



Happy 10th birthday Ecoplan

More than 110 people from the community, state government, local government and industry joined together at the Cockburn Education Centre on April 6 to celebrate ten years of caring for bushland as Ecoplan reviewed a decade of contribution. Special guests included the Hon. Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, the Hon. Fran Logan, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Environment Heritage

10 years old, but also to acknowledge the tremendous ongoing work of volunteers in this the International Year of the Volunteer," said Dr Jenkins.

"This program would not have been possible without the valuable and ongoing contribution of many, many volunteers and Friends groups. Many of you, including those who couldn't join us tonight, have contributed weeks, months and years of your lives to environmental

cake knife, the environmental and practical aspects of Ecoplan were highlighted as the cake was appropriately and ceremoniously cut with the most practical of bush regeneration tools – a weeding knife, hurriedly fetched from Diana Corbyn's field kit. The cutters of the cake symbolized the many successful aspects of Ecoplan, with the Hon. Fran Logan representing the Minister, Joan Payne representing the Conservation Council, Margo O'Byrne representing the DEP and Jenny Johnson combining with one of our youngest bush regenerators Declan Burke to represent community contribution.

As with all Ecoplan events, there was the opportunity to catch up on technical details, community group workings and individual friendships. In particular this event also enabled the celebration of achievements little and large which have been made not only in the past year, but particularly in the past decade, through the many and varied collaborative efforts of volunteers and government.

A decade of Ecoplan also coincided with a decade of Margo O'Byrne as the program's Coordinator. Although in true Margo style her focus was on acknowledging others for

their sustained contribution she herself was unable to escape accolades. Many groups, individuals, organisations, local governments and agencies presented Margo with an acknowledgment book that brought together comments on her contribution to Ecoplan and bushland care. Themes of these comments included Margo's practical support, availability during volunteers' time, cooperative approach, inclusiveness, passionate belief in groups and her humour. In short it was difficult to separate what the program has achieved and how the Coordinator has influenced such achievements. Exceptionally well done and thank you Margo. We wish you well on your year off.



Cutting the Ecoplan birthday cake from left to right Joan Payne, Hon. Fran Logan, Declan Burke, Margo O'Byrne and Jenny Johnson. Celebrating 10 years of Ecoplan (right).



and Water Resources and member for Cockburn, who represented Dr Judy Edwards, Ms Anne Simpson and Mr Jack Busch of the International Year of the Volunteer's office, Department of Premier and Cabinet and many valued volunteers.

In celebrating the strengths and achievements of Ecoplan, Dr Bryan Jenkins, CEO of the Department of Environmental Protection was keen to ensure voluntary community contributions were acknowledged and celebrated.

"Not only do we wish to celebrate the achievements of the DEP's community involvement program, Ecoplan, which is

protection and bushland care. Without this contribution we would not be here to celebrate 10 years of Ecoplan. This 10 year celebration is a celebration of your achievements."

"During this year we are asked to pay special attention to the contribution of volunteers. I am proud to say that the DEP through the Ecoplan program has worked each and every year to acknowledge and honour the valuable contribution made by volunteers in caring for our environment, in particular our bushland," Dr Jenkins said.

As is customary at birthday celebrations, a cake was presented. In the absence of a

Ecoplan acknowledges volunteers, see page 4 for details

At last, after a very dry season we have the long awaited rains – winter is here and the busy time of year is well and truly upon us again.

Ecoplan turned 10 this year and we had a birthday to celebrate and to recognise the International Year of the Volunteer on Friday evening 6 April. It was an exciting evening with 110 people attending including many of those involved in the initial setting up of Ecoplan. There were talks, awards and an entertaining slide show by Margo O'Byrne followed by a buffet (see front page article for highlights).

On Sunday June 3 Dr Bryan Jenkins, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environmental Protection, launched the Ecoplan/Conservation Volunteers Australia/AlintaGas Bushland Care Day program for 2001. Fortunately the rain held off for the launch and we had a lovely breakfast at the Training Ship Canning, Wilson, with a great outlook over the Canning River, which was like a millpond. Many thanks to the Australian Navy Cadet Unit for the use of their venue.

Diane Matthews and the Canning River Residents Environmental Protection Association (CRREPA) did a great job organising the group of keen people that turned up to plant along the Shelley foreshore as the first of the Bushland Care Days.

The Bushland Care Days are now well underway. We've held workdays with the Friends of Samson Park, the Friends of Korella Park Bushland and the Friends of Hovea Conservation Park. The workdays have involved planting, removing exotic plants and erosion control (see What's On for future dates).

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

The session on Monitoring and Evaluation of Urban Bushland in May had 21 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. If you have already registered and can't make it please do not forget to cancel so others get a chance to go.

Congratulations to the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (WA)

(AABR) and the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) for an excellent workshop on the Management of Exotic and Native Grasses. The workshop was well attended and a great way to share information and network.

Many thanks to Margo O'Byrne who has been the Ecoplan Coordinator since the program was initiated 10 years ago. The success of Ecoplan is in large part due to the dedication and hard work of Margo and in particular to her clear vision that Ecoplan is here to provide support to the community in looking after bushland. For a well deserved break Margo has taken a years leave to do some travelling around Australia. Have a great year Margo.

I am slowly getting to grips with the role of Ecoplan coordinator and hope you will all bear with me after having had Margo at the helm for 10 years. I have learnt heaps just in the last couple of months from you all. Please don't hesitate to ring if you have any questions or suggestions.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the newsletter and welcome to Colma Keating who is now working with us to compile Ecoplan News. Colma will be known to many of you through her work with the Wildflower Society and Conservation Council among many other things.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the newsletter.

Finally I hope we all achieve our winter aims in our local patches while still having time to enjoy our bushland.

Spring Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the Spring Ecoplan News by 1 September 2001. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words and articles as brief as possible. Send us your photos! Fax, email or write to Bridget (see Ecoplan contacts panel on this page). Thanks to all contributors.

In memory

Community bushland groups acknowledge the recent loss of Wilma Vincent.

Wilma was a founding member of the Friends of Blue Gum Lake.

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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'.

SCULP funding

The Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program (SCULP) is a partnership between the Swan Avon ICM Program, the Swan River Trust and Alcoa Australia World Alumina. SCULP was established in 1998 to provide community conservation groups with a simple process to access funding for on-ground activities.

The next round of SCULP funds are available from February 2002 for a wide range of landcare activities within the Swan Region that address the regional priorities of:

- re-vegetation, restoration and management of bushland, wetland and riverine vegetation and/or
- protection, enhancement of the quality of surface water (streams, rivers, wetlands, dams) and ground water.

Expressions of interest close 20 July. Guidelines and forms can be downloaded

from the Swan Catchment Centre's Riverlink web site www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon. For further information and/or assistance with your application call Swan Catchment Centre 9220 5300.

Nats funding for on-ground work

The Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club are offering worthy projects a grant towards costs of student or community efforts to study and/or complete environmental projects. The \$1 000 available may be granted to one or more projects. Previous grants have been awarded to a range of projects including fauna surveys, biologist's equipment, rehabilitation and natural history publications. For more info call the Branch Chairman 9527 4289. Note: Application period extended to 15 July.

