



Noranda bush care community thrives

Local passion for the Noranda Community Bushland has helped educate a new generation of bush carers, to secure and nurture local bushland.

In the late 1980s, the Noranda Primary School and its Parents and Citizens Association looked at options to raise money to remove asbestos from the school's roof. It was proposed that part of the school's bushland be sold. However, letters and articles in newspapers appeared opposing the sale and the community rallied to keep the two hectares of bushland.

Since then, a school survey of parent attitudes uncovered further community passion to both conserve the bushland and integrate bush learning and restoration across teaching programs.

"We wanted to do it properly," said school principal, Jim Heslop.

"Last year we spent a lot of time in management planning, seeking out funding, resources and support, and building up relationships with the conservation community."

A draft bushland management plan and a plan for using the bushland in learning activities across the curriculum have been developed to complement each other. The Noranda Bushland Committee, made up mainly of local parents, some school staff and students was formed in 1998.

"If it's only seen as a school project then it may not last when active individuals leave. We have tried to make bush care a part of the culture of the school and the local community," Mr Heslop said.

"The children represent the future of the community and this is a way for them to get involved in practical, active citizenship."

The Committee has already achieved a great deal. The bushland will soon be vested with the Bayswater City Council and managed as an A Class reserve for conservation purposes.

A school newspaper and a multimedia computer presentation on the bushland captured the imagination of the students and the wider community. Students took



Year seven bushland wardens John Di Pietro, Stephen Cummings and Ashleigh McGeown, have developed a passion for the Noranda Community Bushland.

pictures of plants as part of a digital herbarium (they also have an organic one) and, with the help of local cartoonist Kim Grace, developed an animated character.

"The children worked long hours out of school time," said teacher, Sue Smith.

"They came up with really professional products. The multimedia program was shown at shopping centres and entered in innovation awards.

"I think it really helped encourage and open the eyes of the children and the community."

Students and other community members have taken part in an Apace bushland restoration course, and student bushland wardens have recently been appointed to help organise bush management and learning activities. A weekend sleep-over, which includes dusk and dawn bush walks, is planned.

Year seven wardens, John Di Pietro, Stephen Cummings and Ashleigh McGeown, are among those who have developed a passion for the bushland.

"Before we started studying the bush we didn't know much about bushland or the animals in it, but now we know about the different kinds of plants and which are weeds, and to pull out weeds," John said.

"We know to be careful walking through the bush. We want to preserve the bush for future generations."

The students feel privileged to be able to learn, hands-on, about bushland.

"Instead of looking out and seeing buildings and big trucks it's good to look at... and be in, the bush," said Stephen.


"We are actually seeing the things we are studying instead of just looking at pictures," said Ashleigh.


"We don't have to sit down and write so much because we can go outside and learn."


Their care and concern extends well outside of school hours. Recently, Ashleigh was showing her friends how to pull out lupin weeds on a weekend. If you are walking through the bush don't be surprised to be told by a local student to take care!

The school plans to create better links with nearby John Forrest Senior High School, which already runs many environmental learning programs. Morley Rotary, Bayswater City Council and the Gordon Reid Foundation have also contributed funds for bush care.


If you would like to know more contact Jim Heslop or Sue Smith at Noranda Primary School on 9275 1833.

 We are into the busy time of year for "Friends" groups and others involved in bushland projects. The Bushland Care Day program is well underway and a lot of planting and weeding activities are taking place.

 Many thanks to Dan Huxtable who held the fort while I was away overseas. As well as taking care of the day to day activities, Dan worked with Cathy Drake to develop a new Ecoplan display. This was shown at the launch of the Bushland Care Days, and Trish and David Hewson from Friends of Hollywood Reserve were so impressed that they took a copy of the wording for their own display!

 The Bushland Care Day launch at Blue Gum Reserve was a great success with some 70 people attending. Dr Bryan Jenkins spoke on behalf of the Minister for the Environment, Hon Cheryl Edwardes who was unable to attend. Mr Simon O'Brien MLC attended as did Mr Gerry Hoffman, deputy mayor of the City of Melville. Many people stayed to assist with the bushland work and the Friends were very pleased with the achievements.

 The seminar series being held in conjunction with the Swan Catchment Centre (SCC) and Greening Australia (WA) Bushcare Support is attracting a lot of interest. The first three topics, *What to Do When You Have a Grant*, *Evaluating Your Project* and *Attracting Volunteers* had good attendances. You will find the topics for the next seminars listed on this page. Don't forget to register and leave a contact number if you want to attend. There is limited space at the SCC, and if more than 22 people register, the seminar will be transferred to the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre in Wembley. Staff from the SCC will contact those registered if the venue is changed.

 The Wildflower Society is conducting plant survey workshops again this year. These surveys and workshops provide an excellent opportunity for increasing knowledge of our diverse plant communities and they are a fun way to learn in a supportive atmosphere.

Project Management Seminars

The free Ecoplan/Greening Australia (WA)/Swan Catchment Centre project management seminar series has been

enjoyed by many and seminars are now held monthly. Future discussions include *Time Management* (21 July), *Sustaining the Action and Avoiding Burnout* (11 August), *Displays and Media Presentations* (22 September) which includes a \$150 prize by Kiwi Kopy for the best display, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage* (13 October) *How to Delegate to and Train Others* (November 24). See the *What's On* section for details.

The bimonthly Australian Association for Bush Regeneration (WA) forums also explore interesting practical topics for bush carers. See 14 July and 8 September in the *What's On* section. Fire management is the topic for the November forum.

Staff Training in Plant Survey Methods

To assist the developing network of staff supporting community groups, catchment groups and landholders the Wildflower Society is also planning a workshop to teach plant survey methods to staff involved in bushland management. This will help meet the need for information about the flora and vegetation that occurs on sites where community groups are working. While this workshop will not be part of the volunteer program it is an important part of the Society's overall objectives. Staff members interested in this workshop should contact Karen Clarke on 9342 8482 for further details. At present the workshop is planned for August.

