

47 Ecoplan NEWS

Issue 47 Spring 2003

Including Kambarang and Birak* in the Nyoongar Calendar



Cross cultural awareness

"A fantastic experience, one I will never forget," was the comment from Jacqui Purvis a participant at an Aboriginal Cross Cultural Awareness training course organised by Skills for Nature Conservation at Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre in early July.

It was the first time that the three organisations involved with the Skills for Nature Conservation program – the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Ecoplan program, the Swan Catchment Centre and Greening Australia (WA) – had worked with the Department's Indigenous Heritage Unit, and other Nyoongar community leaders, including Joan Winch, Lillian Passmore, Ken Houghton, Paul Bowers, Kevin Giles, Bev Rebbeck and Bill Hayward.

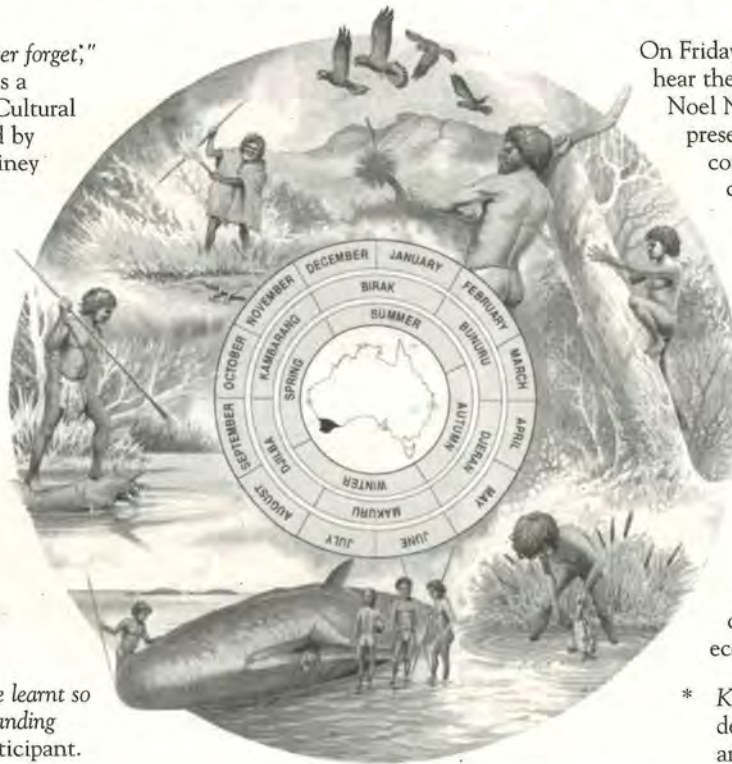
"It was a wonderful experience. I have learnt so much and have a much better understanding now," said Judi Sieben, another participant.

The workshop began with a traditional didgeridoo welcome, followed by a two-day exploration of participants' expectations, experiences and understanding of their history with Indigenous people and communities. What made the learning so valuable was that there was no judgement of any comments, which meant that previously held myths were gradually broken down.

"I was so impressed by the generosity of the presenters, who were willing to share their experiences with us," Jacqui said.

As well as learning about Aboriginal skin groups, language and dreaming, participants left the workshop with knowledge of how to incorporate this new understanding into their work in conserving biodiversity.

Tracy Churchill from the Department's Recreation and Landscape Unit gave a presentation of the work being undertaken in collaboration with the traditional owners in both Millstream and Karijini National Parks. This is an exciting program and a great example of cooperative management.



The Nyoongar year is divided into six seasons. This calendar illustrates the seasons and the Nyoongar names. Reproduced courtesy of the Ministry of Education, Western Australia.

On Friday evening we were privileged to hear the creation story as told by elder Noel Nannup. This story gave everyone present a greater appreciation of this country and the spiritual and cultural connection to it.

"Amazing. Deeply touching. I will be absorbing and using this information on all different levels for years to come," said Bill Lullfitz from West Midland Natural Resource Group.

Skills for Nature Conservation would like to sponsor more of these workshops. If you missed out on this opportunity and would like to register for any future workshops, please send your contact details to: ecoplan@calm.wa.gov.au

* Kambarang is the season of decreasing rain covering October and November and Birak is the hot and dry time of December and January. The Nyoongar year is divided into six seasons.

STOP PRESS

When backyard beauties become bushland bullies...

The Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC) has welcomed the news that Queensland's Land Protection Act has, for the first time in history, prohibited the sale of 20 environmental weed species.

From November 1 the sale of 20 "environmental weeds" which include lantana, madeira vine, asparagus fern and cat's claw creeper, will be illegal, attracting fines of up to \$60,000.

The Weeds CRC urges all gardeners to reduce the spread of weeds and support

the Queensland government in the introduction of Australia's strongest and most consistent environmental weed legislation.

Further information

Dr Rachel McFadyen, CEO, CRC for Australian Weed Management
Ph 0409 263 817

Peter Martin, Community Empowerment Program, CRC for Australian Weed Management

Ph 08 8303 6693 or 0429 830 366

FOREST SCIENCE LIBRARY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND



Spring is definitely with us and the bushland is looking wonderful.

The last few months have been busy ones for Ecoplan with the new Urban Nature program working side by side with us. I will take on the role of coordinating both programs so if you are unable to contact me, please speak to the other Urban Nature staff, Renee Miles or Lisa Bland.



The Skills for Nature

Conservation program has been breaking some new ground with the presentation of the Cross Cultural Awareness workshop in early July (see cover story). The Facilitation Skills workshops in July were booked out and we had a wonderful participative group. Thanks to all who attended and to our two guest presenters, Bevan Bessen and Colma Keating for their generous support. Positive Bushland Experiences gave us an opportunity to explore together the collective ideas for bring people into the bush, while maintaining the conservation values. Thanks to Stev Slavin and Lyndon Mutter from the Department and Alice Bak from City of Gosnells for their generous support, and a big thanks to Renee Miles for taking on the challenge of facilitating the workshop. Thanks also to all the presenters and participants at the first two weeds workshops. Julia Cullity from Greening Australia (WA) went to extraordinary efforts to organise these workshops and they were a great success. We look forward to the remaining one in this series. Thanks to all the guest presenters, John Moore and Rod Randall from Agriculture WA, Kate Brown, Michael McShane and David Pike.



Skills for Nature has received funding through the Natural Heritage Trust to trial five courses in the next year aimed at staff working in bushland, wetland and waterways management. These courses will be in addition to those designed for community group members, or may include making some more places available for professionals in the community-based courses. Don't forget that these courses are open to all members of community conservation and catchment groups, so if you would like to attend, please contact Alison at the Swan Catchment Centre and register your interest.

Urban Nature Update

Renee Miles has been working with Urban Nature and Ecoplan since the beginning of July and Lisa Bland started with the program in September. Both are part of the Department of Conservation and Land Management's graduate recruit program and

will be working to assist with both programs for the next six months. After that, the position will be advertised as a permanent one.



We have advertised and interviewed for the Bushland Management Adviser for the Urban Nature program and an appointment to that position will be made shortly.



Urban Nature is holding a number of stakeholder meetings, and if you would like to attend or to contribute any ideas on what you think the program should address, please e-mail the Ecoplan address with your contribution before November 1.

