



FOREST SERVICE LIBRARY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PERTH

Conserving city bushlands

Last December, the State Government endorsed *Bush Forever*, a strategy to keep bushland in the City. The plan includes 18% of the original bushland in the Perth metropolitan area, almost 300 sites and 50 000 hectares.

The draft report, *Perth's Bushplan*, was released for public comment in November 1998. It set out the selection process and identified regionally significant bushlands across the metropolitan area. The work was the result of detailed technical assessment and collaboration by several government departments.

In *Bush Forever*, the site boundaries have been revised, public submissions considered and a framework for the conservation of these special places over a ten year period included.

"It has been a huge job over the last six years and it's wonderful to see it formally endorsed," said Gary Whisson, coordinator of the Department of Environmental Protection's *Bush Forever* team.

"The emphasis will now be on achieving protection of these precious sites and the plan contains specific conservation recommendations for each site."

Up to \$100 million is allocated over ten years to implement the plan. Although many sites already have a sufficient level of protection, about 19 000 hectares have no current protection.

Purchasing land is not always possible, so the plan contains some alternatives. These include negotiated planning solutions (achieving some of the conservation objectives whilst allowing some development), placing conservation covenants on land titles, and management advice and agreements with landowners and government agencies.

The WA Planning Commission (WAPC) will consider amending the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS—the key planning document in the metropolitan area) to



Members of the Department of Environmental Protection *Bush Forever* team: (left to right) Karen Clarke, Bronwen Keighery, Sandra Santich, Gary Whisson, Bridget Hyder-Griffiths and John Dell.

include Special Control Areas and clearing controls for *Bush Forever* sites. WAPC will also prepare a Statement of Planning Policy to guide future planning and require local governments to develop local bushland strategies.

"Overall it's very promising. The incoming government is very supportive and we would like to see action supporting this strong commitment," said Conservation Council of WA urban bushland campaign coordinator, Joan Payne.

"We support the government's proposals to provide interim protection of sites through changes to MRS, and are very encouraged by their intention to protect all sites on government-owned land," she said.

"However, we would like to see more funding to purchase land and agreed negotiated planning solutions reviewed to fully protect these special places."

"We hope that the relatively new mechanisms for land stewardship and management will work or be substituted by other strategies."

A Ministry for Planning *Bush Forever* office is coordinating implementation of

the plan and an inter-agency technical coordinating group will ensure it is applied consistently across government.

There will be an advisory service to support landowners and others in the community and encourage broad community awareness. This will be based at CALM but funded through the *Bush Forever* office. The details of the advisory service are still to be determined.

A local bushland liaison officer based at the Western Australian Municipal Association will be employed in the next few months funded by the *Bush Forever* office. The liaison person will develop guidelines and assist local governments in preparing bushland strategies. Seed funding for local government bushland inventories and strategies will be available. All these will be in place for an initial period of three years.

Call the *Bush Forever* office on 9264 7777 for information or copies of the reports. Volume 1 contains policies, principles and processes for protecting *Bush Forever* sites, and site maps. Volume 2 includes detailed site descriptions, an overview of key information sources and criteria used in site selection.

Happy 10th Birthday Ecoplan

continued page 4

The late summer/autumn heat is taking its toll on the bushland, and many groups are hoping for early rains, especially for those areas which have had severe burns. It has been interesting to note in the applications for Bushland Care Days that groups who want to do planting activities have chosen later dates this year – obviously because of such late rains last year.

Over the summer months we have been busy planning the various programs for the year. The Bushland Care Day program is all set to go thanks once again to the generous sponsorship of AlintaGas. We will be happy to work again in the four-way partnership with AlintaGas, Conservation Volunteers Australia (yes Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers have changed their name), and community groups.

We had 40 applications for the 20 available Bushland Care Days so we are sorry that some groups have missed out. Hopefully some of these groups will be able to run their own days with local support. If your group was unsuccessful this time, there is always next year.

The launch for this year's program will be held on Sunday June 3 at the Canning River in conjunction with CREEPA.

The workshop and seminar training series will be run again this year in conjunction with the Swan Catchment Centre and Greening Australia (WA). We have re-named the program "Skills for Nature Conservation" which we hope will be less of a mouthful. A calendar has been sent to all community groups and we would encourage participation from anyone involved in conservation work. Courses are available free to community volunteers. Please register early to ensure a place. If you would like a copy of the program they are available from Ecoplan or the Swan Catchment Centre.

There comes a time in all projects to look back and reflect on what has been achieved. As we come up to the 10-year celebration of Ecoplan, I have the opportunity to do just that, as I am planning to take a year away from working with Ecoplan and DEP and spend time travelling around Australia.

I consider the past ten years to have offered me the extraordinary privilege of working in a job I really love, with people who are dedicated to, and knowledgeable and passionate about the environment and I have learned a great deal.

I have also been very fortunate to watch the vision unfold. From the time 10 years ago when there was a small number of

community "Friends" groups with very little support, to the emergence of organisations such as the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators, the Urban Bushland Council, the Environmental Weeds Action Network, and the Swan Catchment Centre to name a few. The number of Friends groups and Catchment groups have grown enormously, each providing the opportunity for interested members of the community to get involved in helping to look after their "patch".

Just as important are the many groups and individuals who remain committed over so many years. Well done for your dedication and continued efforts.

In my absence, Ecoplan will be capably co-ordinated by Bridget Hyder-Griffiths. Bridget has worked in the Conservation Branch at DEP for the past five years and is known to many people through her involvement in Bushplan (now Bush Forever). Please give Bridget a call if you have anything going on in your patch that you think she should know about.

