



EWAN boost to weedbusting

A three-year weeding and monitoring project could help local government and community groups get more of a handle on effective weeding and bush regeneration.

The project is managed by the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN), with the help of a Natural Heritage Trust grant.

EWAN chairperson Joanna Seabrook said EWAN was concerned that there was a lack of on the ground technical support for weeding and that existing information was not well collated and accessible.

"Often the best efforts of local governments or community groups don't seem to be as effective as they could be, and this can result in lowering of enthusiasm and morale," Joanna said.

Kate Brown has been employed full-time to coordinate the program and plans to work nine sites across the Perth metropolitan area and in the heatbelt. Kate is currently working at Shenton Bushland, Blue Gum Lake and Brixton Street Wetlands and will contribute to weeding plans for twenty community groups over the next three years.

With the help of community groups and councils, the project will map bushland condition and critical weeds, undertake weed monitoring and develop strategies for effective weed control and bush regeneration. This year one more urban bushland site will be added to the project.

"It is important to start with mapping," Kate advised. "Then you can really get more of a handle on what you are dealing with. The planning part of weed control and bush regeneration is critical and community groups often don't have the resources to do this."

Kate hopes to come up with a weeds strategy for Shenton Bushland by the end of the year. Fifteen quadrats with infestations of the South African bulbous weed, *Lachenalia reflexa*, (sometimes called soldier boys) are being monitored and she is comparing the impact of chemical control versus hand weeding. This weed was introduced to the bushland by garden dumping and is spreading quickly through good quality bush.

At Blue Gum Lake, Kate is working closely with Melville City Council bush regenerator Colin Spencer. She is putting in plots to monitor the effectiveness of Fusillade spraying of veldt grass. City of Fremantle's Bush Regenerator Shane Boyle is keeping an eye on the project so that he can apply what he learns to Samson Park in Samson.

"We also want to look at what sort of plants move in when the veldt grass is gone and develop a monitoring system that will be useful for other bushlands as well," Kate said.

At Brixton Street wetlands the focus will be on bulbous weeds that are typical of clay-based wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain. Friends of Brixton Street have already done a lot of work on *Watsonia* control in this reserve.

Weed monitoring workshops for community groups are planned for next year. Kate also intends to set up a database of community information on weed control. Some of the results of her studies will be published in future editions of *Ecoplan News*.

Kate Brown is based at the Swan Catchment Centre. For further information about EWAN contact Joanna on 9299 6816 or Tony Baird on 9432 9814.

National Weedbuster Week 11-18 October

Help the community become more aware of the severity and urgency of the environmental weed problem!

Kings Park Administration
Centre at 10am on
Sunday 11 October

Morning tea, weed identification
walks, displays

Call Sandy Lloyd 9368 3760,
Joanna Seabrook 9299 6816 or
Tony Baird 9432 9814.

WA weedbuster homepage:
www.agric.wa.gov.au/progserv/plants/weeds/buster/buster.htm

Managing Our Bushland

The Urban Bushland Council's conference on 16 and 17 October is a chance for all those involved in urban bushland to get together and discuss bushland management and protection at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre. There will be presentations, workshops and walks tackling a wide range of issues. Mark Couston, an inspiring guest speaker, will talk about bushland management and planning at Ku-ring-gai Council in Sydney's north shore, a good model for other local councils.

Registration is \$40 for two days and \$30 for one day. There are a number of *Ecoplan* subsidies for those involved in voluntary conservation. For further information contact Vanessa Yeomans on 9450 1226 or yeomans@q-net.net.au.

Many thanks to those who volunteered time and energy to work on the Bushland Care Workdays over the past few months. Special thanks to the ATCV volunteers, especially Brian Crute and Lois MacKenzie whom I see at every workday. Thanks also to the groups for the tremendous efforts in organising the

Farewell Jon

We are sorry to announce that after two years of enthusiastic and dedicated work with Ecoplan, Jon Elder will be leaving the program in early October. We would like to thank Jon for his outstanding efforts and dedication to Ecoplan. Jon will continue to work with the DEP on a part time basis on the Community Action Plans.

"When I started with Ecoplan I felt extremely lucky to be in a job encouraging and assisting people care for our natural environment. I still do. The irony is I underestimated all the support, encouragement and laughs I received from those within the Ecoplan network to help me do the job and make it so enjoyable.

Thank you to everyone (naturally too numerous to mention) and wishing you well for the future."



days, hosting the volunteers and putting in all the hard work. Thanks also to AtintaGas especially to Belinda Wilmot and Bridget Tighe who by now know how to remove Watsonia! Thanks to hard working and hard pressed ATCV staff, particularly Iggy Kim and Marcel Buist. The Friends of Bold Park managed to maintain their outstanding effort from last year and again attracted more than 100 volunteers on the day. Well done.

Introductory training sessions were held at the Settlers Common in Armadale in July and August and the fantastic heating system at the field study centre managed to keep us all warm on the cold nights and made sure that attendance was high. Thanks to Brett Tizard for his work in organising the sessions, and to the City of Gosnells, City of Armadale and Shire of Serpentine/Jarrahdale for their contributions towards these sessions.

Congratulations to the Bennett Brook Catchment Group on the opening of their new Environment Centre.

Summer Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the spring *Ecoplan News* by 30 November, 1998. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words. Thanks to all contributors! You can write, fax or email Margo (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

but not sure how your group could manage it? Do you sometimes feel swamped with paperwork? Then this workshop could be for you! Come along and explore some ideas of how to work more effectively, manage time and budgets, develop effective networks and cope with unexpected situations.

