



## Bunbury carers take up the challenge

Bushland carers from the Bunbury region received an injection of enthusiasm and expertise from an Ecoplan training day held last May.

Participants from far and wide enjoyed sharing a day of learning about river, wetland and coastal rehabilitation.

Pat Hatfield, from Bunbury's Leschenault Community Nursery, which grows plants for Land Conservation District Committees and community group revegetation projects across the South-West, said it was important for like-minded people to connect with one another.

"There was a good cross-section of the community there on the day, including retirees, farmers and agency people," Pat said.

Linda Taman talked about wetland management, weed removal and bush regeneration, Jenny Dewing of Bridgetown talked about riparian management and Nicci Tsernjavski, the newly appointed South-West coastal facilitator, talked about coastal rehabilitation. Marion Timms gave practical tips on how to seed coastal plants.

"There will now be a lot more people mixing their teaspoons of seed with water and a touch of detergent before spraying onto the ground or into pots," said Ecoplan's Bunbury region contact, Carolyn Switzer.

"Next growing season we confidently expect an enriched assortment of local seeds being sown and planted along rivers, coasts and in regeneration sites near Bunbury."

Regional centres do not have as much access to expertise, seminars and sharing with other groups as bushland carers in

Perth, so the training day was all the more appreciated.

Bethwyn Hastie, secretary of the Ruabon Tutunup Rail Preservation Group and a farmer east of Busselton, said that bush care in that area was in its infancy.

As well as the Preservation Group that is concerned with a very significant road reserve bush corridor adjoining farms, Bethwyn is the chairperson of the Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre, advises the Busselton Council on environmental issues, cares for injured wildlife and is developing a cat welfare strategy (strategic cat control) for the Shire.

"There is not much happening around here yet. I'd like to see more seminars and discussions. I hope to pass on what I have learnt through the Environment Centre," Bethwyn said.

Apart from the very active Bunbury and Busselton naturalists' groups, there aren't many bush care groups in the Bunbury region to join. For many people it can be hard to know where to start. Yet Pat Hatfield is sure that the enthusiasm to make a difference is strong within the community.

"There is an awful lot of goodwill in our community. People are becoming more aware of planting local species," she said.

"The connections between urban bush care and landcare are getting stronger. I'd like to see people from all walks of life involved and an integration of those involved in bush care, landcare and coast care. I'd like to see more people talking about their visions."

Bernhard Bischoff invites people to create local friends groups to care for sections of the critically important




Participants discuss river rehabilitation during the Bunbury Ecoplan training day

Southern Bunbury Wildlife Corridor, that stretches from the coast to the Preston River.

"Significant bushland surrounding Edith Cowan University and the South-West College are some areas that would benefit very much from having associated bushland friends groups," he said.

"Bunbury is very special to me and we are lucky to have so much bush left. More people need to recognise this."

If you'd like to find out more about what's happening in the Bunbury region call Carolyn Switzer on (08) 9780 6268.

 Winter is definitely upon us and it is a busy time for people with planting and weeding activities happening most weekends. Remember to take time out to enjoy the beauty of nature bursting through after the dry summer.

The Ecoplan, ATCV, AlintaGas Bushland Care workday program was successfully launched on a bright sunny morning at Armadale and participants wasted no time getting into the weeding activities. Thanks to our hosts for the day, the Armadale Settlers Common group.

Research has been completed on insurance issues and we are preparing a brochure outlining the issues for community groups. This will be available in July and will be sent to all who have expressed interest.

Jon has been kept busy organising a very successful concert which was held in Fremantle on World Environment Day. It was a great chance to catch up with people and celebrate our commitment to the environment.

Margo and Linda Taman headed south to Bunbury in May to facilitate a field day for community members. Thanks to all who attended, and special thanks to Carolyn Switzer for her brilliant organisation, and to all the speakers for very informative presentations.

Congratulations to the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (WA) for an excellent forum presentation on Planting and Mulching. The forum was very well attended and a great way to share ideas and information. Make sure you catch the next on July 8.

Congratulations also the Friends of Shenton Bushland for a great seminar on Direct Seeding held in April. The seminar provided a great deal of knowledge on all issues regarding the subject and once again very informed speakers made sure that participants went away with lots to think about.

The *What's On* section of this newsletter should provide you with things to keep you busy for the next three months. In particular I would draw your attention to the Introductory Ecoplan training which will be held in Armadale in July/August. These information sessions are open to all and are beneficial for new volunteers and group members who may like some further background on the values of our bushland and where local community based projects fit into the bigger picture.

The Wildflower Society is conducting their very popular bushland plant survey again this year and have called for volunteers to take part. They also have plans for workshops to help community group members learn the techniques of plant survey (See details page 3).

If you are concerned about issues affecting bushland, then make sure you keep the 16 and 17 October free and come along to the conference being held by the Urban Bushland Council on *Managing Our Bushland* (see details page 3).

Thanks to all who have contributed to the newsletter and to Cathy Drake for her work in preparation.

## Spring Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the spring Ecoplan News by 7 September 1998. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words. Thanks to all contributors! You can write, fax or email Margo or Jon (see Ecoplan Contacts) or write to the following address.

### Write to:

Ecoplan  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Westralia Square  
141 St Georges Tce  
PERTH WA 6000  
Telephone: Switchboard 9222 7000

There will be a field trip on Saturday 1 August. Topics covered will include the value of urban bushland, our magnificent flora, our wonderful fauna, the role of government, how community groups have set up successful programs and much more. Attendance at these sessions is free, and those interested will need to register by phoning Christine Fryer on 9222 7375.

