



Working together

Volunteers put a great deal of time and energy into bush regeneration projects. On-ground support from local government and other land management agencies can make a great deal of difference to the success of a bushcare project.

The traditional view of volunteers considers volunteer labour as a free gift. Volunteers are given special treatment and form part of an unstructured system where not too much is asked of them. This is sometimes called the gift model.

A more modern view treats volunteers as equally valuable to paid staff in an organisation. This system usually formalises the role of volunteers with a clear definition of the role and expectations of volunteers set out in a contract. This relationship is more like a two way street and there is a sense of obligation and responsibility on the parts of both the organisation and the volunteer. Everyone knows where they stand. This is often referred to as the contract model.

Over 200 groups in the Perth metropolitan area alone care for local bushlands, wetlands or catchments (sometimes called 'Friends of' groups). Each one tackles the task a little differently. Some concentrate more on bush regeneration and others on public awareness and lobbying.

The Friends of Shenton Bushland is an example of a busy and successful group who care for 24.5 hectares of jarrah-banksia woodland on Lemnos Street, Shenton Park.

A small group of members meet for bush regeneration activities on Sunday mornings. Over the last couple of years the Friends' efforts have been bolstered by more on-ground support particularly by the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) project officer, Kate Brown and more recently by Nedlands City Council bush care officer, Steve McCabe.

"It is wonderful to have Steve and Kate work in our bushland because they are familiar with this area, have the skills

and knowledge to discuss issues that are important, and guide us in the most strategic bush regeneration methods," Friends convenor Janice Marshall said.

"It reinforces and gives us confidence in our work."

Kate Brown has been trialling and helping to prioritise and monitor weeding techniques in Shenton Bushland since 1998. Weeding exotic species is the most time-consuming bush regeneration task facing urban bushland groups.

Steve McCabe was employed earlier this year after Friends groups in Nedlands successfully lobbied Council to have a bush care officer on staff.

"It is so much easier having him as a direct route to Council; we only have to liaise with one person," Janice said.

"And it's good to see Council taking responsibility for bushland management which is as important as caring for rose gardens."

One of Steve's key tasks is helping Friends groups undertake bushland condition and weed mapping.

"It's an essential first step in prioritising bush regeneration work and it allows you to track achievements over time," Steve said.

He is also working on a 'Friends Policy' to help clarify responsibilities and communication between the Council and community groups in caring for bushland.

Janice has a strong background in science, but she stresses that it is often very difficult for voluntary community groups to keep up to speed on bush regeneration techniques without professional support. She is the current president of the WA Branch of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR) which promotes the sharing and development of bush regeneration skills by trained people.



Local government working with the community - Janice Marshall with Nedlands bush care officer, Steve McCabe removing veldt grass.

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The busy time of year is well and truly here and while we are all hoping for the promised rains to sustain the early plantings there is a lot to be done.

On Saturday May 13 Environment Minister, Cheryl Edwardes, launched the Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day program.

After a wet Friday the sky cleared in the early morning. We were treated to a wonderful breakfast at the Aquinas College dining room with a peaceful outlook onto the Canning River. Many thanks to Jan King and her willing band of helpers and to the principal and staff of Aquinas for their hospitality.

Channel 9 news covered the launch and Aquinas student, Matthew Goerke gave a wonderful interview to the media. After breakfast the willing band of helpers rolled up their sleeves and enthusiastically took on the bushland restoration tasks (See article in Regional Reports).

The training sessions organised by the Swan Catchment Centre, Ecoplan and Greening Australia (WA) are being well attended and provide a variety of interesting things to learn.

The session on Dieback in April had 24 people attend with people turned away

for lack of space. All training sessions are free to community group members and are a great way to learn some new skills to help in caring for your bushland. Please see the What's On section for further courses and don't forget to make a booking with the Swan Catchment Centre. Notes from previous courses are being compiled and printed and will be available soon from the Swan Catchment Centre.

Ecoplan is producing a series of Information Notes for community groups covering topics like *Getting a Community Environmental Group Started*, *Keeping a Community Environmental Group Going*, *Getting Support for Your Group*, *Attracting Donations and Winning Grants* and *Bushland Management*. Further details about these publications will be available in the next edition of Ecoplan News.

Many thanks to Cath Drake who has worked on contract with Ecoplan for the past few months. Cath has been updating the *Realities, Dreams and Pathways* publication written by Brett Tizard and copies of that will be available soon. Cath also commenced an update of *Managing Perth's Bushland*. Thanks for all your help Cath.

Learning opportunities

A quick scan through our *What's On* section in the centre pages of this newsletter shows increasing opportunities to learn about caring for bushland, wetlands and rivers, including the following.

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA workshops and seminars include fungi walks and talks (9 July), chairperson skills (15 July), safe use of herbicides (22 July), bushland habitat enhancement for birds and bandicoots (5 August) and, a habitat and bushland management workshop (12 August).

Bush regeneration training sessions at Shenton Bushland in Shenton Park, Blue Gum Lake in Melville and Brixton Street Wetlands in Kenwick continue (3, 4, 17, 18 and 20 July, also see article in *Regional Reports*). These are lead by Kate Brown from EWAN (Environmental Weeds Action Network) in conjunction with bushland Friends groups.

The Australian Association Bush Regenerators (AABR) continue their bimonthly seminars (see 12 July and 13 September for topics and details). On July 27 AABR and EWAN join forces to present *Effective weed control in bushland and wetlands*, a day-long workshop for local government and others interested in bushland management.

Owners of hills properties will find the *Caring for your Land*, day-long seminar hosted by the Wooroloo Brook Landcare Group on 30 July has lots of useful information.

The Friends of Warwick Bushland are hosting a fascinating day of fungi collecting and identification on 23 July lead by Katie Syme, WA coordinator of the national FungiMap program. Katy will introduce you to the amazing world of fungi and explain how the FungiMap project works. FungiMap aims to map the distribution of 100 easily recognised fungi across Australia.

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APACE

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Swan Catchment Centre

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Urban Bushland Council

Angela Carr ☎ 9450 6579
Isabella Jennings ☎ 9420 7207
Loretta Bean ☎ 9420 7207

Bushcare facilitator

Wendy Payne ☎ 9474 7052

Newsletter compiled by
Cath Drake

Congratulations!

Water and Rivers Commission's Swan River Education Kit and CALM's Bushrangers program were finalists in this year's Allen Strom Eureka Prize for Environmental Education. The winner was the Australian Master Tree Grower program, a participatory program for farmers.

Farewell Anna-Marie

Best wishes to Anna-Marie Penna who is leaving her position as the Bushcare Support officer with Greening Australia (WA), which has been based at the Swan Catchment Centre. Anna-Marie will take up a position with the National Trust on the Covenanting program. We wish her well in this new position and thanks for all the support for bushland groups in Perth.

Spring Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the Spring *Ecoplan News* by 1 September 2000. Please keep your regional reports **under 250 words** and articles as **brief as possible**. Send us your photos! Fax, email or write to Margo (see Ecoplan contacts panel on this page). Thanks to all contributors.

