



## Serpentine-Jarrahdale strives for innovation

The Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and community groups in the area have taken many innovative leaps in tackling conservation.

"In the last five years there has been a massive increase in revegetation and the number of active community groups," said Jan Starr, a Shire Councillor for 15 years and member of several conservation groups.

"Agriculture WA's Community Catchment Centre at Pinjarra and the appointment of the environmental officer in the Council were key catalysts."

Years of Council and community initiatives have resulted in \$1.18 million allocated to conservation projects over three years, from 1998-2000, under the banner of *Restoring Serpentine-Jarrahdale for Tomorrow*. Most of these funds are from the Natural Heritage Trust and the Shire, with in-kind contributions from community groups, and some funds from Alcoa and the State Government.

These funds enabled the establishment of a landcare centre at an old school site, which acts as a resource centre (including a local herbarium), a meeting place for community groups, and a base for three new staff.

Landcare development officer, Cathy Lyons, encourages and supports community involvement and integrates sustainable development efforts across the Shire. Bushland rehabilitation officer, Jodie Neiman, works in bushland on private and public land. Trainee, Blair Bloomfield, assists Cathy and Jodie. A Greencorp team, including 10 workers, have also been contributing to bush care in five reserves over the last six months.

"There's a strong landcare ethic in the community. The funds we have received are matched several times by the planning and on-ground work by the community," said Ms Lyons.

The Shire was recognised for its initiative in environmental management and planning when it received the 1998 Quality Innovation Award at the annual WA Municipal Association awards. The



Jan Starr (left) and Cathy Lyons water monitoring at Medulla Creek.

award was particularly in relation to the addition of a new conservation zone in the local town planning scheme (TPS).

In other local councils, bushland cannot be reserved specifically for conservation and it is often lumped in the 'Parks and Recreation' or 'Landscape Protection' categories.

"The new zoning allows for voluntary recognition and protection of private land with regional conservation significance," said Shire environmental officer, Andrew Del Marco.

"It was initiated because basic taxes and rates sometimes seemed counter to conservation. For example, farmland is given an exemption from land taxes and bushland areas are not.

"Benefits to landowners include a 50 per cent rates reduction, access to council resources and protection of the area in broader land use planning."

The Shire has approved three blocks, totaling 1400 hectares (including Lowlands, the largest piece of privately

owned remnant vegetation on the Swan Coastal Plain, south of Perth) to be rezoned to conservation.

Management plans have been completed for these blocks and rezoning awaits approval by the Minister for Planning. A decision is expected, after a public comment period, by mid-year.

Another amendment to the TPS allows the Council to prosecute landholders who destroy native trees without permission. Used skilfully, this addresses the problem of small, incremental loss of vegetation and complements the State's clearing controls, which require notification and approval for clearing of more than one hectare.

In addition, substantial revegetation is required when rezoning and for most developments. A weeds strategy and a community catchment plan for the Shire are in the pipeline.

Jan Starr believes that being proactive is critical to success.


"All levels of government, particularly local government, need to get beyond just being prohibitive and reactionary and become more proactive," she said.


"People on the ground can really make things happen and if you can encourage this, within environmental and economic sustainability, then they become the drivers and that's why so many community groups have sprung up here."


Among the active conservation groups are the Roadside Care Volunteers Group, the Serpentine River Group, who have done extensive steamlining, and the Keysbrook Environment Group, consisting of an impressive cross-section of the community.


With a population of only 10 000, the Shire covers a massive 900km<sup>2</sup>. Half of the Shire, east of the Darling Scarp, is State forest for water catchment purposes, while the rest consists of five townsites, small block farming and large rural holdings.


For further information contact Andrew Del Marco on 9525 5255 or Cathy Lyons on 9526 0012.


 We usually think of the summer months as a chance to take a breather, plan for the coming year and prepare for the busier time in winter and spring. However this seems to have been a particularly busy summer season with lots of people writing new and continuing funding applications.


 Ecoplan has been working together with the Swan Catchment Centre and Greening Australia (WA) Bushcare Support and Western Australian Municipal Association (WAMA) to look at how we might combine our efforts to run information and training seminars for community volunteers and workers with local government. A program for the seminar series is available from Ecoplan or the Swan Catchment Centre and Anna-Marie Penna and Clare Walsh from WAMA are holding a forum for Local Government on Tuesday 20 April, 1999 from 12:30pm - 3:00pm at the Swan Catchment Centre.


 Several peak organisations have held their annual general meetings in the past two months with many interesting guest speakers. Best wishes to all members of new committees as you carry on the valuable work of environmental care.

 The Urban Bushland Council has published proceedings of the Urban Bushland Conference held in October 1998. This is a very worthwhile publication with a wealth of information on issues affecting bushland. Copies of the proceedings are available from Kirsten Tullis (phone/fax 9271 3549 or e-mail [ubc@wantree.com.au](mailto:ubc@wantree.com.au)).

 Congratulations to all involved in organising the inaugural Rockingham Environment Fair. The day was a great success and the group looks forward to bigger and better things as this event becomes an annual occurrence.

 Calls are being made for papers for presentation at the State Landcare Conference in September. Details of conference in this newsletter.

 Thanks to all who sent in expressions of interest for holding a Bushland Care Day in 1999. Unfortunately the number of groups requesting days exceeded our availability to sponsor so we are having to say sorry to some groups. A full program for the Bushland Care Days is set out in this edition.

