

# Ecoplan NEWS

Issue 56 Summer 2006

Time of Birak and Bunuru in the Nyoongar calendar



## WA's black cockatoos need your help!

TWO Western Australian Projects are collecting baseline information on black cockatoos to help reverse the downward population trend for these birds. The participation of volunteers in the project surveys is vital in supporting this research for future conservation planning.

### 'Great cocky count' – can you help on Sunday 12 February?

By Banshi Shah

The charismatic Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) – once numerous in WA – is now listed as Endangered.

The species has declined 50 per cent in the past 45 years, with one of the main contributing factors being land clearing. Since 2001, Birds Australia, as a member of the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Recovery Team, has operated the *Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Recovery Project* to raise awareness of the cockatoos' plight, identify and monitor breeding sites within the wheatbelt and improve breeding and feeding habitat.

A new project now aims to determine the population and spatial distribution of birds on the Swan Coastal Plain and identify critical habitat requirements. This critically important baseline information is currently lacking, and will assist with conservation planning in the rapidly developing Swan region. Key partners in this project are presently Birds Australia, WWF-Australia, and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

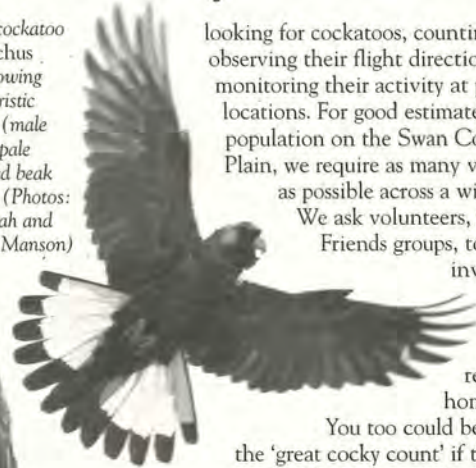
### Habitat requirements

Carnaby's cockatoos are believed to breed mostly in the wheatbelt, returning to coastal and near-coastal areas from late-December to July. The birds feed on a large variety of plants including *Proteaceae* (banksia, dryandra and grevillea), marri nuts and introduced species – notably pines. The long-term survival and recovery of this species is inextricably linked to the survival of its habitat – both in breeding areas in the wheatbelt and non-breeding areas such as the Swan Coastal Plain.

### 'Great cocky count' volunteers needed

Your help is needed to estimate the population of Carnaby's cockatoos on the Swan Coastal Plain by assisting with scientific surveys. The first survey will be on Sunday 12 February and will involve

Female Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) showing the characteristic grey eye ring (male pink) and pale bone-coloured beak (male black). (Photos: Banshi Shah and Dave Manson)



looking for cockatoos, counting birds, observing their flight direction and monitoring their activity at particular locations. For good estimates of the population on the Swan Coastal Plain, we require as many volunteers as possible across a wide area.

We ask volunteers, including Friends groups, to get involved and survey local parks, reserves and home gardens.

You too could be a part of the 'great cocky count' if there is a patch of bush near you!

The project will also identify critical feeding habitat, and record food preferences. If you see a Carnaby's cockatoo feeding on plants on the Swan Coastal Plain, contact us to obtain a food plant record form. Vegetation surveys will also be conducted to estimate food resources on the Swan Coastal Plain. If you are interested in undertaking counts of banksia flowers and/or transects through pine plantations, please join the volunteer team.

With increasing public awareness and support, and future conservation planning based on good information, there is still hope that Carnaby's cockatoos will again blacken the sky as they fly overhead.

Don't forget, Carnaby's cockatoo needs your help on Sunday 12 February 2006. Contact Banshi Shah, Swan Coastal Coordinator, Birds Australia on 0427 707 047 or email [b.shah@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:b.shah@birdsaustralia.com.au).

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo RECOVERY PROJECT



### Cockatoo Care

The success of the *Cockatoo Care* program also relies on the collection of information by volunteers. *Cockatoo Care*, a joint initiative of Water Corporation and the Western Australian Museum, began in 2001. The project focuses primarily on the Threatened red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) and Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) throughout the south-west, but also receives data on Carnaby's cockatoo.

The project aims to encourage the maintenance of nesting and feeding habitats, minimise the impact of threats,

undertake recovery planning and collect baseline information on diet, distribution, status, flock size, habitat preferences, movements and breeding biology.

### How can you help?

Observation cards and frequent sighting forms filled in by the public are vital in supporting this research. More than 3000 observation records have been data-based. Contact the Water Corporation on 9420 2182 or [www.cockatooecare.com](http://www.cockatooecare.com).

Compiled by Jo Tregonning from the *Cockatoo Care* website. Also see 'Regional Reports', page 8 this edition.



# Urban Nature Update with Karen Sanders



It's that time of year again, when the bright orange flowers of our Christmas trees (*Nuytsia floribunda*) remind us that spring has ended, summer has begun and the 'silly season' is upon us.

Above-average spring rainfall resulted in an extended flowering period, so our bushland looked magnificent for even longer than usual. It was great for those carrying out botanical work, as they could stay in the field through November but it made weed management a little more difficult. For example, our work with the Friends of Paganoni Swamp revealed that Geraldton carnation weed (*Euphorbia terracina*) had at least three flushes of germination over the winter – spring season, and so required a particularly determined control effort.



A change in season also sees a change in the Urban Nature team. After two and a half years, Renee Miles is moving to Fremantle to take up a position as operations officer with CALM's Regional Parks Unit, where she will continue to make a great contribution to the conservation of our bushland. Renee has been a valuable member of the Urban

Nature team and we are very sorry to see her go, but wish her well and look forward to working with her in her new role.



The Skills for Nature Conservation (SFNC) training calendar for 2006 is well under way. Eighteen events were held in 2005 and 73 Friends groups attended training courses, with 39 of those being new groups not previously represented. It is good to see that SFNC is continuing to attract new people, as well as retaining some of our 'serial attendees'.



The final SFNC event for 2005 was the evaluation and celebration evening. We had some great input from our enthusiastic attendees who helped us evaluate what worked well in 2005, and what we can do better in 2006. They came up with plenty of ideas about future courses, which the SFNC partner organisations (Greening Australia WA, Swan Catchment Centre and Urban Nature) are currently incorporating into the next calendar. A sincere thank you to all those who attended and contributed to the success of both the training courses and the evaluation evening. We hope to see you again in 2006.



Participants of the Skills for Nature Conservation planning and evaluation day in November gain some Nyoongar know-how from Neville Collard at Lake Joondalup. (Photo: Skills for Nature Conservation)

## Complete enclosed questionnaire for a chance to win!

You may have noticed that Ecoplan News has something extra in it this time around. We have included a questionnaire to find out some information about you, our readers, and if our newsletter is meeting your needs. As far as we all know, there has not previously been a survey like this and we are very interested in receiving feedback... so interested, in fact, that we are offering a number of prizes as an incentive for people to complete it. Remember, you've got to be in it to win it!

