

# Bush regeneration across continents

"We are part of a bush care community that spans continents," Ecoplan coordinator Margo O'Byrne said after a recent study tour to Brisbane, Sydney and New Zealand.

She made many bush restoration friends, discovered inspiring projects and ideas, and reflected upon the direction of the thriving bush care mmunity in WA's urban areas.

"It was such a positive feeling to meet so many like-minded people from all walks of life and to see their ongoing commitment to maintain bushland," Margo said.

"There is also a growing awareness that community involvement is crucial if we are to maintain bushland integrity."

During the study tour, she was particularly interested in looking at effective partnerships between community groups, and local and state government agencies.

"From talking to many people about community involvement programs, I think that it is very important for local government and state agencies to be very clear about their expectations of " 2 community," she said.

Community groups should also decide what they can take on. We don't want to burn-out the community. I think one of the things we need is more formalised partnership agreements between community groups, management agencies and funding agencies to better support volunteers, particularly with onground technical advice."

Brisbane City Council has one of the best bushland management programs that Margo saw. The Council can be very strategic because it covers a large area with some 31,000 hectares of natural bushlands and wetland vegetation and a population of 848,000.

"Key reserves are managed by staff, and others are managed with the help of community groups and extension staff under the Habitat Brisbane program."

The City has spent \$46 million on bushland management and acquisition

in the last 10 years, acquiring 1800ha of bush. The program is funded by a \$30 levy on each rateable property.

Another well resourced Council is Ku-Ring-Gai in Sydney. It has two bushland coordinators, a grants officer and 16 full-time ground staff working on bush care activities. Ground staff are rotated in four teams: tracks and trails, fire prevention, bush regeneration and noxious weeds. This effectively breaks down any division between these areas. There is a compulsory free training course for community members who want to work in reserves managed by the Council.

The City of Wollongong also has a particularly inspiring community involvement program whereby agreements are drawn up between the City and community groups as to what is expected of each in managing bushland areas. When a group wants to become involved in caring for a bushland area, a landscape concept plan is drawn up by the bushland coordinator, a landscape architect and botanist, to determine priorities for bush restoration work. The City will hire a bush regeneration firm to work in the bushland and undertake a mentoring role for local community groups. This means that the group receive good training and site-specific information.

"If you are travelling interstate or overseas, I strongly recommend meeting up with other bush carers and taking a look at the work they are doing," Margo said.

Some interesting projects Margo discovered are outlined below.

- The City of Hornsby in Sydney has a budget allocation for primary, secondary and maintenance weeding for all of their reserves.
- An indigenous plant centre at Redlands in Queensland, a rapidly developing urban fringe, will showcase gardens using native plants.
- Wellington's Karori sanctuary is a community coordinated bushland

sanctuary with a predator-proof fence that cost more than \$2m and has 400 dedicated volunteers.

- Waitakere City Council has a generic environmental management plan for small property owners.
- The City of Wollongong has assisted their bushcare program sponsor McDonalds in developing recycling and worm farms for the store.
- A botanist at the City of Christchurch has produced a manual for staff on recognising the difference between native plants and weeds.

Margo O'Byrne was awarded the study tour by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in recognition of her long-standing commitment to environmental protection coordinating the Ecoplan program for nine years.

## Bridal Creeper strategy

The Animal and Plant Control Commission, CRC Weed Management Systems and the Department of Environment and Heritage are developing a national strategy for bridal creeper, one of Australia's bushland weeds of national significance.

A questionnaire has been developed so that bush carers with on-ground experience can have input into the strategy. The questionnaire seeks information on how widespread the creeper is, control methods that have been found effective, and reflections on what is needed to control it. The questionnaire can be mailed or emailed to you and you can register to receive a draft copy of the strategy when it is completed. For further information or to discuss the strategy contact your state representative, Frank Batini on 9334 0368.

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**Ecoplan** NEWS

# R Ecoplan Update

with Margo O'Byrne, DEP community involvement co-ordinator

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Ecoplan has been working with the Swan Catchment Centre and

Greening Australia Bushcare Support to plan the training calendar for this year. We certainly received positive feedback from the training sessions held last year and hope the sessions planned for this year are useful and relevant to you in your conservation work and group and project management. A package has been sent out to all groups with details of various courses. Some of these courses require a minimum number of participants and expressions of interest are called for to ensure we can make best use of the available funds. Please ask your group leader or secretary for a copy of the information or call the Swan Catchment Centre (9220 5300) to obtain a copy. Courses are usually available free to members of community conservation groups.

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The Australian Association of Bush Regenerators WA (AABR) are again conducting their very

informative bush regeneration forums on

the second Wednesday of every second month. In May the topic is *Talking about tools* (see *What's* On section for details). AABR have awarded their first accreditation for a regenerator who has met the standards of bush regeneration knowledge and completed 200 hours on ground work in bushland. Congratulations to Bob Dixon of Kings Park for being the first AABR accredited regenerator. We look forward to many others joining him in this accreditation.

Several peak organisations have held their annual general meetings in the past two months. Best wishes to all members of new committees with the valuable work of environmental care. Don't forget the training opportunities available through the Swan Catchment Centre for all committee members.

We are very happy to have Cath Drake working with Ecoplan (Tuesday and Wednesday each week) until mid June.

Margo

## Bushland Care Days in 2000

The launch of the 2000 Ecoplan/AlintaGas/ Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) Bushland Care Days will be held on Saturday 13 May 2000 at 9 am at Mt Henry Bushland. If you would like to attend please call Kelly Rylander on 9222 8649 or Linda Taman on 9377 5621.

