



Setting a vision for the Swan Region

Funding from the Commonwealth government for the protection and management of our natural resources will now be allocated according to priorities identified in Regional Strategies. This funding will be delivered through the Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

Throughout Australia, existing regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups have been given the task, in conjunction with State Government, Local government, community and the private sector to produce regional NRM strategies.

Once accredited by Commonwealth and State governments, these strategies will provide a framework for the investment of resources to care for our environment.

Over the past 12 months the Swan Catchment Council (SCC) has been determinedly working on the Swan Region NRM Strategy. The draft will be available for public comment in early 2004. Other regions throughout the southwest of Western Australia have also been working on the development of their regional strategies.

What is the Swan Region NRM Strategy?

The Swan Region encompasses more than 7,000 square kilometres in the catchments of the Swan and Canning Rivers. The area extends from Muchea in the northeast, through to Wanneroo, and as far south as Rockingham. In the east, it extends to Wooroloo and south-east to the City of Armadale boundaries.

The NRM Strategy provides a 50-year vision, which aims to guide NRM activities. Because the Swan Region incorporates the most heavily populated area in WA, sustainable use relies heavily on sustainable planning processes.

The strategy identifies the natural resource values of the region, by assessing the present condition, major pressures and threats, and what are appropriate responses to those threats. It also sets out priorities for



Earlier this year Swan Catchment Council invited stakeholders to meet Council members and officers as well as provided for a Strategy update. (Photo: Swan Catchment Council)

action, a framework for management and nominates who is responsible.

Swan Catchment Council, Chairperson, Sue Metcalf said that formal partnership agreements between government, community, industry and individuals were critical for the good management of the Region's natural resources.

"This strategy defines the parameters for partnerships between these sectors which in turn, will increase the integration of effort and the effectiveness of outputs in managing natural resources," Sue said.

"Most importantly, the strategy provides a mechanism for meaningful community input into the operation of current policy and statutes, by creating a framework which promotes a shared commitment by all partners to work together to achieve the desired change."

Vision

The natural resources of the Swan Region will be protected and managed sustainably in their own right and for the enhancement of the quality of life for present and future generation.

How has the strategy been developed?

Developing the strategy has been an extensive process and the Swan Catchment Council has worked closely with State and



swan catchment
council

Local government agencies, local industries, Indigenous communities and key community representatives.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken to seek community perceptions and directions. Expert panels took the community input and identified, prioritised and developed these ideas for best-practice management. This information was collated and the draft document was developed.

How will the strategy affect friends groups in the Swan Region?

Friends groups will only attract major Commonwealth funding, where their project delivers results in accordance with the regional priority outcomes set out in the strategy.

"The strategy aims to provide a support and coordination function to all groups involved within the region. It actively promotes and stimulates an environment of coordination for all parties," Sue said.

What next?

The Swan Region NRM Strategy will be available for public comment in early 2004. A subregional road show will be held during the consultation period. Notification of the draft strategy release will be advertised in newspapers, on existing email networks and newsletters. However if you would like more information, please contact the Swan Catchment Council on 9374 3309 or by email (www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon).

* **Birak and Bunuru** - Birak is the hot and dry time of December and January and Bunuru covers the late and early summer season with hot easterly and north winds, experienced during the months of February and March.



Ecoplan Coordinator, Margo O'Byrne with a slippery snake!
(Photo: Kate Gole)



The new Skills for Nature Conservation Coordinator, Amrit Kendrick. (Photo: Greening Australia)

Another year is quickly drawing to a close and the summer season usually provides us with an opportunity to sit back and review the past year while planning for the next.

The Skills for Nature Conservation (SFNC) program had a very successful year, attracting more than 300 people to our workshops and seminars. Thanks to Greening Australia (WA), especially Julia Cullity and Bec Millar, for their ongoing support of the program. Welcome to Amrit Kendrick who has been appointed to Greening Australia (WA) as a full time training coordinator to work with the SFNC program in the delivery of community workshops, as well as funding for a pilot program of five workshops for professionals working in the area of Biodiversity Conservation. Amrit has a background in Environmental Education and has been teaching at TAFE for a number of years. Thanks also to the Swan Catchment Centre for their ongoing support, in particular Kathryn Clarkson, Kate Gole and Alison Nesbitt.

End of Year Celebration

Another successful year for the SFNC program was acknowledged with the End of Year Celebration in November at APACE, in Fremantle. The program has been operating for five years now and we are looking forward to in 2004 to the addition of five professional courses to be run in conjunction with the 20 courses already run for the community.

Two focus groups were facilitated at the End of Year Celebration, which gave community members and SFNC participants an opportunity to reflect and comment on the courses that had been run in 2003, and provide feedback as to which courses they would like to see again in 2004.

The afternoon proceeded with 'Touch the Wild', a close encounter with reptiles, and a display with Shane Heriot, from the Tammin Landcare Centre. The audience was mesmerised as Shane spoke about his work with reptiles and explained the importance of reptiles in the ecosystem.

Evaluation and feedback received from participants was extremely positive. The SFNC team is now planning for the year ahead and aims to have a new calendar out by February. Thanks to all involved on the day and for those who provided valuable feedback on the program.

Of course the success of the SFNC program is largely due to our wonderful presenters, many

of who give their services free of charge. Thanks as well to the many wonderful volunteers who continue to look after our environment in such a skilled and thoughtful way. We hope these courses help you to continue your great work.

Urban Nature Update



Urban Nature is still establishing itself and 2003 has been spent focusing on getting some material printed.

Kate Brown has been appointed as the Bushland Management Advisor and will commence work in the first week of April, when she returns from an overseas holiday. Kate is well known to many community conservation groups for her work in bushland reserves as part of the Environmental Weeds Action Network project. Kate is also the principal author of *Bushland Weeds*, a practical guide to their management. In the meantime, we have extended the contracts of Lisa Bland and Renee Miles, who, by now, many of you would have met.

In October and November, Urban Nature, together with the Department of Environment and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, held two workshops with two follow up field days looking at the vegetation types across the Swan Coastal Plain and the Plateau. These were aimed at staff in government departments who were working on Bush Forever sites. They were greatly beneficial to all who attended. Thanks to Bronwen Keighery and John Dell for their skilful and informative presentations. These workshops will be repeated later in the year and will be open to staff and community groups working in nature conservation. To register your interest in future workshops please advise Urban Nature by email (urbannature@calm.wa.gov.au).

Renee Miles has been working with the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale and a member of the local Wildflower Society, Jo Tregonning, to produce a brochure for the Banksia Road Nature Reserve. The aim of the brochure is to alert local residents to the nature conservation values of the reserve and let them know what actions they can take to preserve these values. This is the first of many collaborative projects between the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), through the Urban Nature program, and the local community. Thanks to Sue Osborne and Jan Starr from the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale and to Jo Tregonning. Renee is now working on a brochure for Talbot Road Reserve, in collaboration with the Shire of Swan, Friends of Talbot Road and other CALM staff.

