



12 APR 2002

## Reflecting on not so common achievements

Originally set aside in 1897 for 'commonage and timber for settlers', the Armadale Settlers' Common is now an important urban bushland reserve managed by the community. The City of Armadale established a management committee in 1989, comprising 11 local community members and one local councillor. The committee developed a management plan and thirteen years later has gone a long way to implementing and revising their plan.

### Thirteen year focus

Brett Tizard, one of the inaugural members of the Friends of Armadale Settlers' Common and president of the Management Committee for 13 years, has recently resigned, providing an opportunity to look back over the past 13 years, at what has been achieved – and how.

The original management plan and the current revision clearly state the three aims of the Common as conservation, education and recreation. Each of these has become an important part of what the Common is all about and how it is seen in the wider community.

### Working together

"When we started looking after the Common, the problem of the pasture and how to rehabilitate it proved to be too hard for the experts to solve. Today, it forms part of an important message I am often invited to tell – that community groups and Councils can solve these sorts of problems by working together," commented Brett.

A prime example of the Council, Committee and community all pitching in, is also one of the favourite community events in Armadale – the annual 'Walk the Common'. "Even on a bad day, we have over 100 people. Last year 250 walked and another 150 were part of the activities during the day. The Committee, the City of Armadale Recreation

Department, the Bedforddale Volunteer Fire Brigade and some of our regular walkers combine to make this a most enjoyable day," enthused Brett.

"In addition," reflected Brett "the fire management regime and weed control techniques we developed are now willingly copied by bushland managers across the metropolitan area".

### Council, Committee and volunteers

"Many activities could not have been undertaken without the seed funding supplied by Armadale Council. However Council's contribution alone was not enough to 'get the job done'," reflected Brett.

Through external grants and in-kind donations, the Management Committee was able to multiply Council's grants by a factor of seven. This multiplier has facilitated much of the Committee's and Council's joint success.

Brett is also adamant that using money alone would not have allowed the great works to be undertaken. As he explained, "Volunteer labour (costed at a multiplier of 12 on the Council's seed funding) drove many of the activities in the Common. From tree planting to weed removal, fungal forays, rubbish collection and guides for bushwalks – volunteers have played an essential role in the management of the Common. Many of



Brett Tizard running a workshop at the Common.

Photo by Suzanne Gorman

our volunteers turn up throughout each and every year to lend a hand and make a difference to our community," explained a very proud ex-president.

### Final Reflections

"During these past 13 years, the Armadale Settlers' Common Management Committee and community volunteers have achieved many things. Some highlights have included the planting of over 30 000 seedlings, rehabilitation of several gravel pits, participation in every 'Clean Up Australia Day' and identification of over 350 different plant and fungal species, including the rare and endangered Sun Orchid. Probably the most important thing we have done over the last decade is to transform the reserve from 'just a bit of bush' into a place that is recognised throughout Perth," proudly reflected Brett, though with a tinge of sadness as he relinquishes his more active role with the Common. However, Brett is obviously excited as he sees the Committee, community and Council continue their great work at the Common.

The start of this year has been a particularly busy one for Ecoplan, moving. As part of the Government's restructuring, after 11 years with the Department of Environmental Protection, Ecoplan has moved to the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Special thanks to the many people at the DEP who have supported Ecoplan over the years helping to make it a success, in particular the Conservation Branch, library, desktop and publicity staff to mention a few. Ecoplan looks forward to a continuing association with the DEP.

I thank my new colleagues at the Department of Conservation and Land Management for the warm welcome they have extended to Ecoplan and we look forward to working together with the community.

A number of you have already visited me here and I hope many more of you will be able to. There is plenty of parking and access to the building is easy, see map showing Ecoplan's new location. My direct phone number is 9474 7040 which has a voice mail or if you prefer call the reception on 9368 4399.

The move has been smooth thanks to the support of staff both at the DEP and the Department of Conservation and Land Management, however, if you have not received a response to an issue please don't hesitate to call me – as it just may have got misplaced in the move.



Map showing new location of Ecoplan at the Dep. of Conservation and Land Management Swan Region.

Ecoplan has been working on the Skills for Nature Conservation training calendar with the Swan Catchment Centre and Greening Australia (WA). Thank you for the feedback we received through the evaluation, it was very valuable and while we were unable to

include all the topics requested in this year's training calendar many of them are catered for through other organisations. A copy of the calendar and package has been sent to each of the groups with details of the courses. Please ask your group leader or phone the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333 to obtain a copy.

AlintaGas will no longer be sponsoring the Bushland Care Days. We have enjoyed working with AlintaGas and after 5 years of support bushland care has benefited greatly. We have unfortunately been unable to find a new corporate sponsor for this year and so have needed to reduce the 2002 program to 10 Ecoplan/Conservation Volunteers Bushland Care Days. We will endeavor to find a new sponsor for 2003 and will keep you updated on our progress. We had 32 applications for the 10 Bushland Care Days so we are sorry that some groups have missed out. Everyone is welcome to come along to our workshop on 6 April *Planning a Successful Workday* (see *What's On* for details) which is aimed at helping you run your own workday as well as a Bushland Care Day.

After a well deserved year off Margo O'Byrne returns full time, to the Ecoplan Co-ordinator position, on the 29 April 2002. We welcome Margo back and look forward to her return just in time for the start of the Bushland Care Days. Margo and I will be having a week's hand-over period in the first week she returns.

On behalf of Ecoplan I extend thanks to Brett Tizard, who recently resigned as president of the Armadale Settlers' Common Management Committee (see cover story) and acknowledge his dedication, hard work and commitment over the last 13 years, as well as his ongoing support and advice to Ecoplan for more than a decade. Brett, we wish you well in your other endeavors and trust you find some time to relax and enjoy The Common.

## Winter Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the *Winter Ecoplan News* by 1 June 2002. 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 (Please note the change of contact details see Ecoplan contacts panel on this page).

Thanks to all contributors.

Newsletter compiled and edited by Colma Keating.

## Contacts

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### Eastern Hills Region

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### Conservation Council of WA

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### Environment Centre of WA

☎ 9225 4103

### Greening Australia (WA)

☎ 9335 8935

### APACE

☎ 9336 1262

### Swan Catchment Centre

Alison Nesbit ☎ 9374 3333

### Urban Bushland Council

Andrew Thomson ☎ 9420 7207

### Bushcare facilitator

Jon Kaub ☎ 9474 7052

'Ecoplan News' is a quarterly newsletter of Ecoplan, a Department of Conservation and Land Management program to support community involvement in bushland conservation.

## Bushland Care Days for 2002

Once again many hard working bushland care groups in the metropolitan area will be taking part in the Ecoplan/Conservation Volunteers Australia Bushland Care Days program for 2002. Come along and enjoy a complimentary BBQ lunch and the wonders of the bushland whilst lending a hand at the same time.