## Contacts

### Urban Nature Office

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website: [www.naturebase.net/urbannature](http://www.naturebase.net/urbannature)

APACE ☎ 9336 1262  
email: [admin@apacewa.org.au](mailto:admin@apacewa.org.au)

Conservation Council of WA ☎ 9420 7266  
email: [conswa@conservationwa.asn.au](mailto:conswa@conservationwa.asn.au)

Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) ☎ Freecall: 1800 175 542  
email: [edowa@edowa.org.au](mailto:edowa@edowa.org.au)

Greening Australia (WA) ☎ 9335 8933  
email: [general@gawa.org.au](mailto:general@gawa.org.au)

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  
Helene Montaldo ☎ 9374 333  
email: [helene.montaldo@environment.wa.gov.au](mailto:helene.montaldo@environment.wa.gov.au)

Urban Bushland Council ☎ 9420 7207  
email: [ubc@iinet.net.au](mailto:ubc@iinet.net.au)

Wildflower Society of Western Australia ☎ 9383 7979  
email: [wildflowers@ozemail.com.au](mailto:wildflowers@ozemail.com.au)

## Autumn Ecoplan News

Please forward your news, activity calendar, regional reports and photos for the Autumn issue of *Ecoplan News* by **Wednesday 1 March 2006**. Fax, email or write to Urban Nature. Please keep regional reports under 250 words and articles as brief as possible. Thank you.

Compiled and edited by Jo Tregonning.



## Restrictions on treated timber infrastructure

An inquiry by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Management Authority into the use of Copper Chrome Arsenic (CCA) treated timber has made a number of recommendations.

The Authority is moving to phase out uses of CCA timber treatments that it cannot be confident are safe, over a 12 month period to the end of March 2006. This includes prohibiting the use of CCA timber products in structures intended for use as garden furniture, picnic tables, exterior seating, children's play equipment, patio and domestic decking, and handrails. A publicly-accessible staircase and lookout, for example, could use CCA treated structural timbers but the handrails would need to use other products such as recycled plastic, or an alternative timber treatment (Alkaline Copper Quaternary or Copper Azole). It is expected that these alternative chemicals will cost approximately 30 per cent more than existing CCA treated timber.

Community groups interested in the outcomes from the inquiry can access the summary at [http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/arsenic\\_summary.pdf](http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/arsenic_summary.pdf)

## Multi-winners

The Western Australian Environment Awards were held at the Hyatt in Perth on 18 November 2005. Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre and its convenor, Bob Goodale, were finalists in the Community Achievement category. The results were: Winner – Naragebup; and Special Commendation – Bob Goodale. Bob also won the West Australian Individual Award! Congratulations to Bob and Naragebup!!

Summer includes *Birak* and *Bunuru* in the Nyoongar calendar. During *Birak* (December/January) and *Bunuru* (February/March) the hot summer easterly and north winds blow and the country dries. It is a time for fishing and hunting as water became scarce over large parts of the country. Fruits of the zamia palm were harvested and processed to remove toxins before roasting and eating. The underground parts of bulrush were pounded to remove the fibrous parts, and cooked like damper to produce tasty cakes. A sandplain bulb, much used for food, was added to the bland foods to make a spicy meal.

## Indigenous art competition



South-west Indigenous artists are invited to help Nyoongar elder Noel Nannup and the Swan Catchment Council unveil its second dreaming story on audio CD-ROM. Artists have the chance of winning \$500 if their artwork is selected for the cover of the CD-ROM.

*When the sea level rose* is narrated by Dr Nannup, who retired from his role in CALM's Indigenous Heritage Unit recently.

"It is a Nyoongar story of Nyingarn the echidna and Kaarda the goanna, who were given the special role of representing the spirit of those who passed on and the story of Mamong the whale and Keeler the dolphin, and the special role they were given in country," Dr Nannup said.

"The main focus of this story centres on when the sea level rose and trapped the spirits of children underneath the sea and the role that Mamong and Keeler played to help bring the children back to the land."

The CD should be on the shelves by April next year. *The Carers of Everything*, the first Nyoongar story documented, is currently available for \$14.95. Sale proceeds recoup the production costs, and any profits are used for producing further stories.

The art competition closes 25 February 2006. Contact Kevin Giles, Indigenous Natural Resource Management Officer at the Swan Catchment Council on 9374 3333.

## Lantana among top 20 weeds banned in WA

A central component of the *National Weeds Strategy* (1997) was the identification of 20 weeds of national significance.

There was coordinated national management to restrict their spread and/or eradicate them. The method of determining these weeds uses four criteria: invasiveness; impacts; potential for spread; and socio-economic and environmental values.

Five of the 20 species identified are currently distributed in south-west Western Australia:

<b>Bitou bush / boneseed</b> <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Perth metro
<b>Blackberry</b> <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	South West
<b>Bridal creeper</b> <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	South West
<b>Gorse</b> <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	South West
<b>Salvinia</b> <i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Perth metro

Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) does not currently occur in south-west WA but could become a major weed problem based on climatic predictions.

From 10 August 2005 all 20 weeds of national significance were no longer imported into WA. No further trade or movement was allowed from nurseries, garden centres or other outlets, such as markets, after 31 October 2005.

*Lantana camara* has been a popular garden plant that has now been classified as a weed of national significance. It is a shrub with yellow, orange or pink flowers that can smother native plants and be toxic to livestock. The ban does not include *Lantana montevidensis*, a smaller, less-aggressive plant with purple or white flowers. People with listed weeds such as *Lantana camara* already in their gardens are not required to take any action.

More information about weeds of national significance is available at [www.weeds.org.au/natsig.htm](http://www.weeds.org.au/natsig.htm).



*Lantana camara* (yellow, orange or pink flowers) banned in WA.



# Learning opportunities

## Challenger TAFE (Murdoch) short courses 2006

The Dieback Management course provides specialist training in the use of phosphite to treat *Phytophthora* dieback infested areas. The course covers aspects such as dieback identification, impacts, biology, management strategies, planning phosphite treatment in bushland and project management. Duration: two half days of classroom contact (one unit) and two external units at the students' own pace.

The Recognise Plants and Control Bushland Weeds course provides specialist training in the area of weed control specifically in bushland. Duration: one day per week for six weeks (Tuesday) from 8.30am-4.30pm. Cost: \$191.65 (full); \$121.50 (concession).

Both courses are recognised by the Health Department of Western Australia and successful students will be eligible for a licence for the Use of Pesticides in Bushland. To reserve your place or for further information contact:

Stephen Ross on 9229 8427 email [stephen.ross@challengertafe.wa.edu.au](mailto:stephen.ross@challengertafe.wa.edu.au) or Sue Norelli on 9229 8432 email [sue.norelli@challengertafe.wa.edu.au](mailto:sue.norelli@challengertafe.wa.edu.au).

## 2006 Catchments, Corridors and Coasts program

This five-day environmental education program provides a professional development opportunity for teachers, students, community members, volunteers, local government and State Government. It provides first-hand experiences of the effect our own actions have on biodiversity, water and land resources, the work being done and how we can all improve our own behaviour. Program:

**Wednesday 19 April** – Communities, sustainable living, environmental technology;

**Thursday 20 April** – Biodiversity, interconnections with nature;

**Friday 21 April** – Catchment tour;

**Wednesday 26 April** – Rivercare day; and

**Thursday 27 April** – Coastcare day.

To register please email [mdurcan@iinet.net.au](mailto:mdurcan@iinet.net.au). Places limited to 50.

