



Local hero sees double

Although the care of urban bushland relies on the dedicated voluntary efforts of many groups, it also relies on the dedicated voluntary efforts of many individuals. It is with great pleasure that Ecoplan congratulates Andrew Thomson, who will be honoured nationally for his service to the community, in the protection and enhancement of the natural environment throughout the City of South Perth. Congratulations are also extended to the City of South Perth for nominating Andrew in the national Peoplescape Project and for being open to the suggestions and guidance of local community group members such as Andrew.

Earlier this year the Centenary of Federation Peoplescape Project invited Australians to nominate someone who had significantly affected their life, community or country. From these nominations, 5000 were selected and the successful nominees were sent life size cut-outs to decorate, using whatever methods and materials best signified personality and achievements.



Andrew Thomson and his double
Photograph courtesy of City of South Perth.

The Make-up of Andrew

Bushland maintenance staff at the City of South Perth, Katrina Hill and Claire Thomas, prepared Andrew's cut-out figure. They used numerous photos of Andrew working in bushland and a life-sized replica of his legendary 'rake-ho' made from an old broom handle and

aluminium cans. A calico bag for collecting native seed was attached to leather gardening gloves representing his hands and specimens of wildflowers were also pasted to the figure. Badges and stickers were attached to Andrew's double, acknowledging the issues he is passionate about.

Andrew's actions, influences, support, highlights and tips

In an average year Andrew spends 600 voluntary hours working in 15 bushland areas across the metropolitan area – a bonus to being up-close with nature is the regular exercise it provides! In addition, he spends many hours at meetings, seminars and workshops that focus on improving bushland management. He is involved in over 35 environmental, social issue or teaching groups and is currently the President of the Urban Bushland Council, a member of the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park Community Environmental Advisory Groups, as well as Vice President of the Environmental Weeds Action Network.

One of the greatest influences on Andrew's passion and active caring for bushland was his late father, John Thomson. A well known forester (particularly in the wider community, following his retirement), John worked against strong opposition to change the new practices of the then Forests Department, woodchip and bauxite industries, as he campaigned to have our forests managed by the principles and practices of natural sustainable yield.

Andrew's wish that every child has a bit of bushland within walking distance of their home, is also a driving influence for his actions.

Family and a passion for Gilbert and Sullivan provide great pleasure, which support and revitalise Andrew, enabling him to focus on caring for bushland.

In addition to a lifetime of close association with nature, Andrew's current volunteer efforts started about seven years ago. Highlights along the way have been:

- the 1995 Bushland Plant Survey of Goss Avenue bushland by the Wildflower Society;
- the excellent relationship with the City of South Perth, in particular the environment section and the Council;
- working alongside John Feldman, Warwick Boardman, Angela Carr and others in the Gillon Street bushland campaign; and
- joining bushland work days, which provide an opportunity to visit someone else's bush and learn from other groups.

In considering what he hopes to be his greatest contribution, Andrew's quiet response was, "If each year I can reduce the potential for fire to destroy a bushland because weeds have been better controlled and managed, if my work can stop fires from wiping out bushlandthat will be my real achievement."

Some of Andrew Thomson's bushland tips include:

- work around the edges of bush, so that passers-by can see you actively caring for bushland – this often results in queries about getting involved or people asking about how their actions impact on the area;
- leave the good bushland alone – don't disturb it;
- start with woody weeds;
- invite those responsible for bushland management, such as Local Councils and their staff to meet on site – show them the issues first-hand, it makes it more relevant; and
- establish relationships with the people who manage all aspects of the bushland – from field workers to managers.

This article has been a collaboration between the City of South Perth and Ecoplan.

See inside for Peoplescape details



The spring season is with us again after an unusually dry winter. I'm really enjoying working with you all and seeing all the wonderful work you are doing in the bush and look forward to meeting many more groups. I hope everyone manages to find time to get out and enjoy our beautiful bushland this spring as well as to work in the bush.



Bushland Care Days have been great fun and kept us busy during the winter months. I'd like to thank all the groups that have held Bushland Care Days – I know how much time and commitment you all put in. Bushland Care Days seem to bring out the best in us, while cooking the barbecue at Koondoola Bushland a local family drove up and gave us two trays of tasty home made spring rolls because they were unable to join in. Thank you to AlintaGas for ongoing support, particularly Selina Gates. Thank you to the Conservation Volunteers especially Ken, Conrad, Emma, and Megan for their hard work and to Brian, Lois and Al for their continued commitment and all the hardworking volunteers who come along to the bushland care days. Thanks also to Linda Taman who does a fantastic job coordinating the Bushland Care Days.



Don't forget the final seminars in the Skills for Nature Conservation Series. Thanks to all the speakers and the participants who have given their time so freely and without whom the series would not be possible. If you have any topics you would like covered in next year's series, please contact Bridget.

Congratulations to Andrew Thompson for being nominated for the Peoplescape Centenary project as a local hero in recognition of his extensive contribution to the environment (see cover story for details).



