

# Ecoplan NEWS

Issue 54 Winter 2005

Including Makuru and Djilba\* in the Nyoongar Calendar



## The power of volunteers – the 2005 ASGAP Conference

The Wildflower Society of Western Australia Inc. (WSWA) is hosting the Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants (ASGAP) conference in Perth this October. Organising and hosting a conference of this magnitude is a major undertaking and highlights the enormous efforts of volunteers in our community.

The WSWA is dedicated to the conservation, appreciation and cultivation of our wildflowers. It has sibling organisations in the other states, and in the Australian Capital Territory, making a total of seven societies. These societies meet biennially on a rotational basis under the banner of ASGAP. It's been 14 years since the conference was last held in WA.

Last year's ASGAP conference was held in Tasmania and provided the opportunity to link with other ASGAP members from around Australia, see some spectacular Tasmanian natural areas, promote the 2005 conference, and share an interest and love of Australian native flora with others. It also affirmed that all the hard work in organising the conference in Perth was well on its way to providing factors with a similar satisfying experience.

### Planning begins – a collaborative effort

Planning for the conference has taken many volunteer hours and, amazingly, began three and a half years ago. This level of dedication demonstrates the determination and effort that has been put into organising this event to ensure it comes to fruition.

A small committee of volunteers began meeting in April 2002, to develop the conference proceedings and discuss items such as themes, speaker programs, pre- and post-tour venues and guides, travel arrangements, evening activities, bookings, accommodation, promotion and catering.

By August 2002, a steering committee of nine committed WSWA members had been meeting on a regular basis and decisions regarding the basic outline of the conference had been made. The conference date was set for Saturday 1 to Friday 7 October 2005 at



WSWA excursion to Mokine Nature Reserve, York. (Photo: WSWA)



Eucalyptus lane-poolei at Boonamaring Nature Reserve, Gingin. (Photo: WSWA)

Hale School in Wembley Downs, and would include three days of speakers and two days of tours originating from Perth. A conference dinner and other evening activities were also organised.

A sub-committee of six members undertook arranging itineraries, accommodation and transport for the pre- and post-conference tours. Three pre-conference tours have been planned with the help of the WSWA branches in Merredin, Kulin and Albany. The tours will head north (Jurien Bay/Badgingarra), east (Merredin/Kulin/Narrogin) and south (Albany/Pemberton) and will be repeated as post-conference tours. All these tours are now fully booked.

### What's in store

In addition to the three pre- and post-conference tours there are many seminar sessions by guest speakers, covering a variety of topics. Events held on 3, 5 and 7 October 2005 are open to the public with a focus on the 'West's Wonderful Wildflowers'.



Some of the topics include Wildflowers in the city; Special landscapes, communities and plants; and Wildflower discovery in the wild, the laboratory and garden. There is also a free public lecture on the evening of Monday 3 October on the *New Directions in Research on WA Bushfood Plants*,

which will be presented by Dr Geoff Woodall.

Now the major planning has been taken care of with the proceedings of the conference arranged and confirmed, the work for the volunteers continues as they manage the enrolments, accommodation arrangements and arrival plans of the 230 delegates already enrolled.

### A fantastic achievement

Organising an event of this calibre has demonstrated the collaborative efforts of the WSWA and the many community volunteers, who have put a lot of time and effort into making this conference possible. They should all be commended on their achievements so far.

### Information and enrolments

If you are a member of the WSWA, enrolment forms are in the society's February newsletter. If not, contact WSWA on 9383 7979 or by email ([wildflowers@ozemail.com.au](mailto:wildflowers@ozemail.com.au)).

More information can be obtained from WSWA's website (<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers>).

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



# Ecoplan Update



The rains started early this year, with some extremely wet (and stormy!) days recorded in May.

Hopefully the rain has given a much-needed boost to rejuvenate our bushlands and wetlands. But, watch out for the weeds! Let's hope the rainy trend continues during the winter months to help all the bush managers and carers with the management of these precious areas.



The Urban Nature team would like to inform *Ecoplan News* readers that Bridget Hyder-Griffiths, who worked as the Urban Nature Coordinator for the past couple of months, has returned to a position in the Department of Environment. We would like to thank Bridget for her contribution to the program and wish her all the best in her future endeavours. The Urban Nature Coordinator position has been advertised and the team hopes the position will be filled soon.



The Skills for Nature Conservation (SFNC) program has had another busy couple of months, running five workshops since March: Sharing the way of the land; Leading the way – the art of leading nature walks; Feral animals in your patch; Managing your bush for unplanned fire; and Creating

wetland habitats. One of the highlights was Sharing the way of the land, held at Point Walter, which attracted a fantastic group of about 40 people, who enjoyed learning about the area's Nyoongar history from presenters Neville Collard and Brian Blurton.



The new calendar for the SFNC workshops from July to November is now available from the Urban Nature office or on the website. See page four for more details on the courses.



Urban Nature has held its first three Bushland restoration training days for 2005: two at Brixton Street wetlands and one at Talbot Road bushland. The sessions were spent learning how to tackle the tambookie grass where it is invading the Brixton Street wetlands and woody weeds moving into the bushland at Talbot Road from inappropriate street tree plantings. A big thanks to the City of Swan, City of Gosnells and the staff in the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) Swan Coastal District for their continuing support of the Bushland restoration training days. And, of course, thank you to all the community members who came to learn and help us! Please refer to the 'What's On' section for the next work days.



This edition of *Ecoplan News* is the first for our new editor, Jo Tregonning. Jo has been working part-time for WSWA for the past two and a half years and has recently been involved in the Baldy's Children's Forest project. She also has 11 years experience working with voluntary groups and organisations. No doubt Jo will make a valuable contribution to *Ecoplan News* through her extensive networks in the conservation community and professional writing skills.

## Thanks Erin

We would like to sincerely thank Erin Gisborne for editing and compiling *Ecoplan News* since the Spring 2003 issue. Erin has done a fantastic job and has made a significant contribution to the newsletter in the last seven editions. It's been great working with you Erin, and we wish you all the best in your future work.



Learning about the ancient art of bush tools with presenter Brian Blurton during Sharing the way of the land, Skills for Nature Conservation April 2005. (Photo: Urban Nature)

## Contacts

### Urban Nature Office

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### Conservation Council of WA

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### Greening Australia (WA)

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### Perth Biodiversity Project (WALGA)

Ryan Taylor ☎ 9213 2047

email: [info@walga.asn.au](mailto:info@walga.asn.au)

### Regional Parks (CALM) ☎ 9431 6500

### Swan Catchment Centre & Council

Alison Nesbit ☎ 9374 3333

email: [saicc@wrc.wa.gov.au](mailto:saicc@wrc.wa.gov.au)

### Urban Bushland Council ☎ 9420 7207

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### Wildflower Society of

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email: [wildflowers@ozemail.com.au](mailto:wildflowers@ozemail.com.au)

## Spring Ecoplan News

Forward your news, activities and regional reports for the Spring issue of *Ecoplan News* by Thursday 1 September 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 Jo Tregonning.



