

# Ecoplan NEWS

Issue 53 Autumn 2005

Including Djeran and Makuru\* in the Nyoongar Calendar



## Swan Bioplan: A base for biodiversity conservation

Swan Bioplan, a four-year collaborative project that will see \$1.9 million allocated to updating conservation recommendations for the Swan Coastal Plain, was announced late last year by the Environment Minister Dr Judy Edwards.

In many ways, the project presents a second phase of the Bushplan/Bush Forever project and will complete a review of the long-standing EPA System 6 recommendations for the southern Swan Coastal Plain. It will cover the area extending from Moore River to Dunsborough and include the Darling and Whicher Scarps.

The Swan Coastal Plain has been identified as a priority for biodiversity conservation planning for several reasons, including it being part of the South West Botanical Province—an area of global significance for biodiversity conservation, which features a series of reserves and natural areas that are considered significant at an international scale in their own right. It has also been identified as a priority because of the increasing pressures it is experiencing as a primary growth centre in Western Australia.

Gary Whisson of the Department of Environment (DoE) said the combination of values within the Swan Coastal Plain highlighted the need for a strategic plan to address the State's responsibility to conserve its natural heritage values and provide a clearer, more integrated conservation policy framework for future planning and the land development industry.

"Over the years, the Swan Coastal Plain has been extensively cleared and currently less than 25 per cent of the original native vegetation remains," he said.

"In the eastern regions of the coastal plain this figure can be as low as five per cent. However, despite this the region still retains the highly diverse flora and vegetation characteristics of the South West Botanical Province and supports a series of important reserves, including a number of Ramsar listed wetlands."



Bushland in Bunbury – a unique wetland community in the centre of Bunbury. (Photo: Bronwen Keighery)



A Wildflower Society group look at plants on the Whicher Scarp, just one of the areas to be covered by the Swan Bioplan. (Photo: Bronwen Keighery)

The funding allocated to the project will be used to ensure that outcomes of the Swan Bioplan are developed from comprehensive knowledge of the regional flora and vegetation, together with other natural resource characteristics. The data collated will be consistent with and update the data supporting *Bush Forever*, to facilitate a comparable review of biodiversity values and conservation status throughout the region.

The project will also aim to resource the development of new approaches to achieving biodiversity conservation, facilitate enhanced information transfer between key stakeholders and provide various training opportunities designed to raise awareness of natural heritage.

The strategic approach that will be adopted by this project is necessary in order to integrate biodiversity conservation into local planning actions and natural resource management.

Increasingly, the community and governments at all levels expect that development should be sustainable. It is hoped that the aim of Swan Bioplan to retain the region's biodiversity values while encouraging the strategic restoration of habitat and ecological links will assist in achieving these sustainability principles.

"Swan Bioplan is not just about the conservation of biodiversity," Gary said.

"With population expansion and its resultant development pressures, the retention of natural bushland and wetlands will become particularly important to maintain social, recreational, landscape and aesthetic as well as conservation value."

The Swan Bioplan is currently in its initial project definition stages and is a collaborative project coordinated by the DoE in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

Strong involvement from other key stakeholders, including local government representation through the Western Australian

Local Government Association and regional Natural Resource Management Councils will also be sought.

Initial consultation and discussions with these, and other agencies and stakeholders, has begun and will be a priority for the project in coming months. The DoE will also be exploring opportunities to involve active participation of community conservation expertise in the project.

For further information on Swan Bioplan contact Gary Whisson at DoE on 9222 7171.

\* **Djeran** is the time when the weather gets cooler and the winds generally from the south-west. **Makuru** is cold and wet with westerly gales.





The first few months of 2005 have been a time of change at Urban Nature and I would like to thank the team for all their hard work and dedication in keeping Ecoplan and Urban Nature running smoothly in Margo O'Byrne's absence.



The Urban Nature team would like to welcome Grazyna Paczkowska who joined us in December. Grazyna has more than 13 years of experience in the environmental field and has worked in various positions as a research assistant, a botanist and an environmental officer. Grazyna was involved in the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Florabase project and co-authored *Western Australia Flora: a Descriptive Catalogue*. Some of you may also remember her from the City of Melville, where she was the environmental officer.



There have been a number of staff changes with our Skills for Nature Conservation (SFNC) partner organisations. Arlene Moncrieff is coordinating the program at Greening Australia, taking over Rebecca Millar's role, and Michelle Walker has taken over from Kate Gole at the Swan Catchment Centre. We look forward to working with them and their teams.



SFNC has launched its 2005 calendar, with an exciting program planned for the first half of the year. We have taken the feedback from the evaluations received in 2004 and used those to develop our focus for this year. The first course filled quickly and addressed the unseen world of nocturnal animals, with entertaining speakers including Eric McCrum and Robert Powell. Participants enjoyed a spotlighting walk with Jacqui Purvis of Nearer to Nature and the opportunity to view our native mammals close up with Liz Appelt from the Chidlow Marsupial Hospital.



Many of you may have noticed we have only produced a six-month calendar for 2005, due to uncertainty about funding when program planning was underway last year. We are now planning the courses for the latter half of 2005, which will include weed management, safe use of brush cutters, plant patterning across the Swan Coastal Plain and an end of year celebration with a cultural theme. Keep a lookout in early June for the next calendar and see our 'Articles' and 'What's On' section for further information about upcoming SFNC courses, dates and contact details.

## Contacts

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**Conservation Council of WA**  
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**Greening Australia (WA)**  
 ☎ 9335 8933  
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**APACE** ☎ 9336 1262  
 email: [admin@apacewa.org.au](mailto:admin@apacewa.org.au)

**Swan Catchment Centre & Council**  
 Alison Nesbit ☎ 9374 3333  
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**Urban Bushland Council**  
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 email: [ubc@iinet.net.au](mailto:ubc@iinet.net.au)

**Perth Biodiversity Project (WALGA)**  
 Ryan Taylor ☎ 9213 2047  
 email: [info@walga.asn.au](mailto:info@walga.asn.au)

**Regional Parks (CALM)** ☎ 9431 6500



Some of the close encounters during the SFNC's Minibeasts and nocturnal animals workshop 11 March 2005. (Photo: Urban Nature)

### Expressions of interest - Ecoplan News editor

Expressions of Interest are sought from suitable people for the compilation and editing of *Ecoplan News*. If you have very good writing skills, can work to deadlines and have good networks in the conservation community, please contact Bridget Hyder-Griffiths by 15 April 2005 on 9474 7040 or [ecoplan@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:ecoplan@calm.wa.gov.au).