Bridget will be away on spring leave from 11 September to 12 October. Sandra Santich, whom many of you may know from the Wildflower Society and EWAN, will be looking after Ecoplan. Sandra will be in the office on Tuesday

and Thursday during this period and you can contact her on 9222 7052.

Finally, we would like to invite all the readers of the newsletter to the Ecoplan end of year wind up (see article p.4). We will be holding it in conjunction with the Swan Catchment Centre and Greening Australia (WA) so make sure you keep some time aside on Saturday 17 November.

Summer Ecoplan News



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

Are you on the mailing list?



This newsletter is free to all those interested in bushland. If you would like to join the mailing list or add on a friend let us know! And don't forget to tell us if your address has changed. Contact Ecoplan (see Ecoplan contacts on this page).



Newsletter compiled and edited by Colma Keating and Erin Gisborne

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

WAMA kicks off Perth biodiversity program

The WA Municipal Association's much anticipated Perth Biodiversity Program (PBP) is now up and running, with over half a million dollars secured from the Natural Heritage Trust, Ministry for Planning and Perth metropolitan Councils.

The Project aims to offer funds and expertise to participating local governments in and around Perth, as well as facilitate on-ground activities that improve the links between, and the quality of, locally significant bushland areas in the Perth Metropolitan Region.

One of the project's long-term goals is to increase the involvement and skills of Local Government in the area of natural resource management, in particular the conservation of biodiversity in their community.

PBP Project Officers will assist local governments to:

- address the lack of appropriate data for defining and managing biodiversity at the local level,

- ensure a consistent approach to the development and implementation of local biodiversity plans, and
- facilitate the implementation of strategic on-ground works in locally significant bushland.

Later this year, community environmental groups will be invited to apply for funding and/or technical support, to undertake bushland management activities from the PBP in partnership with, and via participating local governments.

For further information contact Mark Agar, Manager, Perth Biodiversity Program at the WA Municipal Association on 9213 2047. Alternatively you can e-mail Mark at magar@wama.wa.gov.au or access WAMA's website on www.wama.wa.gov.au.

Machinery of Government Taskforce

As part of the WA Government's restructure of the State Public Service, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Water and Rivers Commission are amalgamating. Over the next few months the details of the new structures and arrangements will be finalised and we will notify you of changes that will affect Ecoplan and bushland care. In the interim, please continue to contact us at the Ecoplan office on 9222 7052.

Swan Catchment Centre

The Swan Catchment Centre (SCC) will be relocating. SCC is looking for something central with good access to public transport and parking and will need to move within a few weeks of finding a new home. For up to date information on where they are going, look on their web site at www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon.

The Swan Region – your opportunity to guide its management

The Swan Catchment Council invites and encourages community groups, individuals and organisations to comment on the recently released draft of The Swan Region – a natural resource management strategy. The strategy will guide natural resource management in the Swan Region by identifying the priority issues, suggesting mechanisms to address them, as well as identifying the group or agency best placed to lead the change.

The closing date for public comment has been extended to 31 October. To facilitate maximum contribution, the Council has planned two public forums in October. Call the SCC for details.

The strategy and a summary version, are available from the Swan Avon ICM Program's Riverlink website www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon or on CD-ROM from the Swan Catchment Centre 9220 5300.

Bush Brokers launch web site and resource book

In the bushland of Kings Park, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Soil and Land Conservation Council (SLCC) and the Real Estate Institute of WA (REIWA) recently launched a web site and a resource book that were developed as part of their partnership project known as Bush Brokers.

Bush Brokers aims to complement other mechanisms for bush and biodiversity protection, both existing and planned for WA, as well as to assist land holders seeking to sell and buy bush and thus increase community involvement in protecting and conserving bushland.

The resource book *Buying Bush: a how to guide* explores the diverse experiences of individuals, families, friends and environmental groups that have already bought bush properties. The guide dissects the realities of owning bushland, examines principles of good stewardship, details options for protection in perpetuity and provides an annotated guide to sources of advice and assistance. It enables

potential purchasers to enter the realm of bushland ownership and conservation management with their eyes wide open – as well as providing them with a great source of inspiration.

Don't be fooled by the title – its use is not limited to potential buyers, but will provide a information for current owners who have been missing such practical and targeted assistance.

The website www.bushbrokers.com.au builds on the guide and aims to provide a link for buyers and sellers of bush property. It will enable vendors to place their properties on the site for a small fee, with the guarantee of knowing that they will be targeting a specific audience who is interested in purchasing bushland properties. This site also provides information, resources and helpful hints that will be of use to any person thinking of buying or already owning a bit of bush.

Copies of the guide are available from Northside Distributors 9370 5363 or nrthside@webace.com.au.

For further information about Bush Brokers call WWF 9387 6444 or visit the new web site.

Bush Brokers web site and guide were developed and produced with the assistance of the Natural Heritage Trust.

Come down to the Canning River Festival and enjoy our precious asset

Help Keep Our Rivers Healthy by being a part of the action on Sunday 11 November. Sponsored by the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, the Festival offers an opportunity to acknowledge the work of many dedicated community groups and volunteers and to have a fun day out. It is held at various public locations along the river from Canning Dam to Shelley Foreshore Reserve and will focus on caring for the Canning River and its unique environmental aspects.