Contributions

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for spring *Ecoplan News* by 1 September 1999. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words. Thanks to all contributors! You can fax or e-mail Margo (see Ecoplan contacts on this page) or write to the following address.

Ecoplan News
Department of Environmental Protection
Level 8 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

Ecoplan community contacts:

South-East Region -

Brett Tizard ☎ 9497 4038

Bunbury Region -

Carolyn Switzer ☎ 9721 2531

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

☎ 9420 7266

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

Econotes: Can you hear the frogs call?

There is much concern about frog decline world wide. Habitat alteration is often seen as the cause, but in more pristine environments it is difficult to identify causes.

It seems that the spread of the deadly chytrid fungus has already reduced some populations of frogs in the south west of WA. Fortunately in WA, it has been recognised before it makes a major impact. We must try to increase frog numbers and habitat in order to counter the effect of this fungus. There is no treatment and it can spread rapidly. Infected frogs typically become lethargic or have spasms as they near death.

Encouraging frogs

- Control introduced grasses, like kikuyu and couch, and bulrushes, as these are not suitable habitat. Take care to follow bush regeneration principles.
- Consider the kind and amount of herbicides and pesticides used.
- Install small covered artificial ponds. The fungus often infects tadpoles but doesn't kill them until they undergo metamorphosis, so it is important to retain as many tadpoles as possible to give the few that are genetically resistant to the fungus a greater chance of survival.
- Do not move frogs, tadpoles or water between sites. This could spread the fungus.
- Join the Alcoa Frogwatch community monitoring program. Frogwatch kits include recording forms, information on identifying local species and a frog calls cassette tape.
- Report major changes in frog numbers, and dead or sick frogs to Frogwatch co-ordinators.
- Encouraging frogs in gardens will mean that populations are more dispersed and this will help conserve them. A *Building Frog Friendly Gardens* information kit will be available soon.

Frogwatch contacts

Kits and other information are available from Ken Aplin 9427 2826 or Elizabeth Andrews in the Busselton/Southern Swan Coastal Plain region (08) 9754 4331.

The Swan Catchment Centre is co-ordinating a series of Frogwatch workshops (see *What's On*). For future workshops details call Barbara Jones at the Swan Catchment Centre 9221 3840.

Frogwatch co-ordinator, Ken Aplin of the WA Museum, can lead some frog conservation workshops and walks with interested groups in their local area, and give general advice.



Salvinia and water hyacinth alert!

Linda Taman, the co-ordinator of the Bennett Brook Catchment Centre, recently returned from Thailand where she saw the aquatic weed, water hyacinth causing massive problems in waterways. She was horrified to come across an infestation of the weed in Bennett Brook, Caversham.

It probably escaped from a nearby aquatic plant nursery and if Linda hadn't reported it it could have spread in our rivers, creeks and wetlands and caused great problems. The weed grows into dense mats, dramatically changing the health and ecology of waterways by reducing fish populations, limiting food sources for waterfowl and providing shelter for mosquitoes and other organisms.

It is believed that water hyacinth and another illegal and serious aquatic invader, salvinia, are currently found in many garden ponds and that many people are unaware of the risk they pose. Salvinia was recently extracted from Booragoon Lake. Community vigilance is critical, so keep an eye out!

A free pamphlet on declared aquatic weeds in WA is available from Steve (AGWEST) on 9368 3729. If you see these weeds report them to your local Agricultural WA office.

Wildflower Society Bushland Plants Survey

Would you like to increase your plant identification skills and know more about bushland plant surveys? You could attend either of the workshops listed below or register for one of the country surveys. Contact the co-ordinator, Karen Clarke, on 9342 8482 by 12 July 1999 to find out further information. Country surveys will be held at Chapman Valley, Wyalkatchem, Calingiri, Goomalling, and Wickiepin. Numbers are limited and members of the host group will receive preference.

Bushland Survey and Management Workshop.

Manning Park, Hamilton Hill/Spearwood. Hosted by the Friends of Manning Lake Bushland, Contact *Diedre Napier* on 9418 6651.

The Friends of Manning Lake Bushland are helping to manage an area of 120ha and are facing major problems with weeds, planning issues and misuse of the area.

Date: Sunday 22 August

Workshop Leader: Bronwen Keighery

You will need to bring: Lunch, wet weather gear.

Bushland Survey and Plant Identification Workshop.

Churchman's Brook, Roleystone. Hosted by the Churchman's Bushland Association, Contact *Jon & Theda Dunsmore* on 9390 4122.

This will be a two day workshop aimed at learning to recognise different plant communities and developing plant identification skills. Consultants have already conducted a flora and vegetation survey on the site as part of the Churchman's Bushland Management Plan. The Churchman's Bushland Association has asked for help in plant identification and developing a field herbarium so that they know what these species look like. Saturday will focus on collecting specimens and on Sunday, participants will use the fresh specimens to develop plant identification skills and identify as much of the material as possible before pressing all the specimens.

Date: Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 October (10am - 4pm). You can choose to attend one day only.

Workshop Leader: Karen Clarke

You will need to bring: Lunch on both days and wet weather gear on Saturday. More details will be provided to those registered before the workshops.

Central Region

South Perth bushlands

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

The recently formed Mount Henry Peninsula Preservation Group has been busy over the last few months with monthly meetings to organise activities. These activities have included the purchase of a colour aerial photograph to aid in bush care work, discussions with state government departments about requirements for baiting rabbits and foxes in metropolitan bushland, and removal of litter and charcoal from foreshore campfires.