The workshop will be run by Ecoplan together with the Greening Western Australia Bushcare Support officer, Anna-Maree Penna. For further information, or to register please call Margo on 9222 7052. (Numbers limited)

Ecoplan contacts

Margo O'Byrne

Westralia Square
141 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

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Fax: 9322 1598

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Ecoplan community contacts:

South-East Region -

Brett Tizard ☎ 9497 4038

Bunbury Region -

Carolyn Switzer ☎ 9721 0666

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 end of year picnic

Put 5.30pm Friday 27 November in your diaries. Invitations will be sent out to those on the Ecoplan mailing list.

Project management workshop

Saturday 14 November 9.30am - 3.30pm. Do you want to learn more about managing projects? Have you thought of applying for NHT funding

MONEY MONEY MONEY

Gordon Reid grants

Applications opened in September for the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation 1998-99 funding round for nature conservation projects. One million dollars is available. There is no deadline, but it is best to get applications in early. The assessment process takes about three months. Application forms and guidelines are available by calling 9340 5270. After you have looked through this information it is advisable to talk to the executive officer to discuss the eligibility of your project before making an application.

Threatened species

The Threatened Species Network has been allocated \$1 million of Natural Heritage Trust funds. This will be distributed nationally over the next two years to conservation projects involving threatened species and threatened ecological communities. The Threatened Species Network is a community-based program of the World Wide Fund for Nature and Environment Australia's Endangered Species Program, supported by state conservation organisations. Applications for the first round may be called later this year. If you would like further information call Sandra McKenzie, the WA coordinator of the Threatened Species Network, on 9387 6444. Sandra will help community groups with their applications. You can also subscribe to the Network's free newsletter, *The Web*, which will give details of the grants.

Natural Heritage Trust (NHT)

Guidelines for the next round for NHT programs such as Bushcare, Landcare and Rivercare will be available at the beginning of October for projects to be undertaken between September 1999 and October 2000. Applications are due by 26 February 1999. For application forms and guidelines call 1800 198 231. There will be national guidelines and supplementary guidelines specifically for WA, including regional contacts for advice on applications. Some information will also be found on the NHT website: www.nht.gov.au.

Alcoa funds cleanup program

Alcoa has pledged \$1.2 million over five years for community bushland and wetland projects to complement the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program. The Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program steering committee are developing criteria for the grants.

For further information phone Tony Whitbread on 9221 3840.

Trails funding

Up to \$50 000 per project is available for incorporated bodies or groups for the Trails Funding Program administered by Trailswest, part of the Ministry of Sport and Recreation. Grants are for planning, construction, upgrading and promotion of bush walking, mountain bike riding and horse riding trails. Matching contributions in dollars and in kind are required. The closing date is 1 March 1999. Call Ken Ashman on 9387 9700 for details.

Bushcare officers span the South-West

Extension officers have been employed right across the country as part of the National Bushcare program. In August, nine full-time and one part-time officer were placed across southern WA. The officers will provide technical and facilitation support and help develop, undertake and monitor Bushcare projects on the ground. They will also help to raise awareness within the wider community of the need to retain and care for bush.

Greening Western Australia will be managing the program in WA for the next three years and Nathan McQuoid is the Bushcare Support manager. Neil Pemberton-Ovens is the officer for the South-West Region: Waroona to Walpole. He is based in Boyup Brook and is available on 9772 4276 or 9765 1555. Anna-Marie Penna is the officer for the metropolitan area and she is based at the Swan Catchment Centre on 9221 3840. The extension officers are establishing how best to support community groups and no doubt we will hear more from them in future editions of *Ecoplan News*.

Nominations for Greening Western Australia Board

Interested in joining the Board of Directors of Greening Western Australia and helping shape the policy and direction of this highly-regarded environmental organisation?

Candidates are now being called to nominate for GWA's annual elections in November.

Each year half of the Board retires by rotation. There are six positions to be filled – two each from the membership categories of individual, private and public enterprise. All retiring directors are eligible to stand for re-election.

Nominations close on 23 October and votes counted on 13 November.

Members and non-members interested in nominating should contact Wayne Grant, the general manager, on (08) 9335 8933.

To be eligible, a person must be a financial member of GWA, or the nominated representative of a financial member in the category for which the person is nominating. Anyone who is eligible to nominate in more than one category may do so.

The term of election will be two years.

GWA is an independent, community-owned association and a member of the Greening Australia federation of states and territories. It has a full-time staff of 19 and operates from a head office in Fremantle and centres in Perth, Three Springs, Moora, Northam, Southern Cross, Wagin, Boyup Brook, Tambellup, Jerramungup and Esperance.

Regional herbaria

Over 50 groups have already joined a network of community-initiated herbaria across the State. Volunteers collect plant specimens and field notes in their local bushland, store them in a regional herbaria, and send duplicates to the Perth Herbarium. With the help of a NHT grant the Herbarium, in partnership with Greening Western Australia, provides training, some materials and assistance such as access to biological information. All the information will be put on a database which, in the future, it is hoped will be linked to computers in regional herbaria. For further information call Jan Gathe or Margaret Lewington on 9334 0587.

Regional Reports

Summer coast care

As you head towards the coast in search of relief from the summer heat, keep an eye out for the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) busy with their coastal rehabilitation projects in urban and rural areas. The projects will be undertaken in conjunction with community groups and other stakeholders.

Vehicle and foot traffic over coastal dunes leads to the removal of natural vegetation, leaving areas open to erosion. As the waves and wind nibble further into the dune systems, the coastal environment, which is home to a suite of flora and fauna, is eventually lost. By covering the dunes with branches and erecting fences to deter curious beachgoers, plants are given the opportunity to re-establish and once again stabilise the dunes.