For further information call Virginia Shotter 6250 8000.

Herbicide registration for environmental weeds – at last!

Some good news from last season has been the approval of a permit for the minor off-label use of a range of herbicides, on environmental weeds in bushland. Previously, the only herbicide registered for such use had been Fusilade (212g/L fluzifop). John Moore, Department of Agriculture, Albany is responsible for requesting this much needed change in registration.

The new permit provides for the application on environmental weeds, in non-agricultural situations of:

- metsulphuron methyl (Brushoff, Ally),
- chlorsulphuron (Glean),
- a number of grass selective herbicides,
- a number of woody weed killers including Garlon (600g/L triclopyr) and Access (120g/L picloram and 240g/L triclopyr).

Careless or uninformed use of any of these herbicides in a bushland situation will amount to irreversible damage to our native plant communities – ensure any contractors have a detailed understanding of native bushland.

For full details of Permit No. 4579, contact the National Registration Authority (02 6272 5158).

Peoplescape

- Peoplescape stories can now be seen on www.peoplescape.com.au.
- The life-sized cut-outs representing ordinary Australians including Donald Carter, Jenny Dewing, Len Howard (dec.), Andrew Thomson and Bob Twigg will stand across the expansive lawns around Parliament House in Canberra from 25 November to 4 December.
- A live broadcast from the Great Hall in Parliament House on 25 November will pay tribute to participants of Peoplescape.



National Weedbuster Week 2001: Local Heroes - Global Champions



Every year, more and more people across Australia are becoming Weedbusters to stop weeds in their tracks. National Weedbuster Week provides a focus for Weedbusters to raise weed awareness and participate in one of hundreds of weed activities around the country. Many activities such as weed clean-ups, displays and competitions are held by volunteer groups including Friends, Catchment, Landcare and gardening groups, local governments and schools. Woody Weed, the Weedbuster Week icon, helps to promote Weedbuster activities

To celebrate the International Year of the Volunteer, Weed Buster Week invites all volunteers from catchment, 'Friends' and similar groups to a FREE talk by Tim Low. Tim is a biologist, writer and photographer, well known for his books, which include the prize winning best sellers *Bush Tucker*, *Bush Medicine* and *Feral Future*.

Tim has been heard to say:

"Garden plants are promoted as products when really they are wild organisms programmed to multiply in the wild."

"Most of our weed problems are self-inflicted. We should change the way we perceive plants, accepting that cultivated plants are not necessarily our servants, that they often escape our control."

"Australian plants and animals are fast invading the rest of the world"

Friday 12 October

10am – 1pm, this will include time for questions.

Midland Town Hall, Great Eastern Highway, Midland (the train station and bus terminus are within easy walking distance).

The City of Swan is sponsoring this event and the Department of Agriculture is hosting Tim Low's visit to WA.

Refreshments will be served so bookings are essential, please RSVP by 3/10/01 to Emma, Swan Catchment Centre 9220 5300 or fax 9221 4960.

To register your participation or to check the Weedbuster Week events calendar, log onto the www.weedbusterweek.info.au or contact Sandy Lloyd, Dept. of Agriculture 9368 3760, slloyd@agric.wa.gov.au.

Recognition for Skills for Nature Conservation Training

The Skills for Nature Conservation training program, coordinated by Ecoplan, the Swan Catchment Centre and Greening Australia (WA) has been awarded Outstanding Program, at the West Australian Adult Learners Week Awards 2001. Sponsored by Adult Learning Australia and coordinated by the Department of Employment and Training, the awards recognise community groups and organisations that promote life long adult learning.

The training program has also been nominated as a finalist in the State Landcare Awards 2001.

Awards and acknowledgments

Congratulations to Eric McCrum who was awarded the Order of Australia for "Service to environmental education, conservation and natural history, particularly through the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre and the WA Gould League".

Congratulations also to Joan Payne, whose significant and sustained contribution to the community conservation movement and the WA environment was recently celebrated by more than 80 people at a surprise event hosted by the Conservation Council.

End of year bush care celebration

All involved in Bushland care are invited to the Ecoplan, Swan Catchment Centre and Greening Australia (WA) end of year wind-up celebration on Saturday 17 November, 3pm to 8pm at Naragebup - Rockingham Regional Environment Centre. A tour of the center with thrombolite, marine, wind park, recycling and renewable energy, Mya Mya Aboriginal village exhibits and displays will be part of the fun. An evening meal will be provided. Car pooling is encouraged, so please when booking, let the Swan Catchment Centre know whether you can give someone a lift or if you will need a lift. Bookings via Emma at the Swan Catchment Centre on 9220 5300 are essential.

Econotes: Trapping methods of carnivorous plants

Extracted from Allen Lowrie's "Carnivorous Plants of Australia Vol. 1-3".

Carnivore vs insectivore

As bizarre as it may seem, it is indeed true that some plants carry on the actions of a carnivore. Although the most common prey caught by all carnivorous plants is insects, and thus these plants are more "insectivorous" than "carnivorous", the latter has become the accepted common term because of popular use in publishing.

