

A community group that revived a brook!

With a little funding, assistance from experts and the tireless energy of two city residents, a rural community has begun to recognise the importance of the Gingin Brook that runs through the heart of their town.

A different kind of restoration

Richard and Pauline Diggins became Gingin regulars when they decided to tackle the restoration work of the local railway station. Not content to enjoy their weekends relaxing once they had completed the project, the Diggins turned their attention to the restoration of the natural environment – in particular the Gingin Brook, where a range of weeds threatened the last remnants of native vegetation.

In 1997, they formed the Friends of Gingin Brook (FoGB) and obtained a \$71,000 grant from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT). It was then that the hard work began.

Experience and expertise

The aim of the project was to establish a site to demonstrate to the community that it was possible to manage the weeds and restore the native fringing vegetation. It was at this stage that Kate Brown and Kris Brooks, working then with the Environmental Weeds Action Network, became involved with the groups' weeding and bushland restoration program. Kate and Kris carried out extensive surveys in the area to determine a means of weed removal that helped the native plant communities regenerate. Their advice and hands-on work in the demonstration site quickly showed the FoGB how to monitor the management sites, develop procedures and document the outcome of works.

Richard said that Kate's investigations determined the best methods of eradicating the weeds from the area, which resulted in the formulation of a very effective recipe for herbicide treatment.

"Initially, we were just slashing the weeds," he said.

To further assist the Friends' efforts, a team of Green Corps Trainees were engaged to work on the site for six months. Other skilled bush care workers, Linda Taman, Julie Robert and Bronwen Keighery, worked alongside the FoGB and presented several workshops.



Volunteers from the local scouts group help out with planting along Gingin Brook. (Photo: Richard and Pauline Diggins)

"The information that we gained from these professionals gave us the confidence to share the knowledge and experience with the wider community," Richard said.

Armed with confidence and additional skills, the group took on the role of educating the community about the native vegetation and the impacts of weeds on the Gingin Brook. They also provided information and support to landowners so they could implement similar weed management and bushland restoration programs.

Community contribution

As the landowners began to slowly see the native vegetation replacing the weeds at the demonstration site, some became eager to replicate the same activities on their properties. Many landowners along Gingin Brook have now taken part in weed removal programs and are so keen that the FoGB no longer have to assist them with implementing weed management programs. Many landowners are also beginning to erect fencing to protect the regenerating native vegetation from grazing cattle and sheep.

"The fact that the landowners have finally embraced our project has to be one of the most rewarding outcomes of our work. For a number of years we struggled to communicate the benefits, however as the years have passed, the response has become increasingly positive," Richard said.

In addition, the Gingin District High School established a seed bank and nursery to ensure a constant supply of native plants were available for the demonstration site and landowners wishing to revegetate their property.

"The greatest thing about this process has been the enormous amount of support. The local Shire is tremendously supportive and we have been lucky that key community members have joined the group and participated in promoting our efforts. Both have lent credibility to our cause and in turn made the wider community more accepting," Richard said.

What does the future hold?

"Although we have managed to eradicate a large number of weeds, the brook has already suffered from years of mismanagement. The past summer saw the brook dry up almost completely and provided a timely reminder to the community that we really have to continue our work to ensure its long term survival," Richard said.

In 2003, the Land Conservation District Committee obtained an NHT grant for \$50,000 and, inspired by the work being undertaken by FoGB, commissioned a Management Plan for the entire catchment area. The plan will address additional problems such as fertiliser run off and ensure that continual education is carried out so that landowners are aware of their practices and the long-term affects they have on the brook.

Further information

For further information contact Richard and Pauline Diggins on 9318 1529 or by email (rdiggins@inet.net.au).

* **Makuru** is the cold and wet season with westerly gales experienced during the months of June and July. **Djilba** is the slightly warmer season with less rain, when the days get longer again experienced during the months of August and September



Because this is the fiftieth issue of *Ecoplan News* it seems timely that we reflect on this newsletter and how it has evolved.



The first edition of *Ecoplan News* came out in spring 1991. It reported that 45 people attended a training session, the forerunner of the Skills for Nature Conservation Program on the values of the 'System 6' bushland reserves. In that same edition Joan Payne, then working as the urban bushland coordinator for the Conservation Council, said: "I hope that together we can achieve some real gains for the environment and that your [readers] involvement with the voluntary conservation movement gives you enjoyment and satisfaction."



The second edition in summer 1992 already had the beginnings of the Regional Reports and included a 'letters to the editor' section. The first *Ecoplan* contacts panel appeared by the third issue, which had a profile of (a very young looking) Linda Taman of Bayswater Greenworks on the front page. It was in the autumn 1993 edition that the first of these 'update' pages started to appear, and the eight-page edition started to have a 'Coming Events' page that announced, among other things, the formation of the Urban Bushland Council.



By the sixth and seventh editions we started getting a feature story on the cover, which often highlighted significant achievements of community groups including the setting up of a community nursery at Yellagonga and the opening of the Cockburn Wetland Education Centre in 1994.

Urban Nature Update

Don't Forget!

To keep up to date with what is happening in the Urban Nature program, please log onto Urban Nature's web page at www.naturebase.net/urbannature and look for the Urban Nature Bulletin.

Apologies!

Phylis Robertson was not correctly credited for the photos in our Group Profile, *Ecoplan News*, Autumn 2004. Sorry Phylis!

Anna Hester (anna.hester@environment.wa.gov.au) was incorrectly spelt in the article on Sustainable Behavioural Change, *Ecoplan News*, Autumn 2004. Sorry Anna!



It was not until 1998 that a small column called 'Eco Notes' started to appear. It has now expanded to fill a full page and aims to provide useful information for those involved in bushland management. We continued to receive many contributions for groups requesting publicity for upcoming events and this led to the expansion of the 'What's On' page to a double page format in the winter 2000 and the consequent expansion of the newsletter to a 12-page format.



During this whole period *Ecoplan News* has worked to keep our readers up to date with good news stories about environmental achievements, information about ecological issues as well as updates on current events, resources and funding opportunities



Thanks must go to all those who have contributed to *Ecoplan News* and in particular to those who have worked as writers and editors including Rod Hughes, Jillian Harris, John Elder, Cath Drake, Colma Keating and Erin Gisborne. Thanks also to the hard working staff in the Department of Environment and CALM's Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs section and to the graphic designers who make sure this publication always gets out on time with information that we hope assists you to care for our bushland. Special thanks to all the wonderful contributors who keep this publication active and relevant.

Wetland Watch – conserving wetlands on private land

Wetland Watch is a new wetland conservation initiative of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Australia in partnership with the City of Armadale, the City of Cockburn and the Town of Kwinana, which aims to enhance the conservation of wetlands on private land.

Wetland Watch aims to help secure the protection and improved management of these wetlands through the promotion and brokering of a range of incentives, such as technical advice and training, devolved grants, voluntary management agreements and conservation covenants. The project will also promote the value of wetlands through a series of community education projects including frog and bird walks.