Through the stakeholder meetings we are seeking to identify the gaps in bushland management in the urban area and also obtain a clear picture of how bushland is being managed at the moment. Urban Nature will conduct seminars on Bushland and Wetland Management and will also build a list of resources to assist those who are managing bushland.

We are presently setting up a database of information pertaining to bushland management and we will be contacting both community groups and other land managers to provide information.



A bi-monthly seminar/discussion forum for bushland and wetland managers will be set up to cover topics of interest to those working in the field. A program will be outlined in the next edition of Ecoplan News.

Margo O'Byrne

Coordinator Urban Nature and Ecoplan

Summer Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the Summer Ecoplan News by **November 28, 2003**. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words and articles as **brief as possible**. Send us your photos!

Fax, e-mail or write to Ecoplan (see Ecoplan contacts panel on this page).

Thanks to all contributors.

Newsletter compiled and edited by Erin Gisborne with assistance from Lesley Dean.



Contacts

Ecoplan and Urban Nature Office

Margo O'Byrne 9474 7040

Renee Miles 9474 7032

Lisa Bland 9474 7030

Department of Conservation and Land Management
Swan Region office
20 Dick Perry Avenue
Technology Park Western Precinct
KENSINGTON WA 6151

PO Box 1167
BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE
WA 6983

Fax: 9368 4299

email: ecoplan@calm.wa.gov.au

Conservation Council of WA

☎ 9420 7266

email: conswa@conservationwa.asn.au

Greening Australia (WA)

☎ 9335 8933

email: general@gawa.org.au

APACE

☎ 9336 1262

email: apace@argo.net.au

Swan Catchment Centre

Alison Nesbit ☎ 9374 3333

email: saicc@wrc.wa.gov.au

Swan Catchment Council

Alison Nesbit ☎ 9374 3333

email: saicc@wrc.wa.gov.au

Urban Bushland Council

Renata Zelinova ☎ 9420 7207

email: ubc@wantree.com.au

Perth Biodiversity Project (WALGA)

Andrew Del Marco ☎ 9213 2047

email: info@walga.asn.au

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



Nearer to Nature



DEPARTMENT OF
Conservation
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
Conserving the nature of WA

Expressions of interest

The Department of Conservation and Land Management's Nearer to Nature program provides opportunities for locals and visitors to participate in unique, engaging guided activities at a range of natural environments in and around Perth.

Expressions of interest are invited from individuals, community groups and commercial activity providers who are able to contribute to the range of activities offered by the *Nearer to Nature* team. Activities are designed to raise public support, awareness, appreciation, knowledge and skills relating to nature conservation.

The activities will be required to meet the following objectives:

- Interpretation of natural areas using environmental, cultural or historical themes as they relate to Department of Conservation and Land Management managed lands, waters and wildlife;
- Development of knowledge and understanding of biodiversity and the value of natural areas;
- Engagement in new experiences and exploration of natural areas;
- Development of skills enabling safe and responsible recreation in natural areas; and
- Enjoyment and appreciation of areas of natural and cultural value.

Information packs will be available after 22 September. Applications close Friday 31 October 2003. Call Rohan Swan, *Nearer to Nature* programs coordinator on 9295 2244 or rohans@calm.wa.gov.au

Have your say on the future of our rivers!



Riverplan is the mechanism for implementing the *Environmental Protection (Swan and Canning Rivers) Policy 1998*, by identifying river management responsibilities and activities. It draws together State Government agencies, local governments, community and industry groups into an environmental management framework to ensure that the values of the Swan and Canning Rivers are protected. The *Riverplan* Strategy is open for public comment until 24 October, 2003. A link to *Riverplan* is provided on the Department of Environment website at: www.environment.wa.gov.au

Managing Perth's air quality!



Did you know that each person needs about 13,000 litres of clean air every day to survive and the biggest source of Perth's pollution is the community, not industry? Perth does have an air quality problem with the two

main causes of air pollution being vehicle emissions and domestic wood heaters. The Department of Environment, Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the Department of Conservation and Land Management are working on the Perth Air Quality Management Implementation Plan, focussing on air quality issues surrounding haze.

So, what can the community do to help improve Perth's air quality?

- Reduce our car use! Car pool or try public transport;
- Cycle or walk to work and other places;
- Get smart about our heating — look at alternatives such as gas or reverse cycle air conditioning.

For more information visit the Air Quality WA Website http://aqmpweb.environment.wa.gov.au/air_quality or call the Air Quality Branch 9278 0617.

ECOPLAN Editor



Expressions of Interest are sought from suitable people for the compilation and editing of *Ecoplan News*. If you have very good writing skills, can work to tight deadlines and have a good networks in the conservation community, please contact Margo on 9474 7040 or Ecoplan@calm.wa.gov.au to discuss further.

New HQ

The South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) in Beckenham is the new headquarters for groups that help to manage the Swan and Canning Rivers and bushland in Gosnells-Armadale, Canning, Belmont, South Perth, Kalamunda and Victoria Park.

Located at Yule Brook Homestead, 69 Horley Road, Beckenham the headquarters were established with funding from the State government and Lotteries Commission. The Centre will provide a greater focus for environmental management in the south east regional corridor. Call 9458 5664 for further details.

Amazing efforts By Colma Keating

When I took on the role of compiler and editor for *Ecoplan News* in Winter 2001, I naively thought I had a pretty good feel for what was going on in bushland care. Then when I got the first of the regional reports and the contributions to the calendar, the level of activity among bushland carers across the Perth metropolitan area, Bunbury, Busselton and Leschenault overwhelmed me. After nine editions I am still in awe of both the effort and the difference people make.

Best wishes and thank you for the time, energy and resources that you put into caring for our Australian environment and I trust you continue to encourage other individuals, agencies and organisations to join you along the way.

Learning opportunities

Growing workshops

If you want to know more about growing local native plants and waterwise gardens, this workshop is for you! The workshop, part of a series for beginners, covers topics such as garden designs, understanding your soil and choosing the right plants for your design. It is presented by the Wildflower Society of Western Australia and sponsored by the Water Corporation. The final workshop in the series, "Making Frog gardens: ponds and bog gardens," will be held at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre on 8 November from 1pm to 4pm. The cost is \$20 per person. To register contact Sue on sued8@ca.com.au or 9275 3404.

museum@work

The Western Australian Museum is holding a series of free fortnightly presentations providing a snapshot of the research and specialist work undertaken by Museum professionals. The 45-minute presentations start at 12.30pm sharp in the Museum's Discovery Centre. All interested persons welcome and bookings are not required. Enquiries to Luke on 9427 2837. Two events that may be of particular interest to *Ecoplan News* readers are:

- **Investigations of Intriguing Insects**, 17 October - Dr Terry Houston is the Curator of Insects.
- **Evidence of Early Settlement**, 28 November - Charles Dortch is Curator of Archaeology.

Women in Landcare workshop



Women in Landcare workshop encourages senior women to actively participate in environmental activities. (Photo: Jacqui Otago)

The North East Catchment Committee (NECC) and the Office for Women's Policy are acutely aware of the significant value that women over the age of 40 have in the landcare arena and want to provide more women with the skills to actively participate in this field.