At each Bushland Care Day ATCV will be working on day-long bush care projects with friends groups. We welcome the participation of community members, service

## You can help!

30 April	Quinns Rock, removing wood weeds
13 May	Mt Henry bushland, erosion control
21 May	Parkerville Village Reserves, planting and weed removal
10 June	Yellagonga Regional Park, planting and weeding
11 June	Canning River (CREEPA), plant sedges and understory plants
17 June	Korella Park, Mullaloo, planting and weeding
25 June	River Canning, Thornlie, planting
1 July	Allan Park, Swanbourne, planting
9 July	Bold Park, planting
23 July	Darlington, weed control and replanting
29 July	Hepburn/Pinneroo, weeding
6 August	Trigg Bushland, removal of carnation weed
13 August	Hollywood Bushland, weeding
20 August	Wilson Wetlands, planting
26 August	Talbot Road, Stratton, weeding
9 September	Blue Gum Lake, Melville weeding
16 September	Brixton St, Kenwick, weeding and planting
24 September	Bob Blackburn Reserve, Armadale, weeding
8 October	Shenton Bushland, weeding
14 October	Warwick, weeding
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For further information about Bushland Care Days or to register your interest in attending please contact ATCV on 9336 6911

nunity members, service organisations, church groups or any other groups or individuals who would like to get involved in some 'hands on' bushland care.

Bring gloves, sturdy shoes, protection from the elements and a sense of adventure. A free barbecue lunch is provided.

For further information about Bushland Care Days or to register your interest in attending please contact ATCV on 9336 6911

## Contributions

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

# Contacts

### Ecoplan office

### Margo O'Byrne

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Newsletter compiled by Cath Drake

## Ecoplan Econotes: Looking for lizards

### Notes from Robert Browne-Cooper, WASAH

Even in small good condition bushlands in the inner city there are often many local reptile species, sometimes close to the number of species found originally. Two-thirds of the reptile species found in the Perth area are lizards. They like the sandy soils for burrowing, and are also attracted to the granite outcrops of the Darling Scarp.

In the Perth area, there are ten species of gecko, three dragon lizards, three larger goannas or monitors, eight legless lizards and 27 species of skink. The marbled gecko and the fence skink are common in backyards and often found in buildings.

When looking for lizards in bushlands, be patient and 'think like a lizard'! lizards hide in places that are not too hot or not too cold and with some cover from predators.

The best times to go looking is during the day when it is sunny: not too hot or too cold. In autumn, young lizards will have just hatched, and during the spring breeding season lizards may be more colourful. Walk slowly and quietly, and watch the edges of the track.

The skinks are the most diverse and common lizards seen in bushlands. They range from the small legless worm lizard and fence skink to the larger bobtails and king's skink. The smaller ones are difficult to identify when they are 'on the run'.

On a bushwalk you may also be lucky enough to see a dragon lizard on low ranches, shrubs or fence posts, or a gecko underneath bark or perched on a twig. The larger goannas, like the racehorse goanna, are mainly found in larger bushlands on the outskirts of the city.

Lizards often hide in or under rubbish, particularly scrap metal, leaf litter,

heaped up soil mounds, decaying logs or blackboys, rocks and under bark. A rustle is probably a lizard and a more sliding sound could be a snake. Take care because several local snakes are venomous. If you do move rocks or litter looking for lizards, put them back how you found them! One of the best ways to find reptiles is to take a steel rake or three-prong cultivator and carefully rake over a small area of leaf litter about an inch into the sand. You will propably find lizards hiding under the litter.

The best nights to go spotlighting with a torch are humid, still, dark, moonless nights. It's probably best to first take someone who knows what to look for. Sweep your torch along track and shine it on the edge of the track 20-30m ahead and on branches of trees. Geckos eyes can reflect the light (similar to spiders) and have a slightly pinkish tinge. Legless lizards are usually nocturnal and so are more likely to be seen on the surface at night (they are generally in the leaf litter during the day).

The most comprehensive way to find out what lizards are in your bushland is for a biologist to do a surveys using pitfall traps.

For further information call the WA Society of Amateur Herpetologists (WASAH) members, Brad Maryan (secretary) on 9444 6412, Brian Bush (president) on 9295 3007 or Robert Browne-Cooper on 9445 2409. The Society has quarterly meetings (nonmembers are welcome), can offer advice and holds occasional field trips.

## Good field guides

- Bush B et al (1995) A Guide to the Reptiles and Frogs of the Perth Region University of WA Press.
- The WA Museum are currently updating their series of books on lizards.

# Searching for the noisy scrub bird

The Albany office of CALM and the Threatened Species Network are looking for volunteers to help locate noisy scrub birds on the south coast. This is a chance to see some wonderful south coast scenery and hopefully hear or maybe catch a glimpse of one of our critically endangered bird species as well. You need to be fit, and experience with bird calls is an advantage, but not essential. The volunteer program will run from May to August and you must be available for at least one 12-day field trip. Volunteers are also needed to participate in a survey of noisy scrub birds in the Darling Range in late April/early May. For further information and dates call Sarah Comer on 9842 4500 or email sarahc@calm.wa.gov.au.

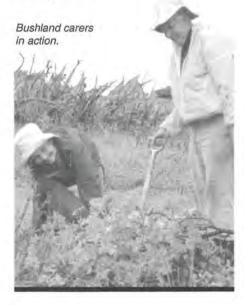
## Bushland Care Days inspire

The following is an extract from a wonderful letter from Yoko, a Japanese student travelling in Australia. She attended several Ecoplan/ATCV/Alinta Gas Bushland Care Days and tells of her experiences.

"In Perth I got confidence about my English. The ATCV Bushland Care Days are one of the best memories I have. It has also made me have confidence and what I am now. I participated in the projects five times. I will never forget the starting point. It was on 29 May 1999 at Yellagonga Regional Park. I was so excited, but tense with worry about my English. But when I met Conrad, the ATCV coordinator, he smiled at me and explained what we are going to do, politely, to me.