For more information contact Christina Mykytiuk on 9387 6444 or by email (cmykytiuk@wwf.org.au).

Contacts

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Swan Catchment Centre & Council

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Urban Bushland Council

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Perth Biodiversity Project (WALGA)

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Spring Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the Spring *Ecoplan News* by Wednesday 1 September 2004. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words and articles as brief as possible. And, don't forget to send us your photos! Fax, email or write to Margo (see *Ecoplan* contacts panel on this page). Thanks to all contributors.

Newsletter compiled and edited by Erin Gisborne.

New e-bulletin



Since 1967, the Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) has been the State's leading non-government, non-profit conservation

organisation and an outspoken advocate for conservation and sustainability in WA.

Throughout the years, the CCWA has been committed to informing the community about key conservation issues through publications such as the *Greener Times*. In keeping with the electronic age, the CCWA has introduced a monthly email bulletin that conveniently provides subscribers with the latest information on environmental events, campaigns and submissions.

To subscribe to this bulletin contact CCWA on 9420 7266 or send an email to conswa@conservationwa.asn.au and simply write "subscribe" in the subject heading.

Congratulations!

Celebrating their 10-year anniversaries this year are the Friends of Allen Park and Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association Inc (CRREPA). Congratulations to both groups on achieving a marvellous milestone!



Volunteers: the ultimate threatened species!

- Are you part of a community conservation or environment group?
- Are you involved in hands-on work with threatened species?
- Do you need positive and enthusiastic volunteers to help you with your work?



The Western Australia Threatened Species Network, in a joint collaboration between World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Natural Heritage Trust, are hosting an expo at Murdoch University that aims to promote community conservation efforts and raise the awareness of environment organisations working on biodiversity conservation projects involving threatened species or ecological communities.

This expo is a fantastic opportunity for community groups and project coordinators to promote their work to a large audience and increase the number of members and/or volunteers participating on current and future projects. The expo will be held on National Threatened Species Day on Tuesday 7 September 2004.

If you are interested in displaying information or presenting at the expo, contact Helen Pitman at WWF on 9442 1204 or by email (hpitman@wwf.org.au).



Perth's Urban Bushland Fungi Project

By Roz Hart

The Perth Urban Bushland Fungi (PUBF) Project is now up and running and the 2004 Fungi season will see us concentrate our time and resources on the coastal plain area of the Perth Metropolitan Region. We will be working in collaboration with Bush Forever and the Perth Biodiversity Project to gather relevant and useful data that will satisfy project requirements.



Neale Bougher and Jim Trappe, mycologists at work. (Photo: Neale Bougher)

In addition, we will be conducting various 'fungi' events throughout Perth and inviting all people who are interested to take part. The project is setting out to build inventories of fungi within Perth bushlands, in many cases for the first time. To do this, we are asking the community to take part in a number of forays and short walks to be run in selected bushlands. We hope to carry out a fungi biodiversity survey of each site and collect fungi specimens that will be permanently lodged at the WA Herbarium as a basis for key scientific studies.

We welcome any volunteers who may wish to assist in the Fungi Lab at the WA Herbarium to record detailed information about the fungi and help us with the huge task of drying and preparing the specimens for permanent vouchering.

Further information about the various forays and walks being held is detailed in the 'What's On' calendar. Alternatively, contact Roz Hart on 9334 0500.

New website

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators Incorporated (WA) recently launched their website, which promotes the organisation, its objectives, relevant works and contains useful information on bush regeneration and conservation. The site contains a wide range of technical articles, details on news and events, contractor information and links to other relevant sites.

The site can be accessed by visiting www.aabr.com.au. If you would like to contribute to the site, contact Anna-Marie Penna on 9420 7260 or by email (anna-marie.penna@conservationwa.asn.au).

Swan strategy roadshow



The Swan Catchment Council informs community members about the strategy. (Photo: Swan Catchment Council)

A major milestone was reached earlier this year when The Swan Region Strategy for Natural Resource Management was released for public comment on 7 April 2004.

To facilitate comment on the strategy, the Swan Catchment Council (SCC) held seven public forums across Perth. The forums were well attended and many people provided the SCC with positive feedback and legitimate concerns and comments.

The common opinion expressed at most forums concluded that the strategy required more emphasis on the:

- importance of community and education;
- threat of population growth;
- necessary legislative changes; and
- spread of dieback.

The SCC is now working to deliver the final strategy, together with the analysis of public submissions, to the Federal and State Government for accreditation.

Learning opportunities

Learn about local flora, fauna and bush restoration

Would you like to learn how to identify Perth's local plants and find out why plants that occur near the beach on coastal dunes, in the hills or in the banksia woodlands of the coastal plain are so different in each location? Well, now you can, at an in-depth course studying our local plants, run by Swan TAFE during the second semester.

There is also a variety of other interesting courses that will teach you how to recognise fauna in our local jarrah forest, collect seeds and propagate local native plants, restore bushland areas and garden with native plants. Daytime and evening courses are offered and can lead to a qualification in Conservation and Land Management. For further information, contact either Ted Johnson or Anne Taylor at Swan TAFE on 9274 9360.

Women in landcare

The North East Catchment Committee (NECC), in conjunction with JobsWest, is again running the Women in landcare course aimed at women over 40 years of age who are passionate about nature conservation. The course provides training in a variety of land management techniques including safe work practices, plant propagation, how to operate basic machinery and equipment, conservation and revegetation works and use of chemicals.

To register for this eight week course, contact Tricia MacShane at NECC on 9377 0444 or by email (training.necc@bigpond.com) or contact Maja at JobsWest on 9344 9308.

Certificate in Conservation and Land Management

Conservation and Land Management training courses are available from 19 July 2004 next semester, at Challenger TAFE, Swan TAFE and West Coast TAFE.

These courses are ideal for people interested in improving their conservation and land management skills and gaining a formal qualification.

Levels 2 to 5, including part-time evening courses, are offered at Challenger TAFE's Murdoch Campus. Challenger TAFE also offers flexible delivery courses for trainees, online studies and skills recognition. For further information contact Steve Ross on 9229 8427.

State Government increases environment funds

Environment Minister, Dr Judy Edwards, recently launched the Riverbank program for 2004/05, which will assist local governments and the community to carry out environmental works in collaboration with the Swan River Trust.

When launching the program, Dr Edwards said the Government had boosted the annual Riverbank funding by eight-fold, taking the funding to \$1 million per year and increased the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program funding to \$350,000 per year.

"These funds will be available next year for revegetation and foreshore restoration projects along the Swan and Canning rivers and their tributaries," Dr Edwards said.

"In addition, Alcoa contributes \$200,000 to the program, bringing the total available for community environmental groups to \$550,000 per year."

Dr Edwards called for applications for the



The Minister for the Environment, Dr Judy Edwards, inspected plans for the Praum Bay project with City of Fremantle Councillor, Doug Thompson (left) and environmental projects officer Haakon Neilssen. (Photo: Swan River Trust.)

next round of the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program funding, which assists community groups with on-ground revegetation works throughout the Swan region. Applications must be received by 9 July 2004.