Date	Location/ Friends of Groups	Activities
Sun 23 June	Wireless Hill	Planting & weeding
Sat 29 June	Wattle Park, Quinns Rocks	Weeding
Sun 7 July	Bold Park	Planting
Sun 28 July	Heritage Trail Railway Reserve, Hovea/Parkerville	Planting, weeding & erosion control
Sun 11 Aug	Shenton Bushland	Weeding
Sun 18 Aug	Baigup Wetland	Weeding
Sat 24 Aug	Lake Yangebup	Weeding
Sun 8 Sept	John Forrest	Weeding
Sat 14 Sept	Brixton Street Wetlands	Weeding
Sat 19 Oct	Talbot Road Bushland	Weeding

Please register by calling Conservation Volunteers Australia on 9336 6911.

## Learning opportunities

The Skills for Nature Conservation (Swan Catchment Centre/Ecoplan/Greening Australia (WA) Bushcare Support) free seminar and workshop series will continue to provide information sharing and training for bushland and wetland carers. Topics include:

- Planning a successful workday;
- Helping your local community protect your bushland, wetland and river;
- Perth's bushland bonanza – unique natural communities of the world;
- Facilitation skills (a four module program focussing on the facilitative leader & skills for working with groups, groups and how they work, practical ways of working, and techniques for facilitation);
- Volunteers – sustaining your most important asset.

For a copy of the calendar call the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333.

Naragebup – Rockingham Regional Environment Centre are offering a range of environmental workshops. For up-to-date details call 9591 3077.

APACE will be running a series of training and development courses throughout the year including bush regeneration, plant propagation and seed collection. For more information call 9336 1262.

The Eastern Hills Management Project team has organised a series of workshops to be held locally utilising local presenters. 'Bush Skills for the Hills' program is targeting all those wishing to develop skills appropriate to the hills environment and is coordinated by Mundaring's Linda Landcare-Raynor and Linda Bushcare-Kirschner and Kalamunda's Loretta Bean. Sessions will run throughout the year and will cover:

- dieback management
- measuring wetland health
- measuring success – monitoring and evaluating your local project
- bush regeneration
- waging war on weeds
- community flora surveys
- plant identification for the Hills
- 'Backyard Blitz' – creating fauna friendly backyards!

For more details call Loretta Bean on 9479 4808.

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

## What do you think?

2001 was the International Year of the Volunteer.



Several of our members feel that we have demonstrated what can be achieved by a small team of conservation

volunteers and that now it is up to the wider community to become more actively involved if these achievements are to have lasting and sustainable results. Perhaps a State-wide umbrella organisation is required that coordinates the many diverse projects and provides the necessary vigorous recruitment and education needed to continue our efforts into the future. This type of support would unite the many small, fragmented and isolated groups and individuals and enable them to network their experiences, to have their expertise recognised, and to avoid duplication of effort. This would be a positive outcome from the Year of the Volunteer.

Diane Matthews, President, Canning River Residents Environmental Protection Association.

## Careful – are you pulling out a native plant?

With so many weeds in degraded wetlands it can be easy to assume that many plants, particularly fast growers, are weeds. *Alternanthera nodiflora* (common joyweed) and *Persicaria decipiens* are two native plant species that are often being removed by groups as they are assumed to be a weed. Some bushland carers also claim they kill planted seedlings.

Fortunately at the AGM of the Environmental Weeds Action Network, the group's project officer Kate Brown was able to clarify their status and role. Kate confirmed the value of both plants as colonisers after weeds have been removed and also highlighted what she believes is their ability to suppress the germination of arum lily (\**Zantedeschia aethiopica*).

## Tips for leading bushwalks

Extracted from *Wildflower Society of WA Newsletter*, November 2001

A bushwalk is an event regardless of how low key and casual it is intended to be. Before the day you need to arrange the event as well as plan for the participants' experience. This will get easier with every event and will give you the confidence to be more adventurous.

In response to members' requests, the Wildflower Society of WA (WSWA) held a workshop on the practicalities of leading bush walks as part of their 2001 State conference weekend. Coordinated by Margaret Langley and facilitated by Colma Keating, the workshop gathered the experiences and advice of presenters (Kings Park's Ethel Lucas and Wildflower Society's Dave Pike) and 40 workshop participants – from the perspective of both bushwalk leaders and participants.

The following is a summary of the key points to consider when planning and leading your bushwalk/s.

### Purpose

- reason for walk

### Format

- theme
- location
- length
- route
- flexibility of plan
- participant expectations
- group size
- participants interactions
- number of leaders
- timing

### Research

- site research
- subjects
- tools and techniques

### People Management

- personal confidence
- managing the walk
- control group size
- people problems
- location issues
- staff safety
- participant safety
- bushland care

### Advertising

- where to advertise
- what information to include

### General

- keeping records of volunteer time.



A copy of the more detailed six page article can be obtained from the Ecoplan Coordinator (contact details on page 2) or can be viewed at the Wildflower Society Office (9383 7979) and Catchment/Environment Centres.

## Perth Biodiversity Project – helping us help you

The Perth Biodiversity Project (PBP) is a local government initiative, hosted by the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) and largely funded by the Natural Heritage Trust. Between now and May 2003 there is an opportunity for community groups in partnership with their Local Authority to seek funding to assist with activities that promote the protection and conservation of local biodiversity. To enable the PBP to better inform you of funding opportunities and other benefits of the project you are encouraged to inform us of your contact details (Note: Ecoplan's policy and practice is to not distribute contact lists without the permission of the friends groups).

The PBP also wants to identify bushland areas in the metropolitan region that have a friends (or other) group actively involved with its management. This information will be mapped electronically using a geographical information system (GIS) and made available to groups to provide a regional overview of friends groups as well as provide opportunities to access site-specific maps.

We look forward to receiving your contact details with a photocopy from the street directory (indicating the bushland/wetland sites that your group is caring for). Please send them to: Ryan Taylor, Perth Biodiversity Project, WA Local Government Association, PO Box 1544, West Perth WA 6872.

For more information please contact Ryan on 9213 2050 or [rtaylor@walga.asn.au](mailto:rtaylor@walga.asn.au).

## Funding Opportunities

### Lotteries Commission Grants

Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation Grants are available for conservation focussed projects, including on-ground works. For more information contact the program coordinator on 1800 655 270 or [community\\_funding@lottery.wa.gov.au](mailto:community_funding@lottery.wa.gov.au) or checkout the website [www.lottery.wa.gov.au/corporate/grantsguide](http://www.lottery.wa.gov.au/corporate/grantsguide)

### Natural Heritage Trust (NHT)

Again, as Ecoplan News went to print, the details for the Natural Heritage Trust grants program had not been finalised, including the possibility of the 'Australian Community Envirofunds' sub-program for

on-ground, community-driven projects. For up-to-date information call John Holley, Department of Agriculture 9368 3333 or visit the Federal Government program website [www.nht.gov.au](http://www.nht.gov.au).