For more information on how you can become involved, either as a volunteer or a project partner, call ATCV on 9336 6911.

Central Region

South Perth Bushlands

by John Feldman

Riverside rehabilitation

Aquinas College and the City of South Perth council have recently been involved in two adjacent but separate rehabilitation projects on the northern foreshore of the Canning River at Aquinas Bay. In this area there were two steeply sloping eroded areas of foreshore bank. Aquinas College students have attached 'felt' matting to a section (about 5m x 8m) of eroded yellow sandy slope and planted small native plant seedlings through holes in the matting. The City of South Perth council has done a similar exercise with an adjacent section (about 6m x 10m) and provided reticulation under the matting to the seedlings. The council has also installed a set of treated pine steps to allow public access from the top of the escarpment, through a vertical fall of about 10 m, to the river edge. These actions should prevent further erosion of the exposed sand and provide an environment for successful rehabilitation of the slope.

Bushcare in Manning

The group looking after the Manning Primary School bushland have successfully applied for a grant for several hundred dollars from the City of South Perth. These funds will be used to purchase about twenty treated pine rails to replace existing jarrah railing around the perimeter of the bushland. The present jarrah rails have been in place for ten years, are of small diameter and have deteriorated because of wood rot and vandalism.

About fifteen members of the City of South Perth Environment Association had three successful 'transplanting' days during June and July. They moved several hundred native plant seedlings from the soon to be destroyed Gillon Street bushland in Karawara, to the severely degraded A class Davilak Reserve in Manning. The native plant seedlings transplanted were mainly those with fibrous, rhizomous or stoloniferous root systems as it is hoped these will have a greater chance of survival.

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

Kings Park

The Friends group spent some of the winter busily preparing for their major fundraising activity: the Wildflower Festival plant sale. Plants for sale included 3 500 Kings Park Federation Flame kangaroo paws, 1 500 *Leschenaultia bilaba*, pink everlasting and *Dampiera* and *Verticordia* species.

The Friends were involved in several rehabilitation projects in the park in winter, and helped the Plant Sciences Division with some scientific studies. These included helping re-establish jarrah and tuart back onto disused walking tracks and studies of fungi in the park.

Previous trials of direct seeding and planting of jarrah and tuart in bushland have had limited success. The walking tracks have more light and there is less competition for water for the seedlings. Some seedlings have been planted with slow-release fertiliser; some with different mulches and some without anything. The results will prove interesting and help us decide which is the best method.

Weeds from South Africa (*Watsonia* and *Black Flag*) were also removed from several localised patches. These weeds seem to spread relatively slowly so we hope they will be easy to control.

Kings Park Board has financially assisted the Friends to employ a part-time co-ordinator to give secretarial support from August to October. Natalie is in the office 9am to 5pm, Wednesdays.

For further information, call the friends office on 9480 3643

Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre

A very successful start to the planting season was helped along by the extra assistance provided by volunteers from Esprit de Corp, Wetlands Conservation Society, the Friends of Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society ATCV and AlintaGas. Thank you to all those involved and to the City of Cockburn for sponsoring the ATCV team and for assisting with site preparation.

Nearly a thousand dryland and wetland plants have been planted into Bibra Lake as well as several nearby sites including North, South and Yangebup Lakes. Another 4 000 trees and shrubs were planted by a Greencorps team who are part of the Olympic Gold Tree Project.

As part of the banksia woodland restoration project local seed was aerosol smoked and broadcast over three trial areas during June. Monitoring of seedling germination will commence soon. The Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation has approved a request to extend the project until September 1999. This will enable completion of the work, which experienced delays at the start.

Site preparation has commenced on the Native Animal Rehabilitation Centre and the Centre is looking forward to Karen Pryce-Howells' involvement.

For further information contact Rex Sallur or Denise Crosby on 9417 8460.

Bold Park

Duplicating the success of last year's Ecoplan/AlintaGas/ATCV bushland care day in Bold Park, over a hundred people also lent a hand at this year's work day in August. As well as working hard in the bushland, ATCV volunteers prepared the BBQ lunch and the Friends of Bold

Park provided morning and afternoon tea. Baker's Delight in Floreat supplied free buns and the Kings Park Board provided a large bin which, by the end of the day, was overflowing with weeds. Six teams of helpers removed weeds from a six hectare area in the park.

The Friends have just received a NHT grant to contribute to weed removal, seed collection, direct seeding, propagation and planting out in this same area over the next two years. The grant will cover seed collecting and nursery assistance and other incidentals like signage. The Kings Park Board will be spraying veldt grass this year and next year and will apply smoke water to encourage germination in half of this six hectare area.

Bold Park, which is larger than Kings Park, is now officially managed by the Kings Park Board. Norma Calcutt and the Friends of Bold Park are to be congratulated on their hard work during a campaign of over ten years to secure the park. The Friends are concentrating their efforts on bush regeneration and they will be working closely with the Kings Park Board.

For further information call Norma on 9384 4274.

North-West Region

Conserving bush at Quinns Rocks

Like other areas on the edge of urban Perth, Quinns Rocks is experiencing loss of remnant vegetation as development occurs. A landcare project by the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group is looking for practical strategies to keep bush in an urbanising landscape.

Extensive areas of habitat remain, but much is threatened by planned residential development, commercial use and roads. A review of vegetation cover over the last thirty or so years shows the dramatic effects of urban sprawl. Aerial photos tell the story with large areas cleared for subdivision since the late 1980s.