Information about Riverbank funding is available from the Swan River Trust by calling 9278 0400 and information about Swan Alcoa Landcare Program funding is available from the Swan Catchment Council by calling 9374 0333.



The SGIO WA Environment Awards were established to recognise and celebrate the outstanding commitment of Western Australians working to protect our environment and help build a more sustainable future for us all.

Entries for the 2004 awards open in June and close on 13 August 2004. The awards are open to any Western Australian resident or group of residents and any organisation, institution, school or business operating in WA, including State and local government authorities. For further information contact Joey King on 9278 0679, by email (awards@environment.wa.gov.au) or visit www.environ.wa.gov.au/awards.

Funding opportunities

Envirofund 2004/05

Applications are invited for the first round of the National Heritage Trust Envirofund 2004/05, which closes on 9 July 2004. Application forms and guidelines can be obtained from the Department of Environment and Heritage on 1800 065 823 or on the web (www.nht.gov.au/envirofund).

Grants registers

Grantsearch is a comprehensive online database of Australian funding opportunities, which can be accessed at www.grantsearch.com. The site details the sources of financial support available for study, travel, research, business, the arts, sport and community projects. There is a small subscription charge.

Bushbank bushland for sale

The National Trust of Australia (WA) recently announced that BushBank's latest bushland property has been placed on the market. BushBank is a consortium of The National Trust, WWF Australia and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), and operates by purchasing bush properties, placing a conservation covenant on the land and then selling it on to a caring new owner. The proceeds from the sale of properties are returned to the capital fund so that they can be used to purchase and protect more bushland.

If you are interested in owning your own piece of unique Western Australian natural heritage or would like more information about the BushBank program, call Rod Safstrom on 9321 6088.

Econotes: Fire and bulbous weeds

By Kate Brown

Not only do the bulbous and cormous weeds use fire to establish seedlings in otherwise undisturbed bushland, they have also mastered dormancy techniques. So, just when you think your bushland is clear of these exotic invaders, you might find that some have a nasty habit of reappearing again.

Masters of survival

Ninety five per cent of our bulbous and cormous weeds have originated from the Mediterranean ecosystems of South Africa and, consequently, many have successfully evolved and developed traits that are strongly connected to recurrent fire.

Dying back to an underground storage organ throughout a long dry summer is an extremely efficient way of surviving fire. The soil offers very effective insulation to the corms or bulbs and some even have contractile roots that pull the storage organs of young plants deeper into the soil, to help avoid lethal fire temperatures. This survival method provides most cormous, bulbous and weeds with the ability to survive all but the very hot fires.

Corm dormancy and fire stimulated flowering

To varying degrees, some cormous and bulbous weeds lay dormant between fires and, at times, between seasons. This means the corms remain dormant in the soil producing no leaves or flowers during the growing season. For example, within Cape Tulip populations up to 60 per cent of corms may be dormant in any one season. Fire can result in bringing most out of dormancy, although seasonal conditions including soil temperature and rainfall can also play a role.

Fire-stimulated flowering has been commonly observed among many bulbous and cormous plants where they occur naturally in southern Africa. Nearly all species of *Watsonia* flower profusely following veld fire, whereas some, such as *Watsonia borbonica* only flower for the first few seasons following a fire. This mass flowering corresponds with prolific seed production. Displays of *Gladiolus* are also striking in the first few seasons following a burn, particularly in the winter rainfall areas on the nutrient-poor sandstone soils of the Cape Region.

Interestingly, both corm dormancy and fire stimulated flowering have been recorded in

pink gladiolus invading *Banksia* woodland near Perth. In the first season following fire, the Friends of Shenton Bushland recorded an average of 42 flowering plants per square metre. This decreased to an average of 2.6 flowering plants per square metre two years after fire. In this case most corms of pink gladiolus appeared to go into dormancy between fires. How wide spread this phenomenon is among weedy corms and bulbs requires further investigation, as it has important implications for the management and control of our cormous and bulbous weeds.

Fire and the establishment of seedlings

Generally, the seeds of these cormous and bulbous plants do not require the smoke or heat of fire for germination. Rather, it is thought that fire stimulated flowering is actually linked to favourable post fire conditions. For cormous and bulbous plants, it is the conditions within the post-fire environment that really enable effective germination. The fire, having removed much of the existing vegetation, offers an area with space and light, which is perfect for seed germination and seedling establishment. As such, fire appears to be one of the major factors facilitating the

establishment of many of these weeds into otherwise undisturbed bushland.

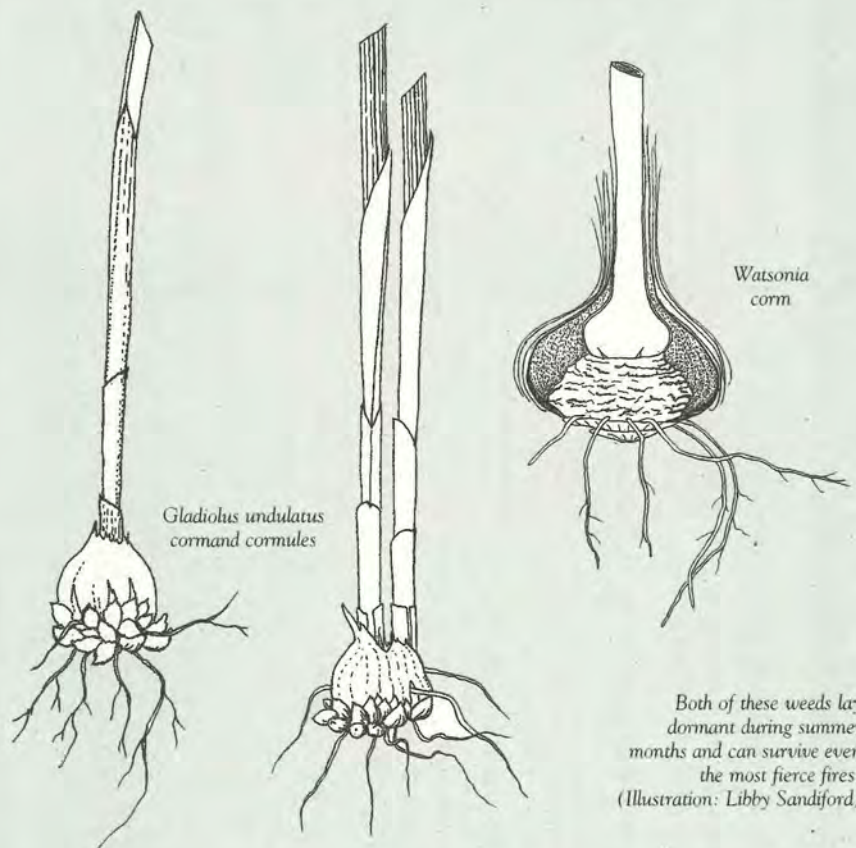
Fire can provide a window of opportunity

Fire can provide a significant opportunity to control bulbous, cormous and tuberous weeds in bushland. Following a summer fire these weeds will often emerge in autumn, prior to the regeneration of native vegetation.

