



Fighting weeds on all fronts

The introduction of a State Weed Plan (SWP) for WA will allow for a coordinated approach from government agencies, industry and the community to the problem of weeds in our bushland and agricultural areas.

"It is no longer an issue restricted to just the farmers, gardeners and land managers," said SWP steering committee chair and Executive Director of Agriculture Protection in WA, Rob Delane.

"The community is becoming increasingly involved, and the growing and complex issues are demanding more from limited resources. The problem can seem overwhelming, but the Plan will identify and prioritise weed problems and recommend action."

Weeds, introduced plants that have become naturalised in our bushland and farmland, are growing in number and variety at great economic and environmental cost. Weeds cost Australian agriculture more than \$3.5 billion annually.

Broad public input and participation is needed for the Plan to succeed. The SWP steering committee comprises government departments, the nursery industry and conservation group representatives including the Environmental Weeds Action Network, the Conservation Council and the Australian Association for Bush Regeneration. There is also a broader reference group which includes a range of stakeholders such as Telstra, Fire and Emergency Services Authority, Wildflower Society of WA and Westrail.

"Some of the issues that will form part of the Plan include a priority list of the State's worst weeds, ways to assist groups to determine weed priorities, and ways to integrate weed control with other landcare initiatives," Mr Delane said.



Weedbuster's Terry Potter and Diane Mathews removing Arum lilly at Canning River.

"It may also include recommendations for more consistent and comprehensive legislation and regulations to better deal with weed control.

"Another concern that needs addressing is the selling of weed seeds and plants through the internet and mail order."

The Conservation Council of WA representative on the steering committee, Diane Matthews believes that biodiversity conservation on public and private land should be a cornerstone of the plan.

"I would like to see the Plan include standards for contractors working in weed control and in the use of herbicides, as well as recognition and support for the efforts made by community groups" Ms Matthews said.

"I would also like to see a central repository for information sharing on weed identification, occurrences and effective control methods."

Individuals and groups are encouraged to submit ideas and solutions to the Plan. You might like to think about the most effective weed control measures,

ways to best assess weeding priorities, and how to integrate action from the local to the regional level.

"Local problems need local solutions," Mr Delane said. "Like the layers of an onion - from individual to community, regional, state and national - each layer is needed."


The SWP will be integrated with the 1997 National Weeds Strategy (which is now supported by a list of 20 weeds of national significance) and CALM's Environmental Weeds Strategy.

CALM's Strategy will include the *Weedbase* CD-ROM which is a database of WA's environmental weeds housed at the State Herbarium. Contact CALM's Environment Protection Branch on (08) 9334 0437 for copies.

Copies of the National Weeds Strategy (NWS) are available from Steve (Agriculture Western Australia) on (08) 9368 3729. Consult the NWS web site at www.weeds.org.au for further information.


The draft State Weed Plan is expected to be released for public comment in

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 The wonderful spring season is with us again and while the weeding work in local bushlands will keep many people busy, the chance to be out in the bush and see the spectacular spring flowering should not be missed.

 Bushland Care days have kept us active during the winter months. Many thanks to all the groups who have put in a generous effort to promote these days. I am aware that while these days bring new people to the reserve and enable large tasks to be tackled, they also mean extra effort for the regulars in the group. Thanks also to Alinta Gas for its ongoing support and to the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers, especially to Iggy Kim, Conrad Slee, Brian Crute and Loise MacKenzie for their constant effort. Thanks also to Linda Taman who has worked hard to make sure the Bushland Care days are organised and co-ordinated.

 As you will see from our cover story, the State Weed Plan is about to be released for public comment. The plan represents the combined efforts of many government departments, community groups and industry representatives to address the issue of weed management in WA. I would urge everyone to use this opportunity to get a copy of the brochure and comment sheet, and to read and comment on the plan. A public workshop for the Perth area will be held on 16 October (see cover article).

 The Urban Bushland Council has obtained NHT funding for part-time positions working to help members of community

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September, and finalised by the end of the year, following eight weeks public comment period. It will be complemented by a Weed Action Plan which will be a working document to support the strategies in the Plan.


Workshops for community groups and others who want to have their say on the SWP are being held across the State, including one in Perth in October.


To register for the workshop, obtain copies of an information brochure or the Plan itself, contact Sandy Lloyd on (08) 9368 3760. Submissions to the SWP can be emailed to slloyd@agric.wa.gov.au or posted to Sandy Lloyd, Agriculture Western Australia, Locked Bag 4, Bentley DC, WA 6983.

The SWP web page at www.agric.wa.gov.au/programs/app/swp has details of meetings and other information.

**State Weed Plan Workshop, 2 pm Saturday October 16 1999,
Theatrette Agriculture Western Australia, 3 Baron-Hay Court, South Perth**

conservation groups (see article this page). Ecoplan looks forward to working with the UBC in this exciting project.

 Don't forget the final seminars in the project management series being held at the Swan Catchment Centre. Thanks to all the speakers and participants at these seminars, which have been very informative and useful for participants. If you have any topics you would like covered in the next series, please contact Margo.

 Finally, we would like to invite readers of the newsletter to the Ecoplan end of the year wind up. The hosts for this year's event will be the Friends of Korella Park so keep some time aside on Sunday 14 November. For further information contact Margo.

Summer Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for summer *Ecoplan News* by 1 December 1999. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words. Thanks to all contributors! You can fax, email or post contributions to Margo (see Ecoplan contacts on this page).

Attention group leaders

If any of your group members would like to receive this newsletter please let us know so we can put them on the mailing list. This newsletter is free to all those interested in bushland, not just group coordinators. And don't forget to tell us if your address has changed. Contact Margo (see Ecoplan contacts on this page).