A stakeholder workshop was held in June. It involved developers, government agency representatives, local residents and conservationists and generated many ideas including:

- securing priority areas in the conservation estate;
- identifying and setting aside bushland areas early in planning new subdivisions;
- promoting innovative design and developing practices that retain more bush;
- landscaping with local plants to create greenways;
- effective management of bushland remnants; and
- raising awareness so that bushland is better understood and valued in the community.

The need for limits to urban growth was also raised by some at the workshop, recognising that Perth's sprawl is a key threat to remaining bushland on the coastal plain.

A paper on the project will be presented at the Managing Our Bushland conference in October. The ideas raised can form the basis for action by the community, developers and government to conserve remnant vegetation around Quinns Rocks. The local group is working towards a greener vision for this developing area.

For further information contact Renata Zelina 9305 9382 or David Wake 9220 0658 (w).

South-West Region

Sleeves rolled up at Beacham

by Bryce Bunny, Manager of Environmental Planning, City of Mandurah

Beacham Reserve, otherwise known as Coodanup Reserve, the site of the Coodanup Community Centre, was recently the focus of concerted community activity. The Mandurah Environmental Advisory Committee and Coodanup Community Progress Association combined their energies to restore the ecological values of the reserve. About forty people participated in a working bee where a mixture of five hundred local native species were planted on a disused fire break. The plants were staked and surrounded by plastic bags to protect them in their juvenile stages. The project was funded by Alcoa.

The Almighty assisted us with good follow-up rains. Everyone found it a very uplifting experience, especially to see the finished result. It was a good example of what can be achieved when the community is partnered with sponsors and the Council. A number of councillors were seen toiling with their sleeves rolled up in the dusty sand. The evening finished with an extraordinary sausage sizzle thanks to the Coodanup Community Progress Association and Jim Reddiex. Congratulations to everybody involved.

Hills Region

Eastern Hills news

by Jenny Johnson

Planting, rabbits and dieback

Winter in the Hills is now over and the hive of activity – the many days of planting in the dry areas – is now complete. Rainfall has been sporadic and under average, however long-range forecasters predict showers to continue well into spring. Sudden downpours in September have taught us to be a little more cautious in our wetland planting. Last year a September rainstorm of 50mm in a morning swept many reeds and rushes downstream in Jane Brook. Most were recovered from stream banks and replanted the next day!

The planting season was hampered by rabbits and ant guards had to be placed around the softer plants until they were a little harder and less appetising. Initial plantings of acacias proved irresistible to rabbits. Tests by Agriculture WA have verified the suspicion that the rabbit calicivirus has not been effective here, or in other wetter areas of WA.

Dieback training workshops for interested community groups are planned for later this year. A noticeable loss of forest has been observed in areas susceptible to dieback; exacerbated by the stress of a dry winter. New theories and methods of dieback control are keenly sought by bushcare groups.

Council networks friends

There are so many friends groups in Mundaring that contacting coordinators to collect planting data has proved to be a difficult task. Thankfully the Mundaring Shire has appointed a part-time officer, Mike Grasby, to help friends groups liaise with the Shire and other groups.

The Shire's environmental officer, Mick McCarthy, has produced a Friends of Reserves Group Manual with the Eastern Metropolitan

Regional Council and community consultation. Guidelines are outlined for insurance, safety, best management practices and responsibilities of both the Shire and friends groups. Other shires have shown a keen interest in this concept as more local communities seek to participate in bushland and reserve management.

The Mundaring Landcare Working Party, guided by Liz Western, the Swan–Mundaring catchment officer, has been formulating objectives and strategies that are designed to foster a cooperative approach between all sectors of the community and government involved in integrated catchment management and other environmental issues. This cooperative approach flows through all levels, including the 'on the ground' activities of friends groups.

See the *What's On* section for details of bushcare days. Everyone welcome! Please bring buckets, trowels, weeders and mattocks.

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

Friends of Quenda Creek

notes from Patsy Hill

The Friends had another winter of successful planting and weeding in the reserve at Gooseberry Hill. Five hundred local plants have been planted. These were supplied by the Council. Half of these were planted during the Ecoplan/AlintaGas/ATCV work day on 5 July. During the work day bollards were also put in to mark property boundaries. Unfortunately, just after volunteers were still recovering from the hard work to put them in, the bollards were unlawfully removed. The council is investigating the incident. Patsy and Alan are going away for a well-earned break until the end of the year.

For further information contact John Love on 9293 3682.

South East Region

Friends of Ellis Brook Valley

by Heather Bowler, President

We have been successful with two grant applications. One is from the Gordon Reid Foundation to fence along Rushton and Quarry Roads, which will help to protect an area of significant jarrah-banksia woodland from unwanted vehicle access. Fence building will take place on 18 October with the help of the ATCV.

The second grant was from the Natural Heritage Trust to do aerial spraying for dieback over the heathland areas of the valley. These areas are under threat as the disease was taken high into the valley by earlier off-road vehicle activity. It is a pioneering project, as aerial spraying has not been done before close to the metropolitan area. We hope it will lift the awareness of the problems the disease can cause in high-usage local bushland.

The spraying will be done next year, with the lead time being used to set up monitoring areas and project planning. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with the Dieback Working Group who have NHT funding to run an education program on the protection and management of significant remnant bushland from dieback.

The Eco-seek'em foot rally was a big success. Did we make it too easy so that everybody scored well, or did that make it enjoyable for all? We will think about that before organising another.

For further information contact Heather on 9459 2045.

Bunbury Region

Bunbury

by Carolyn Switzer

The Leschenault Community Nursery had an overwhelming response to its Seed Collecting Workshop run by Wildflower Society's Kate Brown and Brian Moyle on 6 September. Those who did not make the first twenty are on the list for the next workshop.