## Winter Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the Winter Ecoplan News by **Wednesday, 1 June 2005**. Please keep your regional reports under 250 words and articles as brief as possible. Please also send your photos! Fax, email or write to Ecoplan (see Ecoplan contacts above). Thanks to all contributors.

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



# Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project update

By Neale Bougher and Roz Hart



Neale Bougher (front) in the field collecting fungi with PUBF volunteers John Weaver, Jane Bracken and Phylis Robertson (Photo: Roz Hart)

The Perth Urban Bushland Fungi (PUBF) Project is now gearing up for the 2005 fungi season in June and July and event planning is underway. This year the project is launching a website which will contain useful information about the project and dates of PUBF Project events.

Four full-day workshops will be held in bushland throughout the Perth metropolitan region. The workshops give people the opportunity to learn how to collect fungi and will assist with the collection and identification of local fungi. The project will also include short walks in urban bush reserves to raise awareness among local communities of the existence and importance of fungi in their area.

We are presently producing the first-ever fungi inventories for the reserves surveyed in 2004. These reports will be distributed individually to the host groups, as well as to the WA Naturalists' Club and the Urban Bushland Council before the start of the new fungi season.

In addition to a list of the fungi identified and a map, the inventories will include recommendations for accumulating information on fungi diversity in future years. As a result of the 2004 PUBF Project, the WA Herbarium now contains some representative fungus specimens from each of the reserves that were visited.

This season we will have more equipment available, such as a geographic positioning system, to ensure that we capture the site data in the most accurate form possible, enabling us to easily download the data and produce maps. We will be conducting a special training workshop with our PUBF group leaders at the start of the season so all are conversant with the new equipment.

Contact Jac at [fungi@iinet.net.au](mailto:fungi@iinet.net.au) if you would like further information about the PUBF Project and Roz at [roz@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:roz@calm.wa.gov.au) for information about PUBF events.



## Learning opportunities

### Urban Nature Bushland Restoration Training Days 2005

The Urban Nature project, run by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, will be holding a series of workdays during 2005 at Brixton Street wetlands and Talbot Road bushland. Members of the community are invited to come along and get involved in a range of restoration activities at these sites. Activities will include weed management, monitoring and mapping, direct seeding and planting into small restoration sites. The workdays are specifically designed for participants to learn more about these wonderful bush reserves.

The workdays will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at Brixton Street wetlands and on the fourth Friday of the month at Talbot Road bushland, between April and November. All workdays run between 9am and 12pm.

For more information, or to register your interest, contact Urban Nature on 9368 4399 or check out the 'What's On' section for dates in April, May and June.

### Skills for Nature Conservation

The Skills for Nature Conservation (SFNC) Program offers free training to community members who are involved in protecting our environment. SFNC is jointly managed by the Swan Catchment Centre, the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Ecoplan program and Greening Australia (WA).

A new program of events has been developed for 2005, and workshops taking place within the next six months include:

- Secrets of successful funding applications;
- Tjuntalup Kadujin (Point Walter learning) - sharing the way of the land;
- Leading the way - the art of leading nature walks;
- Feral animals in your patch - dos and don'ts;
- Managing your bushland for unplanned fire; and
- Creating wetland habitats.

The program of events is available by visiting [www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon/pages/training.html](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon/pages/training.html). Alternatively, contact Alison Nesbit on 9374 3333 if you have any queries or to register your interest.



# Funding opportunities

## 2006 Swan Alcoa Landcare Program Funding Round



The closing date for applications for the 2006 Swan Alcoa Landcare Program funding round has been extended to 4.30pm on Monday 2 May 2005. A total of \$550,000 is available for a wide range of Landcare activities in the Swan Region. Priority is given to projects that address protection and enhancement of wetlands, waterways and groundwater, and retention, restoration and management of bushland. Application guidelines and forms for the 2006 funding round are available by visiting the Swan Catchment Council website at [www.swancatchmentcouncil.org](http://www.swancatchmentcouncil.org) or by contacting the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333.

## Westpac Operation Backyard

Westpac Operation Backyard involves Westpac, Bank of Melbourne and Challenge Bank staff and in-store operators (ie companies that operate as agents for the bank). Staff and in-store operators nominate environmental projects in their local communities for funding. Nearly \$200,000 each year is being provided to environmental groups through Landcare Australia.

Projects generally receive donations of up to \$5000 and normally Westpac will fund up to 50 per cent of the environmental material costs of an approved project. However, due to popular demand, the special offer of projects being eligible to receive 100 per cent of the cost of environmental materials has been extended.

A few simple rules apply:

- the project must be nominated by a bank staff member or in-store operator and involve bank staff as volunteers;
- the project must be supported by the local community; and
- Landcare Australia must verify the project's environmental credibility. Landcare Australia will contact local landcare support staff and others to ensure that the project is technically correct and appropriate for the region.

Projects include rehabilitating degraded recreation areas, making roadways more wildlife friendly and restoring coastal dunes, bushland and other areas for native flora and fauna. The program has the scope to address environmental issues such as preventing erosion, supporting the ongoing survival of species, rehabilitating degraded sand dune areas and protecting native habitat.

For more information on the program visit [www.landcareaustralia.com.au](http://www.landcareaustralia.com.au).

## Gordon Reid - Conservation of Natural Heritage



The Gordon Reid Grants were established in 1989 to extend support beyond the more traditional charitable groups and make significant contributions to the community in areas such as conservation, the arts, disability and youth.

The grants were named after Professor Gordon Reid to acknowledge his significant contribution to the community of Western Australia. Before serving as Governor from 1984 to 1989, Professor Reid served for many years as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Politics at The University of Western Australia, receiving many accolades for his work. Gordon Reid Grants continue in honour of Professor Reid and are managed in the same way as other Lotterywest grants.

The Conservation of Natural Heritage Grants are available to support community organisations to conserve the State's natural habitats and diversity. Examples of projects that may be considered are:

- revegetation activities and the protection of remnant vegetation;
- flora and fauna surveys;
- management plans for reserves;
- public education projects such as the production of brochures etc; and
- research projects which will assist in the conservation of Western Australia's biodiversity.

Applications for Gordon Reid Conservation of Natural Heritage Grants may be submitted to Lotterywest at any time. Please note:

- organisations not legally incorporated can apply for grants to a maximum of \$5000;
- organisations not registered for GST can apply for single or multiple grants with a combined total of up to \$15,000 in any one financial year;
- applications should be for more than \$1000; and
- grants cannot be made retrospectively. If you have already spent the money, Lotterywest cannot reimburse you.

For further information contact Lotterywest on 9340 5270 or, to download an information kit, visit [www.lottery.wa.gov.au](http://www.lottery.wa.gov.au).