Lisa and Renee have developed a Reserve Management Questionnaire to enable us get a picture of what sort of management is taking place now so we can use it as a benchmark against future change.

While the focus for this information is for Bush Forever sites, we are interested in hearing from anyone (land managers or community groups) who would like to contribute to this information base.



Contacts

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Autumn Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the Autumn 2004 Ecoplan News by Friday 27 February, 2004. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words and articles as brief as possible. Please also send us your photos! Fax, email or write to Ecoplan (see Ecoplan contacts above). Thanks to all contributors.

Newsletter compiled and edited by Erin Gisborne.

Glyphosate ban email

A recently circulated email, about a ban on Glyphosate use in Denmark, due to it leaching into the drinking water, has sparked concern among WA community groups working with the herbicide. Ecoplan News asked Rod Randall from the Department of Agriculture's Weed Science Group to comment:

"The ban has been imposed for autumn sprayings only and began on 15 September 2003. Denmark experiences extremely low autumn and winter

temperatures and heavy rainfall, which sometimes leads to dramatic movement of water through the soil. The ban is specifically targeted towards sites where leaching is extensive because of heavy rain," Rod said.

"The Denmark authorities believed that the bacteria in the soil were effectively breaking down the glyphosate before it reached the groundwater. However, in colder temperatures soil bacteria work much slower and may even stop altogether.

"The Danish Government policy aims to remove pesticide usage from primary production by 2010 and move towards totally organic alternatives. With Western Australia's usage rates, being considerably lower, and with very different soil types and environmental conditions, a similar ban is not likely to occur here."



Beautiful butterflies

Do you live along the Swan Coastal Plain between Yanchep and Rockingham? If so, you may want to nominate your local reserve to participate in a butterfly survey currently being conducted by Matthew Williams, Senior Research Scientist for CALM.

Surveys are being carried out in 21 metropolitan bushlands along the coastal plain in order to record butterfly information. The surveys will form part of a project, which examines butterfly ecology and the effects of fire on the species.

If you wish to take part in one of the surveys, contact Matthew on 9334 0399 or by email (mattw@calm.wa.gov.au).



Learning Opportunities

Conservation and Land Management

Swan TAFE (Midland) is offering a range of new training packages in Conservation and Land Management. These courses are ideal for interested individuals and those who already work in community conservation, bushland or catchment groups and would like to upgrade their knowledge and skills while gaining a formal qualification in the process. Courses will include:

- Certificate II (2), six months full time starting February 2004;
- Certificate III (3), 12 months full time starting February 2004 or six months starting July 2004; and
- Certificate IV (4) by skills recognition in 2004.

For more information, contact Theresa Putland on 9274 9287 or by email (theresa.putland@swantafe.wa.edu.au). Alternatively contact Jenny or Rosemary at Midland TAFE on 9274 9395.

Perth Region Plant Biodiversity Workshop



Two forms of *Hovea trisperma* grow in Bullsbrook Nature Reserve. Pictured right is a *Hovea trisperma* var. *trisperma*, pictured left is a *Hovea trisperma* var. *grandiflora*. (Photo: Kate Savage)

Are you involved in the protection of bushland, propagation planting or direct seeding native plants, conservation management planning or botanical research? Then the Perth Region Biodiversity Workshop could help you.

The workshop will focus on two locations: the Swan Coastal Plain on Wednesday 21 January 2004 between 9am and 5pm and the Jarrah Forest on Friday 23 January, 2004 between 9am and 5pm. The workshop content will be adapted to suit each region.

Organised by the Perth Region Plant Biodiversity Project, the workshop aims to make information about plant communities more accessible and understandable. Bookings are essential

Funding for fungi!

Congratulations to the Urban Bushland Council (UBC) for its successful grant application from Lotterywest for the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project. UBC will employ a mycologist (fungi expert), a part-time project coordinator and a community education officer to undertake the project. For more information email UBC (ubc@inet.net.au).

and close on Friday 16 January 2004. For enquiries or bookings contact Kate Savage on 9213 2048 or email pbp@walga.asn.au.

APACE seed collections courses

During January and February 2004, APACE will be conducting courses in native seed collection. The courses are being run as part of the Swan Regional Seedbank that was established with funding from the Natural Heritage Trust. The course is designed to assist community groups and local council officers and includes topics such as legal requirements for seed collection, best practice, hygiene in seed banks and the use of tools.

To register, contact Susan Lovell on 9336 1262.



Skills for Nature Conservation Program

Planning is well under way for the 2004 Skills for Nature Conservation Program and a calendar will be released by late February. The Ecoplan Update reported that as well as running the community workshops and seminars, we have also obtained funding to run five courses for professionals working in the area of natural resource management. As always, both sets of courses are open to all members of the community working to look after our environment. This year, five of the workshops will be targeted to beginners and will be suitable for new group members or people who might want a refresher on some of the basic issues of nature conservation. At this stage the following courses are being planned:

Facilitation Skills – 29 January and 30 January (Professional)

Working with Spray Contractors – February (Professional)

Working Effectively with Community Groups – March (Professional)

Night Time Fauna (Ongoing)

How to Run a Community Group (Beginners)

If you would like to find out more about these courses or register your name to receive a copy of this year's calendar, please email your details to ecoplan@calm.wa.gov.au.

Marine turtle rescue

By Renee Miles

Did you know that six out of the seven marine turtle species found in the world live in Australian waters? Did you know that the survival of these species is being seriously threatened by pollution and habitat destruction?

Thankfully, Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre was recently licensed by CALM to operate a turtle rescue centre, which saves young turtles that have been washed up along the WA coast.



Kelsey Jackson, Naragebup volunteer assisting a recently delivered turtle. (Photo: Naragebup)

Once hatched, young turtles face numerous obstacles, including predation and strong currents, which can wash turtles a long way south into cooler waters. When they arrive at Naragebup, they are kept in an artificially warmed seawater pool to recover, until arrangements can be made for their release.

The rescue team at Naragebup work in partnership with the students and numerous dedicated volunteers at Murdoch University Department of Marine and Veterinary Science. Every animal is measured, weighed and marked so that it can be identified later. When the turtles are strong enough, the Royal Australian Navy on Garden Island or CALM organise for the recovered turtles to be transported to warmer waters.

If you find a young turtle you can contact CALM's WildCare hotline on 9474 9055, or take it to Naragebup in a container with enough seawater to cover its shell. For more information, visit the Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Road, Peron or contact Bob Goodale on 9591 3077.

Funding opportunities

Westpac Operation Backyard

Since the Westpac Operation Backyard program began in October 1998, more than \$880,000 has been donated to approximately 200 Westpac Operation Backyard projects across Australia.

For a limited time, the amount of funding available to each approved project has been increased from 50 per cent to 100 per cent of the environmental costs. To be eligible, your project must:

- involve Westpac, Bank of Melbourne or Challenge Bank staff as volunteers; and
- meet Landcare Australia's approval guidelines.