## WA Wetland Management Conference 2006



Thrombolites at sunset, Lake Clifton. WA Wetland Management Conference 2006.

This conference will be held on World Wetlands Day, Thursday 2 February 2006, 9am-5pm at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre. It will provide an opportunity for the exchange of information and ideas between wetland practitioners, with a focus on the latest developments about how to effectively manage and restore wetlands. The conference is intended to bring together community conservation volunteers, landowners, local and State Government officers and private sector environmental officers involved with wetland management.

This year's conference theme is 'Protecting and Appreciating Our Wetland Heritage'. Sub-themes include wetland management and restoration, wetland education and wetland policy. Cost: \$35 full registration; \$20 concessional.

Contact Denise Crosbie to register on 9417 8460 or email [wetlands@iinet.net.au](mailto:wetlands@iinet.net.au).

## 2006 Adventures in Landcare

6-8 April, 18-29 May, 15-17 June, 6-7 July and 17-19 August.

Tammin Alcoa Landcare Education Centre is offering practical courses to people who have a passion about landcare. Using hands-on activities and a variety of site visits, this course provides insight into landcare practices being used in the wheatbelt to address a range of environmental issues. Courses are residential with accommodation, catering, field transport, resources and expert advice. Cost: \$77 per person.

Contact Patricia Dames on 9690 2250 or email [pdames@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:pdames@agric.wa.gov.au).

## Funding opportunities

Australian Government Envirofund Round 8 opens in February 2006. Community groups and individuals can apply for grants of up to \$30,000 (GST inclusive) to carry out on-ground and other actions to target local environmental problems. Grants of up to \$50,000 (GST inclusive) will be considered where the magnitude, complexity or public benefit of the project is such that additional funding would be beneficial. Contact the Envirofund Hotline on 1800 303 863, email [envirofund@daff.gov.au](mailto:envirofund@daff.gov.au) or visit their website [www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/](http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/).

## Environmental Education Grants Program

The Environmental Education Grants Program funds activities that support the Australian Government's objective of improving the community's capacity to protect the environment.

Project proposals should aim to promote a coherent national approach to environmental education and act as a catalyst for national change. Round 2005-2006 applications close on 20 January 2006 for funding ranging from \$3000 to \$45,000. Contact the Department of Environment and Heritage's Environmental Education Section on 02 6274 1290 or email a one page summary outlining your project's suitability for funding to [ee@erin.gov.au](mailto:ee@erin.gov.au) before submitting an application.

## Lotterywest Trails Grant

This partnership between Lotterywest and the Department for Sport and Recreation provides funds for trails. The types of projects supported through this grant round include:

- the preparation of a plan for a trail;
- the conversion of disused railways into recreational trails;
- the upgrading of existing trails;
- the construction of a trail for non-motorised uses, such as walking, hiking, mountain biking, canoeing or horse riding;
- interpretive and directional signposting along a trail;
- promotion, publicity, trail guides and maps; and
- special trail events such as trail openings.

Contact the Department of Sport and Recreation on 9387 9740 or visit [www.dsr.wa.gov.au](http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au). Closes 17 March 2006.

## Corporate sponsorship

Westpac's Operation Backyard provides funding for environmental projects to an average value of \$3500. To be eligible your project must involve Westpac staff as volunteers, and meet Landcare Australia's approval guidelines. Contact Natalie Price 9426 2483 or visit [www.landcareaustralia.com.au/admin/](http://www.landcareaustralia.com.au/admin/).

## Environmental Defender's Office of WA (Inc.) (EDO)

The EDO is a non-profit, non-government community legal centre specialising in public-interest environmental law. Their services include:

- providing community groups and individuals with legal advice and representation on environmental issues;
- promoting environmental law reform; and
- undertaking community legal education.

You can use the website to view their environmental law fact sheets, read about their highlights, and find information on how to become a member, donor or volunteer. You can also discover who the EDO are, browse their newsletters and publications, and you can apply for legal assistance. Visit <http://www.edowa.org.au/>.



# Econotes: The protection of flora in Western Australia

By Dr Ken Atkins

**MOST** people are probably not aware that all flora native to WA is 'protected'. But what does this mean?

The *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* provides for the Environment Minister to declare any flora native to the State, or any other flora that the Minister decides, to be protected.

Currently, all flora native to the State is protected if it is in the classes Spermatophyta (flowering plants, conifers and cycads), Pteridophyta (ferns and fern allies), Bryophyta (mosses and liverworts), or Thallophyta (algae, fungi and lichens). That is, anything that one generally associates with being a plant (including fungi that are now regarded as being in a Kingdom of their own).

The protection afforded under the Act principally relates to the approvals required to 'take' the plant. Under the Act, the term 'take' refers to any activity that affects the plant, including direct acts such as picking, digging up, destroying, burning or allowing a secondary activity to affect it, such as grazing or modifying the water levels affecting it. Also, the reference to flora includes any part of a plant, such as branches, flowers, fruits, seeds or spores.

## Licences to 'take'

Protected flora growing on private property is owned by the property owner, and their permission is required before taking. A licence is required from CALM to sell any protected flora taken from private property. This licensing requirement is to ensure that any flora that is harvested is done so in a sustainable manner. Where the flora is naturally grown, a Commercial Producer's Licence is required. A Nurseryman's Licence is required where the flora is cultivated – this is primarily to enable the management of harvested flora.

A licence is also required to take any protected flora growing on Crown (public) land. If the flora is being taken for scientific, educational, hobby or some other prescribed purpose, the applicable licence is a Scientific or Other Prescribed Purposes Licence. A Commercial Purposes Licence is required if the flora is being taken for sale, trade or any other



Bright yellow 'Special Environmental Area' (SEA) markers (DRF markers) alert people working in the area to the presence of significant flora. This helps to prevent accidental damage during maintenance operations. (Photo: David Mickle)

commercial activity. These licences also require the licensee to obtain the permission of the land manager in whom the Crown land is vested before taking any protected flora.

The requirements for licensing and permission of the land owner or manager, provides the opportunity to set conditions on how protected flora may be taken, and to set limits, or prohibit the taking of certain flora, if necessary.

## Threatened (rare) flora

WA has a rich and diverse native flora with nearly 13,000 species. A large number are naturally rare as a result of our very ancient and stable landscape. Compounding this, the most biodiverse part of the State, the south-west, is also the most intensively cleared, and has a number of severe threatening processes, including salinity and *Phytophthora* dieback which are impacting a large number of species. The outcome of this diversity and the degradation processes is that many of the State's native flora are threatened with becoming extinct.

Threatened flora has additional provisions for protection. Under the Act, the Minister may declare a type of protected flora to be 'rare' (considered to be at risk

of extinction, rare, or otherwise in need of special protection).

'Declared Rare Flora' (DRF), as they are termed, are specially protected under the Act by a requirement that any person must have the written permission of the Minister before taking any flora listed under this declaration. The penalty for taking DRF without permission is \$10,000 compared to the penalty of \$4,000 for taking other protected flora contrary to the permission or licences prescribed in the Act.

Flora considered to be rare or threatened are referred to the Minister by the State's Threatened Species Scientific Committee. Once a species is listed as DRF, CALM coordinates recovery and other management activities designed to prevent the species becoming extinct, and to eventually reclassify the species as non-threatened, if possible.