## WANTED:

## Friendly Friends!

Environment House is hosting a five-month pilot project funded by the Western Australian Office of Multicultural Affairs in an effort to help build working linkages between WA's conservation scene and multilingual and ethnic associations.

This unique project is inviting migrants to attend workshops that will introduce them to local ecology, terminology, environmental history, planting and weeding skills. Environment House will then try to link participants with their nearest friends group and that's where you come in.

All listed friends groups are invited to register their willingness to welcome a local newcomer into their autumn and winter bush care program so that migrants can 'put down roots' in their adopted land.

Brenda Conochie, Project Officer for this new scheme, is calling on any willing participants to contact her as soon as possible to register their interest. This is also a great opportunity for friends groups to extend their local networks into a wider part of the community and provides an opportunity to access willing hands that can assist with the many tasks undertaken in the coming seasons.

For further information, contact Brenda on 9271 0744 or [brencon@bigpond.net.au](mailto:brencon@bigpond.net.au).



## Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants (ASGAP) 2005 Conference

The Wildflower Society of WA (WSWA) is hosting the 23rd Biennial ASGAP Conference. ASGAP is an association of like-minded societies from around Australia that are devoted to the study of native plants, their propagation and conservation. ASGAP holds biennial conferences and in 2005, it will be held in Western Australia.

The conference will be held between Saturday 1 October and Friday 7 October at Hale School, Wembley Downs. WSWA have organized a fantastic line up of events and seminars. Members and non-members are welcome to attend this very popular event. For further information contact the WSWA from Tuesday to Thursday on 9383 7979 or visit the website <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers/>.



# Econotes: Understanding the diversity and function of fungi in our local bushlands

With autumn approaching, and the first rain already fallen, now is an opportune time to turn our attention to thoughts of fungi.

You may be surprised to learn that Australia has many times more fungi than plants. Fungi exist mostly underground and are largely unseen, nevertheless it is estimated that Australia has up to 250,000 species of fungi, with a meagre five to 10 per cent of these described and named.

In recognition of the importance of members of the Kingdom of Fungi in biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, we now increasingly talk about the three 'F's': flora, fauna and fungi instead of just flora and fauna. Knowledge of fungi and other small organisms that help keep bushland healthy is essential for effective conservation management.

Fungi can be divided into two size groups: microfungi and macrofungi. Microfungi, the microscopic ones such as moulds, make up approximately 95 per cent of fungi. The other five per cent, the macrofungi, have a microscopic mycelium (fine fungal threads) and at opportune times they produce visible fruiting structures, the mushrooms, toadstools and other fungi that we are all familiar with.

## Functions of fungi

Fungi are always present in natural ecosystems, though they are usually invisible to us. They exist as mycelium within the soil, plant roots and rotting wood. However, under favourable conditions, fruiting bodies of quite considerable size will appear suddenly, often overnight. Fungi fall into three main groups based on function. The first are the mycorrhizal fungi that work with plant partners to their mutual benefit. The fungal mycelium exchange nutrients and minerals with their plant partners through special roots. The second group are major decomposers and nutrient cyclers of litter, wood and other organic matter, and the third group are the disease-causing fungi.

## Knowing the native fungi in your bushland

One of the best ways to learn about fungi is to join one of the fungi forays and surveys held by the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project throughout the



Top: *Mycena* sp (Photo: Roz Hart)  
Above: *Russula* sp (Photo: Roz Hart)

metropolitan area this winter. This project addresses the generally low level of awareness and knowledge about fungi, and their exclusion from bushland management. The project is surveying bushlands and producing inventories of fungi, in many cases for the first time.

## Restoring fungi and recording information about fungi

In highly degraded and newly vegetated areas, especially those distant from healthy bushland, the diversity of fungi characteristic of healthy bushland is unlikely to be present. In order to successfully restore native fungi, a certain amount of knowledge and understanding is required, as the wrong choices could have disastrous effects and perhaps introduce diseases. Before beginning any restoration work, it is important to first match the native fungi with their associated plants and to their soil and vegetation type. The premise of choosing local species and provenance applies to fungi as it does to native plants.

A good place to start learning about fungi and how to restore them is the Fungibank website.

Fungi propagate through spores or spreading mycelium. The temptation is to move soil to help spread fungi, however this is not wise because it damages the cohesive soil structure of the precious remnant bushland and could mean the spread of disease fungi. So it is generally not a good idea to collect soil from a healthy bushland for reintroduction into other areas.

Once suitable fungi are identified one of the best ways to propagate the fungi is to allow spores to fall onto potting mix or moistened local dieback-free soil, as if a spore print is being made – when the fungi are placed onto a piece of paper and spores are deposited onto the paper. The soil and spores can then be mixed together, and the mix can be applied to new or established revegetation.

As demonstrated in Fungibank, it is a good idea to keep good records of fungi as this increases local knowledge. Note which species occur in your bushland and include field and laboratory photographs, drawings and descriptions. Ensure you make herbarium specimens and spore prints and record the species that you reintroduced as well as the methods used and what has occurred in the revegetated areas. All this will assist you in recognising the diversity of fungi in your bushlands and monitoring fungi in revegetation areas, as well as providing a guide for other groups who may want to monitor and manage local fungi at a later time.

## Further information

- Fungibank website – [www.fungibank.csiro.au](http://www.fungibank.csiro.au).
- Contact the team at the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project on [fungi@iinet.net.au](mailto:fungi@iinet.net.au).
- Bougher, N.L. & Syme, K. (1998). *Fungi of Southern Australia*. University of Western Australia Press. 404 Pp
- Fuhrer, B. A. (2001). *Field Companion to Australian Fungi* (rev. ed.). Blooming Books, Melbourne.

Including contributions from Neale Bougher (Mycologist) for the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi project based at CALM's WA Herbarium.



# What's On Autumn 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 St, Fremantle. Contact Linda 9336 6911 or perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au (travel available from Fremantle Railway Station for most activities, call to confirm).

K **Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland** for walks and general enquiries contact Alice on 9487 0579 or Phylis on 9349 9105 or friendskbrb@westnet.com.au.

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

☉ **Naragebup.** Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd (opposite Lake Richmond), Peron, call 9591 3077.

ww **Wilson Wetlands Action Group.** Call Russell 9258 7301 or Gay 9451 4012.

\* **Nearer to Nature (N2N)** Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). Call 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). Call SCC on 9374 3333.

▲ **Urban Bushland Council (UBC)** at the National Trust Building, 4 Havelock St, West Perth, contact 9420 7202 or ubc@inet.net.au.

