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## Planning for safety and the environment

Frequent bush fires can be very disheartening to bush carers as species can be lost and restoration work set back greatly. However, liaison between the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA) and bushcarers is ensuring that fire management is taking conservation issues into account.

Discussions at the 1995 Urban Bushland Council's (UBC) *Burning Our Bushland* conference, organised after a particularly bad summer for fires, were especially fruitful.

"At the conference, bush carers emphasised the need for swift action in putting out bush fires," said UBC secretary, Kirsten Tullis.

"Urban bush is already vulnerable and isolated, and fires put too much pressure on our native plants and animals."

Continued liaison between UBC and FESA resulted in the development of fire response plans for key bushland areas across Perth, developed with local community groups and local fire stations.

In 1999, FESA employed Sue Davies, a zoology graduate and volunteer fire fighter, as an environmental adviser to liaise between community bushland groups and FESA.

"Fire Services and bush carers both want to prevent bushfires," said Ms Davies.

"Fire fighters often care about the bushland, but may not have a lot of knowledge about it. They may not realise how special, diverse and rich in local species it is, or how damaging frequent fires are.

"We all need to work together: landowners, community conservation groups and local fire fighters. How well fire is controlled depends on how well prepared we are and we want the best outcomes for conservation and safety."

Fire response plans include the ecological significance of the area and aspects of bushland management, such as the location of rare species,



*Fire and Emergency Services officers and Mt Henry Peninsula Preservation Group representatives discuss a Fire Response Plan in the Mt Henry Bushland.*

threatened plant communities or rehabilitation areas. They also contain practical information on stake holder contacts water sources, fire control strategies, hazards and access. Sites in *Perth's Bushplan* are prioritised for developing further fire response plans.

Bushland groups often have a key role in fire prevention by contributing to fire management planning, remaining vigilant, controlling flammable grassy weeds and undertaking bushland rehabilitation.

"I'd encourage groups to get to know their local fire brigade and invite them on a guided walk in the bush, and perhaps to other bushland events," said Kirsten Tullis.

"Groups could also consider a letter box drop to residents surrounding bushland to let them know about bushland values, the damage caused by frequent fires, and to act quickly if they see a fire."

Sue Davies and UBC has produced draft guidelines for fire management in the Perth metropolitan area for land owners and managers, fire officers and community groups. These include issues to be considered in fire prevention,

preparedness, response and recovery strategies, and may be particularly useful in compiling fire management plans. Fire management plans are prepared by some land managers and they often contain specific information on fuel load management and a works program.

The key message from FESA and bush care groups is to be vigilant, look out for fire hazards and call '000' immediately if there is a fire in bushland, no matter how small. Acting quickly could mean that a small manageable fire does not become a large, difficult to control, and damaging fire.

About half of the fires in urban bushland are deliberately lit. FESA has an extensive school and community fire education program, and an Arson Task Force looking into long term strategies to combat arson.

*If you would like more information on the fire response plans, advice on developing a fire management plan, or would like to know who to contact in your local fire brigade, call Sue Davies on 9323 9573. Copies of the guidelines are available from Sue and the UBC (9420 7202).*

*Flame Out, a discussion paper on arson, is available by calling 9323 9300.*

Another year has passed and the important work of bush restoration and care goes on. In December 1999, I was fortunate enough to have received a DEP study tour award to investigate community involvement in bushland care in Brisbane, New Zealand and Sydney. I will be giving presentations early in the new year to share what I learned.

Some lessons stand out. Firstly, every one of you is part of a much larger network of people involved in restoring bushland and habitat. Secondly, we need to work hard to protect our remnant vegetation while we still have it.

The final presentation in the successful seminar series took place in November. A program is being drawn up for 2000, and group coordinators will receive a phone call to obtain feedback. If you have any suggestions please contact Margo or Cath at Ecoplan, or Bronwyn Ryan at the Swan Catchment Centre.

The wonderful AABR(WA) bush care forums will also continue on the second Wednesday of every second month, beginning on 8 March (see *What's On* section).

Expressions of interest have been sent out to community groups for the Bushland Care Days in 2000.

Some groups missed out last year because their applications were late, so please return it as soon as possible.

Thanks to the Friends of Korella Park in Mullaloo for hosting the 1999 Ecoplan end of year event. It was a very pleasant evening and wonderful to see the ongoing efforts of a small, but dedicated group of bushland carers.

Many thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who contributed last year, and to the seminar series, either as speakers or participants. Thanks to Cath Drake for her ongoing contribution to *Ecoplan News*, Linda Taman for her invaluable support of the Bushland Care Days, and ATCV, especially Iggy Kim and Conrad Slee for their tremendous efforts. Thanks to the Australian Association for Bush Regeneration, especially Janice Marshall, and to the Environmental Weeds Action Network, especially Kate Brown and Sally Madden. Many thanks also to the staff at the Swan Catchment Centre and Greening Australia Bushcare Support for their ongoing support.

Best wishes for a bright and environmentally-friendly New Year.

Margo

## Ecoplan contacts

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Newsletter compiled by  
Cath Drake

## Congratulations!

Well done to students, staff and parents at **Noranda Primary School** for picking up the Keep Australia Beautiful Earth School of the Year Award in 1999. Fifty-one students were also presented with Bayswater Bush Warden badges by the Bayswater Mayor.