In memory

Community bushland groups acknowledge the recent loss after a long illness of Don Edwards. Don worked with Friends groups at Trigg Bushland, Star Swamp and Marmion Marine Park and was active in the Northern Suburbs Historical Society.

STOP PRESS

Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program

Expressions of interest are sought from groups seeking funding under the Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program (SCULP). Funding is available for a wide range of landcare activities associated with rivers, wetlands and bushland in the vicinity of Perth. Applications close at 5 pm on **Friday 28 July 2000**. For further details call the Swan Catchment Centre on 9220 5300, e-mail saicc@wr.d.wa.gov.au or look on their web site <http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon>

Bushland and power lines

Information supplied by Western Power

Western Power has a dual responsibility to protect public safety and care for the environment. The organisation is keen to work with bushland groups in areas where there are power lines and they have provided the following guidelines on bushland and power lines.

Power line clearance

Trees that clash with power lines can cause power supply interruptions, bush fires and electrocution. Therefore, a safe distance between vegetation and power lines is critical. Generally, there are two types of power lines that may run through bushland areas and these have different implications for vegetation management.

High-voltage transmission lines (up to 330 000 volts) are usually constructed on tall wooden poles (at least 17 metres in height) or steel towers. Distribution lines (up to 33 000 volts) are generally constructed on wooden poles.

There should be a two metre clearance between power lines and vegetation underneath.

In addition, taller plants or trees should be at least six metres clear either side of high-voltage lines because of the risk of electricity arcing from the lines to the trees. In areas with a high fire risk, this minimum clearance increases to 10 metres.

Taller plants and trees should be at least two metres away from each side of distribution lines and 2.5 metres in high fire areas (see diagram).

If you would like more information call Rudy Teh on (08) 9326 4897 or 0419 834 733.

Planting near power lines

Understorey species that grow to under three metres in height are appropriate to plant under and near power lines. In bushland local natives are always best. Western Power has produced a guide showing 27 plants (WA natives, Australian natives and exotics) that are generally safe to be grown near power

lines. For a copy of this guide or further information on suitable plants please call 13 13 53. A booklet produced by Western Power and Greening Australia WA called *Perth Plants For Your Garden* lists power line-friendly plants and is available at a cost of \$4.95 from bookstores, nurseries and Greening Australia (WA).

Trimming trees

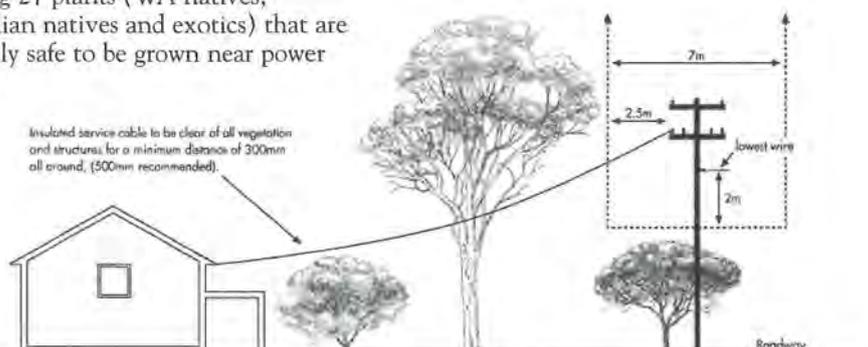
In most cases property owners are responsible for keeping trees clear of power lines. However, in natural bushland Western Power is responsible for tree trimming, except if the area has been planted or if it is a road reserve. Western Power recommends that you hire a professional tree pruner who is insured and trained to work near power lines to do the job in relation to trees on your property. Ecoplan also recommends that this is not a role for community volunteers.

Access tracks

Access tracks allow Western Power crews to check power lines and restore power if there has been a fault. Please ensure that revegetation will not (when fully grown) hinder access to poles, towers or access tracks. Access tracks can be included in bushland management plans and can be combined with firebreaks or other tracks where possible to minimise their impact.

Environmentally sensitive areas

Western Power is careful to take special precautions when carrying out work in environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs). Such areas include sites with rare flora and fauna, protected ecological communities, sensitive wetlands and Aboriginal heritage sites (information usually supplied by CALM). Western Power has 80 registered ESA sites. If you know of a special site near Western Power facilities please contact Lisa Edwards on (08) 9326 6463 or email lisa.edwards@wpcorp.com.au.



Specifications for distribution power lines in high risk areas.

Kate's employer EWAN is another supportive community group which promotes environmental weed control and awareness in the community.

AABR, EWAN, Kate and Steve help provide the group with technical advice. Steve and Kate also help relieve the load on a small, busy group of core members.

The Friends of Shenton Bushland have organised Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Days, Greencorp teams, local primary school students and Community Service Workers to work in the Bushland. Recently locals took part in 'breakfast in the bush' mornings where they lent a hand and shared in a fabulous breakfast spread prepared by the Friends.

The Friends hold a biannual seminar on bushland issues for the bush care community. Monitoring, direct seeding and fauna in bushland have already been covered. Individual members also take part in SCC/Ecoplan/GA(WA) bush regeneration and project management training activities.

"Our members have a variety of skills. For instance, John Adeney and Kim Gates have just completed a herbicide certificate course and Dani Boase-Jelinek not only makes a marvellous breakfast of sourdough rolls but has also made us a smoke machine and display signs, and he's a good document editor," Janice said.

Other regular tasks the Friends tackle are updating the notice boards, local publicity, compiling newsletters and monthly self-guided walk brochures, and liaison with neighbouring schools, land owners and utilities such as Western Power and Fire Services.

Get ready to bust weeds

Weeding activities, walks, talks and displays are needed for national Weedbuster Week, 8 to 15 October, to raise awareness of our environmental and agricultural weed problem. This year's theme is 'Don't hesitate weeds won't wait'. For further information call Sandy Lloyd on 9368 3760 or take a look at www.weedbusterweek.info.au. Please let Sandy know if you are planning an event so that she can put your activities on the national register for you to benefit from national publicity.



Working with local government

The Urban Bushland Council (UBC) is organising a seminar for Friends groups and councils on *Community Partnerships for Bushland Protection*. If your group would like to contribute a case study outlining the group's experiences encountered in working with your local council and the ways that issues have been resolved, please contact the UBC office on 9420 7207.

Southwest plant surveys

Volunteers are once again invited to register their interest in participating in this year's Wildflower Society Bushland Plant Survey Project supported by NHT, CALM and Ecoplan. Plant surveys and survey technique workshops will take place in the southwest during August, September and October in Boddington, Narembeen, Kellerberrin, Wyalkatchem, Port Kennedy, Balingup and Collie. If you're interested in taking part in the program please register with Karen Clarke as soon as possible on 9342 8482 (phone/fax/answer machine) or email at mark.brundrett@ccmar.csiro.au. She will send you out the details.