The other departure from the Ecoplan fold is Cath Drake. Cath has compiled the Ecoplan newsletter for a number of years, and has worked on contract in the Ecoplan office on a number of occasions. By the time this newsletter goes to print, Cath will be off to travel the world for a while and look at where else she can make a contribution. Cath extends her thanks to all bushland carers associated with Ecoplan for their inspiration and dedication.

Ecoplan celebrates ten years

A 10-year anniversary celebration for Ecoplan will take place at the Cockburn Wetlands Centre on Friday 6 April 2001. Ecoplan will take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the many volunteers who contribute to the environment. The next issue of Ecoplan News will give a report of this event.

Winter Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and group reports for Winter Ecoplan News by 1 June 2001. Please keep your group reports under 250 words. Send us your photos! Fax, email or write to Ecoplan (see Ecoplan contacts panel on this page). Thanks to all contributors.

This newsletter was compiled by
Cath Drake.



Contacts

Ecoplan office

Bridget Hyder-Griffiths

Department of Environmental Protection
Westralia Square
141 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
Telephone: 9222 7052
Fax: 9322 1598
bridget.hyder.griffiths
@environ.wa.gov.au

South-East Region

Brett Tizard ☎ 9497 4038

South Region

Denise Crosby ☎ 9417 8460
Rex Sallur

North-West Region

Laurie Boyland ☎ 9409 1409

Eastern Hills Region

Jenny Johnson ☎ 9295 4467

Conservation Council of WA

☎ 9420 7266

Environment Centre of WA

☎ 9225 4103

Greening Australia (WA)

☎ 9335 8933

APACE

☎ 9336 1262

Swan Catchment Centre

Suzy Mills ☎ 9220 5300

Urban Bushland Council

Isabella Jennings ☎ 9420 7207

Haakon Nielssen ☎ 9420 7207

Bushcare facilitator

Jon Kaub ☎ 9474 7052

'Ecoplan News is a quarterly newsletter of Ecoplan, a Department of Environmental Protection program to support community involvement in bushland conservation'.



International Year of Volunteers 2001

Ecoplan celebrates its tenth year in 2001 and it is also the International Year of Volunteers. Information on the Year of Volunteers can be found at www.iyv2001.gov.au. A second round of national grants of up to \$5000 for projects that recognize, celebrate and promote the contribution of volunteers close on 10 April (see the web site or call 1300 653 227). A Vision Conference on 'Volunteering in the Future' will be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle from 7 to 10 August. Call Promaco Conventions on 9322 2900 (email promaco@promaco.com.au) or Volunteering WA on 9420 7288 for further information.

Threatened species grants

Threatened Species Network grants (a joint program of the Natural Heritage Trust and World Wide Fund for Nature) will open in early April and close in mid June with notification expected around September 2001. For details take a look at www.nccnsw.org.au/member/tsn or call Sandra McKenzie on 9387 6444.

Citizen of the Year

Cherie Wood was awarded Citizen of the Year in the City of Joondalup's Australia Day Awards. Cherie is the founder of the Friends of Craigie Bushland and is also a member of the City of Joondalup Council's Environmental Advisory Committee. Cherie was given the award for her energy and dedication to the environment. Over the last 15 months more has been done for Craigie Bushland than in the last 15 years. Cherie's next goal is to see the management plan she prepared for the protection of Craigie bushland being passed by council.

Congratulations Cherie.

Learning opportunities

The Skills for Nature Conservation [SCC/Ecoplan/GA(WA)] free seminar and workshop series will continue to provide information sharing and training for bushland and wetland carers. Topics include fungi collection, managing weeds, first aid, the safe use of herbicides, brush cutters and chainsaws, seeking sponsorship, developing a web site, principles of group dynamics, enhancing your display material, 'to plant or not to plant', monitoring and evaluating bushland care activities, monitoring aquatic macro-invertebrates, using the bridal creeper rust fungus biological control agent, river restoration, chairperson skills, frogs and sedges and introductory workshops on starting or getting involved with a local environment group and exploring Perth's natural environment. For a copy of the calendar call the Swan Catchment Centre on 9220 5300.

The Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR) discussion forums continue with *Integrated weed management* on 9 May and *Monitoring bush regeneration* on 11 July.

AABR site visits for later in the year include City of Stirling coastal, wetland

and bushland sites in September and Gingin Brook in November.

On 1 May, AABR and the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) will hold a joint workshop, particularly aimed at local government staff, on managing exotic and native grasses.

EWAN's Kate Brown hosts bush regeneration training every third Thursday morning of the month at Shenton Bushland and every first and third Monday at Brixton Street Wetlands.

At the Bennett Brook Environment Centre on 7 April and 19 May you can learn about frogs and birds, respectively.

The Shire of Mundaring's Environmental Advisory Committee is hosting a conference that will explore community action to support local government's environmental commitments on May 19.

The Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre are offering a range of environmental workshops (call 9591 3077 for details).

See the What's On centre pages for contact and meeting details.

Garden thugs survey

by Sandy Lloyd, AGWEST

The Weeds CRC has funded a summer studentship to survey the attitudes of plant nursery customers and owners toward garden plants that are potential bushland weeds. The survey is being conducted by Lorraine Duffy from Curtin University with support from AGWEST and the Nursery Industry Association of WA.

Results are promising so far. Most customers believe that 'preventing weeds from damaging bushland and farmland is very important', 'it is important to avoid the purchase of plants that will become invasive' and 'the horticultural industry should introduce a code of practice to halt the sale of environmental weeds'.