### Coastwest/Coastcare grants

Future Coastwest/Coastcare grants are also dependent on NHT funding decisions. Call State Coordinator Martin Heller on 9264 7834 for updates or contact your regional Coastwest/Coastcare facilitator. The metropolitan-central coast facilitator is Cathy Ronalds (9321 5055) and the Peel/South-west coordinator is Nicci Tsernjavski (9725 4300).

## Congratulations

Cr Jan Star of Serpentine-Jarrahdale was awarded a 'Member of the Order of Australia (AM)' in the Australia Day Honours List "for service to local government, particularly through environmental, water management and planning related matters, and to the community".

Julie Robert, one of the founders of the Bannister Creek Catchment Group was awarded the Natural Heritage Trust Recognition Award for her work to improve the quality of the natural environment around Bannister Creek in Ferndale.

# Econotes: Distinguishing Perth Eucalypts

Extracted from 'Leaf & Branch' by Robert Powell and 'Gum Tree Pack' by Bronwen Keighery and Margaret Pieroni

## Telling gum trees apart

The following table shows the key characteristics of five eucalyptus trees in the Perth area – based on their:

**form** – overall shape and size

**bark** – either rough (sheds as strips or flakes) or smooth (sheds in sheets).

**foliage/leaves** – often leathery to feel and have a eucalyptus smell when crushed – as their oils are released.


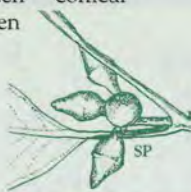


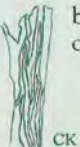


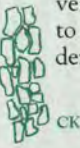







**bud** – made up of the:

- **cup or hypanthium** part of the flower surrounding the ovary that swells to form the fruit, and
- **cap or operculum** a protective cover over the developing flower formed by the fusion of sepals and petals (and where the name Eucalyptus meaning "well covered" derives from)

**flowers** – which open when the cap is pushed off by the developing flower – to

show bright masses of stamens or male parts – having a stalk (filament) and a pollen sack (anther) as well as the central female parts (stigma which receives the pollen and style that connects the stigma to the ovary where the ovules are – which upon fertilisation become seeds)

**fruit** – often hard and woody, formed from the cups when the seeds grow.

Tree	Form	Bark	Foliage	Bud Cap	Fruit	Flowering	Name
Flooded Gum <i>E. rudis</i> 	medium-large (up to 25m) growing in clayey soil or near wetlands	rough on trunk and lower branches; smooth and grey-white on upper branches	dull, grey-green or bluish-green	conical 	hemispherical to broadly turban shaped 5-8mm 	winter to early summer	Latin – for rough/wild  Collected 1833 by Baron von Huegel, King George Sound
Jarrah <i>E. marginata</i> 	medium-large, widespread on the sands of the Coastal Plain and the laterite of the Darling Plateau	flat & stringy; grey, brown in furrows; strips can easily be pulled off revealing a cinnamon or reddish colour 	green & shiny on one side, dull on the other or dull blue-green on both sides	narrowly conical, longer than the floral tube	globular to cup-shaped 12-15mm 	spring or early summer	Latin – for having a border – refers to thickened reddish margins of leaves  Collected 1799 by WT Aiton as Kew cultivar
Marri <i>E. calophylla</i> (currently named <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> ) 	large tree, widespread and common	blocky, rough and flaky; grey-brown; often exudes a reddish-brown gum from trunk or branches 	green to dark green above, pale below. veins at 50-70° to midrib, densely packed	conical 	large, urn shaped 35-40mm long, almost as wide	mid-summer to late autumn	similar appearance to tropical plant in <i>Calophyllum</i> genus  Collected 1839 by Georgina Molloy, Augusta
Wicklybark <i>E. totiana</i> 	stout and spreading 9-15m tall	rough with tough fine fibres; grey to brown; yellow-orange after fire	dull; pale green or bluish-green	hemispherical 	cup shaped or globular 15-25mm 	late summer	after botanical artist Emil Todt  Collected 1877, by Baron von Mueller, Greenough – Arrowsmith Rivers
Tuart <i>E. gomphocephala</i> 	largest tree on Perth's Swan Coastal Plain; often as wide as tall	pale grey & rough; upper branches often smooth, stained brown	shiny; greyish mid-green	hemispherical 8-10mm 	bell-shaped to cylindrical 12-20mm 	summer to early autumn	Greek – for 'club-head' refers to bud  Collected 1801, by Leschenault de la Tour, Geographe Bay

## References & further reading

- Brooker MIH & DA Kleinig (1990) *Field Guide to Eucalypts, Volume 2*, Inkata Press, Melbourne, VIC.
- Keighery BJ & M Pieroni (1989)

*Gum Tree Pack*, Wildflower Society of WA, Nedlands, WA.

- Powell R (1990) *Leaf & Branch: tall trees and shrubs of Perth*, Dept. Conservation and Land Management, Perth. WA.

Illustrations per kind permission of Margaret Pieroni (MP) and Sue Patrick (SP) from Keighery & Pieroni 1998 or Powell 1990 and Colma Keating (CK).

Opportunities for you to participate!  
Visitors always welcome.

## April

### 2 Tuesday 7.30pm

Talk *The Nature of Tuarts* by Robert Powell, at the Urban Bushland Council, National Trust, 4 Havelock St, West Perth. Call Andrew on 9450 3424.

### 4 Thursday 9 – 11am

This and every Thursday join the Bushcare Officer for work in Shenton Bushland. Meet opposite the Cat Haven, Lemnos St. Call Janice on 9381 1479.

### 4 Thursday 7.50pm

Workshop *Propagation from Seed – Easy Species* with Neil Goldsborough, Greg Kettlewell and Dick Mills, at Wildflower Society (WA) Murdoch Branch, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, Lot 387 Hope Road, Bibra Lake. Call Neil 9437 2410.

### 6 Saturday & 7 Sunday

City of Melville's EnviroFest at Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre. Call Carolyn 9364 0720 or Jackie 9364 0283.

### 6 Saturday 8 – 9am

Guided nature walk with the Friends of Landsdale Farm School Conservation Park. Meet at Landsdale Rd gateway (east of intersection with Evandale Rd). Call Margaret 9381 1287.

### 6 Saturday 9.30am – 1pm

Skills for Nature Conservation workshop *Planning a Successful Workday* presented by Linda Taman (Coordinator, Bennett Brook Catchment Group), Norma Calcutt (Coordinator, Friends of Bold Park) and Ken Beasley (Conservation Volunteers Australia) at Department of Conservation and Land Management, Kensington. Call 9374 3333.

### 6 Saturday 1.30 – 4pm

Workshop *Native Plant Gardens* conducted by the Bennett Brook Catchment Group (BBCG). This free workshop for adults focuses on how to use native plants to create attractive outdoor areas. This session looks at creating cottage gardens, hanging baskets and animal habitats using species native to the local area. Call Trish at BBCG on 9377 0444.