## Ecoplan contacts

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## 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

### 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

☎ 9335 8933

### APACE

☎ 9336 1262

### Swan Catchment Centre

☎ 9221 3840

### Urban Bushland Council -

Mary Gray ☎ 9221 3840

Newsletter compiled by  
Cathy Drake

## Ecoplan events

Ecoplan Training will be held in the South Eastern Metropolitan area in July and August.

The program will run over four weeks, on Tuesday evenings from 7pm till 9.30pm starting on July 21.

## Bush care conference in October

The Urban Bushland Council (UBC) will be holding a two-day conference called *Managing our Bushland* on Friday and Saturday 16 and 17 October 1998 at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, Bibra Lake.

The Minister for the Environment, Cheryl Edwardes, and the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation have generously provided funds.

As well as catering for community groups, it is hoped that many local councils and state government representatives will be

involved. New South Wales is more advanced in bush management than WA, and an expert from NSW will be brought across for the conference.

If you have suggestions on what you would like to see in the conference call the UBC as soon as possible.

A call for papers and plenty of invitations will be sent out soon. For further information call Angela Carr on 9450 6579 or Kirsten Tullis on 9271 3549 or email [ubc@wantree.com.au](mailto:ubc@wantree.com.au). Please try not to plan events that clash with conference dates.

## Safe speech

In response to many community enquiries the Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) has produced a fact sheet on defamation and safe speech for conservationists.

It's hoped that it will give conservationists confidence to speak out safely and publicly on environmental issues.

A workshop was also run on this topic on 17 June. A second fact sheet and workshop on 29 June will outline the WA planning system and how to use it to protect the environment. These two fact sheets are the first in a series.

Following a tour of regional centres, a workshop on the law of landcare will be run later in the year in Perth. A book on this topic is due to be published in August. A book on environmental law published by the EDO is available for \$30 (or \$20 concession).

The EDO is a non-profit community-based legal centre specialising in environmental law in the public interest. It was set up about 18 months ago.

The Office gives legal advice to community groups and individuals, promotes changes to laws and provides community legal education. The EDO can be contacted on 9221 3030. Alternatively, the EDO homepage is at <http://www.internetnorth.com.au/edo/>

## Thinking local

In 1992 one hundred nations gathered at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to develop policies to reverse environmental damage to the planet and promote sustainable development. It was the biggest meeting of heads of state ever.

A global action plan called Local Agenda 21 (LA21) was endorsed. LA 21 recommends that every local government involves its citizens, organisations and businesses in working toward sustainable development. Local governments in Perth have been taking up this challenge.

The City of Mandurah, for example, has developed a bushland policy as a component of LA 21. To complement this policy a draft Concept Vegetation Plan, or Green Plan, has also been developed. Here is a list of councils currently involved in implementing LA 21.

City of Mandurah, Bryce Bunny 9550 3826  
City of Fremantle, Elizabeth Lillis 9432 9802  
City of Subiaco, Trevor Messenger 9237 9282  
City of Nedlands, Max Hipkins 9386 6900  
City of Wanneroo, Paul Holmes 9400 4532  
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Andrew Del Marco 9525 5255

City of Stirling, Rose Williams 9345 8700  
City of Gosnells, Wayne van Lieven 9391 3222  
City of Cockburn, Darren Walsh 9411 3441

### General contact:

Clare Walsh (WA Municipal Association)  
9321 5055

## Bushland Care Days 1998

For the 1998 Ecoplan, AlintaGas, Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) Bushland Care the ATCV are working on day-long projects with bushland friends groups.

A free BBQ lunch is provided so bring gloves, sturdy shoes, protection from the elements and a sense of adventure. If you're interested in helping out call ATCV on 9339 3902.

### Completed

**16 May** - Weed removal at Armadale Settlers Common

**30 May** - Planting at Allen Park, Swanbourne

**21 June** - Weed removal at Cockburn Wetlands Centre, Bibra Lake

**28 June** - Weeding and planting at Kardina Brook, Gosberry Hill

### You can help!

**5 July** - Creek restoration at Quenda Creek, Kalamunda

**18 July** - Planting and weeding at Yellagonga Regional Park

**19 July** - Fencing and weeding at Ellis Brook Valley, near Gosnells

**1 August** - Weed removal at Talbot Road Bushland, Stratton

**15 August** - *Watsonia* removal at Brixton Street Wetlands, Kenwick

**23 August** - Weed removal at Bold Park, City Beach, Floreat

**30 August** - *Gladioli* removal at Blue Gum Lake, Melville

**6 September** - Weeding at Shenton Bushland, Shenton Park

**27 September** - *Watsonia* removal at Hovea Conservation Park

## Bushland Plants Survey

The Wildflower Society of WA has recently advertised the 1998 program for the Bushland Plants Survey.

The program aims to help community groups and individuals understand and conserve their bushland by offering support to survey, document and monitor vegetation and flora of a selected area.

In this program participants are taught survey techniques, plant identification, preparation of field herbaria and written reports.

In addition, this year, workshops will be held in conjunction with Friends of Trigg Bushland and Friends of Hepburn and Pinnaroo Bushland to help friends groups source botanical information already available for these sites, demonstrate how to set up survey quadrats and monitor their vegetation.

Workshops will be held in July and August. Those interested should contact Ann Guinness on 9524 2221.

## Central Region

### South Perth Bushlands

by John Feldman

#### Salvaging Gillon Street treasures

Over the past few months the City of South Perth and local community members have been 'salvaging' much from the patch of Banksia woodland (3.8ha) near Gillon Street, Karawara, for use in regenerating other bushland areas.

The Gillon Street bushland will probably be cleared in July or August this year as part of a Homewest residential redevelopment.

These 'salvaging' efforts have included seed collection from tree and understorey species, transplanting seedlings, and the collection of mulched understorey species and topsoil for spreading in other bushland areas. Between 10 and 15 members of the community, under the direction of Tony Freeman from APACE, have spent Saturday mornings during May collecting seed and transplanting seedlings from the bushland.