Program guidelines can be obtained by emailing community@westpac.com.au. Applications for project funding must be submitted by 16 January 2004.



2003-2004 Round Two of the Australian Government Envirofund

The Australian Government Envirofund is now inviting applications for funding. Round Two applications close at 5pm on Friday 30 January 2004.

Preference will be given to:

- projects in coastal and marine areas;
- projects that relate to activities that benefit natural wetlands;
- projects in the rangelands; and
- projects that involve indigenous people.

The Guide and application forms have changed, so read them carefully before starting your application. For a copy of the application form call 1800 065 823 or visit www.nht.gov.au/envirofund. For more information contact the Australian Government Envirofund on 1800 303 863.

Congratulations to all winners!



L-R: Alcoa Representative Vanessa Guthries, Polly Hammond, Senator Judith Troeth and Bob Goodale receive Community Group award. (Photo: Naragebup)

The Eighth Landcare Awards were recently announced at the State Landcare Conference in Katanning. The awards recognise the outstanding commitment that individuals, landcare groups, schools and other organisations have made to improve natural resource management.

The winners included:

- Geographe Catchment Council - River-Rats Living Streams Award;
- Cottesloe Coastcare Association - Coastal and Marine Award;
- Geographe Catchment Council - Nature Conservation Award; and
- Naragebup-Rockingham Regional Environment Centre - Community Group Award.

Congratulations to all other winners!

2003 WA Environment Awards



Environment Minister, Dr Judy Edwards (left), presented representatives from the NECC with their awards. (Photo: NECC)

At the 2003 WA Environment Awards, the North East Catchment Committee received the community achievement award for their work in catchment management as well as the prestigious overall Environment Award. Environment Minister, Dr Judy Edwards, announced the awards at a presentation ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, where awards were presented to 14 category winners. Refer to Group Profile (page 11).

Ecoplan News would like to extend its congratulations to all the winners and, in particular, the North East Catchment Committee and CALM's 'Land for Wildlife' program.

Magnificent Marine Parks

Discover the delights of Shoalwater Islands Marine Park at a free community event coordinated by the CALM's Nearer to Nature program. 'Magnificent Marine Parks' is a morning of activities and displays aimed at introducing the community to this marine park on Perth's southern coastline. Magnificent Marine Parks will be held at Mersey Point, Shoalwater (off Arcadia Drive) on Sunday 18 January from 9am until noon.

This event opens Nearer to Nature's summer season of activities for children and adults in natural areas throughout Perth. For more information on the great range of summer events, grab a Nearer to Nature brochure from your local library, call 9295 2244 or visit www.naturebase.net/n2n.html.



Nearer to Nature



Econotes: Carnaby's black-cockatoos

By Leonie McMahon, Project Officer - Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Project

As twilight descends on a belt of salmon gums in the northern wheatbelt, the calls from corellas, galahs and twenty eights reach a crescendo. Adding its own distinctive wailing cry to this familiar chorus is a breeding population of Carnaby's black-cockatoo, an endangered species that has found a safe haven in this region.

How can I tell it's Carnaby's black-cockatoos?

Carnaby's black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) is a large, white-tailed black cockatoo unique to the south-western corner of WA. There are only two species of white-tailed black cockatoo found anywhere in the world and both are endemic to WA. The other is Baudins black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*). The upper bill (beak) of Carnaby's cockatoo is broader and shorter than the Baudin's cockatoo.

Behaviour and breeding

Residents on the Swan Coastal Plain, including Perth, are most likely to see Carnaby's black-cockatoos in large numbers from late summer to early winter when they congregate together in large feeding flocks. This is their non-breeding season. Come mid to late winter, breeding pairs disperse into the wheatbelt where they will stay through spring and into summer and attempt to fledge a single chick. In a very few cases they will attempt to fledge two chicks.

For breeding success, the Carnaby's black-cockatoo requires several very different habitats in close proximity to each other. They nest in the large hollows of mature eucalypts, in particular salmon gum and wandoo, but feed on kwongan heath species such as banksia, grevillea, hakea and dryandra, and the seeds of marri. The cockatoo has also adapted to feed on introduced species including pines, wild geranium and wild radish.

An endangered species

Carnaby's black-cockatoo is now listed as Endangered and likely to become extinct. The overall population is believed to have halved in the last few decades. This situation has come about because of:

- extensive clearing throughout the wheatbelt, which has led to a severe reduction in available nesting and feeding sites;



An illustration (female left, male right) of the Carnaby's black-cockatoo. (Reproduced by courtesy of the Western Australian Museum.)

- fragmentation or isolation of remaining bushland has meant nesting and feeding sites are not always sufficiently close together, or the cockatoos cannot easily navigate between them;
- lack of eucalypt regeneration in remaining breeding sites and the degradation of remaining nesting and feeding sites by grazing, waterlogging, salinity, weed invasion, storm damage, firewood collection and altered fire regimes;
- competition for hollows from other hollow-using species, particularly the galah, western long-billed corella, little corella and feral bees;
- poaching of chicks and eggs illegally from the wild; and
- original food sources on the Swan Coastal Plain have been largely replaced by urban development and introduced pine plantations, and are likely to reduce significantly in the future.



Carnaby's black-cockatoos having a drink at a watering trough. (Photo: Leonie McMahon)

People interested in helping Carnaby's black-cockatoos can do so in many ways. While some recovery actions are very specific to Carnaby's black-cockatoo, most are directed at improving the health of bushland used by the cockatoo and achieving more general conservation goals.

How can I help the survival of this bird?

If you live in the wheatbelt and Carnaby's black-cockatoos breed in your area you can:

- protect known feeding and breeding sites usually by fencing or excluding stock, controlling weeds, protecting against firewood collection and changing burning regimes;
- repair revegetate known feeding and nesting sites with suitable plant species such as banksia, dryandra, eucalyptus or grevillia;
- repair old and damaged nesting hollows;
- control competitor species;
- create corridors of suitable vegetation between areas frequented by Carnaby's black-cockatoos;
- leave dead eucalypts standing because Carnaby's black-cockatoos frequently nests in the hollows of dead stags;
- monitor the breeding activities of the cockatoo; and
- contact Birds Australia WA and advise us that you have Carnaby's black-cockatoos breeding in your area.

If you live in the Perth Metropolitan region and you have Carnaby's black-cockatoos feeding in your area, you can help them by ensuring there is plenty of suitable feeding habitat around. You can:

- plant suitable feed plants on your property such as banksia, dryandra, eucalyptus or grevillia; and
- lobby local councils to grow feed plants for Carnaby's black-cockatoo in public spaces and to ensure important feeding areas are maintained for the future.

Further information

- Visit the Birds Australia WA website at <http://birdswa.iinet.net.au>. Follow the links to the projects section and select Carnaby's black-cockatoo recovery project.
- Contact the project officer Leonie McMahon on 9287 2448 or by email (ljmcmahon@bigpond.com).