Nursery owners also tend to agree with these statements, though some believe that a code of practice won't be effective and that there should be legislation to enforce a ban on selling weedy species. Many commented on the need for increased public awareness. Several said that although they were not aware of local groups weeding bushlands, they would support their activities if approached. So, bushland groups could consider approaching local nurseries for assistance, for example, to put up a display on weeds or group activities at the nursery, host a weedy competition or event, share facilities or help with sponsorship. For further information call Sandy Lloyd on 9368 3760.

National marsupial stalk

You can be a part of The Great Australian Marsupial Night-Stalk by completing a survey any time in May in your local reserve. You need to record particularly local marsupials and feral animals, but other animals as well, whilst spotlighting at night. This is an initiative of the Marsupial Cooperative Research Centre and part of National Science Week. There will be a major prize (possibly an overseas holiday), plus a schools prize of an iMac computer and ABC books. More information, instructions and recording sheets will be available at www.scienceweek.info.au or by calling Lisa Mantellato at the Perth Zoo on 9474 0362 or emailing lisa.mantellato@perthzoo.wa.gov.au.

Coastwest/Coastcare grants

The final NHT-funded Coastwest/Coastcare grant round opens on 31 March and applications should be received by 15 June. Incorporated community groups and individuals with the support of their local land management agency are invited to apply for funds for coastal management activities. Applicants or the supporting land management agency must contribute one dollar for every two sought (cash or in-kind). Call State Coordinator John Davis on 9264 7834 for details or contact your regional Coastwest/Coastcare facilitator. The metropolitan-central coast facilitator is Cathy Ronalds (9321 5055) and the Peel/South-west coordinator is Nicci Tsernjavski (9725 4300).

Focus on schools

Earth Day is celebrated in over 800 countries around the world. In Perth, the successful expo for school children held last year will be repeated again this year. A range of environmental activities organised by Men of The Trees, City Farm and the Million Trees Program will be held during two sessions, 10 - 12am and 12.30 - 2.30pm, at City Farm in East Perth on 6 April. If you would like to provide an activity or idea contact Jennifer Pearson on 9274 2875 or email treeswa@iinet.net.au.

During WA Week this year (5-8 June), which includes World Environment Day and Arbor Day, the Million Trees Program is planning a series of plantings down the major catchment areas leading into Perth ending at the mouth of the Swan River targeting schools and others. Groups who are organizing planting or environmental activities during this time can link their activities to the public awareness created by this program. It is hoped that the program can grow and people interested in coordinating activities in regional areas may come forward. Contact Jennifer Pearson on 9274 2875 or email treeswa@iinet.net.au for details.

Australian Pure White Paper and Conservation Volunteers Australia are holding a competition for schools to develop their own proposals to undertake local practical habitat restoration work. Proposals should be submitted by 31 May. For entry details see www.australianhabitat.com.au or call Ken Beasley on 9336 6911.

Bushland Care Days

Once again many hard working bushland care groups in the metropolitan area will be taking part in the Ecoplan/Conservation Volunteers Australia/AlintaGas Bushland Care Days program for 2001. Enjoy a BBQ lunch, the wonders of the bushland and lend a hand at the same time.

Bushland Care Days for 2001

Date	Location/ Friends of Groups	Activities
Sun 3 June	Shelley Foreshore CREEPA	Planting & mulching
Sun 10 June	Friends of Samson Park	Planting
Sat 16 June	Korella Park Bushland	Weed removal & planting
Sun 17 June	Hovea Conservation Park	Planting, weeding & erosion control
Sat 23 June	Blue Gum Lake Reserve	Planting and weeding
Sun 24 June	Lord St Caversham, Bennett Brook Catchment Group	Planting weeding & rubbish, removal
Sun 1 July	Bob Blackburn Flora Reserve	Weeding & planting of seedlings
Sat 7 July	Allen Park	Planting
Sun 8 July	Craigie Open Space	Weeding
Sun 22 July	Trigg Bushland	Weeding
Sat 28 July	Mt Henry Peninsula	Weeding
Sat 4 Aug	Lightning Swamp Bushland	Weeding & planting
Sat 18 Aug	Koondoola Regional Bushland	Weeding & rubbish removal
Sun 19 Aug	Canning River Regional Park Wilson Wetlands Action Group	Planting
Sun 26 Aug	Kadina Brook Reserve	Planting & weeding
Sun 9 Sept	Canning Mills Reserve Roleystone Dieback Action Group	Dieback control injecting trees
Sun 23 Sept	Lion Mill Creek Reserves	Planting & weeding
Sun 7 Oct	Talbot Road Reserve	Dieback control injecting trees
Sun 14 Oct	Warwick Open Space	Weeding
Sun 21 Oct	Schipp Road Reserves Friends of Piesse Brook	Weeding

Please register by calling Conservation Volunteers Australia (previously ATCV) on 9336 6911.

Weedy guides

Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Weed Management Systems have produced a series of best practice management guides for some of Australia's worst environmental weeds: bridal creeper, blackberry, bitoubush, bonseed, broom, horehound and St John's wort. To obtain copies email crcweeds@waite.adelaide.edu.au or phone Kelly Scott on 08 8303 6590. Orders of up to ten copies per single mailing address are free, but orders greater than ten are charged at fifty cents each. The draft National Management Strategy for bridal creeper is available on www.weeds.org.au.

Controlling bridal creeper

The Weeds CRC and CSIRO Entomology have created a new web site with up-to-date practical information on the biological control of the noxious bridal creeper. It is designed particularly for school and community groups who are interested in participating in the program and includes details on the rearing, release and redistribution of the bridal creeper leaf hopper. Release locations will be regularly updated. Take a look at

www.ento.csiro.au/research/weedmgmt/bridal_creeper/index.htm. Information on the bridal creeper rust fungus will be added soon.