"The work was much harder than I expected, but as I was working in the bush, I was getting to feel that I'm at one with nature and I found that the smell of soil can heal my worries and stress. We worked, taking our time, listening to the bird songs and the sound of a breeze under the sun. I forgot this way of enjoying life and relaxing because I had worked hard in Japan for three years, inside. I learned human being are one with nature, so we must take care and protect any endangered species and trees. Just like hanging out with friends and being with family, just a small effort. I think it was worthwhile participating in these projects, because I made Aussie friends, I gained confidence, could get to know people in Perth and I was getting to think about something difficult optimistically. By the way, the yummy free BBQs were a bonus.

I'd like to do volunteer work as long as I can and I'm honoured that I could help these projects."



## **Central Region**

### Draft management plan for Bold Park

by Alan Everett, Friends of Bold Parl

On 8 February, the Minister for the Environment Cheryl Edwardes launched the Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Bold Park. The announcement took place at a very pleasant, albeit hot, ceremony at the top of Reabold Hill. The document is open for public comment until 18 April before the final version is prepared. The plan is intended to last for five years before revision.

There was considerable public involvement in the preparation of the EMP through a range of workshops, written submissions, a community open day and the work of a community advisory group. The information obtained from these community activities was resourced by the consultants, PPK Environment and Infrastructure, with input by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA), to prepare the Plan.

A representative from the BGPA attended the Friends of Bold Park Bushland annual general meeting on 21 March and gave a brief overview of the draft EMP. This occasion provided an excellent opportunity for the Friends to enquire further about any aspect of the document and to voice opinion on what is presently being proposed.

Copies of the EMP are available for perusal at the following locations

Bold Park Administration, Kings Park and Botanic Garden Administration, Floreat Library, Joan Watters Community Centre, Town of Cambridge Administration and the Nedlands Public Library,

For further information on the EMP call the Bold Park office on 9387 0800. The Friends group can be contacted via Alan Everett on 9380 3317 (w).

#### South Perth bushlands

#### by John Feldman

Over the past few months members of the City of South Perth Environment Association (COSPEA) have been working with the local member for South Perth, Mr Phillip Pendal, the City of South Perth's environmental officer, and representatives from Landcorp in devising a plan for the protection and regeneration of the 0.8 hectare Public Open Space bushland area on the old Mount Henry Hospital site at Salter Point. This plan will involve perimeter fencing and some internal fencing, provision of public access paths and fire vehicle access tracks, weed control and some replanting with local plant. species. Mr Pendal also hopes to have a piece of a 200-year old marri tree mounted near the bushland as a reminder to residents of what vegetation once grew in the area. The marri tree had to be removed as part of the residential redevelopment as it was badly infested with termites and presented a danger to the public.

In late February, a group tour of bushland areas was lead by Andrew Thomson to examine weeds, wildflowers and firebreaks. The group of 13 included a councillor from each of the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park councils. The tour visited Goss Avenue and Koonawarra Primary School bushland in Karawara, Davilak Reserve in Manning, Kensington bushland and Hillview Terrace bushland in East Victoria Park.

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

#### Volunteers enjoy bush breakfast

#### by Janice Marshall

Kate Brown, the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) project officer who is working with us, started a monthly, mid-week bush regeneration session in June last year. This attracted new volunteers whom she rewarded at morning tea

time with her delicious home-made cakes and freshly brewed coffee.

With the hot summer weather and the task ahead of collecting a lot of seed, it was an easy step to decide to change this to 'Breakfast in the Bush' on a Thursday morning. The response was amazing, with eight new people attending in January!

We started at 7am and stopped for breakfast at 8.30am. Out came the table cloth, the fruit and fruit juice, home made goodies, tea and coffee. Each of the three breakfasts were sociable and most enjoyable, and lots of seed was collected. Such occasions take a fair bit of preparation, and so once a month is enough for us. However, we have learnt that you have to try something new if you want to attract more volunteers. Some of them commented, for example, that the early morning start enabled them to come before going off to work. Our last breakfast for this season was on 16 March.

For further information call Dani on 9381 3470.

#### Creatures at Hollywood Reserve

The Friends of Hollywood Reserves invited the University of Western Australia Department of Zoology to study Hollywood Reserve and this was taken up by three third year students: John Bunn, Liz Fox and Jarred Cousins, under the supervision of the Head of the Department, Professor Don Bradshaw.

A month-long survey was undertaken before Christmas to discover just what creatures, furry or otherwise, resided in the Reserve, Unfortunately, the survey proved that Hollywood Reserve is very short of native furry creatures. Introduced animals like foxes (two seen recently), cats (seen hunting) and dogs, have obviously taken their toll. However, the students were delighted to find a good selection of reptiles, including some skinks and legless lizards thriving in the bush. No snakes were found.

After dark, mist nets were used and a breeding colony of bats was discovered. One very indignant frogmouth was also caught in the nets. It was released without harm, except loss of dignity! The students said they heard cats fighting.

Surveys such as this encourage the volunteers in our bushland to continue their work in the hope of improving the area so that more native animals, birds and insects can return. To this end, a major effort is being made this year to plant shrubs to provide more protective cover and food throughout the year for birds, insects and reptiles .

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

## North West Region

### Magnificent Craigie Bushland

by Cherie Wood, Friends of Craigie Bushland convener

The inaugural meeting of the Friends was held on 8 September 1999, and attended by residents concerned about the conservation of our magnificent. tuart/jarrah/banksia woodland. The reserve is fringed on the western side by the unique Ouindalup dune system which supports allocasuarina/quandong shrublands. The 56.7ha of bushland is bounded by the Mitchell Freeway, the Craigie Leisure Centre, Whitfords Avenue and the Beenyup Sewage Treatment Plant.

In 1989, this area was designated as a 'commercial residential area' and tenders were called to erect a huge sports complex supported by roads and car parks. Tenders did not meet the Wanneroo Council's guidelines and thanks to numerous conservationminded people, the plans were overthrown and the bushland was saved for the kangaroos, wallabies and future generations.