The Wildflower Society Workshop, funded by NHT, covered collection protocols, cleaning, counting, germination tests, storage and keeping good records.

Future workshops will range across the Leschenault Catchment area and give people field experience of seed collection. Neil Pemberton-Ovens, the new Bushcare Support Officer for the region and Pat Hatfield, manager of the Leschenault Community Nursery will lead these workshops. The first will take place at Australind on 20 October.

Sunday 27 September was the day for the annual Leschenault Catchment Group canoe trip, lead by Avon Descent veteran George Mardon. This year the Collie River between Roelands and Australind had their attention - a couple of adjoining wetlands were examined, the state of the foreshore observed and the impact of development proposals estimated. Serious stuff. The intention was serious, the paddling hilarious. What took George 35 minutes on a training run took the group at least three hours and a coating of mud. The reward? A tea break provided along the way with retired farmer Bernie Stanley telling stories of floods and other events.

Southern Bunbury wildlife corridor

by Bernhard Bischoff

The Bunbury City Council has asked for public comment on zoning of two vital sections of the southern Bunbury wildlife corridor.

Both of these areas – the College Grove section between Bussell Highway and Manea Park, and the Homeswest-owned tuart woodland east of Ocean Drive – have been zoned residential in the Bunbury Town Planning Scheme 6 (1984). The pressure is now on to reverse the land-use decisions of the past and to achieve a more environmentally friendly Town Planning Scheme 7, due to be released for public comment soon. It is heartening to see that, encouraged by public interest, the Council is starting to become more proactive by seeking information on the corridor, even though this could lead to less income from land sales.

The South West Environment Centre (SWEC) has secured a twelve-month Natural Heritage Trust grant for a project which includes surveying and preparing management recommendations for the Southern Bunbury Bush Corridor. Bernhard Bischoff has been appointed as consultant and project coordinator. One of his priorities this spring is to fill in the gaps of a vegetation survey across the corridor. Quadrats will be surveyed in tuart-jarrah and *Banksia attenuata* communities east of Ocean Drive, and marri and melaleuca communities north and south of the Bunbury airfield, including damplands and reddish sandy soils. The surveys will take place on 26 September and 3 October.

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

Group Profile: Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG)



Andy Farrant, (right) from Friends of Kadina Brook bushcare day, with ATCV volunteers and Lizzie Farrant (seated, right).

Coming together

In 1989 the Shire of Kalamunda announced plans to sell 43 bushland patches. One thousand people attended a protest meeting, scientific reports were tabled, the Shire was lobbied, and the plan eventually dropped. A core group of people continued to meet and in 1992 the Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG) was incorporated. The NRPG is an umbrella group which includes many small friends subgroups throughout the Shire.

Working strategically

"We're a typical group of locals with busy lives who enjoy the bush and want to help ourselves and others to weed, revegetate and be educated about our bushland. But we're also keen on strategic partnerships with relevant authorities, especially the Shire," NRPG vice president Vicki Laurie said.

There are major benefits to the umbrella group approach. The neighbourhood subgroups don't need to be incorporated and one person can coordinate activity across many different reserves and subgroups. For example, NRPG secretary Cheryl Gole liaised with the friends subgroups and organised plantings across the Shire last winter. She helped groups draw up species lists and arranged for the Shire to have the plants ready.

The NRPG has also taken out accident and public liability insurance that covers all members, something that small friends groups may not have the funds to do.

Getting results

Thanks to the NRPG, thousands of local species have been planted in Kalamunda's bushland. One of the largest bushland areas, the old railway reserve, was the focus of a major revegetation program undertaken in collaboration with the Shire and the Wildflower Society. It runs for kilometres through the Shire and includes the well known Zig-zag railway reserve.

The NRPG also lobbies authorities and has contributed to many conservation plans in the area. Members spent hundreds of voluntary hours contributing to the Shire's draft reserve management plan; one of the first shires to undertake such a project.

"One of our members, Murray Ryall, donated an enormous amount of time to help the Shire create a computer database of reserves. You can't accuse us of sitting back and waiting for someone else to do it. The Shire would acknowledge that we've been the catalyst for many of its conservation activities," Vicki said.

Contacts

Martin Pearce 9291 7480 or Vicki Laurie 9454 4828.



Econotes Preventing Fires

As the weather warms up the threat of bushfires increases. Many urban bushlands suffer from too many fires. This disrupts the ecology and allows weeds to flourish.

If you notice a fire hazard contact your local Fire and Rescue Service of WA (FRSWA) fire station in the phone book. If you see a fire call the emergency number "000" immediately.

For those who live next to bush it is time to think about taking action to make your house safe. Call Warren McCarthy on 9323 9463 for information on the community fire guard program.

Of the 11 300 bushfires in WA last year, 4 967 were suspicious and the cause was unknown for 1833. This year all of those involved in fire services, including the police, hope to make full use of a system developed to make it easier to find the causes and culprits.

Since July 1997, some 175 young people prone to fire lighting have participated in the Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness Program (JAFFA). JAFFA is coordinated by Peta Odgers (9323 9300).

Since the Urban Bushland Council (UBC) conference on bushfires in 1995, FRSWA has drawn up 250 fire response plans, in consultation with UBC and community groups, for bushland across the metropolitan area. FRSWA are negotiating with CALM to develop fire plans for regional parks. To find out more about Fire and Rescue Services call Howard Fiedler on 9323 9528.

