

Ecoplan NEWS

Issue 52 Summer 2005

Including Birak and Bunuru* in the Nyoongar Calendar



Community is the key to conservation!

As many of you would know, bushland regeneration can sometimes feel like an uphill battle, so it is always comforting to hear a story where the community has worked successfully with other managers or local authorities to achieve positive outcomes for our bushland.

The City of Joondalup (CoJ) established a Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) almost six years ago when Joondalup's Conservation Officer, Keith Armstrong, identified the need to improve communication and liaison between the community and the council about the various rehabilitation projects being conducted in natural areas.

The CAC was formed to provide a sounding board for the City's conservation projects and to ensure that a balanced view was available. The CAC consists of members from industry, friends groups, residents associations and other interested individuals. The group has formed a strong partnership with the City and has been able to influence and drive numerous environmental activities.

Keith Armstrong said: "The CAC is the core community advisory group for natural area management activities within the CoJ. Its insight and input, along with members' experience, provides us with a clear direction."

CAC Chairman Mike Norman has been committed to bushland conservation for many years. Mike also chairs the Joondalup Community Coast Care Forum, is a founder of the Friends of Porteous Park, and has voluntarily maintained the bushland remnants in Robin Reserve, Sorrento. Mike has been very persistent in his attempts to get the CoJ to make bushland regeneration and environmental conservation one of their priorities and his efforts have seen a number of successful outcomes.

Three years ago, at a series of public meetings



Just one of the projects that the CAC and the City of Joondalup have worked together on. Here a coastal dune area is being rehabilitated. (Photo: Mike Norman)

held by the CoJ, Mike and others convinced the Council to include 'Caring for the Environment' as one of four 'Key Focus Areas' within the CoJ's Strategic Plan and has since campaigned for funding to be allocated in the CoJ Principal Activity Plan.

"It's my experience that if you understand the system and work within it, you are able to make significant in-roads to overall change," Mike said.

"I encourage anyone passionate about conserving bushland to work with your local council. Each year, local authorities spend an enormous amount of money maintaining parks and ovals because there is community pressure to do so."

"However, conservationists need to be vocal and show that the protection and maintenance of our bushland is just as important," he said.

Mike has also been successful in his campaign to have the CoJ tender for a qualified bush regeneration company to undertake bushland management work within the City.

"The CAC has lobbied the Council on this particular issue over a number of years. We were concerned that general spray contractors that were used for spraying their parks and reserves were also being used to spray weeds in bushland areas," said Mike.

"This was not having the desired effect in the bushland, in that the limited natural areas budget was mainly being spent spraying just one species of weed, veld grass. Blanket spraying of natural areas with herbicide to eliminate scattered veld grass plants was not seen as an environmentally friendly, sustainable or a cost effective practice.

"It became clear that only contractors who had specialised knowledge, skills and experience could effectively control all the weed species within the City's bushland areas, with help from the Friends Groups."

Mike said it was encouraging to see that the efforts of a few dedicated community members could make a substantial difference in bushland regeneration matters. In 2003 the City of Joondalup was awarded a WA Environmental Award for its coastal management and this year received the award in the Bush, Land and Waterways Category.

"Without the support and assistance of the dedicated community members, the inroads that have been made over the last few years would not have been possible. Their efforts are greatly appreciated," said Keith.

For further information on the City of Joondalup's Bushland Regeneration tender for work undertaken in natural areas contact Keith Armstrong on 9400 4320. For further information on the CAC contact Mike Norman on 9448 1978 or mike.norman@bigpond.com

* **Birak** is the hot and dry season experienced during the month 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.



As 2004 draws to a close we have an opportunity to reflect and celebrate our achievements in another eventful year for Urban Nature and Ecoplan, with one of the more significant events being Margo O'Byrne's retirement in October.

We would like to sincerely thank Margo for 13 years of dedication to the Ecoplan program. Margo's commitment and enthusiastic support of community conservation groups over this period was outstanding. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the very best in her retirement.



The Urban Nature team would like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome to the team Bridget Hyder-Griffiths, the incoming Co-ordinator of Urban Nature and Ecoplan, who will begin work at the end of January 2005. Many of you may know Bridget from her previous involvement as Ecoplan Coordinator in 2001 and 2002, when Margo was on leave.

Before moving to WA, Bridget worked in England for English Nature, a project providing support for private management of natural areas. It was while on a working holiday in Australia that Bridget fell in love with the WA landscape and decided to move here. Working initially as a volunteer on fauna surveys, she quickly found conservation work with the Department of Environment (DoE) where she has spent the past 10 years with the Terrestrial Ecosystems Branch.

While at DoE, Bridget has worked on various projects related to biodiversity conservation planning including the System 6 and part System 1 Update program and Bush Forever. Bridget has also been responsible for developing the EPA guidelines for undertaking biological surveys for environmental impact assessment and identifying the level of assessment for proposals potentially impacting on significant areas in the System 6 area including the Perth metropolitan region.

Another successful year for Skills for Nature Conservation



The Minibeasts workshop held on the 30 October marked the final workshop for the 2004 Skills for Nature Conservation (SFNC) program. This has been a busy year with 18 workshops, including a series of four focusing on topics for new groups and beginners in bushland and wetland management, as well as four workshops aimed at professionals in natural resource management.

This is the sixth year the SFNC program has been operating and the ongoing support continues to overwhelm, with more than 480 participants attending the 2004 workshops. Feedback from participants continues to indicate that the program is valuable in supporting community volunteers and professionals in the conservation field.



Thanks to the SFNC staff at Greening Australia (GAWA), Lyndsay Tonner and Bec Miller, and at the Swan Catchment Centre's (SCC), Kate Gole and Nicola Johnson. Thankyou also to Amrit Kendrick who organised the professional courses and Arlene Moncrieff from GAWA and Gun Dolva from SCC for their additional support during the year.

The SFNC team is currently planning for another big year in 2005. We would like to thank the members of the community and the many dedicated volunteers who continue to support the program and work tirelessly to look after our wonderful bushlands and wetlands. We would also like to thank the many presenters who are involved in the program, offering their time and sharing their extensive knowledge and expertise. The new calendar for the 2005 SFNC program should be out in February. We look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.



Participants learning about fire and the Nyoongar way with Koodah Cornwall (CALM) during SFNC's Good Fire Talk workshop in July 2004. (Photo: Urban Nature)

Contacts

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Urban Bushland Council

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Autumn Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the Autumn Ecoplan News by **Tuesday, 1 March 2005**. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words and articles as **brief as possible**. Send us your photos! Fax, e-mail or write to Ecoplan (see Ecoplan contacts panel on this page). Thanks to all contributors.

