call Damien Hills 9278 0354 or Linda Taman 9377 5621.

19 Sunday 10am

Reef and beach walk with the Friends of Marmion Marine Park. Meet at the Burns Beach Hall. Call 9247 2053.

21 Tuesday 7.30pm

Meeting of the Northern Suburbs Wildflower Society at Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Drive. The topic is plant propagation. Call Brian 9401 6847 or Joyce 9328 4054.

25 Saturday 8am

Bushwalk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland on the fourth Saturday of every month. Meet at the cnr Castle and Hope Sts, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

28 Tuesday 7.30pm

Meeting of the Darling Range Wildflower Society and talk by Neville Marchant, Flower Structure Made Simple, St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Call Rae 9293 1676 or Fay 9291 7510.

29 April-1 May

Coast to Coast 98: From scientists to surfers conference at the Sheraton Ballroom, Perth. Call Kelly Croxon 9328 5022.

## MAY

1 Friday 4pm-5.30pm

Swan Catchment Centre seminar, topic to be arranged, 108 Adelaide Tee, East Perth. Call Kerry 9325 5317.

1 Friday-3 Sunday

Australian Association for Environmental Education (WA) conference and workshops, Understanding your Environment. Call Les Longwood 9360 6457.

1 Friday 7.30pm

WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on Wildlife of the Great Sandy Desert by Ray Hart, University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call 9306 1832 or 9272 1674.

2 Saturday

Eastern hills branch of the Wildflower Society bus trip to Badgingarra. Call Margaret 9295 3344 or Herbie 9298 8218.

2 Saturday 8-9am

Bushwalk at Landsdale Farm School on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the car park, Landsdale and Evandale Rds. Call Tim 9343 1222.

2 Saturday

Project morning with the Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club. (Every first Saturday of the month.) Call Diana 9332 5733(w) or 9527 1961(h).

6 Wednesday 8pm

Monthly Friends of Marmion Marine Park meeting with guest speaker, Mt Flora Museum, Elvire St, Waterman. Call 9247 2053.

8 Friday 7.30pm

Night walk at Koondoola Regional Bushland. Meet at the northeast end of Burbridge and Koondoola Aves. Call Phylis 9349 9105.

9 Saturday

Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society plant sale. Call Margaret 9295 3344 or Herbie 9298 8218.

10 Sunday

WA Naturalists' Club workshop on birds of prey. Call 9306 1832 or 9272 1674.

10 Sunday

Mother's Day Tree Planting at Piney Lakes. Contact Beth Hughes GWA 9481 2144.

12 Tuesday 8pm

Meeting of the Perth branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by Alan Tinker, Uniqueness of the WA flora from a tourist and commercial perspective, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco (just east of Rokeby Rd). Call Jim 9384 9671 or Alison 9361 1360.

13 Wednesday 7.30pm

AABR (WA) forum on planting and mulching with Jenny Johnson, Phil Lowe and John Quilty. Meet at 10 Broome St (off Douglas Ave), South Perth. Call Janice 9381 4051.

14 Thursday-16 Saturday

Tammin Landcare Centre professional development for teachers. Call Mike Moran 08 9622 0200.

15 Friday

Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on salinity. Call Diana 9332 5733(w) or 9527 1961(h).

16 Saturday 8am

Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 9387 6079.

16 Saturday-17 Sunday

Men of the Trees small property planning course. Call Chris Ferreira or Tracey Bell 9336 3337.

23 Saturday 2.30pm

Gould League excursion to Carine Lake. Call 9387 6079.

26 Tuesday 7.30pm

Meeting of the Darling Range branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by Ben Patten on the cut wildflower industry, St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Call Rae 9293 1676 or Fay 9291 7510.

27 Wednesday 8pm

Lecture by David Suzuki Towards the Year 2000. Setting the Bottomline Winthrop Hall, UWA. Call Annie Mose 9380 3085.