 Finally, Margo O'Byrne will be away on leave from 26 March to 14 May 1999 and Dan Huxtable, whom many of you will know from his work with ATCV, will be looking after Ecoplan. Dan will be in the office on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during this period and you can call him on 9222 7052.

## **Congratulations Harry de Jong!**

Harry de Jong was recently awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his dedication to conservation. He is particularly well known in the Kwinana area where he has been documenting natural heritage over the last 40 years. He was a key figure in pushing for the creation of the Leda and Spectacles reserves and has been involved with many conservation groups.

An Ecoplan regional co-ordinator for many years, Harry has contributed to many Ecoplan events and helped to establish the Ecoplan program in 1991. With great enthusiasm, he distributed information kits to schools and others in his area. His stunning nature photos are admired by many and some adorn the walls of the Swan Catchment Centre. He has a particular interest in spiders and has discovered a species which was named in his honour. The medal is well deserved recognition for a dedicated and generous conservationist. Well done Harry!

## **Contributions**

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for winter *Ecoplan News* by 2 June 1999. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words. Thanks to all contributors! You can write, fax or e-mail Ecoplan (see Ecoplan contacts on this page) or write to the following address.

Ecoplan News  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Westralia Square  
141 St Georges Tce  
Perth WA 6000

## **Are you on the mailing list?**

This newsletter is free to all those interested in bushland. If you would like to join the mailing list or add on a friend let us know! And don't forget to tell us if your address has changed. Contact Ecoplan (see Ecoplan contacts on this page).

# **Ecoplan contacts**

## **Margo O'Byrne**

Westralia Square  
141 St Georges Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

Telephone: 9222 7052

Fax: 9322 1598

[margo\\_o'byrne@environ.wa.gov.au](mailto:margo_o'byrne@environ.wa.gov.au)

## **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**

☎ 9225 4103

### **Greening Australia (WA)**

☎ 9335 8933

### **APACE**

☎ 9336 1262

### **Swan Catchment Centre**

☎ 9221 3840

### **Urban Bushland Council -**

Mary Gray ☎ 9221 3840

*Newsletter compiled by  
Cathy Drake*

## Deadly dieback

Many common plants in urban bushland are susceptible to dieback, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, including jarrah, banksias, grass trees, sheoaks and zamia palms.

Up to 25 per cent of WA native plant species are susceptible to this microscopic pathogen. It can dramatically alter the make-up of ecosystems.

The first indication of the presence of the pathogen is often the death of susceptible plants, such as banksias. Plant death from dieback can be very fast, with plants dying within a few days of the leaves first turning yellow.

There is no cure, but dieback is spread in soil and water, so there are ways of reducing the risk of spreading it:

- schedule operations that involve using vehicles or moving soil in late spring to mid autumn, when the soil is dry and cannot be picked up by tyres;
- ensure vehicles and machinery are free of soil and mud before taking them into bushland reserves;
- minimise the number of tracks in reserves and ensure they are well drained;
- don't establish tracks that cross from infected into dieback-free areas;
- don't bring any soil or mulch into dieback-free areas unless it is known to be dieback-free;
- chlorinate water before using it to 'mop up' after a fire; and
- purchase plants for revegetation from nurseries accredited by the Nursery Industry Association (they take measures to reduce the risk of infections).

Susceptible plants can be protected by injecting or spraying them with the phosphite fungicide. Phosphite is a non-toxic, environmentally friendly chemical that enables plants to resist dieback infection for up to five years.

Community groups can undertake this task.

A Natural Heritage Trust funded project, developed by Perth's Dieback Working Group, aims to increase public awareness of dieback and the treatment available, and encourage local government to adopt dieback policy and operational guidelines.

For further information about dieback contact the Dieback Project Co-ordinator Sharon Kilgour at the Shire of Kalamunda on 9293 2111. Local workshops will be run for community groups.

# Bushland Care Days 1999

The launch of the 1999 Ecoplan/AlintaGas/Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) Bushland Care Days will be held on Saturday 22 May 1999 at 9am at Blue Gum Reserve in the City of Melville. If you would like to attend call Dan Huxtable on 9222 7052 or Linda Taman on 9377 5621.

The ATCV will be working on day-long bush care projects with friends groups. If you're interested in helping out on a work day call ATCV on 9336 6911. Bring gloves, sturdy shoes, protection from the elements and a sense of adventure. A free BBQ lunch is provided.

## You can help!

22 May	Weeding and planting at Blue Gum Lake, Melville
29 May	Planting and weeding at Yellagonga Regional Park
TBA	Friends of Cockburn Wetlands
12 June	Weeding, planting, stabilising banks and mulching at Hovea
13 June	Weeding, planting and direct seeding at Quenda Creek, Gooseberry Hill
19 June	* Weeding Carnation Weed and Geranium and planting with Friends of Korella
26 June	* Weeding Geranium with Friends of Hepburn/Pinneroo Bushland
17 July	Planting and weeding with Friends of Allen Park, Swanbourne
24 July	Dieback treatment with Phosjet and weeding Talbot Road, Stratton
7 August	Fence repair, planting and weeding Lake Richmond, Rockingham
15 August	Weeding with Friends of Bold Park
21 August	Weeding with Friends of Brixton St Wetlands
28 August	Weeding lupins and carnation weed at Lake Gwelup, Stirling
12 September	Weeding and mulching at Hollywood Reserve, Nedlands
18 September	Weeding at Warwick Bushland

For further information about Bushland Care Days, please contact ATCV on 9336 6911

## More bush care seminars

After a successful series of bush care forums in 1998, the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR) is presenting a new series for 1999. These forums will again be held every second month. Every other month Ecoplan, Greening Australia (WA) Bushcare Support and the Swan Catchment Centre are holding community seminars (for details on April, May and June seminars see the What's On section on page 7).