Promote your local group - and you may win \$15,000

The National Bank is calling for nominations for their CommunityLink Volunteers Award. The aim of the award is

to recognise and financially reward not-for-profit groups, to encourage more Australians to work for their communities. Your community group could be acknowledged for their volunteer efforts with a certificate and \$1 000, \$5 000 or \$15 000. All nominations and supporting information must be received by 27 July. For more information call National Bank 1800 807 121 or visit www.national.com.au.

Conference sponsorship

Land and Water Australia has up to \$50 000 available in 2001-2002 for between five and eight major events such as conferences, workshops or seminars focusing on sustainable natural resource management. Proposals should focus on knowledge exchange among diverse stakeholders. See www.lwa.gov for details and application forms. The next application period closes on 31 October. For further details contact Christine Ellis on 02 6263 6012 or christine.ellis@lwa.gov.au.

EcoWatch - local interest and opportunities

A new series of programs will be screened on Channel 31 in Perth during June and repeated in July. The 30 minute programs titled *ecoWatch* are locally produced and include items on ecology, landcare, salination, alternative energy. They will be screened at 6pm on Thursday 5, 12 and 19 July.

Further programs are in construction. Environmental and action groups can submit completed material for use in future programs, or can suggest topics that should be included in the future. For further information contact the coordinator Roger Watson 9316 1324 or rwatson@perthpcug.org.au.

Can you help?

CSIRO are trying to find a 30-40 year old photo of Boomerang Gorge in Yanchep National Park so that they can compare a view of the gorge 'before'; and 'after' the introduction of bridal creeper to the park.

If you can help please contact Kathryn Batchelor 9333 6643 or k.batchelor@ccmar.csiro.au

The Friends of Hepburn and Pinaroo Bushland are writing a book that sets out the history of the campaign to save the bush at Hepburn Heights as well as the flora, fauna and other information relevant to the area. The Group is appealing to people and organisations who can help with the loan of photographs and newspaper cuttings or can relate incidences that they experienced. Contact Alan Lloyd 9401 6652, 31 Redfin Cres, Beldon 6027.

Bush safety tip - disposal of needles and syringes

With many groups venturing into the bushland for winter care and recreational activities it is timely to remind ourselves of the safe disposal of needles and syringes. The following advice has been prepared by the Health Department and Clean Up Australia.

What to do if you find a discarded needle or syringe

1. Don't be alarmed or rushed. If possible, delegate task of removal and disposal to a site supervisor - supply them with thick gloves and tongs.
2. Get a container with a well secured lid - preferably screw top.

The best containers for collecting needles and syringes are sharps containers. These are hard plastic containers that are used for holding dangerous objects. They are purpose built and clearly marked. The next best options are rigid plastic containers with lids (e.g. plastic milk, juice or soft drink bottles with a screw top lid). Avoid using glass as it may shatter, or aluminium cans as they may be squashed.

3. Don't touch needle or syringe with bare hands and at no time should any attempt be made to cover, break or bend the needle - you risk pricking yourself.
4. With gloves and preferably tongs, pick needle up by the blunt end and place it point first into the container. More than one can be placed in container, but don't overfill.
5. Replace the lid tightly and place your 'safe container' in a domestic rubbish bin. Your local hospital, council or health centre may also accept containers.

What to do if you injure yourself with a discarded needle.

- Wash the area gently with soap and running tap water as soon as possible.
- Apply an antiseptic and a clean dressing.
- Place needle in sealed rigid plastic container and take with you.
- Obtain prompt medical advice from a doctor or hospital, preferably within 24 hours.

Remember

- Don't panic, take reasonable care and follow the above steps.
- Tell children never to pick up needles or syringes, but to tell an adult.
- Don't collect needles or syringes in bags or buckets or carry unless it is in a suitable container.

Problem areas

If you are regularly finding needles and syringes in a particular area, contact your local government Environmental Health Officer

Ecoplan's 10th Birthday provided the opportunity to acknowledge the significant personal contributions of twenty of the many valued volunteers. The Hon. Fran Logan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Water Resources had the pleasure of presenting the awards at the April celebrations.

Congratulations and thank you for your valued contribution:

Bernard Bischoff

For consistent, considered and long term voluntary contribution to the environment, especially in the Bunbury region.

Norma Calcutt

For long time dedication to the cause of saving, protecting and restoring bushland, particularly in Bold Park, and for inspiration provided to others.

Angela Carr

For many years of dedicated voluntary work towards the protection of bushland in Perth. For providing leadership and inspiration for others, particularly through the Urban Bushland Council.

Brian Crute

For valued contribution to bushland care throughout Perth.

Pauline and Richard Diggins

For many years of dedicated voluntary work to protecting the environment. For inspirational work in the restoration of Gingin Brook.

John Feldman

For dedicated environmental protection in the South Perth area and ongoing voluntary support for newly forming conservation groups.

Diane Matthews

For tireless dedication to environmental protection along the Canning River, many years of practical bushland volunteering and for the ongoing support of many community groups.

Jenny Johnson

For many years of dedication and volunteer effort in caring for the environment, particularly in the Hills area. For enthusiasm, good humour and

willingness to share your understanding with others. For the inspiration you provide.

Janice Marshall

For tireless ongoing work for the promotion of Bush Regeneration. For excellence in organisational skills and willingness to promote bushland management and restoration to the wider community. For inspiration and leadership provided to others.



Bob and Ann Goodale (above)

For the inspiration provided to others in the protection of the environment. For outstanding work in establishing the Rockingham Regional Environment Centre - Naragebup.

Diane Matthews

For tireless dedication to environmental protection along the Canning River, many years of practical bushland volunteering and for the ongoing support of many community groups.

Lois McKenzie

For valued contribution to bushland care throughout Perth.

Kevin McLean

For many years of dedicated work protecting and restoring Perth's bushland. For willingness to inspire others to work for environmental protection.

Lesley Shaw

For many years of ongoing hands on environmental protection. For providing leadership and inspiration to the Friends of Allen Park.

Andrew Thomson

For enthusiastic, dedicated and outstanding contribution to the bushland of Perth. In particular for efforts to promote awareness of environmental weeds and the practical work for their control and management.

Brett Tizard

For many years of dedicated, enthusiastic, inspired care of the bushland. For providing ongoing support and inspiration to others both in the Armadale area and throughout Perth.

Kirsten Tullis

For dedicated, consistent and ongoing voluntary work protecting the environment, and for providing inspiration and leadership through the Urban Bushland Council.

Marian Watson

For many years of dedication and effort in the protection of Blue Gum Lake. For providing leadership and inspiration to others.

David Wake

For ongoing dedication to environmental protection especially in the Quinns Rocks area, and for providing support and inspiration to others.

Get ready for Biodiversity Month September

Help promote the conservation of Australia's species and ecosystems whilst promoting your community's conservation activities. *Earth Alive! Biodiversity Month* is a national celebration of Australia's rich diversity of life, and what all Australians can do to help conserve wildlife habitat. Activities are coordinated by the Community Biodiversity Network (CBN) and the Threatened Species Network (TSN).

This year the CBN and have developed a one-stop-shop National Biodiversity Month/National Threatened Species Day (7 September) Kit. The Kit includes a product order form which enables groups taking part to access a broad range of free education and promotional materials.

To receive a kit or for more information contact Sandra McKenzie, WA's Threatened Species Network Coordinator on 9387 6444, smckenzie@wwf.org.au or browse *Earth Alive! Biodiversity Month* www.cbn.org.au/projects/earthalive2001/home.html.