Group directory on the web

The Swan Catchment Centre (SCC) is developing a Community Conservation Group Directory of bush care, river care, catchment and environmental support groups in Perth and placing it on their web site. Inclusion on the list will make it easier for SCC to contact groups about training, publications, grants and events and for other people to contact groups. It may help groups to attract new members or sponsors and showcase their achievements and activities. Information can be regularly updated.

You can view the directory at www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon. For groups who do not have internet access, there is free access to the internet at SCC and printed copies of relevant sections will be available on request. At a later date, full printed copies will be available. If your group has not already been included in the directory and would like to be, contact Bronwyn Ryan on 9220 5307.

Local governments tackle dieback

by Sharon Lewis

The Dieback Working Group (a community and local government-based group) has produced a set of guidelines for local government to assist them in reducing the spread of *Phytophthora* dieback.

Many activities undertaken by local government (LGs) involve the movement of soil and plants, and therefore can potentially spread *Phytophthora* dieback. Until now, many local governments have found managing the threat of *Phytophthora* dieback too daunting. The new guidelines, which have been distributed to all LGs in the southwest, will make managing *Phytophthora* dieback more practical and cost effective.

Kalamunda, Armadale, Gosnells, Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Melville and Kwinana have already started to implement some of the guidelines. There has also been strong interest from a number of local authorities in the southwest, including Denmark, Albany and Margaret River.

Community conservation groups and bush carers can help protect their local bushland from *Phytophthora* dieback by:

- encouraging their local government to adopt and implement the guidelines;

- making sure precautions are taken to reduce the risk of spreading *Phytophthora* dieback when working in or visiting bushland; and
- considering using phosphite to protect susceptible plants in local bushland or on private property.

Funding for the guidelines was provided by the Natural Heritage Trust and the Shire of Kalamunda. For further information contact Sharon Lewis on 9257 9938 or Ian Colquhoun on 9397 6813.



Members of the Dieback Working Group (from left) John Nicolson, Sharon Lewis, Ian Colquhoun and Kevin Vear (CALM) at the launch of local government dieback guidelines.

Ecoplan Econotes: Roll on native slaters!

Based on research by Simon Judd, WA Museum/Edith Cowan University.

Tiny animals in our bushland, like slaters, are often very diverse, have limited ranges and make great contributions to our biodiversity. They also have critical ecological roles and particular requirements.

In world terms the south west of Western Australia is very rich in slater species. Research is still underway, but there's an estimated 50 to 100 species in 11 native and three introduced families adapted to different kinds of habitats.

Like shrimps, water fleas and crabs, slaters are crustaceans. They have seven pairs of legs, carry live young and are fairly easy to keep as pets in tanks. They have an important role in recycling organic matter. In the natural environment slaters eat mainly bacteria and fungi and rarely feed on plant life, but in backyards they are often accused of eating the vegies. They are a food source for many animals such as spiders, beetles, lizards and birds.

Native vs introduced

Slaters commonly found in our backyards and cultivated parks are more likely to be introduced animals, originally from Europe but now found in most parts of the world. In the south west of Western Australia (except drier Wheatbelt areas) introduced slaters, are generally three to four times bigger than the native ones (17 to 18 millimetres compared with two to 14 millimetres in the Perth area), more conspicuous and more likely seen out in the open. They otherwise look fairly similar to the natives. They're found in good bushlands, but are more common in disturbed areas, particularly where there is regular watering and a good supply of organic matter. Natives are often very small and may stay hidden much of the time.

There is one fairly sure way of telling natives from introduced species in the southwest. First determine if the slater is a 'runner' or a 'roller' (ie does it roll into a tight ball when in danger?), then turn the slater on it's back. Does it have soft, white patches or 'pseudo lungs' toward the rear (see picture)? These are air passages that carry out respiration. If so, count how many pairs it has. Use the table below to determine if you have a native or introduced species.

	pairs of 'pseudo lungs'
natives - runners	0
natives - rollers	4 or 5
introduced - runners	2
introduced - rollers	2

Finding the natives

The easiest way to find them is by pitfall trapping, but you need a CALM license to do this. Native slaters can be seen under logs, stones, loose bark on trees, or in soil and litter. Bushland with limestone (areas closer to the coast in the Perth area) seem to be richer in species. Perhaps this is

because the limestone has many crevices that retain water and organic matter, and are also good for hiding from predators. Native slaters are more likely to be abundant when there is moisture around and in spring when they are breeding.

Conserving the natives

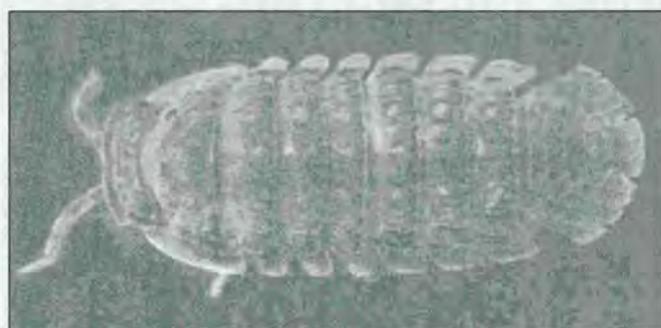
The presence of native species is probably an indicator of bushland health and even small urban bushlands can contain good populations. Conserving small patches of bushland is critical to conserving all of our native slaters (and probably many other little critters) because they have such small ranges and tend to live in pockets (eg moist areas) rather than be widespread in bushland. Some species have been collected from only one small remnant in the Perth area.

There isn't enough research to determine if the introduced ones are altering habitats and muscling out the natives. However, it's probably a good idea not to move soil or plant matter from one site to another because, as well as the potential for spreading dieback disease and weed seeds, you may also be introducing animals such as slaters.

Simon gave a paper at the *Fauna in Bushland* seminar in April held by the Friends of Shenton Bushland. He can be contacted at the WA Museum on 9427 2741. The proceedings from this seminar are being prepared.



Underside of introduced roller slater showing pseudo lungs at rear.



Front of native slater found around Perth.

JULY

1 Saturday

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day planting at Allen Park, Swanbourne. Call ATCV 9336 6911.

1 Saturday 8am

Guided bush walk with the Friends of Landsdale Conservation Reserve. Meet near the cnr Landsdale Rd and Evandale Rd, Landsdale. Call Phylis 9349 9105.

1 Saturday 8.30am

Rockingham Environment Centre first Saturday of the month bush care morning, Baldvins. Call Don Shepherd or Bob Goodale 9591 3077.

2 Sunday 8.30am

Friends of Kings Park fungal foray with leading WA mycologist Neale Bougher. Meet at the Kings Park administration building, off Fraser Ave. Morning tea included. Call 9480 3643.

3 Monday & 17 Monday 8am

Training in weed identification and removal, and bush regeneration techniques at the Brixton Street Wetlands. Meet at the Albion St gate, Kenwick. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

4 Tuesday 7.30 – 9pm

University Extension *Water and Western Australia* lecture series: *Understanding, Managing and Restoring Perth's Wetlands* by Jenny Davis. Cost \$20. Call 9380 2433.