## Congratulations to Friends of Baigup Reserve

The efforts of the Friends of Baigup Reserve were rewarded when the *Birds and Reserves of the City of Bayswater* brochure was officially launched on 12 May 2005. The Friends started the project in 2001 and, with approval from the City of Bayswater, the project went into full swing with tremendous support and encouragement from Birds Australia. Special accolade must go to Cheryl Gole, Rose Jones and Alan Jones who played vital roles in the development and production of the brochure. For more information refer to 'Resources' on page 12.



### Funding for a new State Herbarium

The State Government has committed \$16.2 million during 2005–2008 for the construction of a new State Herbarium and an integrated science facility. The new building will enable representative samples of the State's flora to be safeguarded and stored in modern conditions.

## Perth Urban Bushland Fungi project update

The Perth Urban Bushland Fungi (PUBF) project season is now well underway. PUBF workshops continue during July to teach people how to gather useful fungi information. Free full-day workshops are available on how to spot and identify fungi, and what to be aware of when taking photos for identification. Fungi walks—a two-hour stroll in an urban bushland to point out the existence of a diverse range of fungi, as well as raise awareness about the importance of fungi to the environment—are also being conducted. These events will cater to everyone, from beginners to enthusiasts (see 'What's On').

Inventories of fungi for Perth bushlands are being compiled, in many cases for the first time, and the PUBF project requires your assistance to survey and collect fungi from a wide range of vegetation and

## Hunt is on for Siam weed



*Siam weed (Chromolaena odorata) flowering June–July.*

A national pest plant survey aimed at establishing the full extent of Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) within Australia is currently being undertaken. Siam weed infestations currently exist in several north Queensland locations and, although not currently found in Western Australia, there is potential for the weed to exist in areas in and north of Perth (where rainfall exceeds 600mm annually). Now is the opportune time for landholders, bushwalkers, and naturalists to be on the lookout for Siam weed's white-pink flowers (May to July) in their bushland or wetland area. Any information on the distribution of this weed will be useful in the national survey.

Identification material and a fact sheet can be found at [www.nrm.qld.gov.au/pests](http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/pests).

If you think you have seen Siam weed in any location, please report it by calling the toll free number (1800 084 881) or report it online at [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au).

For further information, contact Brett Davis, Senior Project Officer, Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines on (07) 3405 5531 or 0422 802 296.

soil types. A report with a list of fungi recorded and collected in each bushland and a dossier of fungi photos will be produced as a permanent record of the visit. Fungi specimens will be lodged for permanent curation at the WA Herbarium as a basis for key scientific studies from these events.

The groups who had a PUBF event in their bush in 2004 will be provided with a Fungi Feedback Package, and copies have been placed in the WA Naturalists' Club, Urban Bushland Council and WA Herbarium libraries.

For more information contact Roz, Community Education Officer, on 9334 0500 or by email ([roz@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:roz@calm.wa.gov.au)) or visit the new website at [www.fungiperth.org.au](http://www.fungiperth.org.au).



## Asparagus weed info—can you help?

The National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee is producing a best-practice control manual for asparagus weeds, including bridal creeper. The committee is particularly keen to receive material (eg pamphlets, fact sheets) produced by community groups for possible inclusion in the manual. Permission will be sought to use material and works will be appropriately credited. Please send contributions to Dennis Gannaway (National Bridal Creeper Management Coordinator) by 15 July 2005. Contact Dennis on (08) 8303 9748 or by email ([gannaway.dennis@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:gannaway.dennis@saugov.sa.gov.au)).

## State NRM Conference 2005



*State NRM Conference 2005*

## SUSTAINABILITY SIDE | SIDE by

Registrations are now open for the first Western Australian State Natural Resource Management (NRM) Conference being held 4 to 6 October 2005 at the WA College of Agriculture in Denmark.

The program will include workshops, debates, tours and a presentation series in addition to high profile plenary sessions. Topics will focus on the environmental, economic and social aspects of NRM issues relevant to WA. There will be an emphasis on practical and profitable solutions to landscape scale management from the rangelands to the coast, and from farm forestry to catchment management.

A registration form and preliminary program can be obtained from the website ([www.wanrmconf2005.org](http://www.wanrmconf2005.org)), by contacting Monica Durcan on 0418 934 870 or by email ([mdurcan@iinet.net.au](mailto:mdurcan@iinet.net.au)) or Debbie Rice on 0427 481 812 or by email ([deb@arid.com.au](mailto:deb@arid.com.au)).



# Learning opportunities



## APACE Introduction to Bush Regeneration Courses

This four-day course introduces community members—especially those working with Friends groups—to the fundamentals of bush regeneration. The course is a mix of theory and practice taught by experts in the field of bush regeneration. No previous experience is necessary and all tools are supplied by APACE. Participants receive a certificate after successful completion of a take-home exam and preparation of a herbarium.

Course modules include Overview of Bush Management and Plant Identification, Weeds and Control Methods, Practicals, Planning a Bush Regeneration Project and Community Action.

There are three courses available this spring—the dates are:

- Saturdays 6, 13, 20, 27 August 2005 at APACE, North Fremantle;
- Monday to Thursday 22, 23, 24, 25 August 2005 at APACE, North Fremantle; or
- Monday to Thursday 5, 6, 7, 8 September 2005 at Crestwood Estate, Thornlie.

The course costs \$220 including GST. For further information and bookings contact APACE on 9336 1262 or by email ([admin@apacewa.org.au](mailto:admin@apacewa.org.au)).

## Learning about landcare



Swan TAFE, Midland, is offering practical landcare units to those interested in protecting and rehabilitating our precious land and water. Semester two begins on Monday 18 July and offers evening and day classes.

Units cover topics such as plant recognition; mapping; weed control; revegetation techniques; seed collecting and propagation; ecology and the impact of feral animals; bush restoration skills; aquatic habitats; animal identification and survey techniques; safe operation of machinery and chemicals; conservation fencing; and advanced plant recognition.

All units can be studied as either one-off subjects or as part of a course of study in a Certificate in Conservation and Land Management. Contact Ted Johnson or Anne Taylor on 93746314 or Theresa Putland on 93746315.

## 2005 Landcare education field study courses

Practical landcare courses using hands-on activities and a variety of site visits, provide insight into landcare practices being used in the Wheatbelt of WA to address a range of environmental issues.