The plants are clearly visible and the re-sprouting flowering bulbs, corms and re-sprouting tuberous mats of bridal creeper are an easy target for herbicide, making control of established populations and prevention of seed production more achievable. This is an ideal time to control species such as cape tulip and pink gladiolus, which are largely dormant between fires.

Further information

- Brown, K. & Brooks K. (2002) *Bushland Weeds: A practical guide to their management*. Environmental Weeds Action Network (Inc)
- For further information this book contains a list of more than 300 other references in the back.



Both of these weeds lay dormant during summer months and can survive even the most fierce fires. (Illustration: Libby Sandiford)

What's On Winter 2004

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

REGISTRATION/CONTACT DETAILS

for organisations providing a series of activities are as follows:

- Conservation Volunteers Australia** 20 Stack St, Fremantle. Call Linda 9336 6911 or visit perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au. (Travel available from Fremantle Railway Station for most activities, call to confirm.)
- Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council** (EMRC) Bush Skills for the Hills, 9424 2222, mail@emrc.org.au or visit www.emrc.org.au.
- Friends of Star Swamp Bushland.** Meet at Henderson Centre Groat St, North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.
- Friends of Warwick Bushland.** Meet at the Bowling & Tennis Club carpark, Lloyd Dve, Warwick. Call Robyn 9342 6840 or Karen 9342 8482.

- Naragebup.** Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd (opposite Lake Richmond), Peron 9591 3077. Includes Quality of Living Short Courses.
- Nearer to Nature** (N2N) CALM. Contact 9295 2244. Information on activities is also available from local libraries and CALM's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net. Affordable prices for all activities.
- Skills for Nature Conservation** (SFNC) A partnership between the Swan Catchment Centre (SCC), Ecoplan and Greening Australia (WA). Bookings essential call SCC 9374 3333.
- Urban Bushland Council** (UBC) at the National Trust Building, 4 Havelock St, West Perth, 9420 7202 or ubc@iinet.au.
- WA Naturalists' Club** Information available at www.wanats.iinet.net.au or from the Club Office 9228 2495.

The categories bring similar types of activities together in chronological order:

- 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

July

- 3 Saturday 8.30am**
Fungi Workshop with Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project at Forrestdale Lake Bushland. Call Roz 9334 0500.
- 6 Tuesday 7.30pm**
Bunbury Regional Scheme presented by Bronwen Keighery for UBC. ▲
- 8 Thursday 8pm**
Bird Surveys for the Perth Biodiversity Project by Cheryl Gole at the Armadale Wildflower Society, History House, Jull St, Armadale. Call Chris 9398 9140.
- 9 Friday 6 - 8pm**
FrogFest, join WWF and the WA Gould League for a slideshow, and spotlight adventure. WA Gould League Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, corner of Selby St and Flynn St Wembley. Call 9387 6079 or visit www.wagouldleague.com.au.

- 10 Saturday 10am**
Fungi walk with the Friends of Periwinkle Bushland. Call Dot 9401 3724.
- 11 Sunday 8.30am**
Fungi Walk with Friends of Dianella Bushland. Call Jan 9344 2872.
- 14 Wednesday 7 - 8.30pm**
Attracting birds to your garden at Naragebup. ❖
- 17 Saturday 8am**
Nature Walk with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Friends of Lake Gwelup Meet at Scout Hall Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.
- 17 Saturday 9am**
Nature Walk with Friends of Warwick Bushland. ♀
- 17 Saturday 2 - 4pm**
Fungi foray with Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project and the Friends of Yellagonga Park. Call Bernard 9405 1091.
- 18 Sunday 8.30am**
Fungi Biological Survey with Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project at Bold Park. Call Roz 9334 0500.
- 19 Monday - 23 Friday**
Swamp Safari School Holiday Adventures. Go wild with the WA Gould League. WA Gould League Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, corner of Selby St and Flynn St Wembley. Call 9387 6079 or visit www.wagouldleague.com.au.

- 24 Saturday 8am**
Nature walk with Friends of Star Swamp. ★
- 24 Saturday 8.30am**
Fungi Walk with Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project at Dianella Bushland. Call Roz 9334 0500.
- 31 Saturday 8am**
Nature Walk with Friends of Trigg Bushland. Call Phylis 9349 9105.

August

- 3 Tuesday 7.30pm**
Bush Forever Update presented by DPI for UBC. ▲
- 7 Saturday 9am**
Planting and Birthday celebrations with the Friends of Allen Park. Call Lesley 9384 7983.
- 11 Wednesday 7 - 8.30pm**
Attracting butterflies to your garden at Naragebup. ❖

- 15 Sunday 10am - 1pm**
Native Gardens Naturally Learn where, when and what to plant and how to keep your garden healthy. Hosted by Nearer to Nature at the Hills Forest Discovery Centre. Cost \$20 (\$17.50 concession). Contact 9295 2244. *
- 20 Friday 7.30pm**
Fungi talk hosted by Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club at Naragebup. ❖
- 21 Saturday 10 - 11am**
Nature walk at Duck Landing with Friends of Yellagonga Park. Call Peter 9448 1818.
- 21 Saturday 8am**
Nature Walk with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Friends of Lake Gwelup Meet at Scout Hall Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

September

- 4 Saturday 9.30am - 1.30pm**
Tour of eastern hills landcare sites with Bush Skills for the Hills, EMRC. §
- 7 Tuesday 7.30pm**
Cat Control and Legislation presented by Hon. Giz Watson, MLC for UBC. ▲
- 12 Sunday 8.30am**
Spring Walk with Friends of Dianella Bushland. Call Jan 9344 2872.
- 17 Friday 7.30pm**
Daytime Raptors talk by Dave and Jenny Pettet hosted by the Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club at Naragebup. ❖
- 18 Saturday 8am**
Nature Walk with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Friends of Lake Gwelup Meet at Scout Hall Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.
- 18 Saturday 9am**
Nature Walk with Friends of Warwick Bushland. ♀
- 25 Saturday 8am**
Nature walk with Friends of Star Swamp. ★

Get Your Hands Dirty

July

- 3 Saturday 8 am**
Planting Day at Attadale Foreshore with CVA. ❖
- 4 Sunday 1 - 3pm**
Tree planting in Bungendore Park, Bedfordale, Albany Hwy entrance. Call Kim 9470 2297. ▲
- 4 Sunday 9am**
Field Day with Friends of Baigup, near Garret Rd Bridge. Call Harry 9271 3242.
- 4 Sunday 9am - 3pm**
Bushland Care day with the friends of Bold Park. Call Barbara 9385 7100.
- 7 Wednesday 9am - 12pm**
Bushland Restoration training day at Brixton St Wetlands. Meet at Alton St. Call Kate 9474 7032.
- 8 Thursday 9am - 12pm**
Bushland Restoration training day at Talbot Rd Bushland, corner of Talbot Rd and O'Connor St. Call Kate 9474 7032.