Success Lake to be rid of serious aquatic weed

In recent years, Success Lake next to Beeliar Swamp has been almost choked by the serious aquatic weed *Salvinia* that has been starving the native aquatic ecosystem of much needed oxygen. The weed was most likely dumped from a backyard pond, where it had been cultivated. Local authorities and community volunteers have moved in to remove the weed, which is not only a threat to the ecology of the area, but to the public as well.

Salvinia is an aquatic fern, native to South America and is a target for biological control in several countries, including Australia, where it has had a serious impact on natural waterways and irrigated crops. *Salvinia* is easily distinguished by its green oval leaves covered in fine eggbeater-hairs, that sit on the water's surface and brownish leaves that hang down in the water and look like roots.

Agriculture WA is urging any sightings of *Salvinia* to be reported to the local AGWEST office as quickly as possible, to prevent the weed from becoming established.

Ecoplan Econotes: The mysteries and values of fungi

The mysteries and values of fungi

Extracted from Kevn Griffiths' *Field Guide* and Katrina Syme's article in *Western Wildlife*

Fungi play a critical and unique role in a vast range of natural processes throughout the world – yet little is known or understood about Australia's estimated 250 000 species, and only about 5% are named. Fungi grow everywhere in Australia, even in the wheatbelt and desert – they play a vital role in ecosystem health.

Fungi fall into three very broad groups:

1. *Parasitic* fungi feed on living organisms and include microfungi such as ringworm and tinea which live on humans and other animals.
2. *Saprophytic* fungi utilise dead organic matter, both plant and animal and are great recyclers. They are the largest group in Australia.
3. *Mycorrhizal* fungi form symbiotic or mutually beneficial relationships with plants.

Fungi are also discussed and classified in broad visual terms:

- *microscopic* fungi, which include yeast, penicillin, rust and smut.
- *larger* fungi, which are visible to the naked eye and include toadstool and puffball.



Ramaria sinapicolor – a coral fungus (height 4cm)

Above ground and below ground

Essentially the 'toadstool' or 'mushroom' that one sees is only part of the whole of some fungi. It is the fruiting body and contains the spores, just as a cone is the fruiting body of the Banksia and contains its seeds. The fungus itself, unlike the woody Banksia tree, consists of a fine network of white, yellow, grey or greenish threads called hyphae which

permeate and penetrate the food source – be it a log, the soil, dung, rotting leaves or perhaps animal tissue. During our wetter months mycelium can readily be seen among the rotting leaf litter, decaying bark or in peaty ground.

When weather and soil conditions are right, the fungus begins to reproduce and the fruit bodies (e.g. toadstools) arise from the mycelium. A fungus has no roots, no leaves and no flowers. Its 'seeds' are microscopic spores carried on the



Piptoporus portentosus – a bracket fungus (can reach 40cm across)

fruiting body in a number of ways (gills, tubes etc) and it is by means of studying these spore carrying devices that mycologists initially classify fungi. The spores are usually dispersed by wind.

Specialised relationships

The role of mycorrhizal fungi is of vital importance to plants growing in our nutrient poor soils. Their hyphae form a sheath around the rootlets of most trees, shrubs and herbs. Fungal threads then grow throughout the surrounding soil, taking up nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus and passing them on to the plant associate. The plant in return passes carbohydrate to the fungus.

Australian orchids have a unique relationship with fungi (refer *Ecoplan NEWS*, Spring 2000). Orchid seed will not germinate without the help of microscopic symbiotic fungi.

Many of the larger fungi that lie hidden under the leaf matter or below the soil surface (truffles) are part of a three-way relationship involving fungi, plants and small native mammals. In order to colonise new areas these fungi must be eaten and the spores spread by animals. Potoroos and woylies live almost exclusively on underground fungi. But other small marsupials such as native rats and bandicoots also eat them.

Getting to know them

Fungi forays this winter

Starting out in fungi can be difficult, but it is made easy and fascinating by those

who have knowledge, a passion for fungi and the generosity to share. Refer to *What's On* and join a fungi foray this winter.

Fungimap

Fungimap began in Victoria in 1995, as a community-based project to record the distribution of eight species of easily recognised fungi and has now gained momentum across Australia. Activities include identification, mapping and the recent National Conference in Denmark. For more information on WA Fungimap contact coordinator Katrina Syme 9848 1293, fungidenmarkwa@wn.com.au.



Mycena subgalericulata – a toadstool (caps to 1cm wide)

What's in a name?

Larger fungi have some terrific common names such as cup, flask, earth tongue, ink cap, death cap, fan, tooth, coral, split-gill, bracket, jelly, ear, club, pore, puffball, earth star, lattice, stink horn and nest. All of these are descriptive and greatly assist in getting a handle on the variety of more easily observed fungi that you can discover this winter!

References & field guides

- Bougher N L and Syme K (1998) *Larger Fungi of Southern Australia* University of WA Press, Nedlands, WA.
- Griffiths K (1985) *A Field Guide to the Larger Fungi of the Darling Scarp & South West of Western Australia* Kevn Griffiths, WA.
- Hilton R N (1988) *Larger Fungi of the Jarrah Forest Conservation Council of WA (Inc)*, Perth, WA.
- Syme K (1998) *The Larger Fungi* IN: *Western Wildlife* 2(2):3-4 newsletter of the Land for Wildlife Program, CALM, Como, WA.

Illustrations by Shirley Clancy (Hilton, 1988).

JULY

3 Tuesday 7.30pm
Developing Friends' Groups presented by Urban Bushland Council. Call UBC 9420 7207.

4 Wednesday - 6 Friday
Nyaania Creek Restoration Days with the Helena River Catchment Group. Call Linda, Mundaring Shire 9290 6675 or lindaraynor@mundaring.wa.gov.au.

7 Saturday
Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Bushland Care Day at Allen Park. Call CVA 9336 6911.

7 Saturday 9am - 12pm
Weeding and planting at Falls Pk, Hovea (on the Bridle Trail). Call Jenny 9295 4467.

7 Saturday 10am - 3pm
SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA Managing Weeds and Bushland for Community Volunteers. Workshop, presented by EWAN's Kate Brown at Talbot Rd Bushland, Stratton. Call Karen: 9220 5300.

7 Saturday
Rockingham Regional Environment Centre bush care morning. Call Bob Goodale 9591 3077.

7 Saturday 3pm
Beach walk with Friends of Marmion Marine Park. Meet at Trigg Beach Boat Ramp, near Clarko Reserve. Call 9342 8684.

8 Sunday
Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Bushland Care Day at Craigie Open Space - BBQ lunch provided. Call CVA 9336 6911.

8 Sunday 8:30 - 9:30am
Guided bush walk with the Friends of Dianella Bushland. Meet in Joy Street, Tuart Hill (opposite Channel 7 Gatehouse). Call Jan Bant 9344 2872 or 041 796 4196.

8 Sunday 9am - 12pm
Weeding and planting at Brookside Pk, Parkerville. Call Jenny 9295 4467.

8 Sunday 5.00pm
Origins of Species Richness in the Southwest Australian Flora talk presented by Dr Steve Hopper, Lecture Theatre, Administration Building, Fraser Ave, Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Call Liz 9480 3605, liz@kpgb.wa.gov.au.

9 Monday - 13 Friday
Bush regeneration in the Yellagonga Regional Park with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). Call CVA 9336 6911.