4 Tuesday 8pm

Wanneroo and Northern Suburbs Branch of the Naturalists Club meeting and talk by Kevin Griffiths on *Fungi*, McDonald Pavilion Complex, Forrest Rd, Padbury. Call J Sinclair 9447 5392.

4 Tuesday & 18 Tuesday 8am

Training in weed identification and removal, and bush regeneration techniques at the Blue Gum Lake Melville. Meet at the scout hall, cnr Disney and Roundtree Rds. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

7 Friday 8.30 – 10am

Work day with Bennett Brook Catchment Group planting natives and weeding exotic species. Meet Sara at the footbridge, end of Patricia Close, Garden Vale Estate, Caversham. Call Sara Winter 9377 0444.

7 Friday 7.30pm

Perth Naturalists' Club monthly meeting and talk by Bruce Ward on *Land Management*, University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton St, Nedlands. Call 9228 2495, www.wanats.iinet.net.au.

8 Saturday 8am

Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland guided bush walk, second Saturday of every month. Meet at the northeast cnr of Burbridge and Koondoola Aves, Koondoola. Call Phylis 9349 9105.

9 Sunday 8.30am

Friends of Kings Park planting tube stock at a bushland rehabilitation site. Meet at the Kings Park administration building, off Fraser Ave. Morning tea included. Call 9480 3643.

9 Sunday 9am -12 noon

Bushcare Day at Falls Park, Falls Road Hovea. Call Jenny 9295 4467

9 Sunday 9.15 – 11.15am

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA workshop *Fungi walk and talk* with Neale Bougher in hills bushland. Bookings Barbara at SCC 9220 5300.

9 Sunday

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day planting in Bold Park. Call ATCV 9336 6911.

9 Sunday 3pm

Beach walk with the Friends of Marimion Marine Park, including coffee at 'Beachcombers'. Meet at Trigg Island boat ramp (near Clarko Reserve) and walk north. Call Lynda 9342 8684.

9 Sunday

Perth Naturalists' Club beach sweep excursion. Call 9228 2495, www.wanats.iinet.net.au.

11 Tuesday

World population day. Call Angelique Doueithi, United Nations Information Centre 02 9262 5111.

11 Tuesday 7.30pm

Wildflower Society of WA meeting and talk by Bronwen Keighery on *Perth plants: from river to sea*, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd. Call Bronwen 9381 4062.

11 Tuesday 7.30 – 9pm

University Extension *Water and Western Australia* lecture series: *Blue-green algal blooms in the Swan River: Natural or Man-Made?* by David Hamilton. Cost \$20. Call 9380 2433.

11 Tuesday – 13 Thursday

Soils 2000 Conference (Australian Society of Soil Science and Environmental Consultants Association): a forum on the interaction between soil and environmental science. Call Keith Lindbeck 9332 0671 or lindbkya@ca.com.au

12 Wednesday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Bennett Brook Catchment Group's Bandicoot Club for children activities morning including planting and sausage sizzle at Bennett Brook Environment Centre, 266 Lond St, Caversham. Club membership \$5 (children 6-12 yrs). Call Jackie Wright 9377 0444.

12 Wednesday 7.30pm

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (WA) discussion evening on *The why's and how's of planting local*, Kings Park Administration Building, \$2. Call Janice 9381 1479.

12 Wednesday

All day seminar on *Understanding urban wetlands* includes hydrology, groundwater, water and nutrient regimes, vegetation and heavy metals, government policy and case studies. Cost \$150. Please advise if you are interested in attending other similar workshops. Call Alanna Wood 9380 1050 or awood@agric.uwa.edu.au.

13 Thursday 8pm

Friends of Kings Park meeting and talk by Martin Revell, Water and Rivers Commission on *The Swan River System: Origins of an algal bloom* at the Kings Park Administration Centre, off Fraser Ave. To confirm call 9480 3643.

14 Friday 7.30pm

Darling Range Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Kayley Usher on *Marine Ecology*, CWA Hall, Kalamunda. Call Eddie Dell 9293 2270, Diana Papefus 9359 2676.

15 Saturday 9.30am – 1pm

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA *Charmerson skills* workshop. Bookings Bronwyn Ryan 9220 5300.

15 Saturday 8am

Guided bush walk at Lake Gwelup on the third Saturday of the month. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

15 Saturday 9am

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

16 Sunday 9 am - 12 noon

Bushcare activities at Hovea Conservation Park. Call Jenny 9295 4467

18 Tuesday 7.30 – 9pm

University Extension *Water and Western Australia* lecture series: *The unique marine environment off WA* by Chari Patriatchi. Cost \$20. Call 9380 2433.

18 Tuesday

Northern Suburbs branch of the Wildflower Society plant auction. Call Dave Bight 9401 6847, Marcia Cousins 9472 4478.

20 Thursday 9am

Training in weed identification and removal, and bush regeneration techniques at Shenton Bushland. Meet at the Lemnos St entrance, Shenton Park. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

21 Friday 7.30pm

Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and local history talks on the third Friday of each month, Rockingham Environment Centre lecture theatre, Safety Bay Rd, Peron. Call Val Davies 9592 1064.

22 Saturday

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA full day workshop on *Safe use of herbicides*. Bookings Bronwyn Ryan 9220 5300.

22 Saturday 8am

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

22 Saturday 8.30 – 10am

Work day with Bennett Brook Catchment Group planting natives and weeding exotic species. Meet Linda in the rehabilitation area, Clarie Small Park, Valley Brook Rd, Caversham. Call Linda Taman 9377 0444.

23 Sunday

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day weed control and planting in Darlington. Call ATCV 9336 6911.

23 Sunday

Darling Range Naturalists' Club beach walk at Mettains Pool. Call Eddie Dell 9293 2270, Diana Papefus 9359 2676.

23 Sunday

Rockingham-Kwinana Small Property Advisory Service *Bushland Management and Weed Control* half-day workshop in the field. Call Tracey or Jane 9529 3820.

23 Sunday 9am – 4pm

FungiMap workshop lead by Katie Syme and hosted by Friends of Warwick Bushland, includes fungi collecting and identification, Warwick Senior High School, \$10. Bookings Karen or Mark 9342 8482 (phone/fax/answer machine) or mark.brundrett@ccmar.csiro.au

24 Monday

ARBOR DAY

25 Tuesday 7.30 – 9pm

University Extension *Water and Western Australia* lecture series: *The water cycle in the deep ocean* by Greg Ivey. Cost \$80. Call 9380 2433.

25 Tuesday 7.30pm

Darling Range Wildflower Society meeting and talk by June Butcher on *Kanyana Wildlife Hospital and breeding program*, St Barnabas Church Hall, Spring Rd, Kalamunda. Call Monica Murray 9454 5775, Lee Nash 9291 7594.

26 Wednesday

Perth Naturalists' Club Jarradale excursion. Call 9228 2495, www.wanats.iinet.net.au.

27 Thursday 8.30am – 4.30pm

EWAN and AABR(WA) workshop for local government and others interested in bushland management on *Effective weed control in bushland and wetlands*, Kenwick Community Centre and Kings Park Bushland, \$50, concession available for community bushland volunteers. Bookings Barbara at SCC 9220 5300.