Newsletter compiled and edited by Erin Gisborne with assistance from Nicole Crook.

Managing Weeds in Bushland Course for CALM

By Michelle Anderson

In September 2004, CALM's Urban Nature Program and Dwellingup Training Centre conducted a pilot training program for staff, which aimed to provide participants with the skills and knowledge required to manage weeds in bushland areas. Eighteen staff from throughout the State took part in the week-long program. Presenters included Greg Keighery from CALM Science Division, Amanda Spooner from the WA Herbarium, Rod Randall, John Moore and Brad Raynor from the WA Department of Agriculture and Kate Brown from CALM's Urban Nature Program.

The course covered bushland values, environmental weed identification and classification, mapping the distribution of weeds, herbicide use in bushland and monitoring control methods.

Throughout the training, Bushland Management Advisor, Kate Brown emphasised the importance of conducting training in weed management for conservation purposes.

"Environmental weeds are one of the biggest threats to our natural biodiversity. Understanding how to manage this threat among the diverse ecosystems of south-west WA is fundamental to the long term protection and conservation of our natural areas," Kate said.

Kate advised that one of the most valuable components of the course for participants was the capacity to identify weeds using available resources and



John Moore (right) from Department of Agriculture WA assisting CALM district staff identify weeds in the field. (Photo: Kate Brown)

determining the level of threat for a particular region.

Laura Sinclair from the Training Centre said: "The feedback we gained from participants during the course was invaluable and will enable us to develop an even better course for next year's participants. Most importantly, it will ensure that the knowledge and skills gained are referred back to the CALM Districts in the future."

While the course is only currently available to CALM staff, further information is available by contacting Kate Brown on 9474 7032 or katebr@calm.wa.gov.au.

WA wetland management conference



The Cockburn Wetlands Centre is launching the first conference in an annual series on wetland management. The conference is to be held on Wednesday 2 February 2005 to mark World Wetlands Day.

The conference intends to build on the highly successful wetland management workshops held by the centre during the past three years and is hoped to become an annual event, focusing on the latest developments in wetland management.

The conference will bring together community conservation volunteers, local and State Government officers, and private sector environmental officers to share knowledge about the effective management and restoration of wetlands in the South West land division.

The event has been supported by the City of Cockburn, Amcor Fibre Packaging, Alcoa World Alumina Australia and the World Wide Fund for Nature. Registration is \$35 or \$20 for concession holders. The registration fee includes all sessions, lunch, morning and afternoon tea and a CD-ROM of the conference proceedings.

The conference runs from 9am to 5pm and will be held at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre at 184 Hope Road, Bibra Lake. For further information contact Denise Crosbie, Wetlands Officer on 9417 8460 or cwec@wetlands-education.org.au.

Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project Update

By Roz Hart

The Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project has entered a new phase with volunteers now working with us at the WA Herbarium. The huge job of entering the 847 records into the database is almost finished and we will start on the very satisfying task of generating feedback reports for each bushland where we conducted an event. Planning for 2005 is under way. Contact Roz on rozh@calm.wa.gov.au if you would like us to consider holding a fungi event in your urban bushland.



Coprinus sp, Ink cap growing amongst woodchips. (Photo: Roz Hart)

Catchments, corridors and coasts

The Australian Association for Environmental Educations (A²E²) will once again be running this popular professional development series in 2005, marking the program's eleventh year of operation. Registrations for the 2005 course are now open.

The five day program will run on weekdays from Wednesday 12 January to Tuesday, 18 January 2005. The program is structured to be highly interactive, with a focus on field trips and hands-on learning. Participants will be provided with information, contacts and support materials that can be taken back to the classroom, place of work or community group.

The themed days include understanding our ecological footprint, design, getting close up and personal with our native fauna, biodiversity, broad acre agriculture, river health, waste reduction, coastcare and much more.

Costs for the full five day program are \$165 concession, \$195 full price and \$230 for Local and State Government representatives (GST does not apply). To register contact Monica Durcan on 9291 8249 or mdurcan@iinet.net.au.



Learning opportunities

Landcare at Swan TAFE

Courses in natural area restoration, weed control, seed collecting, recognition of bush plants, looking after wildlife habitats, propagation, fencing and operating machinery begin at Swan TAFE on 31 January 2005. Part-time or full-time options are available and both evening and daytime classes are offered. For further information contact Ted Johnson or Anne Taylor on 9374 6314. For enrolment details contact Vince Scali on 9374 6302.

Seed collection of WA native plants courses

Apac have scheduled a series of courses on seed collection of WA native plants. Dates for the 2005 courses are 11-13 January, 25-27 January and 8-10 February. The course costs \$165 (including GST). If there is sufficient interest, a weekend course may be scheduled in 2005. For details and bookings contact Apac on 9336 1262.



Seeking members

The Revegetation Industry Association of WA (RIAWA) has been operating for over a year now and is still actively seeking members who would like to provide input from any related industry perspective. RIAWA aims to encourage the communication of ideas and the dissemination of current information throughout the industry, providing a framework for environmental best practice.

Some of the industries that RIAWA members stem from include revegetation operators, seed collectors and suppliers, nurseries and plant propagators and the mining sector. RIAWA was formed to provide a voice for industry to encourage the continued improvement of best practice standards.

Several sub-committees have now been formed to focus on individual areas of interest and act as effective lobbyists. These include: Accreditation & Standards, Native Seed Supply Standards, Native Nursery Industry, Flora Conservation, Public Relations/Education.

If you would like any further information on RIAWA or would like to become a member, contact the development officer, Sandra Maynard on 9361 6638 or kitchenalia@inet.net.au.

Funding opportunities



The Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund

Landcare and other community groups tackling water quality projects are invited to apply for the Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund grant.

Grant allocations may range between \$1000 and \$5000. The Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund helps communities undertake Landcare projects to improve the health of precious water resources, allowing all Australians to enjoy their rivers and waterways.

Grant applications must address water quality issues within the local area. This may be within a river, lake, stream, creek, or as part of the wider catchment. Applications for the national grants close on 31 March 2005. Visit www.landcareaustralia.com.au for further information.



Mitre 10 Junior 2005 Landcare Grants Program

The Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program is once again offering grants for 2005. An initiative between Landcare Australia and Mitre 10, the program provides funds for schools and youth groups across Australia wishing to participate in environmental projects.