What's On Summer 2004

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

REGISTRATION/CONTACT DETAILS

for organisations providing a series of activities – look for the symbol.

Ⓞ **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.** Meet at the Bowling & Tennis Club carpark, Lloyd Dve, Warwick. Call Karen 9342 6840.

★ **Friends of Star Swamp Bushland.** Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

Ⓞ **Naragebup.** Rockingham Regional Environment Centre &/or Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah Naturalists' Club, 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.

Listen, Look and Learn – talks, walks, seminars.

Get Your Hands Dirty – bushland, river, wetland and coastal hands-on care

Develop Your Skills – courses, workshops, training and development

Delivering the Message – expos, festivals, conferences and 'theme weeks or days'

Listen, Look & Learn

January

11 Sunday 8am
Bird Watching Walks at Naragebup. Bring binoculars. Ⓞ

17 Saturday 8am
Guided Nature Walk with Friends of Lake Gwellup. Meet at the Scout Hall Huntriss Rd, Gwellup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

19 Monday 9-11am
Amazing Arachnids with Nearer to Nature, Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring. Look for spiders out and about in the forest. Learn about lifecycles, their webs and other amazing facts. *

20 Tuesday 9-11am
Creature Feature with Nearer to Nature, Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring. Learn all about our native animals in this hands on activity. Hold a cuddly creature and then get creative with a paintbrush as you paint your favourite animals. *

23 Friday – 26 Monday
Long weekend excursion to **Wyadup Rise** South of Yallingup with the WA Naturalists' Club. Bird-watching and bushwalks. Call Roz 9382 2086.

27 Tuesday 9-10.30am
Wriggly Reptiles with Nearer to Nature, Beeliar Regional Park, Bibra Lake. Discover the habitats and lifestyles of snakes, lizards and goannas. *

28 Wednesday 9-11am
Creature Feature with Nearer to Nature, Star Swamp, North Beach. Learn all about our native animals in this hands on activity. Hold a cuddly creature and then get creative with a paintbrush as you paint your favourite animals. *

30 Friday 9-11am
Beetles, Bugs and Butterflies Nearer to Nature, Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring. Join all the little creatures flying around as you learn about insects and create bugs and butterflies to take home. *

31 Saturday 4-6pm
Microcosmic Monsters Nearer to Nature, John Forrest National Park, Hovea. Join us to discover bugs, beetles, spiders and ants on this trip into the micro-cosmos. *

February

1 Sunday 9-11am
Waders, Whistlers and Warblers with Nearer to Nature, Swan Estuary Marine Park. Come on a morning walk to look at the different types of birds that inhabit our wetlands. Learn their calls and migratory habits. *

1 Sunday 4pm-6pm
Canning Canoe Capers Nearer to Nature, Canning River Regional Park. Explore Canning River Regional Park on a paddle through this hidden section of river. All equipment provided. *

3 Tuesday 7.30 pm
Urban Bushland Council meeting, Ron Johnson speaking on the Impact of feral bees. ▲

8 Sunday 8am
Bird Watching Walks at Naragebup. Bring binoculars. Ⓞ

8 Sunday 4-5.30pm
Wriggly Reptiles with Nearer to Nature, Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring. Don't be a snake in the grass! Discover the habitats and lifestyles of snakes, lizards and goannas. *

15 Sunday 9-11am
Waders, Whistlers and Warblers with Nearer to Nature, Beeliar Regional Park, Bibra Lake. Come on a morning walk to look at the different types of birds that inhabit our wetlands. Learn their calls and migratory habits. *

15 Sunday 6-8.30pm
Star Swamp Sundowner with Nearer to Nature. Explore Star Swamp, North Beach, at dusk

when the inhabitants are at their busiest. Then join us on the balcony for a sundowner. BYO drinks and we will supply the nibbles. *

20 Friday 7.30pm
Free Natural History talk at Naragebup. Presented by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club. Ⓞ

21 Saturday 8am
Guided Nature Walk with Friends of Lake Gwellup. Meet at the Scout Hall Huntriss Rd, Gwellup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

22 Sunday 9am-11am
Canning Canoe Capers Nearer to Nature, Canning River Regional Park. Explore Canning River Regional Park on a paddle through this hidden section of river. All equipment provided. *

22 Sunday 10-11am
Adorable Aussies with Nearer to Nature, Beeliar Regional Park, Bibra Lake. Meet native animals and discover the features that make them perfectly adapted to living in Australia. *

29 Sunday 4-6pm
Microcosmic Monsters Nearer to Nature, Star Swamp, North Beach. Join us to discover bugs, beetles, spiders and ants on this trip into the micro-cosmos. *

March

2 March 7.30 pm
Urban Bushland Council AGM with guest speaker Steve Hopper CEO Botanic Gardens and Kings Park: Biodiversity mapping of the Greater Perth Region. ▲

7 Sunday 8am
Bird Watching Walks at Naragebup. Bring binoculars. Ⓞ

7 Sunday
Perth bird banding tour. Join Coate's Wildlife Tours on a trip to the Peel region to experience bird banding. Call Sylvii or Tom on 9455 6611.

8 Monday
Eyre Bird Observatory. Join Coate's Wildlife Tours on a trip to this remote and very interesting destination. Call Sylva or Tom on 9455 6611.

19 Friday 7.30pm
Free talk on Illegal Trade in Australian Wildlife at Naragebup. Presented by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club. Ⓞ

20 Saturday 8am
Guided Nature Walk with Friends of Lake Gwellup. Meet at the Scout Hall Huntriss Rd, Gwellup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

20 March 9-10am
Summer Nature walk, with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Ⓢ

Get Your Hands Dirty

Every Wednesday Mornings (weather permitting)
Friends of Brixton Street, to get involved in bush regeneration activities contact Regina Drummond 9459 2964

February

22 Sunday 1-4pm
Create a Field Herbarium, with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Ⓢ

March

7 Sunday 9am
Friends of Baigup Reserve Take part in weeding, wiping, manual monitoring and seed collection at Hinds Reserve. Meet under the Garratt Rd Bridge, Bayswater. Call Muriel 9271 9148.

21 Wednesday 1-4pm
Create a Field Herbarium, with the Friends of Warwick Bushland. Ⓢ

Develop Your Skills

January

8 Thursday - 14 Wednesday
Catchments, Corridors and Coasts. A five-day course on Environmental Education, Landcare, Coastcare, Bushcare and Rivercare organised by Australian Association of Environmental Education. Cost \$150-200. Call Janette 9574 6039 or email peakpot@vianet.net.au. Bookings are essential.

21 Wednesday 9am-5pm
Perth Region Plant Biodiversity Workshop - Swan Coastal Plain. Organised by the Perth Region Plant Biodiversity Project, the workshop aims to make information about plant communities more accessible and understandable. Call Kate Savage on 9213 2048 or email pbp@walgua.asn.au. Bookings are essential.