- 12 Monday - 16 Friday 8am**
Planting Day join CVA at various sites within the City of Melville. ❖
- 17 Saturday 9am**
Planting & weeding day at Falls Park South Hovea, meet at Falls Rd. Call Jenny 9295 4467.
- 17 Saturday 9am**
Working Day with Friends of Brixton St. Meet at Alton St. Call Regina 9459 2964.
- 18 Sunday 9am**
Bush Regeneration with Friends of Warwick Bushland. ♀
- 18 Sunday 9am**
Planting and weeding day at Timbertop Way, Stoneville. Call Lisa 9295 1017.
- 18 Sunday 10.30am**
Working Day with Friends of Piesse Brook, Schipp Rd, Piesse Brook. Call Linda 9293 3102.
- 19 Monday - 23 Friday 9.30am - 3pm**
Site Maintenance at Mills St Stream with Wilson Wetlands Action Group and CVA. ❖
- 25 Sunday 9.30am - 2pm**
Planting Day at Kent St Weir with Wilson Wetlands Action Group and CVA. Call Russell 9258 7301 or Gay 9451 4012.

August

- 1 Sunday 9am**
Field Day with Friends of Baigup Meet near Garret Road Bridge. Contact Harry Bastow on 9271 3242.
- 1 Sunday 9am - 4pm**
Weeding Day with the Friends of Brookside Park, Parkerville. Call Jenny 9295 4467.
- 14 Saturday 9am**
Planting Day at Duck Landing with Friends of Yellagonga Park. Call Peter 9448 1818.
- 14 Saturday 2pm**
Weeding day with Friends of Periwinkle Bushland. Call Dot 9401 3724.
- 15 Sunday 9am**
Weeding day at Hovea Conservation Pk. Call Herbie 9298 8220.
- 15 Sunday 10.30am**
Working Day with Friends of Piesse Brook. Meet at far end of Schipp Rd, Piesse Brook. Contact Linda on 9293 3102.
- 21 Saturday 9am**
Work Day with Friends of Brixton St. Meet at Alton St. Contact Regina Drummond on 9459 2964.
- 21 Saturday 1pm**
Bush Regeneration with Friends of Warwick Bushland. ♀
- 22 Sunday 9am**
Weeding Day with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Friends of Lake Gwelup Meet at Scout Hall Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.
- 22 Sunday 9am**
Site Maintenance at Mills St Stream with Wilson Wetlands Action Group. Call Russell 9258 7301 or Gay 9451 4012.
- 28 Saturday 9am**
Planting Day at Ocean Reef with Friends of Yellagonga Park. Call David 9304 1774.
- 29 Sunday 9am - 12pm**
Weeding day with Friends of Star Swamp. ★

September

- 12 Sunday 9am**
Planting Day with Friends of Baigup near Garret Rd Bridge. Call Harry 9271 3242.
- 13 Monday - 17 Friday 8am**
Site preparation for planting program at Tom Simpson Park, Mullahoo with CVA. ❖
- 18 Saturday 9am**
Work Day with Friends of Brixton St. Meet at Alton St. Call Regina 9459 2964.
- 18 Saturday 9am**
Planting Day at Bindaree Tce with Friends of Yellagonga Park. Call David 9309 4569.
- 18 Saturday 1pm**
Bush Regeneration with Friends of Warwick Bushland. ♀
- 19 Sunday 9am**
Weeding Day with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Friends of Lake Gwelup Meet at Scout Hall Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.
- 19 Sunday 10.30am**
Working Day with Friends of Piesse Brook. Schipp Rd, Piesse Brook. Call Linda 9293 3102.
- 19 Sunday - 24 Friday 9.30am - 3pm**
Site Maintenance at Mills St Stream with Wilson Wetlands Action Group and CVA. ❖

HIGHLIGHTS

- National Tree Day - 25 July**
Organised nationally by Planet Ark for activities around Australia visit www.planetark.com.
- SGIO Environment Awards - 13 August**
Entries for the 2004 Awards close. For information visit www.environment.wa.gov.au/awards/ or email (awards@environment.wa.gov.au).
- Keep Australia Beautiful - 31 August - 6 September**
For details visit the website www.kabq.org.au/nat/nat_place.htm.
- Biodiversity Month - September**
For events held around Australia visit www.ea.gov.au/events.
- National Threatened Species Day - Entriels for the 2004 awards 7 September**
For more information about activities around Australia call 1800 803 772.

Develop Your Skills

July

- 3 Saturday 10am - 4pm**
Bushland Condition Assessment. Join SFNC and learn how to understand bushland vegetation structure, how to map the condition of your bushland and determine management priorities. ❖
- 13 Tuesday - 14 Wednesday**
4 Seasons Seminars - 'Soils: Why are WA plants designed this way?' focuses on landscaping with WA plants. Bookings essential. Call Sue 9275 3404 or email sue@everlastingconcepts.com.au.
- 16 Friday 5pm - 9pm**
Nocturnal experience with SFNC, Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Winthrop. ❖
- 24 Saturday 10am - 4pm**
Wiminy Karla Wangkiny (Good Fire Talk) Join SFNC and learn about fire and its connection with Aboriginal culture, plus how to prevent arson and how to help your bushland recover after an unplanned fire. ❖

August

- 7 Saturday 9.30am - 4.30pm**
Caring for country, understanding the significance of Aboriginal culture when looking after bushland, wetlands and waterways. Join SFNC and Nyoongar elders on a journey through the landscape of Perth and areas of significance. ❖
- 14 Saturday 10am - 12pm**
Bridal creeper rust fungus workshop hosted by Bush Skills for the Hills, EMRC. §
- 16 Monday - 19 Thursday**
Bushland regeneration courses with Apace. Costs \$220, Bookings essential. Call Susan 9336 1262.
- 28 Saturday 10am - 1pm**
Successful Meetings. Join SFNC at the Swan Catchment Centre and learn how to run effective meetings. ❖

September

- 4 Saturday 10am - 5pm**
Roadshow and celebration. Join SFNC and travel by bus to visit examples of successful environmental restoration projects. ❖
- 11 Saturday 9.30am - 3.30pm**
Managing Weeds in your patch. Conducted by SFNC. Learn how to map weeds, set management priorities and take part in practical exercises. Course conducted over two sessions. ❖
- 18 Saturday 9am - 4pm**
Waging war on weeds workshop hosted by Bush Skills for the Hills, EMRC. §
- 20 Monday - 23 Thursday**
Bushland regeneration courses with Apace. Costs \$220, Bookings essential. Call Susan 9336 1262.