### 7 Sunday 9am

Join the Bold Park Bushcare Group. Meet in the first carpark on Perry Lakes Drive (near NHT site) or call 9387 3007.

### 9 Tuesday 8pm

Talk *Autumn Colours in Our Bushland* by Alex George at the Wildflower Society (WA) Perth Branch, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd. Call Kate 9382 4193.

### 11 Thursday – 16 Tuesday

Garden Week at Perry Lakes – *Waterwise and Local Plants*. For more information contact the Nursery and Garden Industry Association on 9485 1144 or www.niawa.com.au.

### 13 Saturday 8am

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

### 13 Saturday 1pm

Join Quinns Rocks Environmental Group as they launch a new brochure on growing local plants. Event includes a talk on 'growing local' by Hazel Dempster (Wildflower Society). All welcome at Gumblossom Community Centre, Tapping Way, Quinns Rocks. Call Renata 9305 9382.

### 16 Tuesday to 18 Thursday

Symposium – *Fire in South-Western Australian Ecosystems: Impacts and Management*. Call Glenda Lindsey at Dept. of Conservation & Land Management on 9334 0463 or glendal@calm.wa.gov.au.

### 16 Tuesday 7.30pm

Demonstration *Propagation from Kings Park – Grafting* at the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs Branch, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Dr. Call Brian 9401 6847.

### 19 Friday 7.30pm

Natural history talk on *Lizards*. Hosted by the Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah Branch WA Naturalists' Club at Naragebup – Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Road (opposite Lake Richmond), Peron. Call Ann 9591 3077.

### 20 Saturday 7am

Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call Gould League 9387 6079.

### 20 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.

### 20 Saturday 8am – 5pm

Skills for Nature Conservation workshop *Essential First Aid* with the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia, at Mt Claremont. This is a nationally accredited course and expression of interest (EOI) is essential. The closing date for EOIs is Friday 12/4. Call 9374 3333.

### 20 Saturday 9am – 4pm

Bush Skills for the Hills workshop: *Measuring Success – Monitoring & Evaluating Local Projects*. Places are limited, register early with Loretta Bean at the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Councils on 9479 4808.

### 21 Sunday 9am

Join the Bold Park Bushcare Group. Meet in the first carpark on Perry Lakes Drive (near NHT site) or call 9387 3007.

### 21 Sunday 9am – 12 noon

Bush regeneration with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Meet at the Warwick Senior High School car park, off Erindale Rd. Call Robyn 9342 8482 or Karen 9342 8482.

### 22 Monday

EARTH DAY

### 23 Tuesday 8pm

Talk *WA Creeks – How Lucky We Are* by Jason Carter (Environmental Scientist), at the Wildflower Society (WA) Darling Range Branch, Kalamunda Library, cnr Williams and Spring Roads. Call Monica 9454 5775.

### 26 Friday 7.30pm

Talk *Peter Good, Gardener with the Investigator* by Mark Webb (Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority), at the Wildflower Society (WA) Eastern Hills Branch, Octagonal Hall, McGlew Rd, Glen Forrest. Call Jenny 9572 1697.

### 27 Saturday 8am

Guided walk with Friends of Star Swamp. Meet at cnr of Hope and Castle Sts, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

## May

### 2 Thursday 9 – 11am

This and every Thursday join the Bushcare Officer for work in Shenton Bushland. Meet opposite the Cat Haven, Lemnos St. Call Janice on 9381 1479.

### 3 Friday 7.30pm

Nature talk *Fungi & the Fungimap Program* by Katie Syme, hosted by the WA Naturalists' Club at University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street, Nedlands. Call the Nats' Club Office 9228 2495.

### 4 Saturday 9am – 1.30pm

Skills for Nature Conservation workshop *Down to Earth – Understanding the Values of Soil*, presented by A/Prof Lynette Abbott (Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, University of Western Australia) and Dr Jim Burrows ('semi-retired' CSIRO soil scientist), on site at Maida Vale Bushland, Maida Vale. Call the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333. RSVP essential by 19/4.

### 5 Sunday 9am

Join the Bold Park Bushcare Group. Meet in the first carpark on Perry Lakes Drive (near NHT site) or call 9387 3007.

### 7 Tuesday 7.30pm

Talk *The Perth Biodiversity Project* by Carla Miles (WA Local Government Association) at the Urban Bushland Council, National Trust, 4 Havelock St, West Perth. Call Andrew on 9450 3424.

### 11 Saturday 8am

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

### 11 Saturday 9am – 1pm

Native Plant Sale coordinated by the Wildflower Society (WA) Eastern Hills Branch, Octagonal Hall, McGlew Rd, Glen Forrest. Catalogues \$2 available from hall on 10 May. Call Jenny 9572 1697.

### 11 Saturday 2pm

Opportunity to discuss on-ground bushland management with the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABRWA) on a visit to Korella Park and other sites in Joondalup. Meet at carpark off West View Pde, Joondalup. Call Janice on 9381 1479.

### 14 Tuesday 8pm

Talk *The Father of Australian Botany: Robert Brown, his work in WA* by Greg Keighery, at the Wildflower Society (WA) Perth Branch, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd. Call Kate 9382 4193.

### 15 Wednesday 8pm

Wildflower Society (WA) 5th Biennial Lecture: *A New Image for Australian Plants* presented by George Lullfitz at Lecture Theatre, Midland TAFE, Lloyd St. Call Society Office 9383 7979

### 17 Friday 7.30pm

Guided night walk with the Friends of Lake Gwelup and see our frogs! Bring a torch and meet at the scout hall, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

### 18 Saturday 8am

Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call Gould League 9387 6079.

### 18 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.

### 18 Saturday 9.30am–1pm

Skills for Nature Conservation seminar *Helping Your Local Community Protect Your Bushland, Wetland and River* presented by Brett Tizard (Friends of Armadale Settlers' Common), Michelle Crow (Belmont-Victoria Park Catchment Group) and Karen Ireland at the Dept. of Conservation and Land Management, Kensington. Call 9374 3333. RSVP essential by 3/5.

### 19 Sunday 9am – 12 noon

Bush regeneration with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Meet at the Warwick Senior High School car park, off Erindale Rd. Call Robyn 9342 8482 or Karen 9342 8482.

### 19 Sunday 9am

Join the Bold Park Bushcare Group. Meet in the first carpark on Perry Lakes Drive (near NHT site) or call 9387 3007.

### Tuesday 7.30pm

Talk *Mosses and Lichens* by Eric McCrum, at the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs Branch, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Dr. Call Brian 9401 6847.

### 21 Tuesday

Talk *Caves – 15 000 Years of History in the South West* by the Speleological Club of WA, at the WA Naturalists' Club – Northern Suburbs Branch, Henderson Environment Centre, Groat Street, North Beach. Call 9447 5392.