♣ **Urban Nature (CALM).** Call Kate on 9474 7032.

⌘ **WA Gould League Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre,** cnr of Selby St and Flynn St Wembley. Contact 9387 6079 or visit www.wagouldleague.com.au.

## Get Your Hands Dirty

### April

2 Saturday 9am – 12pm

**Planting day** with Friends of Yellagonga at Bindaree Tce. Call David 9309 4563.

2 Saturday 9am – 1pm

**Rehabilitation work** with CVA and Friends of Allen Park. ☉

6 Wednesday 9am – 12pm

**Bushland Restoration Training Day** with Urban Nature at Brixton Street Wetlands. Meet at Alton Street gate. ♣

11 Monday – 15 Friday 8.30am

**Weed control** with CVA and CALM at North Lake, Beelihar Regional Park. ☉

16 Saturday 9am

**Rehabilitation work** with CVA at Vlamingh Memorial, Cottesloe. ☉

16 Saturday 1 – 4pm

**Bush regeneration** with Friends of Warwick Bushland. Meet at Warwick SHS car park, Erindale Rd. Call Robyn 9342 6840.

25 Monday – 29 Friday 8.30am

**Construction of bike and walking trails** with CVA and CALM along the Munda-Biddi Trail, between Jarra Wood and Nannup. ☉

### May

4 Wednesday 9am – 12pm

**Bushland restoration training day** with Urban Nature at Brixton Street Wetlands. Meet at Alton St gate. ♣

15 Sunday 9am – 12pm

**Bush regeneration** with Friends of Warwick Bushland. Meet tennis club car park, Lloyd Dve. Call Karen 9342 8482.

16 Monday – 20 Friday 8.30am

**Foreshore planting and weed control** with CVA at Garvey Park, Belmont. ☉

21 Saturday 8.30am

**Rehabilitation work** with CVA at Vlamingh Memorial, Cottesloe. ☉

21 Saturday 9am – 12 am

**Planting day** with Friends of Yellagonga at Duck Landing. Call Peter 9448 1818.

22 Sunday 8.30am

**Wetland management activities** with CVA and Wilson Wetlands Action Group at Mill Street Stream. ww

23 Monday – 27 Friday 8.30am

**Foreshore planting and weed control** with CVA at Garvey Park, Belmont. ☉

27 Friday 9am – 12pm

**Bushland restoration training day** with Urban Nature at Talbot Road Bushland. Meet at cnr Talbot Rd and O'Connor St, Swan View. ♣

### June

1 Wednesday 9am – 12pm

**Bushland restoration training day** with Urban Nature at Brixton Street Wetlands. Meet at the Alton St gate. ♣

4 Saturday 8.30am

**Weed control and planting** with CVA and the Friends of Allen Park at Allen Park. ☉

5 Sunday 8.30am

**Wetland management activities** with CVA and Wilson Wetlands Action Group at Mill Street Stream. ww

11 Saturday 9am – 12am

**Planting day** with Friends of Yellagonga at Ocean Reef Rd. Call David 9304 1774.

11 Saturday 8.30am

**Foreshore planting and weed control** with CVA along the Belmont foreshore. ☉

12 Sunday 8.30am

**Wetland management activities** with CVA and Wilson Wetlands Action Group at Mill Street Stream. ww

12 Sunday 8.30am

**Native tree planting** with CVA in Market Garden Swamp. ☉

18 Saturday 1 – 4pm

**Bush regeneration** with Friends of Warwick Bushland. Meet at Warwick SHS car park, Erindale Rd. Call Robyn 9342 6840.

19 Sunday 8.30am

**Native tree planting** with CVA at Manning Lake, Cockburn. ☉

19 Sunday 9am

**Planting day** with the Canning River Regional Park Volunteers. Meet at Ferndale Cr Car Park. Call Jo 9458 3669.

24 Friday 9am – 12pm

**Bushland restoration training day** with Urban Nature at Talbot Road Bushland. Meet at cnr Talbot Rd and O'Connor St, Swan View. ♣

## HIGHLIGHTS

**International Earth Day – 22 April**

For further information visit <http://www.earthday.net/>.

**International Day for Biological Diversity – 22 May**

For further information visit <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2004.asp?content=what>.

**World Environment Day – 5 June**

For events held around Australia visit [www.ea.gov.au/events](http://www.ea.gov.au/events).

**Arbor Day – 20 June**

For further information visit [www.naturebase.net/forest\\_facts/arbor\\_day.html](http://www.naturebase.net/forest_facts/arbor_day.html).

## Develop Your Skills

### April

2 Saturday 10am – 4pm

**SFNC Tjuntalup Kadujin (Point Walter learning) – sharing the way of the land.**

Learn about the Nyoongar history of the Swan Estuary and share in the Nyoongar way of the land by participating in a range of activities including a bushrucker walk and the ancient skill of tool making. Experience Nyoongar culture through dreamtime stories. Presenter Neville Collard (N2N, CALM). ❖

5 Tuesday 9am

**Volunteer risk management workshop**

CVA is offering community members the opportunity to attend a free one-day workshop on Volunteer Risk Management. The workshop will be held in Fremantle. ☉

16 Saturday 9.30am – 1.30pm

**SFNC Leading the way – the art of leading nature walks** at the Henderson Environmental Centre, North Beach.

Participants will learn how to give effective guided walks and how to present to groups of children in the bush. Presenters: Jan Bant and Phylis Robertson (Friends of Dianella Bushland), Lyndsay Tonner (GAWA). ❖

### May

21 Saturday 9am – 1pm

**SFNC Feral animals in your patch – dos and don'ts** at Whiteman Park, Lord Street, Whiteman. Learn about the behaviour and impacts of some of the more common feral animals menacing our metropolitan bushlands.

Find out about some of the different methods of control and early steps for management. Presenters: John Tapley (Department of Agriculture), Mark Garkaklis (CALM). ❖

### June

11 Saturday 9am – 1pm

**SFNC Managing your bushland for unplanned fire** at the Warwick Leisure Centre, Warwick. Participants will hear from Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) and the community about how to manage fire in urban bushland. ❖

18 Saturday 10am – 4pm

**SFNC Creating wetland habitats** at the Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Winthrop. Learn how to create habitat for different fauna in your wetland or waterway and visit successful restoration project sites. Presenters: Dr Mike Bamford (Bamford Consulting Ecologists), Dr Kerry Trayler (DoE), Steve May (SERCUL). ❖

## Delivering the Message

### April

22 Friday

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

### May

22 Sunday

**International Day for Biological Diversity** 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 [www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2004.asp?content=what](http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2004.asp?content=what).