11 Wednesday 7 - 8:30pm
Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden, Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Road, Peron. Call Naragebup 9591 3077, rrec@southwest.com.au.

12 Thursday 7:45pm
Control of bulbous weeds presented by Bob Dixon at Wildflower Society (WA) Armadale Branch, History House, Jull Street, Armadale. Call Rob 9397 0181.

14 Saturday 8-9am
Guided nature walk with the Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland. Meet at the display shelter, northeast junction of Koondoola and Burbidge Avenues (gate 2). Call Alice 9306 3221.

15 Sunday 9am - 12pm
Weeding and planting at Hovea Conservation Pk, Hovea. Call Herbie 9298 8218.

15 Sunday 10am
Fungi Foray led by Kevn Griffiths, author of 'A Field Guide to the Larger Fungi of the Darling Scarp'. Meet at Bedfordale Hall, Admiral Road, Bedfordale. Bring your lunch. Sponsored by City of Armadale and Bungendore Park Management Committee in conjunction with Darling Range Naturalists' Club. Call Kim Sarti 9473 0005 a/h.

16 Monday 8am
Bush regeneration training with Kate Brown (EWAN) at the Brixton Street Wetlands. Meet at the Altona St gate, Kenwick. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

18 Wednesday 7 - 8:30pm
Attracting Frogs to Your Garden, Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Road, Peron. Call Naragebup 9591 3077, rrec@southwest.com.au.

19 Thursday 9am
Bush regeneration training with Kate Brown (EWAN) at Shenton Bushland. Meet at the Lemnos Street entrance, opposite the Cat Haven, Shenton Park. Call Kate 9220 5311.

19 Thursday 9am - 12:30pm
Practical Wetland Management - The Bibra Lake Experience workshop and field visit for community groups and land managers. Call Cockburn Wetlands Centre 9417 8460, cwec@wetlands-education.org.

21 Saturday 8am - 5pm
SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA Essential First Aid (Certified). Call Karen: 9220 5300 - RSVPs essential by 22/6.

21 Saturday 8am
Nature walk with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at the scout hall, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

21 Saturday 9am
Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call Gould League 9387 6079.

22 Sunday
Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Bushland Care Day at Trigg Bushland - BBQ lunch provided. Call CVA 9336 6911.

22 Sunday 8:30 - 10am
Bird Walk with the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley at Hillside Farm, Hayward Rd, Martin. Call Gosnells City Council 9452 9999.

28 Saturday
Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Bushland Care Day at Mount Henry Peninsula, Salter Point - BBQ lunch provided. Call CVA 9336 6911.

28 Saturday 8am
Guided morning bush walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet grassed area, Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

28 Saturday 2pm - 5pm
EWAN General Meeting at the Theatre at Agriculture WA, Baron-Hay Court, call Diane or Gary 9457 2896.

29 Sunday
National Tree Day. Register your interest in organising a planting event or volunteering on the day. Call 1800 899 444, treeday2001@planetark.org.

AUGUST

4 Saturday
Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Bushland Care Day at Lightning Swamp Bushland, Noranda. Call CVA 9336 6911.

4 Saturday 9am - 12pm
Weeding and planting at Falls Pk, Hovea (on the Bridle Trail). Call Jenny 9295 4467.

4 Saturday
Rockingham Regional Environment Centre bush care morning. Call Bob Goodale 9591 3077.

4, 11, 18 and 25 Saturdays 9am - 4:30pm
Introduction to Bush Regeneration course coordinated by APACE. Call 9336 1262, apace@argo.net.au.

5 Sunday 4:30pm
Frogging and Fungi Excursion with WA Naturalists' Club at Paruna Sanctuary. Call 9228 2495, wanats@inet.net.au.

6 Monday 8am
Bush regeneration training with Kate Brown (EWAN) at the Brixton Street Wetlands. Meet at the Altona St gate, Kenwick. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

7 Tuesday - 10 Friday
International Year of the Volunteer, Vision 2001 - Volunteering into the Future, Fremantle. Call Promaco Conventions 9322 2900, promaco@promaco.com.au.

9 Thursday 7:45pm
Autumn in the Bush presented by Alex George at Wildflower Society (WA) Armadale Branch, History House, Jull Street, Armadale. Call Rob 9397 0181.

11 Saturday 8 - 9am
Guided nature walk with the Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland. Meet at the display shelter, northeast junction of Koondoola and Burbidge Avenues (gate 2). Call Alice 9306 3221.

11 Saturday 8:30am - 4:30pm
SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA Safe Use of Herbicides (Certified). Presented by Swan Training and Consultancy at Midland TAFE. Call Karen 9220 5300 - RSVPs essential by 13/7.

11 Saturday 10am - 12pm
Minibeasts Day hosted by Friends of Mary Carroll Park. Includes a talk on Minibeasts that live in the wetlands followed by light lunch and a cuppa. Eudoria St, Gosnells. Call Gosnells City Council 9452 9999.

12 Sunday 9am - 12pm
Weeding and planting at Brookside Pk, Parkerville. Call Jenny 9295 4467.

14 Tuesday 8pm
One Step Beyond: Restoration of the Mt Eliza Scarp presented by Peter Moonie at Wildflower Society (WA) Perth Branch, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd. Call Kate 9382 4193.

17 Friday 7.30 pm
Pollinators presented by Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah Branch of WA Naturalists' Club at Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd, Peron. Call Bob Goodale 9527 4289.

18 Saturday
Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Bushland Care Day at Waddington Park, Waddington Av, Koondoola - BBQ lunch provided. Call CVA 9336 6911 or Alice 9306 3221.

18 Saturday 8am
Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call Gould League 9387 6079.

18 Saturday 8am
Nature walk with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at the scout hall, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

18 Saturday 9:30am - 1pm
SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA Seeking Sponsorship workshop. At Swan Catchment Centre, Perth. Call Karen 9220 5300 n RSVPs essential by 10/7.

19 Sunday
Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Bushland Care Day at Canning River Regional Park, with

Wilson Wetlands Action Group - BBQ lunch provided. Call CVA 9336 6911.

19 Sunday 9am - 12pm
Bush regeneration with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Meet at the Warwick Senior High School car park, off Erindale Rd. Call Robyn 9342 6840 or Karen 9342 8482.

19 Sunday 9am - 12pm
Weeding and planting at Hovea Conservation Pk, Hovea. Call Herbie 9298 8218.

20 Monday 8am
Bush regeneration training with Kate Brown (EWAN) at the Brixton Street Wetlands. Meet at the Altona St gate, Kenwick. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

20 Monday - 23 Thursday 9am - 4:30pm
Introduction to Bush Regeneration course coordinated by APACE. Call 9336 1262, apace@argo.net.au.

24 Friday 7:30pm
Mound Springs presented by Val English at Wildflower Society (WA) Eastern Hills Branch, Octagonal Hall, McGlewe Rd, Glen Forrest. Call Jenny 9572 1697.

25 Saturday 8am
Guided bush walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet grassed area, Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

26 Sunday
Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Bushland Care Day at Kadina Brook Reserve, Gooseberry Hill - BBQ lunch provided. Call CVA 9336 6911.

26 Sunday 9 - 11am
Walk On The Wild Side a guided walk to see the wildflowers and animals that inhabit the Brixton Street Wetlands presented by the Friends of Brixton Street. Meet at the Altona St gate, Kenwick. Call Gosnells City Council 9452 9999.