Because most (except one) DRF are endemic to WA, they are also regarded as being threatened nationally. Consequently, most DRF are also listed as being threatened under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* – providing additional protection.

There are currently (at 2005) 362 species of DRF that are still extant (living). Fourteen species presumed extinct are also listed as DRF so that they receive special protection if rediscovered – which has been a regular occurrence, but that is another story.

## For further information on:

- flora licensing and the protection of threatened flora in WA visit:  
[http://www.naturebase.net/plants\\_animals/licensing/protecting\\_flora.html](http://www.naturebase.net/plants_animals/licensing/protecting_flora.html)  
[http://www.naturebase.net/plants\\_animals/licensing/flora\\_licensing.html](http://www.naturebase.net/plants_animals/licensing/flora_licensing.html);
- flora licensing: call Melanie Harding 9334 0431, Flora Industry Botanist, Nature Protection Branch, CALM;
- threatened flora: call Dr Ken Atkins 9334 0425, A/Manager Species and Communities Branch, CALM;
- threatened flora in WA: refer to Brown, A., Thomson-Dans, C., and Marchant, N. (Eds) (1998) *Western Australia's Threatened Flora*, CALM.



# What's On Summer 2006

Opportunities for you to participate! Visitors always welcome.  
Please confirm activities with contact prior to event as details may change.  
Most activities are FREE!

## REGISTRATION/CONTACT DETAILS

for organisations providing a series of activities are as follows:

- ♣ **Bush Skills for the Hills** offers free hills-focused workshops for the community. Contact Robbie 9424 2216.
- ⊙ **Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)** 20 Stack St Fremantle. Contact Linda 9336 6911 or perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au.
- \* **Nearer to Nature (N2N)** CALM. Affordable prices for all activities. Bookings 9295 2244 or visit www.naturebase.net/nearer2nature.
- ❖ **Skills for Nature Conservation (SFNC)** A partnership between the Department of Environment's Swan Catchment Centre (SCC), CALM's Urban Nature program and Greening Australia (WA). Call SCC 9374 3333.
- ▲ **Urban Bushland Council (UBC)** Old Observatory, National Trust Building, 4 Havelock St West Perth, contact 9420 7202 or ubc@iinet.net.au.

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

### January

19 Thursday 9–10am and 10.30–11.30am  
**Stars of the sea** with N2N at Marmion Marine Park. Discover the sea's fascinating creatures. Cost \$10 per child or \$8.50 Discovery Club member. Age 6–12 years. \*

21 Saturday 8am  
**Guided nature walk** with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at the Scout Hall carpark, Huntriss Rd Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

23 Monday 10am–1pm  
**Water – alive and kicking. Macroinvertebrates** with N2N at Yanchep National Park. Craft activities and boat trip on Wagardu Lake. BYO picnic. Cost \$12 per child or \$10 Discovery Club member. Age 6–12 years. \*

28 Saturday 8am  
**Morning flora and fauna walk** with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

### February

5 Sunday  
**MP3 marine meander** with N2N at Cape Peron. Follow the digital guide downloaded from the web onto your MP3 for a guided scenic walk. Activity price includes marine touch pool and sausage sizzle on your return. Cost \$12 per person or \$10 Discovery Club member. \*

7 Tuesday 7.30pm  
**Urban biodiversity project assessments** with UBC guest speaker Mr David Pike (Friends of Star Swamp Bushland) and **UBC general meeting**. Old Observatory, National Trust Building, 4 Havelock St West Perth, contact 9420 7202 or ubc@iinet.net.au. ▲

14 Tuesday 6–9pm  
**Moonlight Valentines – Nyoongar guide** with N2N at Mundaring National Park includes Indigenous history, gourmet picnic, myths explaining the stars. BYO drinks. Cost \$45 pp or \$40 Discovery Club member. Age 18+ years. \*

17 Friday 8pm  
**Free nature talk** hosted by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club at Naragebup. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd, opposite Lake Richmond, Peron. Contact 9591 3077 or www.naragebup.org.au.

18 Saturday 8am  
**Guided nature walk** with the Friends of Lake Gwelup. Meet at the Scout Hall carpark, Huntriss Rd Gwelup. Call Betty 9444 5640.

25 Saturday 8am  
**Morning flora and fauna walk** with Friends of Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

### March

7 Tuesday 7.30pm  
**Perth Urban Bushland Fungi project** with UBC guest speaker Dr Neale Bougher and UBC AGM. Old Observatory, National Trust Building, 4 Havelock St West Perth, contact 9420 7202 or ubc@iinet.net.au. ▲

8 Wednesday 8pm  
**Join Australian Association of Bush Regenerators for their AGM** and guest speaker Shane Turner - 'New approaches to germinating Australian seeds' at the Kings Park administration building. Contact Dave 0412 405 730.

17 Friday 8pm  
**Free Nature Talk** – hosted by Kwinana Rockingham Mandurah Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club at Naragebup. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd, opposite Lake Richmond, Peron. Contact 9591 3077 or www.naragebup.org.au.

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## Get Your Hands Dirty

### January

Monday 9 January – Friday 13 January  
The hills are alive with the sound of CVA volunteers! Join CVA to assist with **Dieback control, trail maintenance and building riffles** in a range of bushland reserves in the hills area. Great views-cool spot! Contact Linda 9336 6911 or perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au. ⊙

16 Monday–20 Friday  
Join CVA in **weed control and natural bush regeneration techniques** at Blackadder Creek in Midland. Contact Linda 9336 6911 or perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au. ⊙

23 Monday–27 Friday  
Join CVA **planting sedges** along the Swan and Canning Rivers in the City of Melville to help remove nutrients from the rivers and control erosion caused by boats and strong winds. Contact Linda 9336 6911 or perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au. ⊙

30 Monday January –Friday 3 February  
**Help celebrate the World Wetlands Day** by joining CVA volunteers in **planting 30,000 sedges** on the Canning River foreshore. The planting will aid in erosion control, extend habitat areas for native birds and wildlife and improve the natural appearance of the foreshore. Contact Linda 9336 6911 or perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au. ⊙

### March

5 Sunday 9am–12noon  
**'Clean Up Australia'** in the Star Swamp Bushland Reserve. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

26 Sunday 9am  
**Weeding** at Star Swamp Bushland Reserve. Bring gloves, tools provided. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. Call Christine 9447 2983.

## Develop Your Skills

**2006 Small-landholder workshops** with Green Skills (Mundijong) will be held in the Peel-Harvey region. 'Heavenly hectares (create your own paradise)', property planning courses and field days. Contact Tracey 9525 5978 or grskills@landcaresj.com.au.