A three-day workshop has been developed with the aim to encourage senior women to participate in environmental activities and take an active leadership role in environmental opportunities. The workshop will involve a variety of outdoor activities such as bird watching, bush walking, nursery work and water quality monitoring.

The free workshop will be held at the Bennett Brook Environment Centre, 266 Lord Street, Caversham from 15 to 17 October. Vacancies are limited, to register call Melinda or Tricia on 9377 0444.

Funding opportunity

Funds for regional parks groups

The Department of Conservation and Land Management is calling for submissions from local community groups for projects in Perth's regional parks which rehabilitate, conserve, enhance or restore natural areas and values, as well as for activities that will raise the public awareness and appreciation of nature conservation at a local level.

Individual grants will be from \$500 to \$5,000 and applications close on 10 October.

Further information and an application package from Sandra Hohloch, Regional Parks Unit, ph. 9431 6500, email sandrah@calm.wa.gov.au.

Weed worries?

As most of you who manage bushland will know, one of the biggest problems we face is controlling, managing and eradicating weeds. Weedbuster Week (12 -19 October) provides an opportunity to consider some useful tips on weeds:

Tip 1 - What is a weed? A weed is a plant growing in the wrong place. These plants have no natural predators and can therefore outgrow the native plants. This upsets the natural ecosystem and can displace our native plants and animals.

Tip 2 - Good seasonal conditions have raised the prospects of a bumper crop of weeds and weeds are expected to thrive with the onset of warmer spring conditions. Be on the lookout for new infestations and eradicate them before they become a real problem.

Tips 3 - sixty five per cent of all invasive plants in Australia have escaped from parks and home gardens. Do your bit to reduce the spread of weeds and plant natives in your garden.

Tip 4 - Contact your local council for a list of safe plant alternatives.

Tip 5 - Dispose of garden waste responsibly. Don't dump it over the back fence, on roadsides, along waterways or in bushland.

Tip 6 - Grab a copy of the Environmental Weeds Action Network's "Bushland Weeds - a Practical Guide" by Kate Brown and Kris Brooks from the Wildflower Society, for \$35 (plus gst).

Tip 7 - Visit the Environmental Weeds Action Network's website <http://members.iinet.net.au/~ewan/ewan.html>.

Tip 8 - Visit the Department of Agriculture's new Weed Watcher website www.agric.wa.gov.au/weeds/wwatcher.htm. Ideal for community groups, the site enables weed infestations to be reported, mapped and viewed over the internet.

National Weedbuster Week 2003 12-19 October

Every year, more and more people across Australia are participating in activities held during Weedbuster Week. National Weedbuster Week aims to raise awareness and increase public understanding of the problems that weeds can cause to the environment. Volunteer groups hold many activities such as weed clean-ups, displays and competitions. This year *Bush Links* has organised a great range of fun, hands on activities for schools. To register your interest contact Alice on 9487 0632.



Weed activity

South African bulbous weeds

On Sunday 19 October between 9am-4pm, the Shire of Mundaring and the Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) will host an event on South African bulbous weeds. The event will include talks, site visits and practical demonstrations of weed control techniques. To register, contact Sue on 9275 3404 or sued8@ca.com.au.



Watsonia looks pretty to the unknown eye, however is wrecking havoc throughout WA (Photo: CSIRO)

What is monitoring and evaluation and why do it?

When developing a bushland management strategy, it is advisable that you incorporate a monitoring and evaluation program. Data collected from monitoring will enable you to evaluate if you have accomplished the outcomes that you set out to achieve and if not, assist you to determine the most appropriate plan of attack in the future.

In short, monitoring allows you to observe and chronicle changes to your bushland over a period of time. Keeping records enables you to assess how effective your management techniques have been and if these require modification. If evaluation of these results is to be effective, the data that you collect while monitoring should be analysed at regular intervals.

How do we do it?

1. Define the overall objectives of your management plan, or in the absence of a formal plan create some objectives for your works program. Objectives need to be measurable, achievable and relevant and should include long-term and short-term time frames.
2. List the activities that you will conduct to achieve these objectives and place them in order of priority.
3. Develop measures of success and progress. A recording program and monitoring techniques should be outlined.
4. Establish how the results will be presented, eg, format and style. Use these results to evaluate and interpret.

Methods

- **Baseline information** – This describes the site before any work is carried out and is the starting point for your monitoring program. It includes, site maps, photographs, plant species lists, or local surveys.
- **Mapping and assessing conservation values** – Before beginning a project, acquire an understanding of the different bushland elements by mapping the current condition of the vegetation. This can be done using a rating system eg, very good, good, and disturbed. Continual mapping of the bush at regular intervals enables you to determine whether the condition of the vegetation is improving, declining or remaining the same.



Setting up a transect line at Port Kennedy (Photo: Deanne Pember)

- **Identifying a reference site** – A reference site has a similar soil type, location in the landscape, aspect, and vegetation community to your bush land. It should be in close proximity to your bushland and in better condition, allowing you to identify what qualities your bushland should possess. This will help you determine what work is required, what species should be present and at what coverage level.

- **Photo points** – Make a permanent photo point and return to it at set intervals over time to record what that particular site looks like. Photos can accurately and rapidly document vegetation change at a site.

Hint: Will your photo point still be obvious after fire?

- **Vegetation quadrants** – Are a representation of the site, and generally reflect a certain community. They can be any size, however are usually square and should clearly be marked so that you can return to the site at later intervals. Recording information inside the quadrant such as species present, number of species and condition will enable you to monitor vegetation more effectively.
- **Vegetation transects** – Are straight lines of a set length along which plant species, vegetation structure and other aspects can be recorded. They can be combined with photo points and other points of reference.

Hint: Mapping, planting or rehabilitation sites along a transect line enables you to monitor the success of works programs as well as to get an idea of the vegetation along that particular stretch.

Monitoring fauna

As fauna is likely to move through your bushland and not simply within your allocated area, there are several ways to monitor their movement such as tracks, diggings, droppings and soil disturbance. Sand patches are a useful technique used to show animal tracks thus enabling you to identify fauna in the area. Monitoring the behavior of fauna in your bushland such as, breeding and food collection will provide you with a good indicator as to the health of the area.



Smoothing a Sand Pad (photo: Claire Hall)

Further information

- Coote M, Moller S & Claymore K (2003) *Monitoring and Evaluating Biodiversity Conservation Projects - A guide for managers and technical advisers*. Bushcare & Department of Conservation and Land Management, Perth, WA.
- How R & Dell J (2002) *The Signs of Silence* (Refer to *Ecoplan News* Winter 2002 Issue 42).
- Mawson P & Orell P (2001) *Sand Pads - Using Tracks to Monitor Fauna* (Refer to *Land for Wildlife - Wildlife Notes* December 2001).
- Skills for Nature Conservation sessions 'Monitoring and Evaluation of Urban Bushland' April 2001.