Courses are being held at Tammin Alcoa Landcare Education Centre and include accommodation, catering, field transport and resources provided for a cost of \$77 per person (including GST). Dates remaining for 2005 are 21–22 July, 18–20 August, 15–16 September and 13–14 October.

For more information, contact Patricia Dames on 9622 0200, by email ([Patricia.Dames@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:Patricia.Dames@det.wa.edu.au)) or visit [www.eddept.wa.edu.au/deo/midlands/landcare/index.htm](http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/deo/midlands/landcare/index.htm).

## 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, CALM and Greening Australia (WA).

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

- Fungi foray;
- Promoting your group – ways to be seen and heard;
- Fantastic flora – basic plant identification;
- Knowing your weeds – stop the spread;
- Wetland management – techniques for solving problems;
- Tools for tackling weeds – success with control;
- Transect of the landscape – exploring the Darling Scarp and Range;
- Stop the biological bulldozer – managing *Phytophthora* dieback in bushland;
- Plant patterning across the Plain; and
- Bushland management skills – brushcutting.

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

### Envirofund (Round 7) delayed

Guidelines and timing for Round 7, which includes a Drought Recovery Round (grants up to \$50,000) and regular Envirofund Round, has been delayed until after 8 June 2005. An agreement has recently been made to change arrangements for future rounds. Briefly they are:

- the Envirofund will have only one regular call for applications in each financial year 2005/06, probably in September/October with a closing date of February 2006;
- two tiers of application will be introduced with simplified application procedures (up to \$15,000 simplified application form; \$15,000 to \$50,000 requires more information); and
- successful applicants will be allowed 18 months to complete projects.

For more information or to register for an application form contact Envirofund Hotline on 1800 303 863, by email ([envirofund@daff.gov.au](mailto:envirofund@daff.gov.au)) or visit [www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/](http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/).

## 2005 WA Environment Awards

Nominations have opened for the Western Australian Environment Awards, with submissions due on Friday 29 July.



The awards recognise innovative ways to improve and conserve the environment. Corporate business, government and community groups can choose to highlight their environmental initiative through any of the 14 categories.

Finalists in 2004 included Men of the Trees Inc., Random Valley Organic Wines, Bunbury Senior High School and Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre.

For more details visit [www.environ.wa.gov.au/awards](http://www.environ.wa.gov.au/awards).



# Econotes: Winter rains – a tadpole bonanza

By John Dell

The better than average rains throughout the south-west in May, following heavy rain in March, has resulted in conditions suitable for a winter tadpole bonanza. Good rains are now needed during the next few months to allow the tadpoles to survive to metamorphosis.

## Breeding strategies

There are 77 known species of frogs in two families in WA. The family Hylidae with 26 species includes the typical tree frogs. The slender tree frog and the motorbike frog are common in the coastal and forest areas. They are summer breeders and require semi-permanent ponds and lakes to breed successfully.

The family Myobatrachidae with 51 species of ground dwelling or burrowing frogs, are highly variable in size (adults range in size from about 14 millimetres to 85 millimetres) and shape, and have many different breeding strategies, most involving a tadpole stage. Each species has its own habitat preference in and around wetlands. However, even sites well away from water or swampy areas often contain some species of calling frogs. Calls can be heard across distances of up to a kilometre or more, particularly on still nights or when the wind is blowing towards you.

In the Perth area, the only frog that does not have a tadpole stage is the turtle frog, which has direct development within the egg. It is found mainly in banksia woodlands such as Kings Park and Bold Park, where it spends almost all its life underground feeding on termites. It lays its eggs in moist sand after heavy summer or autumn rain, which hatch into tiny, perfectly-formed frogs. The heavy autumn rains this year provided ideal breeding conditions for this species. The turtle frog is different from other burrowing frogs in that it burrows frontwards using its more powerful arms and fingers.

Several species of small *Crimias*, which lay eggs in shallow water in winter are the most numerous frogs in the Perth region. These tadpoles need between 35 and 150 days before they metamorphose into juvenile frogs so their survival depends on sufficient rain in winter and early spring to prevent the shallow ponds from drying out.

## Moaning for a mate

The moaning frog is one of several large burrowing frogs in the Perth area.



A motorbike frog in typical resting position in a low tree during the daytime. (Photo: John Dell)



A moaning frog after emerging from underground to feed. (Photo: John Dell)



A female moaning frog on Rottnest Island showing eggs visible through the transparent skin. (Photo: Harriet Davie)

During summer they spend most of their time underground, often a considerable distance from water. With the autumn rains they move towards damper areas where the males dig breeding burrows. The females already have well-developed eggs that are easily visible through the belly skin. The males call from the burrow and the females locate their preferred male and crawl into the burrow. As many as 500 eggs are laid in a foam jelly at the bottom of the burrow. If the burrow remains moist, the eggs hatch and tadpoles begin development within the burrow. Heavy winter rains flush tadpoles out of the burrow and they swim through mud or are washed into nearby pools, swamps or roadside ditches. During winter, the tadpoles are found in non-flowing water and metamorphose in spring. Many tadpoles don't survive and in dry winters probably most, if not all moaning frog tadpoles perish.

## Threats to survival

Frogs face major threats, including clearing, stock grazing, modification of watercourses, habitat fragmentation, salinity, too frequent fire regimes, feral pigs, chemical pollution and impacts from pathogens including the chytrid fungus.

Frogs persist where breeding habitat around wetlands is retained, but they are sensitive to loss of riparian vegetation, changes in water quality or changes in hydrological cycles. The turtle frog, moaning frog and pobblebonk are also sensitive to loss of upland habitats.

## Monitoring

As each species of frog has a distinctive call, many volunteers and friends groups can monitor frog presence in their wetland and provide valuable information for wetland management. Monitoring calls will indicate potential frog breeding and recording of tadpoles will indicate the level of actual breeding. This is important in monitoring impacts of disturbance on wetlands.

## Further information

Aplin, K., Paino, A. & Sleep, L. (2000) *Building Frog Friendly Gardens*. Western Australian Museum.

Bush, B., Maryan, B., Browne-Cooper, R. & Robinson, D. (1995) *A Guide to Reptiles and Frogs of the Perth Region*. The University of Western Australia Press.



# What's On Winter 2005

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

## REGISTRATION/CONTACT DETAILS

for organisations providing a series of activities are as follows:

- ④ **Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (WA) Inc.** (AABR) Anna-Marie Penna 0411 040 706 or aabrwa@westnet.com.au.
- ④ **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).
- ♣ **Friends of Periwinkle Bushland.** Meet at the Periwinkle Bushland gate opposite Mullaloo Heights Primary School in Charonia Ave, Mullaloo. Contact Dot 9401 3724 or Dlullfitz@spartan.com.au.
- § **City of Wanneroo** (CoW) Contact Kelly Smith (Bushcare Officer) 9405 5000.
- ④ **Naragebup** Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd, opposite Lake Richmond, Peron. Contact 9591 3077.