### June

5 Sunday

**World Environment Day** 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](http://www.ea.gov.au/events).

20 Monday

**Arbor Day** For further information visit [www.naturebase.net/forest\\_facts/arbor\\_day.html](http://www.naturebase.net/forest_facts/arbor_day.html).

## 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 St Bunbury. 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 contact Bernie on 9727 2474 (h) or 9752 1949 (w), bmasters@inet.net.au. Meetings are held at the RSL Hall, Causeway Rd, Busselton. Visitors welcome.

The South West Region Herbarium Group meets again working on the South West Regional Herbarium. Visitors are welcome to all activities. For further information call Shirley 9791 5915.

Leschenault Community Nursery Inc. For more information call Shirley 9791 5915 or Mark 9791 4670.

### April

13 Wednesday 5.30pm

**Presentation** with the Busselton Naturalists' Club. Speaker, Harry Butler CBE, consultant Sustainable Development.

24 Sunday 9am

**Bird watching excursion** with the Busselton Naturalists' Club. Visits to Big Swamp, mouth of the Preston River, Australind egret colony, Belvedere on west side of Leschenault Inlet.

### May

11 Wednesday 5.30pm

**The Trouble with Tuarts** presentation by Drew Haswell, CALM, Tuart Response Group for the Busselton Naturalists' Club.

22 Sunday 9am

**Guided walk** with the Busselton Naturalists' Club through the Bridgetown Jarrah Park in Dalgarup National Park east of Nannup. Easy to moderate walk of about 9km.

### June

8 Wednesday 5.30pm

**Thylacines and other discoveries in South West caves** presentation by Lindsay Hatcher, speleologist for the Busselton Naturalists' Club.

19 Sunday 9am

**Tree planting** with the Busselton Naturalists' Club at Ambergate Reserve. Meet at reserve's car park, corner of Queen Elizabeth Ave and Gale Roads. Bring digging equipment and gloves.

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](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon) as well as the Environmental Education Network.

Please send us your July, August and September events by June 1, 2005.

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

**Listen, Look and Learn** – talks, walks and 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

### April

5 Tuesday 7.30pm

**Maintaining Healthy Water Catchments** presented by Frank Batini for the UBC. ▲

9 Saturday 8 – 9am

**Nature walk** with Friends of Koondoola Bushland. Meet at Gate 2 cnr Koondoola Ave and Burbridge Way, Koondoola. K

10 Sunday 1 – 3pm

**Explore new national parks** with N2N. Explore one of the 29 new national parks that have been created in WA. Activities begin at South Ledge picnic area, Mundaring National Park, Mundaring Weir Rd. \*

10 Sunday 1.30pm – 4.30pm

**Field herbarium session** with Friends of Koondoola Bushland. Alexander Heights Community Centre, Linto Rd. K

13 Wednesday 10am – 12pm

**Adventure caving** at Yanchep National Park with N2N. Explore the subterranean world of troglobites and stalactites. \*

15 Friday 7.30pm

**Free nature talk – 'A Day in the Life of a Wildlife Carer'** presented by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club. ☉

16 Saturday 7am

**Morning bird walk** with the WA Gould League. ⌘

16 Saturday 8am

**Guided nature walk** with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at Scout Hall car park, Huntriss Rd. Call Betty 9444 5640.

18 Monday – 22 Friday

**Swamp safari holiday adventures** with the WA Gould League. ⌘

19 Tuesday 9am – 12pm

**Canning canoeing for kids** with N2N. Canoe the Canning River Regional Park on this easy paddle into an urban wetland area. \*

22 Friday 10am – 12pm

**Adventure caving at Yanchep National Park** with N2N. Explore the subterranean world of troglobites and stalactites. \*

23 Saturday 8am

**Guided walk** with Friends of Star Swamp. ★

24 Sunday 1 – 3pm

**Explore new national parks** with N2N. Explore one of the 29 new national parks that have been created in WA. Meet at the Canning National Park Lesley Nature Trail car park, Brookton Hwy. \*

### May

1 Sunday 1 – 3pm

**From the ashes at Yanchep National Park** with N2N. Discover how nature is recovering from recent bushfires in Yanchep National Park and the Perth Hills and how CALM prepares for the fire season. Optional second activity, 45 minute boat ride exploring the Wagardu Lake. \*

1 Sunday 1 – 3pm

**Explore new national parks** with N2N. Explore one of the 29 new national parks created in WA. Meet at Pickering Brook National Park, Masonmill Rd, Canning Mills. \*

3 Tuesday 7.30pm

**Environmental Weed Management on the Swan Coastal Plain** presented by Kate Brown from Urban Nature (CALM) for the UBC. ▲

6 Friday 7.30pm

**Night walk** with Friends of Dianella Bushland. Meet at the reserve car park, Channel Seven Private Road. Call Jan 9344 2872.

13 Friday 7 – 8pm

**Nature walk** – Creepy crawlies by torchlight with Friends of Koondoola Bushland. Meet at Gate 2 cnr Koondoola Ave and Burbridge Way, Koondoola. K

14 Saturday 9 – 10am

**Autumn nature walk** with Friends of Warwick Bushland. Meet at tennis club car park, Lloyd Dve. Call Karen 9342 8482.

15 Sunday 9am

**Guided walk** with the Canning River Regional Park Volunteers through Adenia Reserve. Meet at Adenia Bridge, Adenia Rd. Call Jo 9458 3669.

15 Sunday 1.30pm – 4.30pm

**Field herbarium session** with Friends of Koondoola Bushland. Alexander Heights Community Centre, Linto Rd. K

20 Friday 7.30pm

**Community talk on spiders** – master hunters and optional family sleeper with the WA Gould League. ⌘

20 Friday 7.30pm

**Guided night walk** with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Bring torch. Meet at Scout Hall car park, Huntriss Rd. Call Betty 9444 5640.

20 Friday 7.30pm

**Free nature talk – 'Birds'** presented by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club. ☉

21 Saturday 8am

**Guided nature walk** with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at Scout Hall car park, Huntriss Rd. Call Betty 9444 5640.

21 Saturday 8am

**Bird walk** with the WA Gould League. ⌘

27 Friday 7.30pm

**Nocturnal walk** with Friends of Star Swamp. ★

28 Saturday 8am

**Guided walk** with Friends of Star Swamp. ★

### June

7 Tuesday 7.30pm

**Impacts of invasive ants upon native bushland** presented by Shae Callan for the UBC. ▲

11 Saturday 8 – 9am

**Fungi Foray** with Friends of Koondoola Bushland. Meet at Gate 2 cnr Koondoola Ave and Burbridge Way, Koondoola. K

17 Friday 7.30pm

**Free nature talk – 'Invertebrates'** presented by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club. ☉

18 Saturday 8am

**Guided nature walk** with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at Scout Hall car park, Huntriss Rd. Call Betty 9444 5640.