Congratulations to the **Hovea-Parkerville Community Conservation Group**, a collective of groups from the area, who won the 1999 Water and Rivers Commission Living Streams Award for their restoration of Jane Brook.

Congratulations too, to the **Shire of Mundaring** that won the 1999 WA Telstra Landcare Local Government Award.

## Bushcare Support

One year down the track Anna-Marie Penna, Greening Australia (WA) Bushcare Support officer for the metropolitan area, has helped many groups develop weed management strategies, planting programs and indigenous plant species lists for revegetation. She has also provided local schools with an introduction to their local bushland. Anna-Marie looks forward to more rewarding work supporting community groups on vegetation management in the coming year.

## Contributions

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the autumn *Ecoplan News* by 1 March 2000. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words. Thanks to all contributors! You can fax, email or write to Margo (see Ecoplan contacts on this page).

## Ecoplan Econotes: Getting to know your birds

- All you need to take up bird watching and bird surveys is binoculars and a good field guide. Binoculars with 7-8x magnification and 35-40mm field of view are recommended for general bird watching. Generally you get what you pay for, but make sure you test them outdoors, the focus and colour are sharp, and they are comfortable to hold.
  - Choose a portable bird field guide that is illustrated rather than photographic as important bird details are more readily displayed. Carry a notebook and pencil, or perhaps a portable tape recorder.
  - The best time to observe bush birds is up to two hours after sunrise, and perhaps at dusk. Windy, rainy or very hot conditions are not so good.
  - Start by learning the birds in your own backyard, then venture into local bushland.
  - Listen for bird sounds and calls and seek them out. Notice colouring, beak shape, and body shape and size. Birds are grouped by their types in field guides and bird distribution maps in field guides also help you find the right species.
- You can learn greatly from doing regular monthly bird surveys: noting bird species, abundance, place, date and time (perhaps include behaviour, feeding, nesting, conditions and disturbances).
  - There may be someone in your area with bird watching skills who could help you survey your local bushland. Write to your local newspaper.
  - Birds Australia run many excursions where you can learn from friendly experienced observers.

You can learn more about your bushland by undertaking bird surveys, and you can also contribute to Birds Australia's *New Atlas of Australian Birds*, Australia's biggest bird mapping project. The *Atlas* will include four years of observations, concluding in July 2002. Funded by NHT, it aims to map the distribution of all Australian birds, linking this with the kinds of habitats used. It will also look at how long it takes birds to return to habitats that have been rehabilitated or managed for conservation. A free kit is provided and volunteer regional organisers can assist you. Put your local birds on the map!

For more information contact Cheryl Gole at Birds Australia on 9293 4958 or [gole@starwom.com.au](mailto:gole@starwom.com.au).

## FROM CLEAN UP TO FIX UP

As well as the annual rubbish collection activities on Clean Up Australia Day, this year there will also be an exciting new pilot program that asks school and youth groups to look at what needs to be done to change a clean-up spot into a fixed-up spot. Participants will look at what could be done to stop rubbish dumping in areas where clean-up is often necessary. Perhaps there aren't enough bins, a waste management plan could be done or the school could work with a bush care group in adopting and doing tours in local bushland. The Clean Up office can assist in the establishment of a project group that could include local schools, councils, community groups and businesses. Promotional materials, kits and seed grants are available.

Clean Up Australia Day is on 5 March and schools usually focus activities on the previous Friday. If you think there is a site that needs to be 'cleaned up' or if you would like to register your interest in Clean Up activities call Maureen McDaniell on 9388 0033.

## Controlling bridal creeper

If you have bridal creeper on your property, or you're in a bushland group that is battling to control this weed, then you may want to be involved in a biological control project. After extensive research, CSIRO and the Cooperative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems are seeking collaborators to release the bridal creeper leaf hopper in winter 2000. Like bridal creeper, the leaf hopper comes from South Africa. It feeds on the creeper and it is intended that it will limit its spread. Releases have already been made in several states, including WA.

If you want to take part send your contact details, the location of the bridal creeper infestations and a brief site description to Kathryn Batchelor, CSIRO Entomology, Private Bag, PO Wembley, WA 6014, or contact Kathryn on (08) 9333 6643 or [k.batchelor@cmar.csiro.au](mailto:k.batchelor@cmar.csiro.au).

## Rust in castor oil bush

If researchers can get some clues on how and when a rust species was recently introduced to various sites across Australia, then this may help prevent the spread of other pathogens in a similar way. Dr Inez Tommerup would like to hear from any anyone who has made herbarium/reference collections of *Ricinus communis* (castor oil bush) in the past two or three years, and if rust was present on the plants. Please include the date and location where specimens were collected.

Rust, an infection caused by fungi, is very obvious on the leaf under-surface where it causes lumpy, bright orange structures called pustules to form. The leaf upper-surface is yellowish and older leaves may have dead patches especially between small veins on the under-surface of the leaves where the pustules are.

You can contact Dr Tommerup on 9333 6674 or [Inez.Tommerup@ffp.csiro.au](mailto:Inez.Tommerup@ffp.csiro.au), or write to CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products, Private Bag, PO Wembley 6014.