For a plant to be truly carnivorous it must have the ability to attract or lure prey, capture it and then consume it. Finally it needs to be able to utilise the nutrients derived from this action. It is believed that gaining some of their nutrients from insects, enables plants such as *Drosera* to survive on nutrient poor soils.

Classification

Carnivorous plants in Australia come in numerous shapes and sizes but the group as a whole has utilised only a small number of methods to capture prey. These trapping mechanisms and their position on the plant, provide two main characteristics used to distinguish one genus from the next. Principally the methods of capture of carnivorous plants found on the Swan Coastal Plain and in the Hills area, fall into the three following adaptations. (Note, the pitfall and snap trap methods also occur in Australia, in the Albany Pitcher Plant and Venus Fly Trap.)

The trapping methods

The bladder trap – *Utricularia*

The traps are likened to small bladders that grow underwater on the roots of the plant. The bladders have an inward-opening door with trip hairs at the entrance. First water is expelled so that the convex side walls become concave, sealing the door against the water pressure on the outside. Water borne prey passing the entrance, touch the fine tripping appendages which stimulate the door to open inwards so that the prey and the surrounding water are rapidly sucked into the bladder by the action of the side walls returning to their convex position. Once the prey is inside, the door is immediately



Utricularia inaequalis - An annual terrestrial plant, forming a compact basal rosette of leaves to 2 cm in diam.

sealed. The trap is set again, with the trapping and resetting repeated until the bladder is filled with prey. The plant then absorbs the nutrients derived from the decomposing prey. An example, *Utricularia inaequalis* (Fairy Aprons) flowers Sep-Dec.



Byblis gigantea - A yellowish green, perennial bush-like plant up to 60 cm high.

Passive fly-paper trap – *Byblis*

The linear leaf surface is covered in sticky glandular heads. At first, insects that land on the leaf are caught by only a few glands, but as it struggles, it comes in contact with more glands. Eventually the prey is restrained and fluid from each of the touched glands builds into a larger pool of fluid that covers and possibly drowns the prey. The prey is dissolved into the fluid and the nutrients are taken into the plant through the smaller glands closer to the leaf surface. An example, *Byblis gigantea* flowers Dec-Jan.

The active fly-paper trap - *Drosera*

This group is by far the largest group of our carnivorous plants. Although the glands are commonly different in structure from one species to the next, they are all designed to produce a similar result. All *Drosera*, regardless of species have the capacity to move their glands towards the struggling captured prey and to position the prey in the most beneficial position on the leaf for digestion.

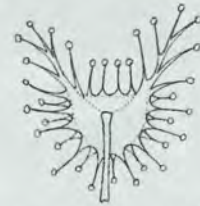
Some of the key specialisations are:

Tuberous *Drosera* – rosette leaf form – almost the whole leaf, other than the petiole and mid-vein, is covered with insect trapping glands. An example, *Drosera erythrorhiza* flowers Mar-Jul.

Tuberous *Drosera* – scrambling or climbing form – long retentive glands around the rim

of the leaves that play a two-fold role – they capture and restrain the prey and can assist to support the plant, by attaching to nearby plants. An example, *Drosera macrantha* flowers Jul-Aug.

Tuberous *Drosera* – fan-leaved form with erect or semi-erect stems – the leaves are



The trapping mechanism of *Drosera gigantea* – An erect robust greyish-green glabrous plant, sometimes totally maroon in colour, up to 1 metre in height.

folded and rolled towards the petiole to form a cone. An example, *Drosera gigantea* flowers Aug-Oct. Some species (eg *Drosera stolonifera* ssp. *nupicola*) can completely fold and close its leaves around most prey in a similar fashion to the Venus Fly Trap – though much slower.

Pygmy *Drosera* – when prey is caught, the leaf gradually folds over it like a clasping hand. This action ensures that the prey comes in contact with more digestive glands. An example, *Drosera nitidula* ssp. *nitidula* flowers Nov-Jan.



Drosera glanduligera – A golden-green fibrous-rooted ephemeral plant forming a flat compact rosette of leaves up to 4 cm in diam, stem to 10 mm long.

Annual *Drosera* – a gland arrangement similar to the fan-leaved form of tuberous *Drosera*. An example, *Drosera glanduligera* flowers Sept-Dec.

References & Field Guides

- Lowrie A L (1987, '89, '98) *Carnivorous Plants of Australia* – Volumes 1-3, University of WA Press, Nedlands. WA.
- Marchant et al. (1987) *Flora of the Perth Region*, Department of Agriculture, South Perth, WA.

All illustrations by Allen Lowrie (Lowrie '87, '89, '98).

Hills Region

News from Eastern Hills

collected by Jenny Johnson

An extended dry start to winter and then a 150- 200 mm deluge in July, have tested the ingenuity of Hills Bush Regenerators, who even in mid June, needed to dig into pockets of dry soil as they attempted to replace plants lost over the very dry summer. The run-off from the heavy Sunday night rain in July also caused wash-outs and erosion problems along all creeklines. The coming of spring will allow us the chance to assess our efforts and put into practice the skills acquired during last year's River Restoration Workshops.