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Newsletter compiled by
Cath Drake

Ecoplan Econotes: Mapping weeds

Mapping the distribution of weeds in your bushland, coupled with an understanding of disturbances and a knowledge of your local plants, can greatly help set priorities and enhance the effectiveness of bush care activities.

Obtain an aerial photo of the bushland from DOLA and match a copy of this with a clear overlay of bushland features and tracks, and vegetation types (depending on what is available). If possible, an A4 size on a clipboard is practical, but you may need a larger size if your bushland is over 100 hectares.

Prioritise five or six of the most serious weeds for mapping which are weeds that are very invasive, currently or potentially widely distributed and/or weeds that greatly impact the structure, composition and function of the bushland. Assess the weeds across the seasons.

Take a systematic approach. Try starting at one end of the bushland and working your way across it in parallel transects at regular intervals.

Dividing the bushland map into grids may be useful (say 50 square metres). Mapping one weed at a time is the simplest. If there are several people on the job, each person could map a different weed on a different clear overlay. Always be aware of the effects of trampling and the possibility of spreading diseases such as dieback.

Your weeds map will clearly show small isolated weed patches which can be prioritised for eradication, and help you plan the yearly weeding calendar. It will also help you monitor weed control and spread, particularly if the mapping is repeated over a number of years. If you can overlay a map of bushland condition, this gives further insight into developing a weed strategy that protects your good bushland. You may be surprised with the result!

Detailed notes and references can be obtained from Kate Brown, Environmental Weeds Action Network project officer on (08) 9220 5311.

Web site: omen.com.au/~ewan

Register your weedy activities now!

The Environmental Weeds Action Network is encouraging groups to organise activities such as talks, walks, work days, displays or adapt activities already planned to help draw the eyes of our community toward the environmental weed problem during Weedbuster Week (10 – 17 October).

Sandy Lloyd can help you with ideas for activities and supply groups with an array of publicity materials (call (08) 9368 3760). If you register your activity with EWAN you will be part of the Weedbuster publicity machine! To register call Cath Drake on (08) 9382 2513. Take a look at the website at www.weedbusterweek.info.au

More NHT-funded positions

The Natural Heritage Trust also funds Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) project officer Kate Brown (08) 9220 5300, and two new part-time officers (Felicity McGeorge and Isabella Jennings) at the new Urban Bushland Council (UBC) Office. Cath and Isabella will be helping member groups achieve their objectives, particularly newly formed groups, and assisting with bush care days. So, it should be easier for bushland groups to get that extra bit of help for projects. To contact the new UBC office call (08) 9420 7207. Enquires are welcome.

The UBC will be joining the Conservation Council, the Marine and Coastal Community Network, Marine Conservation Society, and the Wilderness Society in the new offices 2 Delhi Street, West Perth.

Learning opportunities

Murdoch TAFE has developed a new Natural Resource Management certificate course for next year. The course includes several units directly relevant to bush care including ecology and control of weeds (southwest), bushland regeneration, roadside conservation, nursery management (rehabilitation), coastal rehabilitation techniques, plant identification, managing and developing teams, and land rehabilitation. You can do as little or as many units as you wish. A land management skills unit and a proposed bush regeneration certificate will offer good practical skills. Please register your interest in the units so that there will be enough numbers for courses to go ahead. Call Judi Jenkins on (08) 9310 0408 or the enrolment officer on (08) 9310 0444 for further information.

Bushcare network update

Community groups involved in managing and restoring native vegetation have access to a network of nature conservation advisers funded by The Natural Heritage Trust's Bushcare program. The advisers provide support, training, and technical and policy advice to the community, industry and local government on native vegetation management. They can assist with bushland management, seed collection, regeneration techniques, monitoring techniques, designing projects, and funding opportunities.

The Bushcare network operates on a regional basis. Each region has a Bushcare regional facilitator (administered by CALM), support officer (administered by Greening Australia, WA) and Land for Wildlife officer (a program supporting land owners to care for their bushland, also administered by CALM). Keith Claymore from CALM is the State coordinator for all of the Bushcare positions.



The metropolitan regional facilitator is Tanya Stacpoole (08) 9334 0455, the support officer is Anna-Marie Penna (based at the Swan Catchment Centre on (08) 9220 5300 and the Land for Wildlife officer is Bob Huston (08) 9295 1955. Tanya works at a strategic level and primarily gives advice on regional priorities and plans, funding opportunities and project design; whereas Anna-Marie gives advice and runs workshops on the more technical matters of bush care.

The regional facilitator for the Southwest, covering Rockingham to Manjimup and east to Lake Grace, is Garry McMahon (08) 9725 5909, and the support officer is Neil Pemberton-Owens (08) 9765 1555, and Jenny Dewing (08) 9761 2318 and Cherie Kemp (08) 9752 1677 are Land for Wildlife Officers.

A guide to NHT grant applications should be available in October from Bushcare staff. The deadline for applications will be February 2000.

Pictured above: Committee member Mark Ballesteros and son Aron.

Central Region

South Perth bushlands

The Mount Henry Peninsula Preservation Group has recently used \$3000 of grant funds for contract spraying of veldt grass in an area of the Aquinas College bushland that was burnt in late 1997. In 1998, there was good germination of native *Sipa* grass species, but in 1999 the area was 'swamped' with veldt grass which had re-shooted from its 'tufted', fibrous, underground root system. The herbicide, Fusilade, appears to be effective on veldt grass. It causes leaves and stems to turn purple-brown and die.

A 100 square metre area of burnt bushland was unsprayed and the veldt grass plants were removed by hand. This area will be monitored for native plant re-establishment and germination of environmental weeds.