Any school or organisation that would like to involve their students in landcare projects, in conjunction with local landcare groups, can apply for grants to assist with the cost of their projects. The program targets major issues relevant to our natural environment including energy, waste recycling, air quality, biodiversity, water and land use.

Most applications will be expected to have a value of around \$500 and are more likely to be successful if the project:

- involves the school or broader local community;
- has determined educational outcomes with an environmental focus;
- links with a community landcare entity;
- are well planned and documented; and
- are student-oriented, allowing maximum student involvement.

Closing dates for the 2005 Grant rounds are 24 February, 19 May, August 4 and 20 October. For further information visit www.mitre10.com.au.



Envirofund Round Six

The Australian Government Envirofund (jointly administered by the departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Environment and Heritage) is for small projects aimed at conserving biodiversity and sustainable resource use.

Envirofund is open to organisations including incorporated community groups, incorporated indigenous communities or organisations, and individuals proposing activities that have a public benefit. Projects up to \$30,000 will be funded with generally one dollar for every dollar or in-kind equivalent contributed by the applicant.

Eligible activities include (but are not limited to) native vegetation planting, fencing or other management techniques to protect and preserve habitat, controlling stock access to watercourses, holding workshops or producing videos that build the capacity of Indigenous communities to engage in natural resource management, habitat restoration, and protection of Indigenous cultural heritage resources.

Closing date is 18 February 2005. Guidelines, application form, helpful hints and other resource documents are available by phoning 1800 065 823 or from website: <http://www.nht.gov.au>

Calling radio stars

Radio Twincities operates in the northern suburbs of Perth and is currently setting up a second series of their 'Environmental Corner' program. If you would like to be interviewed on any matter that relates to the environment or have any suitable material that could be used in the program, the station would love to hear from you. The information does not have to be specifically related to Wanneroo or Joondalup areas, but it would be terrific if it had a local flavour. The program is aired on Friday at 10.10am on 89.7FM. To register your interest, please contact 9306 8527 or general@twincitiesfm.com.au

Econotes: Seed Collection For Bushland Restoration

By Erin Gisborne

As most of us wind down our group activities during January and February to avoid the hot summer days, the seed collection season is only just beginning. Seed collection from your local patch is often an integral part of the restoration process.

The great diversity of native flora of south-west WA is recognised internationally. Less well known is the diversity we cannot see, hidden diversity in the genetic make up of our flora. In order to protect the integrity of that genetic diversity it is important we always collect seed locally, that is from bushland adjoining or nearby the restoration site. Collecting seed for restoration work locally is at present the only way to avoid introducing non-local genetic material and non-local forms of plants to bushland. It also ensures plants established are adapted to local conditions.

Before you begin collecting seeds from your local park or reserve, it is imperative that you obtain a license from CALM and seek permission from the authority in charge of the area you intend to collect from.

When to collect

Summer is the time when most of our native species are setting seed. However there are exceptions. A good crop usually follows heavy flowering, so the best time for collection would depend on the species and its flowering time. It is important to note that flowering can be affected by numerous events such as sustained cold weather or sudden drought.

For example, heat waves or bursts of hot, windy weather can accelerate ripening in some species. It is advisable that you closely monitor the plants that you wish to collect from around the flowering months.

Collecting tips

- First develop a list of species you require for your restoration project. Ensure that the species selected occur on the soils and are from the plant community of the site that is being restored. Vegetation maps, species lists and nearby intact bushland are useful reference points. You will need to know how many plants of each species you require to gain a reasonable estimate of the amount of seed required.
- It is advisable that you collect widely from at least 30 to 60 plants of your target species.
- Collecting from a variety of plants guarantees that you will capture a fair proportion of the species' genetic diversity.



Firewood Banksia, *Banksia menziesii*, cone after it has dropped its seed



Firewood Banksia follicle



Firewood Banksia seed

Illustrations courtesy of *Our Wild Plants*, Bronwen Keighery and Janette Huston, Greening Australia (Western Australia) 1994.

- To further ensure that your collection represents this genetic variation, be sure to collect from a range of plant types, including small, large or different flower colours.
- Make sure that you do not collect too many seeds from one plant. You should not collect more than 20 per cent of seed from one plant, as this limits the ability of the plant to regenerate naturally.
- Examine the fruits and seeds carefully, looking for insect damage, empty seeds and whether the material is ready for collection.

Storage tips

- It is advisable that you collect and store seeds in breathable paper or calico bags.
- Label containers immediately to avoid confusion at a later stage. Labels should

indicate species name, collection date and the location where the seeds were collected.

- Seeds should be sieved through wire mesh to remove impurities and stored in airtight jars in a dry, dark place, with a temperature between 10 - 25°C for short term storage.
- Seeds can last for years but it is important to note that germination is more likely if the seeds are used when still fresh.

Who can help?

The preservation of the flora of WA is becoming an increasing priority and there are numerous resources and organisations that have developed strategies to assist community groups promote this issue. Seed collection is becoming an increasingly popular activity and there are several options available.

APACE Aid Inc As part of the Swan Regional Community Seedbank Project, APACE has developed a course to assist people interested in seed collection. APACE is actively involved in seed collection and propagation of WA plants and has a long history of providing the community with interesting courses that include strong practical components. Courses are scheduled for January and February for a cost of \$165. Contact APACE on 9336 1262 or email admin@apacewa.org.au.

Greening Australia WA Its Seed Management Services section collects and provides seed to enhance remnant native vegetation and create new habitat, buffer zones, bush corridors and seed orchards. It also provides direct technical advice and training to local communities on best-practice seed collection and rehabilitation methods. Based in Northam, Seed Management Services operates throughout the Avon River Basin. Contact Seed Management Services on 9621 2400 or mochtman@gawa.org.au.

CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre is an integral part of WA's flora conservation program. The centre provides the capacity for low temperature, long-term storage of seeds and houses a collection of rare, threatened and poorly known plant species. Contact the centre on 9334 0502.

Further information

Wildflower Society WA (WSWA) - Seed Notes for Western Australia, written and compiled by CALM botanist Anne Cochrane. This series of brochures provides information on seed identification, collection, biology and germination for a wide range of seed types. Seed notes can be obtained from the WSWA on 9383 7979.

Ralph, M. (reprinted 1999) *Seed Collection of Australian Native Plants*, Second ed., Bushland Horticulture, Victoria

What's On Summer 2005

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** (CVA) 20 Stack Street, Fremantle. Contact Linda Metz 9336 6911 or perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au (Travel available from Fremantle Railway Station for most activities, call to confirm).
- ★ **Friends of Star Swamp Bushland.** Meet at Henderson Centre Groat St, North Beach. Contact Christine on 9447 2983
- **Naragebup.** Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd (opposite Lake Richmond), Peron, 9591 3077. Includes Quality of Living Short Courses.