- \* **Nearer to Nature** (N2N) Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). Contact 9295 2244. Affordable prices for all activities. Visit your local library for information or visit www.naturebase.net.
- ❖ **Skills for Nature Conservation** (SFNC) A partnership between the Swan Catchment Centre (SCC), CALM and Greening Australia (WA). Call SCC on 9374 333.
- ▲ **Urban Bushland Council** (UBC) Old Observatory, National Trust Building, 4 Havelock St, West Perth, contact 9420 7202 or ubc@inet.net.au.
- ♣ **Urban Nature** (CALM) Bushland restoration days. Talbot Road bushland (Cnr Talbot Rd and O'Connor St, Swan View) and Brixton Street wetland (Alton St, Kenwick). Call Kate 9474 7032.
- ★ **Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project** (PUBF) Contact Roz Hart 9334 0500 or rozh@calm.wa.gov.au.

## 2 Saturday 1pm

**Planting** with Friends of Lightning Swamp at Malaga Drv embankment. Meet at Kelly Place entrance. Contact John 9275 7338 or Don 9276 7666.

## 6 Wednesday 9am-12 noon

**Bushland restoration training day** with Urban Nature at Brixton Street wetlands. ♣

## 9 Saturday

**Bushland rehabilitation day** (weed control, cleanup, planting) with CVA, local Friends groups and the City of Joondalup at Periwinkle Reserve, Mullaloo. ☉

## 10 Sunday 8-10am

**Planting day** at Gumblossom Reserve, Quinns Rocks with CoW. §

## 10 Sunday 8-10am

**Bushland maintenance** with the Friends of Shenton Bushland. This and every Sunday morning. Meet at the 'shed'—100 metres in from Lemnos St beside the Dog Refuge Home. Call Dani 9381 3470.

## 20 Wednesday-24 Monday

**Rehabilitation (vegetation, weed monitoring and control)** with CVA, Friends of Hollywood Reserve, Allen Park and Shenton Park Bushland in the City of Nedlands. ☉

## 22 Friday 9am-12 noon

**Bushland restoration training day** with Urban Nature at Talbot Road bushland. ♣

## 31 Sunday 8.30-12.30pm

**Planting day at Church Street Drain, Lake Joondalup** with CoW, Friends of Yellagonga and the Yellagonga Catchment Group. §

## August

### 3 Wednesday 9am-12 noon

**Bushland restoration training day** with Urban Nature at Brixton Street wetlands. ♣

### 7 Sunday 9am

**Weeding** with the Friends of Trigg Bushland. Meet at Arnott St/Karrinyup Rd corner. Contact Phylis 9349 9105.

### 13 Saturday 9am-12 noon

**Planting day** with Friends of Yellagonga at Two Duck's Landing. Morning tea provided. Call Jennifer 9448 0053.

### 14 Sunday 8-10am

**Planting day** at Quinns Beach Bushland with CoW. §

### 20 Saturday

**Work day** with Friends of Brixton Street wetlands, Kenwick. Meet at Alton St. Call Regina 9459 2964.

### 21 Sunday 9am-12 noon

**Lupin pull** with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at the Scout Hall carpark, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

### 26 Friday 9am-12 noon

**Bushland restoration training day** with Urban Nature at Talbot Road bushland. ♣

### 28 Sunday 9am-12 noon

**Bushcare day** at Ridgewood Park with CoW. §

## September

### 7 Wednesday 9am-12 noon

**Bushland restoration training day** with Urban Nature at Brixton Street wetlands. ♣

### 17 Saturday

**Work day** with Friends of Brixton Street wetlands, Kenwick. Meet at Alton St. Call Regina 9459 2964.

### 18 Sunday 9.30am-12.30pm

**Planting day** with Lion Mill Creek Friends Group. Meet at Grahame St, Mount Helena. Supervision of children essential. Call Jenny 9572 1697.

### 23 Friday 9am-12 noon

**Bushland restoration training day** with Urban Nature at Talbot Road bushland. ♣

### 25 Sunday 9-12 noon

**Bushcare day** with CoW at Belgrade Park, Wanneroo. §

## Develop Your Skills

## July

### 3, 10 and 24 Sunday 10am-4pm

**Fungi forays** with Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project at North Lake Bushland, Hartfield Park Bushland and Warwick Open Space Bushland. Learn how to identify and photograph fungi. Bookings essential. ★

These events are forwarded for inclusion in the Swan Catchment Centre's monthly information sheet and Riverlink website at [www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon) as well as the Environmental Education Network.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### WA Environment Awards - 29 July

Entries for the 2005 awards close.

For information visit [www.environment.wa.gov.au/awards](http://www.environment.wa.gov.au/awards).

### National Tree Day Sunday - 31 July

School and community activities nationwide. Visit [www.planetark.com.au](http://www.planetark.com.au).

### Landcare Week - 1-7 September

Activities nationwide. Visit [www.landcareaustralia.com.au](http://www.landcareaustralia.com.au).

### Keep Australia Beautiful Week - 29 August-2 September

For details visit [www.kabq.org.au](http://www.kabq.org.au).

### Biodiversity Month - September

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

### National Threatened Species Day - 7 September

For information about activities order the free information kit from Environment Australia on toll-free 1800 803 772 or visit [www.wwf.org.au/tsn](http://www.wwf.org.au/tsn).

## 9 Saturday

**Fungi walk** with PUBF project at Periwinkle Bushland, Mullaloo. Bookings essential. ★

## 17 Sunday

**Fungi walk** with PUBF project at Kensington Bushland. Bookings essential. ★

## 30 Saturday 10am-1pm

**SFNC Promoting your group** - ways to be seen and heard. Learn how to develop a promotions plan, liaise with the media and write media releases. Presenter: Merry Robertson (Jump Marketing). ❖

## August

### 13 Saturday 9am-1pm

**SFNC Fantastic flora - basic plant identification.** Presenter: Diana Corby (Challenger TAFE). ❖

### 27 Saturday 9.30am-3.30pm

**SFNC Knowing your weeds - stop the spread.** Learn about weed identification, weed mapping, prioritizing. Participants need to attend Session Two in September. Presenters: Rod Randall (Department of Agriculture - Weed Science), Kate Brown (CALM), Julia Cullity (Greening Australia), Renee Miles (CALM). ❖

## September

### 3 Saturday 10am-4pm

**SFNC Wetland management - techniques for solving problems.** Practical wetland management techniques including revegetation—what plants to put where, nutrient stripping, weed control and stormwater management. Presenters: Justine Lawn (Department of Environment), Jane Chambers (Murdoch University), Rachel Spencer (Swan River Trust), Tom Atkinson (South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare). ❖