### February

7 Tuesday 7–9pm  
**Safety risk management** with Bush Skills for the Hills. This workshop covers occupational health and safety, risk assessment and hazard identification. Venue: Shire of Kalamunda Library, Williams St Kalamunda. Contact Robbie 9424 2216. ♣

25 Saturday 9am–12 noon  
**Action planning – Friends groups** with Bush Skills for the Hills. This workshop covers groups priorities, timing of planting and weeding and getting funding for projects. Venue: Ledger Road Multi Use Community Centre, Ledger Rd Gooseberry Hill. Contact Robbie 9424 2216. ♣

### March

18 Saturday 9am–4pm  
**SFNC Wetland restoration:** A case study on Gingin Brook. Meet at Woodvale Research Centre (CALM) then travel to Gingin Shire Community Hall. Presented by Kate Brown (Urban Nature, CALM) and Richard and Pauline Diggins (Friends of Gingin Brook). Call SCC 9374 3333. ❖

18 Saturday 9am–3.30pm  
**Grant funding** with Bush Skills for the Hills. Session 1 (9am–12 noon) – workshop presentation. Session 2 (1–3.30pm) – grant application. Officers will be available for half hour to assist with funding applications. Venue: Landcare Centre, Unit 23/8–12 Stafford St Midland. Contact Robbie 9424 2216. ♣

25 Saturday 9am–12.30pm  
**SFNC Focus on funding Part 1 – how to write a successful grant application.** This workshop will provide an overview of funding opportunities available, and will help you get started on your own grant application. Venue: Swan Catchment Centre, 80 Gr Northern Hwy (corner Bishop Rd) Middle Swan. Call SCC 9374 3333. ❖

### April

8 April Saturday 9am–12.30pm  
**SFNC Focus on funding Part 2 – fine-tuning your grant application.** Continue work on your applications with individual advice from those in the know. Venue: Swan Catchment Centre, 80 Gr Northern Hwy (corner Bishop Rd) Middle Swan. Call SCC 9374 3333. ❖

9 Sunday 1–4pm  
**Birds of the eastern hills – birds 1** with Bush Skills for the Hills. This workshop covers introduction, equipment, field guide, birds' parts, habitat and identification. Venue: Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre, 48 Canning Rd Kalamunda. Contact Robbie 9424 2216. ♣

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

Please send us your April, May and June events by 1 March 2006.

## WANTED - Your completed questionnaire

Participation in the enclosed EcoPlan News survey will help the Urban Nature team to meet the needs and interests of community conservation groups, bushland groups, catchment groups and interested individuals.

Please help us to help you – you could even win a prize for your efforts!



Eager staff awaiting your completed questionnaire.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Nearer to Nature's (N2N)** summer activity program, operated by CALM commences on 14 January, with prices starting at \$7.50.

**Skills for Nature Conservation** training calendar for 2006 due out mid-February. Contact SCC 9374 3333

### World Wetlands Day - 2 February

World Wetlands Day marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971. "Wetlands and water - supporting life, sustaining livelihoods."

### Clean Up Australia Day - 5 March

Clean Up Australia Day (Schools Clean Up Day Fri 3 March) [www.cleanup.com.au](http://www.cleanup.com.au).

## Delivering the Message

### February

2 Thursday 9am–5pm  
**WA Wetland Management Conference 2006.** Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre Bibra Lake. Contact Denise 9417 8460 or wetlands@iinet.net.au.

7–25 (excludes Sundays and Wednesday 15th) 7pm

**The Feather Surfers.** An outdoor play by Grahame Gavin presented by Barking Gecko Theatre Company and the Department of Environment. Dealing with themes of deforestation, and the impact of feral animals on the forest and its creatures, both real and imaginary. At UWA, for children 5–12 years. Cost \$12.50 at BOCSS Ticketing 9484 1133. Also showing at Albany, Margaret River, Capel and Dalvellup. Inquiries Barking Gecko 9388 2611.



### March

25 Saturday and 26 Sunday 10am–5pm  
**Eighth Western Australian Environment Festival** at Naragebup. Eco-educational displays, 50 stalls, activities, 12 performance groups, 'natural encounters' with native animals, and Youth Performing Arts Competition. Free entry. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, Safety Bay Rd, opposite Lake Richmond, Peron. Contact 9591 3077 or www.naragebup.org.au.

## Bunbury/ Busselton Region

**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. Contact Gordon 9797 0673. The club's Herbarium group meets every Tuesday morning at the South West Regional Herbarium at CALM. Contact Shirley 9791 5915. Visitors most welcome.

14 February

Tuesday 5.30pm

**Being a vet in Botswana**

by guest speaker Dr Gordon Paine at the Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting.

14 March Tuesday 5.30pm

**Antarctic Travels**

by guest speaker Mr Neil Taylor (CALM, Bunbury) at the Bunbury Naturalists' Club meeting.

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@iinet.net.au](mailto:bmasters@iinet.net.au). Meetings are held at the RSL Hall, Causeway Rd Busselton. Visitors welcome.

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

## Funding opportunity

**CALM community grants for tuart conservation and management**

Community grants are available to local community groups for tuart woodland projects that:

- conserve natural areas and values; and/or
- raise local public awareness of nature conservation in tuart woodlands.

Individual grants will range from \$1000 to \$10,000. They will be allocated to projects in reserves and parks, or on other lands where projects are complementary to lands managed by CALM. Grants may also apply to projects that provide information and educational benefits to the community on tuart conservation.

Applications must be made in writing and received by CALM no later than 4pm Friday 20 January 2006.

Applications forms are available by contacting Drew Haswell on 9442 0313 or by email [drewh@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:drewh@calm.wa.gov.au).



# Ecoplan NEWS

## Questionnaire



Dear *Ecoplan News* Reader,

*Ecoplan News*, a quarterly newsletter in circulation since 1991, is a forum for information about and for community conservation groups, bushland groups, catchment groups and interested individuals. *Ecoplan News* is published and compiled by the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Urban Nature program.

To ensure that *Ecoplan News* is meeting the conservation community's needs we kindly ask you to complete this questionnaire to let us know how are we doing and how we can improve.

Thank you

**Delivery Address:**  
Locked Bag 30  
BENTLEY DC WA 6983

No stamp required  
if posted in Australia



Department of Conservation and Land Management  
Reply Paid 74215  
BENTLEY DC WA 6983

Please Fold And Return To Our Free Post Address

**Please return your completed survey by 1 March 2006.**

If you choose to provide your details, you will go in the draw to win one of three exciting book prizes: *Bushland Weeds, Leaf and Branch* and *Walks in Perth Outdoors*.

Your details (optional) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation/group (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The prize winners will be announced in the Autumn 2006 issue of *Ecoplan News*, and the survey results will be published in the Winter issue.