In August, the City of South Perth invited members of the City of South Perth Environment Association (COSPEA) to discuss their environmental concerns. Mayor Suzanne Pierce, Deputy-Mayor Sally Cook and Councillor Cheryl Dibb took comprehensive notes of the concerns raised for later action.

At this meeting a presentation of the book, *The People's Forest*, was made 'in absentia' by COSPEA to one of its original members, Andrew Thomson, in recognition of his 2000 hours of voluntary work over the last four years in bushland rehabilitation across the metropolitan area. The book contains comments about Andrew's father Jack (John) Thomson who was one of the first two forestry cadets to be appointed by the then Forests Department in 1917. It reveals Jack Thomson to be arguably the first and most influential 'environmentally-aware forester' in the history of Western Australia.

After three and a half years with the City of South Perth, environmental officer, Mark Taylor, resigned to take up a position of Environmental Projects Manager with the City of Melville. He will be sorely missed.

For further information call John Feldman on (08) 9368 3739 (w) or (08) 9450 5661 (after 6 pm).

From vandalism to planting

Over the past few months the Hollywood Reserve has suffered bouts of mindless vandalism. This has ranged from a smashed drinking fountain and water meter, to machete swingers walking through the Reserve mutilating and cutting down mature and immature trees and shrubs. Cyclists have also caused damage to plants by tearing off branches that impede their progress, cutting tracks and digging jumps, quite un mindful of the plants or the elderly walkers who come to look and admire winter as it burgeons into spring. The pot smoking den, adjacent to the high school, is a mess of bongs, plastic bags, paper, and 'stolen' chairs and benches smashed to kindling and left for others to clear up. This is disheartening, but there are joys.

In mid-July, school was 'in'. Five classes from Hollywood Primary School and one from Hollywood Pre-Primary School, spent a day in the Reserve planting several hundred seedlings and small shrubs. Kay Rae, a retired primary teacher and one of our volunteers, talked to each class and answered questions. After the children had planted their seedlings, Kay and the students toured the Reserve and listened to bird calls, looked at the fungi and found plants in flower. Everyone showed enormous interest and enthusiasm and many returned later to proudly show their parents.

It is with hope that we await the beauty of spring and a vandal-free future.

For further information call Trish or David Hewson on (08) 9386 4476.

Friends of Shenton Bushland

The energy of this small group of bush regenerators is being extended as we start working with our

neighbours. The Health, Education and Defence Departments, and a little way away the University of WA. The Health Department has laid down sewerage and power lines along our eastern boundary in what used to be a firebreak. They will soon construct a stabilised limestone path, which will provide easier access to the bushland for wheelchairs and a pleasant, shorter loop trail mostly on one level. They have also made a generous grant to the Friends of Shenton Bushland to produce seedlings from locally collected seed to revegetate this long, wide gash of bare sand. Plenty of work is ahead collecting all the seed! We hope some seedlings will be ready for June 2001 which will be the first planting season with the new college occupied. This should give us a way to involve the students in the care of the bushland almost on their boundary.

Energy has also been directed to planning a biannual workshop to be held in March/April 2000. We are concerned about fauna of all sizes; how to encourage the ones you want and how to get rid of the unwanted ones. If there's a particular speaker you would recommend, please contact Dani on (08) 9381 3470. And if you want a copy of the proceedings of the seminar on Direct Seeding, send \$10 to the Secretary, 117 Derby Road, Shenton Park WA 6008 and one will be printed in colour especially for you.

For further information contact Janice Marshall (08) 9381 1479.

North West Region

Protecting Neerabup

by David Wake, Quinns Rocks Environmental Group

Neerabup National Park is an important conservation area in Perth's northwest corridor, covering over 1000 hectares of tuart, jarrah and banksia woodlands and limestone heathlands. It stretches some 12 kilometres along Wanneroo Road from Burns Beach Road to Romeo Road, and varies from less than one to two and a half kilometres wide. The linear nature of the park and its proximity to the rapidly urbanising area around Quinns Rocks raises many issues.

Neerabup National Park forms part of a belt of remnant vegetation running from Yellagonga Regional Park north to Yanchep National Park and Wilbinga. It is also part of a link from the coast, including Burns Beach bushland and the area around the Tamala Park/Mindarie tip site, through to Shire View Hill and Lake Pinjar.

Maintaining and enhancing these ecological links or 'greenways' is a challenge given the pressure for development of what is largely rural land. Some parts are recognised in Perth's Bushplan, but their future is uncertain (for example, bush north of Burns Beach).

Public infrastructure threatens the Park's integrity, but better planning can avoid this whittling away of the bush. The Park itself is already the site of a quarry, concrete batching plant and water reservoir and will be affected by the Mitchell Freeway extension, proposed east-west roads and a groundwater treatment plant. Rubbish dumping and weed spread are key management issues, yet few resources are allocated to look after the Park and a management plan is apparently not a priority.

The Wildflower Society, WA National Parks and Reserves Association and Quinns Rocks Environmental Group are trying to protect Neerabup National Park by raising community awareness of the Park and its values, and writing to government agencies about issues affecting it.

For more information on the Park and how you can help phone Karyn Shaw (08) 9305 1405 or Renata Zelinova (08) 9305 9382 from the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group.

Koondoola Regional Bushland

The Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland have been pulling weeds in the Koondoola Bushland every Tuesday morning before the working day begins (7 am – 8 am). All of the Geraldton wax and Victorian tea

tree have been removed and Geraldton carnation weed is currently the main focus of attention. The City of Wanneroo supplied corrective services labour to remove some of the larger plants. In October, the Friends will probably be focusing on weeding gladiolus and freesias. The Friends meet on Alexander Drive (look for Phylis' white van).