### 17 Saturday 9.30am-4.30pm

**SFNC Tools for tackling weeds - success with control.** Participants need to have attended Session One in August. Weed control techniques for community groups and field trip to Gingin Brook to look at successful restoration involving weed management. Presenters: Kate Brown (CALM), Renee Miles (CALM), Richard Diggins (Friends of Gingin Brook). ❖

### 24 Saturday 9am-4pm

**SFNC Transect of the landscape - exploring the Darling Scarp and Range.** Travel by bus to explore the Darling scarp and range to look at the unique biodiversity of this region, landscape formations, soil and vegetation associations, and the region's links to Gondwana. Presenter: Nathan McQuoid (Greening Australia). ❖

## Delivering the Message

## July

### 8 Friday and 9 Saturday

**Water Law in Western Australia;** a one-day conference at Curtin University and associated field trip to Gnarong Mound. Topics cover sustainability, water pricing, water trading and environmental allocation. For bookings or information contact 9221 3030 or visit [www.edowa.org.au](http://www.edowa.org.au).

## September

### 17 Saturday 10am-3pm

**The Forest Discovery Festival.** Spring forest fun at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre. Sustainable energy display, native animals, forest frogs, wildflowers and guided walk. Help your children make bush craft. Bring a picnic. Cost involved. \*

## Bunbury/Busselton Region

**Bunbury Naturalists' Club** oversees Franklandia Reserve where the kangaroo population enjoys eating the priority species *Franklandia triaristata*. With funding from Bushcare fencing was bought and members of the club isolated two populations of *F. triaristata*. This has been a great success and all natives have thickened up well inside the fence.

The club continues to hold meetings, excursions, and to work at the South West Regional Herbarium. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 5.30pm in the conference centre at Lotteries House. Excursions are held on every third Saturday. The Herbarium group meets every Tuesday morning at the South West Regional Herbarium at CALM. At the moment the public reference specimen files are being upgraded and gaps noted for future collection. For Busselton Naturalists' Club activities confirm details by checking the Busselton Margaret Times or calling Bernie on 9727 2474 (h) or 9752 1949 (w), [bnmasters@inet.net.au](mailto:bnmasters@inet.net.au). Meetings are held at the RSL Hall, Causeway Road, Busselton. Visitors welcome.

Leschenault Community Nursery has recently been awarded a grant from SGIO for seed benches, which will make life easier for the hard working volunteers. The nursery always welcomes new volunteers and is open Monday to Thursday 8am to 12 noon.

For further information contact Shirley 9791 5915 or 9756 7515.

## July

### 25 Monday to 7 Sunday August

**Long Range Camping Excursion** with Busselton Naturalists' Club to north-east Goldfields, including visits to Niagara Dam and Lake Ballard. Suitable for 2WD and caravans. Contact Alan Standing on 9755 5254.

## August

### 21 Sunday

**Walk through the Butler National Park** with Busselton Naturalists' Club. Moderate-level walk of about 15 kilometres.

## September

### 14 Wednesday 5.30pm

**Climate Change and Western Australia** presentation by Dr Brian Sanders (Indian Ocean Climate Initiative) for the Busselton Naturalists' Club.

### 25 Sunday

**Walk through the Blackwood River National Park** with Busselton Naturalists' Club. Moderate-level walk of about 15 kilometres.

### 26 Monday to 9 Sunday October

**Long Range Camping Excursion** with Busselton Naturalists' Club to Avon Valley National Park, Paruna and Karakamia Sanctuaries, New Norcia, Wongan Hills, Boyagin Rock, Tutanning and Dryandra Nature Reserves, Twin Creek Reserve at the Porongurups.

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

## July

### 5 Tuesday 7.30pm

**Using GPS, camera and computer to record your fungus** by John Weaver for the UBC. ▲

### 9 Saturday 10am

**Fungi Foray** with Roz Hart and the Friends of Periwinkle Bushland. ♣

### 13 Wednesday 9.15am-1.30pm

**Monitoring and Managing Natural Areas - Tools and Techniques in Use** with AABR at Piney Lakes Environment Centre, Bibra Lake. ☉

### 16 Saturday 1.30-5pm

**EWAN general meeting** at Tamala Room, WA Ecology Centre, Bold Park followed by talks on grass weed management by Judy Fisher (State Weeds Committee) and Kate Brown (CALM) and a walk in Bold Park to look at grass weed management issues. Afternoon tea provided. Cost: \$5 for non-EWAN members. Contact Diane 9457 2896.

### 16 Saturday 8am

**Guided Nature Walk** with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at the Scout Hall carpark, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

### 16 Saturday 2-4pm

**Six Seasons Walk** with N2N. Join a Nyoongar guide for an Indigenous discovery walk through Woodman Point Regional Park. Cost involved. \*

### 17 Sunday 10am-2pm

**The Hidden Forest** with N2N. Travel the hills on a bus and walking tour with a ranger. Visit rarely seen sections of our national parks and State forest. Cost involved. \*

### 23 Saturday 8am

**Guided Walk** with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at the Henderson Centre, Groat St, North Beach. Guided walk will look at fungi, wildflowers, insects and birds. Call Christine 9447 2983.

### 24 Sunday 10am-1pm

**Tjuntalup Kadujin** with N2N. Walk and talk with a Nyoongar guide and hear stories of this part of the Swan Estuary. Cost involved. \*

### 30 Saturday 8am

**Guided bushwalk** with the Friends of Trigg Bushland. Meet southern side of Saint Mary's School, off Elliott Rd, Trigg. Call David 9448 9192.

### 31 Sunday 8.15am

**Nature Walk** with Friends of Lightning Swamp led by Phylis Robertson. Meet at Kelly Place entrance. Contact John 9275 7338 or Don 9276 7666.

## August

### 2 Tuesday 7.30pm

**Feral Bees presentation** by Peter Mawson (CALM) for the UBC, preceded by special meeting on Gift Recipient Fund/Status. ▲

### 7 Sunday 10am-2pm

**Lost World Walk** with N2N. Walk with local guide through spectacular forest behind Mundaring Weir to a magical spot. Cost involved. \*

### 13 Saturday 2-4pm

**Caring for Catchments** with N2N. A guide will walk the Catchment Carers Trail with you and explain the importance of a healthy forest for our water supply. Cost involved. \*

### 13 Saturday 7-9pm

**Nightshift** with N2N. Bring a torch and spotlight some of the mysteries of the forest. Cost involved. \*

### 19 Friday 7.30pm

**Endangered Marsupials** - presentation by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club at Naragebup. ☉

### 20 Saturday 8am

**Guided Nature Walk** with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at the Scout Hall carpark, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

### 28 Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm

**Friends of Star Swamp Bushland 20th Anniversary Celebration.** Guest Speaker 10.30am. Spring Walk 2pm. At Henderson Centre, Groat St, North Beach. Centre open all weekend for WA Naturalists' Club Fungi Photo Exhibition. Call Christine 9447 2983.