- * **Nearer to Nature** (N2N) Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). Contact 9295 2244. Information on activities can be found by visiting your local libraries or www.naturebase.net. Affordable prices for all activities.
- ◆ **Skills for Nature Conservation** (SFNC). A partnership between the Swan Catchment Centre (SCC), Ecoplan (CALM) and Greening Australia (WA). Contact SCC on 9374 3333.
- ▲ **Urban Bushland Council** (UBC) at the National Trust Building, 4 Havelock St, West Perth, 9420 7202 or ubc@inet.net.au
- **WA Naturalists' Club.** Information available at www.wanats.iinet.net.au or contact the Club Office on 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

January

- 14 Friday 8 – 10.30pm
Summer stars with N2N. Experience an evening exploring the night sky. See planets, view stars and observe deep sky objects through various telescopes under the guidance of astronomers from Golden Grove Observatory. *
- 17 Monday - 21 Friday 10 - 12am daily
Swamp safari holiday adventures with WA Gould League. Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, cnr of Selby St and Flynn St Wembley. Go wild with our swamp creatures in the school holidays. Hunt for minibeasts in the mud then check out the lair of the tiger snake on a swamp safari! Cost: \$10. Bookings essential. Contact 9387 6079 or visit www.wagouldleague.com.au

- 18 Tuesday 11 – 11.50am
Stars of the sea with N2N. Discover the sea's fascinating creatures with our interactive touch pool set on the beach of Marmion Marine Park. Hold and touch sea stars, sea urchins and many other harmless sea creatures while our guides explain all their amazing features. *

- 21 Friday 1 – 3pm
Adventure caving with N2N. Come and explore the subterranean world of troglodites and stalactites in Yanchep National Park. Pop on a caving helmet and descend with a guide into the park's limestone caves. This activity includes helmet and torch hire. Participants must wear closed in shoes and old clothes are recommended, as you will get dirty! *

- 22 Saturday 8am
Morning Walk with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. ★

- 29 Saturday 8 – 10am
Water world with N2N. Under the supervision and instruction of a dive master, come snorkelling with a CALM marine scientist to discover the watery world of marine animals and plants. This activity is designed to cater for beginners as well as more experienced snorkellers. *

- 29 Saturday 9am
Guided Walk with Friends of Trigg Bushland. Meet outside St Mary's School. For details contact 9349 9105

- 30 Sunday 4.30 – 5.30pm
Caring for wildlife with N2N. Meet a CALM registered wildlife carer to hear about the commitment required to care for sick and injured native animals. Hear amazing stories of survival as you meet some of the animals that are being rehabilitated by staff from the Chidlow Marsupial Hospital. *

February

- 1 Tuesday 7.30pm
UBC guest speaker Mike Norman, Chairman of Joondalup Coastcare Forum: **How to get somewhere with local government.** ▲
- 5 Saturday 6.30 – 8.45pm
Karakamia nights with N2N. Join us for walk in Karakamia Sanctuary, an area of bush managed by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. As you walk, view the many native mammals that are thriving in this protected area and learn about the conservation of these species. *

- 6 Sunday 8 – 10am
Wade with the Waders at Mary Carroll Lake with the Friends of Mary Carroll Park. Meet at Mary Carroll Park, Eudoria St, Gosnells. Contact booking hotline on 9452 9999.

- 18 Friday 7.30 pm
Free Nature Talk presented by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club at Naragebup. ☉

- 20 Sun 5 - 8pm
Tunnel by twilight with N2N. Explore the history and atmosphere of WA's oldest railway tunnel on a late afternoon walk. As you pass through the 340 metre tunnel, hear stories of its fascinating and notorious past including crashes and ghosts! Catch an amazing view of Perth as you stroll back for a cuppa to end the night. *

- 26 Saturday 8am
Morning Walk with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. ★

March

- 1 Tuesday 7.30pm
UBC AGM with guest speaker Ron Johnstone, Curator of Birds at WA Museum: **Avifauna in the South West: Birds out of balance.** ▲

- 18 Friday 7.30 pm
Free Nature Talk presented by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club at Naragebup. ☉

- 26 Saturday 8am
Morning Walk with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. ★

Get Your Hands Dirty

January

- 3 Monday – 7 Friday 8.30am
Dune rehabilitation activities with CVA and Cortesloe Coastcare group. ☉

- 10 Monday - 14 Friday 8.30am
Weed control activities with CVA within the Perth Airport bushland. ☉

- 31 Monday - 4 Friday 8.30am
Weed control and green stock maintenance with CVA in various bushland reserves within the City of Melville. ☉

March

- 7 Monday - 11 Friday 8.30am
Weed control activities with CVA within the Perth Airport bushland. ☉

- 13 Sunday 8am
Clean up Australia Day with Friends of Baigup at Hinds Reserve. Meet in the carpark. Call Harry 9271 3242.

Develop Your Skills

January

- 11 Tuesday – 13 Thursday 9am
Seed Collection Courses with Apace. Cost \$165 (including GST). For details and bookings call 9336 1262.

- 25 Tuesday – 27 Thursday 9am
Seed Collection Courses with Apace. Cost \$165 (including GST). For details and bookings call 9336 1262.

February

- 8 Tuesday – 10 Thursday 9am
Seed Collection Courses with Apace. Cost \$165 (including GST). For details and bookings call 9336 1262.

- 12 Saturday 10am
Living More with Less (Sustainable Living) Introductory workshop presented by Naragebup. Calculate your ecological footprint and learn key ways to reduce it. ☉

- 16 Wednesday 10am
Living More with Less (Sustainable Living) Introductory workshop presented by Naragebup. Calculate your ecological footprint and learn key ways to reduce it. ☉

Delivering the Message

January

- 12 Wednesday - 18 Tuesday
Catchments, Corridors and Coasts this popular professional development series is on again for the 11th year. Costs \$165 concession, \$195 full price and \$230 for local and State Government representatives. Contact Monica Durcan on 9291 8249 or mdurcan@inet.net.au.

HIGHLIGHTS

February

World Wetlands Day 2 February
The theme for World Wetlands Day 2005 is 'Cultural and Biological Diversity of Wetlands'. 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, in 1971. For events held around Australia visit www.ea.gov.au/events.