The Homeswest redevelopment of eastern Karawara, which involved the recent removal of four hectares of banksia woodland, has created new housing lots for sale. We have made contact with the company involved in developing the new subdivision, and asked that pamphlets encouraging minimum water usage and local species planting be included in their "hand-outs" to new residents. These pamphlets have been sourced from the Water Corporation, Greening WA and Apace Nursery. Hopefully, if the new land owners embrace this information, their gardens should complement the few remaining banksias, casuarinas and eucalypts left after clearing.

A number of pine trees were removed during the recent development of land for the Western Precinct of Technology Park. Although the developers will be replanting with exotic plant species to 'blend in' with CALM headquarters, there will be planting of seedlings and direct seeding of local species along the eastern side of Hayman Road in Como. This is to be complemented with a native species planting by the City of South Perth on the western side of Hayman Road this year.

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

Friends of Blue Gum Lake

The Friends continued to work during the summer months, targeting veldt grass, paspalum and seasonal weeds. Removing typha seed heads and keeping typha plants out of recently planted local reeds was also a priority.

Trees grown in Carroll tree tubes and planted in 1997 and 1998 are progressing well with more than 400 planted using this method. One Friends member grew 30 *Kennedia prostrata* in cardboard milk cartons (long tubes of three cartons joined together) and these have just been planted to assist in stabilising a sand bank. We are currently planting out another 200 Carroll tree tubes, including *Acacia saligna* and *Hakea prostrata*.

Environmental Weeds Action Network's Kate Brown has continued to give us help in the form of information, moral support, liaison with the local council and hands-on work.

On 22 May we were privileged to host the launch of the Ecoplan/AlintaGas/Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers Bushland Care Days for 1999 at Blue Gum Reserve. About 70 people attended the breakfast launch, and over half of these remained to work in the Reserve for part or all of the day. The event was covered in news programs on Channels 9 and 10 that evening. We thank Ecoplan, AlintaGas and ATCV for their assistance. The work day focused on removing round 40 Sydney golden wattles (*Acacia longifolia*) and non-local melaleucas. We have been asking the local council to have an unsightly and erosive drain upgraded for some time to better manage and contain storm water run-off into the Lake. Work started on this in early June.

The Friends work in the bushland every Tuesday morning from 8am.

For further information call Marion Watson on 9316 1324.

Environmental Weeds Action Network - Weeds management project

by Kate Brown

The Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) Natural Heritage Trust Weeds Management Project has now established five research sites on the Swan Coastal Plain.

At Blue Gum Lake, the Friends of Blue Gum Lake and the City of Melville have helped map the major weeds and set up transects to monitor bush regeneration across the reserve. In early May, a team of 10 Green Corp workers spent a week working in the bushland as a part of the Weed Management Strategy. The Green Corp workers, Friends group and Colin Spencer from the City of Melville, hand-weeded light infestations of veldt grass in bushland of good condition, trialed the use of smoked water to regenerate degraded edges, removed Geraldton wax and collected seed, as a part of a regeneration project along Moolyean Drive.

Across at Brixton Street Wetlands we have managed to remove two dumps of rubble that have been a source of weeds infestation for a number of years. A bobcat was bought in at the end of the long summer when the clay soils were rock hard, so there was minimal damage to the native vegetation. Seeds of *Verticordia*, *Acacia*, *Hakea* and *Viminaria* were collected from the wetland over summer and sown in the bare patches left by the dumps in time for the first rains.

At the other end of the wetland, we have been trialing a number of methods (smoke water, disturbance, and direct seeding) to regenerate the native vegetation where waterlogging has been controlled for the past two years. In addition, the Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands are trying to make the most of the opportunity for weed control (spraying lovegrass regrowth and controlling waterlogging) after the recent fire, before the native plants start to regenerate. The Friends hold work mornings on the third Saturday of each month and the Friends and EWAN hold work mornings on alternate Mondays (the next dates are 5 and 19 July).

For further information call Kate on 9221 3840.

Nurturing the seedlings

by the Friends of Hollywood Reserve

Throughout the long, hot summer we kept last years plantings alive by sporadic watering. It is a time consuming task, but in the last two years it has paid dividends as our seedling survival rate has been around 60 per cent.

With the first rains, all the plants reached out for life-giving water. They take on a happier, sleeker and shinier aspect. This is the time of the year when thoughts turn to preparing the ground for new plants and encouraging last years young survivors with weeding and mulch.

Over the years, one of our members, Eddie who has been a long time member of Men of the Trees, has supplied us with seedlings grown in his backyard. His success rate has been low, however, this year he is busy experimenting with charcoal and ash and having marvellous successes. His formula is simple. He collects ash and charcoal from wood-burning stove users, pulverises the charcoal and mixes it with the ash using a home-made pestle and mortar. A small amount of the mixture is added to pots containing potting mix. Seeds are planted, watered and left in the open.

The results have been dramatic! So far marri, tuart, woody pear and wattle, have almost leapt out of their pots. Within six days the root of the new seedling is protruding from the bottom of the pot and a tiny green shoot appears above. When the root

appears at the bottom of the pot it is transferred, with the ash, charcoal and potting mix blend, into the ground in the Reserve. Eddie is ecstatic!

In the last issue of Ecoplan News we wrote of the dying owls in our Reserve. It is sad to relate that during May two tawny frogmouths died. One, an adult, was thought to have been poisoned, the other, a youngster, was found to have a malformed gut.

For further information call Trish or David Hewson on 9386 4476.

North West Region

Quinns Rocks Environmental Group

by David Wake

Wattle Park

This small bushland remnant is located in Quinns Rocks. Most of the park is *Acacia rostellifera* shrubland with some balga and two-leaf hakea. There is also a patch of limestone heathland. The park is in a swale overlooked by houses on surrounding dune ridges. It is a valuable natural habitat.