29 Friday 7.30pm

Night walk with Friends of Trigg Bushland. Bring a torch and meet near St Mary's School, Elliot Rd, Trigg. Call Robyn 9246 3954.

30 Saturday 8am

Autumn bushwalk with Friends of Trigg Bushland. Meet near St Mary's School, Elliot Rd, Trigg. Call Robyn 9246 3954.

30 May-1 June

WA Naturalists' Club bush camp to Coorow. Call Gordon Elliott 9272 1674.

30 May-1 June

Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club excursion to Boyagin Nature Reserve. Call Diana 9332 5733(w) or 9527 1961(h).

## JUNE

5 Friday

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5 Friday 7.30pm

WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on Botany by John Pate, University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call 9306 1832 or 9272 1674.

9 Tuesday 8pm

Meeting of the Perth branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by Bronwen Keighery on Perth's Bushplan, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco (just east of Rokeby Rd). Call Jim 9384 9671 or Alison 9361 1360.

11 Thursday-13 Saturday

Tammin Landcare Centre professional development for teachers. Call Mike Moran 08 9622 0200.

13 Saturday 10am-4pm

Introduction to bush regeneration one day workshop by Richard Cooke and Clare Constantine at Murdoch University Environment Technology Centre. Cost \$60. Call 9360 6123 or 9360 6414.

16 Tuesday 7.30pm

Meeting of the Northern Suburbs branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by Greg Keighery, Plants of the Local Area, at Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Drive. Call Brian 9401 6847 or Joyce 9328 4054.

19 Friday

Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on robins. Call Diana 9332 5733(w) or 9527 1961(h).

19 Friday to 20 Saturday 5pm

Family Sleep-over: Fungi: the weird ones, and early morning bird walk (8am) at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 9387 6079.

19 Friday

Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club excursion to Star Swamp. Call Diana 9332 5733(w) or 9527 1961(h).

23 Tuesday 7.30pm

Meeting of the Darling Range branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by Anne Cochran (CALM) on seeds and their storage, St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Call Rae 9293 1676 or Fay 9291 7510.

27 Saturday 2.30pm

Gould league excursion to Landsdale Reserve. Call 9387 6079.

## What's On in the Bunbury Region

### APRIL

16 Thursday 7.30pm

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and 'show and tell' discussion at Agriculture WA, North Boyanup Rd, Bunbury.

18 Saturday 9am

Propagation Workshop and busy-bee at the Leschenault Community Nursery, Johnstone Rd, Bunbury. Sausage sizzle lunch provided. Call Jacky Ynema (08) 9726 3168.

### MAY

21 Thursday 7.30pm

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and local flora photographs from Barbara Edwards at Agriculture WA, North Boyanup Rd, Bunbury.

23 Saturday

Balingup farm visit and arboretum visit with Bunbury Naturalists' Club.

### JUNE

16 Thursday 7.30pm

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on 'The effects of clearing on agriculture and ecology' at Agriculture WA, North Boyanup Rd, Bunbury.

27 Saturday

Greenbushes walk trails and eco-centre visit with Bunbury Naturalists' Club.

Bunbury Naturalists' Club activities call Shirley (08) 9795 7181 or Gordon (08) 9797 2673.

Busselton Naturalists' Club activities and meeting program call Bernie Masters (08) 9727 2474.

Please send us your activities in the metropolitan and Bunbury areas by 1 June 1998 for Winter Ecoplan News.

## Econotes

# Inspiring nature walks

As the weather cools guided bushland walks begin again. They are a great way to enjoy the bush and also an opportunity to get the message to the community about the value of bushland. For people interested in leading a guided walk, strategies from a workshop and text books by Sam Ham may be useful.

The four essential qualities of really good walks are enjoyment, relevance, good organisation and a clear theme.

The theme is the key message you would like to get across to the participants. It gives the walk a pleasing sense of closure by eluding to the theme at the beginning and again on the conclusion of the walk. Stops and information along the walk can help to add weight to the theme. A good theme means that the audience goes away with a clear message that they are unlikely to forget. It also helps you prepare what elements to focus on in your walk and how to link them together. Theme examples: This bushland is very valuable. There is great biodiversity in this small patch of bushland.