### 22 Saturday 1.30 – 6pm

Skills for Nature Conservation seminar *Minibeasts as indicators in urban bushland and wetlands* with Eric McCrum (naturalist) at Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Melville. Other speakers yet to be confirmed. Call the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333. RSVP essential by 7/6.

### 25 Saturday 9am – 12 noon

Bush Skills for the Hills workshop: *Bush Regeneration*. Places are limited, register early with Loretta Bean at the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Councils on 9479 4808.

### 25 Saturday 8am

Guided walk with Friends of Star Swamp. Meet at cnr of Hope and Castle Sts, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

### 28 Tuesday 8pm

Talk *Wrens and their Gooseberry Hills Habitats* by Michael Brooker (Biologist), at the Wildflower Society (WA) Darling Range Branch, Kalamunda Library, cnr Williams and Spring Roads. Call Monica 9454 5775.

## June

### 1 Saturday 8 – 9am

Guided nature walk with the Friends of Landsdale Farm School Conservation Park. Meet at Landsdale Rd gateway (east of intersection with Evandale Rd). Call Margaret 9381 1287.

### 1 Saturday to 3 Monday

*Fungal Foray* for WA Naturalists' Club members with Katie Syme (WA Fungimap Coordinator), at Donnelly River. Booking is essential, call the Nats' Club Office 9228 2495.

### 4 Tuesday 7.30pm

Talk *Birds as Indicators of Biodiversity* by John Dell, at the Urban Bushland Council, National Trust, 4 Havelock St, West Perth. Call Andrew on 9450 3424.

### 5 Wednesday

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

### 6 Thursday 9 – 11am

This and every Thursday join the Bushcare Officer for work in Shenton Bushland. Meet opposite the Cat Haven, Lemnos St. Call Janice on 9381 1479.

### 7 Friday

ARBOR DAY

### 8 Saturday 8am

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

### 8 Saturday 9.30am – 1.30pm

Skills for Nature Conservation seminar *Perth's Bushland Bonanza – unique natural communities of the world* with Department of Environmental Protection's Bronwen Keighery and John Dell at Dept. of Conservation and Land Management, Kensington. Call the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333. RSVP essential by 24/5.

### 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 8am

Early morning bird walk at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. Call Gould League 9387 6079.

### 16 Sunday 9am – 12 noon

Bush regeneration with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Meet at the Warwick Senior High School car park, off Erindale Rd. Call Robyn 9342 8482 or Karen 9342 8482.

### 18 Tuesday 6 – 9pm

Skills for Nature Conservation workshop *Facilitation Skills: Module 1 – The Facilitative Leader and Skills for Working with Groups* with Margo O'Byrne (Ecoplan Coordinator) at Department of Conservation and Land Management, Kensington. First module of a course for group leaders or those wishing to take on a leadership role, which will explore the skills needed to lead groups in an effective way. Participants will need to attend each of the 4 modules (18/6, 25/6, 2/7, 9/7). Call the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333. RSVP essential for all 4 modules by 4/6.

### 18 Tuesday 7.30pm

Talk *Saving Bushland or Eucalyptus Oil* at the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs Branch, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Dr. Call Brian 9401 6847.

### 22 Saturday 8am

Guided walk with Friends of Star Swamp. Meet at cnr of Hope and Castle Sts, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

### 23 Sunday

Ecoplan/CVA Bushland Care Day at Wireless Hill. Call CVA 9336 6911.

### 25 Tuesday 6 – 9pm

Skills for Nature Conservation workshop *Facilitation Skills: Module 2 – Groups and how they work* with Margo O'Byrne (Ecoplan Coordinator) at Department of Conservation and Land Management, Kensington. Second module of a course for group leaders or those wishing to take on a leadership role, which will explore the skills needed to lead groups in an effective way. Participants will need to attend each of the 4 modules (18/6, 25/6, 2/7, 9/7). Call 9374 3333. RSVP essential for all 4 modules by 4/6.

### 25 Tuesday 8pm

Talk *Hand Pollination of Australian Native Plants* by Jenny McComb (Plant Scientist), at the Wildflower Society (WA) Darling Range Branch, Kalamunda Library, cnr Williams and Spring Roads. Call Monica 9454 5775.

### 29 Saturday

Ecoplan/CVA Bushland Care Day at Wattle Park, Quinns Rocks. Call CVA 9336 6911.

### 29 Saturday – 30 Sunday

The Wildflower Society (WA) State Conference hosted by the Kulin Branch. Call Sandra 9880 1268 or Society Office 9383 7979.



## Bunbury/ Busselton Region

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meetings and natural history talks are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the conference room, Lotteries House, Victoria St, Bunbury. Outdoor excursions will be on the Saturday following the 2nd Tuesday. Details for these are yet to be finalised.

Call Shirley 9791 5915, Gordon 9797 0673 or Olga 9726 3181. Visitors welcome.

For Busselton Naturalists' Club activities confirm details by checking the *Busselton Margaret Times* or calling Bernie on 9727 2474 (h) or 9752 1949 (w), bmasters@inet.net.au. Meetings are now held at the Busselton Senior Citizens' Centre Meeting Room, 24 Peel Terrace. Visitors welcome.

### Leschenault Community Nursery

For more information on how to be involved in the Community Nursery, call Shirley 9791 5915.

## April

### 9 Tuesday 7.30pm

Bunbury Nats' Club talk *WA Herbarium* by Jan Gathe.

### 10 Wednesday 7.30pm

Busselton Nats' Club talk *Butterflies of the South West* by Matt Williams Dept of Conservation and Land Management).

### 20 Saturday

Bunbury Nats' outdoor activity *All creatures great and small – reintroduction of fauna on farms* at Balingup Small Farms Field Day.

## May

### 8 Wednesday 7.30pm

Busselton Nats' video night *Turning Tracks into Trails and Tackling Townsite Salinity in WA*. Also special five minute guest presenters.

### 14 Tuesday 7.30pm

Bunbury Nats' talk *Marine Interpretation* by Phil Coulter (Dolphin Discovery Centre).

### 18 Saturday

Bunbury Nats' outdoor activity *Kerr Forest Block and proposed reserve* led by Gordon.

### 19 Sunday

Busselton Nats' excursion – *Walks on the Bibbulmun Track around Balingup*. Lunch at Golden Valley Tree Park. 12.5km total distance: easy-moderate walk, opportunity to travel by bus.

## June

### 11 Tuesday 7.30pm

Bunbury Nats' talk *Ethics* by Carolyn Switzer.

### 12 Wednesday 7.30pm

Busselton Nats' talk *The Geographe Bay and Cape to Cape Marine Parks plus the Cape to Cape Walk Trail* by Neil Taylor, Dept. of Conservation & Land Management.