23 Friday 9am-5pm
Perth Region Plant Biodiversity Workshop - Jarrah Forest. The workshop aims to make information about plant communities more accessible and understandable. Call Kate Savage on 9213 2048 or email pbp@walgua.asn.au. Bookings essential.

29 Thursday - 30 Friday
Skills for Nature Conservation workshop.
Facilitation Skills. Details to be confirmed. Contact Amrit Kendrick at Greening Australia (WA) for more information on 9335 0107. ❖

February

24 Tuesday
Skills for Nature Conservation workshop.
Working with Spray Contractors. Details to be confirmed. Contact Amrit Kendrick at Greening Australia (WA) for more information on 9335 0107. ❖

March

11 Thursday
Skills for Nature Conservation workshop.
Working with Community Groups. Details to be confirmed. Please contact Amrit Kendrick at Greening Australia (WA) for more information on 9335 0107. ❖

19 Friday
Skills for Nature Conservation workshop.
Night Time Fauna. Details to be confirmed. Please contact Alison at Swan Catchment Centre for more information on 9347 3333. ❖

27 Saturday
Skills for Nature Conservation workshop.
How to Run a Group (Beginners). Details to be confirmed. Contact Alison at Swan Catchment Centre for more information on 9347 3333. ❖

Delivering the Message

January

28 Wednesday 1-2pm
Lunchtime Law hosted by the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO). The EDO's Principal Solicitor Leigh Simpkin will present a discussion forum on Access to Environmental Justice: Defamation Law. Call Linda or Marilyn 9221 3030 or e-mail lschur.edowa@edo.org.au

28 Wednesday 7.30pm
AGM Friends of Piesse Brook, will be held at 142 Hummerston Rd. Call Lynda 9293 3102.

February

1 Sunday 4.45pm
Tenth Anniversary Join the Friends of Hepburn & Pinnaroo Bushland at the end of O'Leary Rd, Padbury for a bushland walk and bbq. Call Tim 9316 5278.

6 Friday 7.30pm
AGM WA Naturalists' Club will be held at the Hew Roberts Lecture Theatre, Clifton St, Nedlands. Call Roz 9382 2086

20 Friday 9am
Access to Environmental Justice Conference hosted by the Environmental Defenders Office with keynote speaker Dr Robyn Eckersley. The conference will address issues such as referring proposals to the Environmental Protection Authority and using the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Cost \$120pp, \$55conc. Call 9221 3030 or e-mail lschur.edowa@edo.org.au

21 Saturday 2pm
AGM Environmental Weeds Action Network, meet at the Department of Agriculture's theatre at Baron-Hay Ct, South Perth. Includes numerous guest speakers and calls for nominees for Environmental Weeds Action Network committee positions. Call Kathryn on 9333 6643.

March

27 Saturday - 28 Sunday 10am-5pm
Sixth Western Australian Environment Festival, hosted by Naragebup. The theme will be 'A Cleaner World'. Great range of stalls and activities. Community organisations, government departments, businesses, or groups with an environmental message or product can now contact the centre to book a display area. Register early to avoid disappointment. Visit www.naragebup.org.au for more information. Ⓞ

HIGHLIGHTS

6th Western Australian Environment Festival 27- 28 March.
Visit www.naragebup.org.au

World Wetlands Day 2 February.
Visit www.ea.gov.au/events

World Wetlands Week 2-9 February.
Visit www.ea.gov.au/events

Clean Up Australia Day 7 March

Seaweeek 2004 7 - 14 March.
Visit www.mesa.edu.au/seaweeek.asp

February

World Wetlands Day 2 February
The theme for World Wetlands Day 2004 is 'Water for Wetlands' - Water for Life. World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year on 2 February. It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971. For events held around Australia visit www.ea.gov.au/events.

World Wetlands Week 2-9 February
For information about events held around Australia visit www.ea.gov.au/events.

March

Clean Up Australia Day 7 March
'Make Australia Shine' is the theme for Sunday 7 March. Join with Australians from all walks of life, who are trying to make our country shine by removing rubbish from our beaches, parks, roadsides, rivers and bushland.

Seaweeek 2004 7 - 14 March
'Discover me in the sea' - A chance to explore marine life. Seaweeek is the Marine Education Society of Australasia's major national public awareness campaign. It is conducted annually to focus community awareness, provide information and encourage an appreciation of the sea. For information about events held around Australia visit www.mesa.edu.au/seaweeek.asp

Sixth Western Australian Environment Festival 27 - 28 March 10am-5pm

Hosted by Naragebup. The theme will be 'A Cleaner World'. A great range of stalls and activities will be on offer. Register early to avoid disappointment. Visit www.naragebup.org.au Ⓞ

2004 Key Events

World Environment Day 5 June
World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. For information about events held around Australia visit www.ea.gov.au/events.

National Tree Day 25 July
National Tree Day is organised nationally by Planet Ark and brought to you by Toyota and the AMP Foundation, with Greening Australia. In 2003 more than 247,000 people joined together to plant 2.2 million native trees and shrubs at over 3,340 sites across the country. For school and community activities around Australia visit www.planetark.com.

Keep Australia Beautiful Week 31 August - 6 September 2004
Visit the website http://www.kabq.org.au/nat/nat_place.htm for details.

Biodiversity Month September.
For events held around Australia visit www.ea.gov.au/events.

National Threatened Species Day 7 September
National Threatened Species Day aims to encourage the community to prevent further extinctions of Australia's fauna and flora, and to restore healthy numbers of endangered species and ecological communities in the wild. For more information about National Threatened Species Day activities in your home state order the free information kit by calling Environment Australia on toll-free number 1800 803 772.

Weedbuster Week Held in the second week of October each year.
Hundreds of events take place, run by individuals, schools, community groups and local and state governments during Weedbuster Week. For school and community activities around Australia visit www.weedbusterweek.info.au/about.htm.

National Water Week October.
For information, visit www.savewater.com.au/waterweek.

National Bird Week October
The week aims to advance the appreciation and protection of Australia's birds by promoting understanding of their diversity, behaviour and habitat needs. For information, visit www.birdsaustralia.com.au.

National Frog Week November
For events held around Australia visit www.ea.gov.au/events.

National Recycling Week November
Coordinated by Planet Ark, this event calls on everyone to recycle wherever they are - whether at home, work, school or around town. For school and community activities around Australia visit www.planetark.com.

Coastcare Week 1-7 December

Bunbury/ Busselton Region

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meetings and natural history talks are held every second Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30 pm in the Conference room, Lotteries House, Victoria street Bunbury. Outdoor excursions are held on the Saturday following the second Tuesday. Details are yet to be finalised, as the first meeting of the year will be held on the Tuesday 10 February 2004.

The details about Busselton Naturalists' Club activities can be confirmed by checking the Busselton Margaret Times or calling Bernie on 9727 2474 (home) or 9752 1949 (work) or emailing bmasters@iinet.net.au. Meetings are now held at the RSL Hall, Causeway Road, Busselton. Visitors are welcome.