The bridal creeper control program will be expanding right across southern Australia. Leafhoppers will be supplied after March and the rust fungus distributed in April/May to those interested in helping spread them. Some workshops are planned. Bridal creeper tubers are still needed to use in potted plants to help feed stocks of leafhoppers and rust. Call Kathryn Batchelor on 9333 6200 for further information or email kbatchelor@cmar.csiro.au.

Ecoplan Econotes: In tune with the seasons

Aboriginal people relied upon their knowledge of the environment for survival. They knew when different foods and other resources were available. Europeans have applied a northern hemisphere-derived four seasons system to the Australian climate, but South-west Nyungars recognised six distinct seasons. Learning about these and their intricate changes will help us become more fine-tuned to our environment. Consider making up a calendar for your local bushland. This table applies broadly to the South-west and includes Nyungar patterns, when flowers first appear and different animal behaviours occur.

Birak (Dec/Jan)

- Hot, dry, easterly winds, late afternoon cool south-westerly breezes, start of the fire season.
- Nyungars moved toward the sea and key waterways as water became less available; careful management of controlled burns to flush out animals and prepare the ground for new shoots when rains came.

Blossoms: pink summer calytrix, marri, tuart, *Thysanotus sparteus*; peak seed producing period.

Animal behaviour: Fairly quiet time, many animals resting; reptiles inactive (needing less food in hot weather); ants very active; tree frog tadpoles (eg motorbike and slender tree frogs) found in permanent waters; jewel beetles emerge as adults; tortoises bury themselves and aestivate as lakes dry out; swans moult flight feathers and can't fly.

Bunuru (Feb/Mar)

- Hot, dry, north-easterly winds, little water available, a little more humid.
- Nyungars hunted sleepy animals during the heat of the day; used fish traps; collected large red-orange zamia fruits, which were buried for weeks to remove toxins, soaked and roasted; and used paperbark bark to carry precious water.

Blossoms: acorn banksia and firewood banksia, kick bush.

Animal behaviour: Many reptile babies hatching; kingfishers, rainbow bee-eaters and cuckoos migrate back north; ducks begin their moult; some migratory wader birds from the northern hemisphere begin to leave.

Djeran (Apr/May)

- Cooler with south-west winds, first rains

- Nyungars prepared to move back inland where water and food were now more available; as male sheoak pollen cones develop, the trees look brown—this indicated that the fattened kangaroos were ready for eating.

Blossoms: cockies tongues, parrot bush, yellow buttercups (*Hibbertia hypericoides*), hare and white bunny orchids, *Daviesias* (beginning with *D. triflora*).

Animal behaviour: Many animals are more active as weather cools; most reptiles must finish feeding and hibernate; with the first rains fungus fruits and plants start to grow; black cockatoos start to congregate in large flocks and return to breeding areas; granite outcrops come alive; insect larvae start to hatch eg caterpillars and sawflies; young mammals (eg bandicoots, chuditch, dunnarts) disperse from parental territories; burrowing frogs (eg moaning frog) start to call.

Makuru (June/July)

- Cold and wet, westerly gales
- Nyungars constructed small shelters (mia mias) and wore animal skins; hunted kangaroos, bandicoots, quokkas and emus; possums driven from tree hollows using smoke; tubers eg native potato (*Platysace cirrosa*), yams (*Dioscorea hastifolia*) dug up.

Blossoms: native wisteria, common hovea, common dampiera, blue tinsel lily, common smokebush, Swan River myrtle, blue fairy, green shell and snail orchids, red runner, pearl flower, first wattles (eg prickly moses); many flower buds seen; annuals start to grow; moss and lichens flourish.

Animal behaviour: Reptiles and bats hibernating; ponds thrive with small creatures; ducks move to seasonally wet areas and waders (herons, egrets, ibis) flock to flooded paddocks to feed; ducks and swans begin breeding; cuckoos arrive from the north to eat plentiful caterpillars; frog choruses peak; snails are active and earthworms explore closer to the surface; small marsupials (like chuditch, dunnart, mardo) have tiny pouched young.

Djilba (Aug/Sept)

- A little warmer, less rain but lots of moisture around, days get longer
- Animals were still plentiful; roots of red beak orchid and mistletoe eaten; eggs and chicks collected eg ducks, parrots, cockatoos.

Blossoms: dramatic increase in flowers (eg many lilies, peas, fringed lilies), *Conostylis*, *Acacia saligna*, peppermint trees, jarrah, *Banksia attenuata* (*Banksia menziesii* has ceased), grass trees, lots of orchids: spider, donkey, jug, rabbit, cowslip, pink fairy, enamel, bird, bronze leak orchids; first kangaroo paws.

Animal behaviour: Peak animal activity and plant growth; insects prolific; many songs of birds and insects mating; key bird nesting period; insect larval stages maturing; swallows and tree martins arrive from the north to feed on many flying insects like mosquitoes.

Kambarang (Oct/Nov)

- Rain decreasing to occasional showers, some thunder storms with the warmer weather
- Nyungars returned to the coast with the hot weather approaching, indicated by the flowering of the WA Christmas Tree; plentiful food including frogs, tortoises and koonacs (freshwater crayfish) from wetlands, many berries and fruits (eg *Astroloma* spp, *Persoonia* spp), a few last yams and potatoes.