In mid-May, under the direction of Mark Taylor, environmental officer from the City of South Perth, contractors removed slashed understorey species (for mulch) and topsoil from the Gillon Street bushland to spread on Davilak Reserve (2.5ha), a severely degraded A-class reserve in Manning.

The contractors, using two bobcats and two 10 tonne tip trucks, worked for four days at a cost of about \$6,500. More than 200t of topsoil was moved.

The soil was removed to a depth of 5cm from the bushland and re-spread at a thickness of about 2.5cm on the degraded reserve. Topsoil has been spread on about half the area of Davilak Reserve.

Before the topsoil was spread the grass weeds (couch and veldt) were sprayed and/or physically removed but several bulbous weed species remain, including guildford grass, four o'clock, soursob and freesias.

#### Milyu plantings

In collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the City of South Perth, two areas on Milyu Nature Reserve have been selected for planting with sedges and tree species by pupils of South Perth Primary School. These planting areas had all weeds physically removed. 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.

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

#### Bayswater Greenworks

by Kirsten Tullis

We have just completed a rabbit control program, with Agriculture WA's approval, near Alton Road Wetland at Kiara. To stop many of our seedlings from being eaten again we decided something had to be done. Our wetland adjoins and runs into Optus land, which is where most of the rabbits came from.

We began six weeks ago by putting out clean grain at bait stations to establish a feeding pattern. In the last four weeks Pindone was used, but only in dark hours to protect the birds. We have no bandicoots, and Pindone is fairly safe for cats and dogs, so we are confident only rabbits died. It was time consuming but very successful. Only two or three rabbits escaped by not feeding. These will need to be monitored. We had two planting days this year on Saturday 20 June and Sunday 28 June.

For further information call Kirsten Tullis on 9271 3549.

#### News from Melville

by Steven Cavicchiolo, Melville City Council

The City of Melville manages about 308ha of bushland and 18km of river foreshore. Two bushland maintainers do the practical work to implement management plans and strategies, including revegetation, weed control and flora surveys. An environmental programs co-ordinator develops strategies and oversees all environmental programs.

Most of our major bushland reserves have management plans. Strategies to minimise impacts on our natural environment are also developed, such as our Foreshore Restoration Strategy. We give bushland talks, visit schools, and provide environmental education packages so that the community better understands and appreciates environmental issues.

Next year, an environmental education centre will be constructed at Piney Lakes as part of the rehabilitation plans for the reserve. This will provide school and higher education students, community groups and the general public with access to a renewable energy technology system. The centre is to be built to a solar passive design and designed for energy efficiency and self sufficiency, utilising on-site renewable energy technology and environmentally friendly waste and water treatment technologies.

For further information call Steven Cavicchiolo on 9364 0650.

#### BICM tackles the big picture

What is Bayswater Integrated Catchment Management (BICM) doing?

"Almost too many things at once", says co-ordinator, Rosemary Glass, "But it's all very exciting, productive and innovative".

This year the BICM committee has received funds to employ three subcontractors and a landcare trainee. The trainee, Sara Winter, is shared with the Bennett Brook Catchment Co-ordinating Group. The BICM Committee has created a very full 12-month work plan.

The BICM strategy for the catchment to the Bayswater Main Drain, completed in 1994 after three years of research, contained 72 recommendations to manage pollution. This amounts to an incredible range of potential projects. About 70 people attended workshops held in August last year focusing on seven main categories of these recommendations. Task groups formed to develop seven action plans.

One of the areas that BICM is working on is rehabilitating stormwater drains as part of a trial to test the costs and benefits of converting existing open drains into living streams. It is particularly interesting as we are experimenting

with 'retro fitting' nutrient filtration methods in existing drains. Designs were done by a landscape architect who has worked on Sydney's urban ICM projects.

Water Corporation and Bayswater and Stirling councils are participating. Water Corporation has approved the designs and is altering its maintenance practices to determine what is required. The councils have agreed to adopt the banks of the drains as part of their parks, and technical staff are considering training to adapt their practices to suit rehabilitation.

During July and August all enquiries will be diverted to BICM's deputy chairperson, Linda Taman, while Rosemary finishes the BICM implementation plan.

For further information call Linda on 9377 5621.

## North-West Region

### Star Swamp Friends tackle bridal creeper

by Christine Curry

After several near disastrous fires during summer Star Swamp Bushland is starting to regain some greenery. A series of fires between November and February ravaged nearly two-thirds of the reserve and it is believed that most were deliberately lit.

The Friends of Star Swamp Bushland are planning a concerted attack over the winter months on the patch of bridal creeper located on the western boundary. It is estimated that it will take four or five years to bring the problem under control. The patch was cleared last winter and shows very little regeneration this year. The Friends will hold monthly 'bridal creeper digs'. From experience it seems that, although it is time consuming and difficult, the best way to eradicate this weed is to dig it out, rather than spraying with herbicide. Volunteers are very welcome to help with this project.

The annual general meeting of the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland will be held on Wednesday 29 July at 7.30pm at the Mt Flora Conference Room, Elvire St, Waterman. Please come along. See the *What's On* section for information on our monthly guided walks.

For further information call Christine Curry on 9447 2983.

#### Greener future for Quinns Rocks

by David Wake

How much bushland will remain in the Quinns Rocks area in 10 or 20 years and what condition will it be in?

If current trends continue then we will have much less bush and it will be degraded. We can work for a positive alternative. Despite planned urban development, there can be a network of large and small habitat remnants connected by vegetated corridors and valued by the local community.

The Quinns Rocks Environmental Group is promoting such a vision through its remnant vegetation study. With National Landcare Program funding, the study has involved documenting remnant vegetation in the area west of Wanneroo Road, between Burns Beach and Eglinton.