Delivering the Message

September

- 7 Tuesday**
National Threatened Species Day Expo at Murdoch University. The event aims to promote community conservation and raise the awareness of environment organisations working on projects, involving threatened species. Call Helen at WWF, 9442 1204 or email hpitman@wwf.org.au.
- 11 Saturday 10am - 4pm**
Open Day and Environmental Expo at the SERCUL, 69 Horley Road, Beckenham. Activities and workshops on offer. Call Amy 9458 5664.
- 19 Sunday 11am**
Rockingham culture day at Naragebup. A day of fun activities from various cultures. ❖
- 19 Sunday 12 - 4pm**
Spring Forest Festival at the Hills Forest Discovery Centre. Join Nearer to Nature for a day of fun forest activities for the family Cost: \$7.50. Contact 9295 2244. *

Bunbury/Busselton Region

Bunbury Naturalists' Club:
The club is now meeting at 5.30pm every second Tuesday of the month at the conference room in Lotteries House, 101 Victoria Street Bunbury. Club excursions are every third Saturday. The club's Herbarium group meet every Tuesday morning at the South West Regional Herbarium at the CALM Bunbury Office. Interested visitors are most welcome.

For Busselton Naturalists' Club activities confirm details by checking the Busselton Margaret Times or calling Bernie 9727 2474 (h), 9752 1949 (w) or email (bmasters@iinet.net.au). Meetings at the RSL Hall, Causeway Road, Busselton. Visitors welcome.

The South West Region Herbarium Group meets again when working on the South West Regional Herbarium. Visitors are welcome to all activities. For further information call Shirley 97915915.

Leschenault Community Nursery Inc. For further information on how to be involved call Shirley 9791 5915 or Mark 9791 4670.

July

11 Sunday - 25 Sunday
Camping trip with by Busselton Naturalists' Club to White Wells via Mogumber, Three Springs and Kalannie. Call 9755 5254.

August

22 Sunday 9am
Busselton Naturalists' Club walk through the proposed Yelverton National Park and talk by a CALM Ranger.

September

19 Sunday 9am
Busselton Naturalists' Club walk through Bramley National Park.

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



Please send us your October, November and December events by 1 September 2004.

REGIONAL REPORTS

All groups welcome visitors
and new members.

North West Region

Strategic planning in progress

By Bernard Terry

A workshop, held by The Friends of Yellagonga (FoY) on 1 May 2004, aimed to give clarity to areas of planning that have often been a little hazy. It was facilitated by Urban Nature's Margo O'Byrne with the assistance of Lisa Bland from CALM and marked the beginning of a process that has seen us begin busily working on the redrafting of our aims and mission statement.

We also intend to address our combined business and volunteer programs, in particular planning and development, management, core activities of all volunteers, financial reporting, clarity of process and, of course, whether to grow or stay as we are. The first draft will be completed in July 2004.

Among other things as part of this process, we are looking at our history and recording past achievements, noting key players and identifying how we evolved to where we are today.

Our constitution may need updating and an inventory of all assets is to be undertaken. At the end of all this hard work, we intend to hold another workshop on Saturday 9 October 2004 so that members can evaluate the findings.

For more information contact Bernard Terry on 9405 1091 or email (pimmelli@inet.net.au).

Seaweed surveys

 By Lynda Arnold

Over the past two years the Friends of Marmion Marine Park have been conducting a seaweed survey by monitoring any changes to the intertidal reef flora in the North Beach area. The aim of this was to establish whether the installation of deep sewage in the area would have an impact on the reef.

The current septic tank system allows the flow of nutrients into the ocean via ground water. We are hoping that the change of sewage disposal systems will be of benefit to the reef environment but we will have to monitor the reef for at least 10 years to establish any definite outcomes. The data we have collected so far indicates seasonal changes, which must also be taken into account.

For more information contact Lynda Arnold by email (arnoldlynda@inet.net.au).

North East Region

Flowers the fruit of our labour at Warwick Bushland

 By Karen Clarke

Our autumn nature walk was well attended and we found a number of dainty hare orchids, many with double heads. These are the first orchids of the season but leaves of other orchids are already starting to appear. The firewood banksias were in full bloom and busily attended by a range of honeyeaters. Unfortunately, it was a bit early for fungi due to the late break of the season this year.

Later that day a large group of us continued searching the bushland around the public oval for priority weed species. Several large Sydney golden wattles, Flinders Range wattles and a WA peppermint were removed along with piles of pigface, fleabane, cape daisy and pelargonium. We were disappointed to find a recent dumping of grass clippings, turf and blue metal from activities on the nearby oval. This has been reported and we are waiting for the Council to respond.

Bush regeneration at Warwick Senior High School is being funded by a SALP grant this year and Natural Area and Management Services have been contracted to undertake a range of activities.

Planting will be started during the next field session, as this needs to be done as early in the season as possible. This allows seedlings to establish and grow before the cold days and nights of winter set in. Trials of the tree guards in our own garden have shown that using the guards allows plants to grow more quickly and gives a greater survival rate.

For more information contact Karen Clarke on 9342 8482 or email (brundrett@bigpond.com).

Editors note: It's great to hear that you are trialling the tree guards in your own gardens. In bushland, we need to do follow up monitoring of the tree guards as I have seen some great crops of weeds nurtured in this microclimate.

Hills Region

Activities galore for groups in the Hills

 Collected by Jenny Johnson

Early showers have given bush carers hope that this winter will be as kind to the bush as winter 2003. The lack of summer rain meant that many plantings did not survive and mature trees succumbed to the dry conditions. The early rain should

enable volunteers to carry out the weed control necessary for successful winter planting.

Jane Brook Catchment: The group in Mundaring Shire received grants from Lotterywest and the East Metropolitan Regional Council for spraying equipment, which will make the task much easier this year.

Lion Mill and Rocky Gully - Mt Helena: The catchment group will hold a meeting and plant distribution for members towards the end of June, while the Friends of Lion Mill Creek will be hosting a Cubs, Scouts and Venturers badge day on 15 August 2004. They will be working for their environmental badges by planting more than 1,000 plants in the reserve.

Kintore Road and Old Parkerville quarries: The Friends group is preparing to plant trees and shrubs in areas where weed control has been successful. The Mundaring Shire has supplied a large number of plants for the tree canopy and understorey program on the reserves. Members from the group picked local seeds during the summer months and these plants are now ready for planting back into the reserves. Weed control will be ongoing in both areas.

Timbertop Way - Stoneville: This group will be busy in the reserve this winter with thousands of plants provided by the Shire and local growers. Students from the Midland Campus of Swan TAFE will again assist the volunteers once the deep ripping is carried out across the base of the old gravel pit. This month will be dedicated to planning the future of the reserve and completing funding applications to assist in landcare activities. A discovery trail will be designed to meander through the revegetated areas, down to the little ponds planned for the drainage basin. As part of the planning process, members of the Timbertop group visited the Hovea Conservation Park. Herbie Titelius from this group demonstrated the extent of revegetation and restoration that is possible on a highly degraded site.