We have been working on Wattle Park for a few years, undertaking flora and fauna surveys and some bush regeneration. Unfortunately, it was completely burnt in February, with the fire service attending. The green, dense bush was reduced to blackened stems and ash. Regrowth is underway, but the area is now vulnerable to spreading weeds, particularly carnation weed, lovegrass and rose pelargonium.

A draft management plan has been prepared, proposing management strategies the local community can apply to enhance the natural values of this bushland island. The plan draws on input from residents and others, and further comment is being sought.

Conserving bushland

The continuing loss of bushland to urban sprawl is dispiriting. The group is promoting retention of key conservation areas, sensitive land use planning and landscaping with indigenous plants to conserve some of the biodiversity of the local area.

Perth's Bushplan identified Burns Beach bushland, Neerabup National Park, Eglinton bushland and the coastal strip as regionally significant parts of Perth's bushland estate. We are seeking action to protect these areas whilst the opportunity remains.

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

Friends of Korella Bushland

Previous plantings are doing very well and unfortunately so are the weeds, (Geraldton carnation weed and soursob predominantly) with the recent drizzle and light soaking rain!

We have been successful in receiving a Community Environment Grant for publicity and educational materials, satellite photo and signage. Moreover, our supportive City of Joondalup conservation officer, Keith Armstrong, has met all our needs promptly, including the fencing for 'stage 4' and weed control spraying. Bushland and weed management now has a firmer basis. Thanks to Keith, Jackie Harvey and David Taggart (the latter two from Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park) for providing us with the species requested from local provenance. Bouquets to these three dedicated people.

The increase in the variety and number of birds in the bushland is very noticeable, in spite of the local lurking cats from surrounding homes.

For further information call Marilyn Zakrevsky on 9401 7132.

Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park

by Hans Jacob

The Friends hosted a Ecoplan/AlintaGas/Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) Bushland Care Day in May. We planted flooded gums, tuart, *Astartea fascicularis* and *Viminaria juncea* from our nursery at the southern end of Lake Goollellal and pulled out exotics, including Japanese pepper trees, lantana and lilac.

Volunteers from ATCV, Edith Cowan Conservation Organisation (ECCO) and the Friends contributed to a very successful event. This area of the Park has received much attention over the last few years and past regeneration work has been very successful. Future work in the area will involve the control of typha.

Our nursery has been running smoothly thanks to the efforts of Jackie Harvey, our nursery manager, who has put precious time and effort into producing quality plants from local seed stock she collects with help from David Taggart.

We are currently in the process of developing project teams so that we deal more effectively with the many issues that arise in such a large park.

We are also involved in the Yellagonga Wetlands Integrated Catchment Management Group. This group aims to develop an Integrated Catchment management approach to the problems facing the wetlands, such as the midge problem and nutrient enrichment of wetlands. A meeting of this Group was held on 17 June.

The Friends are also anticipating the release of the Draft Management Plan for the Yellagonga Regional Park. We will use this document as a guide for carrying out future regeneration work.

For further information call Jim Treloar on 9222 7047 or Hans Jacobs on 9222 7178.

Conservation at Lake Gwelup

by City of Stirling environmental officer, Daniel Rajah

The City of Stirling, as part of the conservation of its natural areas, has initiated several programs at Lake Gwelup Reserve. This site is one of several managed by the City and features extensive bushland, wetland and semi-parkland areas (59 bushlands and 33 wetlands).

Plans are already underway for a major community effort on the weekend of the 28 and 29 August to remove Geraldton carnation weed and lupin. Saturday 28 August is an Ecoplan/AlintaGas/ATCV and the Friends of Lake Gwelup Bushland Care Day. This will supplement the City's Natural Areas Conservation Unit's efforts in spending over 500 hours removing Geraldton carnation weed and lupins last year.

Other significant initiatives at Lake Gwelup which are part of the management plan, include:

- eradication of caltrop in areas previously used for market gardening;
- almost total eradication of veldt grass from bushland areas (after five years of selective herbicide use);
- reclamation of rare floodplains from areas previously used for market gardening (including selective eradication of bulrush, re-establishment of flooded gums, paperbarks and extensive plantings of native rushes);
- establishment of a 170 metre boardwalk through a part of the southern floodplain;
- designation of dog control zones around all wetland areas;
- extensive tree planting on semi-parkland areas;
- successful establishment of nutrient stripping for the main stormwater inlet by conversion of a 150

metre drainage channel into a 'living stream';

- completion of a circuitous walk trail around the lake; and
- establishment of permanent sampling stations for continuous monitoring of bushland regeneration responses.

For further information call Daniel Rajah on 9345 8660.

The Friends of Lake Gwelup hold nature walks on the third Saturday of the month (see 'What's On' section for details).

Hills Region

Eastern Hills news

by Jenny Johnson

Rain, rain, rain! An early start to the season at the end of May and early June has bush regenerators adjusting planting schedules and hoping the wet weather will continue.

Most of the earthworks for SCULP (Alcoa-funded Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program) 'streamlining' and wetland restoration projects were completed before the early rain. We are hoping that volunteers will help with planting at Wooroloo Brook in Gidgegannup, Rocky Gully in Mt Helena, Bugle Tree Creek in Mundaring and Brookside Park in Parkerville after disturbances from the earthworks.

Mundaring Shire has contributed to local conservation and given friends groups and contributors recognition by supplying signs for many of the reserves under restoration. Pine pole barriers and trail marking have also been erected in some reserves. Tables and benches have been installed where appropriate, and a long term plan to remove and mulch exotic wattles has started.

The Jane Brook Catchment Group is submitting an application to the Living Streams Awards for works carried out in the Parkerville/Hovea area during the past nine years. Brian Marshall will represent the Group at the Esperance State Landcare conference in September, where this award will be presented.