Blossoms: tangle daisy, many *Melaleuca*s (eg chenille honey myrtle, Rottneest teatree), pink feather flowers (*Verticordia densiflora* and *monadelpha*), mignonette orchid; native grasses start flowering; some seeds begin to develop.

Animal behaviour: peak activity for most reptiles coming out of hibernation to breed; insects increase with rising heat; bats come out of hibernation to breed and feed on abundant insects; bees swarm; wasps look for nesting sites; rainbow bee-eaters arrive back from the north; moths, honeyeaters etc make use of abundant nectars; cicadas emerge; migratory wader birds from the northern hemisphere arrive to feed on mudflats.

References

- Bindon P and Walley T (1992) Hunters and Gatherers in *Landscape Spring 1998*, Conservation and Land Management, WA.
- Reid A J (1995) *Banksias and Bilbies: Seasons of Australia* Gould League of Victoria.
- Stephens L (1996) *Boaks and Balga: A Seasonal Calendar of Bungendore Park Conservation Reserve* Bungendore Park Management Committee, City of Armadale.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Central Region

South Perth bushlands

by John Feldman

Members of the Mount Henry Peninsula Conservation Group (MtHPCCG) saw a pair of ospreys nesting in a dead tree in their bushland some years ago. When the dead tree fell over, an artificial nesting site was erected nearby by Western Power. They 'planted' a wooden power pole with a steel platform structure and a few dead tree branches at the top. Recently a pair of ospreys have been seen circling the platform and have occasionally landed, but as yet have not used it as a nesting site.

MtHPCCG are also happy with the recent decision by the City of South Perth to conduct rabbit baiting in their bushland. This should reduce grazing pressure and allow more native plants to germinate, establish as seedlings and survive.

Andrew Thomson has been busy weeding in bushland areas over summer. He reports that this has resulted in increased survival of naturally-occurring banksia seedlings at Davilak Reserve and reduced fire danger after the removal of veldt grass at the Koonawarra Primary School bushland. Andrew and council staff worked hard to remove couch grass, flatweed and thistle from the Lake Gillon wetland in Karawara before its official opening in mid February. Several skeleton weed (*Chondrilla juncea*) plants were discovered at the Lake Gillon wetland and this was reported to Agriculture WA.

Recently an exotic pond weed from the eastern states was collected from one of the lakes in Sir James Mitchell Park on the South Perth foreshore. It was identified by Neville Marchant from the WA Herbarium as *Bacopa monnieri*.

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

Teams take on Melville

by Grazyna Packzkowska, City of Melville environmental officer

This year, the City of Melville has secured the services of two Work for the Dole teams for a variety of environmental projects: one from Westrek and and the

other from Calix. They will work with us twice a week for 26 weeks.

The Calix group is based at Blue Gum Lake Reserve and is involved in reserve maintenance. They work closely with the Friends of Blue Gum Lake, the Environmental Weed Action Network (EWAN) and the City. Some of the activities already tackled include rescuing and replanting lake club-rush (*Schoenoplectus validus*) along the edges of the lake and watering rushes planted by the Friends. A bulrush (*Typha orientalis*) control program is being supervised by Kate Brown (EWAN) and the results will be monitored. The group is helping the Friends to grow plants in the City of Melville nursery and there are plans to tackle fencing, mulching and an upgrade of a sedimentation basin. The group fitted in very nicely with the Friends' activity program.

The Westrek group is a mobile team involved in a variety of projects. These include woody weed removal at Piney Lakes and Blackwall Reach, removal of Bulrush (*Typha orientalis*) at Bateman Park and salvaging lake club-rush (*Schoenoplectus validus*) from an inappropriate position. The group has concentrated much of its effort in the City's nursery, where they have been growing knotted club-rush (*Isolepis nodosa*) for planting along the Melville foreshore.

Both Work for the Dole programs finish at the end of June, but already the results are clearly visible in our nursery and reserves.

For further information call Grazyna on 9364 0650.

Baigup group restarts

The Urban Bushland Council new project officer, Haakon Nielssen, is helping set up new 'Friends' groups and giving technical advice to the community. He recently held a public meeting attended by 40 people to restart the Friends of Baigup Reserve in Bayswater. The group will hold work mornings on the first Sunday of each month. Haakon also plans to help form the Friends of Garvey Park in a nearby area.

For further information call Haakon on 9420 7207.

North West Region

Yellagonga to expand nursery

by Hans Jacob, FOYRP

The Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park (FOYRP) intend to focus a substantial amount of effort and resources in expanding their native plant nursery at Landsdale Farm School this year. The expansion will enable us to propagate more understorey plants, tackle the recalcitrant species and increase the production of rushes for wetland plantings, while still meeting the native seedling requirements for the City of Joondalup and various community groups in the area.

A grant from Natural Heritage Trust for 2000/2001 will assist us. We would like to acknowledge the Landsdale Farm School for their valuable advice in identifying the various options for expansion and supporting the overall project. David Hancock, our Vice-Chairman, is currently undertaking the preparatory works and fine-tuning the project details while Jacqueline Harvey, the Nursery Manager, continues to coordinate busy bee work days on weekends.

A side project involves establishing, in conjunction with Mercy Community Services, a Work for the Dole program to help us and at the same time, provide the unemployed with valuable work experience.

During the hotter months of December and January, the group discussed how we would go about monitoring the success of our bush restoration efforts. A draft monitoring plan has been prepared and it will to be trialed in August/September. John Kaub (CALM), Rebecca Millar and Anna-Marie Penna (Bushcare officers) provided some valuable advice and feedback during a site visit to our project areas.