## Practical solutions

The Australian Association for Bush Regeneration (WA) is continuing their bush care forums, beginning on 8 March (see What's On section for details). The forums are one of the few gatherings where bush carers can discuss practical bush management issues and receive technical advice from experienced bush regenerators. Each forum will have a discussion topic, but nothing restricts the exchange of information over refreshments!

## NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST (NHT)

Community groups should have received guidelines on NHT grant applications with plenty of notice to prepare a preliminary project proposal for the December deadline. Groups were encouraged to submit a preliminary project proposal, like an expression of interest, prior to filling in application forms due on 25 February. It is hoped that this process will result in more strategic approaches to projects. For further information and assistance call Peter Nash on 9220 5300.

## Central Region

### South Perth bushlands

by John Feldman

Members of the City of South Perth Environment Association (COSPEA) held a weeding day in Davilak Reserve, Manning in October. The main object was the removal of weeds from around native plant seedlings transplanted from the Gillon Street bushland in Karawara in June and July, 1998. Seedlings in the seed orchard established on this Reserve were well mulched and are progressing well. The seed orchard is practically weed-free, mainly due to the tremendous efforts of Andrew Thomson over a period of more than six months prior to planting.

In early November, the Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society of WA held a walk in Kennington Bushland, about eight hectares of banksia woodland on the boundary of the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park. Local residents are interested in forming a friends group to participate in the formulation of a management plan which is currently being drafted for the bushland, and to undertake litter removal and weed control. Anyone interested in joining this group can contact Gwynth Schipalius on 9361 8674 or Andrew Thomson on 9450 3424. Unfortunately about 20% of the bushland was burnt in late November.

The new environmental officer for the City of South Perth is Sean Smith. He was previously a horticultural officer at the City.

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

### Mt Henry Peninsula

by Jan King

Last October, the Mount Henry Peninsula Conservation Group held their annual guided spring walk to inspect their conservation efforts over the past year. Probably the most spectacular effort was the efficacy of the herbicide, Fusilade, in removing veldt grass from an area of bushland that had previously been burnt.

The Group have been assisted by Bushcare Supprot officer, Anna-Marie Penna, who talked to the participants on the walk about the ecology of the area and the importance of maintaining bushland. About thirty people attended and afternoon tea was hosted in the new dining hall at Aquinas College. Students from the College explained some of the school's conservation projects and activities.

Aquinas College grounds staff have spread mulch provided by Works Infrastructure from the clearing of the old Mt Henry Hospital site bushland in Salter Point on the steep slope of the cross-country track to provide a firm base for fire vehicle access. The fire in December 1997 demonstrated the difficulties fire vehicles have in gaining access to the Peninsula.

In November, the group held two seed collecting days in their bushland in conjunction with Tony Freeman from the Apace Nursery.

The Conservation Group meets 5 – 6.30pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Aquinas College, beginning in February this year. Bush care days focussing on seed collecting will continue through summer.

For further information call Jan King on 9450 5222.

### The Young and the Old!

Hollywood Reserve has an identity problem. Even people who have lived in the Hollywood Ward all their lives or for many years, assume the Reserve is part of Karrakatta Cemetery. This was highlighted during Seniors Week when Hollywood Private

Hospital arranged a stroll for seniors and their family and friends from the Hospital through Hollywood Reserve and the adjacent War Memorial Gardens. Members of the Friends of Hollywood Reserve accompanied Hospital staff and a group of 66 elderly, not so elderly, young and not so young participants, plus a dog, on a warm sunny late Spring morning. The Friends were able to show the walkers many plants in flower, some of them rare, as well as frogmouths and their young. Our thanks to the Hospital public relations staff for organising the stroll. It drew the Reserve to the attention of a wide group of people.

The Friends persuaded the Nedlands Council to build a median strip on Smyth Road as part of their current road works programme. This will enable elderly people living in the Hollywood Village a safer crossing to the Hollywood Reserve and the War Memorial Gardens.

Hollywood Primary School is introducing the joys of weeding to its classes. At our suggestion, the students collect weeds and press them to compile a small classroom herbarium. Every little bit helps, and all knowledge sharing is good!

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

### Friends of Blue Gum Lake

A small amount of the water weed, azolla, has been growing at the lake for some years, however, last spring it greatly increased. One third of the lake surface was covered, prompting many local residents to complain to the City of Melville. This included a petition from the local school. The City responded by devoting three people to work on removing it for six days. They used a combination of boats, scoop nets and a large pump.

Of even greater concern is the appearance of water hyacinth. City of Melville and local volunteers have been removing the weed but, as yet, it has not been eradicated.

We are fortunate to have received a \$500 grant from the Melville Rotary Club for buying more reeds and installing bird nesting boxes.

Seed collecting is under way. Some seeds will be propagated in the City of Melville nursery by the Friends, and others will be used for direct seeding.

Weeds have been a major target this year, particularly *Acacia longifolia*, *Fumaria* and *Euphorbia*.

Some members are involved in preparing video items for use in a forthcoming series of ecology-based programs called *ecoWatch* on Community TV (Channel 31). This is an exciting and interesting project. Others interested in a contributing to the program can contact Dennis Beros at CTV on 9370 6056 or db@ctvperth.com.au.

For further information call Marian Watson on 9316 1324.

