



## 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 community 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 the 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 on-ground 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 Kuring-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.

 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.

 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

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).

### 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, Mullaaloo, 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

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

## Contacts

### Ecoplan office

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### South-East Region

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### Environment Centre of WA

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### Greening Australia (WA)

☎ 9335 8933

### APACE

☎ 9336 1262

### Swan Catchment Centre

Bronwyn Ryan ☎ 9220 5300

Anna-Marie Penna

### Urban Bushland Council

Angela Carr ☎ 9450 6579

Isabella Jennings ☎ 9420 7207

Loretta Bean

### Bushcare facilitator

Wendy Payne ☎ 9474 7052

*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 branches, 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 probably 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 (non-members 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.

## 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."

Bushland carers in action.



## 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.



# 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 workshops 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 through 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.*



## 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 the 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, spenceley@fish.wa.gov.au, <http://www.mesa.edu.au>. Some display spaces available free.

20 Thursday 9am  
EWAN bush regeneration training at Shenton Bushland. Meet at Lemnos St 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, cnr 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.

25 Wednesday 1 – 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 cnr Clifton and Fraser Rds, Canning Vale. Call Neil 9417 9437.

## MAY

3 Wednesday 7pm  
Information evening on Threatened Species Network community grants at Hardsman 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](mailto: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 8am  
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, 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 *Brushcutter 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 Goldsborough (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, sunscreen, mosse 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.

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  
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.

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, mosse 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 gate, 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 at Alice Hebb Reserve, Parkerville. Call Phil 9295 4259.

11 Sunday 9am – 12noon  
Bush care at The Falls, Hovea. Call Jenny 9295 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  
EWAN bush regeneration training at Shenton Bushland. Meet at Lemnos St entrance, Shenton Park. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

17 Saturday 9am – 12 noon  
SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA seminar on *Working with Public Land Managers*, Swan Catchment Centre. To register call Barbara Jones 9220 5300.

25 Sunday 9 – 11am  
Weeding and planting at Lion Mill Creek, Mt Helena. Call Mike 9572 1697.

25 Sunday 9am – 1pm  
SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA/CSIRO fungi walk and talk. Call Anna-Marie Penna 9220 5300.

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

## Bunbury Region

### APRIL

12 Wednesday 7.30pm  
Busseton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Harry Butler on his *Barrow Is. Experience*.

16 Sunday 9am  
Fire break maintenance at Ambergate Reserve with Busseton Naturalists' Club. Meet at the Reserve car park, Queen Elizabeth Avenue. Bring rakes, chainsaws etc. Picnic lunch at the lake.

22 Saturday  
Bunbury Naturalists' Club excursion walking part of the Cape to Cape track.

### MAY

10 Wednesday 7.30pm  
Busseton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Howard Gill on freshwater fish of the southwest.

18 Thursday 7.30pm  
Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and discussion by Des Grosh on forest management.

20 Saturday 9am  
Bunbury Naturalists' Club 4WD excursion near Bunswick.

21 Sunday 8.30am  
Busseton Naturalists' Club walk the ninth stage of the Cape to Cape walk: Boranup to Cosy Corner.

### JUNE

14 Wednesday 7.30pm  
Busseton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Jack Kinnear on *Introduced Predators and Native Wildlife*.

15 Thursday 7.30pm  
Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Michelle Widmer (CALM) on *Wildfire operations*.

24 Saturday & 25 Sunday  
*Fungi Identification* workshop/course by Katrina Syme at Chapel Wetland Centre, Lowe Rd, off Tuart Dr. Bookings with Busseton Naturalists' Club, \$10.

Busseton Naturalists' Club meetings/talks are held on the second Wednesday of the month at St Mary's Family Centre, cnr Albert St and Busseton Hwy. Visitors welcome. Call Bernie 9727 2474 (h) or 9752 1949(w) for details.

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 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](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon), and these are passed on to the *Earth 2000* feature in the *West Australian*.

# Resources

## 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 on-ground 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](http://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, insurance, 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](mailto:bushbooks@ozemail.com.au). A reference copy is available at the Ecoplan office.

## Swan River health

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.barnacle@wrc.wa.gov.au](mailto:louisa.barnacle@wrc.wa.gov.au).



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