World Wetlands Week 2-8 February
For events held around Australia visit www.ea.gov.au/events.

March

Business Clean Up Day 1 March
'Put rubbish away for good' is the theme for this day which is part of the activities for Clean Up Australia in 2005. Business Clean Up Day is designed for Australian businesses and is a unique opportunity for employees to work as a team and make a difference in the local community. For more information visit www.cleanup.com.au

Clean Up Australia Day 6 March
'Put rubbish away for good' is the theme for Sunday, 6 March 2005. Every year hundreds of thousands of Australians help clean up their local environment on Clean Up Australia Day. Individuals and local groups can either organise a Clean Up site or volunteer to join an existing site. For activities around Australia visit www.cleanup.com.au.

Seaweek 6 - 13 March
'SOS - Save Our Sharks' is the theme for this year's Seaweek. Seaweek is the Marine Education Society of Australasia's major national public awareness campaign. Conducted annually the events aims to focus on community awareness, provide information and encourage an appreciation of the sea. For events held around Australia visit www.mesa.edu.au/seaweek.asp

7th Western Australian Environment Festival 19 - 20 March
Hosted by Naragebup at the Rockingham Regional Centre. A great range of stalls and activities will be on offer. Visit www.naragebup.org.au

World Forestry Day 21 March
World Forestry Day is celebrated in forests around the world on 21 March each year as people take time to consider the benefits of forests to the community - such as catchment protection, providing habitat for animals and plants, areas for recreation, education and scientific study, and as a source of many products including timber and honey. For more information visit www.forests.qld.gov.au/educat/wfd/wfd1998.htm

World Day for Water 22 March
World Water Day 2005 will be guided by the upcoming water decade's theme 'Water for Life' for activities in your area, visit http://www.unesco.org/water/water_celebrations/

February

2 Wednesday 9am – 5pm
Wetland Management Conference to mark World Wetlands Day held at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre at 184 Hope Road, Bibra Lake. Registration is \$35 or \$20 for concession holders. Contact Denise Crosbie, Wetlands Officer on 9417 8460 or cwec@wetlands-education.org.au.

March

19 Saturday - 20 Sunday
7th Western Australian Environment Festival. Hosted by Naragebup at the Rockingham Regional Centre. A great range of stalls and activities will be on offer. For further information visit www.naragebup.org.au ☉

Bunbury/ Busselton Region

Bunbury Naturalists' Club:

Bunbury Naturalists' Club meetings and natural history talks are held every second Tuesday evening of the month at 5.30pm in the Conference room, Lotteries House, 101 Victoria street Bunbury. Meetings are in recess for January. Club excursions occur every third Saturday. The club's Herbarium group meet every Tuesday morning at the South West Regional Herbarium at CALM. Interested visitors are most welcome.

For Busselton Naturalists' Club activities confirm details by checking the Busselton Margaret Times or calling Bernie on 9727 2474 (home) or 9752 1949 (work), or email bmasters@inet.net.au. Meetings are now held at the RSL Hall, Causeway Road, Busselton. Visitors welcome.

The South West Region Herbarium Group meets again working on the South West Regional Herbarium. Visitors are welcome to all activities. This group is in recess in January. For further information call Shirley Fisher 97915915.

Leschenault Community Nursery Inc. Management committee members will conduct seed workshops for the volunteers on Wednesday mornings for January and February. The volunteers had a day out inspecting last season's plantings of nursery plants with a BBQ to follow at Binningup. For further information contact Shirley Fisher 97915915 or Mark Kennedy 97914670

February

8 Tuesday 5.30pm
Evening talk with the Bunbury Naturalists Club. Graham Fisher will talk about The Eden Project in Cornwall

19 Saturday 9am
Early walk with the Bunbury Naturalists Club around Big Swamp for birds and to view recent plantings.

March

8 Tuesday 5.30pm
Evening talk with the Bunbury Naturalists Club. Jenelle Carter will speak on Weed Busting

19 Saturday 9am
Excursion to Gwindinup Forest Block with the Bunbury Naturalists Club.

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

Key Events 2005

International Earth Day - 22 April
For further information visit <http://www.earthday.net/>

International Day for Biological Diversity - 22 May
Biodiversity is the source of the essential goods and ecological services that constitute the source of life for all. The celebration each year of International Day for Biological Diversity is an occasion to reflect on our responsibility to safeguard this precious heritage for future generations. For further information visit <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2004.asp>

World Environment Day - 5 June
This day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. The World Environment Day theme selected for 2005 is Green Cities and the slogan is Plan for the Planet! For events held around Australia visit www.ea.gov.au/events

Arbor Day - June
Arbor Day recognises the importance of trees in the environment. Community groups can celebrate the day by planting trees or shrubs or adopting a patch of bush and removing weeds and rubbish, preparing firebreaks, erecting fences and making paths to reduce trampling. Arbor Day is recognised in more than 50 countries. For more information visit www.calm.wa.gov.au/forest_facts/arbor_day.html

National Tree Day - 31 July
Tree Day is organised nationally by Planet Ark and brought to you by Toyota and the AMP Foundation, with Greening Australia. For school and community activities around Australia visit www.planetark.com.

Landcare Week - 1 - 7 September
For activities around Australia visit www.landcareaustralia.com.au.

Keep Australia Beautiful Week - 29 August - 2 September
For details visit the website http://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 - 7 September
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 activities in your home state order the free information kit from Environment Australia on toll-free 1800 803 772.

Bushcare Month - October
Aims to promote the need to reverse the long-term decline in the quality and extent of Australia's native vegetation cover. For further information visit www.nht.gov.au/nht1/programs/bushcare/index.html

Weedbuster Week - 10 - 14 October
Held in the second week of October each year. Hundreds of events are held by individuals, schools, community groups and local and state governments. For activities around Australia visit www.weedbusterweek.info.au/about.htm

National Water Week - October
For information about dates of activities visit www.savewater.com.au/waterweek

National Bird Week - 24 - 31 October
To advance the appreciation and protection of Australia's birds by promoting understanding of the diversity, behaviour and habitat needs of Australia's birds. For more inform visit www.birdsaustralia.com.au

National Frog Week - November
For dates of 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 dates of school and community activities around Australia visit www.planetark.com.

Coastcare Week - December
For dates and activities <http://www.landcareaustralia.com.au/coastcare>

Please send us your April, May and June events by March 1, 2005.

REGIONAL REPORTS

All groups welcome visitors and new members.