The next step is defining strategies to conserve some of the bush that is left. A stakeholders workshop to discuss a vision and strategies was held on 22 June, involving developers, planners from state and local government and local residents. A green vision for the local area is being prepared. More about this in the spring *Ecoplan* News.

The issues affecting remnant bushland and biodiversity at Quinns Rocks are similar for the many other areas at Perth's urban fringe. The group hopes to promote its work to others interested in conserving bush in urbanising landscapes.

For further information call Karyn Shaw on 9305 1405, Renata Zelina on 9305 9382 or David Wake on 9220 0658(w).

#### Creeper control also at Yanchep

by Jill Vines

The bridal creeper removal project at Yanchep National Park is continuing this winter. A group of up to 12 regular volunteers, many of whom are local residents, keep the cleared areas free of the creeper. As the extent of the clearing grows, the task of weeding to keep them that way grows too.

Rehabilitation, through planting, and removing other weeds (fleabane, buffalo grass, fig, passionfruit) is taking place. It's pleasing to see acacia, hakea and melaleuca seedlings surviving snack attacks by kangaroos. We hope to improve and extend the nursery at Yanchep National Park so that more seedlings and cuttings can be raised there for planting in the park.

Dave Pike works tirelessly for the cause. The Conlans family come regularly from Peppermint Grove with their two daughters and usually a friend or two to help. These children are participating in and experiencing first-hand a commitment to their future. We found an empty snake skin under a rock and the girls took it to school for news. The word and awareness spreads!

Busy bees take place on the fourth Sunday of each month. See the *What's On* section for details. New helpers are welcome. Enjoy a picnic and bushwalk in the park. Park entry is free to weeders on the day.

For further information call Jill on 9444 2958 or Yanchep National Park on 9561 1004.

#### Korella Park clean-up

by Marilyn Zakrevsky, Friends of Korella Park Bushland

The inaugural Keep Australia Beautiful Council event *Tidy WA in May* on Sunday 25 May provided a good avenue to publicise a much needed clean-up in the northern section of Korella Park bushland known as Stage 3.

The 15 volunteers who participated in the clean-up day filled fifteen bags of litter on a very hot morning. Liquid refreshments (thermoses of cold water and tea) kept us going until midday.

This area of the park has been recently fenced by the City of Wanneroo. There were too many tracks through the bush and the fencing will enable the bush to regenerate. The Council has also mulched a perimeter path around this area to allow vehicle access in case of fire.

Marilyn Zakrevsky, the Friends co-ordinator, recently met on-site with the Council's environmental officer and weed control consultant, to look at weed problems in the park. Soursob and Geraldton carnation weed are two of the worst weeds in the park.

Weed control measures are being planned prior to our annual community bush care day on 5 July (see the *What's On* section for details). The Friends also hold regular Monday afternoon bush care activities in the park and all are welcome.

For further information about the bush care day and other issues call Marilyn Zakrevsky on 9401 7132.

## Hills Region

by Jenny Johnson

Plans are in place for another year of bush regeneration in the Eastern Hills.

Friends groups have received allocations of plants from the Mundaring Shire's Tree Canopy and Understorey Program as well as grants from Greening WA-Alcoa.

Florence Watson of Parkerville has grown more than 3000 plants to distribute to groups in Hovea and Parkerville. Let's hope for a wetter winter and a few follow-up spring rains to make up for last year's losses owing to the dry conditions.

The Jane Brook Catchment Group has chosen the Rocky Gully subcatchment in Mt Helena as a pilot study for a management program that it is hoped will provide a format for the other subcatchments in the area.

The program will look at rehabilitation, community and government awareness of the need to protect remnant vegetation, and how these issues relate to water quality and drainage. A field trip to Rocky Gully was held in May. This followed a 'streamlining' workshop at Parkerville by Linda Taman from Greening WA.

Natural Heritage Trust funding has been obtained by the Water and Rivers Commission to undertake foreshore assessment of the tributaries of the Swan and Canning rivers. The Jane Brook study will take place in 1999. Information gained should be a valuable aid to making informed management decisions in the local area.

Liz Weston, catchment landcare officer for Swan-Mundaring, is implementing the catchment group's aim to become an LCDC. This will give the project more credibility in funding applications and more clout in presenting proposals to various stakeholders in the catchment.

After almost two years in the making, the Mundaring Shire's draft drainage document is ready for public comment.

The drainage strategies of the past, and often the present, very much influence the feasibility of restoring our streamlines.

Insensitive water design has turned our creeks into little more than urban drains. A total re-think on the disposal of water run-off is essential to enable any restoration of our streamlines to be successful. We live in hope!

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

## Bunbury Region

### Myalup coast care

by Carolyn Switzer

Two members of the Myalup Community Association, Tom and Hettie Ottrey, have been patiently planting sand hills for the last six years to stabilise the coastline.

They brushed and planted, watched the brush get covered, and planted all over again after a fierce storm a couple of winters ago. They are to be commended for their care and persistence. They, and many others like them, work with little visible reward.

#### Where have all the frogs gone?

by Elizabeth Andrew, GeoCatch Network Centre

Busselton residents are concerned about declining frog numbers and they want to identify frogs by their call from the cacophony of sound emanating from our remaining wetlands.

A new program in the Geographe Catchment to help locals identify frog calls will coincide with the beginning of this year's frog season.

The worldwide decline in frogs has been attributed to habitat destruction including clearing of native vegetation, predation by introduced species (such as Gambusia), pollution (acid rain, pesticides and herbicides), ozone depletion and disease. Frogs are recognised as 'indicator' species. 'No frogs' means that the environment is in real trouble. Their decline is of great significance to the human race.