Brookside Park - Parkerville: A 'Big Day Out' is planned for this area after the removal of a house and all exotic plants from the garden. CALM has purchased the property in order to consolidate the wildlife corridor along Jane Brook. It is hoped that the local Lions Club, Bush Fire Brigade, Parkerville School, as well as local residents, will join the Friends group on 1 August at 9am.

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



REGIONAL REPORTS

Central Region

Virtually there at Kensington Bushland

By Gwynth Schlipalius

Have you ever wandered through the bush and seen a flower and you really wanted to know its name? The Friends of Kensington Bushland have recently produced a virtual herbarium that has photos, common names and botanical names for a large number of the plants located within Kensington Bushland.

It all began with funding acquired from the Town of Victoria Park to prepare a herbarium and from there it was decided that a photographic record would be more useful than a conventional herbarium. For the next year, Jay Barnett photographed the plants in flower to show the various seasons and another member, Paul Flint, created the idea of producing a CD ROM, which could be easily available to all.

After hundreds of hours of collection work, the completed project offers several methods of identification including: colour, month of flowering, common name and botanical name (both new and old). It is hoped that this easy-to-use and inexpensive record of local plants within the jarrah banksia woodland will be accessed by anyone with an interest.

For more information contact Gwynth Schlipalius on 9361 8674 or by email (gwynth_s@hotmail.com).

The importance of environmental education

By Warwick Boardman

The Manning Primary School bushland is the main focus of the City of South Perth Environment Association. At the moment, funds have dried up for the management of the area because of the lack of security of purpose. As such we have approached the local council to make an offer to the school to manage the area and, in turn, request some sort of security of purpose. Initially we thought this would mean that the school would have to give the land to the council but we have been informed that some sort of security of purpose for at least 20 years would be enough.

The Department of Education and Training's Assets Manager has ruled out giving the land to the council and could require it to meet stringent funding conditions to allow the council to manage the land. Fortunately, it seems that the council is willing to make a very substantial commitment. The matter is currently in the hands of the school, however any recommendation they make will have to be endorsed by the general community.



A Mature Coastal Jarrah tree at Manning School bushland (Photo: Warwick Boardman)

This situation highlights the problem with environmental education in schools. With an enthusiastic and competent teacher who can enlist the help of other professionals and parents, things can go very well. But, when the teacher leaves, the program can be left to merely fall in a heap. In our opinion, it would be much better if local governments were given assistance to resource skilled officers who could provide educational opportunities to all schools within their area and, by doing so, help to generate community respect for their natural environment.

For more information contact Warwick Boardman on 9450 5117 or by email (boardmanwj@acslink.net.au).

Weed levels low at Piney Lakes

By Margaret Hooker

Recent rains have so far made little impact on the water level of Piney Lakes. However, surrounding plants have benefited, as have the weeds. Volunteer groups who mulched and watered last Winter's seedlings, planted as part of the revegetation program, are now busy weeding nutgrass, pelargonium and pigface. One of our members has started identifying and mapping the weeds of Piney Lakes. The information collected will assist the City of Melville and the Friends of Piney Lakes to develop a more strategic approach to weed eradication.

There has been a great deal of natural regeneration near Piney Lakes using *Jacksonia*, *Acacia* and *Melaleuca* species. This is particularly heartening as it shows trees, which were planted nearly nine years ago, are now producing seeds resulting in new growth. Weed levels in this area are also low.

As part of the Stepping Stones project, children from Winthrop, Bateman and Yidarra primary schools have been taking part in bird watching at Piney Lakes. 'Stepping Stones - Creating Healthy Habitats' is an initiative of Greening Australia WA and the Rio Tinto WA Future Fund. This is a community education program aimed at protecting and enhancing the State's biodiversity. Activities at Piney Lakes and provision of other resources to the Friends group are part of an 18-month pilot program.

For more information contact Margaret Hooker on 9310 3624.



REGIONAL REPORTS

Ten years on! By Lesley Shaw

How time has flown while The Friends of Allen Park have been beavering away in our patch of bushland. The Friends of Allen Park, are celebrating 10 years as a group and, looking back at earlier photos, we can see we've made a significant difference.

After the initial four years of Natural Heritage Trust funding to revegetate and link fragmented areas of the bushland, we've settled into a routine. A handful of volunteers working with our Bushcare Officer, Steve McCabe (City of Nedlands), on Tuesday mornings and then a larger group on the first Saturday of the month, have enabled us to maintain continuity in bushland management. Our calendar of activities is formalised during the Christmas school holidays and we aim to use it as a guide for future years.

Our focus in the first half of this year was the control of feral bees. In the past 18 months we have lost two boobook owl nesting-hollows due to bees. Impressed with the work that Joe Tonga has been doing with his wildlife nest boxes and feral bee control, we contracted him to map and treat the hives. We are in the process of monitoring them and so far the results are very good. Not only are we protecting the interests of our bird population, we are pleased to report that we have a resident possum as well.

For more information contact Lesley Shaw on 9384 7983.

South West Region

Yellow Fish program at Naragebup By Polly Hammond

The 'Yellow Fish' Community Stormwater Awareness Program, funded by the Federal Coast and Clean Seas program and the City of Rockingham, and implemented by Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre was officially launched at Rain Fest on Sunday 16 May 2004.

The stormwater drain-stencilling project that promotes 'Rain only down the drain' and has been employed with great success around the world. Stormwater is rainwater that falls onto all surfaces and is diverted from our streets



Suzannah Carr and Bob Gooddale launch the Yellow fish program at Naragebup. (Photo: Naragebup volunteer)



Fun and Learning at Naragebup Environment Centre. (Photo: Bob Gooddale)

into man-made drainage systems. This runoff carries a variety of pollutants from urban residences, businesses, public open spaces and industrial areas. This water is eventually discharged directly into our wetlands, beaches and ocean without any treatment.

The 'Yellow Fish' project aims to educate the local community about reducing levels of stormwater pollution in and around the house and attempts to dispel the myth that large industry is the main stormwater polluter. Instead, it informs that everyday activities in and around the home contribute the most pollution to stormwater systems, including household chemical usage, garden management, litter, animal faeces and vehicle maintenance. The program will conduct future drain stencilling with school children along Rockingham's Main Drain.

The Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre has further information available about this project and the effects of stormwater on our waterways for community members to view.

For more information contact Anne or Bob Gooddale on 9591 3077 or by email (rrec@southwest.com.au).

Busselton/ Bunbury Region

Community landcare nursery a great success By Lynne Boladeras

The Geographe Community Landcare Nursery was initiated by GeoCatch in 2001 in response to a growing demand for consistent volunteer opportunities and the ever-increasing need for local native plants within the Geographe Catchment. From humble beginnings in a section of Iluka's nursery at Capel Wetlands Centre, the Community Nursery now has its own site and is producing over 50,000 plants this year with the help of our wonderful volunteers.

The Water Corporation provided the site for the nursery and funds were sourced from the Environmental Improvement Initiative. A grant from the South West Development Commission has helped us to employ a coordinator and the nursery is now managed through the Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre.