Leschenault Community Nursery

Leschenault Community Nursery has started the new season's plantings and encourages volunteers to help the new Project Manager, Mark, with a variety of nursery tasks. The nursery operates every weekday morning from 8am until noon with a happy and committed group of volunteers. The nursery only grows local plants for revegetation projects on the land, dunes and waterways. For more information contact Shirley Fisher on 97915915 or Mark Kennedy on 97914670.

January

20 Tuesday 9am
The Summer Swim meet the Bunbury Naturalists' Club at Castle Rock beach near Dunsborough. Call Shirley on 9791 5915.

February

3 Tuesday 8.30am
Herbarium Work meet the South West Region Herbarium Group at the Regional CALM Bunbury office. Visitors are welcome to all activities. For more information, call Shirley on 97915915.

Happy Birthday!

Greening Australia is celebrating its 21st birthday. The organisation was founded in 1982, during the International Year of the Tree. Throughout its 21 years, Greening Australia has played a vital role in natural resource management. The organisation works in partnership with landholders, the community, government and businesses to tackle environmental degradation in a practical, apolitical and scientific way.

celebrating 21 years



Please send us your April, May and June events by 1 March, 2004.

REGIONAL REPORTS

All groups welcome visitors and new members.

Across the regions

Conservation Volunteers Australia by Linda Metz

Well the end of the year is upon us and it has been a productive year for Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA).

CVA has provided assistance to a number of local government and community groups including the Cities of Belmont, Nedlands and Melville, Wilson Wetland Action Group and Friends of Blue Gum Lake.

As usual, we are always amazed by the continued enthusiasm of our volunteers who have contributed their time and energy to improving urban bushland. We all know that bringing back bushland is a long process, but many valuable working hours can be wasted if sites are not adequately monitored and follow up weeding programs maintained.

Woody weeds have been part of the focus of CVA this year and we are heartened that many of the sites are showing improvement. We have also had a successful year for work experience students wishing to gain practical experience to complement their studies. There is no doubt that educating younger people on the value of urban bushland is the only way to ensure that many of these areas are maintained in the future.

For more information, contact Linda Metz on 9336 6911 or email perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au.

North West Region

Frog Frenzy! by Roger Harris

Locals, living around Herdsman Lake, bravely ventured out for a night swamp safari, armed with curiosity, a love for things green and slimy and a torch. The FrogFest, held on Friday 7 November 2003 was hosted by the WA Gould League and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The centre's first FrogFest attracted more than 250 people and due to its tremendous popularity, four were held in 2003. Interest in these events continues to grow, with more people becoming curious about the sights and sounds of Perth's local frogs. The Gould League will ensure that these great family events continue in 2004.



Roger Harris leads a frog-finding expedition. (Photo: Roger Harris)

Recent publicity on the plight of Australia's frogs has created an awareness of the importance of the humble frog as a key indicator species to determine the health of wetlands. The fantastic response from the community shows how people's attitudes are changing and more families are keen to do their bit for nature.

The Gould League, based at the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, provides the community with a range of nature-based education activities, including Bird Walks, FrogFests, Swamp Safaris and a Freshwater Festival.

For more information, contact the Gould League on 9389 6079 or visit www.wagouldleague.com.au.

North East Region

Butterflies in the bushland by Alice Stubber

Over the last three years Koondoola Regional Bushland has been the focal point of a study examining the effects of fire on butterflies. Matt Williams, CALM Senior Research Scientist, recently reported on his findings in the October issue of *Western Wildlife*.

Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland have assisted the study by providing local

knowledge of the reserve, fire history maps and have accompanied Matt on several survey expeditions.

As is the case with many of our native plants and animals, butterflies are increasingly at risk of extinction due to numerous factors including disturbance, loss of habitat and introduced species.

The study reiterates why Koondoola Regional Bushland is such a vital spot, because 28 species of butterflies and day-flying moths have been recorded in the area. Many of these species, including the forester moth, western jewel, blue iris skipper and western skippers, are known to be sensitive to disturbance.

For more information, contact Alice Stubber on 9487 0632 or email bushlinks@hotmail.com.

Bush Links by Alice Stubber

A primary aim of the Bush Links project has been to encourage the community to actively participate in the care of their local bushland reserve. At a meeting with the local residents living adjacent to the Bush Links reserves, two issues became evident: the surrounding bushland was the primary reason they chose to live in the area and unfortunately they were poorly informed about what was being done in the reserve and who they should contact if they had any concerns. In fact, several residents spoke of being handballed from one local government department to another when they made an enquiry.

In an attempt to improve this situation, Bush Links has produced an information brochure, using Kinsale Park, Mindarie as the trial area. This area has suffered from the effects of a huge fire early in 2003 and a great deal of post-fire work has been carried out in the reserve since this time.



Cover of the 2004, Two Rocks/Yanchep calendar featuring flora of the region. (Photo: Alice Stubber)

REGIONAL REPORTS

The brochure sets out why the reserve is important, how the City of Wanneroo is actively managing the area, hints on how the community can help and provides contact details. The flyer was distributed to 1,000 households in the suburb via the Community Newspaper and hand delivered to those homes immediately adjacent to the reserve. We look forward to seeing the results of our efforts at future meetings.

For more information, contact Alice Stubber on 9487 0632 or email bushlinks@hotmail.com.



Students from Woodvale Primary Schools after a busy day of Weedbusting! (Photo: Alice Stubber)

Weedbuster Week by Alice Stubber

Woodvale and North Woodvale Primary Schools got busy weedbusting this year in Chichester Park. This Bush Links site greatly benefited from the combined efforts of both schools to tackle identified target weeds. Firstly, students carried out background research in the classroom and arrived at the bushland fully informed about their target weed. Teams of students each took on an individual weed and managed to cover the whole reserve, removing the weeds as they went. Students finished up the day with a group photo and the knowledge that their efforts had assisted their local environment.

For more information, contact Alice Stubber on 9487 0632 or email bushlinks@hotmail.com.

Moths & Snakes! by Karen Clarke

CALM Senior Research Scientist, Matt Williams, recently discovered a healthy population of the rare graceful sun moth in Warwick Bushland. This population is the largest recorded among only a few known locations. In 2003 we also had our first confirmed snake record, a beautiful and

harmless Jan's banded snake which is common in the area though rarely seen.

The Friends of Warwick Bushland have once again been successful in obtaining funding to help look after the Warwick Senior High School bushland. An application to the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) has just been approved and will provide the funds to employ Taggart Bushland Services in 2004 to support the Friends in their on-going bush regeneration activities, including weeding and planting. We sincerely thank the joint

Acacia cyclops and everything seemed to be growing, including the weeds.

There didn't appear to be many lupins, but the wild radish was rampant and there were several patches of freesias. If you are walking in the reserve, feel free to pull any weeds you see. There is a bin located in the carpark for you to put them in or alternatively pile them on the edge of the track.