### 15 Saturday

Bunbury Nats' outdoor activity *Fungi Walk* led by Lyn.

### 23 Sunday 9am

Busselton Nats' excursion *Ken and Joyce Sue's wetland rehabilitation project*. Meet on Queen Elizabeth Ave, 5km south of high school. Wear footwear suitable for water/mud under foot. Bring shovel, pick, gloves, etc.

These events are forwarded for inclusion in the Swan Catchment Centre's monthly information sheet and Riverlink web site at www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon as well as the Environmental Education Network.

Please send us your July, August, September 2002 events by 1 June 2002.

# REGIONAL REPORTS

All groups welcome visitors and new members.

## North West Region

**Wattle Park has friends**  
*by David Wake*

Wattle Park is a small bushland remnant of just over one hectare in the suburb of Quinns Rocks. An area of coastal heathland, Wattle Park is habitat for burrowing skinks (like the line-spotted *Lerista*), a species of burrowing snake, the western blue-tongue lizard and birds including the singing honeyeater, tawny frogmouth and black-shouldered kite. This and similar areas are becoming both scarce and increasingly important as the suburbs spread.

In an effort to look after the bush the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group (QREG) has held litter clean-ups and weeding days as well as carried out flora and fauna surveys which have highlighted the conservation value of the bushland.

However, as a dry park set aside for recreation, the reserve has little protection as illustrated recently by the actions of contractors working nearby who dumped sand and couch runners into the park. This has spurred action, with a petition being circulated to have the reserve gazetted for conservation and formally named 'Wattle Park'. QREG aims to involve more local residents and work together with the City of Wanneroo to look after Wattle Park and remnant bush in public reserves nearby. A draft management plan is being completed by the group, spelling out actions to tackle weeds, discourage rubbish dumping and enhance road verges.

*For further information call David on 9420 7268 or Renata on 9305 9382.*

## North East Region

**Drawing the crowds for Koondoola**  
*by Alice Stubber*

On Sunday January 20, Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland (FKRB) mounted a photographic information display (using Phylis Robertson's photographs) and two inter-active activities for children at the City of Joondalup's 'Little Feet Festival'. In the past the group has organised photographic

displays – where we have learnt that something extra is needed to draw the people to the display.

Our 'engage the crowd' activities were aligned with the festival theme of 'Little Feet' whilst also capturing the attention of parents:

- 'Colour in your own jewel beetle'. When completed the art works were tied to bush sticks so the children could take them away – along with FKRB details including monthly-guided nature walks printed on the beetles' tummies!
- 'Help Save Our Bushland' – involved children learning about the problems facing urban bushland by physically throwing a symbol (eg children's shoes) into the correct problem bucket (eg trampling). All participants got a prize.

This was the first time that FKRB had done an awareness activity of this kind and although exhausting it was very successful. It was estimated that 10 000 attended the event over the day. There was a steady stream of people past our display and as planned, our interactive activities proved a good way to get the whole family involved in learning about bushland in the northern suburbs. While the children played, the parents looked at the photos and read the literature provided – something for everyone.

*For further information call Alice on 9306 3221.*

## Helping Hepburn Heights

*by Ralph Henderson*

The fire station saga has taken a turn for the worst as unfortunately the City of Joondalup Councillors did not support our alternative site proposal, but adopted the recommendations of the City's officers:

- to note the significant community opposition to the siting of a fire station either in the Hepburn Heights Conservation Area or on the proposed alternative site, and
- to refer the issue back to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) to develop a strategy for the siting of utility services in the Hepburn Heights Area.

The Fire & Emergency Services Authority (FESA) has reapplied for development approval of the bushland site and the Council has again referred the issue to the DPI with a strong recommendation that DPI undertake community consultation on the proposal prior to any decision being made.

Lending weight to the 'Friends' opposition must be the Bush Forever report, which identifies this area as part of Site 303. Locating a fire station within this area would severely compromise the integrity of this unique bushland area as well as increase the edge effect.

We now ask for your support in conserving part of our shrinking natural heritage. To find out how to influence the decision and halt the threat to this important and valued bushland area contact Ralph.

*For further information call Ralph on 9401 3115 or [ralphh@iprimus.com.au](mailto:ralphh@iprimus.com.au)*

## Central

**Mt Henry seed collection**  
*by Jan King*

The Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group (MHPCG) has been working on their local seed project. This has involved two group members participating in the APACE seed collection courses, the group collecting seed in the summer months over the past few years (guided on occasions by APACE staff) and Aquinas College temporarily storing our seed collection.

For our final 2001 bushcare day in December, we chose the air conditioned comfort of the Aquinas College biology lab to sort through our seed collection, weigh it and list what we had. Soon our catalogued seed will be stored at the Swan Regional Seedbank (SRS) managed by APACE. This is an added bonus as it ensures the seed will be better stored for future use.

APACE ran a seedbank accreditation course at the end of January which enables participants to take their group to use the SRS facility to process and store their seed. MHPCG will take advantage of this offer in March. All of the seed collection and processing courses run by APACE were very thorough and helpful.

*For further information call Jan on 9337 6296 or APACE on 9336 1262.*

## Joint effort in South Perth

by Andrew Thomson

Years of effort by the City of South Perth and the City of South Perth Environment Association (CoSPEA) are paying off, including our effective and long term weed control that has reduced fire hazards – with no major fires occurring for seven years. The presence of someone working in the bushland has also tended to reduce the likelihood of arson. The results of other weed management include native plants reappearing after the Council sprayed a strip of couch outside the fence at Moonawarra Primary School bushland. An observation is that natural regeneration occurs within a metre of the edge of bushland if kept weed free, thus it would be good if the whole road verge could be replaced with suitable native plants.

The City has been active with other initiatives including a save the tortoise program, where providing native habitat and catching cunning foxes are two strategies to be employed. Schools have been involved in seed collection and the planting of seedlings, whilst students of South Perth Primary School and Penrhos College have also designed a number of attractive information signs.

Sadly, despite our efforts, there has been a spate of vandalism. Someone has destroyed a row of marri street trees, at Waterford shrubs and saplings have been snapped off, supposedly to improve river views and sedges have been pulled up by fishers. It is most disheartening when thoughtless, inconsiderate people vandalise our efforts.

For further information call Andrew 9450 3424.

## South East Region

**Brixton's tools for special tasks**  
by Regina Drummond

The Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands (FBSW) have many valued members who contribute their time and skills to the care and management of the wetlands and the group. One such member is Nick Buters who, when he is not working in the wetlands is inventing and making tools to assist with the eradication of weeds.

Tools that Nick makes are from recycled parts including timber, car springs (some of



Left: Nick Buters with the home made spear tool in right hand and two handled tool in left.

Right: Digging tool.