28 Friday

Nominations close for the Readers Digest Environment Awards 2000. Call 1800 817 626, www.readersdigestawards.com.

28 Tuesday 7.30pm

Eastern Hills Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Andre Schmidt, *Kanakamia* Sanctuary, Octagonal Hall, McGlew Rd, Glen Forrest. Call Jenny Mackintosh 9572 1697, jenmack@iinet.net.au or Stephen Sydzowski 9572 1091, syzshea@iinet.net.au.

28 Friday

Planet Ark National Schools Tree Day. Register your activity or become a volunteer. Publicity will help direct volunteers to your activities. Kits available. Freecall 1800 899 444, www.planetark.org.

29 Saturday 8.30am

Friends of Kings Park planting tube stock around the nature trail. Meet at the Kings Park administration building, off Fraser Ave. Morning tea included. Call 9480 3643.

29 Saturday 8am

Winter nature walk with the Friends of Trigg Bushland lead by David Pike. Meet in Elliott Rd south of St Mary's school. Call Robyn 9246 3954, Challs 9447 3521.

29 Saturday

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day weeding at Hepburn/Pinneroo bushland. Call ATCV 9336 6911.

30 Sunday

Caring for your Land, a day-long seminar for owners of properties in the hills at Gidgegannup on property planning, weeds, water, fire and stock management, bushland conservation, revegetation and soils. Bookings Woorooloo Brook Landcare Group 9574 6039, peakpot@vianet.net.au. BYO weeds and soil samples. Lunch and morning and afternoon teas provided, \$20.

30 Sunday

Planet Ark National Tree Day. If you register your environmental restoration activity publicity will help direct volunteers to you. Volunteers can also use the freecall number to find out how they can be involved. Kits available for schools and local government. Freecall 1800 899 444, www.planetark.org.

AUGUST

1 Tuesday 7.30 – 9pm

University Extension *Water and Western Australia* lecture series: *The oceans and global warming* by Anya Waite. Cost \$20. Call 9380 2433.

1 Tuesday 8pm

Wanneroo and Northern Suburbs branch of the Naturalists Club meeting and talk by John Dell on *Gedcos*, McDonald Pavilion Complex, Forrest Rd, Padbury. Call J Sinclair 9447 5392.

1 Tuesday – 4 Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

Greenskills *Introduction to plant propagation* course, \$200. Call Annabelle Newbury 9336 1033.

3 Thursday 7.30pm

Murdock branch of the Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Ken Aplin on *Frog habitat and frog-friendly gardens*, Cockburn Wetlands Centre, Lot 387 Hope Rd, Bibra Lake. Call Neil Goldborough 0413 822 077, Margaret Langley 9457 8484.

4 Friday

Nominations close for the National Bank Community Link Awards 2000. Call 1800 807 121, www.national.com.au (Community Link section).

4 Friday 7.30pm

Perth Naturalists' Club monthly meeting and talk on CALM's *Western Shield* project, University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton St, Nedlands. Call 9228 2495, www.wanats.iinet.net.au.

5 Saturday 8.30am

Rockingham Environment Centre first Saturday of the month bush care morning, Karnup. Call Don Shepherd or Bob Goodale 9591 3077.

5 Saturday 8.45am – 1pm

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA workshop on *Habitat enhancement: birds, bandicoots and bushland* with several presenters. Bookings Barbara at SCC 9220 5300, by 21 July.

5 Saturday – 11 Friday

NATIONAL LANDCARE WEEK: the theme is Olympic Landcare, activities include planting 2000 trees around Australia in 500 sites. Schools and others are invited to participate and fill in report forms. Your site could be included. Freecall 1800 151 105 for further information.

6 Sunday

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day weeding at Trigg Bushland. Call ATCV 9336 6911.

6 Sunday

Perth Naturalists' Club excursion to Parina and Karakamia sanctuaries. Call 9228 2495, www.wanats.iinet.net.au.

8 Tuesday 7.30pm

Wildflower Society of WA meeting and talk by Linda Taman on *Native pond plants*, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd. Call Greg Keighery 9381 4062.

11 Friday 7.30pm

Darling Range Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on *Sydlidiums*, CWA Hall, Kalamunda. Call Eddie Dell 9293 2270, Diana Papefus 9359 2676.

12 Saturday 8.45am – 1pm

SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA workshop on *Habitat and bushland management* with several presenters. Bookings Barbara at SCC 9220 5300, by 28 July.

12 Saturday 8am

Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland guided bush walk, second Saturday of every month. Meet at the northeast cnr of Burbridge and Koondoola Aves, Koondoola. Call Phylis 9349 9105.

12 Saturday & 19 Saturday

Rockingham-Kwinana Small Property Advisory Service *Property Planning* 2-day course, includes field trips. Call Tracey or Jane 9529 3820.

13 Sunday 8.30am

Join Friends of Kings Park weeding watsonia, followed by a guest speaker. Meet at the Kings Park administration building, off Fraser Ave. Morning tea included. Call 9480 3643.

13 Sunday

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day weeding at Hollywood Reserve. Call ATCV 9336 6911.

18 Friday 7.30pm

Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on *Wetlands of Southwest*, Rockingham Environment Centre lecture theatre, Safety Bay Rd, Peron. Call Val Davies 9592 1064.

18 Friday & 19 Saturday

2000 *Progress Rural WA Conference* at Fairbridge Farm (Pinjarra) for those passionate about the future of rural WA. Call Esther Price 9525 2663, epp@highway1.com.au or David Beurle 9481 2044, dbeurle@agric.wa.gov.au.

19 Saturday 8am

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

19 Saturday 8am

Guided bush walk at Lake Gwelup on the third Saturday of the month. Meet at the Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

20 Sunday

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day planting at Wilson Wetlands. Call ATCV 9336 6911.

20 Sunday

Darling Range Naturalists' Club excursion to Toodyay. Call Eddie Dell 9293 2270, Diana Papefus 9359 2676.

20 Sunday 9 am - 12 noon

Bushcare activities at Hovea Conservation Park. Call Jenny 9295 4467.

20 Sunday 9am – 12noon

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

21 Monday – 25 Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

Greenskills *Field plant identification* course, \$250. Call Annabelle Newbury 9336 1033.

23 Wednesday

Perth Naturalists' Club Ellis Brook excursion. Call 9228 2495, www.wanats.iinet.net.au.

26 Saturday 2.30pm

Gould League excursion to Point Walter. Call 9387 6079.

26 Saturday

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day weeding at Talbot Road Reserve, Stratton. Call ATCV 9336 6911.

26 Saturday 8am

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

27 Sunday 8.30am

Friends of Kings Park weeding around seedlings. Meet at the Kings Park administration building, off Fraser Ave. Morning tea included. Call 9480 3643.

SEPTEMBER

2 Saturday 8.30am

Rockingham Environment Centre first Saturday of the month bush care morning, Baldvins. Call Don Shepherd or Bob Goodale 9591 3077.