What's On Spring 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

World Animal Day 4 October
World Habitat Day 6 October
Weedbuster Week 12-19 October
National Water Week 19-25 October
National Bird Week 26 October - 1 November
National Frog Week 3-7 November
National Recycling Week 10-16 November
Coastcare Week 1-7 December
International Year of Freshwater
www.wateryear2003.org

Opportunities to participate! Visitors always welcome. Most activities are **FREE!**

REGISTRATION/CONTACT DETAILS

for organisations providing a series of activities are as follows:

- **APACE** 1 Johannah Street, North Fremantle. Call 9336 1262 or visit www.apace.net.au.
- **Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland.** Meet at the display shelter, northeast junction of Koondoola and Burbidge Ave (gate 2). Call Alice 9487 0632.
- **Friends of Warwick Bushland.** The Bowling & Tennis Club carpark, Lloyd Dve, Warwick. Call Robyn 9342 6840 or Karen 9342 8482.
- **Friends of Star Swamp Bushland.** Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2893.

- **Naragebup** Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd (opposite Lake Richmond), Peron. Call Naragebup 9591 3077.
- **Nearer to Nature** Department of Conservation and Land Management. Call 9295 2244. Lots more activities, brochures available in all local libraries or visit www.naturebase.net. New, more affordable prices for all activities.
- **Skills for Nature Conservation** A partnership between the Swan Catchment Centre (SCC), Ecoplan and Greening Australia (WA). Call SCC 9374 3333.
- **Urban Bushland Council** National Trust Building, 4 Havelock St, West Perth. Call UBC 9420 7207.

29 Saturday 8am
Guided walk at Trigg Bushland with the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs. Meet Elliott Rd between St Mary's School & Millington Reserve. Call Dave 9448 9192.

December

3 Tuesday 7.30pm
The high cost to the environment of rising population presented by Dr Paddy Weaver. Hosted by the Urban Bushland Council at the National Trust Building, 4 Havelock St, West Perth. Call UBC on 9420 7207.

6 Saturday 8am
Guided walk with the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs. Meet at Landsdale Farm School, cnr Evandale & Landsdale Rds. Call Dave 9448 9192.

7 Sunday 7.30-11.30am
Early birds walk through Perth hills with Sue Abbotts, experienced bushwalker from 'Birds Australia'. Limited spaces so book early! Call Bibbulmun Track Foundation 9481 0551.

7 Sunday 8am
Bird watching expedition with Naragebup. ☺

7 Sunday 9-12pm
Guided nature walk & Christmas Celebration with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. ☺

13 Saturday 8am
Guided nature walk with Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland. ✦

20 Saturday 8am
Guided walk at Lake Gwelup with the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs. Meet Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd. Call Dave 9448 9192.

Get Your Hands Dirty

October

29 Sept Monday - 3 Friday
Wetlands planting and weed control with **Friends of Garvey Park**. Call CVA 9336 6911.

4 Saturday
Bush regeneration **Mount Pleasant Foreshore** with Bicton & Mount Pleasant Foreshore Alliance. Call CVA 9336 6911.

5 Sunday
Bush regeneration **Market Garden Swamp** with Friends of Market Garden Swamp. Call CVA 9336 6911.

5 Sunday 9am
Join **Friends of Baigup Reserve** to plant rushes and sedges on river bank. Meet near Garratt Rd Bridge, Bayswater. Call Muriel 9271 9148.

5 Sunday 9am-12pm
Bushland care at **Falls Park South/Heritage Trail**, Falls Rd, Hovea. Call Jenny 9295 4467.

5 Sunday 9am-1pm
Bush Care with **Bushlinks at Cassilda Park**. Meet at cnr Cage St & Cassilda Way, Two Rocks. Call 9487 0632.

6 Monday - 10 Friday
Join Conservation Volunteers Australia to continue rehabilitation of **Swan River Foreshore & Tomato Lake** at Spring Foreshore Reserve, supporting the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program. Call CVA 9336 6911.

11 Saturday 9am-1pm
Bush Care with **Bushlinks at Paloma Park**. Meet at cnr Mirrabooka Ave & Aristos Way, Marangaroo. Call 9487 0632.

12 Sunday 8-10am
Bush Care by the Beach at **Kinsale Reserve**. Meet at cnr Kinsale Dve & Duncannon Rise, Mindarie. Call Renata 9305 9382.

12 Sunday
Bush regeneration with **Friends of Manning Lake Bushland**. Call CVA 9336 6911.

13 Monday - 17 Friday
Join Conservation Volunteers Australia for bush rehabilitation work at **Brockman Park**, Bullcreek. Call CVA 9336 6911.

13 Monday - 17 Friday
Join Conservation Volunteers Australia for bush regeneration at **Penguin Island**, Rockingham. Call CVA 9336 6911.

18 Saturday 9am
Bush regeneration with the **Friends of Brixton Street** at Alton St gate, Kenwick. Call Regina 9459 2964.

19 Sunday
Join Conservation Volunteers Australia for bush regeneration at **Penguin Island**, Rockingham. Call CVA 9336 6911.

19 Sunday 9am-12pm
Bush regeneration with the **Friends of Warwick Bushland**. ☺

20 Monday - 24 Friday
Bush regeneration with the **Friends of Yangebup Lakes**. Call CVA 9336 6911.

27 Monday - 31 Friday
Join Conservation Volunteers Australia for bush regeneration at **Blackwell Reach**, Point Walter. Call CVA 9336 6911.

27 Monday - 31 Friday
Join Conservation Volunteers Australia for dune protection at **Nilgen Nature Reserve**, Lancelin. Call CVA 9336 6911.

November

2 Sunday 9am
Join **Friends of Baigup Reserve** to weed Baigup and Hinds Reserves. Meet near Garratt Rd Bridge, Bayswater. Call Muriel 9271 9148.

9 Sunday 8-10am
Bush Care by the Beach at **Gumblossom Park**. Meet at carpark Community Centre, Tapping Way, Quinns Rocks. Call Renata 9305 9382.

11 Saturday 9am-1pm
Bush Care with **Bushlinks at Paloma Park**. Meet at cnr Mirrabooka Ave & Aristos Way, Marangaroo. Call 9487 0632.

15 Saturday 9am
Bush regeneration with the **Friends of Brixton Street** at Alton St Gate, Kenwick. Call Regina 9459 2964.

23 Thursday 9-10am
Living with Salinity (and Waterlogging): Reality Bites by Dr Ed Barrett-Lennard. Hosted by Dept of Agriculture. Call Jo 9368 3710.

24 Friday 7.30-9.30pm
Nightshift walk with Nearer to Nature at Star Swamp, North Beach. 6 yrs - adults \$15pp. See and hear the bushland at night, meet native animals up close and go for a guided spotlighting walk. Bookings essential. *

25 Saturday 8am
Guided walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. ✦

25 Saturday - 26 Sunday 10am-4pm
Australian Open Garden at Shelterwood, 1860 Alice Rd, Mt Helena, property of Mike & Jenny Mackintosh. Cost \$4.50pp. Enjoy a walk around 9 acres of revegetation and bush. Call Jenny 9572 1697.

26 Sunday 9-11am
Guided nature walk with the Friends of Brixton Street. Meet at Alton St Gate, Kenwick. Call Regina 9459 2964.

28 Tuesday 7.30pm
Bees and pollination of native flora by Terry Houston at the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs Branch, Henderson Centre, Groat St, North Beach. Call Julie 9306 1278.

November

1 Saturday 8am
Guided walk with the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs. Meet at Landsdale Farm School, cnr Evandale & Landsdale Rds. Call Dave 9448 9192.