Across the Regions

Western Swamp Tortoise finds friends

By Helen Pitman



The Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise after a gathering in October 2004. (Photo: Helen Pitman)

"When you're down and troubled and you need a helping hand...you've got a friend," are the words of that old song. Well, one tortoise has now found a number of new friends.

Australia's most endangered reptile is the Western Swamp Tortoise, found only in a limited range on the Swan Coastal Plain. For years, the species has struggled to build up a viable population, after dropping to critical numbers in the mid 1980s.

A recovery program involving the Perth Zoo, the University of Western Australia (UWA) and CALM has successfully bred the Western Swamp Tortoise and there are plans to release the reptiles in Twin Swamps and Mogumber Nature Reserves. Coupled with the tireless efforts of the tortoise recovery team, Gerald Kuchling from UWA has seen the tortoise population rise to more than 300.

The animals' slow reproductive cycle has been a limiting factor in this campaign and unlocking the secrets to a successful breeding program has been a painstaking and often frustrating exercise for the scientists involved.

With the planned release, it seemed timely to invite the community to become involved in the re-establishment of the Western Swamp Tortoise. A Friends Group has been formed to continue the work started by Green Corp, CALM and the WWF. The Friends Group consists of 40 enthusiastic volunteers in and around the Perth metropolitan area.

The Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise are planning some inspiring projects, including the installation of an interpretation display in Bullsbrook and contributing to the WA Museum's Discovery Centre summer program. The Friends have also recently assisted CALM

in digging artificial summer hibernation tunnels at Mogumber Nature Reserve.

The Friends Group would like to welcome new members to assist in varied tasks. The Friends Group looks forward to a continued partnership with CALM in assisting with the Western Swamp Tortoise's habitat restoration.

If you would like to become a member of the Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise or would like more information contact Rod Martyn at CALM on 9405 1222 or rodma@calm.wa.gov.au or Helen Pitman at WWF on 9442 1202 or hpitman@wwf.org.au

North West Region

Weed attack by the Friends of Gingin Brook

By Pauline Diggins

It is arum lily time again. The Catchment Management Plan for the Gingin and Mungala Brooks lists the arum lily as the most prolific weed in these catchment areas. The Friends of Gingin Brook, along with Gingin Landcare, have undertaken a program to control the lilies along the banks of the Gingin Brook within the Gingin townsite. Bennett Brook Environmental Services are working with the landholders and the Landcare group to grow local sedges and trees to plant once the lilies have been controlled. Along with the thousands of lilies, there are also large stands of taro. These were treated last summer and now the native sedges are returning, although monitoring by landholders will be ongoing to determine if further treatment is required.

Following a very hot fire in 2002, large infestations of nightshade and fleabane invaded the riparian zone of the brook. The nightshade was eaten by ladybirds and this year has only survived in small patches. The fleabane died and where the native sedges have returned there is now little to be seen of this weed. Hopefully weeding days will further control these weeds.

For more information contact Pauline Diggins on 9381 1529.

North East Region

A good year for Friends of Dianella Bushland!

By Jan Bant

The spring season saw a wonderful display of colour at the Cottonwood Crescent Bushland, with the Friends of Dianella Bushland noting jug orchids, hare orchids and some buds on the rattlebeak orchid. The prickly Moses was a bright spot of colour and the Swan River myrtle gave a great show of pink buds and flowers.

The Friends held a number of fungi walks in 2004 and several different species were found. Roz Hart and Neale Bougher organised for the species to be sent to the Herbarium and Cottonwood Crescent has been immortalised as the home of a special coral fungus and a couple of skin fungi. The Friends are not aware of the full effect of spraying for weeds on the fungi species, particularly on a broadacre basis. This is likely to be a future area of study.

For more information contact Jan Bant on 9344 2872.

Hills Region

More news from Eastern Hills

Collected by Jenny Mackintosh

Brookside Park - Parkerville: The continuing showers in the hills have given our winter plantings a great chance to survive the hot summer months. Green Corp has helped to remove countless bags of watsonia from the wet areas and has sprayed huge areas of exotic grasses. Next year will hopefully see these areas replanted with local species.

Falls Park South - Hovea: Natural regeneration is continuing to infill the sections of the park where exotic species have been removed. The watercourse of Jane Brook has ongoing problems with infestations of *Watsonia*, washed down from the upper reaches of the brook. Hopefully, as more Friends groups tackle these upstream areas, fewer corms will float downstream.

The Parkerville Village Reserves Group recently ran a guided tour of Parkerville's interesting natural and cultural heritage sites for 20 local residents. The tour included a visit to a wetland restoration site next to Jane Brook and work done by Friends Groups on the Old Parkerville Quarry reserve.

Lion Mill Creek - Mount Helena: The part of the reserve that used to house jarrah timber stacks has been found to have a pH of 4.5! This has solved the mystery of the poor plant growth in that corner of the reserve. With the assistance of Green Corps, a tonne of crushed limestone has been spread on the area. The reserve has had some good rain since these works and it is hoped that this will help the plants survive. The Friends of Lion Mill creek has received Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) funding in this round, allowing these works to continue.

Friends of Quenda Hollow: A wildlife crossing sign has been posted on Stoneville Road. Several pines were cleared on the northern boundary of the reserve and hand

REGIONAL REPORTS

weeding was done before winter. These clearing works have facilitated the planting of over 430 seedlings. Three Balgas, sourced from clearing works being undertaken by Main Roads in Sawyers Valley, were translocated onto the reserve. Preparations have begun for the breeding and introduction of native fish to the area and the Friends have been successful in their 2005 Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) funding application.

All of the Friends groups are looking forward to a well earned rest from weeding over the summer months.

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

Central Region

New adventure for Baigup Friends

By Harry Bastow

It has been a challenging and busy year for the Friends of Baigup Wetlands and it's about to get busier, as the Friends have now taken on the challenge of looking after the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary. This new adventure adds to the existing weeding, mulching and planting works at Hinds and Baigup wetlands and will include a bird nest and egg identification survey.

The Friends are continuing to make a tremendous effort to look after their local environment. However, the biggest problem in these areas is not Salvinia, roaming dogs, graffiti or chainsaw woodpeckers, but acid sulphate soils, which have been identified in the Baigup and Hinds Reserves.