The objective in year one of the GeoCatch FrogWATCH program is to assist the community in identifying frogs by their call. To this end, Dr Ken Aplin from the WA Museum addressed the meeting of the Busselton Naturalists' Club in April.

This was followed by the inaugural FrogWATCH excursion to Malbup Creek and New River Wetland. Subsequent excursions have been organised fortnightly during the height of the frog season. Those interested are welcome to join us.

Year two of the program should see the completion of a distribution and abundance map of frog species in the Busselton region and the production of a localised frog CD. Year three of the program will address conservation and management needs and recommendations for conservation will be put forward.

However, if the program develops a love for frogs within the community and encourages people to develop frog-friendly backyards I'll be very happy!

For further information on the GeoCatch Ribbons of Blue FrogWATCH program call Elizabeth Andrew on (08) 9754 4331.



# Group Profile: Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands



*In memory of Hope Morris who passed away in December 1997. Hope and her friend Doug McMillan were always keen supporters of Brixton St and helped at the workdays and clean up days.*

## Rare and rich

In only 19ha of bushland, the Brixton Street wetlands boast more than 300 plant species - that's more than 20 per cent of the total number found in the Perth area!

The Brixton Street Wetlands support 80 unusual plant species, including four species of Declared Rare Flora. Many species have only recently been described. They are on the Pinjarra Plain soil type (alluvial soils at the base of the Darling Scarp) and 97 per cent of this soil type has been cleared.

The Marri woodlands, intermittent wet flats and clay pans are habitat for the southern brown bandicoot (or quenda), more than 40 bird species and many frogs, lizards and invertebrate fauna.

Nominated for the Register of the National Estate, the wetlands are bounded by the railway, Alton St and Brixton St, Kenwick.

Regina Drummond recommends visiting the wetlands just as the sun is coming up, when there's a light fog and the spider webs are glistening. (See *What's On* section, 12 July.)

## The Friends

The Friends came together in 1993, but several members had been looking after the wetlands as part of the Waterbird Conservation Group since 1987. The Friends work with love and a real feeling for the area.

Friends activities include regular weeding, rubbish collecting, displays in

the community and wildflower walks in spring. The most troublesome weeds at the moment are watsonia and bamboo.

## Treasured memory

One particular day sticks in Regina's mind.

"Joan Payne and I were walking in the area when it was being threatened with housing development in 1991. We saw a black-shouldered kite nest in a big, old Marri. I remember thinking, 'This tree will go'."

"I think I will take this image to my grave. Thankfully, the wetlands were saved from that fate."

## Future challenges

The wetlands will soon become a nature reserve and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) will be responsible for management. Fences and lock-up gates put in by CALM in the last few years have made a great difference.

The Friends received a World Wildlife Fund grant to prepare management guidelines for the 'Greater Brixton Street Wetlands'.

This larger area has mixed vesting and extends north-east to Welshpool Road, including the Yule Brook Reserve. It's the best and largest area of Pinjarra Plain bushland remaining in Perth and it has more than 500 plant species, including eight species of Declared Rare Flora. The friends hope that one large nature reserve will be formed as both areas contain threatened ecological communities.

Greater recognition of the values of the wetlands, particularly by locals, will be critical with increasing developments and impacts (dogs, cats, people, trail bikes, weeds etc).

## Contact

Regina Drummond 9459 2964

## Work days

Regular work days are held 9-12am on the third Saturday of the month.

## Econotes

### Planting along our coast

There are three Australian Association for Bush Regenerators (WA) forums still to go this year on the 8 July, 9 September and 11 November. See the *What's On* section for details

Here are a few tips taken from John Quilty - Quilty Environmental on coastal planting, from the recent forum.

Coastal areas needing rehabilitation are often barren with little top soil and minimal cover. Firstly, you need to establish a fairly stable landform. Dune blow-outs need to be closed off using earthmoving equipment or dune-forming fences.

Secondly, you need to apply brush or heavy mulch to temporarily stabilise the sand. It costs about \$1.50 to \$2m<sup>2</sup> to supply and spread brush. Although it's more expensive, brush is usually better than mulch because it's heavier and allows accumulation of sand among the branches. Mulch, such as woodchips, doesn't allow this.

The next step is to plant fresh cuttings which have been dipped in rooting hormone, nursery stock or runners (e.g. spinifex runners). Coastal shrubs are usually planted from nursery seedlings and planted with a handful of dynamic lifter. Seedlings are not as successful. However, they can be used to complement the planting. If plants emerge from seeds it's an added bonus.

It's very important to pick plants that are suited to the various microclimates among the dunes. Very hardy ground covers, like native spinifex, sea spinach and sea rocket are suitable for the foredune, which receives the full force of the salty sea breeze. You can plant a greater range of local plants behind the foredune.

Watering is not needed. If planting is done very early in the wet season there is usually a high survival rate. Controlling rabbits is critical (contact Agriculture WA.).

Finally, the area must be fenced off and proper pathways provided. Ensure that these are maintained. *John Quilty can be contacted on 9593 1417.*