The Friends have been planting in wetland areas which have been degraded by frequent fires and trail bike tracks. Regelia, two Hovea species and peas were among the 2500 understorey plants the Friends have put in. The Friends of Yellagonga collected the seeds and grew the plants for the Wanneroo Council. These plants are from wetland areas so will need limited watering over summer. We were very grateful to the Council for planting 300 flooded gums in early August.

More planting may not be necessary. Good natural regeneration has occurred since a fence around the bushland was put in place five years ago. Naturally-regenerated, four year old flooded gums are now around two metres high.

All that is needed now is to discourage the trail bikes and those who believe you need to burn the bush to clean it up!

For further information call Phylis on (08) 9349 9105.

Teams of helpers

During the wet season Bennett Brook Catchment Group (BBCG) were busy planting at five different sites along the Brook. Groups such as the Hyatt Care Team, Joondalup TAFE students, West Beechboro Primary School, Work for the Dole, a 'Be Active' walking team and the Friends of Bennett Brook participated. Over June and July more than 13,000 seedlings were planted, and more rushes and sedges will be planted over the warmer months. Signs have been installed at all rehabilitation sites. If you would like to come and have a look at these sites contact the Bennett Brook Environment Centre. BBCG would like to thank everyone who helped out this season.

In August BBCG and the Bayswater Integrated Catchment Group hosted a FrogWatch workshop at the City of Bayswater offices. FrogWatch is a program run by the WA Museum. The workshop focussed on frogs of the Swan Coastal Plain, frog rehabilitation techniques and the Chytrid frog fungus. The information given on the day was very valuable to all who attended. Volunteers monitor frog populations and deaths caused by the Chytrid fungus across the metropolitan area. BBCG is looking for volunteers to take part in a FrogWatch program in their area of the Catchment. Interested volunteers can be provided with a FrogWatch kit and support from BBCG.

For further information call Sara at the Bennett Brook Environment Centre on (08) 9377 0444.

Friends of Hepburn Heights and Pinnaroo Bushland

We held two very successful bushland care days during winter. A big thanks to all the volunteers who lent a hand during either or both days! The objective of removing pelargonium from both sides of a limestone access path along the western boundary was achieved by lunchtime on the second day. A site which had extensive pelargonium removed two years ago (also during a bushland care day) was revisited in the afternoon and it was encouraging to see the results. The few small pelargonium that had re-established were easily removed.

For further information call Tim Morald on (08) 9307 8371

Friends of Gingin Brook

Kate Brown (Environmental Weeds Action Network) has established five sites on the edge of the Gingin Brook to monitor the effect of different treatments to reduce the number of arum lilies. The treatments include slashing, early herbicide treatment and late herbicide treatment. A map detailing the

exotic weeds on the island and through the Jim Gordon Trail has been finished, and further mapping of the island will be undertaken to determine regrowth following the removal of the figs, peppers and lilies. Norm Wallace invited Kate and the Friends to visit the area of his farm where he has removed 99 per cent of the arum lilies. Robertson Bush Regeneration is continuing to remove figs and peppers (with some help from Friends).

A submission was prepared and forwarded to Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) proposing a Green Corps work program from November to May. The outcome will be known within the next few months.

A working bee was organised by the Friends of Gingin Brook in July 1999 where debris was cleared from the Granville area of the Brook and flooded gums and paperbarks were planted. Another working bee was arranged with Mrs Anderson and her students from the Gingin Primary School. At the suggestion of the students, the Friends are planning a weekend in October where students and their parents will be invited to work in the Brook again.

The Friends display panels were on view in the Council chambers for three weeks. The Friends were most appreciative of Council's support for this display.

For further information call Richard Diggins on (08) 9381 1529.

Hills Region

Activity in the eastern hills

Seeding, planting, erosion control and stream calming have been principal activities of eastern hills groups this winter. Less than average rainfall during June and July caused concern, but the longer term forecast is of rain well into spring will be essential for strong bushland regeneration before the summer.

Wetland creation in Rocky Gully, Mundaring and Parkerville has inspired another group in Glen Forest to restore a section of Nyaania Creek to a 'living stream'.

An Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/ATCV work day in Parkerville enabled over 2400 stems to be planted, and the removal of watsonia and typha. Follow-up efforts by the Mundaring Lions Club, Green Corps, Midland TAFE and community members have resulted in a further 2000 stems being planted and removal of exotic wattles to the mulching heap.

At Bugle Tree Creek in Mundaring, stream calming 'service trials are continuing. The best techniques will be adapted to other streamlining projects in the Shire of Mundaring and beyond.

The Rocky Gully group in Mt Helena has created a wetland to increase retention of run-off from a road drain feeding the sub-catchment. Lessons from this community project are being documented to help other groups planning similar works.

Falls Park in Hovea and Alps St Reserve in Mt Helena have been targeted for work by the Dieback Action Group (led by Sharon Kilgour). Consultants have mapped the dieback-infected areas as a precursor to compiling a dieback management plan. This plan will serve as a model to help hills community groups implement management strategies and action plans using Bushcare funds. For information on work days at Falls Park call Tim Boddington on (08) 9295 4334.

The monthly Hovea Conservation Park bush care days are continuing to attract helpers and funding. This year to date more than 1500 seedlings have been planted and, with the help of Green Corps, erosion control devices have been installed in very hard gravel pit laterite subsoils. Exotic wattles and eucalypts are gradually being removed as native vegetation, including self sown marris, gain a stronger foothold. The weed tree trunks are being used for stabilising erosion gullies. Despite hard conditions, this bushland is regenerating well with our help. September will bring an end to a very busy winter's

activities. Rain into spring will help to extend planting and other activities into wetland areas late into the year. The spring rains should produce a bounty of wildflowers: a highlight during our bush care activities!