25 Saturday 8am

**Guided walk** with Friends of Star Swamp. ★



# REGIONAL REPORTS

All groups welcome visitors and new members.

## South West Region

### New Friends for Paganoni Swamp

By Leonie Stubbs

A Friends group for Paganoni Swamp has been formed to increase the knowledge and appreciation of this wonderful piece of bushland. Paganoni Swamp is located in Karnup, in the southern area of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, and is bound by Mandurah Road to the west and Paganoni Road to the north. A range of activities is planned for the coming year including a fungi walk, an insect walk and a photography workshop. A major focus and commitment of the Friends will be weed control. The group has been fortunate to receive a Regional Parks Community Grant to eradicate Geraldton carnation weed from the park. This project will be undertaken with the assistance of Kate Brown from the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Urban Nature program.

If you are interested in becoming a member or would like to be informed of the Friends' activities, contact Leonie Stubbs on 9537 1831.

## South East Region

### A rescue mission for the Friends of Ken Hurst Park

By Dr Eddy Wajon

The relevant State Government authorities have now granted approval to construct the Roe Highway Stage 7. Main Roads WA, through the Roe 7 Alliance, has been busy planning for the road extension and undertaking clearing. At the request of the project Environmental Reference Group, the Roe 7 Alliance agreed to allow a small number of representatives from the Friends of Ken Hurst Park (FoKHP), the Wilson Wetlands Action Group, the Canning River Regional Park Volunteers and the WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group to undertake a plant salvage operation in February. The team spent six hours rescuing, digging up plants and collecting seed from as many whole plants as possible.



Friends of Ken Hurst Park assist in the relocation of plants from several areas of bushland along the alignment of the proposed Roe Highway Stage 7. (Photos: Dr Eddy Wajon)

The FoKHP rescued about 50 sedges, grasses, and shrubs. Some of these plants have been divided and re-potted by the students at Murdoch TAFE. It is hoped that, with a little TLC, the plants will all survive and can be planted in the degraded areas and along superfluous tracks in Ken Hurst Park later in the year. The FoKHP will be looking for assistance in May and June 2005 to help with these planting activities.

Before the plant salvage operation, Andrew Batty and Nigel Swartz of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority translocated 20 *Caladenia huegelii* from several areas of bushland along the alignment of the proposed Roe Highway Stage 7. Representatives from the WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group, the Roe 7 Alliance and the Department of Conservation and Land Management were present to witness the exercise. Among the orchids that were



The Friends of Ellis Brook proudly display their new sign. (Photo: Courtesy of the Examiner)



translocated was a 12 year old orchid, approximately 28 centimetres long and with seven old tubers. The oldest plant translocated was a 17 year old specimen, approximately 45 centimetres long. Following this exercise, members of the WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group recovered and translocated several other species of orchids.

For more information contact Dr Eddy Wajon at [wajonpub@wantree.com.au](mailto:wajonpub@wantree.com.au).

### Friends of Ellis Brook Valley decide on Honeyeater Hollow

By Heather Bowler

Courtesy of funding received from Lotterywest, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the City of Gosnells, Rotary and Readymix the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley are nearing completion of the picnic area and native plant garden project in the valley. This has been a milestone project for the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley and all contributors and volunteers are to be congratulated!

Deciding on a name for the picnic area and native plant garden proved to be a challenging task, with a range of suggestions to choose from, including Quacking Frog Creek, Wood Duck Flats, Scarp Flats, Mouse Ears Hollow, Cuckoo Corner, Ellis Gardens and Honeyeater Hollow. Following many discussions, Honeyeater Hollow won out in the end, much to the delight of many of the female Friends.

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



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## Central Region

### Workdays for Friends of Shenton Bushland

By Daniel Boase-Jelinek

The Friends of Shenton Bushland are planning a series of workdays in April and May to remove dumped mounds of soil from the bushland, as part of the 2005 Community Conservation Grant project. These mounds are a constant source of weed infestation in the area and the Friends hope that removing them will reduce the need to use chemicals for bulbous weed control in the future. A trailer will be used to transport the soil out of the bushland, though assistance is needed to help shovel the soil into the trailer. If you would like to assist the Friends of Shenton Bushland with these tasks, then please give us a call.

For more information contact Dani on 9381 3470.

## North West Region

### Excellence award for Quinns Rocks Environmental Group

By Alice Stubber

Practical action to look after local bushland is a priority for the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group (QREG). The group removes weeds, picks up litter, collects seed, surveys bushland, plan pathways and whatever else it takes to help the bushland flourish. It is this commitment that saw the group presented with the inaugural City of Wanneroo Award for Environmental Excellence - Community Achievement Award. This is a great accomplishment and the QREG would like to thank all those people that have helped make it possible.

In 2005, the QREG's Bushcare by the Beach program will focus on three urban bushland reserves, including Gumblossom Reserve, Long Beach Promenade Bushland and Quinns Beach Bushland.

Gumblossom Reserve is situated adjacent to the Gumblossom Community Centre and an active sporting facility in Quinns Rocks. The group played an active role in the development of the masterplan to see that this unique area of bushland was retained and conserved. The City of Wanneroo has installed a perimeter fence, a fire access track and is working with the QREG on the design of interpretation signage. The QREG has been negotiating with the City of Wanneroo to save the banksia woodland on Tapping Way and, unfortunately, some of the area will be cleared for parking facilities. In 2004, seed, small plants and cuttings were taken from the land to be cleared and will be used in future revegetation efforts in other areas of the reserve.

Long Beach Promenade Bushland is situated within the southern coastal area of Mindarie. The bushland has environmental problems resulting from frequent fires, erosion and weed invasion. The QREG, in partnership with the City of Wanneroo, has been successful in receiving a Coastwest Grant to address some of these concerns. The QREG will be working closely with the community to ensure they are informed about this coastal rehabilitation project and the benefits it will bring.

Quinns Beach Bushland is a Bush Forever Site that is vested with the City of Wanneroo. It is a unique area of remnant coastal heath, which remains intact despite urban expansion in the area. The western side of the reserve borders a surf club and café facility that is currently being developed. The QREG will focus on ensuring that any impact on the bushland arising from this proposed facility is minimised.

For more information contact Alice Stubber on 9306 3221.