For further information call Hans on 9222 7178(w) or 9409 5815(h).

Caring for Craigie bush

by Cherie Wood

In November 1999, the Friends of Craigie Bushland presented a draft management plan to Joondalup Council, who then

REGIONAL REPORTS

requested a consultant's report, which was finalised in November 2000. The City has been very supportive supplying material for the fence and gates put in by a Work for the Dole team.

A gelding fence (wood and mesh) along the exposed southern edge of the reserve 'tidies up' the edge of the bush and blocks irregular movements of vehicles and walkers. Pedestrian/kangaroo gates are being installed to channel bushwalkers onto planned limestone paths and link an already substantial limestone road for Water Corporation use with our main entrance. Old tracks are regenerating with al flora.

Our bushland is a particularly important wildlife refuge since neighbouring bush at Beenyp and Woodvale were ravaged by fires over Christmas. Brushing has been laid along the slopes of the unique Quindalup dunes to halt deterioration. When our management plan is accepted, the Council and Beenyp Water Corporation will construct a wooden path and stairs to protect the fragile dunes. Illegal chook pens, orchards, lawns and gardens are being removed from the reserve. The desecrated area beneath the power lines has been tidied up in readiness for this winter's planting.

Thank you to those who helped and supported the preservation of the Craigie Bushland. I was presented with a Citizen 2001 Award for my contribution. Bush walks are conducted most Sundays at 9 am from May to December.

For further information call Cherie on 9402 5881, jhwood@jazzline.net.au.

Working on weeds indoors

by Karen Clarke

During summer the Friends of Warwick Bushland have been busy working indoors on weed management. During 2000 we collected weeds, made notes and took photos. Recently we've identified and sorted the dried specimens to compile a species list and weed herbarium. The City of Joondalup has granted us \$650 for herbarium equipment and a resource file of photos and information about our weeds. Each weed will be assigned a ranking so we can prioritise a works program. With over 100 species recorded so far, mainly along tracks and borders, this will help us

focus our limited resources. Our bushland is in very good condition, so the diversity of weeds was a surprise. This project grew out of a weed management workshop by EWAN's Kate Brown. Mapping the distribution of key species will be the next phase.

For further information call Karen on 9342 8482.

North East Region

Kids' Bandi Club a winner

The Bennett Brook Bandi Club is now in its second year. The Club (named after the local marsupial, the bandicoot) is for children aged between six and twelve years. Members receive regular newsletters to keep them up to date on activities, attend events in the school holidays and receive birthday cards and giveaways.

Last year, the kids were entertained with environmental activities including macro-invertebrate sampling, frog spotting, tree planting, wildflower walks and kangaroo feeding. The Christmas party was a huge success with 'macro' T-shirts for all and certificates to acknowledge individual interests and talents.

This year, many of the original members are returning for more fun-filled events, environmental news, great company and food. It's an opportunity for them to meet other local kids and share their endless enthusiasm for our natural environment with others who care. It is good to know these kids are the future and that they will be working alongside many others to conserve the environment and make the world a healthier and happier place.

For further information call Jackie on 9377 0444.

South East Region

Queens Park Bushland

After seven years, the Friends of Queens Park Bushland group remains very small but has many achievements to date and some are listed here. The Canning City Council fenced ten acres of bushland (between Gibbs Street, Station Street, Welshpool Road and Luyer Street), referred to as the 'ecological area'. With funding assistance from the Gordon Reid

Foundation for Conservation, the Council also fenced a bushland area behind the State houses in Maniana Road—this has a fine stand of banksias, reasonable understorey and several varieties of orchids. Friends, the Council and Ministry of Justice work groups have removed rubbish and weeds in both fenced areas.

When appropriate, weekly weeding sessions have been held in the ecological area, mainly by Friends member, Sian Mawson. Sian has also propagated seeds and replanted them in this area with some assistance from other members, using containers and mix provided by the Council. In autumn 2000, hundreds of seedlings were planted with reasonable success considering the dry summer. Other seedlings the Friends planted previously have survived for years.

The Friends obtained funding from Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program (SCULP) to create a water feature on the corner of Station Street and Welshpool Road. Following negotiation between the Friends, Council, SCULP, Water Authority and Main Roads, work is now underway. Most of the weeds have now been removed by Main Roads, along with some sand. The Council has been planting trees, which we hope will prove at least partly successful due to their undertaking to water them daily. The water feature was designed by Karl Karu and already shows some signs of success as water birds have been sighted there, and there has been the bonus of unexpected water seepage.

We desperately need new members either for physical activities or to take on activities such as secretarial and other committee member duties.

For further information call Bill Brennan on 9451 7359, Paul Taylor on 9458 5849 and Sian Mawson on 9458 3614.

Hills Region

News from the Eastern Hills

collected by Jenny Johnson

By the time we receive this newsletter, the temperature should have dropped and perhaps a little rain will have fallen to perk up the wilted bush. As I write this on the first day of autumn, the plants are dry and 'crackly' and there is not a drop of

water in the streams. Plants from last year's planting are struggling to survive as the usual summer storms did not visit us this season. Our usual survival rate of 85% will certainly be well down by the time the rain eventually falls.

On Saturday 24 February at Olive Farm, the SCULP/Alcoa grants were announced. Lots of positive messages came from the various speakers including the new Minister for the Environment, Hon. Judy Edwards, so we look forward to continuing to 'do our bit' for landcare. Many projects received funds for the coming year.