## JULY

- 4 Saturday 10am  
Planting day at Garden Vale Estate in the Bennett Brook Catchment. Sausage sizzle at noon. Call Linda 9377 5621.
- 4 Saturday 9am-12pm  
Removing weeds and planting at The Falls, Falls Rd, Hovea. Call Jenny 9295 4467.
- 5 Sunday 9am  
Planting day with Friends of Ellis Brook Valley. Look for the sign on Rushton Rd. Bring hand trowel if you have one. Morning tea provided. Call 9391 3205 to register (City of Gosnells Eco walks 'n' talks).
- 5 Sunday 9am  
Quenda Creek, Kalamunda. Creek Restoration. Ecoplan, ATCV, AlintaGas Bushland Care Day. Call ATCV 9339 3902.
- 5 Sunday 9.30am-12.30pm  
Annual Friends of Korella Park Bushland community bush care day. Meet in the new car park, off West View Boulevard, Mullaloo. Call Marilyn 9401 7132.
- 8 Wednesday 7.30pm  
Australian Association of Bush Regenerators forum on weed and pest control in bushland, wetlands and coastal dunes. Speakers include Cathy Meney, Michael MacShane, Nick Dunlop. Meet 10 Broome St (off Douglas Ave), South Perth. Call Janice 9384 9634.
- 9 Thursday 7.45pm  
Meeting of the Armadale Wildflower Society and talk by Bronwen Keighery on plants and communities of the Ridge Hill Shelf. History House, Jull St, Armadale. Call David 9399 3458 or Malcolm 9459 8852.
- 10 Friday 10am-12pm and 1-3pm  
CALM Hills forest activity *Cold Blooded*. There's plenty more activities in the program. Call 9295 2244.
- 11 Saturday and 12 Sunday  
Men of the Trees tree planting in the Peel region. Call Chris Ferreira 9336 3337(w) or 9339 5430(h).
- 12 Sunday 8.30am-12pm  
Removal of Victorian tea-trees and seminar, *Kings Park Scarp and Estuary Edge*, by Cathy Meney at Kings Park. Call the Friends Office 9480 3621 or Tony Scalzo 9381 9021(a/h).
- 12 Sunday 7.30-9.30am  
Nature walk at Brixton Street Wetlands lead by a botanist. Morning tea provided. Meet at the Altona St gate. Call 9391 3205 to register (City of Gosnells Eco walks 'n' talks).
- 16 Thursday  
Men of the Trees planting in Midland (at Swan District Hospital). Call B O'Donohue 9453 1809.
- 17 Friday  
Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and discussion on wetland invertebrates. Call Diana Hitchin 9322 5733(w) or 9527 1961(h).
- 18 Saturday 9am  
Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 9387 6079.
- 18 Saturday 9am  
Yellagonga Regional Park, Planting and Weeding. Ecoplan, ATCV, AlintaGas Bushland Care Day. Call ATCV 9339 3902.
- 19 Sunday 9am-12pm  
Removing weeds and planting at Hovea Conservation Park, Brooking Rd, Hovea. Call Herbie 9298 8218.
- 19 Sunday  
WA Naturalists' Club beach sweep excursion. Call Loiset Marsh 9383 2742.
- 19 Sunday 9am  
Ellis Brook Valley. Fencing and weeding. Ecoplan, ATCV, AlintaGas Bushland Care Day. Call ATCV 9339 3902.
- 21 Tuesday 7pm-9.30 pm  
Ecoplan Introductory Training. Armadale Settlers Common, Triton Cres, Armadale. Call Margo or Jon 9222 7052.
- 21 Tuesday 7pm  
Northern Suburbs Wildflower Society Great Plant Auction, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Rd, Kingsley. Call Brian 9401 6847 or Joyce 9328 4054.
- 25 Saturday 8am  
Monthly guided walk with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet grassed area, Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

- 25 Saturday 4-6pm  
CALM Hills forest activity *Find the Forest Frogs*. There's plenty more activities in the program. Call 9295 2244.
- 26 Sunday 9.30am-12pm  
Bridal creeper removal in Yanchep National Park (every 4th Sunday of the month), meeting in Boomerang Gorge. All welcome. Enjoy a picnic in the park. Call Jill Vines 9444 2958.
- 28 Tuesday 7.30pm  
Meeting of the Darling Range Wildflower Society and talk by Jan Gathe on the regional herbaria program. St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Call Rae 9293 1676 or Fay 9291 7510.
- 28 Tuesday 7pm - 9.30pm  
Ecoplan Introductory Training. Armadale Settlers Common, Triton Cres, Armadale. Call Margo or Jon 9222 7052.
- 31 Friday  
Men of the Trees planting at Fairbridge. Call J Milward 9274 2875(w).

## AUGUST

- 1 August - 26 September, Saturdays 1-4.30pm  
Bush Regeneration Course by APACE. Cost \$200 (subsidies for low-income people). Call 9336 1262.
- 1 Saturday 9am  
Talbot Road Bushland, Stratton. Weed Removal. Ecoplan, ATCV, AlintaGas Bushland Care Day. Call ATCV 9339 3902.
- 1 Saturday 9.30 am -1 pm  
Ecoplan Introductory Training. Armadale Settlers Common, Triton Cres, Armadale. Call Margo or Jon 9222 7052.
- 2 Sunday 9am-12pm  
Removing weeds and planting at Brookside Park, Parkerville. Call Jenny 9295 4467.
- 7 Friday 7.30pm  
WA Naturalists' Club meeting and discussion on young naturalists' projects. University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call 9306 1832 or 9272 1674.
- 8 Saturday and 9 Sunday  
Property Planning Course (planting), hosted by Men of the Trees. Call Chris Ferreira or Tracey Bell 9336 3337.
- 11 Tuesday 8pm  
Meeting of the Perth branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by Anne Cochrane on the work of the Threatened Flora Seed Centre and experiences from the Churchill Fellowship tour. Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco (just east of Rokeby Rd). Call Jim 9384 9671 or Alison 9361 1360.
- 11 Tuesday 7pm - 9.30 pm  
Ecoplan Introductory Training. Armadale Settlers Common, Triton Cres, Armadale. Call Margo or Jon 9222 7052.
- 13 Thursday 7.45pm  
Meeting of the Armadale Wildflower Society and talk by Neville Marchant on the regional herbaria project. History House, Jull St, Armadale. Call David 9399 3458 or Malcolm 9459 8852.
- 15 Saturday 8am  
Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 9387 6079.
- 15 Saturday 9am  
Brixton Street Wetlands, Kenwick. Watsonia removal. Ecoplan, ATCV, AlintaGas Bushland Care Day. Call ATCV 9339 3902.
- 16 Sunday 8.30am-12pm  
Kings Park science project (freesia bulb surveys) and seminar *The Future of Nature Conservation in WA* by Dr Steve Hopper. Call the Friends Office 9480 3621 or Tony Scalzo 9381 9021(a/h).
- 16 Sunday 9.30am  
Test your knowledge of nature at the Eco Seek 'em foot rally presented by the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley. Lots of prizes! Call 9391 3205 to register (City of Gosnells Eco walks 'n' talks).
- 16 Sunday 9am-12pm  
Removing weeds and planting at Hovea Conservation Park, Brooking Rd, Hovea. Call Herbie 9298 8218.
- 17 Monday - 20 Thursday 9.30am-4.30pm  
Bush Regeneration Course by APACE. Cost \$200 (subsidies for low income people). Call 9336 1262.
- 21 Friday  
Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and discussion on trees and shrubs of the Perth-Rockingham area with