The bushland has suffered badly from off-road vehicles forging many tracks. In recent times, the Joondalup Council has looked upon the area sympathetically. A temporary fence was erected along

the exposed Whitfords Avenue boundary, which partly controlled the entry points. In October, a draft management plan was produced. There has been frequent and cooperative meetings between the Friends, the Council's rangers and the Water Corporation, with all parties agreeing that there is a need to upgrade fencing and complete the duel purpose limestone path to protect the area and encourage passive recreational use.

We feel that with these two items attended to, the bushland will regenerate well. It is already doing well where the tracks have been closed. Our main concern is the degradation of the Quindalup dunes This area is mostly owned by the Water Corporation and we are relieved to have their cooperation.

Sue Davies, FESA environmental officer and the local Fire and Rescue team have already paid us a visit. A plan of the tracks with entry points and hydrants has been prepared. Friends meetings are held monthly, and bush walks are held on demand.

For further information call Cherie on 9402 5881.

#### Weeding at Gingin Brook

by Kate Brown, Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN)

Over the summer months the Friends of Gingin Brook have been working with a Green Corp tear on a project aimed at restoring the riparian vegetation along the Brook in the Gingin town site. The area has an over-storey of wonderful old paperbarks (Melaleuca raphiophylla) and flooded gums (Eucalyptus rudis) with an understorey including tassel sedge (Carex facicularis), pithy sword sedge (Lepidosperma longitudinale) and a native tern (Cyclosorus interuptus). Major weeds invading the area include the edible fig, arum lily, and blackberry. EWAN has been able to offer support to the project in the form of technical advice, on-ground support and some training activities.

The project started off with a small seminar on managing arum lily along the Brook aimed specifically at the local community. Gary and Diane Matthews talked to the Green Corp group about their experiences managing arum lily in Yagan Wetland. Following the seminar, small isolated populations of the lily in intact vegetation were removed by hand. Monitoring of the site has already revealed that deadly night shade moves in fairly quickly once the arum lily has gone and this is closely followed by germination of arum lily seedlings. We are looking forward to the time when tassel sedges and fern begin to move in! A herbicide control program is being developed to look at managing t denser infestations of arum lily.

In January, Julie Roberts talked to group about the successful blackberry removal program at Bannister Creek, and subsequently hand removal occurred along the Gingin project site. Green Corps did a wonderful job removing all major infestations. The hand removal program will need to be followed by a carefully targeted herbicide control program.

Other weeds being tackled include morning glory, Japanese honey suckle and virginia creeper. The next major challenge is the taro growing in permanently inundated areas of the Brook!

For further information contact Kate Brown on 9220 5300.

#### Yellagonga Regional Park news

by Hans Jacob, Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park

The Friends have recently recruited more members who are looking forward to making a contribution to our conservation works. Currently the group is preparing a record of the history, needs and work programs for the four Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) project areas in the Park. The next step in the process is to run it past CALM to ensure it is consistent with the plan of management and find

out how CALM can help us implement our NHT grant.

The number of plants we are growing in the nursery this season has increased significantly because there has been greater demand for plants from our group, particularly in anticipation of the forthcoming field days in our project areas. In the past, we have focused on growing large trees (over-storey), but we are now diversifying and will plant a lot of understorey to complement the large canopy of over-storey.

The City of Joondalup has requested approximately 5000 trees. We are also growing plants for Korella Park in Mullaloo and a small amount for Warwick Open Space. There is currently a total of 13000 plants in the nursery at various stages of growth. Germination success this year has improved considerably. This seems to be due to applying smoke to all seeds for approximately one hour prior to planting.

We have recently updated our membership pamphlets, and Jacquie Harvey has volunteered to organise the Community Education Team and take our displays to various shopping centres on a bimonthly basis. The last display was at Kingsway Shopping Centre and it resulted in new members joining the Friends. Thanks to the people helping Jacquie prepare the photos and upgrade the displays!

The management plan for the Regional Park is ready CALM to submit to the Minister in mid-March ad it should be released late in 2000.

For purther information on the management plan call Laurie on 9409 1409(h) and on the Friends group call Hans on 9222 7178(w) or 9409 5815(h).

## Hills Region

### Summer rain in bushlands

#### by Jenny Johnson, eastern hills groups

The rain in January was great for our 1999 plantings, but unfortunately the kikuyu, paspalum, couch and other weeds have also thrived! They are serious competition for the new plantings. The hot, humid days that followed the rain have daunted all but the most dedicated to carry out summer weed control. Roll on autumn!

Groups in the hills now have another task to carry out before the autumn rains. The January downpours have caused erosion along firebreaks and roadsides which need attention. The erosion is probably more widespread than evident at the moment, and I urge all groups where the rainfall was severest to check breaks, water courses and drains to minimise oblems later in the year.

Groups are planning activities in the coming season, including management plans, on-ground projects and implementing many grant projects. Everything depends upon when it rains! During March, some of the hardy groups will be tackling tasks such as blackberry and bamboo removal at Lion Mill Creek in Mt Helena, and kikuyu and paspalum spraying in Brookside Park and Bugle Tree Gully Creek, erosion control in critical areas and woody weed (such as exotic wattles) control along the Bridal Trail. These high energy tasks should keep us gainfully occupied until the weather cools and rain falls again.

Guildford Grammar students will help us with weed, erosion and dieback control and planting in 14 sites in the Mundaring Shire. From March to October these energetic young men will expend their energies on various environmental tasks. They have set aside every Friday afternoon from 10 March to 4 August, so there are sure to be some great outcomes. Thank you Guildford Grammar School! We will continue to receive support from local schools, Lions, volunteer fire brigades, ratepayer associations, Guides, Venturers, Scouts, Brownies, Midland TAFE and Green Corps.