**Ecoplan NEWS SURVEY**





- 1 How would you best describe yourself?  
(Please tick all that apply to you)
- a) Member of public
  - b) Volunteer
  - c) Student
  - d) Member of a Friends group
  - e) Industry employee
  - f) Local government employee
  - g) State Government employee
  - h) Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 To which age group do you belong?  
Please select one:
- a) Under 25
  - b) 25-40
  - c) 41-60
  - d) over 60

3 Your postcode \_\_\_\_\_

- 4 How do you currently receive *Ecoplan News*?  
Please select one:
- a) Directly through mail subscription
  - b) Look it up on CALM web site
  - c) Available at library/university
  - d) Available at Friends group
  - e) Someone passes it on to me
  - f) Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 Are you aware that the latest and past issues of *Ecoplan News* are available on CALM's NatureBase website?  
[www.naturebase.net/urbannature](http://www.naturebase.net/urbannature)
- Yes  No

- 6 How long have you been reading/subscribing to *Ecoplan News*? Please select one:
- a) Less than 6 months
  - b) 6 months – 2 years
  - c) more than 2 years

- 12 What other publications do you regularly read to gain news and information relevant to your needs (eg. Western Wildlife, Environmental Educators Network, Environmental Weeds Action Network newsletter). Please specify:
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 13 Please rate the performance of *Ecoplan News* in providing information relevant to your needs.  
Please tick the term that comes closest to representing your opinion

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No opinion
Choice of topics					
Technical depth					
Accuracy of articles					
Relevance to your activities					
Clarity of writing					
Look/Layout					
<i>Ecoplan News</i> overall performance					

- 7 On average how many other people read your copy of *Ecoplan News*? Please select one:
- a) None
  - b) 1-4
  - c) 5-10
  - d) 10+

- 8 On average how much time do you spend reading each issue of *Ecoplan News*? Please select one:
- a) Less than 5 min
  - b) 5 min – 30 min
  - c) More than 30 min

- 9 Do you refer to previous copies of *Ecoplan News*?
- a) Often
  - b) Occasionally
  - c) Rarely
  - d) Never

- 10 How in the future would you like to receive *Ecoplan News*?
- a) A hardcopy newsletter (the current method)
  - b) A web-based news page
  - c) An emailed newsletter

If b) or c) please provide your email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

- 11 Please tick the box that best describes *Ecoplan News* as a source of relevant news and information on Friends groups, community needs and environmental issues?
- a) A vital source
  - b) A leading source
  - c) An occasional source
  - d) Poor source
  - e) Useless source





14 Is *Ecoplan News* easy to read? Yes  No

If No please comment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15 How could we make *Ecoplan News* easier to read? Please make suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16 Please rate the value of the following sections of the newsletter. When giving a rating please consider how useful, informative, interesting and applicable the content of each section is to you.

Please tick the term that comes closest to representing your opinion

	High	Average	Low	None	No opinion
Cover story					
Update (2nd page)					
Articles (short notes on current projects, learning/training opportunities, grants and other funding, resources available)					
Econote					
What's on Section (central spread)					
Regional Reports					
Group Profile					
Resources (new publications, website watch)					

17 Are there articles/sections of *Ecoplan News* you would like to

a) See more of? Yes  No

If Yes – please specify \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) See less of? Yes  No

If Yes – please specify \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) Remove? Yes  No

If Yes – please specify \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d) Or would you like to add new articles/sections? (eg. such as technical information articles, policy statements, legislation, interviews, questions/enquiries section) Yes  No

If Yes – please specify \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



18 How often do you attend activities listed in the What's On section?

- a) More than 5 times a year
- b) 2-5 times a year
- c) Once a year
- d) Never

Any comments? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

19 Please indicate if you or your group has contributed to or has been featured in *Ecoplan News* in the past

Group Profile  What's On  Regional Reports  Article

No  If No please go to Q22

20 Were you satisfied with the *Ecoplan News* coverage you or your group received? Was there adequate opportunity to convey your message? Yes  No

Please comment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

21 If you or your group contributed to, or has been featured in, *Ecoplan News* did you receive any enquiries after the article release (eg. new members, request for information, useful networking)? Yes  No

Please comment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

22 If you or your group listed an event or activity in *Ecoplan News* (eg. What's on), how effective was the advertising - please indicate how many responses were received?

- a) None
- b) 1-5
- c) More than 5
- d) Not sure



### Can Urban Nature be of assistance to you?

CALM's Urban Nature program was launched on 18 March 2004 to meet the growing community interest in managing urban bushland and wetlands. Urban Nature builds on the *Ecoplan* program that started in 1991, and aims to provide an integrated advisory, training and assistance service to the many conservation groups, organisations and individuals striving to help protect, conserve and manage natural bushland and wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain.

How we can best help you or your group? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any other comments? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you.  
The Urban Nature team values your feedback.



# REGIONAL REPORTS

All groups welcome visitors and new members.

## North Region

### Phew! Summer weeding of typha at Yellagonga

By Jennifer Hawkes

The Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park (FoY) have finished their regular site commitments for the year.

Our last working day was a lupin pull at Will Carstairs' Edgewater site. This was attended by an enthusiastic group who collected great bundles of lupins just before they were about to seed.

We have taken on two new sites on Lakes Goolellal and Joondalup and are currently consulting with local Aboriginal leaders before we tackle the plantings. This is to ensure that the areas and what we propose to do in them, meets with their approval. This is proving to be a very interesting process involving taking GPS coordinates, which gives us formal reference sites.

Local native plant species for the rehabilitation of these sites will be grown over the summer months, and hopefully those for the littoral zone may be ready for planting in February. This will mean working through the hot summer months to remove the bulrushes (*Typha orientalis*) in preparation for the plantings. This is at a time when we would all prefer to aestivate and gather strength and enthusiasm for the winter months. However, this work is part of our NHT grant and we wish to pull out all stops to make sure it is completed on time and within budget.

FoY would like to wish all groups a happy, healthy and successful 2006. Contact Jennifer on 9448 0053.

## South Region

### Paganoni Swamp

By Leonie Stubbs

It has been an eventful 12 months for Friends of Paganoni Swamp.

Walks to increase our knowledge of fungi, birds, insects and wildflowers have been interspersed with some serious weeding. The main target was, and still is, Geraldton carnation weed, but time was also spent removing woody weeds, particularly olives.

A bushland plant survey was undertaken during October and a field herbarium is being developed. This will be housed at the

Naragebup Environment Centre in Rockingham.

Next year we are planning more of the same, with a wish list for Christmas of additional volunteers to join in the activities and extra funds for weed eradication. Paganoni Swamp is the southernmost park of Rockingham Lakes Regional Parks situated on the border between Rockingham and Mandurah.

*If you live in the area and would like to get involved, please call Leonie on 9537 1831.*

### Building nest boxes for Baldvis Children's Forest

By Jo Tregonning

As a result of rapidly expanding urban development in the City of Rockingham, Baldvis Children's Forest (BCF) has become an important refuge for flora and fauna.

The reserve is a 19.79 ha site with degraded tuart woodlands and a wetland in good condition. Extensive clearing of veteran tuart trees in Baldvis has reduced the number of suitable nest hollows for displaced native animals. In response BCF Steering Committee successfully applied for an Envirofund grant

and embarked on the construction of possum and black cockatoo nest boxes. Both white-tailed and red-tailed black cockatoos as well as possums have been observed in the reserve.

Work by the Cockatoo Care program indicates veteran and stag nest trees over 200 years old are critical for the long-term survival of our cockatoos. Many of the tuart, marri and stag trees in the reserve date back to pre-European settlement but suitable nesting hollows in these trees are very few. This is not surprising, as hollow formation is an excruciatingly slow process relying on fungi, termites and other insects to decompose and excavate the heartwood.

Possum nest boxes were quickly constructed from A-grade exterior plywood using a design from the Native Animal Network Association website. We know they work, as three such nest boxes were installed two years ago at Baldvis Primary School and all are now used by resident brushtail possums.