### Yanchep National Park volunteers return

By Nicole Lincoln



Our faithful volunteers return to Yanchep National Park (L—R) Walt, Trevor, Chris, Craig, Mike, Clarissa, Maureen, Carol, Suzie and Elizabeth. (Photo: Nicole Lincoln)

Devastating fires at Yanchep National Park earlier this year damaged almost 60 per cent of the volunteer group's planting site. Almost 10,000 seedlings were planted at this site last year. These plants were a result of volunteers going out into the bushland to collect the seed and then sowing the seeds in the volunteer operated nursery. The seedlings were showing excellent signs of survival and, in only a few hours, all this hard work was turned to ash.

Despite the loss, the Yanchep National Park volunteers have returned with great enthusiasm and commitment to help get the park back on track. Their optimism is commendable.

The volunteer group has recently welcomed 12 new members who will assist with existing works around the park and may even start some new conservation projects! The staff at Yanchep National Park would like to extend a big welcome to all the new volunteers.

In recent months, the park volunteers have been concentrating their efforts in the nursery, propagating seedlings for the replanting of the fire damaged site, maintaining the stunning wildflower garden, restoring the interior of the heritage-listed tram and tending to the macro invertebrates that are now on display in the Yanchep National Park Visitor Centre.

For more information contact Nicole Lincoln on 9561 1004.

## North East Region

### Rare bird sightings for Friends of Yellagonga

By Jennifer Hawkes

The Friends of Yellagonga (FoY) has reaped the benefits of recent works adjacent to Ocean Reef Road, with the vegetation looking

healthy and the receding water levels a number of wading water birds have been seen visiting the site. The FoY has noticed two unusual visitors to the site with the sighting of two eastern reef egrets. Birds Australia informed the Friends that while it was unusual, the species was occasionally seen on the Swan River. This is a further indication that the efforts of the FoY is indeed making a difference. The FoY has also sighted variegated fairy wrens near Bindaree Terrace.

The FoY has recently uncovered plant specimens dating back to 1996 and this has led to efforts to establish a fully detailed herbarium to record the range of species found at the FoY sites. The herbarium will allow the effects of weed control to

be monitored and the changes to the species found over time. For example, pink fairy orchids that had not been seen at Bindaree Terrace for many years, were found last spring in an area almost totally denuded of native vegetation. The FoY will work in partnership with the City of Wanneroo to establish the regional herbarium.

For more information contact Jennifer Hawkes at 9448 0053.



# REGIONAL REPORTS



Mercy College students assist with revegetation work in Koondoola Regional Bushland. (Photos: Alice Stubber)



## Students' success at Koondoola Regional Bushland

By Alice Stubber

After some good rains in September, 64 Year 9 students from Mercy College converged on the southern area of Koondoola Regional Bushland (KRB) to plant the *Eucalyptus rudis* seedlings they had been growing in their school nursery. The school has a strong environmental focus and has actively worked with other community projects such as Ribbons of Blue. The theme running through Year 9 is 'Leadership in Science', which sees students gain awareness and skills in managing their local environment.

The southern area of KRB has a number of serious environmental issues resulting from stormwater run off into the area. With background information provided by Friends of Koondoola Regional Bushland and their own research, students were able to identify the problems in the area and look at ways these may be addressed. In particular, the students noted the problems arising from aggressive weed invasion and frequent fires. To try to slow this decline, the school grew seedlings to rehabilitate an area adjacent to an existing grove of trees.

The planting day was a great success with more than 150 seedlings being planted in a short space of time. Students were shown the fundamentals of planting, which included removal of all weeds around the area and watering in the seedlings after they were planted. Many of these seedlings are still going strong, despite a small fire in late December.

Mercy College hopes to show students that science is happening in their local suburbs and is not just an academic subject and that they can, by their actions, make a difference to their environment.

For more information contact Alice Stubber on 9306 3221.

## Hills Region

### A busy summer in the Eastern Hills

Collected by Jenny Mackintosh

**Brookside Park – Parkerville:** Very little has happened at Brookside Park, Parkerville since Christmas, as the hills are dry and crackly. Large bushfires ravaged several habitat areas. Many of the land carers in this region are also volunteer fire fighters and saw first hand the destruction of the eastern hills area. In December 2004, Green Corps hand weeded, stabilised stream sides, sprayed weeds and planted approximately 500 plants in Jane Brook within Brookside Park. This was a great effort in very difficult conditions, as the temperature reached over 40 degrees.

Work in the nursery is the main task at this time to ensure plants are available for planting in the coming winter months. Emerging seedlings were hit hard by the very hot conditions and another seeding has been necessary. If conditions are favourable, Bushcare mornings will begin in May 2005.

**The Parkerville Village Reserves Group** mapped pedestrian movements through Yennerdin Park. In order to reduce erosion and the spread of dieback, the local volunteer bushfire brigade will install barriers on some of these tracks to encourage people to stay on less sensitive pathways.

**Lion Mill Creek – Mount Helena:** A new group has been formed within the Friends of Lion Mill Creek to start work in the northern area of the reserve and includes some of the residents living nearby. The group aims to tackle a large area of honeysuckle and blackberry invasion.

**The Friends of Quenda Hollow** has seen some major changes. The rescued balgas have needed almost daily watering to keep them alive and shade cloth has been placed over

them on very hot days. A fallen black wattle has been collected and mulched. Almost half of the reserve has been sprayed for weed control in readiness for winter planting and work has begun on removing the dense clumps of bamboo. A large number of beautiful froglets have migrated to our neighbouring gardens! The Friends Swan Alcoa Landcare funding for this year has also been received.

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

### The Friends of Piesse Brook plan ahead

By Linda Stanley

The Friends of Piesse Brook will recommence work along the Piesse Gully on the third Sunday in April 2005. Throughout the long, dry summer months, Gerry and Thea Brown watered the seedlings that were planted last winter and have reported a minimal loss of seedlings as a result. The Friends do not intend planting the newly rehabilitated areas this winter, as a second year of free access for the Friends' contractor will assist in achieving greater control of blackberry, arundo and watsonia. However, we will consider the need for infill planting in existing vegetation areas as the planting season approaches.

Having lost some time in our program due to unscheduled works on the tributaries flowing into the Piesse Brook, the Friends have made up time by extending last year's work area and are now back on schedule to reach the confluence of the Helena River and Piesse Brook in 2007. However, the area of land that the group are tackling is enormous and progress may slow if further tributary work is discovered. The group would welcome any new members or the formation of new groups that may wish to work on tributaries in the region.

For more information contact Linda Stanley on 9293 3102 or lstanley@inet.net.au.