Funding has also been granted to groups associated with the Hovea Conservation Park, Brookside Park, North Darlington Reserves, Clifton Reserve in Parkerville, Rocky Gully, Hudman Reserve in Glen Forrest, Parkerville Village South, and also to Wooroloo Land Conservation District Committee, Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group, Parkerville Children's Home, the Eastern Hills Wildflower Society, and the Jane Brook Catchment Group for many projects including bush restoration and flora surveys. These NHT funds are part of the Urban Hills Bushland Corridor Project in Swan and Mundaring Shires.

Now that we have all these grants, everyone is hoping for great turnouts on work mornings and bushcare days so that groups can achieve their objectives. For further information on the project or if you want to join in, contact project co-ordinator, Mike Grasby on 041 718 4880. If you are involved in a Friends group call Linda Kirchner (Bush Care co-ordinator, Mundaring Shire) on 9290 6666. Those interested in getting involved in activities in the Parkerville/Mundaring area call Jenny Johnson on 9295 4467. A Greencorp team will be assisting with activities.

Happy planting everyone!

For further information call Jenny Johnson on 9295 4467.

Darlington Reserves

On 14 May a team of 14 volunteers spent 38 hours planting about 200 plants, a mix of local trees and

shrubs propagated by two members of the Friends of North Darlington Reserves.

More are to be planted in the reserve at the intersection of Great Eastern Highway and Lionel Road, Darlington. It is hoped that the entry area to the reserves will be a showcase of the best local plants.

Prior to planting we spent a day removing exotic trees, adding gravel to eroded road edges and forming a boulder barrier to prevent people dumping rubbish next to the internal road loop.

The Friends have been greatly aided by Mundaring Shire, which has provided some deep ripping, a most attractive sign, weed poison and tree guards. In addition to this, a SCULP grant (Alcoa-funded Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program) has enabled the Friends to get mechanical help with the initial clean-up, and the provision of fertilizer and top soil. At a later date a better vermin proof bin will also be brought with the grant. This should keep the area much tidier.

Removal of exotics, like bamboo, Paterson's curse and eastern states wattles, continues. The Friends were very pleased to be visited by Linda Kirchner, who is now working two days per week with the Shire to liaise with over 30 friends groups operating within the Shire.

For further information call Doug and Judy Love on 9299 6989

South West Region

Palmyra group looks ahead

by David Piggott

The Palmyra Community Association is continuing to focus on a long term revegetation plan for Bill Sheehy Reserve. We are in our fifth year of a 50 to 150 year plan of a low input strategy (no, it's not just three years or so!) We started planting with marris and other dominant local species which have a high survival rate, preferring to use local seed. So far, so good: about 70 to 80 percent of the marris and tuarts have survived. Some of the original plantings are now dropping their own seed!

We aim to add understorey as the dominants grow. A few hundred understorey species were planted last year. No real care was given over the dry months, bar the laying down of mulch over newspaper in spring. The survival rate is about 50 to 60 per cent. In May, 60 marris and 60 *Dryandra niveas* from APACE were potted in one-litre milk cartons with some native slow-release fertiliser. These will be sun hardened and allowed to deep root for about six to eight weeks (or longer) and then planted, with carton intact, in the Reserve. More mulching over newspaper will be done this spring.

Plans are afoot to start erecting owl nesting sites this winter using grant money. Melville City Council has been very helpful in offering us a cherry picker and driver, as well as supplying mulch and potting mix.

We don't want any herbicide spraying in the Reserve. We are trialing a simple "foam-inside-tongs" method of glyphosate application on the Chasmanthes in areas where it can't be successfully hand weeded. No results are available yet. This is the only herbicide to be used. We may, however, also use Amdro granular as a target specific bait for the coastal brown ant population (another African exotic) which may give local ants a chance to re-establish and, in turn, aid seed dispersal by local flora. We will not be using any genetically modified organisms (eg 'Roundup-ready' marris or jarrahs) as we are a group that is ethically opposed to this form of biotechnology.

For further information call David on 9483 4527 or Judith on 9339 2434.

Group Profile: Friends of the Talbot Road Reserve (FOTTRR)



(Left to right) Linda Taman (Ecoplan), Lori Mollica, Fred Frost, Helen Gardiner and Belinda Wilmot (AlintaGas) amongst the treasured bushland of Talbot Road Reserve.

Coming together

Since the 1980s, many Swan View residents have become concerned about threats to the quiet part of their suburb posed by an extension of O'Connor Road and by the possible development of the adjoining bushland.

Newly established Stratton residents and others in the community who could see the value of the bushland strengthened the cause and after representations to the Shire of Swan, threats to the bushland were averted. Friends of the Talbot Road Reserve (FOTTRR) formed in late 1996 to continue to care for the bushland.

A precious remnant

The bushland is 66ha of A Class reserve in the Perth foothills, vested in the Shire of Swan. The Reserve and 90 ha of adjoining bush is made up of woodlands of wandoo, banksia and marri and contains 366 flora species, 15 rare flora species and two critically endangered vegetation communities. There's an impressive seven frog species, kangaroos, bandicoots and honey possums which are now very rare in the Perth area.

The bushland is recognised as precious by the Australian Heritage Commission and the National Trust and Perth's Bushplan. Not only is there very little of this kind of vegetation left, but it's the largest area of bushland with Ridge Hill Shelf soil type north of the Swan River, it is also in very good condition with only some localised degraded areas. The land, particularly Blackadder Creek which runs through the bushland, is of great significance to the Nyungah people.

Keeping the momentum

Initially self-funded, on-ground work was sporadic. In 1997, FOTTRR were boosted by receiving a small grant from the Shire for administration, hosting an Ecoplan/AlintaGas/Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers Bushland Care Day and achieving a great deal with other volunteers on Clean-Up Australia Day. They received a Community Conservation Grant in 1998 and used this partly to rip up some bare, compacted gravel areas to allow revegetation and discourage vehicle use.

This year, the Friends took part in an Apace seed collection course and participated in ongoing dieback control with the help of the Dieback Working Group and a Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program grant.