The Friends of Baigup Wetlands was pleased to announce the 2004 Volunteer of the Year Award. This award has attracted great rivalry, with two members named as joint recipients. The award, which was donated by Sylvan Hair and Beauty Salon, aims to encourage as well as recognise the efforts of volunteers working within the Hinds, Baigup and Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary areas. The 2004 winners are Kim Booth and Geraldine Hall. Congratulations to these worthy volunteers. The Friends are also fortunate to have a very active member in Andrew Bozyk, who has received a number of awards in 2004, including the City of Bayswater Young Citizens Award and the John Forrest SHS Environment Award. With all these young people involved the future of the environment looks good.

For more information contact Harry Bastow on 9271 3242.



What a year it was for Friends of Shenton Bushland!

By Daniel Boase-Jelinek

The Friends of Shenton Bushland have had a momentous year in terms of works completed. Fire Hazard Management activities were undertaken, including pruning, litter removal and removal of dead branches and other debris.

Hundreds of hours work has been spent on weed control activities. The Friends were successful in securing a Community Conservation Grant to undertake veld grass control and bulbous weed spraying. As part of this grant, the Friends undertook weed mapping and manual weed removal, focusing on perennial veld grass, which is difficult to kill with herbicides once established. The Friends were also fortunate to have assistance from employees of Woodside Energy for a day, which greatly assisted in meeting the group's commitments for weed management.

Hand weeding activities focussed on watsonias and Geraldton carnation weed. The Geraldton Carnation weeds come up all through spring, so each area is monitored several times to ensure the weeds are removed before they set seed.

This year's activities have been greatly assisted by a number of funding grants, including the Community Conservation Grant and the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program, monies from which were used to remove mounds and control

weeds. Planting and seedling production was undertaken courtesy of a donation from Brambles Ltd and Junior Landcare Grants were used to install bat boxes.

The Friends group is planning a series of workdays in 2005 to remove mounds and install new plants. Alternative strategies for controlling weeds for the long term will also be considered next year, as it is unlikely that long term weed spraying will be sustainable either financially or biologically.

For more information contact Dani Boase-Jelinek on 9381 3470.

South East Region

Funding Boost for Ellis Brook Valley Reserve

By Heather Bowler

The Friends of Ellis Brook Valley have been successful in securing a grant of nearly \$10,000 from Lotterywest and the Department of Sport and Recreation Trails Funding Program. Earlier this year, the group received a grant of \$3000 from CALM and the City of Gosnells has also offered further financial backing.

These funds have provided opportunities for renewed activity on the Picnic Area and Native Plant Garden Project in the Valley. The funds will be used to complete a circuit path, install signage and bollards and further planting of native species. The Friends are very grateful for the funding, as it has allowed exciting progress to be made on the project.



(l to r) Arthur Searle, John Robertson, Cr Olwyn Searle, Heather Bowler, Cr Ron Mitchell, Beverly Hill, Mrs Hoffman, Marc Lane, Mrs Mitchell, Margaret Robertson, John Bowler, Cr Ron Hoffman at Ellis Brook Valley Reserve. (Photo: John Bowler)

REGIONAL REPORTS

Thanks are also extended to Readymix Quarry who donated materials to the project.

The circuit path is to be constructed of red gravel which will be compacted after being dampened and mixed with cement. This will create a path that is suitable for wheelchairs, while having a pleasing natural appearance. With the six tables and a Rotary sponsored gas BBQ already installed, along with a spectacular display of wildflowers, the area is already being well used by picnickers, walkers and several tour bus companies.

The project works are largely being done by the Friends Group volunteers. The recent work day was followed by a BBQ to informally launch the next phase of the project.

For more information contact John or Heather Bowler on 9459 2086.

A great way to start the day at Bungendore Park! By Kim Sarti

The smell of toast and sizzling bacon was wafting through the early morning air of Sunday, 7 November 2004 at the Bush Breakfast organised by the Bungendore Park Management Committee (BPMC). This well received event allowed people to sip their orange juice, munch their toast and enjoy a fully cooked breakfast prepared by the Armadale Lions Club, whilst taking pleasure in the bushland setting of Bungendore Park and listening to the early bird song.

The event included the unveiling of the refurbished information display panels funded by a Community Conservation Grant and the City of Armadale. The display panels, with a map and numerous photos, show the four walk tracks and describe some of the flora, fungi and fauna to be found in the park in Bedforddale. Armadale Deputy Mayor, Cr Jeff Munn, performed the unveiling and spoke of the many activities, scientific studies and achievements of the BPMC since its formation 23 years ago. Following the breakfast, some of the people took advantage of a short guided walk to look at the park's flowers, including many fine specimens of orchids in full bloom.

For more information contact Kim Sarti on 9470 2297 or 0427 101 520 or kimsarti@bigpond.net.au.



Mr Ron Johnstone (left) and Cr Jeff Munn viewing the Bungendore Park information display shelter. (Photo: Kim Sarti)

Friends of Ken Hurst Park

By Dr Eddy Wajon

The fencing around Ken Hurst Park has recently been vandalised, highlighting the need for improved signage and security patrols. Benefits may also be gained from an education and awareness raising campaign. The City of Melville is currently organising for improved

fencing to be installed, which will hopefully deter future vandalism.

The City of Melville will be assisting with rubbish removal from the southern section of the park. Despite huge efforts by volunteers to remove the rubbish from the park, over 60 tonnes remain, so this endeavour will be much appreciated. The City also wants to erect signage at the gate to Ken Hurst Park promoting the conservation purposes of the park.

The Friends have had an addition to their flora list, with the tentative identification of *Petrophile divaricata*. This appears to be a significant species, because this plant has not previously been recorded in the Perth Metropolitan area. Efforts are being undertaken to have the positive identification of the species.

For more information contact Dr Eddy Wajon on wajonpub@wantree.com.au.



An area of fence recently damaged. (Photo: Dr Eddy Wajon)

Group Profile: Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (WA) Inc.

Who is AABR?

The Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR) was first established in New South Wales in 1986 out of concern for the continuing survival and integrity of bushland and its dependent fauna. The WA branch, AABR (WA), was formed in 1992. AABR is always seeking new members and friends to enable the promotion of good work practices in natural areas.

The association aims to foster and encourage sound ecological practices of bushland management while promoting the study and practice of bush regeneration.

AABR is run by its members through an executive committee, all of whom are volunteers. The committee is elected by the AABR members at the annual general meeting held in March each year. The executive committee undertakes the strategic planning for AABR, as well as taking care of the association's business functions such as membership, communications and correspondence, and representation of AABR at meetings.

There is growing cooperation between the two state chapters and we hope to run joint projects in the near future.

Membership of AABR

Members of AABR include bush regeneration and bushland management professionals and volunteers and community groups interested in restoring bushland. Membership of AABR is generally accepted as recognition of your knowledge and competency as a bush regenerator.