1 Saturday - 2 Sunday 10am-4.30pm
Australian Open Garden at 49 Korella St, Mullaloo. Cost \$4.50pp. Set on the seaward side of a coastal dune, this alkaline site, buffeted with salt laden winds has become a low maintenance water-wise experiment. Call Marilyn 9401 7132.

2 Sunday 10am-12pm
Six Seasons Walk with Nearer to Nature at Woodman Point. 9 yrs - adults \$12pp. Bookings essential. Join a Nyoongar guide for a discovery bush walk explaining the six seasons and cultural significance. *

6 Tuesday 7.30pm
Community participation in bushland management - 2002 survey results presented by Renae Stenhouse. Hosted by the Urban Bushland Council at the National Trust Building, 4 Havelock St, West Perth. Call UBC on 9420 7207.

7 Friday 7.30pm
Guided night walk with Friends of Dianella Bushland. Meet at Cottonwood Cres Bushland Reserve carpark, Joy St, Dianella. Call Jan 9344 2872.

8 Saturday 8am
Guided nature walk with Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland. ✦

8 Saturday 4-8pm
Spring Fling bush walk, picnic and bush dance with Nearer to Nature at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Allens Rd, off Mundaring Weir Rd, Mundaring. 9 yrs - adults \$10pp. Bookings essential. *

9 Sunday 7.30am
Breakfast and guided walk in Bungendore Park. Hosted by Bungendore Park Management Committee. Cost: \$5pp. Meet at Admiral Rd entrance, Bungendore Park, Bedfordale. Bookings essential. Call Kim 9470 2297.

9 Sunday 8.30am
Guided walk with Friends of Dianella Bushland. Meet at Cottonwood Cres Bushland Reserve carpark, Joy St, Dianella. Call Jan 9344 2872.

9 Sunday 9-10am
Guided nature walk with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. ☺

9 Sunday 10am-12pm
Wild about Wildflowers with Nearer to Nature at the John Forrest National Park. 6 yrs - adults \$12pp. Bookings essential. *

15 Saturday 8am
Guided walk at Lake Gwelup with the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs. Meet Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd. Call Dave 9448 9192.

17 Monday - 28 Friday 8.30am-5pm (week days only)
Plant Sale at APACE 1 Johannah St, North Fremantle. Call 9336 1262.

21 Friday 7.30pm
Natural history lecture on grasshoppers or crickets at Naragebup. Hosted by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club. ☺

21 Friday 7.30pm
Nocturnal walk with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. ✦

22 Saturday 8am
Guided walk with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. ✦

22 Saturday 7pm
Night walk with Friends of Periwinkle Bushland. Meet at gate opp Mullaloo Heights Primary School. Call Dor 9401 3724.

25 Tuesday 7.30pm
How to use the Acacia CD-ROM. Hosted by the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs Branch, Henderson Centre, Groat St, North Beach. Call Julie 9306 1278.

Listen, Look and Learn

October

2 Thursday 7.50pm
Bannister Creek Rejuvenation Project by Julie Robert at the Wildflower Society (WA) Murdoch Branch, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, Lot 387 Hope Rd, Bibra Lake. Call Felicity 9439 3346.

4 Saturday 8am
Guided walk with the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs. Meet at Landsdale Farm School, cnr Evandale & Landsdale Rds. Call Dave 9448 9192.

4 Saturday - 5 Sunday 10am-4.30pm
Australian Open Garden at 21 Hartung St, Mundaring. Cost \$4.50pp. See a vast selection of natives planted over many years, some rare and many native to the Hills.

5 Sunday 10am-12pm
Six Seasons Walk with Nearer to Nature at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring. 9 yrs - adults \$12pp. Join a Nyoongar guide for a discovery bush walk explaining the six seasons and cultural significance. Bookings essential. *

5 Sunday 1-5pm
Minibeasts a Skills for Nature Conservation seminar presented by Eric McCrum, Robert Powell, Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA at Piney Lakes Environmental Centre, Winthrop. Bookings essential. ✦

5 Sunday 5.30-7.30pm
Star Swamp Sundowner with Nearer to Nature at Star Swamp, North Beach. 6 yrs - adults \$13.50pp. Join a local guide to explore Star Swamp at dusk and then join in a sundowner. BYO drinks. Bookings essential. *

8 Wednesday 7.30pm
Vanished Giants of WA by Dr John Long, WA Museum. Hosted by the WA Naturalists' Club, University Extension Lecture Theatre, Clifton St, Nedlands. Call 9228 2495.

9 Thursday 7.45pm
Flora Update by Neville Marchant at the Wildflower Society (WA) Armadale Branch, History House, Jull St, Armadale (rear of courthouse). Call Judy 9525 5249.

11 Saturday 8am
Guided nature walk with Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland. ✦

12 Sunday 8.30am
Guided photography walk with Friends of Dianella Bushland. Meet at Cottonwood Cres Bushland Reserve carpark, Joy St, Dianella. Call Jan 9344 2872.

12 Sunday 9am
Ken Hurst Park walk, meet at end of Dundee Street. Hosted by the Wildflower Society (WA) Murdoch Branch. Call Felicity 9439 3346.

12 Sunday 9-11am
Guided nature walk with the Friends of Brixton Street. Meet at Alton St Gate, Kenwick. Call Regina 9459 2964.

12 Sunday 10-11am
Guided nature walk with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. ☺

12 Sunday 10am-12pm
Wild about Wildflowers with Nearer to Nature at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Allens Rd, off Mundaring Weir Rd, Mundaring. 6 yrs - adults \$12pp. Bookings essential. *

12 Sunday 2pm
Guided Spring Wildflower walk with the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. ✦

12 Sunday 2pm
Nyoongar Dreaming guided walk through Paruna Sanctuary (near Mundaring). Explore the spectacular valley of the Possum circuit and learn about Nyoongar culture through stories, bush skills and bush tucker. Limited spaces, book early! Call Bibbulmun Track Foundation 9481 0551.

14 Tuesday 8pm
Watheroo National Park by Margaret Langley at the Wildflower Society (WA) Perth Branch, Subiaco Community Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco (east of Rokeby Rd). Call Greg 9381 4062.

17 Friday 7.30pm
Natural history talk on taxidermy at Naragebup. Hosted by WA Naturalists' Club. ☺

18 Saturday 8am
Guided walk at Lake Gwelup with the Wildflower Society (WA) Northern Suburbs. Meet Scout Hall, Huntriss Rd. Call Dave 9448 9192.

18 Saturday 10am
Plants with no leaves by Dr Bill Loneragan, hosted by River Conservation Society, York. Call 9641 1842.

19 Sunday 10am
Native Grass field trip. Meet at Darlington Station Reserve, opposite PO at Brook Rd, Darlington. Call Joan 9299 6459.

19 Sunday 6-8pm
Dusk discovery walk through Karakamia Sanctuary (approx 1hr north-east of Perth). Limited spaces so book early! Call Bibbulmun Track Foundation 9481 0551.