26 Sunday 4 - 5:30pm
Guided wildflowers walk with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Warwick Bowling & Tennis Club bitumen car park, off Lloyd Dr. Call Robyn 9342 6840 or Karen 9342 8482.

27 Monday 7 - 9:30pm
SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA Do you need a website? (and how to go about creating one). Presenters include Rob Edkins (Avon Catchment Network) at Swan Catchment Centre, Perth. Call Karen 9220 5300 n RSVPs essential by 20/8.

28 Tuesday 8pm
Kalamunda and Its Catchments presented by Alan Hill (Water Wetlands & Environmental Consultant) at Wildflower Society (WA) Darling Range Branch, Kalamunda Library, cnr Williams and Spring Roads. Call Monica 9454 5775.

SEPTEMBER

BIODIVERSITY MONTH
Saturday 9am - 12pm
Weeding and planting at Falls Pk, Hovea (on the Bridle Trail). Call Jenny 9295 4467.

1 Saturday 9:30am - 1pm
SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA How to look after your local environment Seminar at Swan Catchment Centre. Call Karen 9220 5300 - RSVPs essential by 24/8.

1 Saturday
Rockingham Regional Environment Centre bush care morning. Call Bob Goodale 9591 3077.

1 Saturday 4 - 6pm
Wetland wanderings at Herdsman Lake with CALM's Go Bush program. Call 9295 2244.

3 Monday 8am
Bush regeneration training with Kate Brown (EWAN) at the Brixton Street Wetlands. Meet at the Altona St gate, Kenwick. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

7 Friday
National Threatened Species Day. Call Sandra, TSN Coordinator, World Wide Fund for Nature 9387 6444, smkenzie@wwf.org.au.

8 Saturday 8-9am
Guided nature walk with the Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland. Meet at the display shelter, northeast junction of Koondoola and Burbidge Avenues (gate 2). Call Alice 9306 3221.

8 Saturday 10am - 12pm
Awesome Orchids - growth habit and ecosystem role at Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring Rd, Mundaring with CALM's Go Bush program. Call 9295 2244.

8 Saturday 4 - 5:30pm
Guided wildflowers walk with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Warwick Bowling & Tennis Club bitumen car park, off Lloyd Dr. Call Robyn 9342 6840 or Karen 9342 8482.

9 Sunday
Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Bushland Care Day at Canning Mills Reserve with Roleystone Dieback Action Group - BBQ lunch provided. Call CVA 9336 6911.

9 Sunday 8:30 - 9:30am
Guided spring nature walk with the Friends of Dianella Bushland. Meet in Joy Street, Tuart Hill (opposite Channel 7 Gatehouse). Call Jan Bant 9344 2872 or 041 796 4196.

9 Sunday 9:30am - 4pm
Wildflower Society Spring Fling at Perry House, 71 Oceanic Drive, Floreat Park. Call 9383 7979 or Sybil a/h 9444 1495.

9 Sunday 9am - 12pm
Weeding and planting at Brookside Pk, Parkerville. Call Jenny 9295 4467.

11 Tuesday 8pm
Native Peas presented by Jenny Chappill at Wildflower Society (WA) Perth Branch, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd. Call Kate 9382 4193.

11 Tuesday - 14 Friday
State Landcare Conference, Partnerships and Diversity, Mandurah Performing Arts Centre. Call Keynote Conferences 9382 3799, keynote@ca.com.au.

13 Thursday 7:45pm
The Proteaceae presented by Eric McCrum at Wildflower Society (WA) Armadale Branch, History House, Jull Street, Armadale. Call Rob 9397 0181.

15 Saturday 9-11am
Frog Workshop, Bennett Brook Environment Centre, 266 Lord Street, Caversham. Call 9377 0444.

15 Saturday 7am
Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call Gould League 9387 6079.

15 Saturday 8am
Third Saturday of the month nature walk with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at the scout hall, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

15 Saturday 9am
Planting, weeding and general bushland care with Friends of Altona Park. Meet at cnr Altona Rd and Beckworth Ave, Kiara. Call Kirsten 9217 3549. (Refer also to - Group Profile article)

16 Sunday 9am - 12pm
Weeding and planting at Hovea Conservation Pk, Hovea. Call Herbie 9298 8218.

16 Sunday 2pm
Guided nature walk with the Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland. Meet at the display shelter, northeast junction of Koondoola and Burbidge Avenues (gate 2). Call Alice 9306 3221.

16 Sunday 9am - 12pm
Bush regeneration with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Meet at the Warwick Senior High School car park, off Erindale Rd. Call Robyn 9342 6840 or Karen 9342 8482.

17 Monday 8am
Bush regeneration training with Kate Brown (EWAN) at the Brixton Street Wetlands. Meet at the Altona St gate, Kenwick. Call Kate Brown 9220 5311.

17 Monday - 10 Thursday 9am - 4:30pm
Introduction to Bush Regeneration course coordinated by APACE. Call 9336 1262, apace@argo.net.au.

19 Wednesday 7 - 8:30pm
Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden Course, Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Road, Peron. Call Naragebup 9591 3077, rrec@southwest.com.au.

21 Friday - October 1 Monday
Kings Park Annual Exhibition. Call Kings Park & Botanic Garden 9480 3600.

22 Saturday 8am
Guided bush walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet grassed area, Hope St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

22 Saturday 9am - 1pm
SCC/Ecoplan/GAWA Safe use and maintenance of brushcutters (Certified). Call Karen 9220 5300 - RSVPs essential by 24/8.

22 Saturday
Frog listening excursion to Lake Richmond (Rockingham) with the Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah Branch of WA Naturalists' Club. Call Bob Goodale 9527 4289.

23 Sunday
Ecoplan/Alinta Gas/Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Bushland Care Day at Lion Mill Creek Reserves, Mt Helena - BBQ lunch provided. Call CVA 9336 6911 or Jenny 9572 1697.

23 Sunday 9am - 12pm
Lupin pull with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet Groat St Entrance, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

23 Sunday 4 - 5:30pm
Guided wildflowers walk with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Warwick Bowling & Tennis Club bitumen car park, off Lloyd Dr. Call Robyn 9342 6840 or Karen 9342 8482.

23 Sunday 9.25am
Samson Park walk followed by Gladiolus pulling session with Murdoch Branch of Wildflower Society, Fremantle City and Friends of Samson Park. Light Lunch provided. Meet in park between Bradbury Way, Kirby Way and Sellenger Ave, Samson. Call Neil 9437 2410.

28 Friday 7:30pm
Wattles for Wildlife - the value of prickly plants presented by Penny Hussey at Octagonal Hall, McGlewe Rd, Glen Forrest. Call Jenny, Eastern Hills Branch of Wildflower Soc. 9572 1697.

Advance notices
1 - 31 October Bushcare Month
7 - 14 October NATIONAL WEDDUSTER WEEK. Call Sandy Lloyd 9368 3760.



What's on
Perth Metropolitan Region

Bunbury Region

JULY

10 Tuesday 9am
Join Bunbury Naturalists' Club for volunteer work on the Central Forest Regional Herbarium, CALM, Dodson Rd, Bunbury.