For further information call Jenny Johnson on (08) 9295 4467.

North Darlington Reserves

Planting in May at the Great Eastern Highway/Lionel Road intersection, as part of our SCULP/Alcoa funded 'Gateway to North Darlington Reserves' project, have done very well with the recent rains. Various small plants are already flowering. Cleaning up litter is a continual process.

We still haven't organised our vermin-proof bin because we have been away in Canada and Alaska! The parts that we saw were wonderfully clear of litter. We wondered what the secret was. Those that we spoke to said that the on-the-spot fines for littering by mounties (Northwest Canadian Policemen) had contributed. There is also public acknowledgment that tourism is their lifeblood. In various places the Adopt-a-Highway Scheme (by corporate and other sponsors) also helps keep highways clean.

On 24 October, the Friends of North Darlington Reserves will meet to saucer new plants and add mulch, so that they are ready for summer watering. After this we will be meeting for a sausage sizzle and social hour to discuss what we would like to do next.

We recommend that you take a walk around our reserves this spring. It has been a record year for donkey orchids (now fading) and *Hibbertia* and *Hovea* are now dominant and doing very well again. *Leschenaultia* are also beginning to flower.

For further information call Judy or Doug Love on (08) 9299 6989.

South East Region

Friends of Forrestdale

The Friends of Forrestdale Lake are dedicated to the conservation of bushland and wetland in Forrestdale. They are currently concerned about the misuse of Lot 68 Anstey Rd, part of Perth's Bushplan site 342, which is vested in Landcorp.

Following approaches by the Friends some years ago, Landcorp removed rubbish and constructed a fence and gate along Anstey Road to restrict access to the bushland. This was successful for a while, but recently there have been many instances of rubbish dumping and tracks made around the fence from people entering from neighbouring lots. The Friends are calling for support from Landcorp to fence neighbouring Lot 68 on the northern, eastern and western boundaries. The southern boundaries, which abuts Jandakot Botanic Park, is adequately fenced. The Friends are proposing to maintain the fences if Landcorp can supply the material.

The Friends have been very busy lately with three projects. They are managing an oral history project to record memories and changes that have taken place at the Ramsar-listed Forrestdale Lake (funded by Cleanaway Community Liaison Committee and Edith Cowan University). Secondly, the Friends are involved in regenerating bush in the Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve under the supervision of CALM. Thirdly, the Friends have been helping consultants study water flow and quality (particularly nutrient enrichment) of the Lake and its catchment. Excessive nutrients have produced explosive populations of midges in summer which are currently treated by pesticide spraying.

Watch out for a group profile in coming editions of this newsletter!

For further information call Rod Giblett on (08) 9397 0094 (home) or David James on (08) 9397 0276.

South West Region

Naragebup Environment Centre

The Rockingham Regional Environment Centre is pleased to announce a new name for the Centre. The Centre's Aboriginal cultural adviser, Trevor Walley from CALM has been researching a suitable name with Nyoongah word origins. After much discussion Naragebup was chosen. 'Nara' means a cupped hand and also represents the shape of Lake Richmond (adjacent to the Centre). It also gives a sense of nurturing. 'Geb' means drink of water which represents a life sustaining feature of the lake and this relates well to the Centre's mission statement, philosophies and objectives. 'Up', of course, means 'place of'.

The Centre recently received a \$50,000 donation from WMC Resources Ltd. This will build two large education displays. One will be an interactive thrombolite learning centre and the other a wetlands (interior and exterior) display. Work has begun on the designs.

The office will soon be moved into the foyer/reception building which is being completed on-site and will also house a library, herbarium and shop. The official opening of the Centre is planned for later in the year, but not confirmed as yet. Stay tuned!

Courses and workshops on a range of natural environment, Aboriginal cultural and some craft topics have been creating great excitement. The Nyoongah song learning and dreaming stories workshop held recently was very much enjoyed by the family groups who attended. Courses will continue through October to December (programs are quarterly). A new workshop will focus on migratory bird identification for beginners. Call the Centre if you would like a brochure on activities (available by mid-October).

For further information call the Centre on (08) 9591 3077.

Bunbury Region

From Shirley Fisher

Bunbury's community nursery

The Leschenault Community Nursery has despatched 77,000 plants this season for landcare, revegetation and streamlining projects. There are 7000 plants left, so the nursery will be open Thursdays for land holders to collect more plants. Seed collection workshops are planned soon.

Bunbury Naturalists' Club

Over the last six months on every Tuesday, Naturalists' Club members have been working on a regional herbarium for the Central Forest Region at CALM in Bunbury. Members are building on an initial CALM collection of 3000 specimens. They have been sorting this collection and are almost ready to start collecting fresh specimens that are not already in this collection. One sample of each specimen must be sent to the State Herbarium in Perth to be checked for authenticity and numbered. Members want the regional herbarium to be used as a reference collection for the public and for scientific purposes.

Club members have been involved in the relocation and monitoring (radio tracking) of western ringtail possums. The possums were relocated from the Port Geographe development area to the Leschenault Inlet Peninsular, now a National Park.

Katie Syme is the coordinator in WA of a national fungi mapping project (run by the National Herbarium). The Bunbury Naturalists' Club is participating in recording site details, fungi types and numbers, and soil types across the southwest. If anyone is interested in participating in the project contact Katie in Denmark by e-mailing environ@denmarkwa.net.au

For further information call Shirley on (08) 9795 7181 or Gordon on (08) 9797 2673.

Group Profile: Friends of Bold Park



(Left to right) Brian Perriam, John Howieson and daughter, Doug McMillan, Premier Richard Court, Norma Calcutt, Stephanie Clegg, Phil Drayson, Virginia Rimes, Jim Crandell at the creation of Bold Park 'A' Class Reserve.