# Group Profile: Friends of Warwick Bushland

For the past six years, the Friends of Warwick Bushland (FoWB) has been managing and restoring a bushland area just 15 minutes from the Perth CBD, which covers 60 hectares. During this time, the group has experienced a number of significant achievements and is just as determined and committed as the day they first started.

## Two groups become one

Initially, the Friends of Warwick Senior High School Bushland was established by Robyn McElroy in 1997 who noticed a massive amount of cape tulip and other weeds dominated the school bushland. Appalled by the condition of the bushland, Robyn called on the school to begin actively protecting and managing the area. The school agreed, but lacked resources so asked Robyn if she would form a Friends group to coordinate the activities.

Later that year, Karen Clarke and Mark Brundrett joined Robyn's group. It soon became clear that the Warwick Open Space Conservation Area (WOSCA) surrounding the school also needed management and many of the actions being initiated by the Friends needed to be undertaken in both areas simultaneously. As Robyn wanted to remain focused on continuing essential work at the school, Karen agreed to act as the coordinator for activities in Warwick Open Space and liaise with the City of Joondalup. And so the Friends of Warwick Conservation Area was born.



*Thysanotus sparteus*, one of several fringed lilies that occur in Warwick Bushland. (Photo: Mark Brundrett)

For administration purposes, the name FoWB incorporates the two groups, however they actually cover different areas and are managed by separate entities. The Warwick Conservation Area is managed by the City of Joondalup as part of Warwick Open Space, and the high school bushland is managed through the school and the Department of Education.



(L—R) Ron and Beth Kinsey, Ros Udall, Janina Pezzarini, Mark Brundrett, Robyn McElroy, Maree Jager, Rene Schellekens, Karen Clarke (holding group Mascot, Chelsea) and Russell Foster. (Photo: Robert Pezzarini)

## Passion and persistence

Every member of the group is passionate about protecting the unique natural bushland. Members find the regular group sessions fun and a good way to learn about the fascinating plants and animals right on their doorstep. The group enjoy the sense of community and belonging that the bushland gives them in an urban landscape.

Members of the group possess a broad range of skills from which to draw on.

"One of our strengths is having two coordinators with complementary skills who can support each other especially when times get tough. We are also fortunate to have two botanists in the group who are actively involved in WA conservation issues. This assists us in expanding the scope of activities we undertake", said Karen, FoWB Coordinator.

"In addition, a number of our members are involved in groups such as the Environmental Weeds Action Network, Birds Australia, WA Naturalists' Club, Insect Study Group and the WA Native Orchid

Study and Conservation Group so our group has the benefit of being very effectively linked into the broader WA environmental network."

## Restoration work pays off!

Since the group was formed in 1997, it has obtained a total of \$23,014 in funding. This has been used to erect a fence, construct a

pathway, remove non-native tree species, buy plants and tree guards, purchase equipment and employ bush regenerators to help the Friends group remove copious quantities of weeds.

The funding and the hard work carried out over the years has produced many rewards, with at least 195 native plant, 90 fungi, 12 reptile and 59 bird species, plus the occasional kangaroo currently recorded in the area. In addition, a number of significant species occur in the bushland including the speckled stone gecko and the only large population of the rare graceful sun moth.

The area has become an important breeding site for a variety of birds including the brown goshawk, rainbow bee-eater, grey butcherbird and red capped parrot and an important feeding site for Carnaby's cockatoo. While in spring, the bush comes alive with the vast number of wildflowers including many native orchids.

One of the most significant achievements for the group is the fact that the WOSCA is protected from future development as a Bush Forever Site and both areas are Department of Conservation and Land Management Land for Wildlife sites.

## Contacts

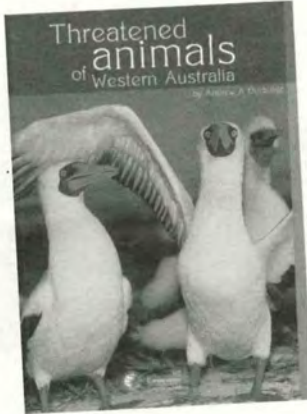
The FoWB can be contacted through coordinators Karen Clarke on 9342 8482 or Robyn McElroy on 9342 6840. For details about the group's activities for April, May and June, see this month's 'What's On' section.



# Resources

## New publications

- **Threatened Animals of Western Australia** – By Andrew A Burbridge. This important book by an eminent naturalist and scientist, documents the current state of research into and management of threatened animals in Western Australia. The book looks at the factors that lead to the decline of these species and presents a vision of what needs to be done to conserve WA's amazing biodiversity. This publication is available for \$32.95 and can be purchased from the Department of Conservation and Land Management by calling (08) 9334 0333 or visiting [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net).



- **A Naturalist's Life** – By Rica Erickson. Rica was born in the Eastern Goldfields in 1908 and has spent most of her life studying and writing about Western Australia's unique plants and animals. Rica is an accomplished botanical artist and has produced a wealth of detailed drawings and paintings to illustrate her work about orchids, triggerplants, carnivorous plants, birds and insects. *A Naturalist's Life* provides an account of how Rica became interested in natural history, who her guides, mentors and associates were and how she did her research. The book contains reproductions

of Rica's writing from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s and provides an insight into her remarkable life. This book can be purchased from UWA Press contact (08) 6488 3670 or [www.uwapress.uwa.edu.au](http://www.uwapress.uwa.edu.au).

- **Native Grasses of the Perth Region** – This publication, produced by Una Bell, follows on from the *Guide to Native Grasses in the Perth Hills*, which was originally written for bushcare groups to assist with the recognition of local native grasses. The research has been expanded to cover the wider Perth area and could be applied to the State's South West. The book will help people familiarise themselves with native and introduced grasses that occur in Perth, provide detailed descriptions and specimens for many species within the 25 genera of native grasses. Copies of the book can be obtained by contacting Una Bell on (08) 9295 1668.

- **Eco Voice** – The Environment Newspaper - is a valuable source of information on sustainable education across all levels of the Australian community. It explains how individuals can take action, and directs readers to other environmental sources. The publication is a valuable reference on a

range of environmental issues and is available at newsagents for \$2 a copy or you can subscribe by calling (08) 8338 0033 or emailing [subs@ecovoice.com.au](mailto:subs@ecovoice.com.au). For further information visit [www.ecovoice.com.au](http://www.ecovoice.com.au).

## Website watch

- **Fungimap** is a collaborative project between professional and amateur mycologists and naturalists to gather information about the distribution of fungi throughout Australia. The site includes strange facts about fungi, a fungi newsletter and a great range of resource material. Visit the site at <http://fungimap.rbg.vic.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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