5 Tuesday & 6 Wednesday 8.30am – 4.30pm

Greenskills *Introduction to the land conservation and restoration* industry course, \$70. Call Annabelle Newbury 9336 1033.

7 Thursday

International Threatened Species Day. Call Sandra McKenzie, Threatened Species Network, 9387 6444 or www.nccsnw.org.au/member/tsn.

7 Thursday 7.30pm

Murdock Wildflower Society meeting and talk by Leigh Sage on *Goodeniaceae*, Cockburn Wetlands Centre, Lot 387 Hope Rd, Bibra Lake. Call Neil Goldborough 0413 822 077, Margaret Langley 9457 8484.

8 Friday 7.30pm

Darling Range Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Steve Hopper on *Granite ecology*, CWA Hall, Kalamunda. Call Eddie Dell 9293 2270, Diana Papefus 9359 2676.

9 Saturday

Ecoplan/ATCV/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day weeding at Blue Gum Lake. Call ATCV 9336 6911.

9 Saturday 8am

Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland guided bush walk, second Saturday of every month. Meet at the northeast cnr of Burbridge and Koondoola Aves, Koondoola. Call Phylis 9349 9105.

9 Saturday & 10 Sunday

Perth Naturalists' Club birds workshop. Call 9228 2495, www.wanats.iinet.net.au.

10 Sunday 8.30am

Friends of Kings Park weeding *Isatis* and *Spinax* bulbs and Geraldton carnation weed, followed by a talk by Bob Dixon on weed management in the Park. Meet at the Kings Park administration building, off Fraser Ave. Morning tea included. Call 9480 3643.

10 Sunday 9am – 5pm

Wildflower Society's SPRING FLING: lots of wildflower activities, walks and stalls, Perry House, Perry Lakes 9383 7979. Free Admission.

10 Sunday

Rockingham-Kwinana Small Property Advisory Service *Dieback field day*. Call Tracey or Jane 9529 3820.

Central Region

Weeding South Perth bushlands

by John Feldman

Members of the City of South Perth Environment Association (COSPEA) recently held a hand weeding morning at Davilak Reserve in Manning. In June 1998 the group transplanted native plant seedlings cleared for residential development from the Gillon Street bushland into this Reserve. Many of the transplanted seedlings have survived the last two summers with the help of some watering by the City of South Perth. With the summer rain experienced this year, some of the weeds were quite large. However, it was encouraging to note that a few native plant species, like *Acacia pulchella* (prickly moses), had set and shed seed that germinated with the summer rain and survived into late autumn.

Recently, during one of his many weeding days, COSPEA member Andrew Thomson discovered a strange new weed near the foreshore of the Canning River at Sandon Park adjacent to Waterford Reserve in Salter Point. The weed looked like a yellow-flowering, stunted version of fleabane. It was identified by Rod Randall from Agriculture Western Australia as Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) a member of the Asteraceae family and a native of North America. The weed was confined to one small patch and Andrew Thomson has vowed to remove it completely.

[Well done Andrew for your vigilant attention! Editor]

The City of South Perth is currently reviewing its recommended street tree list and members of COSPEA are lobbying councillors to include more local native plant species on the list. Fortunately, species such as Queensland box, cape lilac and Japanese pepper are listed as unsuitable. However, there is still too much concentration on both evergreen and deciduous exotics.

For further information call John on 9368 3739 (w) or 9450 5661 (a/h).

Many pitch in at Mt Henry

by Jan King

The Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group were fortunate to be granted an Ecoplan/AlintaGas/ ATCV Bushland Care Day and were subsequently offered the opportunity to launch the Bushland Care Day program for 2000 at Aquinas College on 13 May. It was wonderful to have so many significant people attending the launch in the new school dining hall which offers panoramic views across the Canning River to the hills in the east, and Mt Henry to the west. Thank you to Ecoplan, AlintaGas and ATCV.

Following the official proceedings, about 35 people supported ATCV volunteers in arresting erosion on the western slope of the Peninsula. The steep limestone is subject to erosion from trampling and heavy weather, and the risk of rock fall was bought to our attention by a year 10 boarder at Aquinas, Chris McInnes.

The progress made was amazing. Four erosion areas were covered with jute matting, brush cut from fallen swamp cypress was used to close off pathways, brush cut from the main track to improve fire vehicle access was spread across bare areas, a terraced pathway was formed in an erosion gully and mulch was placed on the existing path, and a fence was mended.

"It was so great to be working on this project with such a range of people: Junior and Senior students, staff, friends



Graham Goerke, Chairman of Aquinas College Board and his son Matthew (year 10 student and Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group member) at the Bushland Care Day.



Some ATCV and Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group members at the Bushland Care Day.

and parents, including the Chairman of the Aquinas College Board and experienced bush regenerators," said Urban Bushland Council secretary, Sjaan Hoetmer.

Students from the Junior School have been studying the rehabilitation process and making videos. They will plant limestone-adapted species from Greening Australia (WA) on the erosion slopes on Arbor Day. The City of South Perth have provided funding for this project.

For further information call Jan on 9450 5222 or 0409 299 861.

Hot weather weeding

by Marion Watson

The Friends of Blue Gum Lake continued to work through the hot summer months, though at a slower pace. With the help of Kate Brown of the Environmental Weeds Action Network, we have continued our weed identification mornings twice a month.

We have set up a small area to trial brushing. Branches of *Kunzea* were cut from a good stand of trees and laid on the ground. This protects the ground whilst *Kunzea* seed on the brush germinates in the winter rains.

There has been no shortage of summer annuals to weed. It has been pleasing to note that Geraldton carnation weed numbers have been much smaller this summer. Spraying couch grass with Fusilade and Roundup has been

REGIONAL REPORTS

necessary in some areas. *Fumaria* has required constant weeding since the summer rains.

We were delighted to get a grant from Melville Rotary to purchase *Schoenoplectus validus* reeds. This has enabled us to extend an existing stand of reeds planted in 1998. One fifth of the grant money is designated for materials to make nesting boxes. This work will be done by one of our members.

Seed has been collected from fifteen species. Cleaning and some propagation has continued. We have over six hundred seedlings in Carroll Tree Tubes and pots of various sizes awaiting planting.

For further information contact Marion Watson on 9316 1324.

North West Region

A busy Brook

Bennett Brook Catchment Group (BBCG) has been busy with many aspects of catchment management. Five rehabilitation projects are underway and BBCG are getting ready for winter planting. A Greencorp group have been working on weed control, water monitoring, fauna monitoring, and rush and sedge planting on four sites along the Brook. They are making good progress.

BBCG's school education program is now up and running. Schools are involved in Ribbons of Blue monitoring and other environmental projects such as FrogWatch, weed awareness and water body pollution awareness. During June, Beechboro, East Beechboro, Lockridge, Riverlands and John Septimus Roe Primary Schools will be helping plant native flora along the Brook.