## September

### 6 Tuesday 7.30pm

**Biodiversity in the Perth Region.** Presentation by Dr Steve Hopper (UWA) for the UBC. ▲

### 10 Saturday 2.30pm

**Spring Walk identifying flora and fauna** with the Friends of Periwinkle Bushland. ♣

### 11 Sunday 8.30-9.30am and 10.30-11.30am

**Guided Nature Walks** with CoW at Celadon Park, Banksia Grove (8.30-9.30am) and at Belgrade Park, Wanneroo (10.30-11.30am). §

### 14 Wednesday 9.15am-1.30pm

**Returning native orchids to the bush;** propagation and conservation with AABR at Kings Park. ☉

### 16 Friday 7.30pm

**River Conservation** - presentation by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club at Naragebup. ☉

### 17 Saturday 8am

**Guided Nature Walk** with Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at the Scout Hall carpark, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

### 18 Sunday 8.30-12 noon

**Guided Nature Walk** (8.30-9.30am) followed by **Bushcare activities** (10am-12 noon) with CoW at Paloma Park, Marangaroo. §

### 25 Sunday 10am-12 noon

**Tracks 'n' Scats** with N2N. Spend an hour in the animal enclosure before exploring the forest for evidence of their activities. Cost involved. \*

## Get Your Hands Dirty

## July

### 2 Saturday 10am-12.30pm

**Bushland restoration planting day** with Urban Nature at Talbot Road bushland. ♣

### 2 Saturday

**Planting day** with CVA along the banks of the Swan River at Alfred Cove, Attadale. Free sausage sizzle provided. ☉



# REGIONAL REPORTS

All groups welcome visitors and new members.

## Conservation volunteers ready to plant

By Linda Metz

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) has had a great first half of the year with more than 20 new volunteers starting with us. In particular we have also had a number of employees from corporate organisations volunteering on a number of projects. Vodafone Australia and CVA volunteers undertook work to support the Shire of Mundaring and the Dieback Working Group at sites including Hardey Reserve in Glen Forrest. Volunteers learnt about the nature of *Phytophthora*, its impact on native bushland and the methods of treatment. This was exciting for the corporate volunteers as many of them had little or no understanding of dieback and how serious a threat it is.

CVA has also been busy assisting CALM in Beeliiar Regional Park. Several kilometres of fencing around North Lake and Thompsons Lake needs to be replaced as it has fallen into disrepair allowing feral animals, including rabbits, access into rehabilitated areas. Several of the rehabilitated areas have become infested with rabbits and CVA is now focusing on fencing off smaller areas to ensure that this year's plantings survive. The volunteers have been treated on several occasions to some great barbecues cooked to perfection by CALM staff.

CVA now moves into the busy period of planting! We will be supporting a number of local groups all around the Perth metropolitan area to get our sites looking good.

For more information contact Linda on 9336 6911.

## South West Region

### New Friends for Wellard Bushland

The Friends of Wellard Bushland group was formed in early 2005 to care for remnant bushland in Homestead Ridge estate, adjacent to Leda Nature Reserve in the Town of Kwinana. The Friend's first planting on 29 May attracted 20 people and a total of 343 local natives were planted. Plants were supplied by local nurseries thanks to a grant from a local developer. The group is hoping to do some additional planting this season, a 'Gladioli Grab', and will be holding a 'walk and talk' in Wellard bushland in spring.

For more information contact Felicity Littleton on 9439 3346.

## South East Region

### The survival of transplanted herbs and shrubs looks promising for the Friends of Ken Hurst Park

By Dr Eddy Wajon



Friends of Ken Hurst Park prepare to plant shrubs and herbs salvaged from the proposed Roe Highway Stage 7 alignment. (Photo: Dr Eddy Wajon)

In February 2005, 79 herbs and shrubs, and 20 orchids were salvaged from the Roe Highway Stage 7 alignment and were stored and watered at the home of one of the Friends with 62 plants surviving until planting on Sunday 14 May 2005. Researchers from the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority have inspected the 20 grand spider orchids that were transplanted in February and report that most, if not all, the plants have put up a leaf and look like they have survived the transplanting operation.



Friends of Lightning Swamp with their spoils after a recent rubbish collection day. Left-right: Jeremy Maher, Don Kidson, Jarrad Clark, John Williams (President), Hans Hollette, Ian, and Tony Green. (Photo: Ruth Williams)

Roe 7 Alliance is slowly progressing the incorporation of bushland adjacent to Ken Hurst Park as well as that at Fraser Road, Jandakot into the conservation estate (some into Ken Hurst Park) as part of the offsets package for the construction of the highway. In the meantime, damage is continually occurring to the bushland as there is unauthorized access and rubbish dumping.

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

## North West Region

### Friends of Periwinkle Bushland enjoy the rewards of their labour

By Rene Duthie

Periwinkle bushland is a 3.7-hectare bushland reserve bounded by Periwinkle, Charonia and Meridian roads in Mullaloo. The reserve is representative of tuart-banksia woodland that once occurred in this area. The objectives of the Friends group are to keep the bush tidy, gain community interest, plant native plants, control weeds and re-introduce local fauna.

The Friends of Periwinkle Bushland is entering its fourth year as a bushland Friends group. We are celebrating, as many of the plants we planted in our first years are flourishing and the Geraldton carnation weeds previously targeted are drastically reduced. Feedback from the locals is that they are enjoying the monthly leaflet, which states



# REGIONAL REPORTS

what is in flower for the month and any fauna activity at the bushland. These are simply placed in a small bottle near the gate. At the moment firewood banksia (*Banksia menziesii*) and native wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*) are in flower. We are seeing many more birds in our bushland including hawks, boobooks, owls and black cockatoos. As a group we are encouraged by the impact we are making.

For more information contact Dot Lullfitz on 9401 3724.

## Celebrating 20 years with Quinns Rocks

From QREG June newsletter

The Quinns Rocks Environmental Group (QREG) continues to run 'Bushcare by the beach' activities at Gumblossum Park, Longbeach Promenade bushland and Quinns beach bushland. Coastal rehabilitation work has begun in the foreshore reserve off Longbeach Promenade, Mindarie, in partnership with the City of Wanneroo with support from a Coastwest grant.

Over the past couple of months a few members have seen owls on several occasions in the Mindarie and Quinns areas. They may have been masked owls (*Tyto novaehollandiae*) or barn owls (*Tyto alba*). The white underside and clear heart-shaped faces with dark feathers on the upper side makes it hard to distinguish between the two species. The group would be interested to know if you have seen any owls in the local area.