In the second half of 1999, AABR forums will cover managing the edges of bushland for aesthetics and ecological resilience, surveying and mapping bushland, and fire management. The Ecoplan/Greening Australia (WA)/Swan Catchment Centre seminars will cover Aboriginal cultural heritage and sustaining conservation commitment whilst avoiding burnout. For further information on the AABR seminars call Janice on 9384 9634, or on the Ecoplan/Greening Australia (WA)/Swan Catchment Centre seminars call Dan Huxtable on 9222 7052 or the Swan Catchment Centre on 9221 3840.

## State Landcare conference

The 1999 State Landcare Conference, *Where Community Counts*, will be held in Esperance on 8 - 9 September. The theme acknowledges community drive as a main reason for so many successes in landcare in WA. It is hoped that the conference will encompass a holistic view of natural resource management, demonstrating economic, environmental and social interdependency for long term survival. For further information call Carina Calzoni on 08 9083 1111 or e-mail ccalzoni@agesp.agric.wa.gov.au.

## Bioblitz

Join biological specialists to help find as many different species in a designated area within the Armadale Settlers Common bushland in only 24 hours. Help provide valuable information, meet fellow naturalists and have fun. It begins at 5pm on 17 September 1999 and finishes at the same time the following day. Register as soon as possible by calling Brett Tizard on 9224 3137 (btizard@cyllene.uwa.edu.au) or John Nicolson on 041 175 6415.

## Central Region

### South Perth bushlands

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

In late January we lost our battle to save about four hectares of remnant banksia woodland at Lot 690 Gillon Street in Karawara. The woodland was destroyed by contractors as part of the redevelopment of eastern Karawara by Homeswest. For the past five years local community members have battled to save all or part of this bushland. The fight included a petition to the Legislative Council of the Western Australian Parliament, a 1350 signature petition to the City of South Perth, election of pro-environmental councillors, numerous meetings with government departments and volumes of letters.

Jan King and her husband have been busy during early summer removing, hopefully, the last patches of watsonia from the Mount Henry Peninsula bushland at Aquinas College in Manning. This has been aided by Main Roads WA spraying herbicide on a patch of watsonia near the northern approach to the Mount Henry bridge and adjacent to the Aquinas bushland.

The City of South Perth has fenced an area of about 20 metres by 50 metres near degraded bushland in Davilak Reserve in Manning to establish a seed orchard. During summer Andrew Thomson has been busy digging up all the couch grass on this site so it is reasonably weed-free. At the start of winter we hope to direct seed and plant seedlings of native species in this fenced area, using some seed collected from the Gillon Street bushland. Ms Jacqui Milne, a fourth year environmental science student from Murdoch University, has recently presented a comprehensive report on her Davilak Reserve monitoring program to the City of South Perth.

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

### Where the owls dwell

by Trish Hewson, Friends of Hollywood Reserve

Hollywood Reserve is almost entirely bordered by cemeteries. On one side is Karrakatta and on the other side the Perth War Cemetery. However, all is not dead in the area. As Alfred Tennyson once commented on a Thomas Hood poem: "While I live, the owls! When I die, the ghouls!".

Over the past few years the Friends of Hollywood Reserve have watched frogmouths and southern boobook owls raise their families. Many years ago Hollywood was home to many frogmouths, but unfortunately they were shot out by young men with air pistols (about 15 years ago). This year, for the first time in many years, a pair raised one chick. Also, just inside the cemetery, two families of boobooks raised five chicks and another family of frogmouths raised a chick. If you walk quietly around the perimeter of the Reserve in the early evening, owls and frogmouths can be seen sitting on the fence ready for the evening's hunting.

Sadly, this year we found two young owls that were thought to be poisoned. One was dead and one was dying. Stomach contents revealed only grasshoppers, but they may have taken some kind of insecticide as well.

Karrakatta is a breeding ground for rainbow bee-eaters. There were as many as 50 pairs nesting in the cemetery several years ago. They were decimated by foxes, who dug out their burrows and ate their young. We found a fox den in Hollywood Reserve and the Council evicted the tenant. This year there are about five pairs nesting very close to the Reserve boundary, that have successfully raised their young.

For further information call Trish on 9386 4476.

### Walks in Shenton Bushland

The Friends of Shenton Bushland are putting a lot of work into writing leaflets for self-directed walks in the Bushland. A new leaflet will be written for each month this year. Leaflets are available from the notice boards on the Lemnos Street and Grace Vaughan House entrances (Nedlands). The self-directed walks include about 20 stops. Already 18 people in January and 28 in February took leaflets during the summer heat. Interest is expected to increase.

For further information call Janice on 9381 4051.

## North West Region

### Star Swamp recovers from fire

by Christine Curry

The Star Swamp Bushland has so far escaped a major bush fire over summer. This has given the area a chance to start the long period of recovery following the devastating fires of last summer which swept through about 60 per cent of the reserve.