Representatives from Mundaring, Swan and Kalamunda groups travelled to Melbourne in early March to take part in the International Landcare Conference. The Mundaring Shire was also the WA finalist in the Telstra Landcare Awards for local government. Although the Shire did not win the national award our good standing in this competition is a real acknowledgment of the landcare efforts by Shire officers and local residents.

If you can also lend a hand on Friday afternoons to assist

South Region

### UBC focus on Cockburn to Rolevstone

The Urban Bushland Council (UBC) has received NHT funding to employ three project officers Loretta Bean, Isabella Jennings and Felicity McGeorge to assist establish, support and maintain 'friends' groups in the Perth Region. In the first year the project officers will be concentrating their activities within the southern belt of Perth from Cockburn through to Roleystone. Isabella's main role is to facilitate the development of new groups, provide advice and contacts, prepare appropriate resources and organise a workshop. Loretta will provide new groups with technical advice on management issues and organis and supervise on-ground work days. Felicity will help build partnerships between 'friends' groups and their local government authority and provide general assistance.

So far, assistance has been provided to several new groups including Friends of Mt Claremont Banksia Bushland, South Lake Bushland Group and Friends of Kensington Bushland, Links have been established with Cockburn and Armadale councils. A number of work days have been carried out, including seed collection at Mr Claremont Banksia Bushland. transplanting at Parkway Bushland in Bibra Lake and Clean Up Australia Day activities at the Canning Mills Road Reserve in Roleystone.

If you would like assistance from the UBC or are interested in starting up a 'friends' group contact the UBC on 9420 7207.

## South East Region

## Locals learn about foreshore

by Diane Matthews, CRREPA

Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association (CRREPA) has put together a diverse program for 2000 to entice members and local residents to participate in the work being carried out to conserve foreshore vegetation and improve water quality. So far, we have been encouraged by good attendance at a riverside walk held early on a Sunday morning in February. A mix of local history, botanical and fauna information was discussed and several walkers stayed afterwards to chat over cordial and biscuits. It was a lovely morning and encouraging to observe the improvement in the condition of the local Eucalyptus rudis, which gleamed from the recent nitrogen-rich rains. Our next walk is on 1 April.

Members have collected seed from foreshore sedges and this was followed up with a seed-raising workshop. An experienced member generously gave many tips and advice and CRREPA provided seedraising soil, smoke water and seed-raising boxes. Very little dryland vegetation remains in the area. Anigozanthus manglesii seed has been kindly provided by a Wildflower Society member. We intend to plant our seedlings during the coming winter and spring.

A members picnic is planned for the near future and we are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable

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#### For further information call Jenny on 9295 4467.

Guildford Grammar School students or can help supervise activities please call Linda Kirshner on 9290 6666.

For further information call Diane on 9457 2896

#### Too many fires at Brixton Street Wetlands

There has been four fires at Brixton Street Wetlands over the last ten months: in May, December, January and February and this has been of great concern to the Friends of the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands. The January fire was the biggest. The following is an extract from Friends member Nick Buters' account of the lanuary fire.

"It was a nice sunny day in the high thirties on Sunday 2 January. That night at 11pm there was a howling easterly wind and somewhere behind one of the houses on Wanaping Road in Kenwick a fire started. Did kids play with matches? Did someone have a barbecue? Did someone throw a burning cigarette into the bush? Was it purposefully lit? We will never know!"

"Within minutes the fire raced through dry grass and reached the drain behind the properties. It jumped the four metre wide drain and then the three-metre wide firebreak in seconds, reaching the bushland and home of many animals. The Fire Brigade did everything they could but at least seven hectares of the 19 hectares of bushland was burned. After the fire, you could see the blackened corpses of the animals that came to such a horrible end and plenty of rubbish and bottles. We collected 200kg of broken bottles. Magpies picked on the remains of the animals.

"How can we avoid this? Can we store matches so children cannot reach them? Can we take care with our barbecues and cigarette butts? Please report fire bugs or any suspicious behaviour to the police."

For further information on the Friends group call Regina un 9459 2964

## **Bunbury** Region

### Regional Park hope

by Bernhard Bischoff

In Bunbury, we gather new hope that we will eventually have a substantial and sustainable regional park stretching from the ocean to the Preston River, including Pinjarra Plain, Bassendean, Spearwood, Yoongarillup and Quindalup soil types and plant communities

The review of the Bunbury Town Plan 6 and Greater Bunbury Regional Plan seemed like the best opportunities to influence the Bunbury City Council to put the regional park on the agenda. However, submissions, representatives, demonstrations, petitions, letters to Ministers and surveys appeared to have little effect on the more than eight year-long review. But, now there is new hope. The Mayor has recently officially stated that the Council would like to provide a corridor from Preston River to the ocean.

It seems that past planning has been directed more toward short term financial rewards and so has become inflexible. The great news is that the Town Plan, as approved recently by Council, now has three 'development zones' which include essential links within the vegetation corridor that now have no specific land use zoning. After public consultation, this will lead to new structure plans along the vegetation corridor. We will have another chance to have input into the planning of the regional park and can more confidently direct our energies toward managing this important corridor.

For further information call Bernhard on 9791 4113.

#### Nursery volunteers wanted

Ecoplan NEWS

Volunteers are needed to help wash small pots, report seedlings and other tasks at the Leschenault Community Nursery, Johnston Rd off Estuary Drive, Monday to Thursday from 8am to midday and some Saturdays. Even lending a hand for an hour is appreciated. Bring a hat and gloves.

Call the Nursery on 9791 4670, Shirley on 9795 7181 or Jacky on 9726 3168.

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# Group Profile: Fifteen years of action at Quinns Rock



QREG members (Left to right) David Wake, Jacqueline Keelan and Renata' Zelinova.