Early inspection of sections of Jane Brook and it's tributaries have indicated, that work on re-aligning large woody debris and establishing rubble surfaces to halt head cutting in streams, appears to have been successful.

Mundaring Shire has taken further action to build on it's image as a 'Green Council' through the preparation of a public education program to launch the introduction of 'No Burning of garden waste in the summer of 2002-2003'.

Council has also approved a Local Law for the 'Control and Welfare of Cats' and a 'Keeping of Stock Policy'.

Friends of Clifton Quarry have been concentrating on spraying weeds in the quarry area, with the focus on Oxalis, winter weeds and bridal creeper. Good results are being achieved on the small plants with Round-up Biactive. Members are also potting up winter germinating shrubs ready for spring planting near streamlines.

Falls Park South now has a set of stone steps down to Jane Brook and it is hoped visitors will use these, relieving pressure on the steep slopes which will be revegetated with local flora.

Brookside Park in Parkerville is still a challenge with weed seeds coming down from upstream. The battle continues!

Friends of Lion Mill Creek had their big Bushland Care Day on Sunday 23 September.

The Group is pleased the tree trunk, that was put in the creek as large woody debris during summer, has settled in well. It is already doing what was hoped, including

reducing erosion and providing habitat for water creatures.

Rocky Gully Catchment Group has been planting along the creekline and weeding. The creek has only flowed strongly once this season, which is a cause of some concern.

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

South East Region

Ellis Brook Valley

by Heather Bowler

In October the wildflowers will still be at their spring best. Together with the waterfall flowing, they will attract more visitors, so the new facilities including toilet, barbeque and picnic table will be most welcome.

The war on weeds continues with watsonia, arum lily, paterson's curse, cotton bush, teatree and freesia being targeted.

For further information call Heather 9459 2045.

Canning River Residents Environmental Protection Assn'

by Grecian Sandwell

CRREPA's most recent concern has been the alarming and demoralising increase in damage to foreshore vegetation by recreation, subsistence and sporting fishers,

and their companions. Pressure is believed to be in response to fishing competitions and popular radio/tv programs, as well as living costs.

Concerns raised by CRREPA with the Canning City Council (CCC) and the Conservation Council resulted in a stakeholder group being formed. The initial meeting included the CCC, Swan River Trust, Conservation Council, Fisheries Department, Volunteer Fisheries Liaison and CRREPA. (The Swan Catchment Centre and RecFish West had also hoped to make the meeting). The group examined damage on-site, explored reasons and committed to the beginnings of an action plan. The first action has been to raise awareness of the damage done not only to the vegetation but to the fish breeding habitat, working from the premise that perhaps many of the offenders are unaware of the consequences of their actions, including how these will impact on their 'catch'.

CRREPA thanks all organisations for their swift commitment to work on this problem together, including a special acknowledgment of Water Policy (James Duggie) and Sustainable Fisheries Liaison (Nic Dunlop) Officers of the Conservation Council for their initiative in organising the initial round-table.

For further information call Diane 9457 2896 or Grecian 9354 9734.



Volunteers Paul Bunce, Glenn Smith, Paul Cross, Greg Verboon and Misha Kalkowski work on the new "Bushucker Trail" being created at Navagebup. This Learning Centre on bush foods and medicines has been funded by WMC Resources Ltd.

South West Region

Naragebup News - Rockingham

by Ann Goodale

CoastWest, WWF Threatened Species Network, Naragebup and Green Corps (through the Australian Conservation Volunteers) undertook protective measures at Lake Richmond recently, including weed eradication, tree planting, fencing and the construction of an extended boardwalk. The boardwalk will provide access for urban dwellers wishing to see the birds and the 'Critically Endangered Ecological Community' of Thrombolites up close, without damaging the surroundings.



Mark McGowan MLA planting a tree to announce the opening of the Natural Resource Management Office at Naragebup.

Rockingham will soon have a fine area to learn about Nyungar culture, bush foods and medicines. Funded by WMC Resources Ltd, the new bush trail at Naragebup winds through coastal vegetation where Balgas, Soapbush and Acacias already grow. Examples of other useful plants are being planted, together with talks and walks being planned.

The new Natural Resource Management Office (NRMO), with its mission "Towards the sustainable management of natural resources in the Rockingham Region" was

opened in July by Mark McGowan MLA, with the symbolic planting of a tree in the gardens of Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre. It is hoped that activities generated through the NRMO will increase with public awareness.

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

New Friends Groups for Cockburn

by Haakon Nielssen, UBC

The Urban Bushland Council (UBC) Project Officer for Friends Groups is set to assist two new community conservation groups in Cockburn. If you are interested in joining either of these groups or any other Friends Groups please contact UBC.

Market Garden Swamp is actually a chain of wetlands, surrounded by new housing subdivisions. Despite the lack of bushland leading down to the wetlands, the wetlands themselves support a large range of wildlife such as the Long Necked Tortoise, the Southern Brown Bandicoot, frogs and a multitude of birds.

The City of Cockburn is serious about their bush rehabilitation and the new Friends Group can look forward to a productive working relationship with the council.