- Robert Powell. Call Diana Hitchin 9322 5733(w) or 9527 1961(h).
- 22 Saturday 8am  
Monthly guided walk with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at grassed area, Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.
- 22 Saturday 2.30pm  
Gould League excursion to Point Peron. Call 9387 6079.
- 23 Sunday 9am  
Bold Park, City Beach-Floreat. Weed Removal. Ecoplan, ATCV, AlintaGas Bushland Care Day. Call ATCV 9339 3902.
- 23 Sunday  
Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club excursion to reptile park and Cardup Nature Reserve. Call Diana Hitchin 9322 5733(w) or 9527 1961(h).
- 23 Sunday 9am-12pm  
Lupin pull with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at the Carine entrance to Marmion Ave. Call Christine 9447 2983.
- 23 Sunday 9.30am-12pm  
Bridal creeper removal in Yanchep National Park (every 4th Sunday of the month), meeting in Boomerang Gorge. All welcome. Enjoy a picnic in the park. Call Jill Vines 9444 2958.
- 25 Tuesday 7.30pm  
Meeting of the Darling Range Wildflower Society and talk by Matthew Williams on butterflies. St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Call Rae 9293 1676 or Fay 9291 7510.
- 27 Thursday 7-9.30pm  
*Wonders of Brixton Street Wetlands* presentation by Friends of Brixton Street, Kenwick Community Centre, Brixton St, Kenwick. Supper included. A great precursor to the nature walk on Sunday 30. Supper provided. Call 9391 3205 to register (City of Gosnells Eco walks 'n' talks).
- 29 Saturday 8-10am  
Nature walk in Trigg Bushland. Call Robyn Murphy 9246 3954.
- 30 Sunday 9-11am  
Springtime in Brixton Street Wetlands guided walk. Meet at Altona St gate, Kenwick. Call 9391 3205 to register (City of Gosnells Eco walks 'n' talks).
- 30 Sunday 9am  
Blue Gum Lake, Melville. Gladioli removal. Ecoplan, ATCV, AlintaGas Bushland Care Day. Call ATCV 9339 3902.
- 5 Saturday  
Project morning with the Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club. (Every first Saturday of the month, except August.) Call Bob Goodale 9527 4289.
- 5 Saturday 7.30-10am  
Friends of Mary Carroll Park breakfast with the birds. Breakfast and a talk on rehabilitating sick waterbirds, followed by a walk. Meet at the Eudoria St car park, Gosnells. Call 9391 3205 to register (City of Gosnells Eco walks 'n' talks).
- 5 Saturday 9am-12pm  
Removing weeds and planting at The Falls, Falls Rd, Hovea. Call Jenny 9295 4467.
- 6 Sunday 9am  
Shenton Bushland, Shenton Park. Weeding. Ecoplan, ATCV, Alintagas Bushland Care Day. Call ATCV 9339 3902.
- 9 Wednesday 7.30pm  
Australian Association of Bush Regenerators forum on *Filling the Gaps*. Speakers include Georgina Reiss (bushland), Linda Taman (wetlands) and Ben Carr (coastal dunes). Meet at 10 Broome St (off Douglas Ave), South Perth. Call Janice 9384 9634.
- 13 Sunday 8.30am-12pm  
Bridal creeper removal and seminar, *Birds in Kings Park*, by Harry Recher at Kings Park. Call the Friends Office 9480 3621 or Tony Scalzo 9381 9021(a/h).
- 13 Sunday  
Wildflower Society of WA. Spring Fling at Perry House, cnr Perry Lakes Dr and Oceanic Dr. Many stalls and activities. Call 9383 7979.
- 18 Friday  
Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and discussion on pollinators, with Elizabeth Brown from Kings Park. Call Diana Hitchin 9322 5733(w) or 9527 1961(h).
- 18 Friday - 19 Saturday 5pm  
Family sleep-over, *Our Strange Orchids*, and early

- morning bird walk (7am) at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call 9387 6079.
- 18 Friday to 28 Monday 9am-5pm daily  
Kings Park Wildflower Festival. Call 9480 3659 for enquiries and stall information.
- 19 Saturday  
A Naturalists' Julimar Forest excursion. Call Alan Nottley 9306 1832.
- 19 Sunday 2-4pm  
Guided wildflower walk with the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley. Meet at the picnic area 100m inside the gate on Rushton Rd, Martin. Bring a drink if it's warm. Call 9391 3205 to register (City of Gosnells Eco walks 'n' talks).
- 20 Sunday 9am-12pm  
Removing weeds and planting at Hovea Conservation Park, Brooking Rd, Hovea. Call Herbie 9298 8218.
- 26 Saturday - 28 Monday  
Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club excursion to Ravensthorpe. Call Diana Hitchin 9322 5733(w) or 9527 1961(h).
- 26 September - 3 October  
This year's Royal Show Landcare Pavilion theme is International Year of the Ocean, and wetlands. Call Monica Durcan 9291 8249. School competition, call Karen Majer 9278 0353.
- 27 Sunday 9.30am-12pm  
Bridal creeper removal in Yanchep National Park (every 4th Sunday of the month), meeting in Boomerang Gorge. All welcome. Enjoy a picnic in the park. Call Jill Vines 9444 2958.
- 27 Sunday 9am  
Hovea Conservation Park, Hovea. Watsonia removal. Ecoplan, ATCV, AlintaGas Bushland Care Day. Call ATCV 9339 3902.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