The QREG is also celebrating a 20-year milestone. The group has made an enormous contribution to the environment in the last two decades with some major achievements being the protection of 144 hectares of bush north of Burns Beach, retention and improved management of bush in local reserves at Quinns Rocks and progress towards a management plan for an enlarged Neerabup National Park.

Thanks to QREG members and supporters who have sustained the groups' efforts over 20 years. Lets keep working for a greener future!

For more information contact Renata 9305 9382.

## North East Region

### Friends of Lightning Swamp keep busy implementing their management plans

By Don Kidson

Lightning Swamp Bushland is 70 hectares of bushland located between Malaga and



A helicopter places a large bag of roadbase where it is needed for the trail construction in Ellis Brook Valley. (Photo: John Bowler)

Noranda. The bushland is bounded on two sides by Tonkin and Reid highways to the north and Malaga Drive to the west and to the south by Mathews Close, which provides the only access to the bushland. An open storm water drain traverses the length of the area, draining into an ephemeral wetland area at the eastern end of the bushland then flowing into the Bennett Brook Reserve. There is also a perched wetland in the north-east corner of the site, which contains water most of the year.

The Friends group was formed in 2000 and, since then, has produced a management plan, fenced the perimeter of the area, constructed limestone pathways, and embarked on a regeneration program over an old farm site. Plans have been prepared for dieback control, water monitoring and planting sedges in the eastern wetland. Other ongoing activities include erecting signs, weed control, rubbish collection, erosion control and planting. These are all very familiar activities to fellow Friends groups. We have an enthusiastic committee who meet monthly to discuss and plan our ongoing program. New members are always welcome.

For more information contact John Williams on 9275 7338.



## Funding success for Friends of Yellagonga

By Jennifer Hawkes

The Friends of Yellagonga group has received \$10,300 in funding from the NHT Envirofund Round 6 to revegetate areas of foreshore on lakes Goollelal and Joondalup, replacing *Typha orientalis* with local native trees, shrubs, reeds, sedges and rushes.

This is quite an undertaking as it involves growing all the species required in our nursery and growing rafts of some species in order for them to be planted in the littoral zone en masse to prevent their destruction by water birds. It also means we need to have fairly large species of trees and shrubs to prevent destruction and all these ready for next autumn's planting.

The formidable part is removing the remains of *Typha* from the areas (one has suffered a fire) and this will probably be achieved by slashing and then wiping the emergent shoots with glyphosate. In some areas, if we have good winter rains, we will be able to slash *Typha* and if submerged to a depth of 15 centimetres, it will die with no further effort on our part. Either way, this should go that little bit further to improving the water quality and habitat value of Yellagonga Regional Park.

For further information contact Jennifer Hawkes on 9448 0053.



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## Hills Region

### Lift given to create Ellis Brook Valley trails

Excerpt from The Examiner Newspaper, May 19 2005

Friends of Ellis Brook Valley Reserve in Martin is part of a \$100,000-partnership project involving the City of Gosnells and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure to upgrade and extend trails through the ecologically-sensitive area of Ellis Brook Valley. The Friends group has pioneered innovative techniques to establish walktrails across sensitive terrain to ensure visitors can enjoy more of the area's rich floral diversity without damaging the environment. A helicopter was needed to airlift about 22 tonnes of timber and gravel to the region under strict environmental requirements. The operation took about five hours and more than 30 airlifts. The project is expected to be finished by the end of June after 18 months of planning, which included gaining approval from the Department of Environment, and carrying out a survey of the plants adjoining the proposed route. The end result will be upgrade work as well as about 600 metres of new trails to extend the network to 3.5 kilometres.

For more information contact John Bowler on 9459 2086.

### Revegetation work commences in the Perth hills

Collected by Jenny Mackintosh

#### Hovea – Parkerville

Excellent early rain in May has ensured a great start for revegetation works in the park. Students from Swan TAFE, Midland, spent two Sunday mornings stabilising stream banks, removing woody weeds and planting more than 700 local species along Jane Brook. In the coming weeks, other TAFE students will be at various sections of the brook to revegetate where housing has been removed. This will enable the riparian zone to be extended and more habitats created as well as improving the quality of the water in Jane Brook. The local community will continue these projects through the winter months.



Jane Brook Catchment Group (JBCG) was delighted that numbers at the last meeting rose to 20 as more people find that the JBCG is the umbrella body for other groups in the catchment. JBCG continues to meet every other month at Parkerville.

**Rocky Gully Catchment Group – Joan Quinn** reported on her family's efforts to keep animals out of sensitive and wet areas:

"So many plants and other things are starting to appear," she said.

"It has been five years since we have allowed animals on some of the areas. This year is the first time I have seen a difference.

"All the plants I have planted are starting to look like plants and in other areas things are happening naturally. It is surely not an overnight success."

This year Joan has some Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) funding to help speed the process!

For more information contact Jenny on 9572 1697.

## Bunbury/Busselton Region

### Geographe Community Landcare Nursery looks to expand

The Geographe Community Landcare Nursery is full of plants, with orders being despatched every day. We have had a good year so far with more than 1500 volunteer hours recorded and about 60,000 plants in stock, with all being pre-ordered. There is a huge demand for local provenance plants, and there are trays and trays of rushes underneath our benches.

Some of the interesting species germinated this year include *Haemodorum spicatum*, *Baumea rubiginosa*, *Bossiaea aquifolium*, *Allocasuarina thuyoides* and *Acanthocarpus preissii*. If anyone has found the solution to keeping *Bossiaea* species alive in pots we would like to hear from you as only about half survive to a decent size. \*

Funding permitting, next summer will see us expand the nursery so we can have a whole section just for rushes and sedges.

Some of our volunteers will be helping with planting on the foreshore in Busselton in early June. We are available to help any landholders with planting if necessary.

If there are any people who wish to be added to our 'planting list' please leave a message on 9754 2049. For more information contact Vanessa on 9781 0108.



The Geographe Community Landcare Nursery bursting with propagated plants ready for the 2005 planting season. (Photos: GCLN staff)



# Group Profile: Yanchep National Park Volunteer Group

By Nicole Lincoln

A LARGE group of volunteers has been working hard to maintain the environmental values of Yanchep National Park and, in the four years since its inception, the group has achieved so much already.

## Diversity at Yanchep National Park

Yanchep National Park, managed by CALM, is situated 50 kilometres north of Perth, nestled in 2842 hectares of tuart and banksia woodlands. It is uniquely diverse, with at least 500 limestone caves, four large wetlands, array of bird life, seven different vegetation communities, koala breeding program and significant Nyoongar and European cultural values. These elements provide both opportunities and challenges for the volunteer group.