## North West Region

### Friends of Korella Park Bushland

The Friends have continued to reduce the *pelargonium*, Geraldton carnation weed, thistle and wild oat infestations by hand pulling and selective spot spraying on a regular basis.

We wonder how much effect the local visiting felines are having on our fauna because we never see a bobtail, but we see many cats!

Our knowledge, ability and confidence in seed collecting from local species has greatly increased thanks to a visit by Tony Freeman from Apace and the Natural Heritage Trust-funded Swan Regional Seedbank program.

Many friends groups joined us for the Ecoplan end of year BBQ last November. We enjoyed having so many people come on a walk around part of the bushland, and appreciated the many constructive comments. The pleasantly warm evening was ideal for making new friends and networking.

We look forward to next year with support from our new conservation officer, new councillors and the community in continuing pro-active management of our bushland.

For further information call Marilyn Zakrevsky on 9401 7132.

### Yellagonga Regional Park (YRP) news

by Laurie Boylan

#### Community Advisory Committee for the Management Plan

The draft Management Plan for the Park has been given verbal agreement by the City of Joondalup and Shire of Wanneroo and will now be passed to State Government and then to the Minister for approval before being released for public comment. It is likely that the draft will be available in February 2000, with a two month comment period. Submissions will be considered and the final Plan released later in the year.

At the November meeting, the committee visited some development sites adjacent to YRP to assess impacts on the Park and to consider intended expenditures by CALM.

#### Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park

The Friends have once again been successful in attracting NHT funds to continue rehabilitation work in four existing work areas. The group intends to concentrate their efforts in existing project sites and not get involved in the YRP as a whole, as this is too resource intensive and ineffective.

For further information on the Advisory Committee call Laurie on 9409 1409(h) and on the Friends group call Hans on 9222 7178(w) or 9409 5815(h).

#### Marine brochure spreads the word

For Coastcare Week, 28 November to 4 December, The Friends of Marmion Marine Park conducted a beach walk, marine display and launched their new brochure. With impending commercial development in the northern corridor and a growing population, we are making an increasing impact on our already fragile coastline. It's even more important to spread the message that we need to care for our beautiful marine environment. We hope to achieve this by widely distributing our brochure.

For further information call Linda Arnold on 9342 8684.

#### Friends of Warwick Bushland

by Karen Clarke

The Friends of Warwick Bushland (FWB) is a new group that has formed to protect the bushland in Warwick Open Space (WOS). WOS is a *Bushplan* site of regional conservation value in Warwick, bounded by Erindale, Beach, Warwick and Wanneroo Roads. It lies in the far southeast corner of the new City of Joondalup, bordering the City of Stirling. The FWB are building and expanding on the activities of the Friends of Warwick Senior High School Bushland (FWSHSB) which began in 1997 and are coordinated by Robyn McElroy. The school is situated on a parcel of land on the eastern boundary of WOS which includes 1.5 ha of original bushland.

The Warwick bushland represents an intact example of *tuart/jarraah/banksia* woodland, once widespread on the Swan Coastal Plain. Our aim is to maintain and improve the condition of the remnant bushland, which is deteriorating due to a number of impacts, many of which can be controlled. These include weed invasion, trampling and disturbance, grazing and burrowing by rabbits, predation by foxes and feral or domestic pets, far too frequent fire, and the dumping of garden waste and soil.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends can call Karen Clarke, FWB coordinator, on 9342 8482 or Robyn McElroy, FWSHSB coordinator, on 9342 6840.

## North East Region

### Trainees boost activities

Bennett Brook Catchment Group (BBCG), based at the Bennett Brook Environment Centre in Caversham, recently employed two new landcare trainees to help them with their ever-increasing revegetation projects and community activities. The BBCG are a very active Catchment Group that hopes to become even busier.

Jackie Wright is employed by BBCG with NHT funding as a community liaison officer. She will be working closely with schools and community groups in the catchment, developing Ribbons of Blue projects, revegetation programs and other activities. Jackie is establishing a Bandicoot Club to provide fun environmental activities, excursions and projects throughout the year for local children. She is also establishing a water quality monitoring program to monitor various points along the Brook, and note any changes that may occur so that necessary action may be taken.

Simon Turner is employed as a special projects officer, funded through the Swan-Canning Clean-up Program. Simon is setting up a regional herbarium, and an Alcoa Frogwatch program, which will include frog monitoring and other activities. He is also setting up a bird monitoring program for those that may be interested, to feed information into the Birds Australia Bird Atlas. Simon was a volunteer at the Centre for the majority of the year before becoming employed as a trainee.

For further information call the Bennett Brook Environment Centre on 9377 0444.

## Hills Region

### Activity in the eastern hills

by Jenny Johnson

Good falls of rain during October gave our bushland plantings a great chance of survival over summer. Most of the hills friends groups do not water after the initial watering on planting day, as we hope that the right plant in the right place will survive, however, late rains really help!

Alps Street Reserve and Falls Park in Hovea have been selected as sites for dieback mapping and action plans by the Dieback Action Group.

Management plans are being drawn up for Yennerdin Reserve in Parkerville and Hovea Conservation Park (part of M22), and these should provide guidelines for drawing up plans for other similar reserves.

Swan Canning Urban Landcare Program (SCULP) funds are to be spread over a wide area. Projects in Mt Helena, Mundaring, Glen Forrest and Darlington have been successful. These range from extensive weed control and stream restoration to fencing creek lines and the establishment of a seed orchard.