10 Tuesday 7:30pm
Bunbury Naturalists' Club AGM and Chats about Native Forest with John Clarke (CALM Products Division).

14 Saturday
Join Bunbury Naturalists' Club excursion.

AUGUST

8 Wednesday 7.30pm
Busseton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk by Water and Rivers Commission on Our Underground Water Resources.

14 Tuesday 9am
Join Bunbury Naturalists' Club for volunteer work on the Central Forest Regional Herbarium, CALM, Dodson Rd, Bunbury.

18 Saturday
Join Bunbury Naturalists' Club excursion to an adventure cave visit.

19 Sunday
Join Busseton Naturalists' Club excursion - Augusta to Busseton Heritage Trail.

SEPTEMBER

11 Tuesday 9am
Join Bunbury Naturalists' Club for volunteer work on the Central Forest Regional Herbarium, CALM, Dodson Rd, Bunbury.

11 Tuesday 7:30pm
Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on Anticipating Areas Needing Protection with Larry Guise, Environmental Planning Officer.

12 Wednesday 7.30pm
Busseton Naturalists' Club meeting and talk on Sea Level Changes with Lindsay Collins, Curtin University.

15 Saturday
Join Bunbury Naturalists' Club coastal excursion to Cable Sands restoration site.

23 Sunday
Join Busseton Naturalists' Club walk - Wildflowers of the Chapel Area led by Greg Voight, CALM. Followed by visit to Gallery 934, Goodwood Road Upper Chapel.

For Bunbury Naturalists' Club activities confirm details by checking with nominated person or calling Shirley and Graham Fisher on 9791 5915, gfisher@highway1.com.au. Monthly meetings and natural history talks are held at the conference room, Lotteries House, Victoria St. Visitors welcome.

For Busseton Naturalists' Club activities confirm details by checking the Busseton Margaret Times or calling Bernie on 9727 2474 (h) or 9752 1949(w), bmasters@inet.net.au. Meetings are held at St Mary's Family Centre, cnr Albert St and Bussell Hwy. Visitors welcome.

Leschenault Community Nursery
Volunteers are needed to help out in the Nursery Monday to Thursday, 8am - 12pm. Call 9791 5915.

These events are forwarded for inclusion in the Swan Catchment Centres monthly information sheet and Riverlink web site at www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon.

Please send us your October, November, December 2001 events by 1 September.

Central Region

Shenton Bushland

by Janice Marshall

On a moonless night in May, twenty-one warmly dressed spotters with their torches and head-lamps gathered in Shenton Bushland to participate in the *Great Australian Marsupial Night-Stalk*. We didn't hold out much hope of spotting any furry animals as on our only other night-walk in late autumn, three years ago, we observed just spiders.

This night-stalk we broke into small groups, each heading off to observe a different habitat tree. We heard frogs calling, saw 'diamonds' (spider eyes) in the litter and also recorded the birds we had hoped to see, being the tawny frogmouth, barn owl and boobook owl. A surprise record was a large roost of what were thought to be ibis – they flew off when the torch beam first located them! One of the group of spotters with wetland experience confirmed this possibility, saying that ibis are breeding up in ever larger numbers and so have to spread away from the wetlands to find roosting sites.

And just a reminder that you can join Kate Brown, project officer with the Environmental Weeds Action Network, every third Thursday of the month (refer to *What's On*) to learn some aspect of bush regeneration. We always have pretty special refreshments!

For further information call Janice on 9381 1479 or Dani on 9381 3470.

South Perth bushlands

by John Feldman

The City of South Perth has been baiting rabbits in several bushland areas near the Mt Henry Peninsula and Mt Henry Bridge in Manning. The effects of this baiting are being examined jointly by members of the Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group, students from Aquinas College and Katrina Hill (bushcare officer with the City of South Perth).

The local council has also been working with the state Dental Hospital in Manning, where the organisations have co-operated to plant native seedlings into

an area of remnant bushland near the new Mount Henry residential development. The council is supplying labour and the Dental Hospital is purchasing the plants. Although this bushland area was planted with some seedlings last year, they mostly died because of the combination of late planting and a dry finish to the winter period.

In the last term of 2000, Aquinas College was successful in the *Australian Habitat Projects* competition. Their reward was assistance from the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers for all the Year 7s to have a day of seed collecting (guided by Tony Freeman from APACE), as well as seed treatment and propagation activities. In May this year the seed and seedlings were used on Mt Henry Peninsula in marked plots for monitoring.

After the rainfall in early May this year, Lyn Gleeson and friends from the Karawara Community Project have been busy planting seedlings near the Community Centre on George Burnett Park. The 100 plants were donated by Greening Australia WA.

Recently Haakon Nielssen from the Urban Bushland Council conducted a direct seeding and planting workshop. Native plant seed was 'smoked' at the Arts Centre building in Victoria Park. This seed was then mixed with sand and sown at Hill View Bushland and a degraded road verge near Kensington Bushland. The soil surface that was sown with the seed was then lightly covered with 'brushing' to prevent disturbance and provide protection for newly germinating seedlings. Such direct seeding has the advantage that there is no restriction to root growth of the seedling, unlike the potential problem of root-bound seedlings grown in plastic pots.

For further information call John on 9450 5661 (after 6pm).

Blue Gum Lake

by Marion Watson

Work has continued throughout the summer months and we have had some major assistance from a *Work for the Dole* team. Some of the jobs tackled by the team included upgrading the sedimentation basin and drains at the

western end of the lake, planting reeds, weeding, pricking out and potting up plants at the City of Melville nursery, cutting and erecting bollards, mulching plants and assisting in eliminating typha.

A Lotteries Commission grant has been used to install continuous concrete curbing to delineate part of the reserve. As a trial, second-hand conveyer belt was buried (in an upright position) under half the curbing to see if it will prevent couch grass invading the bushland.

Kate Brown from the Environmental Weeds Action Network is still working with us and advising us one day every second week.

We are planning to establish another stand of reeds by relocating some *Baumea articulata* (Jointed Rush) from a private property.

Finally, in thinking about the people that 'make it happen', we were all saddened with the death in May of Wilma Vincent, who was one of the founding members of the Friends of Blue Gum Lake. Wilma was a strong advocate for upgrading the area and ensuring that only native vegetation prospered. Her contributions and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

For further information call Marion on 9316 1324.

Baigup – strong start for new Friends

by Haakon Neilsson

Baigup Wetland Reserve on the Swan River in Bayswater is experiencing exciting times. Twenty years ago the weed-infested swamp was regarded as a convenient place to run a gas pipeline and to dump fill. Since then the combined efforts of the local community, Bayswater Greenworks, Ministry for Planning and the City of Bayswater have resulted in Baigup gradually regaining its former beauty and habitat value.

As the Reserve has improved, its use has increased such that when the Urban Bushland Council called a public meeting to help organise a Friends of Baigup group, over forty people responded. The Friends of Baigup Reserve (FoBR) have formally

formed. They link the Friends of Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary to the east with the Friends of Ascot Waters on the other side of the River.

FoBR are holding work mornings on the first Sunday of each month, starting modestly by weeding the area behind the Hinds Street Reserve car park. This area was rehabilitated two years ago with a swale constructed to catch a number of small springs and direct them into a drain. At that time, the area was planted extensively with native plants, but unfortunately the encroaching weeds now threaten to undo all the good work.

For further information call Haakon on 9420 7207 or ubc@wantree.com.au.