A Natural Heritage Trust-funded draft management plan for the Reserve and adjacent bushland, commissioned by CALM, the Shire and FOTTRR, has just been completed, with important contributions from the Nyungah Circle of Elders.

The World Environment Day concert on 5 June, helped raise some funds for the Friends with a display on the bushland.

Looking ahead

Watsonia control, native seed collection, fencing, bush regeneration in some of the degraded areas, interpretative trail signs which include the Aboriginal significance of the area, and weed control trials by the Environmental Weeds Action Network's Kate Brown (see 'Regional Reports') are planned. The draft management plan lays down

the challenge for the Friends of 'adopting' the adjoining 90 ha of bush. Busy times ahead!

Contacts

Mark Gloyn 9458 8400 (w) or 9255 1490 (h) Helen Gardiner 9250 8349.

FOTTRR work in the Reserve one Saturday morning each month and hold monthly meetings.

What's On in the Bunbury Region

JULY

12 Monday–16 Friday

ATCV tree planting, transplanting rushes, weed control and nursery work at Capel Wetlands, (08) 9336 6911.

25 Sunday 10am

Busselton Naturalists' Club mid year lunch at Leeuwin Estate, including vineyard tour and morning visit to Eagles Heritage.

27 Tuesday–28 Wednesday

Men of the Trees planting 1500 trees in Busselton. Tel 9349 2497.

AUGUST

2 Monday–6 Friday

ATCV wetland restoration at RGC Mineral Sands Wetland Centre, Capel, 9336 6911.

11 Wednesday 7.30pm

Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Geoff Fernie: *Ecology and Management of the Red Tingle Forest in Walpole*.

22 Sunday 9am

Busselton Naturalists' Club tour of the Muja Power Station and Coal Mining Museum in Collie, and the Harris River Dam lead by Bernie Masters.

SEPTEMBER

8 Wednesday 7.30pm

Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by biologist Sarah Comer on honeyeaters and revegetated bushland.

19 Sunday 9am

Busselton Naturalists' Club seventh stage of the Cape to Cape walk - Conto's to Boranup.

26 September–9 October

Busselton Naturalists' Club excursion to Stirling Ranges, Porongorups, Mt Barker Banksia farm, and Albany whaling station, waste water disposal tree plantation site and national parks.

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.

Bunbury Naturalists' Club activities yet to be finalised. Call Shirley (08) 9795 7181 or Gordon (08) 9797 0673. 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.





JULY

10 Saturday 8.30am-10am

Work day at Carrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham with the Bennett Brook Catchment Group. Bring hand trowels and wet weather gear. Sara 9377 0444.

10 Saturday

Men of the Trees planting at Fairbridge, Pinjarra. Carol 9250 1888.

10 Saturday 8.30am

Bush walk in Dianella bushland. Meet opposite the front gates of Channel Seven. Phylis 9349 9105.

10 Saturday 8am

Bush walk at Koondoola Regional Bushland every second Saturday of the month. Meet cnr Koondoola and Burbridge Aves (northeast end). Elizabeth 9342 0616.

10 Saturday 3pm

Guided beach walk with Friends of Marmion Marine Park, Waterman's Beach (near cnr of West Coast Dr and Mary St). Lynda 9342 8684.

11 Sunday

ATCV and the local friends group plant native trees at Nestle Brae Creek, Maida Vale, 9336 6911.

11 Sunday 9am-12noon

Weeding and planting at Parkerville Village South. Brian 9572 3971.

12 Monday-16 Friday

ATCV planting, Melville foreshore, 9336 6911.

13 Tuesday 8.30am-10am

Work day at Carrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham with the Bennett Brook Catchment Group. Bring hand trowels and wet weather gear. Sara 9377 0444.

13 Tuesday 8pm

Meeting of the Perth branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by Kathy Meney on rushes and sedges, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco. Greg 9381 4062.

14 Wednesday 7pm-9pm

Attracting frogs to your garden. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (RREC) enquiries Bob Goodale 9527 4289 bookings RREC 9593 2484.

14 Wednesday 7.30pm

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (WA) bush care forum on managing the edges of bushland for aesthetics and ecological resilience, Kings Park Administration Building, Janice 9384 9634.

17 Saturday 9am-4pm

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day with Friends of Allan Park, Swanbourne. Stephen Lippie 9384 5613 or ATCV 9336 6911.

17 Saturday 10am-3pm

Frogwatch workshop with Ken Aplin, Alcoa Frogwatch Co-ordinator WA Museum, at Herdsman Wildlife Centre. Bookings essential. Barbara Jones at Swan Catchment Centre 9221 3840.

17 Saturday 8am

Guided nature walks at Lake Gwelup every third Saturday of the month. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Karrinyup. Betty 9444 5640. Up coming dates: 21 August and 18 September.

17 Saturday 9am

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

18 Sunday 8am-9am

Bird identification walks. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre. Bookings 9593 2484.

18 Sunday 9am-12noon

Weeding and planting at Hovea Conservation Park, Hovea. Herbie 9298 8218.

21 Wednesday 9.30am-11.30am

Advanced Snake Handling, Rockingham Regional Environment Centre. Enquiries Bob Goodale 9527 4289 bookings 9593 2484.

21 Wednesday-23 Friday

ATCV wetland restoration at Bannister Creek, Ferndale. Call 9336 6911.

21 Wednesday 7pm-9.30pm

Ecoplan/Greening Australia (WA)/Swan Catchment Centre (SCC) project management seminar: *Time Management at the SCC*, 108 Adelaide Tce, East Perth. RSVP SCC 9221 3840.

23 Friday

Planet Ark school tree planting day. Register your site, kits available 1800 899 444.