Construction of the black cockatoo nest boxes has been much more challenging. A design from the Cockatoo Care program website was adapted after discussions with Joe Tonga who



Abigail (from left), Imogen, Tegan and Maya with black cockatoo and possum nest boxes for installation at Baldvis Children's Forest. (Photo: Julie Nutt)



# REGIONAL REPORTS

builds 'cockatubes' for the program. Black poly-pipe (305mm diameter x 1200mm length) sourced from a WA mine-site constitutes the body of the 'cockatube'. Large diameter heavy-gauge weldmesh at one end of the tube provides a base, and an 80mm width of the weldmesh inside the tube forms a ladder for the birds. Two pieces of 30x20mm 'sacrificial' jarrah along the sides of the ladder provides the nesting cockatoos with something to chew. After much searching, the tubes were topped with a natural wood hollow for an entrance. The installation of the 'cockatubes' at BCF is now an interesting challenge for a willing Work for the Dole team. They will be using heavy chain to attach the nest boxes to the trunks of large trees at least 14 metres above the ground from a cherry picker.

We are looking forward to talks from 'Cockatoo Care' staff as part of our 2006 student activity days at the reserve, and monitoring the use of the nest boxes.

*Possum nest box pattern:*

[www.nana.asn.au/n2-pbox2.htm](http://www.nana.asn.au/n2-pbox2.htm). Information and wooden cockatoo nest box patterns:

[www.watercorporation.com.au/cockatooocare/](http://www.watercorporation.com.au/cockatooocare/).

For more information contact Jo on 9439 1363.

## 'Huegelii' hunting in Kooljerrenup

By Nicole Willers

In 1995 a CALM scientist discovered one flowering plant of the grand spider orchid (*Caladenia huegelii*) in Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve, on the east side of the Harvey Estuary.

Before this discovery, the orchid was known largely from populations around Southern River, Huntingdale and Mardella, and further south near Busselton. The plant in Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve provided a link between those areas.

From the late 1990s, urban expansion began to have a heavy impact on the grand spider orchid, particularly those populations around the Southern River area. In 2004 CALM initiated extensive surveys, coined the 'Huegelii Hunt', conducted in the Swan Region. With the help of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, surveys were carried out on known populations, and areas identified as prospective habitat. In Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve, 32 search hours resulted in the discovery of one flowering plant, located approximately 500 m from the 1995 plant.

In 2005 CALM volunteers from Mandurah and Perth, joined CALM staff to search more of Kooljerrenup. So, on a fine, sunny day in October, eight hunters took to the bush with high hopes of finding the grand spider orchid. Recent rains in the area deterred us searching



CALM staff and volunteers 'huegelii hunting' at Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve. (Photo: Murray Love)

in some areas, but by late morning a volunteer had spotted the first new grand spider orchid! As the group gathered around to have a look, several more plants were spotted. A total of 12 within a small area!

Eager eyes were unfaltering as we continued our transect through the banksia woodland, and we were all pretty chuffed at our recent discovery. It wasn't long before cries of "I've got one" were echoing throughout the bush. We'd hit the jackpot! The orchids were abundant in this area, and very healthy – with many standing 70 cm high and some 'double-headers' (two flowers per stem). By the end of the day we hadn't moved much beyond this area due to the sheer number of orchids! Each plant was counted and a GPS location taken. With 246 the final number, this population was now the largest on a nature reserve, and the third largest known population.

So our day in the bush was a very rewarding and busy one, and this population extension provides a significant improvement to the conservation of the grand spider orchid. Further surveys are planned for 2006 to carry on where we left off, and hopefully find even more! Many thanks to the volunteers for their invaluable efforts.

For more information or to help with the 2006 'Huegelii Hunt' or other rare flora recovery contact Nicole Willers, Conservation Officer (Rare Flora), CALM's Swan Region on 9368 4399.



Grand spider orchid (*Caladenia huegelii*). (Photo: Emma Adams)



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## Hills Region

### The war on watsonia continues!

By Penny Hussey

For the second year, the Helena River Catchment Group and Friends of Boya Trail continued attacking watsonia along the Old Railway Trail in Boya.



The Helena River Catchment Group and Friends of Boya continue the war on watsonia along the Old Railway Trail in Boya. (Photo: Penny Hussey)

Last year's success was obvious, and we continued on from there. But it is a huge task, almost too daunting for community groups.

To knock back watsonia on the Darling Scarp to the level at which the community volunteers can keep it under control, requires a huge injection of funds to pay professional bush regenerators to undertake the initial spray attack. In this one kilometre section alone, it would probably take a team of four professionals five working days to spray the existing population adequately. After that, the community could manage. Can anyone suggest where we can get the money? Or the workers?

For more information or to assist, contact Penny Hussey on 9299 7024 or email: [pennyh@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:pennyh@calm.wa.gov.au).

### Greencorps sorely missed

By Jenny Mackintosh

Some of our groups along the length of Jane Brook Catchment in the Eastern Hills have received funding from Swan Alcoa Landcare Program for 2006.

This will enable us to keep weeding and planting. We will, however, sorely miss the input from Greencorps. It is hard to understand why they are no longer allowed to work on the urban fringes as that seems to be where they are most needed!

For more information or to assist with weeding and planting contact Jenny on 9572 1697.

## Woodlupine Living Stream Project

By Silvana Traini

The Woodlupine Living Stream project is a significant restoration project being undertaken by the Two Rivers Catchment Group and the Shire of Kalamunda, with funding support provided by the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.

The project aims to restore the degraded Woodlupine Drain in Wattle Grove into an attractive 'Living Stream'. The living stream is being incorporated into a public open space redevelopment of the Wattle Grove urban zone. Once completed, the redevelopment will include boardwalks, natural areas, lawn and playgrounds.

Turning drains into living streams involves stabilising the banks with many native plant species which provides habitat for animals such as fish, frogs and waterbirds. It also creates a beautiful feature of the landscape for people to enjoy, and creates a refuge for bush birds and other native animals.

Two River Catchment Group spokesperson, Tom Atkinson, said the existing drain has been scalped to create gently sloping banks and a series of ponds and sumplands.

"A range of plant species appropriate to the local soil types has been planted to stabilise the banks and increase habitat and biodiversity. Additionally, planting within the ponds and sumps will be engineered to enhance the nutrient and pollution treatment function of the stream," Mr Atkinson said.



Community volunteers helped to plant more than 17,000 plants in July 2005 at the degraded Woodlupine Drain in Wattle Grove. Dense plantings will help out-compete low-level weeds and provide a natural appearance. (Photo: Tom Atkinson)

The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program has been providing funding to community groups to undertake on-ground revegetation and rehabilitation projects within the Swan Region for seven years now and has approved more than 500 projects worth more than \$2.65 million across the metropolitan area. Managed by the Swan Catchment Council, the program is jointly funded by Alcoa World Alumina Australia and the Swan River Trust.

For more information on the Woodlupine Living Stream project or to assist in future plantings contact Tom Atkinson on 9458 5664. For more information on the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program visit the Swan Catchment Council website at [www.swancatchmentcouncil.org](http://www.swancatchmentcouncil.org).

## Bunbury Region

By Shirley Fisher

CALM's Bunbury Regional Office has appointed a Herbarium liaison officer to assist all of the South West Regional Herbaria. Frances Kirchner is located at the Bunbury Herbarium and has been a great help to the South West Regional Herbarium group. CALM staff held a thank-you picnic for the herbarium group on Tuesday 6 December.