Extensive botanical surveys are being carried out in eight reserves in the Mundaring Shire as part of the Urban Hills Bushland Corridor Project. Thirty-nine plots have been established this year. We hope to produce an herbarium that will be useful to friends groups and others.

Further NHT funds have been secured for the Eastern Hills Corridor Project and Eastern Hills Catchment Management Project. This ensures that Liz Weston and Mike Grasby can continue to guide our efforts.

Green Corps were very busy at many sites during the latter part of 1999 and about 16 friends groups benefited. Groups were able to tackle and complete some very labour intensive tasks that often daunt the hardy few! For example, a large area of bamboo was removed from the quarry site in Parkerville, and now the friends group associated with this area has access to treat the other pest: blackberry.

The Eastern Hills Wildflower Society report that an excellent wildflower season should result in very good seed production this summer. The Society is hoping that many volunteers will help collect seeds at their seed orchard in Glen Forrest, so that supplies will be ready for the coming planting season.

For further information call Jenny Johnson on 9295 4467.

### North Darlington Reserves

Last November, the last item was installed as part of the SCULP/Alcoa-funded Gateway to North Darlington Reserves project. A large Sulo bin with a locking lid, only wide enough for picnic scraps, which doesn't allow birds and other animals access to the rubbish, was put in the Reserve at the foot of Lionel Road.

We are hopeful that illegal dumping of bags of household rubbish will be prevented and the scatter of rubbish, which we have been picking up for years, will be a thing of the past. Well, you can dream, can't you? We do, however, make an effort to identify people dumping household rubbish.

We will continue to water small plants over the summer and plan more planting in 2000 when the rains come. Chris Durrant and his Guildford Grammar School boys have already ordered the plants they will be putting in for us.

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

### Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG), Kalamunda

by Martin Pearce, NRPG Vice President

We're up to our ninetieth paid-up member, and we have around two dozen friends of reserve groups under our umbrella! It's been a good year, with steady progress made in areas of bushland, large and small, around the Kalamunda Shire. Our problem? An active committee with still insufficient hours available to help local people keen on getting involved in their reserve.

The interest is bigger than most bureaucrats even realise and, in the new millennium, we aim to harness more of that goodwill for the sake of biodiversity, and bushy wilderness at our backyard!

For further information call Martin on 9291 7480 or Vicki on 9454 4828.

## South East Region

### CRREPA recharges

The Canning River Residents Environmental Protection Association (CRREPA) has renewed energy and enthusiasm. One very active member has grown many trees and hundreds of *Juncus* and *Isolepis*. These have been planted in an area of the foreshore which suffered extensive damage from a severe storm in early 1999. We have also been growing *Juncus* in large biodegradable pots provided by the City of Canning. It is intended to experimentally plant these, pots and all, at low tide directly into the surge zone of an eroded area. It is hoped that this method will overcome the problem of smaller plants being dislodged by waves before they can become established.

Local plants established in a public section of the Yagan Wetland Reserve produced a beautiful display in spring and encouraged the local community to appreciate our own special patch of Perth bushland. We intend to develop our growing skills in the future in order to regenerate the diversity of our area.

Over the last few years the City of Canning has given assistance to CRREPA to hand weed the Rossmoyne/Shelley foreshore, and CRREPA now supervises a contractor paid for by the Council. An enthusiastic Greenskills/Ecojobs team and CRREPA members have been involved in weeding a very exposed, long lineal strip adjacent to a busy footpath.

We look forward to the release of the City's Draft Management Plan for the Rossmoyne/Shelley Foreshore in early 2000 and hope it will assist future planning and conservation works, and give recognition and credibility to voluntary bush carers.

We will be holding nature walks along the foreshore and hope to draw in local residents who will also help with our conservation tasks.

For further information call Diane on 9457 2896.

## Bunbury Region

### Bunbury news

by Carolyn Switzer

On 24 November, Vanessa Yeomans, the honours student sponsored by the Leschenault Catchment Coordinating Group, presented her findings from a year's study of the health of flooded gums on the Preston River near Donnybrook. These trees suffer from seasonal insect attack that causes the leaves to 'brown-off'. Each year they seem to be worse. Dr Bill Loneragon from UWA, Ian Abbott, Principal Research Scientist with CALM, and Wayne Tingey, Regional Manager of the Water and Rivers Commission, discussed the implications of Vanessa's findings.

Tom Ferrigo, CEO of the National Trust of Australia (WA), presented a certificate to Roger Edwards, the first landowner to covenant bush in the Shire of Harvey. The National Trust Conservation Covenanted Program can be contacted on 9321 0693.

The Bunbury Naturalists' Club are assisting Dr Vee Saffer in a study on the presence of pollinators in bush remnants. Vee's study aims to provide a ready guide to assessing the sustainability of a remnant. Several members spent three or four mornings with Vee standing on selected quadrats counting birds and bees!

For further information call Carolyn on 9721 0666.

# Group Profile: Friends of Korella Park Bushland



Friends of Korella Bushland at their 1996 plant-a-thon.