For more information, contact Jan Bant on 9344 2872.

Hills Region

Christmas Cheer! by Lynda Stanley

The Friends of Piesse Brook held their final workday for the year on Sunday 16 November 2003 where mulch was spread around seedlings that were shooting tall since their planting last July. We noticed that the seedlings planted in mid winter versus those planted in spring have been much more successful in their uptake, and in future will endeavour to get all our plantings done in mid winter.

The boundaries of the work completed each year are now clearly visible and provide an excellent example of progress in action. The area that was our target when we commenced in 2001 is now reasonably clear of weed, re-growth has commenced and the bushland is once again looking beautiful.

The area where spraying was undertaken in 2002 spans from the National Park boundary fence to 200 metres inside the park and is presently covered with brown and dying watsonia, blackberry and bamboo. This area is a stark contrast to the 2001 'clean' area.

The area sprayed in this year's program is about 250 metres beyond the 2002 boundary and is also thick with watsonia, blackberry and bamboo. However, there is already evidence of the weeds beginning to die. Beyond the 2003 spraying area, the watsonia is a lush green, thriving, flowering monoculture along the banks of the Piesse Brook. This contrast clearly shows the effectiveness of the spraying program.

Although it can be depressing to see so much watsonia that still needs to be tackled in coming years, it is also motivating to look back at what we have achieved and know, that with persistence and determination, we will eventually have this area returned to beautiful pristine bushland for everyone to enjoy and appreciate.

For more information, contact Lynda Stanley on 9293 3102.

sponsors, the Swan River Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program and Alcoa World Alumina Australia, for this funding.

In October 2003 the Warwick Conservation Area was assessed and became a fully registered 'Land for Wildlife' site with CALM. Both the school bushland and Warwick Conservation Area are now fully registered sites, giving added recognition to the important role these areas play in maintaining local wildlife populations.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For more information, contact Karen Clarke on 9342 8482 or Robyn on 9342 6840.

Colourful Blooms! by Jan Bant

Spring brought many wonderful displays of colour to Cottonwood Crescent Bushland, from the bright yellow of hibbertia to the soft grey of the smokebush. During a recent walk, the Friends of Dianella Bushland spotted many blue lady orchids, spider orchids, cowslip orchids, donkey orchids and a red beak orchid (we think!). There was new seed on the

REGIONAL REPORTS

Recharge and renew!

Collected by Jenny Johnson

Now that summer has arrived, the Hills Bush Regenerators tend to leave the field and take three months off to recharge their batteries and enjoy the holiday period. No formal activities are planned during this time, however, the occasional collection of rubbish or spray of summer weeds will be undertaken.

Kensitt St – Stoneville: The group has been working to restore habitat in the Kensitt Street section of Jane Brook. Many weeds have been removed and with help from Green Corps and local volunteers, rushes and other wetland species have been planted. Leaf hoppers have had a huge impact on bridal creeper, so spraying was not required on this weed. This project would not have been possible without the ongoing support of the team at Mundaring Shire and funding from the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.

Lion Mill and Rocky Gully – Mt Helena: The Rocky Gully Catchment Group and Friends of Lion Mill Creek have been busy weeding and are now looking forward to the holiday break. This year's planting was a great success and achieved good survival rates. Scouts, Guides, the Country Women's Association and GreenCorps have assisted both groups. Members also assisted in November when the Mackintosh's garden was part of the Australian Open Garden Scheme. It was well attended despite competition from a monster swap meet and the Gidgegannup Show. Both groups have been granted Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) funding for 2004.

Hovea Conservation Park – Hovea: Weed control in Hovea Conservation Park is really paying dividends as plantings over the past five years are showing really strong growth. Flooded gums have reached two metres in 15 months! Next year, attention will be focused on the control of freesia, genista and the remaining watsonia.

Brookside Park and Heritage Trail – Parkerville/Hovea: During the past three months, Green Corps has been very busy in all Parkerville reserves spreading mulch, spraying watsonia and re-planting up wetland areas. Mundaring Shire's Weed Strategy with a control program has resulted in large areas being treated, which has really eased the burden for volunteers. Groups have followed up with spot spraying, spot weeding and mulching.

Timbertop Way – Stoneville: It is great to see a new group has formed in this area. The transformation of a barren gravel pit to an area

planted with flora to attract local fauna has been undertaken by students from the Midland Campus of Swan TAFE. More than 3,000 plants have been sown and mulched. Walk trails will be designed and next year, a wetland will be incorporated into the area as the old pit is to serve as a compensating basin. These basins are an important feature of the Shire's Drainage Strategy allowing surface water to be retained high in the catchments, instead of rushing off into streams where flooding then occurs downstream. Students are also collecting seeds from local species to propagate and sow for next year's planting. It is a great project that brings together the local community, TAFE students and the local Shire.

Enjoy your holidays and start planning for next year's activities.

For more information, contact Jenny on 9295 4467 or Linda on 9290 6666.

Central Region

Valuable volunteer awarded!

by Harry Bastow

This year has been a busy one for the Friends of Baigup Wetland (FoBW) with many successful weeding, mulching and planting days being held at various times and volunteers continuing to make a tremendous effort to look after the local environment.

Recently, the FoBW was pleased to announce that Rosemary Shenton was the recipient of the 2003, Baigup Volunteer of the Year Award. The award, which was donated by a local business, Sylvan Hair and Beauty Salon, aims to encourage as well as recognise the efforts of volunteers working within the Baigup Wetland.

Rosemary is a valuable asset to the FoBW and an active member. She performs several different roles within the group and is the group's First Aid Officer, Convenor for the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee and is the driving force behind the 'Baigup Lookout', an area dedicated to butterflies. Rosemary is always prepared to travel far and wide to keep learning, and regularly attends environmental seminars and workshops to transfer and share her knowledge with her fellow group members.

For more information, contact Harry Bastow on 9271 3242.

Celebrations!

by Dani Boase-Jelinek

The Friends of Shenton Bushland and the Urban Bushland Council of WA celebrated a joint 10th birthday celebration on Saturday 20

September 2003. We celebrated the event with a walk from Shenton Bushland through Underwood Bushland to Perry Lakes. The weather forecast was not promising; rain, thunder, and wind but it turned out to be a pleasant day, with enough sunshine to bring out the sun orchid (*Thelmytra macrophylla*) and to picnic beside Perry Lakes.

Ten years ago, the future of Shenton Bushland looked bleak, with a government determined to subdivide the land for an industrial estate. However, a dedicated campaign led by James Duggie saved the bushland and began a new phase of activities for the group, which focused on good management of the bushland.

Those 10 years of bush care activities have stimulated a great deal of learning and skills development for the Friends of Shenton Bushland. Our focus for the future is to develop stronger links with the local community, explore ways of making the bushland precious, and be something that people want to be involved in.