19 Sunday
Evening walk at Paruna with WA Naturalists' Club, Darling Range Branch. Call Diana 9293 1676.

21 Monday
Butterflies of the SW with WA Naturalists' Club, Wanneroo & Northern Suburbs. Call 9447 5392.

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. Every Tuesday morning 9am-1pm join club members at the Regional Herbarium on Dodson Rd, Bunbury. Outdoor excursions will be on the Saturday following the second Tuesday. Details for these are yet to be finalised, but indicative topics are listed below. 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), bmastrs@iinet.net.au. Meetings at the RSL Hall, Causeway Road, Busselton. Visitors welcome.

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

October

6 Monday - 10 Friday
Join Conservation Volunteers Australia for bush rehabilitation work at Capel Wetlands Centre, Capel. Call CVA 9336 6911.

15 Wednesday 7.30pm
Busselton Naturalists talk - Marine Life under the Busselton Jetty and on the Swan Dive Wreck, by Dr Sue Morrison, Marine Biologist.

19 Sunday 2pm
Busselton Naturalists excursion - Great Marsupial Night Stalk at Capel Nature Reserve. Bus from Pries Ave for afternoon wildflowers and evening spotlighting; picnic dinner at Capel Wetlands Centre.

November

12 Wednesday 7.30pm
Busselton Naturalists talk - WWF Priorities for Western Australia by Jane Madgwick, World Wide Fund for Nature.

15 Saturday
Bunbury Naturalists excursion - Bird Experience.

23 Sunday 9am
Busselton Naturalists excursion - Walk from Nannup to Barrabup (8.0 km - easy); lunch at Barrabup Pool; afternoon visit to Jarrahwood. Bus transportation.

December

10 Wednesday 6pm
Busselton Naturalists Christmas Party, RSL Hall, Causeway Road. BYO food and drinks.

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.

Advance Notice

March 2004

27 Saturday and 28 Sunday
The 6th Western Australian Environment Festival, hosted by Naragebup. The theme will be "A Cleaner World". Community organizations, government departments, business, or groups, etc., with an environmental message or product may now contact the Centre to book a display area. Register early to avoid disappointment. Visit www.naragebup.org.au ☺

Please send us your January, February and March events by 1 December 2003.

REGIONAL REPORTS

All groups welcome visitors
and new members.

North West Region

Bushcare at Quinns Rocks

by David Wake & Renata Zelinova

The Quinns Rocks Environmental Group (QREG) is continuing its bushcare efforts in local reserves. Weeding days have been held at Gumblossom Reserve, Kinsale Park and the foreshore reserve at Mindarie, targeting Geraldton Carnation Weed, Rose Pelargonium, Peppertrees and Fennel. A few members are taking part in the 'Weeding Out Weeds' course, and a weed action plan will be prepared for Mindarie Park (otherwise known as Wattle Park, Quinns Rocks) which will be incorporated in the management plan for the bushland.

The City of Wanneroo recently prepared a master plan for Gumblossom Reserve in Quinns Rocks, which incorporates one of the largest bush remnants in the area, including small patches of Banksia woodland, *Melaleuca acerosa* and the threatened ecological community of *Melaleuca huegelii-Melaleuca acerosa* shrubland on limestone ridges. The plan was developed after a vegetation survey, which was carried out in response to pressure for more active recreation facilities, established that the bushland should be preserved. Some of the Banksia woodland may be lost for car parking however discussions with the City about alternatives to avoid this are ongoing.

A management plan is being drafted by Ecoscape for the Quinns Rocks-Mindarie foreshore reserve, which provides a corridor of bushland along the coast. Recreational use and proposed development at the corner of Quinns Road and Ocean Drive poses a threat but we hope the plan will recognise the conservation value of this coastal bushland and lead to better management.

On a larger scale QREG is providing input to the management plan for Neerabup National Park, currently being prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Contact David on 9420 7268
or Renata on 9305 9382.

Weakening those weeds by Rene Duthie

The Friends of Periwinkle Bushland were pleased to discover five different species of fungi in the area on a recent fungi walk.

After several planting days in June, August was the time for the group to focus on weeding and management. The spraying of the weeds, weeding days and ad-hoc weeding is really making an impact and, although there are still many weeds, we can see an encouraging improvement from last year. Carnaby cockatoos are now regularly seen in our bushland and the bobtail lizards are once again on the move.

Our new paths and benches continue to be enjoyed by many and we are eagerly anticipating our spring walk and hope to see more donkey orchids displayed this year.

Contact Dot Lullfitz on 9401 3724.

North East Region

Minister marvels at Koondoola bushland by Alice Stubber

Environment Minister Dr Judy Edwards and Margaret Quirk MLA swapped Parliament for the great outdoors last month when they joined the Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland (FKRB) on a walk through Koondoola Regional Bushland. Phylis Robertson, FKRB convenor and experienced guide led the group through the many wonders that makes Koondoola so special. It also provided an opportunity to express concerns about issues facing our urban bushland areas,

such as the impact of frequent fires and human disturbance.

Another highlight for FKRB this month is Elizabeth George and members of the Wildflower Society have started mounting the many flora specimens that have been collected over the last six years in the FKRB.

Contact Alice Stubber on 9487 0632

Bush link receives funding by Alice Stubber

With the tremendous support of the Cities of Wanneroo and Joondalup and the many local conservation groups in the area, the Bush Links submission to Perth Biodiversity Project (PBP) for round two funding has been successful.

Bush Links will now be directed and sourced from within the Cities of Wanneroo and Joondalup. Part of the funds are being used to employ a staff member who's role will include managing the Bush Links project, overseeing the day to day operations of bushland management, liaison with conservation and "friends of" groups and schools to raise public awareness.

With a key contact person and the development of a long-term collaborative bushland management arrangement between the local authorities and community groups, management and on ground activities in urban bushland can be far more effective and strategic.

Contact Alice Stubber on 9487 0632 or
bushlinks@hotmail.com.



Minister Dr Judy Edwards and Margaret Quirk, MLA, join the Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland for a walk led by Phylis Robertson. (Photo: Alice Stubber)



REGIONAL REPORTS

Central Region

Members make a difference

by Geoff Ross

The Friends of Lake Claremont (FoLC) met in July to plant more sedges around the edge of the lake on the west side. The group was blessed with a beautiful day which was perfect for planting. Later in the day rain started again which was perfect for establishing the new sedge.

A contribution with a difference was made at this group meeting, with a Friend who was unable to participate in planting providing fresh, warm, home made muffins. It illustrated the opportunity to contribute to the FoLC in many different ways, all of which will be most appreciated.

Three new volunteers joined the group and have expressed an interest in helping with the water quality monitoring which will be starting soon, as the funding has now been approved by council.



Friends of Lake Claremont at a planting day in July!
(Photo: Geoff Ross)

Look out for the FoLC noticeboard which has been installed on the west side of the lake where the paths to Strickland St. and Gloucester St intersect. There are copies of recent newsletters on display and additional information on current activities.

The policy document for the Management of Lake Claremont is currently under review. Input from the public is welcomed. Copies of the policy document are available from the Town of Claremont or on-line at www.claremont.wa.gov.au.

Scotch College is currently running a year 7 project placing bird boxes in the bushland, which with summer fast approaching will provide a great source of shelter.

Contact on Geoff Ross 9384 2335.

Spring flowers in full bloom!

by Dani Boase-Jelinek



Flower Power, *Acacia wildenowiana*
(Photo: Friends of Shenton Park)

This month the Friends of Shenton Bushland (FoSB) finally had the opportunity to celebrate their 10th birthday with a picnic and a walk from Shenton Bushland to Perry Lakes.