### A changing community

When some Quinns Rocks residents heard that a marina and residential development was proposed south of the town they banded together to look after their local environment. One of those residents was David Wake. He realised that the small town he lived in, set on the coast and surrounded by bushland, was facing great change as urban growth encroached.

In June 1995 he and other residents formed the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group (QREG). Made up of more than fifty people, QREG focuses on the area around Quinns Rocks from Eglinton to Burns Beach.

"Urban sprawl is extending up the coast. We try to protect bushland so that some of our natural heritage and sense of place remains," David said.

### Sustainable lifestyles

QREG's main focus is lobbying to conserve remnant bushland. They have held public meetings, written countless letters and submissions and sought media attention. Members have also undertaken bush regeneration, clean-up days, walks and ecological surveys in local bush areas such as Wattle Park and Gumblossom Park.

QREG has also taken action on other environmental issues. They have commented on waste reduction and recycling and urban planning and design issues.

"We try to promote more sustainable lifestyles. We want a greener future with bush retained in better-planned urban communities where people are involved in looking after the environment," David said.

## Some highlights

"With the highs and lows of campaigning you can get dispirited, it is sometimes hard to see where your efforts have gone," David said.

"Having a mix of activities from lobbying to community education and on-the-ground action has made the group's experience more rewarding."

QREG's achievements include undertaking flora and fauna surveys in local bush areas and hosting a series of workshôps on bushland issues. The workshops developed into a booklet, *Discover Your Local Bushland*, which has been widely used by bushland groups and others across Perth. (The booklet was published by Ecoplan and copies are still available.)

The Group prepared and distributed a brochure on growing local plants to encourage residents to grow plants indigenous to the area, foster appreciation of local flora and contribute to conserving biodiversity.

A landcare project by QREG members looks at remnant bush in the area from Burns Beach to Eglinton. The results include an assessment of vegetation cover change over the last 35 years and strategies for keeping bushland in the area.

The Group is pleased that bushland north of Burns Beach Road they have been campaigning to preserve was recognised in *Perth's Bushplan*. They are working to keep this area and Neerabup National Park intact.

### Continual learning curve

"Plan for success. You learn a lot as you go, accumulating knowledge on local environmental history and ways to look after what's left," David suggested.

"We gained a lot from talking to others. You realise that you are important as part of regional and global networks for change. QREG's involvement with the Urban Bushland Council, Conservation Council of WA and Coalition for Wanneroo's Environment supported what we were doing locally."

### Looking ahead

The Group holds regular meetings and activities. A priority is reaching out to the community and inspiring new residents to take part. QREG would like to see a local greening plan, prepared by the Council and community, to realise its vision to protect bushland throughout the area.

### Contacts

Karyn Shaw 9305 1405 Renata Zelinova 9305 9382

## Learn bush regeneration

#### by Kate Brown

The Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN), in conjunction with three 'friends' groups, is running a series of training sessions throughout the year in bush regeneration, and weed identification and management as part of their Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) project. The sessions are based around the 'friends groups' usual work programs and are aimed at sharing knowledge and skills with new volunteers.

EWAN's NHT project is focused on protecting our undisturbed bushland though careful weed management. We are looking at ways of dealing with weeds in good bushland, preventing weed invasion in these areas, and regenerating native plant communities in more degraded areas. The training sessions offer the opportunity for new volunteers to be involved in the management of some wonderful patches of bushland including Shenton Bushland, Blue Gum Lake bushland, and the Brixton Street Wetlands. The sessions are usually two hours long and often followed by morning tea. For details contact Kate Brown at the Swan Catchment Centre (9220 5300) or take a look at the What's On calendar.

Kate has recently developed a display on Watsonia control in good bushland and it is available for loan to community groups.

## What's On

#### APRIL

#### 13 Thursday 7.45pm

Armadale branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Anna-Marie Penna on Bushcare, History House, Jull St, Armadale. Call David Allen 9399 3458 or Chris Pidd 9398 9140.

#### 15 Saturday

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA/Shire of Mundaring Beginners Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance. Call Bronwyn Ryan 9220 5300.

15 Saturday 10am - 12.30pm SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA/Dieback Working Group dieback management workshop, Cockburn Wetlands Centre. Call Sharon 9293 2111.

#### 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.

#### 16 Sunday 9.30am

Drift snorkel with Friends of Marmion Marine Park from Beaumaris to Burns Beach. Meet in front of the caravan park at Burns Beach. Call Don Poynton 9300 3123 to register.

#### 16 Sunday 9.30am

Thomsons Lake bushwalk with Neil Goldsborough (Murdoch branch of rhe Wildflower Society), meet at the car park on Russell Rd. Call Neil 9417 9437.

#### 18 Tuesday 9am - 4pm

Native foods seminar: The Use of Australian Plants for Commercial Food Production. Muresk Institute of Agriculture, Northam. \$60/\$45 includes native foods lunch. Call Roger Scott 9622 1099, son@avon.net.au.

#### 18 Tuesday - 20 Thursday

Beyond 2000: Future directions in marine education, national conference, Notre Dame University, Fremantle. Call Sue Spenceley 9482 7333, sspenceley@fish.wa.gov.au, http://www.mesa.edu.au. Some display spaces available free.

#### 20 Thursday 9am

EWAN bush regeneration training a Shenton Bushland. Meet at Lemnos entrance. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

#### 22 Saturday 8am

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

#### 22 Saturday

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA/Shire of Mundaring Beginners and Advanced Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance. Call Bronwyn Ryan 9220 5300. 5 Wednesday I- 4pm

Djeran Fish Festival at Lake Richmond, Rockingham. Nyungah culture walks, talks and activities. Call 9591 3077. 28 Friday 7.30pm

Kwinana/Rockingham/ Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and discussion on the Biodiversity of Plants of Southwest WA and their Conservation, Rockingham Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd, Peron. Call 9527 4289.