24 Saturday 9am-4pm

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day with Friends of Talbot Road Reserve, Stratton. Mark Gloyon on 9255 1490 or ATCV 9336 6911.

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. Christine 9447 2983.

24 Saturday 9.15am-5pm

Full day salinity forum, closing remarks by David Bellamy, Octagon Theatre, UWA. UWA Extension 9380 2433.

24 Sunday 2pm-4pm

Weed control workshop (basics) at Bennett Brook Environment Centre, \$5. To book call Sara on 9377 0444.

31 Saturday 8am-10am

Nature walk in Trigg Bushland led by David Pike. Meet in Elliott Rd, south of St Mary's School. Robyn 9246 3954 or John 9448 2899.

AUGUST

1 Sunday

ATCV Bush regeneration, Hepburn Bushland, 9336 6911.

7 Saturday 9am-4pm

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day with Kwinana/Rockingham Naturalist Club contact Bob Goodale 9527 4289 or ATCV 9336 6911.

7 Saturday 3pm

Guided beach walk with Friends of Marmion Marine Park, North Beach (near cnr of West Coast Dr and James St). Lynda 9342 8684.

7 Saturday 8.30am-10am

Work day at Carrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham with the Bennett Brook Catchment Group. Bring hand trowels and wet weather gear. Sara 9377 0444.

7 Saturday 8am

Nature walk at Landsdale every first Saturday of the month, meet Landsdale Rd (east of Evandale Rd). Phylis 9349 9105.

7 Saturday 8.30am

Tree planting with local Naturalists' Club. Meet at the Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd. Bob Goodale 9527 4289.

7 Sunday 9am-12noon

Weeding and planting at The Falls, Hovea. Jenny 9295 4467.

9 Monday-10 Tuesday

ATCV/Shire of Mundaring lupin removal, Helena River, Darlington. Part of Alcoa's Urban Landcare Program ph 9336 6911.

10 Tuesday 8.30am-10am

Work day at Carrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham with the Bennett Brook Catchment Group. Bring hand trowels and wet weather gear. Sara 9377 0444.

11 Wednesday 7pm-9.30pm

Ecoplan/Greening Australia (WA)/Swan Catchment Centre (SCC) bush care seminar: *Sustaining the Action; Avoiding Burnout and Maintaining Sustainability of Environmental Workers and Volunteers at the SCC*, 108 Adelaide Tce, East Perth. RSVP SCC 9221 3840.

11 Wednesday-13 Friday

ATCV/City of Canning/Bannister Creek

Catchment Group wetland restoration, Bannister Creek, Ferndale, 9336 6911.

11 Wednesday 7pm-8.30pm

Attracting butterflies to your garden. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (RREC). Enquiries Bob Goodale 9527 4289 or bookings RREC 9593 2484.

14 Saturday 1.30pm-4pm

Bush care/land management. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre.

14 Saturday 9am-12noon

Weeding and planting at Brookside Park. Brian 9572 3971.

15 Sunday 9am-4pm

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day with Friends of Bold Park. Norma Calcutt 93844274 or ATCV 9336 6911.

15 Sunday 8am-9am

Bird identification walk. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (RREC). Enquiries Bob Goodale 9527 4289 or bookings RREC 9593 2484.

15 Sunday 9am-12noon

Weeding and planting at Hovea Conservation Park, Hovea. Herbie 9298 8218.

16 Monday 7pm-9pm

Attracting frogs to your garden. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (RREC). Enquiries Bob Goodale 9527 4289 or bookings RREC 9593 2484.

16 Monday-20 Friday

Garden Island bush regeneration with ATCV. Other days: Aug 30-Sept 3, Sept 13-17, Sept 27-Oct 1. Call 9336 6911.

20 Friday 7.30pm

Nocturnal walk at Lake Gwelup. Bring a torch. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Karrinyup. Betty 9444 5640.

20 Friday 7.30pm

Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on *Geckos and Skinks*, Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (RREC), Safety Bay Rd. Enquiries Diana Hitchin 9332 5733(w), 9527 1961(h) or bookings RREC 9593 2484.

21 Saturday 9am-4pm

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day with Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands. Regina Drummond 94592964 or ATCV 9336 6911.

22 Sunday

Wildflower Society Bush Plants Survey and Management Workshop at Manning Lake bushland, Spearwood. Contact Dieder Napier 9418 6651.

23 Monday-27 Friday

ATCV tree-planting, North Coogee. Call 9336 6911.

23 Monday 7pm-8.30pm

Dreamtime slide night and learn a Nyungah song. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (RREC). Enquiries Trevor Walley 9398 8449 or bookings RREC 9593 2484.

24 Tuesday 7.30pm

Darling Range branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Steve Hopper on *Granite Rock Communities*, St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Rae 9454 2928 or Lee 9291 7594.

27 Friday 7.30pm

Eastern hills branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Joanna Seabrook on *Seed Orchards*, Octagonal Hall, McGlew Rd, Glen Forrest. Jan 9574 6671 or Herbie 9298 8218.

29 Sunday 9am-4pm

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Betty Murphy 9444 5640 or ATCV 9336 6911.

SEPTEMBER

7 Tuesday

Threatened Species Day, lots of World Wildlife Fund activities planned. Sandra McKenzie 9387 6444.

8 Wednesday-9 Friday

State Landcare Conference, Esperance, includes Living Streams and State Landcare Awards. Call Heather Gee 9071 5640. EspProm@bigpond.com (conference) or Belinda Wood, Narrogin AgWA (08) 9881 0222 (awards).

8 Wednesday 7.30pm

Australian Bush Regenerators (WA) bush care forum on bushland surveying, mapping bushland and using GPS, Kings Park Administration Building. Janice 9384 9634.

9 Thursday 7.45pm

Wildflower Society Armadale branch meeting and talk by John Nicolson on the *History of the Armadale Settlers Common*, History House, Jull St, Armadale. David 9399 3458 or Malcolm 9459 8852.