October 16 Friday and 17 Saturday  
*Managing Our Bushland Conference*, Urban Bushland Council, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, Hope Road, Bibra Lake. Contact Angela Carr 9450 6579 or Kirsten Tullis 9271 3549.

## What's On in the Bunbury Region

### JULY

- 16 Thursday 7.30pm  
Bunbury Naturalists' Club AGM and talk on fauna surveys.
- 14 Tuesday 9am  
Flora survey with the Bunbury Naturalists' Club (every second Tuesday of the month) at Franklandia Reserve, Boyanup Rd (track opposite West Dardanup Rd).
- 25 Saturday  
Bunbury Naturalists' Club excursion to Berger Swamp, Bridges walk and Harvey Dam.

### AUGUST

- 20 Thursday 7.30pm  
Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Nicci Tsemjanski, SW coastal facilitator, on coastal dunes and the marine environment.
- 29 Saturday  
Bunbury Naturalists' Club walk, section one of the Cape to Cape Walk (Cape Naturaliste to Wyadup).

### SEPTEMBER

- 17 Thursday 7.30pm  
Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting, show and tell and discussion on herbarium and seed orchard. Agriculture WA, North Boyanup Rd, Bunbury.
- 20 Sunday  
Visit Franklandia Reserve and Ferguson Valley flower walk with the Busselton and Bunbury Naturalists' Club.
- Bunbury Naturalists' Club activities. Call Shirley (08) 9795 7181 or Gordon (08) 9797 2673. All meetings at Agriculture WA, gate on North Boyanup Rd or Dodson Rd, Bunbury. Visitors are very welcome.
- Busselton Naturalists' Club activities. Call Bernie Masters (08) 9727 2474.
- Please send us your activities in the metropolitan and Bunbury areas by 7 September 1998 for spring *Ecoplan News*.

# Resources

## Learn bush regeneration and seed collection

Participants can enrol in a choice of three bush regeneration courses in the second half of 1998. One course runs on Saturday afternoons, 1–4.30pm, over nine weeks from 1 August to 26 September. The other two are run over four consecutive days, 9am–4.30pm, from 17 to 20 August, and 13 to 16 October. The courses cost \$200.

APACE is also offering two three-day seed collection courses (one day theory and two days practical). The theory covers the use of tools, hygiene, legal obligations, use of seed banks, and how to plan and conduct a seed collection program. The practical component of the course consists of a collection day in the field and a day devoted to processing the material collected. One course will run on 1, 2 and 8 December and the other on 15, 16 and 22 December, 1998. The cost for these courses is \$150 each.

Substantial subsidies for those on low incomes and actively involved with a bushland group are available through Natural Heritage Trust funding. Contact APACE on 9336 1262.

## Guide to granite outcrop care

A new practical guide to assessing, managing and revegetating rock outcrops in south-western WA, called *How to Manage your Granite Outcrops*, by Land for Wildlife coordinator, Penny Hussey, is available for \$10 (plus \$2.50 postage and handling). Land for Wildlife participants, who manage outcrops on their properties, will receive a free copy. It's available from Emma at CALM in Como (50 Hayman Rd) or call 9334 0427. Alternatively, you can send a cheque (payable to Land for Wildlife) or money order to Land for Wildlife, Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, WA 6983.

## Finding out about fungi

*Fungi of Southern Australia* by Neale Bougher and Katrina Syme (UWA Press) has beautiful illustrations, descriptions and other details of 125 species of fungi. It also explains the importance of fungi, where to find them and how to collect them. It costs \$75 from book stores.

If this book is too costly for you a better place to start might be with Kevn Griffiths book, *A Field Guide to the Larger Fungi of the Darling Scarp and the South-west of Western Australia*. It has paintings and information on 110 species, described on a family basis. It's available from book stores or from Kevn direct on 9295 4212 (\$20 hardback or \$15 softback).

## New coastal facilitators

Coastal facilitators have been appointed to help community groups with grant applications, find other funding sources, give project advice and technical information, and to raise awareness of coastal and marine issues.

John Braid is the coastal facilitator for the Metropolitan–Central Coast region (City of Rockingham to the Shire of Irwin). He can be contacted at the Ministry for Planning on 9264 7835 (email: braidj@planning.wa.gov.au).

Nicci Tsernjavski is the facilitator for the South-West region (Mandurah to Walpole) and she can be contacted at the South-West Local Government Association in Bunbury on (08) 9791 4699 (email: nicci@swwalga.wa.gov.au).

Coastal facilitators will also be responsible for the South Coast region (Walpole to Israelite Bay), Mid-West–Gascoyne and the Pilbara–Kimberley. For further information on these contact Michael Parker on (08) 9264 7834.

## Greening WA has moved!

These days you can find Greening WA at 10–12 The Terrace, Fremantle (right next to the Fremantle prison). Their new phone number is 9335 8933, fax 9335 9203 or you can email gwa@omen.net.au.



If not claimed within 7 days, please return to  
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Department of Environmental Protection

*Ecoplan News*  
is published by the  
Department of Environmental Protection



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