North West Region

Hepburn Heights

by Ralph Henderson

As indicated in the Bush Forever Report, although the Hepburn Heights Conservation Area is part of Bush Forever Site 303, parts of it have been allocated as sites for a Fire Station and a Western Power Sub-station. There is no immediate threat of the Sub-station being developed but Friends of Hepburn and Pinnaroo Bushland have been informed that the Fire & Emergency Services Authority (FESA) has decided to proceed with Fire Station development. If the proposed site were to be used it would mean the destruction of 3 000 square metres of high quality bushland.

We have raised our concerns with the relevant Ministers and identified an alternative site outside the bushland area that has been allocated as a community services site. We are presently discussing this with FESA and the Bush Forever Office in the Ministry for Planning. We need to also work with the City of Joondalup Planning Staff. We hope that our efforts will succeed in preventing further destruction of our precious urban bushland.

For further information call Ralph on 9401 3115 or raplh@iprimus.com.au.

North East Region

Talbot Road

by Kate Brown, Environmental Weeds Action Network

In late January a very hot fire took out around two thirds of one of Perth's last remaining patches of Ridgehill shelf vegetation. Over the past two years the Friends of Talbot Road Bushland, CALM, DEP, City of Swan and the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) have been working together to manage serious weeds in Talbot Road Bushland. Although the effects of fire have the capacity to undermine that work there is also the opportunity, with careful management to very effectively control serious weeds in the burnt area before the native plant community fully recovers.

The bushland at Talbot Road was in very good condition before the fire, with weed invasion being mainly confined to the disturbed edges along pathways. Unfortunately the fire has provided an opportunity for some of those weeds to move away from the disturbed edges into undisturbed bushland. This happens because many weeds germinate or resprout before regenerating native plants and are therefore in a position to take advantage of increased space, light and nutrients that become available following fire.

Fire provides a small window of opportunity to control some of these serious weeds. Before the native plants have grown back we have ideal conditions to gain very effective control, through careful herbicide application to weeds such as love grass and veld grass and some of our South African bulbous and cormous weeds such as freesia and hesperantha. Over the next winter and spring at Talbot Road we hope to put all available resources into controlling some of these weeds in the burnt areas of the bushland.

For further information call Kate, EWAN on 9220 5311 or Mark Gloyn on 9255 1490.

South East Region

Ellis Brook Valley

by Heather Bowler

This is the time of year when dieback work is not appropriate and our focus

turns to seed collecting for the next session of direct seeding. Acacias, Hakeas and Petrophiles have seeded well, as have the Melaleucas which are always much less time consuming to collect.

I have also been busy trying to complete distribution mapping for seven priority species. Working across 66 hectares takes a long time and when I think I have finished, the doubt sets in and I feel that more areas still have to be checked. Yet again the herbarium will have to be patient until I am satisfied the mapping is complete!

With funding from the Rotary Club of Maddington, a gas barbeque has been built at Ellis Brook and will be available to the public by the end of June.

For further information call Heather on 9459 2045

South West Region

Naragebup News – Rockingham Region

by Ann Goodale

The City of Rockingham recently commissioned Naragebup to create a management plan and associated implementation plan for the restoration, management and maintenance of the Mundijong Road clay pits.

The rehabilitation programme will include transformation of the area through extensive revegetation and habitat creation for bird life together with the construction of walk trails, educational signs, bird hides, art pieces and picnic facilities.

Once completed, the site will have immense and permanent value for the local community and visitors alike.

For further information call Naragebup 9591 3077 or rrec@southwest.com.au

Hills Region

News from the Eastern Hills

collected by Jenny Johnson

At last the rain has arrived! May has drawn to a close with gentle, steady rainfall. Hopefully, the vegetation will

quickly recover from this summer's record breaking drought. Trees, understorey and groundcovers have succumbed to the lack of moisture, even along creeklines where underlying rock has prevented plants accessing water. We console ourselves that perhaps this is just part of nature's cycle and given a chance the bush will recover.

We are all looking forward to our bushcare activities this winter, getting our hands dirty and coming home feeling that we really are 'making a difference'.

A very successful 'Building Partnerships' Conference was held in May.

Work on reserves in the Eastern Hills has commenced with weed control including removal of large woody weeds along creek drainlines. Unfortunately, some damage to walk trails and erosion barriers has been caused by trail bikes and horses straying off marked bridle trails. Jane Brook Catchment Group is planning to tackle some of these issues with its education program.

Many groups have also been successful in accessing grants from various sources, such as Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program (SCULP) and the Lotteries Commission Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation.

Hovea Conservation Park has planned another Bushland Care Day on 17 June (refer *What's On*). Since the well attended Day in September 1998, we have continued to weed, plant and foster natural regeneration to good effect in the quarry section of the Park. More weeding, planting and erosion control is planned for the day. Come along, work with other bushcarers, enjoy the great food and have a fun day.

Rocky Gully Catchment Group in Mt Helena has met for the first time this year and have been amazed that last year's plantings have been successful despite the dry summer. Members are looking forward to more planting this winter.

Also in Mt Helena is Lion Mill Creek where plants look horribly dead! On close inspection, the rushes are green at the base and perhaps the shrubs will revive with the rain. A major planting day is planned for 23 September, when a Bushland Care Day is planned (refer *What's On*). If you live near Mt Helena please come along.

Falls Park in Hovea has reached the stage where on-going maintenance of trails, hand weeding and small areas for revegetation this winter are the only tasks required.

Brookside Park in Parkerville is still a real challenge – with masses of weeds (annual grasses, bulbs and woody wattles!).

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

Helena River Catchment Group

by Penny Hussey

The Helena River Catchment Group (HRCG) has been working with the Ministry for Planning on a Strategic Plan for the Helena Catchment, and on 10 March 2001, the group toured the Upper Helena Catchment. This area is not normally open to public access because of concern about the spread of *Phytophthora* Dieback and impacts of visitors on water



Helena Valley Catchment Group discussing the impact of prescribed fire.
Photo by Penny Hussey.

quality, but in this instance, CALM officers traveled with the group to discuss management issues.

The extremely dry summer had caused a lot of stress in the bushland, but it was the effects of human activity, which were of most interest. Some of the topics of concern were: the impact of Rally Australia; the spread of weeds, including pines from plantations; the use of fire; silvicultural practices; and unauthorized recreational access and consequent degradation.

It was a very informative day, with a good exchange of information and ideas. Many thanks to CALM staff, and to Linda Raynor, who organized the event.

The HRCG meets bimonthly at 7.00pm at the Octagonal Hall, McGlew Road, Glen Forrest. Our next activity will be at the Nyaania Creek project in July.

For further information on HRCG call Linda on 92906675.

Bunbury Region

Bunbury Nursery and 'Nats'

by Shirley Fisher

Bunbury Naturalists' Club members will have met with Cate Taus in early June to select possible coastal sites for a Coastcare flora survey of the coastal dunes. The Club will collect the specimens for the CALM Herbarium and will incorporate them in

the Central Forest Regional Herbarium. This is one of four surveys being undertaken. The others are at Geraldton, Rockingham and Esperance.

On the same weekend the club will be conducting the final Pollination Survey at Franklandia Reserve with Dr Vi Safer. During May the club members have been undertaking spotlighting surveys on

the Leschenault Peninsular and Franklandia Reserve with little success, maybe it was getting too cold!!