The Leschenault Community Nursery was awarded an environmental grant of \$4500 from SGIO for new seed tray benches, and these were installed in November to the joy of all the volunteers. Meanwhile the new season's seeding was going full tilt.

For further information call Shirley on 9791 5915.



# Group Profile: Conservation Volunteers Australia

By Linda Metz

FROM humble beginnings in Victoria in 1982, Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) has grown into a national organisation with offices in every state and territory. The organisation's main goal is to raise community awareness of local and regional landcare issues, and engage community members in conservation activities that contribute to the enhancement and protection of our unique Australian environment.

## The local scene

CVA has two WA offices, one in Fremantle and the other in Broome. Both offices service a large area and conduct weekly activities in the Perth metropolitan area and regions.

CVA's main focus is to support and help in delivering conservation, environment and heritage outcomes by involving community members in a voluntary capacity.

CVA works in conjunction with a number of non-government groups including Friends groups as well as local government and government departments such as CALM. One of the advantages of our volunteer program is diversity.

Volunteers work in many different locations such as wetlands, bushland and coastal areas with a variety of people. Some of the sites in which we have been conducting activities in 2005 have been Liege Street Demonstration Wetland with the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL), and Beeliar Regional Park with CALM, Friends of Attadale Foreshore and City of Melville.

## How are we travelling?

In 2004 CVA completed 150 weeks of conservation projects across WA. This is a significant contribution, and highlights that there is a need for proactive people in the community to get involved with landcare issues, especially if existing groups and organisations are unable to meet their goals simply due to a lack of people.

During 2005 CVA developed additional incentives and training for volunteers, local landcare co-ordinators and natural resource managers. This included a nationally accredited certificate (Certificate 1 in Active Volunteering) which enables volunteers to learn and develop specific skills related to the landcare field. Topics such as adherence to occupational health and safety procedures, and planting trees and shrubs are part of the certificate.

CVA also provides opportunities for TAFE and university students to gain practical experience in the field of conservation and land management while studying, and we are



Revegetating Attadale foreshore early 2005. (Photo: Sam Pickering)



Julie Byron (left) and Fiona McAlpine planting at Liege Street wetland. (Photo: Linda Metz)

pleased to see that with each year we are able to attract more volunteers that go on to get employment in this field.

Safety is a primary issue when working with and managing volunteers (we all know about those spiralling insurance costs) so CVA has conducted a series of workshops in 2005 focussing on volunteer safety and risk management. These were well-attended by local landcare coordinators and managers, and we hope to provide this opportunity again in 2006.

A toolkit for safety called *In Safe Hands* has also been made available to organisations which engage volunteers in the natural resource management field. For more details on the toolkit email [info@conservationvolunteers.com.au](mailto:info@conservationvolunteers.com.au).

## Highlights and achievements

Through rain, hail and shine CVA volunteers from all walks of life give up their valuable time

## Creating a Better Earth



Conservation Volunteers Australia

to help achieve some great results. In 2005 we had two volunteers receive World Environment Day Awards and several others who have gained their Certificate 1 in Active Volunteering. We have run several remote projects at locations such as Lorna Glen in the Goldfields to assist with the conversion of this pastoral station to a conservation reserve, and at Purnululu National Park in the Kimberley with the removal of invasive weed species.

Here in Perth we have been busy keeping rabbits out of revegetated areas in Beeliar Regional Park and have planted several thousand sedges along the Swan River. Our future focus is to continue to work with local landcare groups and government agencies to maintain all the good work completed so far.

## Contacts

CVA runs a flexible volunteer program on a weekly basis and on weekends, with activities both here in Perth and in regional WA. So even if you need a holiday we can help (the weeds in Karijini National Park never looked so good!). We welcome all people and you don't need experience, just a sense of humour and some decent shoes. For more information on activities see "What's On" in this issue or contact Linda on 9336 6911.



# Resources

## New publications

- **Guide for Community Treasurers** is a handbook on financial management for community organisations including pointers on keeping the books, asset registers, cash flow and tax, to help you run a more successful operation. Also included is a section to help you understand how to better manage your accounts and a range of special offers on educational and other resources that are available exclusively for community organizations. Printed copies of the Guide can be posted to you – call Westpac on 1300 660 953. Or you can download it at <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/treasurer>.
- **Brochures** published by Perth Zoo about the **Native Species Breeding Program** for the numbat, dibbler and western swamp tortoise, are available from the Zoo's education assistant on 9474 0365 or email [education@perthzoo.wa.gov.au](mailto:education@perthzoo.wa.gov.au).
- **Western Suburbs Greening Plan** is an informative booklet that residents in the western suburbs will find helpful for planning their gardens. It lists 50 local species suited to the sandy, alkaline (lime) soils, provides details on planning your garden, planting and maintenance advice. Contact your local council for a copy of the booklet or Anne Pettit at the Earth Carers' Office 9286 5025.
- **Guide to the Wildlife of the Perth Region** by Simon Nevill Publications (2005) is a book that provides a guide for identifying biodiversity of the Perth area: its mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, invertebrates, 200 wildflower species and fungi. It includes colour

photographs enabling preliminary identification, methods for observing wildlife, and brief descriptions of 32 places to visit. Cost \$39.90. ISBN0975601903.

## Website watch

- **Atlas of Australian Birds 'Birdata'**:
  - accepts new atlas data and provides feedback about data submitted;
  - maps bird distributions at scales ranging from the entire continent down to 1:250,000; and
  - produces bird lists that can be displayed by clicking on the Birdata map.Visit [www.birdata.com.au](http://www.birdata.com.au).
- **New website for the Australian Association for Environmental Education Inc (AAEE)** has a new website providing information for people involved in environmental education. It includes an events list, a directory of programs, a resource publications list, websites in local, national and international fields of environmental education, and a bulletin board where you can promote your activities. Visit [www.mggraphics.com.au/aaeewa](http://www.mggraphics.com.au/aaeewa).
- **Review of Progress on Invasive Species** has been released by the Department of Environment and Heritage. This review addresses the impacts, distribution and abundance of invasive species, and reports on the activities undertaken in Australia in relation to prevention of entry, surveillance,

emergency response and eradication, and containment and control. The invasive species covered in this review include: weeds (both terrestrial and aquatic); plant diseases and invertebrate pests of plants; vertebrate animal pests, both terrestrial and aquatic; and animal diseases and invertebrate pests of animals. Download at <http://deh.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/review/pubs/review-full.pdf>.

- **Birds in Backyards** is a research, education and conservation program focusing on birds and the urban environment. Get involved by becoming a member and taking part in online surveys. Learn about how you can create bird-friendly spaces in your garden and local community. Find out more about Australian birds and their habitats. Visit <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>.
- **The Australian Museum** online <http://www.austmus.gov.au/>. This website provides information about the Australian Museum – its exhibitions, activities, special events and programs. This site will also help planning for education groups, preschools and childcare centres.
- **Our Animals** website looks at Australian animals, their physical features, food, homes and environment and social groups. Website of an ABC Schools TV series for lower to middle primary school students. Visit <http://www.abc.net.au/schoolstv/animals/>.

*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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