Photographs by Elizabeth Buters

which have been dumped in the wetlands) and old mower blades. Examples include:

- the spear tool – a wonder for working on *Watsonia*, in particular lifting the bulbs
- the two-handled implement (also made with *Watsonia* in mind) – for wiping herbicide poison onto strappy leaves, and
- the very versatile digger tool – successful for chopping out love grass and bamboo, digging holes for planting, back filling and trenching. I feel you only need to carry this one item to do a lot of different tasks.

FBSW are fortunate to have Nick make these bushland-specific tools for the group and the wetlands. We are also fortunate that in addition to inventing and constructing the tools, Nick does many hours of bushland care putting his tools to work.

Thinking of work, as soon as the weather cools and we get a little rain we will be starting our 'third Saturday of the month work mornings' again – we welcome your participation and the opportunity to show you some of Nick's inventions.

For further information call Regina on 5459 2964.

**Pleasure & planning on the Canning**  
by Diane Matthews

A convivial evening of 'Where to from here?' started 2002 for committee members and friends of the Canning River Residents

Environment Protection Association (CRREPA). Several sheets of butcher's paper were filled with ideas for the future. These have been sorted into issues, order of importance and responsibility and will form the basis for the year ahead.

While some of the group would prefer to consolidate what has been achieved, others were keen to attempt new initiatives with both the membership and the wider community. The consensus was that the group through delegation could accommodate both of these objectives. The renewed enthusiasm has been heartening and opportunities for hands-on involvement will be offered to the local community while lobbying and liaison work will continue with the agencies.

A facet of riverine vegetation protection that is occupying much of our time is how best to manage recreational access so that vegetation damage is avoided – while still providing opportunities for enjoyment. Until behaviour reflects acceptance of the fragility and importance of the foreshore vegetation we will continue to see progressive destruction of our river systems with eventual loss of fisheries, biodiversity and foreshore amenity. Some advance has been made in encouraging the relevant authorities to focus on the effects of incremental loss of essential vegetation, but a successful management outcome has yet to be achieved. We intend to continue encouraging river managers to actively pursue responsible river access by those using our rivers.

For further information call Diane on 9457 2896.

## Hills Region

**News from Eastern Hills**  
collected by Jenny Johnson

Lack of summer rain in the hills is causing concern in dryland planting areas and, so far, wildfires have been quickly contained by the local fire brigades. Groups intend to raise their public profiles with a series of displays at community events and shopping centres. Community education and participation is seen to be the best way to help retain our 'hills lifestyle' with its close association to the bush.

A snapshot of group updates include:



**LION MILL CREEK** The 5 000 plants that were planted during last year's AlintaGas/Ecoplan/ CVA Bushland Care Day are growing well, supported by the natural dampness of this area over summer.

**ROCKY GULLY** Restoration of the creek line will be our winter project .

**PARKERVILLE VILLAGE SOUTH** Planting will occur once it rains. At the Parkerville School, an environmental committee involving staff, parents and students has been established to ensure the continuance of the environmental principles for which the school is known. Students are monitoring the regeneration of the bush, following a wildfire last December. One aim is to determine which species re-establish quickly and which take a long time to reappear.

**FALLS PARK SOUTH** As a result of lots of earlier effort, the park is now almost on a maintenance-only program and only a small area needs weed control and replanting.

**HOVEA CONSERVATION PARK** Planning has commenced to utilise an old gravel pit by creating a wetland compensating basin near Hedges Road, thus alleviating much of the erosion and road damage during winter, as well as providing habitat for local flora and fauna.

**BROOKSIDE PARK** It is hoped a survey project will guide an extensive works program to stabilise stream banks that are endangering natural assets (such as large trees) and private properties that back onto Jane Brook. It is expected that many minor projects and activities would be created and will involve many different groups.

**KENSITT STREET** This group has received a SCULP grant to start a six year program to revegetate a section of the Bridle Trail and Jane Brook near Stoneville Road.

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

## South West Region

**Naragebup celebrates**  
by Ann Goodale

Peter Garrett, President of the Australian Conservation Foundation and

conservation/social justice advocate, proudly opened Naragebup – Rockingham Regional Environment Centre on Thursday February 28. Although the centre has been operating for many years, those who work at Naragebup had been hoping and waiting for this opportunity of Peter's involvement in the official opening for nearly four years. When Murdoch University's Rockingham Campus sponsored his trip to WA for their inaugural lecture, our dream became a reality.

Over 300 visitors enjoyed the afternoon ceremony. The official program began with a traditional Nyoongar 'Good Spirit Smoke' performed by Trevor Walley with the help of many children present.

Peter Garrett made a stirring speech, telling the assembly that we have to decide "whether we value the landscapes and the culture that was here before us...or, if not, end up in the position of people in other countries where the environment is so under threat, that it is incapable of sustaining itself or them in the long term". Peter also spoke enthusiastically about the work done at Naragebup, praising the dedication and hours (including 25 000 hours over the previous twelve months) put in by the many volunteers.

In closing, Peter unwrapped the plaque commemorating the event, after which he was presented with a completely recycled gift, illustrating the 'Living Rocks' of Lake Richmond together with a carved boab nut as a memento of the opening.

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



*Peter Garrett receiving a carved boab nut from Aaron Hansen at the opening of Naragebup.*

*Photograph courtesy of Community Newspapers. Photographer Neil Mulligan.*

## Honours from Busselton Nats'

by Bernie Masters

The first meeting in our new venue (the Busselton Senior Citizens' Centre) went well, with acoustics much improved over the previous venue. Lisa Massey was made an honorary member for the 2002 year in recognition of her excellent production of the Draft Ambergate Reserve Management Plan. (We thought about making her a life member – but decided we didn't want Lisa to relax too much and that we'd get more volunteer work out of her if she was honoured for only one year!)

Rather than ask the Shire of Busselton to assist us in forming a 'Friends of Ambergate Reserve' group, we shall continue to manage the 75 hectare bushland/wetland remnant through the Club's Ambergate Reserve Management Committee. However, we will invite members of the public who are not members of the Club to join this management committee, thereby meeting most of the requirements and goals of a 'Friends of...' group.

*For further information call Bernie on 9727 2474 (h) or 9752 1949 (w).*

**Bunbury Nursery and Nats'**  
by Shirley Fisher

A terrific GreenCorps Team has been working at the Leschenault Community Nursery (LCN) one day a week for three months helping with many of the large tasks. They have also completed three seed picking workshops with Shirley. Graduating in March, the Team turned-the-tables by presenting Bernie and Meryl Jones (LCN managers) and Shirley Fisher with certificates of appreciation!

The Bunbury Nats' are back at the Bunbury Herbarium after a two month break and have completed and submitted to the State Herbarium all their SWALE (coastal transect) specimens as well as incorporated the duplicates into the Central Forest Regional Herbarium. The Club continues to meet monthly for an evening talk.