Illustrious lobbyists

Despite the many twists and turns in the campaign history of Bold Park, former Friends of Bold Park chairperson, Norma Calcutt, never doubted they would be successful in conserving all of the bushland recommended for reservation under System 6.

"At times it was very stressful, but I never lost my vision and if there was a problem I focussed on developing a strategy to counter it," she said.

"We now have just about everything we wanted in the Park."

The Friends formed in 1987 to oppose a 19 hectare Bond Corporation subdivision. They successfully appealed to upgrade the EPA's informal level of assessment to a PER and the development was rejected. Public support grew rapidly and a petition of 10,000 signatures was presented to Parliament to implement the System 6 recommendations for the bushland.

Over the next few years two further subdivision proposals and a road extension through the bushland were rejected. Long battles saw the removal of a highway road reserve which cut through the heart of the bushland (1987-1995), and minimum bushland lost with the realignment of West Coast Highway (1989-1996).

Friends member, Phil Drayson, was elected to Perth City Council in 1989-91, and in the 1990s, Mt Claremont bushland (south of Rochdale Rd) and at least two other substantial areas of bushland were spared from development.

A watershed in their campaigning history was the presentation of the

Friends' regional park proposal to the Planning Minister and the City of Perth in 1990. It was a catalyst for the City of Perth to undertake a review of land use for the bushland and the outcome became the framework for the current boundaries and status.

The Friends felt a great weight lifted in 1998 when the Park was officially vested as an A class reserve in Kings Park's management body, now the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority. The Authority will soon be releasing an environmental management plan for Bold Park.

Thriving bush care

A bush regeneration subcommittee was formed in 1995 when much of the campaigning had been won and the regional park status promised.

Over the next couple of years, Gordon Reid Foundation funds enabled bush regeneration training for group members and mapping of priority weeds, and a Community Conservation Grant funded bushland condition mapping. The Friends also worked with Fire Services on a fire response strategy.

Ecoplan/ATCV/Alinta Gas bushland care days in 1997 and 1998 each attracted over 100 helpers. This inspired and encouraged many other bushland groups, and was a great boost to a bush regeneration project in a 6.5 hectare area of the park. Natural Heritage Trust funds are contributing to seed collection and propagation for this project.

A regional landmark

A pivotal three-day survey in 1987 found visitors came from 105 suburbs! This

confirmed the Park was functioning as a regional park. It is the largest inner city bushland (437 hectares) and Reabold Hill is the highest natural point on the Swan Coastal Plain (SCP). There is great diversity with a wetland, coastal shrublands and heathlands, jarrah-marri and tuart-banksia woodlands. It is home to over 70 bird species and 30 reptiles species including all five species of burrowing snake found on the Swan Coastal Plain. Come and try some of the many walk trails!

Contacts

Norma Calcutt (bush regeneration committee) (08) 9384 4274

Alan Everett (Friends chairperson) (08) 9383 3961

Alert! - Clean tools and footwear

The tools you use for revegetation and bush restoration could be carrying an unwanted intruder. The plant disease 'dieback' (caused by the fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*) can be carried and spread on tools and footwear. Dieback kills 25 per cent of WA plant species, and its spores can be present in soil, mud, gravel and sand. Therefore, mud and soil need to be removed from tools and footwear before entering a site. As an extra precaution, tools and footwear can also be sterilised. Sterilisation is recommended when working in very high value, dieback-free bushland; when propagating plants; or when leaving a dieback-infected area.

Tips on cleaning tools and footwear:

- Scrape off dried mud and soil with a brush or stick (do not dispose of this in bushland);
- Use water to remove any remaining mud and soil;
- Clean in an area which does not drain into bushland;
- Tools and shoe soles can be sterilised by spraying methylated spirits on all surfaces using a spray bottle. Allow a few minutes to dry; and
- Alternatively, tools can be sterilised by soaking them in a solution of one part bleach and ten parts water for five minutes. Rinse well.

For further information call Sharon Kilgour on (08) 9293 2111.



OCTOBER

7 Thursday – 8 Friday

AAEE Environmental Hope conference at Murdoch University and Ellis Brook. Speakers include Professor Peter Newman, Cr Bill Stewart (Stirling), David Pike, Jim Heslop and Sue Smith (Noranda Bushland). Call Jason Froud (08)9335 6800 or jfroud@fisheries.wa.gov.au

8 Friday 7.30pm

Nocturnal walk at Landsdale Farm School. Meet Landsdale Rd (east of Evandale Rd). Phylis (08) 9349 9105.

9 Saturday 8am

Bush walk at Koondoola Regional Bushland every second Saturday of the month. Meet cnr Koondoola and Burbridge Aves (northeast end). Call Elizabeth (08) 9342 0616.

10 Sunday – 17 Sunday

NATIONAL WEEDBUSTER WEEK
Organise or be a part of weed awareness events. Promotional material available from Sandy Lloyd (08) 9368 3760.

13 Wednesday 7 – 9.30pm

Ecoplan/GA(WA)/SCC seminar on *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage* at the Swan Catchment Centre, 108 Adelaide Tce, East Perth. RSVP Barbara (08) 9220 5300.

14 Thursday 6.30pm

Men of the Trees annual general meeting at Tompkin Park Recreation Centre, Canning Hwy, Alfred Cove. Call (08) 9250 1888.

14 Thursday 7pm

Earth education lecture by Steve Van Matre at Agriculture Western Australia theatre, Baron-Hay Court, South Perth, \$20. Call Peta White (08) 9083 1111, pwhite@agric.wa.gov.au

14 Thursday 8pm

Friends of Kings Park talk at the administration building by Prof. John Considine on Geraldton wax and its place in international horticulture. Call (08) 9480 3643.