The Friends of Star Swamp Bushland are hoping to begin mapping weed infestations in the reserve after preliminary work is done on developing a planned attack on the weed problem. Veldt grass spraying has been carried out by the City of Stirling over the past few years with a fair degree of success. Bridal creeper has been brought under control, mostly by a concerted digging effort by the City and the Friends group. Most readers will be aware of the successful near-eradication of lupins from the Reserve over the past 15 years. It is hoped that a plan can be developed which will result in similar successes in controlling other weeds, such as freesias and carnation weed.

Morning walks on the fourth Saturday of the month and nocturnal walks will continue this year (see the *What's On* section for details) and public and members' meetings, and other special events are planned.

For further information call Christine on 9447 2983.

## Hills Region

### Eastern Hills news

by Jenny Johnson

After a belated start, summer finally hit with a vengeance and along with the kangaroos and birds, the bush regenerators had to wait until late afternoon to tackle essential tasks.

Seeds gathered late last year are germinating in seed trays and the time consuming task of picking and potting has been ongoing. The challenge has been to keep seed trays damp,

but not encourage fungal wilt. The high humidity, high temperatures and lack of air movement in the last weeks of summer proved to be a real challenge for the novice bush plant grower.

We had good news with success in grants from the Alcoa-funded Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program (SCULP) and the WA Government awarded to groups in the eastern hills for various wetland and streamlining projects in Gidgegannup, Mt Helena, Mundaring and Parkerville. All we need now is a good response from volunteers to attend our bush care days (see the *What's On* section for details on bush care days in Parkerville and Hovea with Jenny and Herbie).

The Mundaring Shire has also allocated funds to most friends groups for picnic tables and rubbish removal, signs recognising financial contributors, and fences and posts to delineate boundaries and control entry access.

Three members of our groups were guests at a recent conference in Adelaide on stream management. We look forward to sharing the tips and techniques they gained during the conference.

By the time this newsletter goes to print, the bush care co-ordinator for the Mundaring Shire should have been appointed. Other officers from the Shire have been filling this role as well as performing their other duties. The bush care co-ordinator will be a direct link to Shire administration for friends groups and provide advice for on-ground projects.

We'd like an early break to the season. Rain is needed to bring up the weeds for treatment before our June plantings. The Hovea Ratepayers Association perform their annual rain dance at a champagne sausage sizzle breakfast on the last Sunday in May. This always works!

For further information call Jenny Johnson on 9295 4467.

## South West Region

### A successful first festival

The Rockingham Regional Environment Centre's first environment festival held on 20 February exceeded expectations. People were arriving half an hour before the official opening time and a steady stream continued throughout the day. All demonstrators, display stall holders and speakers reported that participants showed great interest and attention to detail. The hands-on activities attracted the most interest. One visitor reported that they had built their own solar food cooker the day after the demonstration at the festival!

Trevor Walley erected a mya mya (a bush shelter) with assistance from two young participants, told dreamtime stories of the area and demonstrated bush tucker and other useful plant species. He held families enthralled, never leaving his spot on the nature trail from 10am to 5pm.

The permaculture group worked solidly all day and attracted several new members. Great interest was also shown in the alternative energy, organic gardening, worm farming, best-practice mulching techniques, potter's wheel, solar model car, live reptiles, local marine issues and recycling displays and stalls.

The festival will be an annual event, building into a full weekend in 2000, and a week of activities, plus possibly a national environment centres conference in 2001.

Read more about the Environment Centre in the group profile in this edition. Courses in a range of topics start soon see Ecoplan Update.

For further information call Bob or Ann Goodale on 9527 4289.

### Local Plants for Cockburn

by Paddy Strano, Environmental Officer, City of Cockburn

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes recently opened the Atwell Community Garden, a Perth Plants project demonstration native plant garden on the corner of Lombe Gardens and Lydon Boulevard, Atwell. The garden was sponsored by Greening Australia (WA), City of Cockburn, Alcoa of Australia Ltd, LandCorp and the Water Corporation. It has 13 species of Perth indigenous trees and 66 species of native shrubs, used in a number of different garden styles.

The aim of the garden is to encourage Perth residents to use local plants in their gardens in order to increase habitat, food and shelter for wildlife. The use of native plants also reduces the use of water and fertiliser which are necessary to maintain exotic plant gardens.

A plant workshop was held on 6 February at the Atwell Community Centre, next to the new garden. The workshop, which provided practical advice on using local indigenous plants in gardens, was run by Greening Australia (WA) and sponsored by the City of Cockburn. It was attended by 44 people. Speakers, including Anna-Marie Penna, Ben de Haan and Mike McShane, provided enlightening talks on why, what, when and how to grow native plants to create a number of different gardens (coastal, formal, bush and cottage gardens). The workshop involved a tour of the demonstration garden. Due to the keen interest shown in this workshop the City of Cockburn is considering running another workshop soon.

A relatively new community group, Friends of Manning Lake Bushland, is becoming active and planning a meeting on 12 April. Call Deirdre Napier on 9418 6651 or Teresa on 9418 7324 if you would like to find out more.

For further information contact Paddy on 9411 3444.

### Your own slice of bush

The pioneering Lake Mealup Preservation Society owns 120 hectares of land in and around Lake Mealup. New members are sought to purchase shares. The original block was bought in 1988 and three blocks have been added to the property since.