#### 28 Friday 7.30pm

Night walk with the Friends of Trigg Bushland. Bring a torch. Meet in Elliott Rd, south of St Mary's School, Trigg, Call Robyn 9246 3954, Challis 9447 3521.

### 30 Sunday 9.30am

Bannister Creek bushwalk with Neil Goldsborough (Murdoch branch of the Wildflower Society), meet at car Clifton and Fraser Rds, Canning Vale. Call Neil 9417 9437.

#### MAY

#### 3 Wednesday 7pm

Information evening on Threatened Species Network community grants at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. RSVP by 28 April by calling Sandra McKenzie 9387 6444.

3 Wednesday - 10 Wednesday

National Science Week. For information on local events call Derek (Science Communicators, WA) on 9447 7500, education@underwater.com.au. http://www.abc.net.au/science

#### 4 Thursday 7,50pm

Murdoch branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Stan Webster on Acacias, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, Hope Rd, Bibra Lake. Call Neil Goldsborough 9417 3208 or Margaret Langley 9457 8484. 6 Saturday 9am - 12noon

Bush care at Brookside Park, Parkerville. Call Jenny 9295 4467.

### 6 Saturday

SCC/ Ecoplan/ GAWA/Royal Lifesaving Society Certified First Aid Course. Call Bronwyn Ryan 9220 5300. 6 Saturday

Nature reserves project morning (can include landcare, weeding, planting) on the first Saturday of each month with the Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club. For details call Bob 9531 3077.

### 8 Monday & 22 Monday Sam

EWAN bush regeneration training at Brixton St Wetlands. Meet at the Alton St gate Kenwick. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311. 9 Tuesday 8pm

Perth branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Bob Dixon on Designing a Native Garden, Subiaco Community Centre, Native Garden, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco. Call Greg 9381 4062. 9 Tuesday & 23 Tuesday 8am

EWAN bush regeneration training at Blue Gum Lake. Meet at the Scout hall, cnr Disney St and Roundtree Rd. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

#### 10 Wednesday 7.30pm

AABR(WA) bush care forums continue on the second Wednesday of every second month! This month the topic is Talking about Tools, Kings Park administration building. Bring your innovative tools, share your experiences and ask questions. Call Janice 9381 1479.

#### 11 Thursday 7.45pm

Armadale branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Clive Napier on Birding as a Hobby, History House, Jull St, Armadale. Call David Allen 9399 3458 or Chris Pidd 9398 9140.

#### 13 Saturday

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA/Midland TAFE Brishcutter Safety and Maintenance workshop. Call Bronwyn Ryan 9220 5300.

14 Sunday 9am - 12noon Bush care at The Falls, Hovea. Call Jenny

#### 9295 4467

14 Sunday 9.30am

Ken Hurst Park bushwalk with Neil Coldsborough (Murdoch branch of the Wildflower Society), meet at Dundee St deadend, Leeming. Call Neil 9417 9437. 14 Saturday 9.30am

Bannister Creek Catchment group Mother's Day planting morning and morning tea. Meet at the board walk between Adenia and Hybanthus Rd, Ferndale. Bring a drink, covered footwear, suitable clothes, suns mossie repellent. Call Georgia 041 991 5661. 14 Sunday 9am - 12noon

Bush care at The Falls, Hovea. Call Jenny 9295 4467

15 Monday - 21 Sunday

National Volunteer Week

18 Thursday 9am

EWAN bush regeneration training at Shenton Bushland. Meet at Lemnos St entrance, Shenton Park. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

#### 19 Friday 7.30pm

Night walk with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Bring a torch. Wear comfortable shoes. Meet at the Scout hall, Huntriss Rd, Karrinyup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

#### 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 9444 5640. 17 Saturday 9am - 12 noon

25 Sunday 9 - 11am

25 Sunday 9am - 1pm

12 Wednesday 7.30pm

16 Sunday 9am

22 Saturday

southwest

munagement.

20 Saturday 9am

near Bunswick

Cosy Corner.

21 Sunday 8 30am

14 Wednesday 7.30pm

15 Thursday 7.30pm

24 Saturday & 25 Sunday

oberations

for detail

27 Tuesday

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA seminar on Working

Weeding and planting at Lion Mill Creek, Mt Helena. Call Mike 9572 1697.

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA/CSIRO fungi walk and talk. Call Anna-Marie Penna 9220 5300.

Day-long Management of Wetlands forum at the University of WA, \$150. Call Sandra Maynard 9380 3827.

**Bunbury Region** 

APRIL

Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and ralk

by Harry Butler on his Barrow Is. Experience

Fire break maintenance at Ambergate Reserve with Busselton Naturalists' Club.

Meet at the Reserve car park, Queen Elizabeth Avenue. Bring rakes, chainsaws etc. Ficnic lunch at the lake.

part of the Cape to Cape track.

10 Wednesday 7.30pm

18 Thursday 7.30pm

Bunbury Naturalists' Club excursion walking

MAY

Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Howard Gill on freshwater fish of the

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and

Bunbury Naturalists' Club 4WD excursion

Busselton Naturalists' Club walk the rinth stage of the Cape to Cape walk: Boranup to

JUNE

Busselton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Jack Kinnear on Introduced Predators and Native Wildlife.

Bonbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk

by Michelle Widmer (CALM) on Wildfire

Fungi Identification workshop/course by Katrina Syme at Capel Wetland Centre, Lowe Rd, off Tuart Dr. Bookings with Busselton Naturalists' Club, \$10.

Busselton Naturalists' Club meetings/talks are held 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)

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meetings are

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 thurd Saturday. Call Shirley 9795 7181 or Gordon 9797 0673 for details.

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, and these are passed on to the Earth 2000 feature in the West Australian.