We were recently successful in applying for funding to support our ongoing work with weeds. Monies from the Environment Minister's Community Conservation Grant have been allocated to two projects, including the use of Dalapon for controlling *Watsonia* and weed mapping in the bushland.

So far we have produced six weed maps with one of our members, Rob Davis using a Global Positioning System (GPS) in order to record and map infestations. John Adeney is currently producing a seventh map.

Steve McCabe (City of Nedlands) has engaged GreenCorps volunteers to tackle the Geraldton Carnation Weed invasion, while we have

focused mainly on bulbs such as *Watsonia* and *Lachenalia*. Visitors to the bushland may have noticed the characteristic red stain from our veldgrass spraying program. This spraying is funded by a grant that we obtained a few years ago and the City of Nedlands is also funding the spraying of *Freesia* and *Lachenalia*.

Spring has certainly arrived with many plants in flower, including *Acacia wildenowiana*, *Hovea*, *Hardenbergia*, *Pterostylis vittata*, *Lomandra preisii*, *Daviesia triflora*, and *Hibbertia hypericoides*.

Contact Dani on 9381 3470.



Hills Region

Family Fungus foray by Elaine Sargent

On 13 July, the Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRRPG) hosted a fungus foray in Gooseberry Hill, the purpose being to document the fungi in Ledger Road Reserve, with the information obtained stored at CSIRO. Fifty seven people were present, equipped with buckets and trowels, while Dr. Neale Bougher, Senior Research Scientist of CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products conducted the workshop.

Neale began by explaining that native fungi are very diverse and we know so little about them. Fungi grow underground and out of sight, so therefore are given little attention. Neale emphasised the importance of native fungi being restored along with plants and animals in order to ensure long term, self-sustaining ecosystems.

After a 45-minute foray into the surrounding bush, we returned to the hall and examined our samples. Much to our surprise, we had collected 28 different types of fungi, including Coral fungus, Bracket fungus and a truffle like fungus. Each variety was labeled and this was followed by a lively and interesting question time, during which Neale explained the role of the *Fungibank* website.

After a sausage sizzle, we wound up a very successful morning and it was the consensus of opinion that a walk through the bush in winter would never be the same again, as one would always be on the lookout for fungi and who knows, a new discovery might be found under our very noses.

Contact Tony Fowler 9293 2283



Fungi *amanitaxantho* found during our foray with Dr Bougher. (Photo: Elaine Sargent)

REGIONAL REPORTS

Rain revegetation and recovery!

collected by Jenny Johnson

Lots of rain equates to lots of planting especially, here in the Hills, where we have had a few dry winters in recent year. An early start in May and continuing showers through to August have enabled many projects to have a significant impact in many localities.

Thanks to the Bushcare coordinators, a great partnership has been established between the local groups and several Green Corps Teams. The Green Corps members have provided our volunteers with a much needed injection of enthusiasm, whilst in return, volunteers have supplied knowledge and practical solutions to many problems.

The Perth Biodiversity Project has provided funds for mapping of weed species and densities, which will then assist the local authorities to carry out weed strategies.

Lion Mill and Rocky Gully- Mt Helena: We had a good planting day at Lion Mill Creek on National Tree Planting Day. Eastern Hills Guides and Scouts came to earn points for community badges. The weather was fine but it was very wet underfoot and we got absolutely filthy! However they were serious planters and more than 300 seedlings were planted. Rocky Gully members have watched the creek with interest and some anxiety as great rushes of water have threatened their pools, riffles and baffles! However everything seems to have held up well with just a few rocks moving downstream.

Village Reserves – Parkerville: This group is continuing to weed, weed, weed and weed! Parkerville school children are completing a project involving the installation of nesting boxes for red tailed black cockatoos in order to study the birds.

Hovea Conservation Park- Hovea: The water detention basin created in the park is a great demonstration of how an ugly rubbish filled gravel pit can be transformed into a habitat favouring animals, birds and flora as well as reducing repair costs to the roads. The water retained in the basin previously scoured the road, blocked the drains and eroded private property as it flowed to Mahogany Creek. Now it collects in the basin and gradually seeps through the ground to the creek.

Timbertop Way- Stoneville: This project is a joint effort by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, students from the Midland Campus of TAFE and the Shire of Mundaring. A detention basin has been engineered from an old gravel pit and is being rehabilitated using techniques successfully utilized in the Hovea basin.

The first stage aimed to enhance the remnant bushland left on the site, using locally grown, local seed sourced plants. From now until next planting season, surveying contours, ripping along those contours and selecting and estimating the species required, will be undertaken. Selection and installation of fencing that will protect the site from vehicle intrusion is the next task for the students. Retention of the road run off into this basin will also protect roads and properties from future water damage, with water seeping slowly into streamlines in the valley.

Brookside Park and Heritage Trail- Parkerville/Hovea: The never-ending chore of weeding and spraying continues as usual. Assistance has been provided by funds from the Shire of Mundaring to employ local contractors who specialise in controlling and eradicating weeds in bushland areas. Green Corps has also removed woody weeds, sprayed weeds and planted local species. Guildford Grammar students are joining locals on Friday afternoons to assist with tasks that require many hands. They will also work with other groups in the area.

Contact Jenny on 9295 4467 or Linda on 9290 6666.

Free plants day by Colleen Rankin

In June, the Roadside Care Volunteers along with the local Landcare Centre distributed almost 9000 plants to Serpentine-Jarrahdale residents as part of an annual effort to revegetate verges within the area. The Free Plants Day Project is a joint scheme, run with assistance from the local council.

Roadside Care Volunteers formed 12 years ago as a community committee of the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire Council and originally operated with no financial support, with only a few hundred trees planted each year. Since that time the Roadside Care Volunteers has acquired funding from grants and, with the support of the local community, the project has been embraced with great gusto.

Contact Colleen Rankin 9525 1146.



Muriel White from Roadside Care Volunteers assists Sharon and Jamie Rogers with their choice of plants. (Photo: Colleen Rankin)

South East Region

Students and schools get active

by Trevor Drummond

It's been an amazing year for the Friends of Brixton Street with great involvement through walks, talks and cleanup from a number of schools in the area, including Seven Oaks College, Beckenham Primary and Rehoboth School.

Thanks to funding acquired from the Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group, students from Rehoboth School are busily creating a unique interpretive sign for Brixton Street. A number of students from Rehoboth have also helped the group members undertake planting alongside the new Brixton Street Bridge.

We would like to thank all those people who have participated in our events this year and we would love to see more people attend our normal work mornings on the third Saturday of the month, starting at 9am and meeting at the Alton Street Gate, Kenwick. Here is your chance to rejuvenate your spirit and discover the magic of Brixton Street.

Contact Regina 9459 2964

Third Fungi foray a success!

by Kim Sarti

In spite of the unseasonable dry weather, Bungendore Park in Bedforddale, turned up some colourful fungi surprises at a Fungi Foray held on 22 June and attended by 63 people.