## Coastal treasure

In late 1995, earthmoving equipment had moved in and the near coastal shrublands dominated by *Acacia* and *Olearia axillaris* on Korella Street, Mullaloo were to be replaced with two playing fields. However, after the Friends gained the ear of the City of Joondalup, the City agreed that only one oval should be constructed and the remaining couple of hectares of bushland conserved. On the Friends recommendation, the remaining bushland was fenced and paths were constructed to control access so that the bushland would not become further degraded. Shortly after, signs were erected to recognise the 'Friends of Korella Park Bushland Revegetation Project'.

## Dedication

The Friends include a core of around a dozen dedicated members. Most are retired.

"I am so encouraged by their willingness to get in and do the hard work like weeding and planting," said coordinator Marilyn Zakrevsky.

"They have their own preferences: weeding, planting, picking up rubbish, but they also make themselves available for every work day in the Park."

The first Friends meeting was in March 1996 and since then they have received two State Government

Community Conservation grants for signs and Round-up for weed control, and two small grants from the council. They are confident that with sustained efforts, particularly weed and access control, that the natural bush will recover well. The group are carefully monitoring, protecting and collecting seeds from the uncommon *Scaevola anchusifolia* and *Leptomaria spinosa*.

## Busy in 1999

In 1999 an EcoPlan/Alinta Gas/ATCV bushland care day, EcoPlan's end of year wind-up and an Apace on-site seed collecting workshop were great boosts to the group. Despite the terrible weather during the bushland care day, the workers quickly removed weeds from two large areas. Seeds from the seed collecting workshops are being prepared for planting. Smoke germination treatment has also been very successful.

## Sharing and supporting

The group are very grateful for the support of Margo O'Byrne and the EcoPlan program.

"If it wasn't for the workshops and encouragement I may have given up," said Marilyn.

"I have greatly benefited from sharing the successes and failures, honestly appraising what needs to be done and visiting bushlands with other groups.

"The friendship of those with the same

kinds of interests and visions is tremendously supportive."

## Keeping it going

The Friends hope they will receive funds for the ongoing costs of Round-up and administrative incidentals. The help of a bush regenerator from the City of Joondalup and a management plan for the bushland is also on the wish list. More about the Friends in the *Regional Reports*.

## Contact

Marilyn Zakrevsky 9401 7132  
Work days and meetings are held on an as needs basis.

## Making seed collecting easier

Since last October 1999, a new program coordinated by Apace and funded by the Natural Heritage Trust is giving free assistance to community groups on collecting, processing and storing native seeds. The coordinator of the Swan Regional Seedbank program is available for on-site visits and can tailor a seed collecting and storing program to suit individual group needs. The project has adopted national best practice methods developed in the Florabank seed collection guidelines (see article on page 8).

Staff at Apace can process your collected seed. Community groups can also loan seed collection kits, take part in seed collection courses, and a nominated member can acquire training and accreditation in the operation of mechanical seed processing equipment at Apace for no charge. Apace can store seed in their temperature-controlled seed bank until required, and written records of seed holdings are available.

It is likely to be busy over the peak summer period, so book an appointment with the coordinator (times are available on weekdays and weekends) as soon as possible by calling Apace on 9336 1262.



## JANUARY

3 Monday - 23 Sunday

Coastwest/Coastcare summer activities program in the South West, includes coastal walks, rock pool rambles, canoe trips, coastal art classes, fishing, surfing. Call Nicci Tsernjavski 9791 4699.

5 Wednesday 8pm

Friends of Marmion Marine Park monthly meeting, Mt Flora Complex, Elvire St, Waterman. Call Lynda 9342 8684.

13, 14, 17, 18 & 19

Catchments, Corridors and Coasts, a hands-on environmental course for teachers, environmental educators and others, includes landcare, wetlands, coast care, permaculture, snorkelling, river care. Call Janette Huston 9574 6039.

15 Saturday 8am

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

15 Saturday

Volunteer training certificate course, Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre. Free for members. Call 9591 3077.

22 Saturday 8am

Guided bush walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland every fourth Saturday of the month. Meet at the cnr Castle and Hope Sts, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

29 Saturday 8am

Summer nature walk with the Friends of Trigg Bushland, led by David Pike. Meet in Elliott Rd, south of St Mary's School, Trigg. Call Robyn 9246 3954, Challis 9447 3521.

## FEBRUARY

1 Tuesday 7.30pm

City of Armadale Bushland advisory committee meeting, Armadale Settlers Common Field Study Centre, cnr Albany Hwy and Triton Cres. Call John Nicolson 9399 4949 (h). Also 7 March.

2 Wednesday 7.30pm

Armadale Settlers Common Management Committee meeting, Field Study Centre, cnr Albany Hwy and Triton Cres. Call Brett 9224 3137(w). Also 1 March.

3 Thursday 10am - 5pm

Salmon gums and soils: a Tree Society conference in Quairading. Speakers include Steve Hopper, Richard Hobbs and Colin Yates. Competitions for art, craft, photography and revegetation projects. Call Aisha Timol or Colin Walker on 9368 1919 or email walker@essun1.murdoch.edu.au.

4 Friday 7.30pm

WA Naturalists' Club AGM and presentation of slides from participants from the Carnarvon Range excursion, Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, Selby St Wembley. Call 9228 2495.