The importance of smiling and eye contact can never be underestimated. Using active verbs, giving plenty of examples, making the communication personal and involving the participants (such as asking questions like 'have you ever...?') are also important. People like to smell, feel, listen for themselves. One way to keep attention is to ask a question early in the walk and answer it near the end. Avoid jargon. Using similes and analogies, relating concepts to things that the audience may be already familiar with, helps to explain complex ecological ideas to the novice.

There are plenty of walks listed in the What's On section, so there's no excuse not to enjoy the bushland.

# Resources

## Bush regeneration courses

Four APACE bush regeneration courses are scheduled in 1998. The courses cost \$200, but APACE has Natural Heritage Trust funding to provide substantial subsidies for those on low incomes who are actively involved with a bushland group. APACE plan to run two native plant seed collection courses in December and similar subsidies will be available.

The two Saturday afternoon courses, 1-4.30pm, run over nine weeks from 30 May to 25 July, and 1 August to 26 September. Weekly courses over four days, 9am-4.30pm, run from 17 to 20 August, and 13 to 16 October. Contact APACE on 9336 1262.

## Bush care trust

Applications are invited for the annual Barbara Kemot Bushland Trust Scholarship for bushland carers to undertake the APACE bush regeneration course. For further details call Greening WA on 9481 2144. Applications close on 30 April.

## Sharing bush skills

The Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (WA) will hold five forums in 1998 on aspects of bush regeneration on the second Wednesday night of alternative months. Each forum has one speaker with bushland, one with wetland, and one with coastal rehabilitation experience. The first forum in March was on site preparation. Call Janice Marshall for further information on 9381 4051.

13 May: Planting and mulching with Jenny Johnson (eastern hills bush regenerator), Phil Lowe and John Quilty (Quilty Environmental) (see What's On section).

8 July: Weed and pest control with Cathy Meney (Regeneration Technology), Michael McShane (Bayswater Greenwork) and Nick Dunlop (Friends of Shoalwater Islands Marine Park).

9 September: Filling in the gaps with Georgina Reiss (Regeneration Technology), Linda Taman (Native Environmental Systems) and Ben Carr (Department of Environmental Protection).

11 November: Mulch or fuel load? with Brett Tizard (Armadale Settler's Common) and Lindon Mutter (CALM).

## Short courses for a green lifestyle

The Murdoch University Permaculture and Environmental Technology Centre is running a short course program during 1998. Topics include bush regeneration (one day introductory workshops), gardens for kids, straw bale building construction, permaculture design, grey water recycling, worm farming, earth wall construction and aquaculture. Tours of the Technology Centre are also available for groups at a small cost. For information and bookings call Les Longwood on 9360 6123 or 9360 6414 or email: [mupets@central.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:mupets@central.murdoch.edu.au).

## Tracking calicivirus

A handbook has been released for land managers on rabbit control and the calicivirus. Calicivirus seems to be impacting rabbits in arid areas much more than in the wetter southwest of the State, however, it is an issue that all land managers and bushland carers should be aware of. The booklet gives some background on the virus and the monitoring currently being done. It is available free by calling Stephen Gourley on 9368 3729 (publications officer, Agriculture WA).

## Breaking the Barriers

The Environment Centre of WA is holding a weekend course on facilitating social and environmental change from 17 to 19 April at the Victoria Park Centre for the Arts. Topics include community group skills (eg decision making processes, conflict resolution), media skills, public speaking, non-violent action and campaigning. It costs only \$40 (unwaged) or \$70 (waged) and includes all meals. For further information call Karel on 9225 4103.

## Practical bush corridors

Greening WA have recently produced a practical brochure on how to make bush corridors useful for fauna. The material in the brochure is taken from a paper by Angela Sanders' Ribbons of Green workshop in 1996. For a copy call GWA on 9481 2144.



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

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