Woodman Point has a range of environments from dunes and groves of Rottneest Island Pines to cool green Tuart forest and even a small wetland. The area contains a fenced conservation reserve that has real potential for native animal as well as plant conservation. Woodman Point is a Regional Park managed by CALM, whom at present are preparing management, weed and rehabilitation plans, so this is a good time to get involved. It is hoped that the environmentally conscious folk of Fremantle will take some ownership of this large remnant of local bush. (Note, the new Woodman Point Conservation Group is not to be confused with the Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp).

For further information call Haakon 9420 7207 or ubc@iinet.net.au.

North East Region

Friends of Warwick Bushland & Warwick Senior High School Bushland

by Karen Clarke

This winter we have been focusing on planting the degraded edges of our bushland

along Erindale Road and studying our native fungi. During two work days, we planted over 500 plants of nine different local native species, grown for us by the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park.

On the first day of July we hosted a "Fungi Talk and Walk" with Dr Neale Bougher (CSIRO) through the Skills for Nature Conservation program run by the Swan Catchment Centre, EcoPlan and Greening Australia. This session was a great success, with over 20 participants, including two international visiting research scientists. Despite dry conditions, at least 35 fungi were found in one hour, three of which were target species for the national FungiMap project. Records of these have been sent to the Melbourne Herbarium. Last year when WA FungiMap Coordinator, Katie Syme, ran a day workshop we found over 90 native species, seven of which were target species for FungiMap.

Recently, five of our members (four of whom were kindly sponsored by the City of Joondalup) attended APACE's "Introduction to Bush Regeneration" course at the Craigie Leisure Centre. We joined council staff, work for the dole supervisors and other community members for a stimulating four days of learning how to manage our local bushland. It was an excellent opportunity for the land managers and volunteers to network and exchange ideas while guided by those experienced in bush regeneration.

For further information call Karen 9342 8482.

North West Region

Friends of Korella Park

by Marilyn Zakrevsky

On Thursday 23 August the City of Joondalup hosted a function paying tribute to the many environmental volunteers working with the City. The Mayor presented volunteers with certificates and lapel badges for their efforts. David Hancock from the Friends of Yellagonga responded on behalf of 'Friends groups' and the Joondalup Coast Care Forum.

Our Bushland Care Day in June saw over a thousand seedlings planted by members of the local community, Beldon Scouts and Whitfords Rotary Club. Despite the following weeks of dry weather, the plants are doing well, thanks to the coastal night dews. We would like to extend our

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appreciation to Alinta Gas who provided pre-event publicity and a lunchtime sausage sizzle, and Conservation Volunteers Australia and Ecoplan for their great support.

Following on from our successful Bushland Care Day, funding from the Minister for the Environment has enabled the Friends of Korella Park Bushland to undertake much needed rehabilitation work.

For further information call Marilyn 9401 7132

Quinns Rock

by David Wake

The Quinns Rocks Remnant Vegetation Study sought to document remnant vegetation and identify strategies for its conservation. Locally there are extensive areas of native vegetation, but the bush is rapidly disappearing as the suburbs spread. The study looked at over 8 000 hectares west of Wanneroo Road to the coast, between Burns Beach and Eglinton. As part of the study local residents will soon receive a brochure about local bushland and how they can help conserve it. In addition three study reports have been published to inform local conservation efforts and land use planning.

Although most of the weeds in the local bushland are grasses, herbs or small shrubs, there are some large woody weeds that also pose problems. One Sunday in June, eight people set about tackling some of these woody weeds in coastal bushland near the Quinns Rocks Caravan Park. After three or so hours with one chainsaw and gloved hands they had removed more than twenty Peppertrees and a Victorian Teatree, as well as rubbish. This is just a start as many more plants of both weeds remain – let us know if you can help out.

For further information call Karyn 9305 1405 or Renata 9305 9382.

Central

Mt Henry Peninsula

by Jan King

The Bushland Care Day supported by Ecoplan, Alinta Gas and Conservation Volunteers Australia on Saturday 28 July, was a huge success. Even the weather remained fine for most of the day. The purpose of the day was to enhance the

bushland along the 'cross country' track and improve the track for fire vehicle access.

This involved raking the mulch back onto the track and re-establishing the sand shoulders to prevent the mulch layer smouldering in the event of a fire. A large pile of Tuart mulch was spread on a steep area of the track so that the trail for fire vehicles is now surfaced to the end of the Peninsula. Overhanging trees and dead brush were trimmed along the edge of the whole track and stockpiled for brushwood. This will be used on rehabilitated slopes, to discourage access and enhance stabilisation. Weeds were removed from each side of the track preventing further weed invasion into the bushland which was sprayed for veldt grass last year, followed by back-up weeding.

The turnout for the day was fabulous. Fourteen members of the Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group, including three students from Aquinas College were supported by eight volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia. In addition, advertising by Alinta Gas and Ecoplan attracted eight people from the local community and four willing members of the Fire and Emergency Service. Aquinas College ground staff supplied the mulch, shelter canopy, 4WD bike and trailer.