The UBC recommend:

- liaison with local fire brigades;
- constant vigilance;
- keeping weeds controlled, especially flammable weeds like veldt grass and typha;
- slashing firebreaks rather than ploughing. Often it is best to just remove trees and leave the rest of the vegetation to avoid erosion problems;
- a sign and fencing around bushland areas makes the public aware of their value. It also keeps vehicles and trail bikes out;
- check for up to five days after a fire that it is not likely to reignite. Community groups can assist Fire and Rescue with the mop up; and
- prescribed burns on the Swan Coastal Plain are not recommended.

For further information about UBC contact Angela Carr on 9450 6579.

Peta and Howard from Fire and Rescue will be speaking at UBC's Managing our Bushland conference in October.

What's On



OCTOBER

- 4 Sunday 9am - 12 noon
Bushcare day at Brookside Park, Parkerville.
Call Jenny 9295 4467.
- 4 Sunday
WA Naturalists' Club excursion to Bungedore
Park, Armadale. Call Alan 9306 1832 or
Gordon 9272 1674.
- 7 Wednesday 8pm
Friends of Marmion Marine Park meeting and
video night. Call Lynda 9342 8684.
- 11 Sunday - 18 Sunday
NATIONAL WEEDBUSTER WEEK
Launched at Kings Park Administration
Centre, 10am, 11 October. Morning tea, weed
identification walks, displays. Call Joanna
9299 6816 or Tony Baird 9432 9814.
- 13 Tuesday - 15 Thursday
Bush Regeneration Course by APACE. Cost
\$200 (subsidies for low income people). Call
9336 1262.
- 13 Tuesday - 15 Thursday
Bush regeneration with ATCV at Bannister
Creek. Call 9336 6911.
- 15 Thursday 9am - 3.15pm
Land for Wildlife 'What to do with granite
outcrops' field day at Tammin. \$10, lunch and
refreshments included. Call CALM's Narragin
office (Avril Baxter) 9881 1444.
- 16 Friday 7.30pm
Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of
the Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by
David Pearson on pythons at the Rockingham
Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd.
Call Diana 9527 1961(ah).
- 16 Friday and 17 Saturday
UBC *Managing our bushland* conference at
Cockburn Wetlands Centre, Hope Road,
Bibra Lake. Speakers, workshops and walks.
Call Vanessa 9450 1226.
- 17 Saturday 7am
Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake
Wildlife Centre. Call 9387 6079.
- 17 Saturday 8am
Friends of Lake Gwelup monthly guided walk.
Meet at the scout hall, Huntriss Rd,
Karrinyup. Call Betty 9444 5640.
- 17 Saturday and 18 Sunday
Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of
the Naturalists' Club excursion to the
Goodale Sanctuary. Call Bob or Ann Goodale
9527 4289 (bookings essential).
- 18 Sunday - 24 Saturday
National Water Week
City of Joondalup Environmental Discovery
Week: Activities for schools and the
community. Some activities included in this
listing. Call Nicole Foxcroft 9400 4000.
- 18 Sunday 9am - 12noon
Bushcare day at Hovea Conservation Park,
Hedges Rd (east), Hovea (will be sign-posted).
Bring buckets, trowels, weeders, mattocks.
Call Herbie 9298 8218.
- 18 Sunday
Fencing of bush at Ellis Brook Valley with
ATCV. Call 9336 6911.
- 19 Monday - 21 Wednesday
Bush regeneration in Mundijong with ATCV.
Call 9336 6911.
- 19 Monday - 25 Sunday
NATIONAL BIRD WEEK
Free bird walks listed under following dates.
Call Birds Australia 9383 7749 (9.30am
-12.30pm, weekdays).
- 19 Monday 8am
Bird week walk at Lake Carine with Clive
Nealon. Meet at the main car park, off Beach
Rd. Call 9383 7749.
- 21 Wednesday 9am
Bird week walk at Mary Carroll Park with Bill
Roberts. Meet at Eudoria St car park. Call
9383 7749.
- 21 Wednesday 12.15pm
Launch of National Snapshot Day at Neil
Hawkins Park (schools across the country take
a snapshot of water quality.) Call Donna
Weston, Waters and Rivers Commission 9278
0357.
- 22 Thursday 8.30am
Bird week walk at The Spectacles with Bryan
Barrett. Meet at the main car park, off
Laughlan Rd. Call 9383 7749.

- 23 Friday 8.30am
Bird week walk at Floreat Waters (Maurie
Hamer Park), Herdsman Lake, with Judy
Blyth. Meet at the car park near the cnr of
Lakeside Rd and Heron Pl. Call 9383 7749.
- 24 Saturday 9am
Bird week walk at Alfred Cove with Les
Harris. Meet at the car park in Troy Park (by
radio mast), off Burke Dr, Attadale. Bring a
telescope if you have one to see the waders.
Call 9383 7749.
- 24 Saturday 10.30am
Friends of Marmion Marine Park touch pool.
Meet on the beach in front of the Marmion
Angling and Aquatic Club, West Coast Dr.
Call Lynda 9342 8684. (Guided beach walk if
poor weather.)
- 24 Saturday 9am - 11am
A Walk on the Wild Side with Alan Notley,
naturalist and president of the WA Naturalist
Club. Meet at Drivers Crt, off Joondalup Dr,
for a walk around part of Yellagonga Regional
Park.
- 24 Saturday 9am - 1pm
Open day at the Friends of Yellagonga
Regional Park nursery, Landsdale Farm School,
Landsdale Rd. Call Nicole Foxcroft
9400 4000.
- 24 Saturday 8am - 9am
Nature walk with the Friends of Koonjoola
Regional Bushland. Meet cnr of Koonjoola
and Burbridge Aves, Koonjoola. Call Nicole
Foxcroft 9400 4000.
- 24 Saturday
Bush regeneration, BBQ and walking tour of
the year's work at Allen Park with ATCV. Call
9336 6911.
- 24 Saturday 2.30pm
Goald League excursion to Wireless Hill. Call
9387 6079.
- 25 Sunday
National Bird Week Birds Australia open day
(displays and information) and bird walks
leaving at 8am, 10am, 2pm and 4pm from
Perry House, 71 Oceanic Dr, Floreat. Call
9383 7749.
- 25 Sunday - 30 Friday
South West River Restoration Workshop at
Wellington Forest Cottage. Cost \$180 for
accommodation and catering. Call Antonietta
Davy, Water and Rivers Commission (08)
0278 0562.
- 26 Monday - 27 Tuesday
Bush regeneration in Mundijong with ATCV.
Call 9336 6911.
- 27 Tuesday 7.30pm
Meeting of the Darling Range Wildflower
Society and talk by Malcolm French on
eucalypts, St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring
Rd, Kalamunda. Call Rae 9293 1676 or Fay
9291 7510.
- 30 October to 1 November
Greenteach conference at Dryandra on
ecologically sustainable behaviour. Call Fettes
Falconer 9459 2544.
- 31 Saturday 8am - 10am
Nature walk with Friends of Trigg Bushland,
led by David Pike. Meet at southern boundary
of Elliott Rd, Trigg. Call Robyn 9246 3954.