Ongoing surveying of Jane Brook to enable rehabilitation works to be planned will be the main activity in Brookside Park in Parkerville until the water starts to flow again. Spraying weeds such as couch, paspalum and bamboo will be undertaken. Erosion control in gullies and along paths will hopefully be completed before winter in Falls Park, Hovea. Other activities in reserves in Mundaring, Darlington and Sawyers Valley are being planned with another busy bush care season ahead.

Friends of Lion Mill Creek

Being a wetland, weeding never stops! Logs have been placed in strategic places in the Creek to help create pools and riffles and provide habitat for fauna. Further ripping and mounding is about to be done between last year's rows. The mounds were a great success last year and the survival rate for plants was very good. Plantings are being planned to continue the good results achieved last season. The seedlings are in the nursery and growing well. A new 'SCULP/Alcoa Lion Mill Creek' sign will be erected, when the ground softens up a little!

Rocky Gully Catchment Group

Our seedlings are growing well and maintenance of projects from previous years is ongoing. The results in our wetlands and wildlife corridors are outstanding and this makes all our efforts worthwhile. Ongoing maintenance of projects is really important, so let's hope that the workers can hang on to their perches for a few more years!

Kintore Road Reserve

The Friends have received a Community Conservation Grant to buy injection and

spraying equipment to treat dieback in the Reserve. Linda Kirchner and volunteers have mapped the dieback front and efforts will be made to stop its spread. The Shire has funded two signs for the Reserve. Anne Harris has continued with the NHT-funded flora survey. The Shire has also funded a sign for the Clifton Road Reserve, which reads 'Old Parkerville Quarries' as this and the adjoining Quarry Reserve are part of the original quarry which started the settlement of Parkerville. Granite was quarried and sent by train to the metropolitan area for use as ballast for roads and railways in the developing settlement. There was a men's camp and a powder magazine at Clifton Road Reserve. During last winter and spring, Eric McCrum and his team of helpers continued the flora survey and an astounding number of species were added to an already long list. This is an on-going project.

For further information on eastern hills groups call Jenny on 9295 4467.

Friends of North Darlington Reserves

We have watered last year's young plants in the reserves several times and there's always the inevitable picking up of rubbish to do. Our reserves are close to a swimming pool and Great Eastern Highway and there's easy access by car, so a certain amount of rubbish seems inevitable. It does, however, seem that keeping the areas fairly consistently clean means less rubbish is dumped and fewer food and drink wrappers are thrown around. We have had one large and two small 'don't' signs stolen (eg a trail bike symbol with a cross through it) and suppose that someone is making a collection—decorating their room perhaps? The plants are growing well, however—it isn't bothering them! We are planning a 'clean up' on Darlington Road this Clean Up Australia Day.

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

Bunbury Region

Bunbury Nursery and 'Nats'

by Shirley Fisher

The Leschenault Community Nursery has orders for over 100 000 plants for this

season and are discouraging new orders as space will be at a premium soon. There have been some great volunteers this year and the potting of seedlings is nearly complete. We were proud that the Nursery was nominated for the Bunbury Australia Day Community Service Award this year.

The nursery is running short of seed trays and is sending out an

urgent appeal for the return and donation of seed trays. These can be dropped at the gate in Johnston Road, off Estuary Drive.

Bunbury Naturalists' Club members continue to meet at CALM every Tuesday morning to work on the regional herbarium and assist Dr Vi Saffer with her survey. Please note the change of venue for Club meetings (see the *What's On* section for details).

For further information call Shirley on 9791 5915.

Dieback group continues

Efforts to stop the spread of the deadly *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (dieback) disease received a major boost with the injection of funds into a project that aims to raise awareness of dieback and its management. Major supporters include the Natural Heritage Trust, Alcoa and the Shire of Kalamunda. Paul Zuvella is the new Dieback Working Group project coordinator based at the Shire. The deadly soil borne fungus can destroy large areas of WA's native bushland, affecting up to 25% of the plants found in the southwest.

Local government and community conservation groups will be targeted, with nominations being sought for bushland reserves of high conservation value that are threatened or susceptible to dieback. Last year the Dieback Working Group published *Managing Phytophthora Dieback: Guidelines for Local Government*, which was sent to southwest local authorities where dieback is a significant threat. Four local authorities have already adopted the guidelines and Paul will be assisting others to follow suit. Training courses and workshops will be available.

For further information call Paul on 9257 9999, or email paul.zuvella@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Group Profile: Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland (FKRB)



Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland: (left to right) David Pike, Barbara Kent, Bruce Arthur, Elizabeth George and Phyllis Robertson.

Group profile: Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland (FKRB)

In 1987 when Homeswest asked local ratepayers what development they wanted in part of Koondoola Regional Bushland some said they wanted to keep the bushland intact. David Wake and the Coalition for Wanneroo's Environment spearheaded a successful campaign to secure it. After much lobbying, including taking councillors and politicians through the wonderful bushland, the Wanneroo Council was also convinced.

An agreement was reached with Homeswest in 1994 and the Friends, which included members of the Coalition, officially formed the following year. Botanists Malcom Trudgen, Neil Gibson and Bronwen Keighery and local politicians Iain MacLean and Carolyn Jakobsen were among those that brought the values of the bushland to public attention.

"As a local primary school teacher I thought it would be ridiculous if we had to trek all the way to Kings Park when we had fantastic bushland right here within walking distance of our school," said long-standing member, Phyllis Robertson.

Making the difference

The fence installed in the mid 1990s that runs around the entire bushland has made a great difference. It seems to give the bushland a sense of identity and care so people are less likely to dump rubbish or start fires. It has 11 fire vehicle-access

gates and 15 smaller people-access gates. There are also 11 signs displaying the bushland name that acknowledge the City of Wanneroo and FKRB as bushland managers. Phyllis checks the fences and gates for any damage or vandalism to and from work every weekday and on the weekends.