Leschenault Community Nursery has all orders ready for collection – being over 130 000 plants which are all looking so good and wanting to be planted especially since the rains have arrived. The nursery does have some wetland plants left over. The nursery committee members are now starting seed collecting and are happy for others to join us to learn "how to".

For further information call Shirley on 9791 5915.

Group Profile: 'Friends' Altone Road Wetland (FARW)



Margo McGurk with enthusiastic members of the local community weeding Kikuyu.

'Friends' Altone Road Wetland (FARW)

Altone Road Wetland Reserve in Kiara (not to be confused with Altone Park, Beechboro) covers around a hectare. It is a seasonally inundated wetland of Pithy Sword Sedge (*Lepidosperma longitundinale*) and Stout Paperbark or Modong (*Melaleuca preissiana*) surrounded by medium fringing shrubs and Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*)/Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) woodland. To the north the wetland extends into land owned by Optus, where the Banksia woodland has been modified.

Friends' group with a difference

The 'Friends' of Altone Road Wetland include local residents and members from three conservation groups, Bayswater Greenwork, Men of the Trees and Bennett Brook Catchment Group.

"In the early days of Bayswater Greenwork, members were instrumental in helping to save this little gem on the border of Lockridge and the new suburb of Kiara," said long standing member and recent Ecoplan Award recipient Kirsten Tullis.

"We probably could not have done it without the assistance of the then local candidate and current Tourism Minister, Clive Brown together with a petition from Lockridge High School students."

In the eight or so years since then, Margo McGurk and Kirsten have spent many Saturday mornings weeding and

otherwise caring for the reserve, enjoying the assistance of others for a few months at a time.

"Whilst few of the local residents have any active involvement, many appreciate the area and our work and keep a watchful eye for us and the bushland. We've always had a good turn-out to the annual planting days, especially from members of Men of the Trees, which is another group with a long-term involvement with this reserve," Kirsten said.

Men of the Trees also grow many of the seedlings used for regeneration work at their nursery in Hazelmere, whilst Kirsten grows others at home. Their seedlings have been planted on the surrounding sand bank and in degraded areas, including the adjoining Optus bushland.

Because the wetland and surrounding bush had been in very good to excellent condition, in applying the principles of bush regeneration, the 'Friends' had concentrated on weeding only. As with all community volunteers other demands on individuals have meant that this work has been less frequent in past months.

From beautiful to blackened smelly mess

Until the very last warm day before this year's opening rains Altone Road Wetland was looking beautiful. The combination of arson and a long delay by fire fighters who were busy attending to another fire amounted to a sad result,

with all but the edges and corners being burnt to a blackened smelly mess. The very next day Margo and Kirsten spent their Sunday morning removing all the exposed broken glass and other rubbish they could find.

"As a public relations exercise and to satisfy the curiosity of some of the local boys we invited them in to help for a while," said Kirsten.

"As an added management precaution, to help keep people out and allow the wetland to regenerate we have erected heavy-duty plastic tape provided by the Shire or Swan around the area. An additional ongoing maintenance task is to regularly replace broken sections."

Future bushland care

Post-fire is a good time to control weeds, especially grasses. The FARW will start this bushland care activity soon with the Bennett Brook Catchment Group also lending a hand, in support of another reserve in their Catchment.

FARW continue to remove rubbish that has blown in, and have started a photographic record to monitor the recovery process. Their annual planting event will be held on 15 July (refer to *What's On*) and though it will be a smaller than usual planting this year, they will take the opportunity to do some sensitive weed management.

Ponderings as Kirsten works

As she works in the wetland Kirsten wonders what the long-term result will be for the gilgies, five species of frogs, bobtails and other reptiles that were recorded prior to the fire. She also wonders what will become of the excellent results of their weeding program in the best parts of the bush, where they had worked hard to get the veld grass down to just a few plants.

"Now the area is more open to weed attack and we only have so much time and enthusiasm for weeding – which is one of my least favourite past-times," lamented Kirsten.

Kirsten reflected "Nature's amazing! Every week since the fire the wetland and bush look a little better."

Contacts

Kirsten Tullis 9217 3549 or kt500@inet.net.au



Resources

Insects on the web

A joint effort between CSIRO Entomology, Commonwealth/State/Territory departments responsible for primary industries and agriculture, volunteer amateurs and volunteer professionals has established a new web site *Australian Insects Common Names* (www.ento.csiro.au/aicn/). The AICN web site will assist people to identify more than 2 500 Australian insects. Illustrations are provided for around half the species listed and distribution maps are available for around 85%. Common names can be cross-referenced against scientific names or vice versa, and all insects in Australia with common names have also been included in a systematic list. The web site provides on-line information that was previously only available from the CSIRO Handbook of Australian Insect Names.

Lotteries Commission Grants Guide

The Lotteries Commission of WA launched an online 'self-help' tool, to help guide community groups, individuals and organisations to explore the many grants available through the Commission. Accessed via the Commission's web site (www.lottery.wa.gov.au/corporate/grantsguide) the Grants Guide provides information on types of grants available, application criteria, grant information, guidelines and application forms. The Guide will enable many initial queries to be answered quickly and conveniently through the Internet. The Commission welcomes your feedback anytime to 9340 5150 or community-funding@lottery.wa.gov.au.

A friendly, interactive way of finding out about the Swan-Canning River system

The newly released *Swan River Action Kit* produced by the Water and Rivers Commission is available for community groups to learn about environmental issues of the Swan and Canning Rivers. The purpose of the kit is to raise community understanding of the issues and foster ongoing and informed action.

The kit is a package of resources and suggestions for a structured, but flexible learning program to suit the interest of the group. It gives advice on how to set up and run a discussion or 'learning circle', thus facilitating a journey of environmental discovery.

'Friends of' groups working to restore habitat in catchments, could use this kit to learn even more about catchment and local waterway management.

For further details contact Karen Ireland, the Swan Catchment Centre's Community Education Officer on 9220 5314. Karen is also available to help you plan and facilitate your learning circle.

Seed Orchard Procedures Manual

The Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society has recently published a guide to managing your own seed orchard, including tips on collecting, preparing and propagating seed. To purchase a copy call Joy Collins, Wildflower Society on 9298 8303.

Building Partnerships

The *Building Partnerships* Conference held in May was a resounding success. A huge number of people (~180) crowded into the cosy Mahogany Inn to exchange ideas on how Community and Local Government can work together to protect and care for the natural environment.

Copies of the proceedings are available from the Shire of Mundaring for \$15. Call 9290 6666.

Updating Community Resource Guide

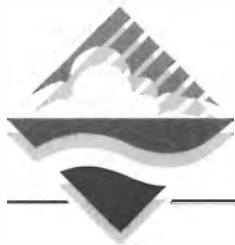
The Environment Centre (ECWA) is completing an update of this useful guide. The 2001 interim guide can be accessed via the ECWA web site www.ecwa.asn.au.

If you need to update your existing details (such as changes to contact details, web site, regular meeting dates) or wish to be included, then send your details to ECWA with haste. For further information call Lauren 9225 4150, ecwa@ecwa.asn.au.

Web site watch

Two sites with a variety of resources including group contact details, events and funding information are:

- Environment Centre WA www.ecwa.asn.au.
- Riverlink – the web site for the Swan Catchment Centre, the Swan Avon Integrated Catchment Management Program, and the Environmental Educators Network www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon.



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