NOVEMBER

- 4 Sunday 9am - 12noon
Bushcare day at The Falls, Falls Road, Hovea
(will be sign-posted). Call Jenny 9295 4467.
- 4 Sunday 1pm - 5pm
Workshop to prepare Management Guidelines
for Greater Brixton Street Wetlands,
Maddington Community Hall, cnr Yule and
Alcock Sts, Maddington. Call Regina
9459 2964.
- 4 Sunday
WA Naturalists' Club excursion to Bayswater
Bird Reserve. Call Alan 9306 1832 or Gordon
9272 1674.
- 5 Saturday
Project morning with the
Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of
the Naturalists' Club. Call Bob Goodale
9527 4289.
- 6 Friday 7.30pm
WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by
Geoff Furnie on Antarctica at the University

- Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton St,
Nedlands. Call Alan 9306 1832 or Gordon
9272 1674.
- 10 Tuesday 8pm
Meeting of the Perth branch of the Wildflower
Society and talk by Neil Gibson on plant
communities and diversity in WA, Subiaco
Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco (just
east of Rokeby Rd). Call Jim 9384 9671 or
Alison 9361 1360.
- 11 Wednesday 7.30pm
Australian Association of Bush Regenerators
forum, *Mulch or fuel load*, bushland, wetlands
and coastal speakers including Brett Tizard and
Lindon Mutter. Meet 10 Broome St, off
Douglas Ave, South Perth. Call Janice
9384 9634.
- 14 Saturday 9.30am
Project management workshop. Come
along and explore some ideas of how to work
more effectively, manage time and budgets,
develop effective networks and cope with
unexpected situations. The workshop will be
run by Ecoplan together with the NHT
Urban Bushcare Support worker, Anna-Maree
Penna. For further information, or to register
please call Margo on 9222 7052. (Numbers
limited)
- 15 Sunday 9am - 12noon
Bushcare day at Hovea Conservation Park,
Hedges Rd (east), Hovea (will be sign-posted).
Bring buckets, trowels, weeders, mattocks.
Call Herbie 9298 8218.
- 19 Monday to 24 Saturday
City of Joondalup Environmental Discovery
Week. A range of activities, including
children's activities (some are listed in here).
Call Nicole Foxcroft 9400 4951.
- 20 Friday 8pm
WA Naturalists' Club Serventy Memorial
lecture by Kevin Kenneally and Daphne
Edinger on *Broome and Beyond* at the
University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton
Street, Nedlands. \$5/\$4. Call Alan 9306 1832
or Gordon 9272 1674.
- 20 Friday 7.30pm
Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of
the Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by
David James on Forrestdale Lake (before
excursion on 22nd) at the Rockingham
Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd.
Call Diana 9527 1961(ah).
- 21 Saturday 7am
Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake
Wildlife Centre. Call 9387 6079.
- 21 Saturday 8am
Friends of Lake Gwelup monthly guided walk.
Meet at the scout hall, Huntriss Rd,
Karrinyup. Call Betty 9444 5640.
- 21 Saturday 9am - 12 noon
Work morning every third Saturday of the
month with the Friends of Brixton Street
Wetlands. Meet at the end of Alton St,
Kenwick. Call Regina 9459 2964.
- 21 Saturday and 22 Sunday
Our Living Body, the Earth, a deep ecology
workshop with Joanna Macy at UWA
extension. Call 9380 2433.
- 22 Sunday
Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of
the Naturalists' Club excursion to Forrestdale
Lake and the Spectacles. Call Diana
9527 1961(ah).
- 27 Friday 5.30pm
ECOPLAN END OF YEAR WIND-UP
Call Margo 9222 7052.
- 28 Saturday 2.30pm
Goald League excursion to Kalamunda
National Park. Call 9387 6079.

DECEMBER

- 5 Saturday
Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of
the Naturalists' Club project morning. Call
Bob Goodale 9527 4289.
- 6 Sunday 9am - 12 noon
Bushcare day at Brookside Park, Parkerville.
Call Jenny 9295 4467.
- 6 Sunday 9am - 12 noon
Bushcare day at Hovea Conservation Park,
Hedges Rd (east), Hovea (will be sign-posted).
Bring buckets, trowels, weeders, mattocks.
Call Herbie 9298 8218.