Bush magic

The bushland is 136 hectares of mainly banksia woodland with scattered jarrah and lower lying, wetter areas with flooded gum, freshwater paperbark and prickly bark, mostly in excellent condition.

"In spring it's a truly magic place, but we have wonderful things flowering any time: large and spectacular flowers too," Phyllis said.

"When I took a group through in January they were amazed to see vibrant *Calytrix* and *Verticordias* everywhere. That's very rewarding."

"I've spent a lot of time in bushlands and I've never seen such a variety of orchids: greenhoods, jug, bird, spider orchids, rabbit, snail orchids. I keep finding new plants!"

Friends member Elizabeth George is compiling a herbarium of Koondoola's great plant variety.

Bandicoots and black-gloved wallabies live in the bushland. Rufous whistlers, blue wrens, Carnaby's cockatoo and the western thornbill are some of the rarer birds found there. There's an amazing

range of insects, probably related to the great variety of plants, including the rare western jewel butterfly, magnificently colourful jewel beetles and a seemingly rare spoon-winged lacewing (resembles a dragonfly).

Come walk in Koondoola

Phyllis and David Pike are known for their fascinating nature walks held in Koondoola on the second Saturday of each month (see the *What's On* section for details), plus two annual night walks. Up to fifty people attend and *The Wanneroo Times* greatly assists in getting good numbers along.

If you take a walk in the bushland at other times consider starting at the display boards near the corner of Koondoola and Burbidge Avenues. The boards include some of Phyllis and Mary Owen's beautiful wildlife photography, a large aerial photo showing tracks through the bush, and information on current activities. The photo displays have been also seen in many schools, libraries and at other events.

"We now have a library of photos we use on the noticeboards to show what is flowering every month of the year!" Phyllis said.

Walkers are also weeders

As with most bushland care groups, weeding exotic plants is a key task. Weeders meet before work for one hour from 7am every Wednesday (7.30am in winter) and some also weed on the weekend. Veldt grass and love grass are the current focus. Before and after photos help the Friends track their progress. Phyllis and Alice Stubber plan to further develop their activities with schools and locals for Weedbuster Week this year. People who have come on nature walks often help out and are encouraged to weed as they walk.

"We often see piles of weeds that have been pulled up by anonymous people and that's very gratifying," Phyllis said.

Contacts

Alice Stubber 9306 3221
Phyllis Robertson 9349 9105



Resources

Sustainable local government

The WA Municipal Association have a new newsletter *Local Government Sustainability News* to keep you up to date on what WA local governments are up to in relation to issues such as Local Agenda 21, natural resource management, biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions. To join the mailing list call Nicole Hodgson on 9213 2042 or email nhodgson@wama.wa.gov.au.

South-Western bush journey

A new publication *Beyond the Swan: A Journey Through South-Western Australia's Bush* by Cath Drake explores the complex ecology and conservation challenges across South-West WA. It focuses on issues in the metropolitan area and Swan Coastal Plain, the incredible botanically rich kwongan shrublands of the South-West and the remote pastoral and treeless regions of the Nullarbor. Spiral bound black and white copies are available from the Wildflower Society of Western Australia for \$30 and colour copies on CD cost \$16 (prices include postage). Call 9383 7979 to order copies or post cheques to PO Box 64 Nedlands 6909. The project was supported by the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation.

New web sites

- Perth's key urban bushland non-government alliance, the Urban Bushland Council, are developing a **web site at www.iinet.net.au/~ubc**.
- The new national Bushcare web site has information on programs, publications and contacts at **www.environment.gov.au/bg/bushcare**.

Environmental law facts

The Environmental Defenders Office have developed six fact sheets on defamation and safe speech, freedom of information laws (both State and Commonwealth), Planning Law in WA and environmental impact assessment. Call 9221 3030 for free copies or look them up at www.edo.org.au/edowa. More workshops are planned next season on issues relating to environmental law.

Environmental Education

A recent State Government environmental education discussion paper outlines a strategy to enhance environment education in WA. It includes incorporating environmental education in employee training, the school curriculum, vocational and higher education courses and teacher training, plus community awareness campaigns and environmental management plans for government agencies internal operations.

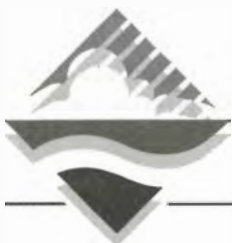
For free copies call Greg Allen on 9222 7001. An action plan will be compiled in the next stage and Greg is interested in any feedback.

National Tree Day

Annual National Tree Day coordinated by Planet Ark and Conservation Volunteers Australia on Sunday 29 July is an opportunity for tree planting projects to link in with a national planting and publicity program. To register your interest in volunteering on the day or organising an event that volunteers can join email treeday2001@planetark.org or call 1800 899 444 (www.planetark.org/treedayhome.cfm). Schools National Tree is Friday 27 July. Guides to organising an event will be available.

Green Reserve teams

Job seekers aged between 40 and 65 years can apply to take part in a new volunteer program called Green Reserve which can include environmental projects in urban and rural areas from energy efficiency to bushland restoration. The program is an initiative of the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business and managed by Conservation Volunteers Australia. For further information take a look at www.greenreserve.com.au or call Ken Beasley on 9336 6911.



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

Department of Environmental Protection

Ecoplan News
is published by the
Department of Environmental Protection



POSTAGE
PAID
PERTH
WEST.
AUST. 6000