Lake Mealup is a large freshwater wetland two kilometres east of the Harvey Estuary, part of the Ramsar listed wetlands in the area, and only a short drive from Perth. There is good quality, long-unburned bush, including all four banksias found on the Swan Coastal Plain and huge native pear trees.

The Society's constitution says that the land is for conservation and education and cannot be developed. Part of the rationale for the purchase is that we cannot expect governments to take care of all of our bushland.

The Society hold regular excursions to explore the area and carry out management of the property. Members have been collecting seeds, growing seedlings, planting, maintaining fences and undertaking an extensive hydrological research project. Members also visit the site on day trips or camp overnight to experience the beauty and solitude of the area.

Associate members pay an annual membership fee and full members have an additional vote for every unit that they own (\$500 per unit).

For further information call Peter Wilmot on 9244 3015, Kate Creed on 9457 2000 or Max Bailey on 9444 7920.

## South East Region

### Aerial spraying at Ellis Brook

by the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley

Aerial spraying for dieback on the heathlands of Ellis Brook Valley is due to start in late March. A second application is scheduled about six weeks later. This area is very important, with 12 priority plant species and several distinct communities, so we had to try all possible ways to stop the spread of this pathogen. Backpack spraying was not able to cover enough hectares.

We thought we were being very ambitious late in 1997 when we decided to seek funding for aerial spraying, particularly as the Valley is so close to the metropolitan area. However, after a year of planning, the day for the planes to fly is fast approaching.

We are contracting CALM to do the work as part of their spraying program. This means that we did not need to get our own permit for the aerial use of the phosphite chemical. The project is funded by NHT and the City of Gosnells. The Friends will be in charge of the project set up and monitoring.

For further information call Heather Bowler on 9459 2045.

## Bunbury Region News

by Carolyn Switzer

The Leschenault Community Nursery ran a local rushes and sedges workshop on 5 March. This was followed by a regional seed collection seminar on 20 March. Dr Kathy Meney of Regeneration Technology was the presenter at the rushes and sedges workshop and 17 keen people attended.

The regional seed collection workshop, funded by NHT with support from the Water and Rivers Commission in Bunbury and the Geographe Bay Catchment Council in Busselton, will include mini field workshops in order to increase awareness of the importance of local provenance seed collection and maintaining biodiversity. (A similar workshop was conducted by nursery manager Pat Hatfield at Yallingup Brook for residents involved in the Yallingup Brook Action Plan.)

A part-time, NHT-funded project officer will be employed to develop model reserve management schemes for three local governments (Harvey, Dardanup and Donnybrook-Balingup) and establish seed orchards and roadside revegetation. In addition, the City of Bunbury will soon have a bushland

management plan co-ordinator employed through the South West Environment Centre.

The Leschenault Catchment Co-ordinating Group is very pleased to have enticed a UWA honours student to study the flooded gums on a section of the Preston River near Donnybrook. Local people have been concerned for some time at the severe, repeated insect attacks on these trees. Volunteer field assistants are needed to help with this study (contact Clare Parry in Donnybrook on 9731 2113).

Further south, GeoCatch has commissioned the production of a number of river action plans and these will guide the community in river restoration. The Yallingup Brook and Capel River Action Plans are almost complete and the Carbanup and Vasse River Plans are underway.

In the pipeline is a seminar to be held in late April in the Busselton region on incentives for protecting conservation values.

For further information contact the GeoCatch Network Centre on 9754 4331.

## Exciting news from Denmark

by Diane Harwood

The Denmark Environment Centre has received NHT funds to prepare the Denmark Greening Plan. Over the past few years, surveys have been undertaken of river and inlet foreshores and 60 bushland reserves. The Greening Plan will involve bringing together all existing information on bushlands, ascertaining the extent, condition and values of all remnant vegetation in the Shire and proposing recommendations for management.

Greening Australia's *Local Greening Plans* publication will be used as a guide. Diane Harwood and Alex Syme (1998 winner of the Bessie Rischbieth Award for Conservation) are the project officers. It is hoped that the project will contribute to keeping the beauty of the area as the local and visitor population grows. The Plan will take about three years to develop and become officially adopted by the Shire.

In the meantime, there is great local concern that weeds are taking over road verges, foreshores and bushland reserves. A recent meeting of locals agreed that a co-ordinated approach is needed to raise awareness and generate on-ground action. A working group was formed to draw up a list of problem weeds and produce a weeds pamphlet with descriptions and control methods.

There will also be a weeds display at a local fair. Maps of the area will be available so that people can colour in known outbreaks. This will help in setting priorities for weed control. Watsonia is becoming our next target weed (past targets have been bridal creeper and pampas grass). We have confined it to very small sections of Pioneer Park. To those who think hand weeding is too hard, I invite you to come to Denmark and see how we do it. We have fun!

For further information contact Diane on 089 848 1644.

# Group Profile: The Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (Inc) (RREC)



The RREC management committee, Don Shephard, Jane Davie, John Tucker, Bob and Ann Goodale in the newly erected lecture theatre.

Rockingham Regional Environment Centre convener Bob Goodale says that one of the reasons for establishing the Rockingham Regional Environment Centre was partly to "get his home back".

The local Naturalists club to which Bob belonged, had such a huge number of queries for environmental information, their library became too big to store at someone's home.

The Centre, established in 1996, has about 200 members and is run by a voluntary committee. The Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation, the Rockingham City Council and many others have contributed substantial funds. Local businesses have been generous with in-kind assistance, for example, water bores were put in by Waikiki Water Boring.