- 12 Saturday 10am - 4pm
Bush regeneration insights workshop at
Environmental Technology Centre, Murdoch
University. Other short courses on
permaculture and environmental technology
available. Call 9360 6123.
- 19 Saturday 7am
Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake
Wildlife Centre. Call 9387 6079.
- 19 Saturday 8am
Friends of Lake Gwelup monthly guided walk.
Meet at the scout hall, Huntriss Rd,
Karrinyup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

What's On in the Bunbury Region

OCTOBER

- 7 Wednesday 7.30pm
Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk
by Kathryn McMahon from the Water and
Rivers Commission on sea grasses of
Geographic Bay at the Performing Arts
Centre, Busselton Senior High School.
- 12 Monday - 16 Friday
Busselton Naturalists' Club excursion to
Wellington Mill Cottages.
- 15 Thursday 7.30pm
Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk
by Mike Lundstrom on dune stabilisation.
- 13 Tuesday 8am
Flora survey with the Bunbury Naturalists'
Club every second Tuesday of the month at
Franklandia Reserve, Boyanup Rd (track
opposite West Dardanup Rd).
- 17 Saturday
Bunbury Naturalists' Club excursion to Capel
reserves and Peppermint Grove Beach with
Cheryl Campbell.
- 25 Sunday
Busselton Naturalists' Club fifth stage of the
Cape to Cape walk: Gracetown to Ellensbrook
House and Meekadarrbie Cave.

NOVEMBER

- 11 Wednesday 7.30pm
Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk
by Suzanne Dennings, Malleefowl
Preservation Group, Ongerup, at the
Performing Arts Centre, Busselton Senior
High School.
- 19 Thursday 7.30pm
Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk
by Brendan Kelly on the work of the South
West Environment Centre.
- 22 Sunday
Busselton Naturalists' Club excursion to
Boranup Forest, lunch in the forest and
afternoon at Slimbridge Waterfowl Farm,
Witchcliffe.
- 26 Saturday 5pm
Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk
by Kathryn McMahon from the Water and
Rivers Commission on sea grasses.
- 28 Saturday
Bunbury Naturalists' Club Herron Point walk,
Coolup and Yalgorup National Park.

DECEMBER

- 12 Saturday
Bunbury Naturalists' Club *Twitchethon* or
estuary bird count with Rita and George.
- 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 welcome.
- Busselton Naturalists' Club activities
Check the *Busselton Margaret Times* for
excursion details or call (08) 9727 2474 or
(08) 9752 1949. Buses usually leave from Pries
Ave at 9am. Visitors welcome.
- Please send us your activities in the
metropolitan and Bunbury areas by 30
November 1998 for *Summer Ecoplant News*.

Resources

Bird atlas database

Birds Australia has started work on its second *Atlas of Australian Birds*. The Atlas will map the distribution of birds across the country, paying particular attention to distribution patterns in various habitats, including revegetated and rehabilitated sites. Individuals, friends groups and landcare groups can use their bird watching skills in their local bushland, wetland or coastal area and contribute to this project. Contributors will be able to access accumulated data for their own surveying and monitoring needs. For further information contact Atlas coordinator Cheryl Gole from Birds Australia, 71 Oceanic Drive, Floreat or 9293 4958.

Comment on river cleanup

Public submissions are due by 15 October on the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Draft Action Plan. Copies of the draft plan can be obtained by calling the Swan River Trust on 9278 0400. It can be viewed at local libraries, the Swan Catchment Centre and on the web site: www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt.

Weed Navigator

Weed Navigator is an environmental and agricultural weed contact and information guide for Australia and New Zealand. It was compiled by Kate Blood, Ursula Taylor and Susan Timmins and

contains over 2800 entries, including contacts, publication listings, brochures, websites, databases, CD ROMs, strategies, legislation, posters and training opportunities. It costs \$30, including postage and handling, and is available from the Cooperative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems by calling (08) 8303 6590 or emailing crcweeds@waite.adelaide.edu.au. Postal orders to CRCWM, University of Adelaide, PMB 1 Glen Osmond, SA 5064.

Tools for loan

The Swan River Trust has a trailer full of equipment available for loan to community and catchment groups in the Swan Region. Community groups can borrow the whole trailer or some of the tools by calling David Fardig at the Victoria Park Depot on 9470 1888.

The trailer contains two brooms, ten safety goggles, three long-handled shovels, a block splitter, a 30 metre tape, two anvil tree saws, a star picket hammer, three spades, six rakes, twelve pairs of riggers gloves, a bow saw, a 10 litre jerry can, three axes, two sledge hammers, two wheel barrows, one five litre drinking container, three overstrike protectors, two crow bars and four face shields. A chainsaw, lawn mower and two brushcutters are available to those who have had training and certification in their use.

Law of landcare

The Environmental Defender's Office WA has published a comprehensive guide to environmental law, particularly in rural WA. It spells out legal rights and responsibilities associated with land management and conservation and has been developed in response to community feedback. The book costs \$30 or \$20 for students; call 9221 3030.

Managing stormwater

A Manual for Managing Urban Stormwater Quality in WA has been published by the Water and Rivers Commission. It is a fairly technical document aimed mainly at planners and engineers and is accessible through local governments, government departments and the Swan Catchment Centre.

Pointers for change

The Australian Association for Environmental Education will be holding an international conference, *Southern Crossings: Pointers for Change*, in Sydney, 14-18 January, 1999. For further information fax (02) 9949 4933, email orggroup@orggroup.aust.com or consult the web site www.education.uts.edu.au/eeconf.



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Department of Environmental Protection

Ecoplan News
is published by the
Department of Environmental Protection



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AUST. 6000