The foray organised by the Bungendore Park Management Committee was held in conjunction with CSIRO research scientist Dr Neale Bougher and the WA Naturalists' Fungi Study Group. This year a Rhubarb Bolete (*Boletellus obscurecoccineus*) was discovered, which had not been found during events held in the previous two years. The bolete is quite elegant with its bright crimson stem and cap and brilliant yellow under parts. Another colourful fungus found was *Russula clelandii* which has a reddish/purplish cap, white gills under and a pinkish stem.

Dr Bougher explained that the dry weather had reduced the number of species collected and the size of the fruiting bodies. The Ghost Fungus, which is normally the size of a dinner plate and bright enough to read a newspaper at night, was this year only the size of broccoli florets.

Information obtained from the three fungi foray's is being collated for the 79 different types of fungi found so far.

Contact Kim Sarti on 9470 2297

Group Profile: Friends of Piesse Brook

PIESSE Brook is located in the Darling Range Regional Park. Several species of *Eucalypts* and orchids plus a wide range of birds and fauna including white tailed black cockatoo's, red-capped parrots, boobook owl, chuditch, echidna, wallabies and monitor lizards inhabit the area.

Unfortunately the area has been heavily degraded by the spread of exotic weeds, predominantly *Watsonia*, bamboo and blackberry, creating a monoculture, which has destroyed much of the natural flora and along with it, the habitat of local indigenous fauna.

Small group, short history, BIG success

Following the receipt of a successful funding application through the Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program, the group gathered for the first time in June 2001 and attended a walk conducted by the Shire of Mundaring's local environment officer, along with representatives from the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Mundaring Landcare Centre. During the walk, the large task was laid out in front of them, the problems were explained and the best solutions to deal with these were identified.

Today, the Friends of Piesse Brook (FoPB) consists of approximately 10 active members who meet in the park every third Sunday of each month between April and November. The group's work consists of eradicating weeds, removing rubbish and replanting the area with native flora.

Perfect planning aids progress

The group has a program in place that is dependent upon receiving grant monies each year to fund a continuous weed eradication program.

"Each phase of the program has been carefully planned over a three-year period and subject to the availability of funding, the group aims to reach the Helena Dam in 2007," explained Lynda Stanley, the group co-ordinator.

Each year the FoPB focuses the efforts on one section, then carries out spraying and removal of weeds within that section. In the second year, fresh outbreaks of weeds are hand wiped and sprayed, while native seedlings are planted in areas where weeds have been successfully eradicated. In the third year a final hand wipe and spraying of glyphosate is conducted, in order to



Piesse Brook (Photo: Tom Fraser)

completely rid the area of weeds. By this time the seedlings should be established and the number of weeds dramatically reduced. From then the main requirement is maintenance work.

"This planning enables the group to implement a systematic approach which can be applied to larger areas as each year progresses. Next year the group plans to triple the area that was restored in previous years," said Lynda.

Bushland Care Days

Since its inception, the group has organised two Bushland Care Days, with the most recent one being held earlier this year. Although the group has been a great success, these occasions have been highlight events. The 2003 Bushland Care Day saw 63 volunteers turn out to help plant, stake and mulch 2000 seedlings.

"Bakers Delight donated bread, salad vegetables were donated from Primavera Fresh Foods in Walliston and meat for a barbeque was donated by the Department's Regional Parks Unit. It was a beautiful day and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves immensely while helping the group to achieve the goal of replanting the area which was weeded the previous year," enthused Lynda.



Above: A site within Piesse Brook before the weeding program by the group was implemented. Below: The same site after the extensive weeding program was implemented (Photos: Lynda Stanley)

Words of wisdom

"The greatest learning experience as a group has been the simple fact that a few people can make a big difference, and there is a lot of support available for groups who want to make a contribution to their area," she said.

"Although everyone involved in the group leads busy lives, they manage to find a couple of hours once a month to get out into the bush, enjoy the environment and feel that they are doing something useful."

The group also organises social activities, whether it be a barbeque, happy hour, or an environmental walk. Regular communication with the group keeps everyone informed, and encourages them to give input and ideas on issues that interest them.

The Friends of Piesse Brook meet on the third Sunday of every month between April and November inclusive. They meet at the entrance to the Kalamunda National Park, which is at the far end of Schipp Road, at 10.30am for morning tea and a chat before work begins at 11am for approximately two hours.

Contacts

Lynda Stanley 9293 3102,
email: lstanley@inet.net.au.

Resources

New publications

- **Monitoring and Evaluating Biodiversity Conservation Projects** – A Guide for managers and technical advisers, by Michael Coote, Sophie Moller and Keith Claymore was recently launched. The guide provides a planning framework for biodiversity conservation and describes techniques that may be useful for long-term measurement of changes in native vegetation, fauna and social indicators. The guide is available from the Customer Service desk at the Kensington Office of the Department of Conservation and Land Management. The cost is \$25 for hardcopy binders and \$15 for a CD. Michael Coote can be contacted for additional information on 9334 0479
- **Pest plan tool kit** - A great guide for setting priorities and developing a management plan for pest animals is now available from the Department of Agriculture. You can obtain a copy by contacting Marion on 9366 2301 or emailing mnamassam@agric.wa.gov.au

Bird survey in selected Perth metropolitan reserves - The Perth Biodiversity Project (PBP) together with Birds Australia WA have surveyed birds across 39 reserves in 10 Local Government areas across the Perth Metropolitan Region over the last year. To access the results of the survey, as well as detailed site reports, go to the PBP website www.wama.wa.gov.au and follow the prompts through projects, or call PBP on 9213 2050

Website and database watch

- A series of **environmental law facts sheets** have been prepared by the Environmental Defenders' Office (EDO) will provide you with easy-to-read information on laws relevant to the protection of Western Australia's diverse environment. Topics covered include aquaculture, drainage of agricultural land, biodiversity protection, pastoral land, management and mining law. You can access the facts sheets by visiting the EDO website www.edo.org.au and following the links from the publications page.
- The **Western Weeds** publication now has an index of weeds available online. This easy-to-use site lists weeds and the areas they are typically found. For information visit http://members.iinet.net.au/~weeds/western_weeds/site_index_a_to_d.htm
- **FungiBank** improves the availability of information about Australia's rich resource bank of native fungi, as well as providing information on the benefits of incorporating native fungi into revegetation and advice on sourcing and propagating native fungi. To learn more about fungi, go to www.fungibank.csiro.au.

- **People Making a Difference** - A new free magazine has been released by Land and Water Australia (LWA) focusing specifically on the social aspects of natural resource management. You can subscribe to the magazine from the LWA website on <http://www.lwa.gov.au>.

Free e-mail networks

- **Good news!** To inform and inspire those of you who are busy restoring your local environment, the journal Ecological Management & Restoration is getting ready to launch a free, occasional email bulletin as a community resource. The idea is to bring busy researchers and practitioners a snapshot of innovative projects and current perspectives from around Australia and New Zealand. To subscribe to **EMR News**, email Julie at julieolsen@bigpond.com or phone (07) 3277 0961. For more information on the journal visit www.blackwell-science.com/emr/



If not claimed within 7 days, please return to
PO Box 1167, Bentley Delivery Centre, Kensington, WA 6983



DEPARTMENT OF 
Conservation
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
Conserving the nature of WA

POSTAGE
PAID
PERTH
WEST.
AUST. 6000