## A one stop shop

The Centre is well placed to provide environmental information and resources, and educational and ecotourism activities for the whole community in the region. It will also be a base for many local conservation groups such as the local Naturalists' Club and the Friends of Shoalwater Marine Park.

"We are near an industrial area and people want to live somewhere they are proud of. The Centre will help them show off their area," Bob said.

Currently on the site is a lecture theatre, an office caravan, a permaculture garden and a nature trail. The caravan will become a mobile display and resource van for off-site activities when the new building is finished.

## The vision

Construction is underway to put in four railway wagons for displays, gardens, ponds and a straw bale reception/herbarium/library/eco-shop. There will be a small entry fee to the Centre and money will be also raised from consultancies.

Plans include BBQs, picnic tables, and nature walks that connect the Centre to the Shoalwater Marine Park, Rockingham City, Lake Richmond and sections of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park.

With a grant from the Alternative Energy Development Board and assistance from local businesses, a wind turbine and solar panels will supply all the power requirements for the Centre and surplus electricity will be sold back to the grid.

## Alive with activity

More than 30 people have received certification in three Centre volunteer training programs. Training includes how the Centre operates, safety issues and local environmental issues.

Last year a particularly memorable field day was spent when many scientists donated their services to a project funded by World Wildlife Fund for Nature to collect scientific data on Lake Richmond. Also a three month coast care rehabilitation program included on-ground and public awareness activities.

This year, the Centre's festival was a great success (see Regional Reports) and a three monthly calendar of courses start soon (see Ecoplan Update).

The Council provides some funds to undertake work mornings on the first Saturday of the month in the Lake Richmond, Karnup, Baldvis and East Rockingham reserves.

## Where to find us

The Centre is on Safety Bay Rd, Rockingham, near Lake Street and opposite Lake Richmond (a heritage listed lake with thrombolites).

## Contacts

Bob or Ann Goodale 9527 4289.

## Greenways across Perth

A plan to encourage vegetation corridors across the Perth metropolitan area was released early in 1999. The Greenways project involved identifying suitable potential and existing vegetation corridors, including drainage lines, transport routes and relevant land use zonings, across Perth. (Private land was only included under special circumstances.) These corridors are intended as multiple use, including conservation and other uses such as recreation, heritage, educational and cultural.

The report provides recommendations for promotion, protection and management of vegetation corridors to enable better regional management. Corridors identified as needing priority action were linkages along foreshores, between wetlands and large areas of bushland, and east-west corridors linking the coastal strip to inland habitats. The report includes a range of landscape planning strategies and comprehensive maps.

The Greenways project complements Perth's Bushplan (they were both identified in the Government's policy framework, the 1995 *Urban Bushland Strategy*). It is the result of considerable consultation with Government agencies and community groups. \*

Copies of *A Strategic Plan for Perth's Greenways: Final Report* by Alan Tingay and Associates, funded by the Commonwealth Government's Urban Forest Campaign, were sent to all public libraries, most community groups involved, the Swan Catchment Centre, local governments and conservation agencies. A few copies are left for community groups (call Marie Ward on 9264 7836). It is hoped that local authorities will apply the findings and perhaps access NHT funds for implementation.



## APRIL

13 Tuesday 8.30am - 10am

Work day at Clarrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham. Call 9377 0444.

13 Tuesday 8pm

Meeting of the Perth branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by Kingsley Dixon, *Urban bushland renewal: fact or fiction?* Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco. Call Greg 9381 4062.

14 Wednesday 7pm - 9.30pm

Ecoplan/Greening Australia (WA)/Swan Catchment Centre seminar series; *Now you have the grant ... what do you do next?* at the Swan Catchment Centre, 108 Adelaide Tce, East Perth. RSVPs essential call SCC 9221 3840.

14 Wednesday - 16 Friday

Wetland restoration/weeding at Bannister Creek with ATCV. Call 9336 6911.

17 Saturday 8am

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

17 Saturday 9am - 12noon

Work morning with Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands, Kenwick. Call Regina 9459 2964.

17 Saturday 1.45pm - 5pm

Discussion group on alternative economics at the seminar room, Lotteries House, 79 Stirling St, Perth. Entry by gold coin donation. Call James 9470 9413 or E-mail Rodney eco-heal@vianet.net.au.

18 Sunday 8.30am

Friends of Kings Park woody weeding and talk (11am) by V Saffer on 'Feathers, Fur, Fruit and Flowers' (seed dispersal). Meet at the administration building. Call 9480 3643.

19 Monday 7pm

Friends of Bennett Brook Environment Centre meeting and talk on fauna of Perth by John Dell, Lot 75 Lord St, Caversham. Call 9377 0444.

20 Tuesday 7.30pm

Northern Suburbs Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Micheal Lloyd, *Propagation Using Smoke*, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Drive. Call Brian 9401 6847.

23 Friday 7.30pm

Eastern hills branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Bronwen Keighery, *Perth's Bushplan*, Octagonal Hall, McGlew Rd, Glen Forrest. Call Jan 9574 6671 or Herbie 9298 8218.

24 Saturday 8am

Guided bush walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland on the fourth Saturday of every month. Meet at the grassed area, Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

27 Tuesday 7.30pm

Darling Range branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Cheryl Gole, *Birds of the Darling Range*, St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Call Rae 9454 2928 or Lee 9291 7594.