Nursery Coordinator, Lynne Boladeras, works closely with community volunteers, school groups, disabled groups, Green Reserve and Green Corps teams, who put in an average of 350 hours each month at the nursery. We are constantly making improvements to our new nursery, so please contact us if you have any equipment to donate that may be of use.

The nursery is located near the wastewater treatment plant on Queen Elizabeth Avenue, 2 kilometres south of the Busselton bypass. We are open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8am to 1pm. All visitors are welcome.

For more information contact Lynne on 0409 376 976.



Group Profile: Wildflower Society of WA

Since 1958, the Wildflower Society of WA (WSWA) has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of wildflowers and the importance of protecting our bushland for future generations to enjoy. During this time, the Society has experienced many changes, collected a vast amount of knowledge and contributed to a number of campaigns that have saved urban and regional bushland areas from destruction.

Preserve and protect

Since its early beginnings, the WSWA provided a focus for people who were interested in and concerned about the preservation of Western Australia's diverse wildflower populations. The group's activities revolve around the study and cultivation of wildflowers and throughout the years the aspirations have remained the same: to know, grow, conserve and enjoy our native flora.

Conservation through collaboration

The WSWA has been involved in various campaigns to save bushland area in WA, including the 'Save our Bushland' campaign, which was conceived in 1996 in response to widespread community concerns about urban sprawl and its spread into pristine bushland.

"The campaign had as its mainstay a moratorium on clearing. Over the years we have seen some success. However this is still very much dependent on accompanying regulations," said Janet Atkins, WSWA President.

"Through this campaign we provided a strong public voice for community concerns about bushland loss and the need for government action in the agricultural, rural and urban areas of WA."

The campaign is still going strong and a proposal for an Urban Growth Boundary for the Perth Metropolitan Region, has been developed. The Society believes this proposal is achievable and would be accepted by the general community. The WSWA has established a fund which supports this campaign and which relies on donations for its continuation.

WSWA members also work closely with several government departments, the Swan Catchment Council, the Conservation Council of WA and other conservation bodies, participating in flora survey programs, assisting the regional herbarium, landscaping policy work and NRM activities.



"Sharing knowledge and resources enables us to make a bigger contribution to conservation," Janet said.

Members of the Wildflower Society launching the Save Our Bushland campaign in 1996. (Photo: Wildflower Society)

Meaningful membership

Janet said WSWA's membership had steadily grown over the years and now had more than 1,000 people registered.

"Members come from all sections of the community and are simply brought together by their mutual commitment to preserving Western Australia's native flora," Janet said.

Members have a wide range of activities to choose from, with six metropolitan and eight country branches offering a host of events and a general management committee providing overall administration.

Activities include monthly branch meetings addressed by local and visiting experts and bushland excursions. Regular sessions are also held on plant identification, propagation, garden design and bushland plant surveys.

"The society's activities are devoted to understanding the flora in all its aspects, sharing information on how to recognise the plants, as well as propagating and growing the various species," Janet said.

"We place a strong emphasis on knowing and protecting our bushland plants and also keep in regular contact with our members through a quarterly newsletter which lists the activities of the various branches and provides in-depth articles on a wide range of topics associated with wildflowers."

One of WSWA highlight events is the Swan River Trust Great Gardens Program.



Dryandra Speciosa.
(Illustration:
Margaret Pieron)

The society supports this program by running a series of workshops aimed at promoting the use of local flora in landscaping both at a commercial and domestic level. An annual two-day State conference and the Kings Park Wildflower Festival and Garden Week are also important events for the group.

Several branches such as Albany and Merredin host wildflower shows and the Eastern Hills and Northern Suburbs Branches grow and sell native plants.

"We are extremely busy this year as we are also in the process of organising the National Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants conference, which will be held in October 2005," Janet said.

Contacts

The society's main office is located at Perry House, 71 Oceanic Drive, Floreat and can be contacted on 9383 7979, by email (wildflowers@ozemail.com.au) or by visiting their website at <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers>.

Resources

New and useful publications

- **Coastal Plants: Perth and the South West Region** – by Elizabeth Rippey and Barbara Rowland. This book contains information on the flora of the entire coastal dunes of the South West corner of WA, with descriptive information and watercolour drawings. To obtain a copy, contact UWA Press on 6488 3670 or by email (uwap@cyllene.uwa.edu.au).
- **New Atlas of Australian Birds** – Contains 4,000 distribution maps for over 650 bird species, including seasonal changes, breeding range and relative abundance across Australia. The atlas also includes change maps for over 250 species, identifying which species are more or less common since the first atlas was completed 20 years ago. An essential item for environmental planners as well as bird enthusiasts. The book costs \$89.95 and can be obtained from The Birding Shop on (03) 9813 5488 or by visiting www.thebirdingshop.com and other bookshops.
- **Looking after Australia for everybody – the Lucky Country** – by Joanna Seabrook. A collection of articles written by Joanna, promoting the idea of making rural towns more wildlife friendly. Although small, this book is big on inspiration and was launched by the York Land Conservation District Committee in March 2004. To obtain a copy, contact the author by email (joannaseabrook@westnet.com.au).
- **Bringing Back the Bush** – A complete and comprehensive manual of the 'Bradley method' for bush regeneration through weed control and elimination. It offers detailed explanation on bush regeneration using non-chemical, caring and long-term methods. The book costs \$19.95 and can be obtained from The Birding Shop on (03) 9813 5488 or by visiting www.thebirdingshop.com and other bookshops.
- **A Guide to the Reptiles & Frogs of the Perth Region** – A comprehensive, easy to use guide covering the fascinating reptiles and frogs of the Perth area. It is a book for nature lovers, bushwalkers, gardeners and students and is small enough to keep in a backpack for instant reference. The book costs \$18.95 and can be obtained from The Birding Shop on (03) 9813 5488 or by visiting www.thebirdingshop.com and other bookshops.
- A new online resource assists community groups to participate in decision making and improve natural resource partnerships for sustainability. The **Citizen Science Toolbox** contains principles and strategies to enhance stakeholder involvement in any planning or governance related project with more than 60 community involvement 'tools' outlined. Visit www.coastal.crc.org.au/toolbox/index for further information.
- The WA State Government have updated an **online grants directory**, which will assist community groups, local government and businesses in accessing millions of dollars available through a vast range of financial assistance programs. The grants directory is updated annually and can be accessed by visiting www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/grantsDir/default.asp.
- The **World Wide Wattle** website has recently been launched and provides excellent information on all Australian species of Acacia. The site provides an easy to use reference tool for anyone wishing to obtain detailed descriptions about this native flora. To access the site simply visit www.worldwidewattle.com.

Website and database watch

- **The National Volunteer Skills Centre** aims to support organisations throughout Australia involved with volunteer practices to develop and implement their training and skills development needs. The materials provided on this website can be downloaded free of charge. There is a wide range of information including useful training tools, latest news updates, training calendars from around the country, discussion forums and much more. To access the site visit www.nvsc.org.au.

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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