With such helpful support, large tasks that have been only dreams, become a reality. Thanks to all the helpers, the bush is at present protected from fire and ferals for another season.

For further information call Jan 9337 6296 (after 6 pm).

The Friends of Buckland Hill

by Haakon Nielssen, UBC

This new group got off to a good start holding a clean up day, and a planting day when 450 plants supplied by the Urban Bushland Council were put in on a bare area, overlooking Leighton Beach. A couple of nervous weeks were had in June when there was no rain, but the plants are doing now doing very well.

Much of the area has little or no native bush left, so whilst protecting the fragments of good bush that still remain, the group will concentrate on rehabilitation rather than bush regeneration. A vegetation assessment map and an action plan are being developed to guide the work.

The Water Corporation has done some digging outside the Monument Hill reservoir and now their environmental team is

working with the Friends of Buckland Hill to stretch the rehabilitation budget. By working with volunteer labourers, more plants can be purchased and a larger area revegetated.

The group looks forward to involving the whole community including local schools.

For further information call Haakon 9420 7207 or ubc@inet.net.au.

Bunbury Region

Bunbury 'Nats' and Leschenault Nursery

Bunbury 'Nats' Club members had a very muddy day helping CALM plant 1 000 Declared Rare Flora (DRF) in a paddock, adding to similar plantings from last year.

As part of the pollinator survey coordinated by Vi Saffer, ten members joined Vi in August on a visit to another participating group in Goomalling. After a tour of the reserve and a good tea, the club then had a twilight walk in Karakamia Sanctuary (near Chidlow), tripping over the abundance of woylies and bandicoots!

By September, the club and the Central Forest Regional Herbarium will have started the Surveying WA's Land Edge (SWALE) survey at Dayellup beach with Cate Tauss. SWALE is a joint Regional Herbarium/WA Herbarium project, funded by CoastCare. The other three Regional Herbaria participating are Geraldton, Rockingham and Esperance.

A visit to the Eyre bird Observatory is planned for November.

The Leschenault Community Nursery is now bare of plants, with the last action for the season being to rustle up 500 plants for the Telstra Landcare Launch. Clifton Park Primary School planted these in the Clifton Park Reserve and a great day was had by all.

The nursery will launch its new planting season with a picnic for all their valued volunteers on 18 October, at the Crooked Brook Reserve.

For further information call Shirley 9791 5915.



Group Profile: 'Friends' of Allen Park Bushland Group (FOAPBG)



Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group enjoying a B-B-Q lunch as part of a Bushland Care Day in July 2000.

Community unites!

Community concern over a development proposal that would destroy coastal bushland with mature Tuart and Marri trees provided the impetus that led to the formation of the Friends of Allen Park. The actions of the citywide group of residents, supported by a community initiated legal action against the local Council, ensured development plans were abandoned.

In 1995 the newly elected City of Nedlands Council commissioned a working group to prepare a management plan for Allen Park. Stephen Lipple, the group's pioneer, roused together interested locals and the FOAPBG's more active involvement in the planning and management of the area began. Today, membership stands at 48 with a core group of around 20 actively involved members who meet on the first Saturday of the month from 9 to 11am or during the week on Tuesdays.

Coastal bushland and community commitment

Allen Park is situated along the coast at Swanbourne, sandwiched between Cottesloe and the Campbell Barracks and Rifle Range. On the south side of the reserve are several sports fields, with a small triangle of foredune (Bushplan Site 315) located adjacent to the Rifle Range. The eastern side is bounded by Kirkwood and Wood Streets where three historic cottages are situated, including the Tom Collins cottage, which belonged to one of Perth's early writers, Joseph Furphy.

The area includes an elevated dune popularly known as "Melon Hill" which provides 360 degree views and carries the dividing fence between the land vested in the Department of Defence and the City of Nedlands.

The vegetation is typically Quindalup, extending from coastal foredune through to open Tuart woodland with some Marri and Jarrah remnants on the eastern boundary. "The best bush is located on the north facing aspect of Melon Hill, and this is the main conservation area," said Lesley Shaw FOAPBG Coordinator.

For many years Allen Park bushland was a thoroughfare and the steep dune a popular jogging route for sports teams and army trainees.

"Our focus has been educating the local community about the treasures of Allen Park through a variety of ways such as newsletters and actively encouraging locals to be involved in conserving the area, managing access by closing tracks into the main conservation area and controlling the weeds adjacent," explained Lesley.

"Allen Park has its fair share of weeds predominantly pelargonium, South African box thorn, bridal creeper, Geraldton carnation weed, lupins and bulbs, namely African cornflag, black flag and freesias. It was some time before weed mapping began and prior to that, photographs told the story!"

"So much of Allen Park's bushland is fragmented and through weed control and revegetation of degraded areas our aim is to connect these fragments and improve the condition and habitat for fauna and flora" said Lesley.

Diversity of plants and animals

Allen Park has many special qualities, ranging from the beautiful Tuarts and Marris to the diverse bird life and innumerable invertebrates.