As part of this focus, we are developing the concept of a 'bush-to-beach' walk, linking Perth city to the sea via Kings Park, Hollywood Reserve, Shenton Bushland, Underwood Bushland, and Bold Park. We are also building links with local schools to explore ways of using the bushland as an educational resource.

For more information, contact Dani on 9381 3470.



Friends of Shenton Bushland on their 10th Anniversary walk. (Photo: Dani Boase-Jelinek)

Group Profile: North East Catchment Committee

The North East Catchment Committee (NECC) cares for an area to the north of the Swan River in the Perth Metropolitan Area. It was formed from the merge of two existing catchment groups (Bennett Brook Catchment Group and Bayswater Integrated Catchment Management Group) in November 2002.

Before their merge, both groups were considered leaders in different aspects of urban catchment management. The union has created synergies, which have resulted in the NECC emerging as an innovative leader in community Natural Resource Management (NRM).

Diversity is the key, community focus the priority!

The NECC consists of 14 committee members, 50 volunteers and 16 staff and offers a diverse number of services including educational activities such as community workshops, training programs and school educational programs aimed at children and teachers.

"We run a series of community-focused workshops throughout the region, on topics ranging from the creation of native gardens and frog ponds to composting and nature walks," Committee Coordinator, Linda Taman, said.

"An extensive school environmental education program is also in place, with more than 80 primary and high schools and scout groups involved in the last four years.

"Our commitment to work with the community remains a priority and our recently prepared implementation guide reflects this."

Innovation and leadership

The list of services the NECC has to offer is certainly impressive; however the group stands out for its innovative approach towards business.

"The NECC has been a leader in urban NRM and were the first catchment group to establish business units to support their funding base and assist them in achieving their NRM goals," Linda said.

"The business units provide a highly professional approach to NRM and allow our partners in State and Local government as well as community to access services which use best management practice."

The business units carried out a number of projects last year, such as:

- a commercial wholesale nursery;
- natural area management and consultancy;
- sustainable landscaping; and
- accredited TAFE training in Conservation and Land Management.



Students participating in 'Our Bushland Classroom'. (Photo: NECC)



Bennett Brook Environmental Services landscaping a pond to improve habitat. (Photo: NECC)

Partnerships equal progress

The NECC was the first catchment group in WA to create a position for an industry officer. The industry officer works closely with State and Local government and industry associations to achieve better environmental outcomes for industrial operations.

Strong partnerships have been in existence for many years with the Cities of Swan, Stirling, Bayswater and the Town of Bassendean. An annual work plan is negotiated with each council, and the NECC is currently in the process of developing affiliations with another nine councils in the region.

In addition, the NECC has established and maintained a positive relationship with a number of key government agencies including the Department of Environment, Swan River Trust, Water and Rivers Commission and the Agriculture Department of Western Australia.

On an industry level, the NECC has created important partnerships with a wide range of business groups. The most notable are: Bristle who have sponsored the committee's newsletter for the past three years, BHP Billiton which donated four transportables to house NECC offices and the Estates Development Group, who have been responsible for the development of the Caversham Grange Estate.

"One of the principal roles of a catchment group is to facilitate innovative and productive partnerships.

These partnerships are the key to Integrated Catchment Management. Many partnerships have been formed by the NECC and we are working diligently to ensure additional partnerships are created in the future," Linda said.



Acknowledged and awarded

For a group that has so much to offer to the field of NRM and one that has been so successful in all of their endeavours to date, it would be hard to consider which achievement stands out the most.

However, at the WA Environment Awards held in October 2003, the group won both the Community Achievement Award and the overall WA Environment Award for their work in catchment management.

"The team, including our staff, members and hundreds of volunteers all played a huge role in us receiving these awards. It is always nice to be rewarded for your efforts and everyone at NECC works incredibly hard to achieve our outcomes," Linda said.

Contacts

For further information on the work of the North East Catchment Committee, or to get involved, contact the Committee Coordinator Linda Taman on 9377 0444.

Resources

New publications

- **The Garden Gurus, Guide to Waterwise Gardening** – Once again the gurus, Trevor Cochrane and Neville Passmore, have produced a visually stimulating and informative book for all West Australian gardeners. This book contains everything you need to know about water-wise gardening in WA and is written by local gardeners with a wealth of local knowledge. It is widely available at most bookshops and retails for \$49.95.
- **Australian Threatened Species: Their Future in Our Hands** – The WWF Threatened Species Network (TSN) has produced a 28-page colour booklet to help raise awareness about threatened species and ecological communities. This booklet is ideal for community conservation groups and environmental educators and gives a fantastic overview of issues associated with threatened species in Australia. To obtain a copy, email the Threatened Species Network (tsn@wwf.org.au).
- **Hope for the future: the Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy** – The WA Government recently developed a State Sustainability Strategy for Western Australia, which the Premier released earlier this year. Hard copies and CD-Roms are available from the Sustainability Policy Unit by calling 9222 9389, emailing sustainabilty@dpc.wa.gov.au or visiting www.sustainability.dpc.wa.gov.au.

- **Extraordinary Plants** – A love for our local flora and a commitment to the University of Western Australia's Gravity Discovery Centre inspired authors Dammon Annison, Palenque Blair and Tiki Swain to write this book. Featuring fantastic photographs, the associated text provides fascinating information on the plants pictured, covering their botanical, scientific, historic, ecological and cultural significance. The book can be purchased for about \$16 from several Perth bookshops including the WA State Library Bookshop and Fremantle Dymocks or by contacting the authors on 9382 2413.
- **Fundraising for Dummies** – by John Mutz and Katherine Murray. This book provides an easy to use and basic strategy guide to fundraising with handy tips for community groups trying to raise their own funds. It is available at bookshops for \$22.95.
- **Can You Risk It? An Introduction to Risk Management for Community Organisations** – is a 19-page booklet developed by RiskCover, the Department of Sport and Recreation, the Department for Community Development, WACOSS (Western Australian Council for Social Services) and Volunteering WA to assist community groups by outlining a simple approach for implementing risk management. It includes the basics and sample forms for a paper-based process. The package can be downloaded from www.icwa.wa.gov.au.

Website and Database watch

- A copy of the **Envirofund Insurance Information Sheet** is now available at www.landcarefacilitator.com by following the links to 'professional information' and then 'papers'.
- A project, which set out to identify mechanisms that would enhance the adoption of biodiversity conservation within regional **NRM planning processes**, has recently been completed. The project was funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and carried out by Viv Read and Associates. You can access the fact sheet on the key findings by visiting www.lwa.gov.au.
- To find out what grants are currently available through the **Australian Government** a comprehensive list with all relevant links is available at www.grantslink.gov.au.
- For great tips on how to run a successful community awareness campaign and utilising the media check out www.media.socialchange.net.au. **Social Change Media** is an organisation which has been responsible for various community education campaigns. The site contains useful, easy to follow information that can be applied at a grass roots level.

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

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



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