14 Thursday – 15 Friday

WA Regional Herbaria volunteers plant identification workshop at WA Herbarium (Proteaceae and Myrtaceae). Bookings Jan or Margaret (08) 9334 0587.

15 Friday 7.30pm

Nocturnal walk in Koondoola Regional Bushland. Meet cnr Koondoola and Burbridge Aves (northeast end). Call Elizabeth 9342 0616.

15 Friday 7.30pm

Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on whales and dolphins at the Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd. Call Diana (08) 9527 1961(ah).

16 Saturday 8am – 5pm

Advanced earth education workshop with Steve Van Matre. Peta White (08) 9083 1111, pwhite@agric.wa.gov.au (introductory workshop also planned).

16 Saturday 3 pm – 5pm

Meet our marsupials walk at CALM Hills Forest, Mundaring. Lots of other spring activities. Call (08) 9295 2244.

16 Saturday 2 pm - 5 pm

STATE WEED PLAN WORKSHOP
Agriculture Western Australia Theatre, 3 Baron Hay Court South Perth. Contact Sandy Lloyd (08) 9368 3760.

16 Saturday 7am

Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call (08) 9387 6079.

16 Saturday 8am

Guided nature walks at Lake Gwelup every third Saturday of the month. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Karrinyup. Betty

(08) 9444 5640.

17 Sunday – 23 Saturday

National Water Week activities including water industry awards, Ribbons of Blue snapshot day. Call Water and Rivers Commission (08) 9278 0300.

17 Sunday

Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club excursion to Brixton St Wetlands. Call Don Shepherd (08) 9592 1821.

17 Sunday 8.30am

Friends of Kings Park woody weeding activity, followed by a talk. Meet at the administration building. Call (08) 9480 3643.

17 Sunday 9am – 12noon

Weeding, erosion control and planting at Hovea Conservation Park, Hovea. Call Herb (08) 9298 8218.

17 Sunday 9 am – 11am

Dieback treatment workshop at Maida Vale Reserve, Ridge Hill Rd, Maida Vale. To confirm details call Sharon Kilgour (08) 9293 2111.

22 Friday 7.30pm

Friends of Star Swamp nocturnal walk from Groat St North Beach entrance. Call Christine (08) 9346 5413.

23 Saturday 8am

Friends of Star Swamp monthly guided walk from Groat St North Beach entrance. Call Christine (08) 9346 5413.

23 Saturday 2.30pm

Gould League excursion to Kings Park. Call (08) 9387 6079.

24 Sunday 9am – 12noon

Friends of North Darlington Reserves work morning, sausage sizzle and planning meeting. Call Judy or Doug on (08) 9299 6989.

25 Monday – 28 Thursday 8.30am – 5pm daily

River restoration workshop, \$100. Bookings Antonietta Davy (08) 9278 0300, antonietta.davy@wrc.wa.gov.au

30 Saturday 8 am – 10am

Nature walk in Trigg Bushland led by David Pike. Meet in Elliott Rd, south of St Mary's School. Call Robyn (08) 9246 3954, John (08) 9448 2899.

31 Sunday 3 pm – 7pm

Cottesloe Marine Protection Group Sea Dragon Festival / Reefwise concert at the North Cottesloe beach front, including beach walks, fish counts, fishing competition, sand castles, kite flying etc. Call Barbara (08) 9384 3893.

NOVEMBER

6 Saturday

Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club nature reserves work morning. Call Bob Goodale (08) 9527 4289.

6 Saturday 8am

Nature walk at Landsdale every first Saturday of the month, meet Landsdale Rd (east of Evandale Rd). Call Phylis (08) 9349 9105.

6 Saturday 2pm – 7 Sunday 11am

Mini-beast mega camp at CALM Hills Forest, Mundaring. Lots of other spring activities. Call (08) 9295 2244.

10 Wednesday 7.30pm

AABR (WA) bush care forum on fire and bushland management, Kings Park administration building. Call Janice (08) 9381 1479.

11 Thursday 8pm

Friends of Kings Park talk at the

administration building by Prof. Hans Lambers on the adaptive significance of proteoid roots in native species. Call (08) 9480 3643.

14 Sunday 8.30am

Friends of Kings Park seed collecting activity, followed by a talk. Meet at the administration building. Call (08) 9480 3643.

15 Monday – 17 Wednesday

Kids helping Kids National Environmental Conference for and by young people. Call Cathrina-Luz Aniere (08) 9388 9377.

19 Friday 7.30pm

Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and little penguin study update at the Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd. Call Diana (08) 9527 1961(ah).

20 Saturday 7am

Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call (08) 9387 6079.

20 Saturday 8am

Guided nature walks at Lake Gwelup every third Saturday of the month. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Karrinyup. Call Betty (08) 9444 5640.

20 Saturday 10am - 4.30pm

Workshop on *Identification and Management of Native and Introduced Grasses* organised by Murdoch TAFE and Environmental Weeds Action Network at Southern Metro College of TAFE, Murdoch Campus. Cost \$5. Ring Barbara Jones at SCC (08) 9220 5300.

21 Sunday 9am – 12noon

Weeding, erosion control and planting at Hovea Conservation Park, Hovea. Call Herb (08) 9298 8218.

21 Sunday

Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club excursion to Anstey Rd Reserve, Call Don Shepherd (08) 9592 1821.

24 Wednesday 7 – 9.30pm

Ecoplan/GA(WA)/SCC seminar on *How to delegate and train others* at the Swan Catchment Centre, 108 Adelaide Tce, East Perth. RSVP Barbara (08) 9220 5300.