Callitris preissii (Rottneest Island Cypress) grouped on the slopes of Melon Hill, their stature a striking contrast to the *Dryandra*

sessilis (Parrot Bush) are a reminder of the populations inhabiting the mainland many years ago.

It also boasts one of the southern most populations of *Gyrostemon ramulosus* (Corkybark), a splendid tree with its sculptural form and textured bark. *Lechenaultia linarioides*, seemingly too delicate for the harsh coastal environment, flowers most of the year and considering the wear and tear the reserve has endured it's a surprise that pink fairy orchids abound.



Allen Park is host to a range of birds including Peregrine Falcon, Brown Goshawk and Black-shouldered Kite. Boobook owls and recently discovered Barn Owls have an association with Allen Park too.



Smaller creatures include jewel beetles and a snail not yet classified. Jan's Banded Snake, Dugites and various skinks and geckos have been seen on occasions.

A mix of funds

Crucial, though limited funds were originally raised by selling the group's locally designed t-shirts. Later, FOAPBG was able to seek Council funds for infrastructure such as limestone paths and Department of Defence funds for regeneration projects. Eventually the Natural Heritage Trust presented a longer-term answer with a three-year run of grants from 1998 which enabled funding to be directed where it was most needed.

Contacts

Lesley Shaw 9384 7983 or Maxine Mazzuchelli 9384 9261.



Resources

Project management seminar information sheets

Swan Catchment Centre, the Department of Environmental Protection's Ecoplan and Greening Australia (WA) have produced a series of information sheets based on the recently held and very popular training courses as part of their joint "Skills for Nature Conservation" program.

The aim of the sheets is to enable the information presented to become more widely available to all interested persons.

Topics are:

- Avoiding Burnout
- Attracting Volunteers
- How to Delegate and Train Others
- Catchy Displays
- How to Evaluate your Project
- The Media - Getting Your Story Out
- How to Monitor your Project
- Planning Your Project
- Project Management
- Time Management.

There is no cost for the sheets and they can be obtained by contacting one of the three participating organisations. Swan Catchment Centre 9220 5300, Department of Environmental Protection - Ecoplan 9222 7052, or Greening Australia (WA) 9335 8933.

Geraldton Carnation Weed or Spurge - guide now available

As part of National Weedbuster Week 2000, the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) coordinated a workshop focussing on the botany, biology, management, toxicity and medical aspects of *Euphorbia terracina* (Geraldton Carnation Weed or Spurge).

"*Euphorbia terracina* (Geraldton Carnation Weed or Spurge) - A guide to its biology and control and associated safety issues", presents the proceedings and learnings from the workshop. This practical guide has been published with assistance from the WA Lotteries Commission.

For further information contact EWAN 9220 5311.

More weed management pamphlets out soon

The Environmental Weeds Action Network is completing two new pamphlets in their 'managing weeds in bushland' series. Taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) and Soursob, Fingerleaf and Four O'clock (*Oxalis pes-caprae*, *O. glabra* and *O. purpurea*) are the focus weeds. The pamphlets have been published with assistance from the Lotteries Commission and the Swan Catchment Centre respectively.

They will be available from the Swan Catchment Centre (9220 5300) or can be down loaded from the EWAN web site <http://members.iinet.net.au/~ewan/>.

NHT2

As the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) nears completion of its original timeline, it is anticipated (and hoped) there will be an extension of the program. Guidelines for NHT2 (as it is commonly termed) could be available in mid November. Keep a watch on the national website www.nht.gov.au for any developments or contact the Department of Agriculture 9368 3333.

Web site watch

FloraBank is a collaboration between Greening Australia, CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products, the Australian Tree Seed Centre and the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Funded by the Natural

Heritage Trust Bushcare program, it aims to improve the availability and quality of native seed for revegetation and conservation purposes in Australia, by keeping people better informed and able to collect, store and use native seed efficiently and responsibly www.florabank.org.au.

CSIRO and the CRC Weed Management Systems have recently put information about bridal creeper rust fungus on the web http://www.ento.csiro.au/research/weedmgmt/bridal_creeper/.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

WA Herbarium (WAH) has just released a new guide "How to collect and record weeds" by Marchant, Gathe & Lewington as well as updated the plant collecting books ('user friendly' and weed data). For copies call WAH 9334 0500.

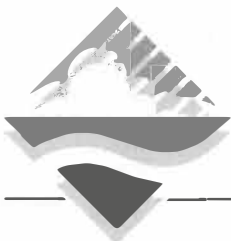
Wildcare service

CALM has established a call centre for people needing to contact registered wildlife carers. If you find a sick or injured bird/animal, you can call 9474 9055 to be put in touch with one of 560 wildlife carers who can collect, rehabilitate and release native birds and animals. The program is run by volunteers out of a dedicated office in CALM's Kensington headquarters.

For further information about the program call Margaret Buckland, CALM's Volunteer Coordinator 9334 0251.

CSIRO celebrates 75!

CSIRO is celebrating its 75th birthday and has produced a website outlining some of its greatest achievements during this time. The site provides a good snapshot of CSIRO's contribution to Australian science and industry <http://www.csiro.au/csiro/75thann/75thanniversary.html>.



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