## Nature conservation sparks community group

The Yanchep National Park volunteer group was founded in 2002 as a result of overwhelming community interest and willingness to actively contribute to nature conservation within the park. To assist and support the group, one of the CALM staff was designated as Volunteer Coordinator to provide the group with technical advice, administration and project coordination. The group also has its own Volunteer Centre, a converted ex-ranger cottage, which provides a meeting place within the park.

The group currently has about 60 active members, consisting of a friendly mix of locals, students and community members. Within the talented and skilled group there are horticulturalists, an ex-Cue Garden staff member, science teachers, cave trip leaders, wildlife carers, handy persons and many studying environmental sciences. A considerable proportion of the volunteers have been with the group since the start and are able to provide support and expertise to newer members. The opportunities for socialising and learning from each other's experiences have led to a cohesive and dynamic group of volunteers.

## Group aims

The aim of the group is to actively take part in nature conservation to enhance the well being of the park in accordance with the overall management objectives. The group is



Left: Lorraine, Esmé, Dianne and Elizabeth sowing seed.



Rehabilitation site, Yanchep National Park. Left: Carol, Craig and Suzie.



Refueling before working in the nursery. Left: Bronwyn, Pete, Erin and Julie. (Photos: Nicole Lincoln)

responsible for many projects within the park, including seed collection, native nursery operations, rehabilitation of degraded sites, weed management, invertebrate and fungi surveys, fauna trapping, water monitoring, beautification of the wildflower garden, restoration of a heritage-listed tram and litter collections. These projects are on going and are maintained by the group, which is a huge responsibility and a great achievement!

## Achievements to celebrate

The group has made some considerable achievements over the past four years and has made a significant contribution to the conservation of Yanchep National Park.

On an annual basis the group propagates and plants 10,000 native local indigenous seedlings, which are grown in the volunteer-operated nursery. These annual plantings contribute to the habitat and food source for fauna species in the park, in particular the Carnaby's black-cockatoo, a nationally-recognised threatened species. The group also provides important information on monitoring of Carnaby's black-cockatoo behaviour and numbers within the park.

The group also has an important function in community environmental education by providing a public demonstration of what can be achieved as a community to improve the local natural environment. The group educates and encourages the community to plant native and water-wise gardens through the wildflower garden on display and provides educational opportunities for schools to learn about aquatic invertebrates through the Ribbons of Blue Program.

## Priorities for 2005 and beyond

In January 2005, deliberately lit fires swept through Yanchep National Park. The fire destroyed as much as half of the park, including half of the group's planting site. This year the group will concentrate efforts in the affected area to assist the restoration process. Key aspirations for the future are to continue with the range of on-going volunteer projects to maintain the environmental values of the park.

## Social networks strengthened

The group is just as social as it is hard working. With every success comes a barbecue, guest speaker or an adventure down a new cave. The view of the Volunteer Coordinator, Nicole Lincoln is held by many in the group: "It is such a pleasure to see this group evolve, to see skills developed, friendships flourish and ultimately, excellent nature conservation outcomes achieved".

## Contacts

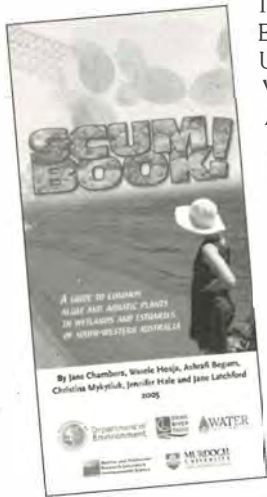
The group meets monthly to discuss project progress and opportunities to volunteer are weekdays from 9am to 12 noon or later. We welcome all new volunteers and encourage any interested person to come along and join us. For more information contact Nicole Lincoln, Volunteer Coordinator on 9561 1004.



# Resources

## New publications

- **Scumbook!** – produced by the Swan River Trust, Department of Environment, Murdoch University and the Water Corporation.



A user-friendly, step-by-step field guide to identify algae, scum and aquatic plants in south-western Australia. This waterproof book also includes detailed descriptions, photos and symbols that indicate if the plant is an important or normal component of wetlands, if it is

undesirable, and if it may pose a health risk. Copies retail for \$30 and can be purchased through the Murdoch University bookshop, with proceeds going towards a second print run. Email co-author Dr Jane Chambers on [J.Chambers@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:J.Chambers@murdoch.edu.au) for more information or to order a copy.

- **Managing Weeds in Bushland: The Perennial Tussock Forming Grass Weeds** – compiled by Urban Nature, CALM, published by Environmental Weed Action Network (EWAN) and State Weed Committee. This new pamphlet looks at the general biology, including dispersal mechanisms, management and control techniques of the perennial tussock-

forming grass weeds, such as perennial veldgrass, love grass and tambookie grass. The pamphlet is part of the Managing Weeds in Bushland series. Available from either EWAN's website <http://members.iinet.net.au/~ewan/info.htm> or by contacting Urban Nature on 9474 7052 for a paper copy.

- **Birds and Reserves of the City of Bayswater** – produced through collaborative efforts of the Friends of Baigup Wetlands, City of Bayswater, Perth Biodiversity Project and Birds Australia. The vibrantly-illustrated, 12-page, colour brochure provides information on the bird species, access and facilities of 10 reserves and parks in the City of Bayswater. The brochure also includes a map showing the location of these reserves and a comprehensive bird index at the back, along with a list of native and exotic plant species found at the sites. Copies of the bird brochure are available from the City of Bayswater. Contact Jeremy Maher on 9272 0622.
- **The Western Suburbs Greening Plan Guide – Wildflowers and other local plants for your garden**. This easy-to-read booklet was written by Tony Freeman (APACE WA), Ann Forma and Anne Pettit (Earth Carers) as part of the community education strategy of the Western Suburbs Greening Plan (2002).

This 20-page guide will inspire and enable residents of the western suburbs to choose and establish local native plant species for their home gardens. Copies are available from [www.townofmosmanpark.wa.gov.au](http://www.townofmosmanpark.wa.gov.au) or by contacting Earth Carers on 9286 5025.

## Website watch

- The new Department of Agriculture website provides information on **Training and Development Opportunities in Natural Resource Management (NRM)** in Western Australia. It provides links to the websites of regular providers of training and development in NRM such as universities, TAFEWA and Greenskills. It also has a link to a searchable current events database of training opportunities and a list of e-News services currently available. Visit [www.agric.wa.gov.au/nrmtraining/](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/nrmtraining/).
- **Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project** now has an innovative website, which offers downloadable illustrated field books for individual species of fungi found in the Perth region, information about this and last year's events, news items, information about learning about fungi, Fungus of the Month and lots more. Visit [www.fungiperth.org.au](http://www.fungiperth.org.au).

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

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