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Ecoplan News

discussion by Des Grosh on forest

with Public Land Managers, Swan Catchment Centre. To register call Barbara Jones 9220 5300.

21 Sunday 9.30am

Manning Lake bushwalk with Neil Goldsborough (Murdoch branch of the Wildflower Society), meet at Azelia Rd car park, Spearwood. Call Neil 9417 9437, 26 Friday 7.30pm

Night walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Bring a torch, cnr Castle St and Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983

#### 27 Saturday 8am

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

27 Saturday 9am - 1pm

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA/WA Museum/Alcoa Frogs and Sedges workshop. Call Barbara Jones 9220 5300.

27 May - 3 June

National Reconciliation Week

#### JUNE

#### 3 Saturday

9531 3077

Nature reserves project morning (can include landcare, weeding, planting) on the first Saturday of each month with the Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club. For details call Bob

3 Saturday 9am - 12noon

Bush care at Brookside Park, Parkerville. Call Jenny 9295 4467

3 Saturday 9.30am

Bannister Creek Catchment group reserve rehabilitation morning and morning tea. Meet at the board walk between Adenia and Hybanthus Rd, Ferndale. Bring a drink, covered footwear, suitable clothes, sunscreen, mossie repellent. Call Georgia 041 991 5661. 4 Sunday 9am - 12noon

Weed removal at the Quarry, Parkerville. Call Gabrielle 9295 4684.

5 Monday

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5 Monday & 10 Saturday 8am EWAN bush regeneration training at Brixton St Wetlands. Meet at the Alton St gat Kenwick. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

6 Tuesday & 11 Sunday 8am

EWAN bush regeneration training at Blue Gum Lake. Meet at the Scout hall, cnr Disney St and Roundtree Rd. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

8 Thursday 7.45pm

Armadale branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by John Robertson on Bush Regeneration, History House, Jull St, Armadale, Call David Allen 9399 3458 or Chris Pidd 9398 9140.

9 Friday

ARBOR DAY

10 Saturday 9am - 1pm

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA/WA Museum/Alcoa Frogs and Sedges workshop. Call Barbara Jones 9220 5300.

### 10 Saturday

Weed removal and track maintenance Alice Hebb Reserve, Parkerville. Call Phil 9295 4259.

EWAN bush regeneration training at Shenton Bushland. Meet at Lemnos St entrance, Shenton Park. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311

11 Sunday 9am - 12noon

Bush care at The Falls, Hovea. Call Jenny 9795 4467 13 Tuesday 8pm

# Perth branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Greg Keighery on "Lilies", Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco. Call Greg 9381 4062.

15 Thursday 9am



## Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation

Community organisations and local governments involved in nature conservation projects are invited to submit applications for funding from the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation, a Lotteries Commission of WA initiative. Community groups have received funding mainly for capital items for activities such as revegetation, weed control, signage, and fencing. Applications can be submitted throughout the year. Guidelines and application forms can be obtained by calling 9340 5270. Please call the Foundation's executive officer. Michael Sandford (on the same phone number) to discuss your application prior to submitting.

## Threatened species projects wanted

Incorporated community-based organisations are encouraged to apply for \$5,000 to \$50,000 for projects that work toward the recovery of threatened species and ecological communities. The Threatened Species Network grants program is funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and World Wide Fund for Nature. The grants aim to assist community groups in undertaking long-term responsibility for conservation and onground work is given a high priority. Partnerships with government agencies, local government, schools and universities are encouraged. To register your interest or obtain guidelines and application forms call Sandra McKenzie on 9387 6444. An

information evening will be held on 3 May (see Whats On section for details). Please RSVP by 28 April.

Coast and Clean Seas (NHT) grants are also available and close on 18 May. For further information call John Baird on 9264 7835 or see the web site at www.environment.gov.au/net/ccs.

## Guide to covenanting

A new brochure, Your Land its Future: Choices for Conservation Covenanting in WA, has been produced by Agwest, CALM and the National Trust (supported by the Natural Heritage Trust). It discusses the concept of covenanting, design examples and the options currently available. A covenant is a, voluntary legally-binding agreement attached to the land title to manage bushland according to conservation principles and it ensures the long term conservation of bushland. Copies of the brochure are available from Agwest on 9368 3282, CALM on 9334 0455 or the National Trust on 9321 6088.

## Environmental Weed Strategy released

CALM has released the Environmental Weed Strategy for WA. It was produced with the assistance of a steering committee which included representatives from the National Parks and Nature Conservation Society, Wildflower Society, Environmental Weeds Action Network, Agriculture WA, DEP, CALM and the Water and Rivers Commission. Information from the strategy has been fed into the *State Weed Plan* (SWP). This report includes more detail than the SWP on coordinating environment weed control on the local, regional and state levels across tenures and landscapes. The document includes, *Weedbase*, a CD-ROM on identification, characteristics and control of 1350 weeds. The data in *Weedbase* will be continually built upon. Copies of the strategy are available by calling John Asher on 9725 5951.

## Running volunteer programs

Developing a Bushcare Volunteer Program: A Guide for Organisations is a wonderful new resource produced by the Volunteer Coordination Network and published by Greening Australia in Sydney. It covers policy and procedures, volunteer rights and responsibilities, training issues, occupational health and safety, insuranc development of resources, marketing and promotions. It is available from Bob Turner at Bushbooks for \$45 plus postage by calling (02) 4323 3274 or emailing bushbooks@ozemail.com.au. A reference copy is available at the Ecoplan office.

## Swan River health

Printed on 100% recycled paper

The recent toxic algal bloom in the Swan River has put the spotlight on river health. Swan-Canning Industry Survey is a draft report by government agencies, Bannister Creek Catchment Group and industries aimed at preventing chemicals and nutrients entering stormwater systems. It is available from Louisa Barnacle on 9278 0406 or email louisa.barnicle@wrc.wa.gov.au.

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