27 Saturday 2.30pm

Gould League excursion to Falls Rd. Call (08) 9387 6079.

27 Saturday 8am

Friends of Star Swamp monthly guided walk from Groat St North Beach entrance. Call Christine (08) 9346 5413.

28 November – 5 December

Coastcare Week activities including beach walks, slide shows. Call Amanda Stainthorpe, State Coastcare Coordinator, (08) 9264 7834.

DECEMBER

4 Saturday

Kwinana-Rockingham-Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club nature reserves work morning. Call Bob Goodale (08) 9527 4289.

12 Sunday 8.30am

Friends of Kings Park seed collecting activity, followed by a talk. Meet at the administration building. Call (08) 9480 3643.

18 Saturday 7am

Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call (08) 9387 6079.

18 Saturday 8am

Guided nature walks at Lake Gwelup every third Saturday of the month. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Karrinyup. Call Betty (08) 9444 5640.

What's On in the Bunbury Region

OCTOBER

26 September – 9 October

Busselton Naturalists' Club excursion to Stirling Ranges, Porongorups and Albany.

13 Wednesday 7.30pm

Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Dr Terry Houston, WA Museum, on bees and wasps.

17 Sunday 9am

Cape to Cape trail maintenance and emergency service exercise with the Busselton Naturalists' Club.

21 Thursday 7.30pm

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and discussion on Agriculture Western Australia CD Rom.

23 Saturday 8am

Bunbury Naturalists' Club search for tofas at Black Point. Meet at Stratham St Station, possibly camp for weekend.

24 Sunday

Busselton Naturalists' Club excursion to Boranup Forest.

25 Monday – 29 Friday

Busselton Naturalists' Club mid-week Bibbulmun Track walks, walks of 16km to 19km.

NOVEMBER

10 Wednesday 7.30pm

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

19 Friday 7.30pm

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Paul van Heurck, CALM, on the effects of prescribed burning on insects, and collecting and preserving insects.

20 Saturday 9.45am

Bunbury Naturalists' Club Ernie and Win's farm excursion, BBQ and spotlighting. Meet at Burekup.

24 Sunday

Busselton Naturalists' Club wildflower excursion to Donnybrook Sunklands and Scott River.

DECEMBER

11 Saturday 8am

Bunbury Naturalists' Club Cape to Cape walk, Moses Rock to Cowaramup Bay (8km-9km), meet at Dunsborough.

Busselton Naturalists' Club activities:

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

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

Celebrating achievement

The Bessie Rischbieth Conservation Award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the WA environment, with many years of active involvement in conservation campaigns, acting with integrity, perseverance and courage. The Peter Hunt Award for Excellence in Environmental Journalism (print media) is awarded to a journalist who has demonstrated outstanding knowledge and understanding of environmental issues. Nominations for these awards are due by 29 October. Call the Conservation Council for details on (08) 9420 7266.

Projects sort

Greencorp is again seeking projects, such as flora and fauna surveys, bush regeneration, walking track construction and revegetation, for their teams of trainees to tackle. Applications for future project rounds close on 22 November 1999 (for projects to run between April and October 2000) and 31 January 2000 (for projects to run between June and December 2000). Greencorp want to complement the work groups are already doing. Call Ken Beasley from ATCV on (08) 9336 6911 if you would like to discuss a potential project or are interested in joining the program as a trainee. You can download application forms from their website at <http://greencorp.ballarat.net.au>

Think creatively about heritage

Australians are invited to write up to 1000 words, perform a song or make a video (up to 5-minutes) about Australia's heritage places. Prize money of \$5000 is awarded in each category. Songs and written pieces must be submitted by 15 October and videos by 10 December 1999. For further information consult the AHC website (under 'what's new?') at www.ahc.gov.au or call 1800 020 652.

Educating gardeners

Garden Plants Under the Spotlight is a draft national strategy targeted at educating gardeners (through nurseries and garden centres) and the horticultural media on tackling the problem of garden plants that can cause great damage if they invade bushland. It was released by the Weeds Cooperative Research Centre and the Nursery Industry Association of Australia earlier this year. Copies are available from the Weeds CRC on (08) 8303 6590 or by e-mailing crcweeds@waite.adelaide.edu.au

Community Resource Guide

An update of the Environment Centre of WA's guide to information, speakers and resources on environment, social justice and other community issues has just been released. Free booklets are available by calling (08) 9225 4103 (between 10am and 4pm) or e-mailing

ecwa@iinet.net.au There will be further updates of the guide so if your group was not included or if your details change contact the Environment Centre. For further information visit their website on www.iinet.net.au~ecwa

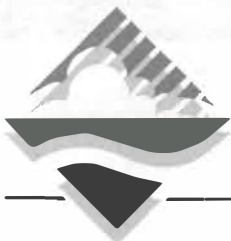
Coastal data available

The Australian Coastal Atlas, funded by Environment Australia, is an index of terrestrial and marine data sets on the coastline, up to 100km from coast. For example, data sets include information on land use, land tenure, hydrology, soils, landform types, ocean characteristics like salinity and tides, water quality, fisheries, marine biology and habitats, and Aboriginal significance. Data is being collected from government departments and private companies by WALIS (WA Land Information Systems). A scale of 1:2000 is available for viewing on the internet. The atlas will be updated as further information becomes available.

Take a look at <http://www.walis.wa.gov.au/atlas>.

Beautiful grasses

The Australian Biological Resources Study has produced a set of four very attractive posters on grasses of Australia. They feature grasses of northern Australia, southern Australia, coasts and wetlands, and a close-up look at grasses (natives and weeds are included). For free copies call Environment Australia on 1800 065 823 or e-mail ciu@ea.gov.au



If not claimed within 7 days, please return to
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