## MAY

2 Sunday 9am - 12noon

Weeding and site preparation for planting, including erosion retention, at Brookside Park, Parkerville. Call Jenny 9295 4467.

3 Monday - 7 Friday

Regeneration of riparian vegetation/weeding with ATCV and the local catchment group at Southern River, Armadale. Call 9336 6911.

6 Thursday

Murdoch branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and germination workshop at the Cockburn Wetlands Centre, Hope Rd, Bibra Lake. Call Diane 9457 2896 or Margaret 9457 8484.

8 Saturday 8.30am - 10am

Work day at Clarrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham. Call 9377 0444

11 Tuesday 8.30am - 10am

Work day at Clarrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham. Call 9377 0444.

11 Tuesday 8pm

Meeting of the Perth branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by Malcolm Tjudgen, *Flora diversity and conservation values*, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco. Call Greg 9381 4062.

12 Wednesday 7.30pm

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (WA) bush care forum on *Monitoring and Recording Changes in Bushland*. Meet at Kings Park Administration Building. Call Janice 9384 9634.

14 Friday 7.30pm

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

15 Saturday 8am

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

16 Sunday 8.30am

Friends of Kings Park tree planting and talk (11am) by Bob Dixon on *Integrating the Garden and Bush*. Meet at the administration building. Call 9480 3643.

16 Sunday 9am - 12noon

Removing exotics at Hovea Conservation Park, Brooking Rd, Hovea. Call Herbie 9298 8218.

19 Wednesday 7pm - 9.30pm

Ecoplan/Greening Australia (WA)/Swan Catchment Centre seminar series: Project Management Forum *Evaluating Your Project* at the Swan Catchment Centre, 108 Adelaide Tce, East Perth. RSVPs essential call SCC 9221 3840.

22 Saturday 2pm - 4pm

Workshop on *Revegetation* by Linda Taman at the Bennett Brook Environment Centre, Lot 75 Lord St, Caversham. Cost \$5. Call 9377 0444.

22 Saturday 8am

Guided bush walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland on the fourth Saturday of every month. Meet at the grassed area, Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

28 Friday 7.30pm

Eastern hills branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Martin Copley, *Karakamia and Paruna Wildlife Sanctuaries*, Octagonal Hall, McGlew Rd, Glen Forrest. Call Jan 9574 6671 or Herbie 9298 8218.

28 Friday 7.30pm

Nocturnal walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at the North Beach entrance to Groat St. Call Christine 9447 2983.

29 Saturday 1pm - 5pm

Workshop on *Developing a Weed Strategy and Bush Regeneration Plan* by Kate Brown from Environmental Weeds Action Network at Swan Catchment Centre. Call Kate on 9221 3840.

## JUNE

3 Thursday 7.45pm

Murdoch branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Eric McCrum, *Aboriginal seasons*, Cockburn Wetlands

Centre, Hope Rd, Bibra Lake. Call Diane 9457 2896 or Margaret 9457 8484.

5 Saturday

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY Concert - Venue to be announced

3 Saturday 9am - 12noon

Planting at the Falls, Falls Rd, Hovea. Call Jenny 9295 4467.

7 Monday - 11 Friday

Help ATCV transform an old quarry and tip site by mulching and planting, Montreal Park, White Gum Valley. Call 9336 6911.

8 Tuesday - 9 Wednesday

ATCV help local school children undertake revegetation at Bennett Brook. 9336 6911.

8 Tuesday 8pm

Meeting of the Perth branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by Greg Keighery, *Plants of offshore dependencies*, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco. Call Greg 9381 4062.

9 Wednesday 7pm - 9.30pm

Ecoplan/Greening Australia (WA)/Swan Catchment Centre seminar series, *Attracting volunteers to your project and maintaining volunteer involvement*, at the Swan Catchment Centre, 108 Adelaide Tce, East Perth. RSVPs essential call SCC 9221 3840.

14 Monday - 18 Friday

ATCV Planting of native flora to further restore Cockburn Cement Wetland, with a view to introducing native fauna. Call 9336 6911.

19 Saturday 8am

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

19 Saturday - 20 Sunday

Tree planting in Chittering with ATCV. Call 9336 6911.

20 Sunday 9am - 12noon

Planting at Hovea Conservation Park, Brooking Rd, Hovea. Call Herbie 9298 8218.

22 Tuesday 7.30pm

Darling Range branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Libby Mattiske, *Vegetation mapping of the Darling Range*, St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Call Rae 9454 2928 or Lee 9291 7594.

26 Saturday 8am

Guided bush walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland on the fourth Saturday of every month. Meet at the grassed area, Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

## What's on in the Bunbury Region

### APRIL

14 Wednesday 7.30pm

Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Mike Lundstrom on *Planning for Natural Resource Management in South Africa*.

15 Thursday 7.30pm

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and evening of slides on Namibia.

17 Saturday 8am

Walk part of the Cape to Cape trail from Dunsborough with the Bunbury Naturalists' Club.

18 Sunday 9am

Busselton Naturalists' Club excursion to Wellington Discovery Forest and a walk along the Collie River led by Janet Dunham.

20 Tuesday

Every third Tuesday of the month, early morning bird studies at RGC wetlands with the Busselton Naturalists' Club.

## MAY

1 Saturday

Volunteer day at the Leschenault Community Nursery.