14 Monday and 15 Tuesday 8.30am - 5pm

Centre for Land Rehabilitation (UWA) and Kings Park - workshop on restoration of native plant species. Topics include restoration ecology,

propagule sources, top soil management, seed storage and germination, propagation. Call Sandra Maynard 9380 3827 or email sandra.maynard@uwa.edu.au.

16 Wednesday 8.30am - 5pm

Centre for Land Rehabilitation (UWA) and Kings Park - workshop on managing remnant bushland. Topics include seed banks, weeds, pests, economic value of bush blocks. Call Sandra Maynard 9380 3827 or email sandra.maynard@uwa.edu.au.

18 Friday 7.30pm

Natural history talk and meeting of the Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club, Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd, Peron. Come and learn about natural history and meet others. Call Val Davies 9592 1064.

19 Saturday 8am

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

23 Wednesday 5 - 6.30pm

Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group meeting, fourth Wednesday of the month, Aquinas College. Call Jan King 9450 5222.

24 Thursday and 25 Friday

Soil biological fertility workshop aimed at agricultural extension officers and others. Call Centre for Land Rehabilitation, Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, University of WA, Sandra 9380 3827 or email sandra.maynard@uwa.edu.au. Cost of around \$300 may be negotiable for community groups.

25 Friday

Deadline for Natural Heritage Trust grant applications. Call Peter Nash 9220 5300.

25 Friday

Entries close for the Banksia Awards 2000, national environmental awards in 12 categories. Call (03) 9419 7188, info@banksia.foundation.asn.au, www.banksia-foundation.asn.au

## MARCH

2 Thursday - 5 Sunday

*Changing Landscapes, Shaping Futures*, international landcare conference, Melbourne Convention Centre. \$275 for Landcare Groups for the conference, Landcare Awards dinner extra \$75. Bookings (03) 96 906 744, wscn@bigpond.com, www.nre.vic.gov.au/conf/landcare2000.

3 Friday 7.30pm

WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Kevin Coate on the development of ecotourism in WA, University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton St, Nedlands. Call 9228 2495.

5 Sunday

Clean Up Australia Day. Call Maureen McDaniel 9388 9377.

6 Monday - 9 Thursday

*Beyond the Beach; Coast to Coast 2000* national marine conference, Melbourne. Call (03) 9591 8881, www.vcc.vic.gov.au

7 Tuesday 8 - 10am

Bush regeneration at Blue Gum Lake.

Meet at the Scout Hall, cnr Disney St and Roundtree Rd, second and fourth Tuesday of the month, followed by morning tea. Learn skills with Kate Brown 9220 5300.

8 Wednesday 7.30pm

AABR(WA) bush care forums continue on the second Wednesday of every second month! This month is on weeding strategies in good condition bushland, Kings Park administration building. Come and share your experiences. Call Janice 9381 1479.

10 Friday 8 - 10am

Bennett Brook Catchment Group work day at Garden Vale Estate, Patricia Close, Caversham. Call 9377 0444.

16 Thursday 9 - 11am

Bush regeneration at Shenton Bushland. Meet at Lemnos St entrance, Shenton Park, third Thursday of the month, followed by morning tea. Learn skills with Kate Brown 9220 5300.

18 Saturday

Bennett Brook Catchment Group bird walk along the Brook. For details call 9377 0444.

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 9444 5640.

20 Monday 8-10am

Bush regeneration at Brixton Street Wetlands. Meet at the Alton St gate, Kenwick, second and fourth Monday of the month, followed by morning tea. Learn skills with Kate Brown 9220 5300.

21 Tuesday 8 - 10am

Bush regeneration at Blue Gum Lake. Meet at the Scout Hall, cnr Disney St and Roundtree Rd, second and fourth Tuesday of the month, followed by morning tea. Learn skills with Kate Brown 9220 5300.

25 Saturday 8 - 10am

Bennett Brook Catchment Group work day at Clarrie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham. Call 9377 0444.

25 Saturday and 26 Sunday

**Weekend environmental festival 2000** beginning with the official opening of the Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre at 10am Saturday, Safety Bay Rd, Peron, opposite Lake Richmond. Huge range of stalls and activities. Call 9591 3077.

31 Friday

Applications for Trailswest grants due. \$500 000 available for constructing, upgrading, and perhaps promotion, of non-motorised recreational trails, particularly rail to trail conversions. Please discuss applications as process has changed 9387 9700, www.msr.wa.gov.au

## APRIL

1 Saturday

All day seminar on managing bushland for fauna with Friends of Shenton Bushland. To register call Janice 9381 1479.

7 Friday 7.30pm

WA Naturalists' Club meeting and talk, University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton St, Nedlands. Call 9228 2495, www.wanats.iinet.au

## What's On in the Bunbury Region

### JANUARY

17 Monday 7pm & 18 Tuesday 9am

Seed collecting and processing information and training, Leschenault Community Nursery. Call Shirley 9795 7181.

22 Saturday 9am

Bunbury Naturalists' Club swim/snorkel at Busselton Jetty.

### FEBRUARY

19 Saturday 9am

Bunbury Naturalists' Club canoe trip on Collie River, meet at Collie Bridge.

**Busselton Naturalists' Club** meetings/talks begin again in February on the second Wednesday of the month at St Mary's Family Centre, cnr Albert St and Bussel Hwy. Visitors welcome. Call Bernie 9727 2474 (h) or 9752 1949 (w) for details. Monthly excursions are held the second Sunday after the meeting.