BBCG's first Bandicoot Club event for children was a great success. Members got up close and personal with macroinvertebrates, birds and the native flora of Bennett Brook. They learnt about the plants that once provided the local Nyungah people with a rich food source. The next Club event is listed in the *What's On* calendar on the 12th of July.

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



BBCG's Jackie Wright with Bandicoot Club kids at the brook.

Hills Region

North Darlington Reserves

by Judy and Doug Love

Over the last few months the Friends of North Darlington Reserves have been busy watering new, young plants, spraying for weeds, taking part in an afternoon's tagasaste removal (aided greatly by Guildford Grammar School Cadets) and undertaking the usual constant removal of rubbish.

With the winter upon us, we have organised two planting days in our Gateway to Darlington Reserve at the foot of Lionel Road for the 4th and 17th of June. Last year many of our plantings in this area died from flooding (these weren't wetlands species) so this year some of the plants we are going to put in are wetland species. We are also working on a suitable name for this reserve and hope to christen it next year.

A second group within our Friends group is now active on the Ferguson Road edge of the reserves and their planting session is on the 23rd of July. We welcome any enthusiastic planters on our work days.

Darlington has yet another 'Friends' group focused on caring for the old Railway Reserve (where the railway station used to be) and they have done marvellous work over the last twelve months.

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

South West Region

Thousands enjoyed festival

Approximately 4000 people, over 40 stall holders and a range of entertainers and speakers took part in a successful second annual environment festival held at Naragebup (Rockingham Regional Environment Centre) in March.

The Centre holds bush care days on the first Saturday of each month. Volunteers are welcome. May was WA Tidy Month and an additional working bee was planned: a clean-up around the National Heritage-listed Lake Richmond. A group of CALM Bushrangers from Warnbro Community High School assisted on the 21st of May.

The Rockingham City Council recently awarded the Centre the 'Community Event Australia Day 2000 Award' in recognition of the hard work by volunteers in establishing the Centre over the last three years. Congratulations to all involved!

For further information call the Centre on 9591 3077.

Bush regeneration training report

by Kate Brown, EWAN

We've had some interesting times during our training sessions in bush regeneration and weed identification and control at Shenton Bushland. For the first few sessions of the year we focused on getting to know some of the native grasses and then did some hand removal of introduced veld grass from areas of good bushland.

With the arrival of the cooler autumn weather, freesia, blackflag and *Lachenalia* have all made their annual appearance. We had an interesting time investigating early bulb development in these species. Hopefully we can continue these investigations over the growing season as well as continue our program of freesia control in good bushland. The sessions have been well attended and the morning teas following the sessions have generally been exceptional.

At Blue Gum Lake we have set up plots to trial the effectiveness of smoked water application on native seed germination.

REGIONAL REPORTS

We have also spent time learning to identify germinating seedlings of annual weeds. In May we removed annual weeds such as *Fumaria*, pink velvet, cape weed and chick weed before they had a chance to flower and set seed amongst native vegetation.

At the Brixton Street Wetlands sessions Elizabeth and Nick Buters shared some of their valuable experience in controlling *watsonia* in a way that allows regeneration of the native plant communities on the clay flats. We have also been doing some interesting work on *Tribolium uniolae*, a South African grass (with no common name). It has the potential to become a serious weed on our heavier soils. Over the next few months we hope to trial direct seeding in a small degraded patch next to good bushland and continue working on *watsonia* removal.

See the *What's On* calendar for bush regeneration training mornings in July. All welcome! The sessions aim to introduce people interested in bush regeneration to some of the work being done and to get to know some of our wonderful bushlands.

For further information call Kate on 9220 5311.

Bunbury Region

Bunbury Nats keep busy

by Shirley Fisher

A small group of ten members of the Bunbury Naturalists' Club are actively involved in a number of bush care projects. Members continue to assist CALM in establishing a regional reference herbarium for the Central Forest Region. The group has worked every Tuesday morning on this task for over 18 months. Members also continue to help CALM track priority plant species and map larger fungi in the Central Forest Region.

Over the last year Club members have been helping Dr Vi Saffer conduct a pollination survey at Franklandia Reserve. The Club manages this Reserve. Once a month, two mornings are spent recording birds and insects in four marked transects.

On June 24 and 25 Katie Syme is running a workshop for the Busselton and Bunbury Naturalists' Clubs on how to recognise and record larger fungi. Katie is the WA coordinator of a national fungi map project.

Over 97,000 plants have been grown at the Leschenault Community Nursery, principally for revegetation projects. These projects include revegetation at the Vasse River Retention basins, Leschenault Estuary, seed orchards in Dardanup and Donnybrook, the Melaleuca walk in Bunbury, various 'streamlining' projects and as part of the Capel River Action Plan. Plant orders for these projects and by local landowners are ready to be collected.

Nursery committee members have conducted a number of seed collection workshops to help promote provenance planting.

For further information call Shirley Fisher on 9795 7181.

Busselton Nats share Ambergate wonders

by Brian Green, Ambergate Honorary Warden

Only a few kilometres from Busselton, Ambergate Reserve consists of 75 hectares of remnant coastal plain woodland surrounded by farmland. In 1921 part of this land was used as a base camp for the Group Settlement Scheme. (It was probably too swampy to cultivate.) Later, when inland farmers began bringing cattle to the coast for summer feed they camped there overnight, and it became known as 'The Common'. In the late 1940s, the Reserve was divided into four blocks by Queen Elizabeth Avenue running north-south and Doyle Road running east-west. At

some stage a gravel pit was dug for road-making, and fill brought in contained *watsonia* corms, kikuyu and many other weeds. The Reserve also became an unofficial rubbish dump.

In 1987 the Busselton Naturalists' Club took over the management of the Reserve for the Shire. A small committee was formed and the first step taken by the Club was to produce four leaflets, one for each season, on the flora and fauna. In 1992, the Club obtained a Commonwealth grant to rehabilitate the land which had been badly degraded by the gravel pit and rubbish dumping. During this operation, a bulldozer was to dig a moat around a piece of good quality bush to make an island to manage the drainage and protect animals on the island from foxes. The following year the Club replanted the degraded area. Most of the *watsonia* and all of the kikuyu has now been removed. There is still an ongoing weed and vermin control program in place.

There is a burning program for the four blocks. Each is burnt on a 10 to 15 year interval. A herbarium of plants found on the Reserve is being compiled and it is housed at the Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre in Prince Street, Busselton.

Last year the Club received a grant from the Natural Heritage Trust to construct four locks in a drain running from farmland through part of the reserve to reduce the flow of water in late winter. We hope to prevent the water table falling as low as three metres in summer, which has been occurring during past years.

A brochure available from the Club or tourist bureau has information on a 4 kilometre walking trail. Come and visit!

For further information call Brian Green on 9752 4615.



The moat at Ambergate Reserve in winter (the island is to the left).

Group Profile: Happy 10th birthday Friends of Forrestdale!



Friends of Forrestdale members (Left to right) Rod Giblett, Chris Prince, Jirn Prince, David James, Ian Butland, Margaret Telford, Bryony Fremlin, Stan Telford and Peter Donnerty (seated).
Absent: Brian Maddern, John Malone, Joe & Vicky James and Tony & Maureen Wye.