12 Wednesday 7.30pm

Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by John Winchcombe and farmers on *Landscape Architecture and Farming*.

20 Thursday

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on *The Noisy Scrub Bird* by Rob Brazel.

22 Saturday 8.30am

Bunbury Naturalists' Club excursion to Hoffman Mill bridges and Harvey Dam. Meet at Brunswick.

23 Sunday 9am

Busselton Naturalists' Club sixth stage of the Cape to Cape walk: Prevally Park to Conco's (6 and 13km for moderate to strong walkers) with Frank Mouritz.

23 Sunday - 28 Friday

River Restoration workshop in Dunsborough, particularly for landcare workers and river managers. Call Jodie Oats, Water and Rivers Commission, 9278 0375.

24 Monday - 28 Friday

Wetland restoration at Capel Wetlands with ATCV. Call (08) 9336 6911.

## JUNE

5 Saturday - World Environment Day

Volunteer day at the Leschenault Community Nursery.

9 Wednesday 7.30pm

Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Jim Lane on *Managing the Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary to Prevent Fish Deaths and Retain Conservation Values*.

17 Thursday 7.30pm

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on *Freshwater Fish* by Howard Gill.

20 Sunday 9am

Tree planting and trail rehabilitation, Meelup Reserve, with the Busselton Naturalists' Club. Bring gardening tools.

26 Saturday

Bunbury Naturalists' Club forest fungi walk.

Busselton Naturalists' Club activities:

To confirm details (check the *Busselton Margaret Times*) or call (08) 9727 2474 or (08) 9752 1949. Meetings are held at St Mary's Family Centre, cnr Albert St and Bussel Hwy. Visitors welcome. Excursion buses usually leave from Pries Ave at 9am.

Bunbury Naturalists' Club activities:

Call Shirley (08) 9795 7181 or Gordon (08) 9797 0673. All meetings at Agriculture WA, gate on North Boyanup Rd or Dodson Rd, Bunbury. Visitors welcome. Shirley is also the contact for the Leschenault Community Nursery.

In addition to these, the 1999 Ecoplan/AlintaGas/ATCV work days are listed on page 2.

These events will also be forwarded to the Swan Catchment Centre's monthly information sheet and 'Riverlink' web site at <http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon>.



# Resources

## Bush regeneration courses

Two APACE bush regeneration courses are scheduled in 1999. One will take place every Saturday afternoon from 24 July to 18 September, 1pm – 4.30pm, and the other will run over four full days from 16 to 19 August. The courses cost \$200 and they cover issues such as weed control, direct seeding, plant propagation, fire regimes, plant identification and herbarium preparation. There are practical sessions in bushlands. Contact APACE on 9336 1262 for further information on enrolments.

## UBC conference proceedings

The Urban Bushland Council's conference held in October last year was a great success and the proceedings are now available. All delegates will be sent copies, together with State libraries, community groups and Government departments. If you would like to purchase a copy call Kirsten Tullis on 9271 3549 (phone/fax), E-mail the Council on [ubc@wantree.com.au](mailto:ubc@wantree.com.au), or write to UBC, PO Box 326, West Perth 6872. There are some free copies left, and a \$5 charge each (\$10 posted) for the remainder.

## Coast and Clean Seas grants

Community groups, Government and non-government organisations are encouraged to apply for a share of the

\$8.2 million allocated to the national Coast and Clean Seas grant program, which is part of the Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust funds. Funds are available for addressing coastal and marine pollution problems, threats to marine life and habitats, and promoting the sustainable use of Australia's coastal and marine areas.

Applications for 1999-2000 funding close on 1 June 1999, and applicants will be notified in late 1999. Application forms and information are available by calling Environment Australia on 1800 803772 during business hours or on the internet at:

[http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/clean\\_seas/info.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/clean_seas/info.html).

## Swan Catchment Urban Landcare grants

Successful applicants in the first round of the Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program (SCULP) grants were notified in March 1999. The SCULP grants, sponsored by Aloca and co-ordinated by the Swan Catchment Centre, are for community bushland and wetlands projects in the Swan Catchment.

A public forum will be held in May to enable feedback from the public on the funding process and guidelines. Expressions of interest for the second round of the SCULP grants will probably be called for in June 1999 for projects in the year 2000 (recipients will

be notified by October 1999.) For further information keep an eye on the Swan Catchment Centre news sheet or call Peter Nash on 9221 3840.

## Finding out about water

The Water and Rivers Commission (WRC) has produced a series of Water Facts information sheets. Titles include *Macroinvertebrates and Water Quality*, *River and Estuary Pollution*, *Living Streams*, *Algal Blooms*, *The Water Cycle*, *What is Groundwater?*, *Western Australia's Groundwater Resources* and *Groundwater Pollution*. Brochures that may be useful include *Growing local plants to protect water resources* and *Is a garden bore the right choice for you?* A list of WRC publications is also available and it is a useful guide to their references. Call 9278 0300 and ask for the publications section for copies of these.

## A guide to protecting heritage

*Protecting Local Heritage Places: A Guide for Communities* is a newly released publication that is the result of two years consultation with stakeholders. It includes practical information such as planning, research and legal structures involved in protecting natural, cultural and built heritage. There are case studies and a listing of heritage organisations (about 30 in WA). For a free copy call Clare Henderson at the Australian Heritage Commission on 1800 020 652.



If not claimed within 7 days, please return to  
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