**Bunbury Naturalists' Club** meetings are held every third Thursday of the month, 7.30pm, Agriculture WA, gate on North Boyanup Rd or Dodson Rd, Bunbury. Visitors welcome. Excursions are held every third Saturday. Call Shirley 9795 7181 or Gordon 9797 0673.

**Leschenault Community Nursery** volunteer days, Mondays and Thursdays. Call Shirley 9795 7181.

These events will also be forwarded to the Swan Catchment Centre's monthly information sheet and **Riverlink** website at [www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon)

- Courses and workshops in a wide variety of environmental topics, such as bush care; attracting birds, butterflies, or frogs to your garden, also yoga, aromatherapy, and environmental school group programs. Available at the Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment. Call 9591 3077.

- Colour your year 2000 with The Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) gift catalogue which includes T-shirts, computer mouse mats, children's toys, solar-powered radios and calendars. The calendar costs a minimum of a \$10 donation and is sponsored by BP Australia. Call ATCV on 1800 032 501 or email [info@atcv.com.au](mailto:info@atcv.com.au)

- The Wildflower Society hosts talks on a range of flora and conservation issues and there are branches in Armadale, Darling Range, Eastern Hills, Murdoch, Northern Suburbs, Perth and regional areas. Visitors are welcome. Call 9383 7979 for contact details.

# Resources

## Managing dieback

The Dieback Working Group have purchased a 250 litre spray unit that is available to community groups for spraying phosphite to protect plants from dieback. It is mounted on a trailer so it can be picked up by a vehicle with a tow bar. The unit allows for much greater areas of vegetation to be treated than if spraying is done using back pack sprayers.

The Group have also produced a booklet called *Managing Dieback in Bushland: A Guide for Landholders and Community Conservation Groups*. The booklet gives advice on how to identify dieback in bushland and how to manage dieback and minimise its spread. There are also guidelines for bushwalkers, horse riders and cyclists. Most community groups should have received a copy in the post, however if your community group did not please call Sharon Kilgour on 9293 2111. The trailer can also be booked by calling Sharon.

## Managing Our Rivers

*Managing Our Rivers* is a new book by Dr Luke Pen from the Water and Rivers Commission which takes a comprehensive look at the unique character, conservation issues and rehabilitation approaches appropriate to the rivers in the South West of WA. It is very useful for anyone involved or interested in river rehabilitation or research. Copies can be ordered for

\$19.95, plus \$6 packaging and handling, by posting your payment to Communications Branch, Water and Rivers Commission, PO Box 6740, East Perth 6892, calling the Commission on 9278 0300 or through the Commission's web site at [www.wrc.wa.gov.au](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au)

## Land and water news

If you have access to email, then a useful way of keeping in touch with publications, events and conferences that relate to the management of land and water is to subscribe to the Australia-wide LAWNinfo service. Another service, LAWNads, keeps you informed of job vacancies, consultancies and scholarships in land and water management.

The listings are easy to read, brief email text and subscription is free. LAWNads bulletins are weekly and LAWNinfo bulletins are fortnightly. To subscribe to LAWNads send a blank email to: [lawnads-list-subscribe@webmedia.com.au](mailto:lawnads-list-subscribe@webmedia.com.au), and to subscribe to LAWNinfo send a blank email to: [lawninfo-subscribe@webmedia.com.au](mailto:lawninfo-subscribe@webmedia.com.au). If you would like a sample send an email saying 'LAWN sample please' to: [lawnads@lawnmedia.com.au](mailto:lawnads@lawnmedia.com.au). For further information take a look at [www.lawnmedia.com.au](http://www.lawnmedia.com.au)

## Kit for land holders

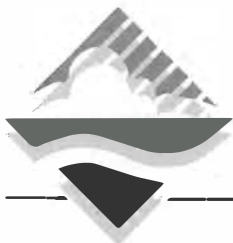
There has been a dramatic increase in the number of people buying small

holdings in the Swan-Avon region in the last ten years. The Woorlooloo Brook Landcare Group has produced an information resource kit called *Caring for your Land: A Guide for Small Land holders* as part of their NHT-funded Urban Hills Catchment Activities Project. The loose-leaf format guide costs \$25, and purchasers will be sent updated information. It includes information on property planning, land management, the region's environment, regulations and requirements, roles of Government Departments, and people to contact for advice. To order a copy call the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC), Environmental Services, on 9479 4808 or send your order to EMRC, PO Box 234, Belmont 6984.

## Seed collection guidelines

Florabank is a national initiative by the Natural Heritage Trust, CSIRO, Greening Australia, Bushcare and The Australian National Botanic Gardens to improve the availability and quality of native seed for revegetation. Eight guidelines on best practice seed collection and storage methods, and a report based on a survey of revegetation practitioners have been produced.

For free copies of the seed collection guidelines and further information call (02) 628 18585, email [greenaus@ozemail.com.au](mailto:greenaus@ozemail.com.au) or write to Florabank, PO Box 74, Yarralumla ACT 2600.



If not claimed within 7 days, please return to  
Westralia Square, 141 St Georges Terrace, Perth, Western Australia 6000  
PO Box K822, Perth, Western Australia 6842

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