Living in a special place

David James grew up with a frog orchestra, clouds of birds flying in to feed and wandering amongst the reeds, paperbark trees and banksia woodlands with his brothers and sisters. His family has lived next to Forrestdale Lake since 1940, and like many other locals, he is passionate about the natural features of Forrestdale.

Agricultural development began before the turn of the twentieth century and a town site at Forrestdale was established in the 1970s. With increasing people, pressures and changes to bushland and wetlands, good management of the natural environment was critical.

With the help of information from locals, CALM's management plan for the Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve was completed in 1987 and the establishment of a Friends group was one of the recommendations.

"We could help CALM manage the Lake and there were many jobs that needed doing," David James, one of the founding Friends members, said.

"The management plan was the first time the management of the lake was really taken seriously, but getting the recommendations implemented can be slow and difficult."

Caring for bushlands and wetlands

The Friends care for important bushlands and wetlands around Forrestdale including the Ramsar and National Estate listed Forrestdale Lake

Nature Reserve, and Perth's *Bushplan* sites 253, 262, 342, 344 and 345. These areas are collectively bigger than Kings Park and owned by various bodies including the State Planning Commission (SPC), CALM, the City of Armadale and Landcorp.

Active bush regenerators, the group have been working for several years under the supervision of CALM on two lots to the southwest of the Lake (*Bushplan* site 345) vested in SPC.

More recently, the Friends have been undertaking bush regeneration on the northern end of the Lake with the help of Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funding. Further funds are sought for the second stage of this project.

"We want to make this area more attractive, encourage local species and provide a vegetation buffer between the Lake and the township," David said.

"Hopefully this will decrease nutrient flow into the lake and lessen the midge problem."

With CALM and NHT funding, the group has commissioned consultants to undertake a 10 year nutrient balance study of the Lake and its catchment.

"We want to identify sources of nutrient enrichment in the Lake which causes midge explosions in summer and perhaps find an alternative approach to midge control rather than treating the symptoms by chemical spraying which is what is currently happening," David said.

For residents and visitors to enjoy

One of the Friends' key achievements was managing the construction of a boardwalk and sign shelter at Forrestdale Lake in 1994 under a Landcare and Environmental Action Program (LEAP). This included interpretative signs on local birds and a brochure dispenser.

A walking, cycling and horse-riding trail has just been completed around the entire Lake and it links up with Forrestdale Primary School. It was officially launched on 28 May by the Mayor of Armadale, Roger Stubbs and Monica Holmes MLA for Southern River. Cleanaway, City of Armadale and Trailswest (Department of Sport and Recreation) provided funding for this project.

Another exciting current project is the recording of the environmental history of the Forrestdale Lake area going back to the early nineteenth century (with funding mainly from Cleanaway Community Liaison Committee). The Friends hope to turn this project into a publication.

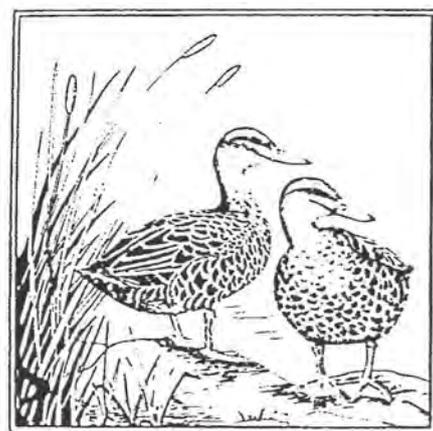
The Friends' vision is to see an environmental education centre next to the Lake to house cultural and natural heritage information and materials.

"We want to keep the community, school and government's attention focused on our Lake and natural areas," David said.

Contacts

David James (vice-president) 9397 0276

Rod Giblett (president) 9370 6051 (w) or 9397 0094 (h)



Resources

Grants Register

The Family and Children's Services Community Skills Training Centre's (CSTC) WA has a Grants Register listing over 200 grant programs available to Western Australian organisations and individuals. The Register costs \$25 (plus \$5 postage) and is available from CSTC by sending a cheque (made out to Family and Children's Services) to the Community Skills Training Centre, 3rd Floor, Construction House, 35 Havelock Street, West Perth 6005, or by calling 9222 6000. (There is also a copy in the Ecoplan office if you would like to take a look at it.)

Looking for workers?

If you are looking for environmental workers to help you with your project, Greenskills' Ecojobs program may be able to help you. Project coordination and volunteer supervision is also available. Contact Ecojobs coordinator Jean-Paul Orsini on 9336 1033.

Reader's Digest awards

Community groups, schools and tertiary institutions and individuals with strong community links are invited to nominate for the Reader's Digest Environment Awards. Evidence of a good track record in environmental/educational achievements is important. You must enter by 28 July. Up to three finalists per State will be announced on 15 September, with one winner per

State receiving \$2 500. National winners will be announced on 29 October. First prize will receive \$15 000, second receives \$10 000 and third will be awarded \$5 000. For further information call 62 300 203 or take a look at www.readersdigestawards.com. For entry form brochures telephone freecall 1800 817 626.

FloraBank update

FloraBank, a national program that seeks to improve the availability and quality of native seed available for revegetation and conservation, has just launched its new web site. It features email discussion groups on native seeds and revegetation, guidelines, fact sheets, seed germination information and other materials. Take a look at www.florabank.org.au.

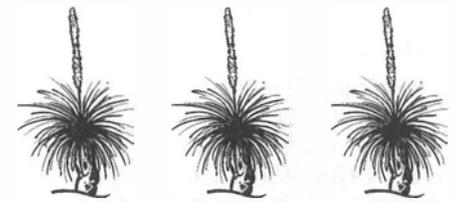
Landcare for small landholders

Small landholders in the Rockingham and Kwinana area can subscribe to a new quarterly newsletter called *The Back Paddock* with lots of tips on landcare. It is part of the Rockingham-Kwinana Small Property Advisory Service, an initiative of Green Skills. The Service is based at the Rockingham Regional Environment Centre and it provides landcare training, advice and information on landcare. The Friends of the Centre are also assisting the City of Rockingham in developing a local bushland strategy and greening plan.

To find out more call Tracey or Jane on 9529 3820.

Community Link Awards

'Environment, Conservation and Heritage' is one of the six categories in the National Bank Community Link Awards 2000 which acknowledge volunteers involved in community service projects. Community groups who have undertaken projects mainly by volunteers efforts, partly or wholly completed between 1 July 1999 and 30 June 2000 are eligible to apply. Judges will take into account aspects such as the originality of the project, community benefits and effective volunteer management. For each of the six categories winners from each State will receive a trophy and \$5 000 for their organisation, and the national winner will receive \$15 000 and a trophy. Fifty nominations will receive \$1 000 and a highly commended certificate. Presentations will be held in October and nominations close on 4 August. For further information phone freecall 1800 807 121 or take a look at www.national.com.au (Community Link section).



If not claimed within 7 days, please return to
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