*For further information, call Shirley on 9791 5915.*

# Group Profile: Friends of Trigg Bushland Inc



Whilst the sun glints on the jutting outcrops of limestone in the sand dunes, the sea breeze gently rustles the leaves of the quandong filling the air with their incense. As we climb the

steep track, we are tantalised by glimpses of the blue ocean which is soon to be splendidly revealed in its vastness, broken only by the hovering of a kestrel, the white sails of yachts, and Rottnest Island shimmering invitingly on the horizon. Such are the delights of a December walk in the Trigg Bushland!

Nature walks held by the Friends of Trigg Bushland (FoTB) have been regular and important events since the formation of the group in 1990. "Although the walks had been reduced from twelve to four or five a year, they are still popular with members and local residents wanting to know more about this magnificent coastal bushland," explained Robyn Murphy, long time member and current President.



Weeding Trigg Bushland during a Bushland Care Day.

## Values recognised

Located only 12 kilometres north-west of Perth city, the Trigg Bushland Reserve was identified in the 1981 System 6 Study Report as being a significant example of a vegetation sequence from beach dune colonisers, coastal shrubland and *Acacia* thickets through to *Tuart* Woodland. Species such as the corky-barked tree, dune sheoak and Rottnest Island Cypress were identified as rare or unusual occurrences on the coast near Perth.

Controversy over a planned four lane highway through the bushland saw the

formation of the Trigg Dune Heritage Group in 1986 and some years later (1990) the Friends of Trigg Bushland was formed at a public meeting attended by about 80 people.

The bushland was placed on the Register of the National Estate in 1987 and was made a Class A Reserve in 1989. The 120ha Trigg Bushland Reserve was included in Perth's Bushplan in 1998 in recognition of its regional significance.

## Landforms, plants and animals

The reserve extending from immediately behind Trigg Beach, eastwards to near the Karrinyup Shopping Centre is fragmented by roads and a school. Four sections are shaped by dune blowouts stabilised by a long process of revegetation from the spinifex of the foredunes to low shrubland containing dense thickets of summer-scented wattle interspersed with emergent tuart and groves of Rottnest Island Cypress. The fifth and northern section of the reserve (north of Karrinyup Road) is a woodland of tuart, marri, jarrah and banksia with a diverse understorey of balga, zamia and species of peas, wattles and orchids. "Although there are fine specimens of tuart, it has suffered throughout the reserve from too frequent fires, canker fungi and ecological imbalances such as not enough cockatoos or parasitic wasps to control the tuart longicorn beetle", explained Robyn.

The Trigg bushland is an important breeding and feeding area for a variety of birds (65 species have been recorded) and reptiles including snakes, skinks, legless lizards, geckos and dragon lizards. Bats still occur, but other mammals have largely disappeared and unless some controls are introduced to reduce the number of



Friends of Trigg Bushland committee members from left to right Challis, Robyn, Emma and City of Stirling Natural Areas Team Member

domestic cats in the area, any hopes held for the reintroduction of native mammals will remain a distant dream.

## Activities for everyone

The Friends group provides a community voice and actively contributes to the management of the reserve to ensure its long-term protection. Representation on the City of Stirling's Natural Environment Advisory Committee provides an opportunity to work with the City on the implementation of the Trigg Bushland Management Plan. The group conducts guided nature walks, monitors and removes weeds and rubbish, assists with bush regeneration and performs an important 'watchdog' role in identifying and responding to threats to the integrity of the bushland. Over recent years there have been many opportunities for environmental activism.

The protection and preservation of this wonderful coastal reserve presents many opportunities for involvement. "Like most community groups we need new members. Whatever your area of interest: public education, 'hands on' work; nature walks etc - we do it!", enthused Robyn. Top priority for 2002 is reducing the risk of fire (a wildfire burnt about 40ha of the bushland in December last year) by eliminating exotic weeds and focussing on fire prevention strategies. "If you are interested in joining the Friends of Trigg Bushland we would be delighted to welcome you," said Robyn.

## Contacts

Robyn Murphy 9246 3954 or  
Challis Tilbrook 9447 3521.

# Resources

## Our Community

*Our Community* is an organisation set up to provide resources, funding advice and information to the 700 000 community groups throughout Australia. It is proving to be so successful that the organisation recently brokered (with the National Australia Bank) the nation's first set of financial products specifically aimed at community groups.

"It's really like a national resource shop, offering community organisations all of the practical things that they need to really operate sustainably. These are playgroups, landcare groups, Scouts and Guides and Brownies, churches, schools, it's any community group," explained CEO Rhonda Galbally.

"Groups can come to us for advice and resources such as how to run boards, how to run committees, how to keep the wisdom and history of the organisation intact. When the committee turns over, how to comply, how to do GST and BAS, how to make staff happy in a community group. How to get volunteers – all of that sort of information we have. It's money, it's management, it's to get good quality supplies for insurance and banking," said Ms Galbally.

Based on joining as a member of *Our Community*, much of the support is via the internet with guides, fact sheets and information available as well as access to

community group focussed needs such as computer packages for managing group funds and volunteer time – some at cost. For more information contact *Our Community* on 03 9320 6800 or [service@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:service@ourcommunity.com.au) or check out the website at [www.community.com.au](http://www.community.com.au).

*Extracted from ABC Radio National Earthbeat interview 2/3/02.*

## Weed management pamphlet

The Environmental Weeds Action Network has added another pamphlet in their 'managing weeds in bushland' series. The latest on arum lily (*\*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) is available from the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333 or [saic@wrc.wa.gov.au](mailto:saic@wrc.wa.gov.au) or can be downloaded from the EWAN website <http://members.iinet.net.au/~ewan/>.

## WA interactive atlas on-line

The WA Government has launched an improved on-line Western Australian Atlas which enables users to create maps and view a broad spectrum of information covering land use, population, mining, vegetation and emergency services as well as basic information about road and rail networks.

The Atlas, which is available at the Western Australian Land Information System (WALIS) Website

([www.walis.wa.gov.au](http://www.walis.wa.gov.au)) makes use of information held by 16 organisations, including State and Commonwealth agencies and community groups.

## Recent Publications

- **The Law of Landcare in WA** (2nd Edition) – by the Environmental Defender's Office. Available from the EDO 9221 3030 or [edowa@edo.org.au](mailto:edowa@edo.org.au).
- **It can't work without people: effective relationships in natural resource management** – by Kingma & Beynon. Available from Land and Water Australia 02 6263 6000 or [www.lwa.gov.au](http://www.lwa.gov.au).

## Website watch

Two websites with a variety of resources including group contacts, links to other environment organisations and training are:

- **Natives** – a WA based website ([www.evolve.net.au/natives/](http://www.evolve.net.au/natives/))
- **NRM or Extension training** – a service managed by the Department of Agriculture that provides up-to-date details on a wide range of training and development courses offered across WA including group development and bushland management ([www.agric.wa.gov.au:7000/register](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au:7000/register)).

The views expressed are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.



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