12 Sunday 9am-4pm

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day with Friends of Hollywood Reserve. Trish Hewson 9386 4476 or ATCV 9336 6911.

12 Sunday 9am-12noon

Weeding and planting at Parkerville Village South. Brian 9572 3971.

12 Sunday

Wildflower Society's Spring Fling. Lots of activities and stalls, 9383 7979.

14 Tuesday 8pm

Meeting of the Perth branch of the Wildflower Society and talk by David Coates on patterns and variations in native plants: How different are local and widespread populations? Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco. Greg 9381 4062.

17 Friday 5pm-18 Saturday 5pm

Armadale Settlers Common BIOBLITZ. Naturalists spend 24 hrs of fun finding as many species as possible in a particular area. Register with Brett Tizard 9224 3137 or John Nicolson 041 175 6415.

17 Friday 5pm-18 Saturday

Goald League sleep-over at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, focus on plants. Early morning bird walk at 7am, 9387 6079.

17 Friday-27 Monday

Kings Park Wildflower Festival

18 Saturday 9am-4pm

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day with Friends of Warwick Senior High School Bushland. Robyn McElroy 9342 6840 or ATCV 9336 1262.

18 Saturday 2pm-4pm

'Croc In The Sound' Aboriginal artifact making, bush tucker, Nyungah story of Cockburn Sound. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (RREC). Enquiries Trevor Walley 9398 8449 or bookings RREC 9593 2484.

19 Sunday 8am-9am

Bird identification walks. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (RREC). Enquiries Bob Goodale 9527 4289 or bookings RREC 9593 2484.

19 Sunday 9am-12noon

Friends of Lake Gwelup weed pull. Bring gloves and a drink. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Karrinyup. Betty 9444 5640.

19 Sunday 9am-12noon

Weeding and planting at Hovea Conservation Park, Hovea. Herbie 9298 8218.

22 Wednesday 7pm-9.30pm

Ecoplan/Greening Australia (WA)/Swan Catchment Centre (SCC) project management seminar: *Marketing your Idea; Displays and Media Presentations at the SCC*, 108 Adelaide Tce, East Perth. RSVP SCC 9221 3840.

22 Wednesday - 24 Friday

ATCV/City of Canning/Bannister Creek Catchment Group wetland restoration, Bannister Creek, Ferndale, 9336 6911.

28 Tuesday 7.30pm

Darling Range branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Terry McFarlane: *Australian Native Grasses*. St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Rae 9454 2928 or Lee 9291 7594.

Resources

Fauna survey guide

CALM's Land for Wildlife program has produced a new booklet on finding out about your local fauna. *How to Conduct a Community Fauna Survey* costs \$10, plus \$2.50 postage and handling, but is free to registered Land For Wildlife landholders. Contact Emma Bramwell on 9334 0427 if you would like a copy.

Environmental hope

Environmental hope is the theme for the annual Australian Association for Environmental Education (WA) conference. It will be held at Murdoch University and at Ellis Brook, 7 to 8 October. Put it in your diaries. Call Jason Froud on 9430 4736 for further information.

Know your farm hydrology

The Land Management Society is offering one day workshops to help landholders learn more about local geology and hydrology. They include aspects on the water cycle, water quality, water harvesting, tillage practices, and water rights and laws. A minimum of 10 people are needed to run a workshop and these can be held in your local area. For further information call Gay Chambers on 9450 6862.

Bush regeneration courses

Apac are running two courses on the fundamentals of bush regeneration. They are specifically designed for community members, especially those working with Friends of bushlands groups. Tutors are bush regeneration experts and there's a good mixture of theory and practice. No

experience is necessary and all tools are supplied. Participants receive a certificate after completing a take-home exam and preparing a herbarium.

One course 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. Contact Susan at Apac on 9336 1262 to book.

Smoke germination resources

A CD Rom on using smoke germination techniques should be available by the end of June from Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, where much of the ground-breaking research has been done on smoke germination. It is a practical guide on how to make smoke water and propagate a range of local species. Call 9480 3614 or e-mail nolaw@kpbg.wa.gov.au if you are interested in a copy (or take a look at the web site: <http://www.kpbg.wa.gov.au>). The CD Rom costs \$20, including postage and handling.

Help with conservation projects

Applications close soon for Green Corps Projects to start in September and November 1999. Green Corps can provide labour help to land managers and community groups with priority environmental projects. For further information contact Ken Beasley at Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers on 9336 6911.

Get ready for Weedbuster Week

Start planning creative events, activities and displays for National Weedbuster

Week, 10 - 17 October. We want to draw as much attention as possible to the weed problem. You could hold a talk and invite a specialist, organise a display at a shopping centre, run a weeds identification competition, a colouring competition, or a weeding day or weed walk for the public. Think of ways to involve schools, scouts and guides, local councils and the wider community.

For ideas and assistance contact Weedbuster Week co-ordinator, Sandy Lloyd, on 9368 3760 (or e-mail slloyd@agric.wa.gov.au). This year's slogan is 'Weed Prevention is the Intention'. Take a look at the website at <http://www.weedbusterweek.info.au>

Promotional material will be available closer to the time. Meanwhile, the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) has produced posters on bridal creeper and weeds of WA, and a new pamphlet on identifying watsonia species. For copies call the Swan Catchment Centre on 9221 3840.

Resources at the Swan Catchment Centre

The Swan Catchment Centre (SCC) publishes a monthly information sheet on forthcoming environmental events and activities. It also offers a range of support services to help community groups and individuals undertaking bushland management and rivercare projects in the Swan metropolitan area. Recent purchases include a colour scanner, folding machine and overhead projectors. If you would like to be on the Centre's mailing list, please call Katherine Browne-Cooper on 9221 3840. The newsheet can also be viewed at <http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon>



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