AABR (WA) President, Anna-Marie Penna said "AABR members are people with recognised practical experience in bushland work over a period of at least two years who have completed AABR approved Bush Regeneration training."

"AABR (NSW) has a 'non-standard' membership category that is available for those people who, while being experienced bush regenerators, may not meet the standard membership criteria," she said.

The category of 'subscriber' is for those people who are interested in bushland management and conservation issues, but do not wish to apply or may not have the appropriate qualifications for full membership.

AABR has members from all over Australia and while many of the activities are held in the Perth metropolitan region, AABR (WA) encourages its members to organise local



AABR WA members planting sedges at the Liege St wetland reconstruction site in Cannington. (Photo: Steve May)

activities and to raise local awareness of bushland issues. AABR (NSW) has recently set up its first regional committee in north-east NSW and south-east Queensland. It is hoped that more regional committees will form in the coming years.

What does AABR do?

AABR's range of responsibilities and tasks include:

- Development of the bush regeneration profession and improvement of pay scales for people working in the industry. This occurs through developing competency standards, improving working conditions and encouraging improvements in industry practices.
- Management of the association's website, which includes information about AABR and current bush regeneration news and events.
- Publishing five newsletters each year, which include articles from around the country, details of upcoming AABR events and information of interest to bush regenerators.

- Conduct information seminars and field trips on bush regeneration matters.
- Providing technical advice and assistance on a number of external projects, such as the development of the State Weed Plan and Codes of Practice.
- Organising displays on bush regeneration at events such as environmental fairs and other relevant industry or field days.

AABR WA Activities in 2005

The first event for 2005 will be the association's annual general meeting to be held on Wednesday, 9 March 2005. The guest speaker will be a PhD student from Murdoch University, Maggie Lillith, who has been researching the issue of feral and domestic cat impacts on native fauna. Maggie will be presenting the results of her work, which was conducted on behalf of the City of Armadale.

In 2005, AABR (WA) will conduct general meetings differently to the past few years. There will be two forum format sessions in the evening and three sessions will be run during the day. The daytime sessions will focus on industry issues and provide ecological information and research. The dates and topics for the sessions will soon be finalised. Notification of these upcoming events will be advertised through the AABR newsletter and website and through Ecoplan News.



Friends of Yangebup Lake, who as part of their bush regeneration project, adopted an area that was revegetated years ago using non-local tree species. The friends are now replacing the earlier plantings with local native shrubs and tree species. (Photo: Dave Bright)

Contacts

AABR (WA) can be contacted through the President, Anna-Marie Penna on phone 9420 7260, fax 9420 7273, email anna-marie.penna@conservationwa.asn.au or by visiting the website www.aabr.com.au

Resources

New publications

- **Riparian Plants of the Avon Catchment: a field guide** – This new field guide, produced by the Department of Environment, gives a brief pictorial and textual description of native plant species found in riparian areas of the Avon River Basin. The species have been catalogued by genus and family and there are photographs of the whole plant and the defining parts of the species. There is useful information about how to identify the plant, where it is commonly found and points on its use in a revegetation program. It is hoped that this guide will allow easier identification of riparian species as well as assist with choosing the best plants for riparian revegetation projects. The publication can be purchased from the Avon Catchment Council by contacting 9690 2250. The publication costs \$25 for a hardcover copy or \$10 for a CD-ROM.
- **Declared Plants of Australia** – This is a new interactive software identification tool produced by the Centre for Biological Information Technology. This interactive CD-ROM uses the Lucid identification software and is sure to be an invaluable tool for anyone required to identify declared plants (or noxious weeds) in Australia. The CD contains more than 5000 colour photographs and comprehensive information on more than 300 species of declared plants. An additional 500 weed species which commonly occur in Australia are included in the key. The CD costs \$80 and can be purchased online at www.cbit.uq.edu.au or by contacting the Centre for Biological Information Technology at The University of Queensland.
- **Arresting Phytophthora Dieback – The Biological Bulldozer** – A comprehensive report compiled by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) and the Dieback Consultative Council (DCC) that outlines the devastating effects of dieback on Southwest Australia's plants and animals as well as social and economic implications. The document also outlines the strategies that have been developed by the State Government to combat this deadly killer. The document can be downloaded by visiting the WWF website www.wwf.org.au or contact publications@wwf.org.au.
- **Environmental Weeds – Eastern Plains and Hills Region** – A 92 page booklet produced by the Wooroloo Brook Landcare Group. It includes history, description and management practices as well as colour photos of many weed species commonly found in the Eastern Plains and Hills region. 50 copies are available for Ecoplan News readers & will be posted to you free of charge. First in best dressed. For a copy contact Janette Huston on peakpot@vianet.net.au.

Website watch

- The **Centre for Land Rehabilitation newsletter** can be viewed online at www.clr.uwa.edu.au/newsletters. The newsletter outlines current projects, advertises the latest courses available and is an interesting source of information about issues facing WA's management of degraded landscapes and restoration of sustainable ecosystems.
- The internet-based **Environmental Management and Cleaner Production Directory for Small and Medium Businesses** was recently released by the Swan River Trust as part of its flagship Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, which was undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Environment. It contains links to state, national and international environmental and cleaner production guidelines. The document also details programs and tools designed to prevent pollution and encourage best management practices. The document can be viewed on the Swan River Trust website by visiting www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au

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

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Discover Perth's Marine Park ecosystems

Marine Park education activities are available through CALM's
Nearer to Nature program in 2005.

Group bookings can be arranged for Shoalwater Islands Marine
Park (Point Peron) and Marmion Marine Park (Trigg).

Marine Touch Pool

Available Feb-Apr and Oct-Dec
Participants can interact with plants
and animals of the reef while they
learn about their role in the marine
ecosystem.

*Cost - \$175 per activity, inc. GST.
Minimum bookings apply - 2 touch
pools or a touch pool and another
activity, as described below.*

Other marine activities

Available all year

Explore the shores of the marine
park with a CALM guide and discover
the flora and fauna of various
habitats.

Choose from: Rocky Shoreline Safari,
Flotsam and Jetsam, Sea Birds, Swell
Shells and Sandy Beaches.

*Cost - \$125 for one activity and \$75
for each further activity, inc. GST.
No minimum bookings apply for
these activities.*



All activities run for one hour,
cater for a max. of 32 people and
are suitable for adults, children
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Bookings and information – 9295 2244

www.naturebase.net/n2n.html



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