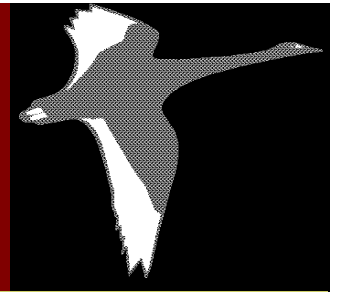


# Swan Region Newsletter

## April 2010



### REFIRE Project

The REFIRE team (Re-engineering for Industry Regulation and Environment) commenced on 12 April 2010 to progress process reform in industry regulation. Led by Tony Wynne, Manager Industry Regulation, core team members are Scott McFarlane, Team Leader, Darryl Miller, Manager Policy & Process Management, Lois Waller, Project Officer and Catherine Nind, Senior Environmental Officer Training.

Ken Raine, Manager Pollution Response Unit, will be Acting Regional Leader Industry Regulation while Tony Wynne is away.

The team are currently developing a high level strategic plan, with consultation from key stakeholders that will set out priorities from now until the end of the year. This plan will be underpinned by more detailed project plans, which will contain both core and non-core REFIRE tasks.

Core REFIRE tasks will relate primarily to establishing administratively efficient and legally sound licensing processes. This includes areas such as scoping, application forms, works approvals, letter and instrument templates, guidance for staff and applicants, licence condition setting, and environmental assessment reports.

The outcome of this work will be an efficient, transparent and streamlined licensing process for businesses requiring a licence or works approval under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

The first stage will be to review all relevant existing material; establish support and resource mechanisms; set milestones; develop a communications strategy and identify training initiatives.

There are also numerous important tasks which sit outside this core REFIRE work that feed into the licensing processes, which can be developed in parallel. This work will be project managed by the REFIRE team with the deliverables often being produced outside the core REFIRE team itself. As the benefits from REFIRE are far wider than those of the core team, everyone in the Industry Regulation field has a reason to ensure its success.

The REFIRE team places a high regard on talking and listening to stakeholders about this work and are currently drafting a communications strategy. This will include regular updates via the Industry Regulation Information Support (IRIS) system, teleconferences and updates on how the work is progressing.

Training will be a key to understanding the new processes and a variety of methods will be utilised, such as e-learning and video conferencing. However, it is the implementation of these new practices in the day – to – day work of staff involved in Industry Regulation that will ensure the success of this important initiative.

If you would like to find out more about the REFIRE project, please contact any member of the team directly.



Left to right: Cath Nind, Darryl Miller, Scott McFarlane, Lois Waller and Tony Wynne

The REFIRE team are looking forward to a busy year ahead and achieving the benefits that this project will bring to the way DEC does business in Industry Regulation.

# Colours of the Swan Region

The Swan Region has recently embarked on the process of determining a colour prescription for signage that will adopt the new DEC Sign System, which was recently endorsed by Peter Sharp. The basis of the DEC Sign System is to choose a dark and contrasting light colour found in the environment which will become the colour palette for all directional, site identification, park boundary and management signs. A third 'splash' colour will be chosen and may be used in interpretive signs and displays, for branding/marketing purposes, or as paint colour within the furnishings of the parks.

While the colours of the environment are limitless, the choice of colours available in mediums that are stable in all weathers is limited. Colour choices made will fall within the environment's colour spectrum and attempt to replicate these colours as closely as possible. Over 400 images of the various parks and landscapes across the Region have been supplied to the Sign Design Studio and colour palettes are currently being investigated. Due to the variation in the landscapes in the Swan Region, we have identified three initial colour prescriptions, (a) Perth Hills, (b) Swan Coastal District, (c) Coastal and Marine. Unique colour prescriptions may also apply to parks that meet the 'State Wide Feature Park' criteria.

The Beelu National Park in Mundaring is the first area to trial a couple of boundary signs to see how the 'Darling Scarp' palette works within the natural surroundings. A demonstration sign has been installed at the entrance to South Ledge on Mundaring Weir Road in the two colour

options, a dark background (Wineberry) with light lettering (Bone) or the light background with dark lettering. The current wooden routed signs are in poor condition and outdated, so the new signage will provide a modern corporate identity and will brand the park.



comprehensive Sign Plan has been developed for the Beelu National Park by Jacki Baxter from the Interpretation Unit in consultation with Perth Hills District, Parks and Visitor Services staff, and Marie Milagro from the Perth Hills National Park Centre. The plan includes Allen Road and the Perth Hills Centre including the proposed office site. The Perth Hills District has submitted a capital funding application for 2010/11 to implement the plan. Sign plans for Walyunga and John Forrest National Park will be considered in the near future.

Written by Jessica McShane

# Farewell to Snorkel

Sadly, over Christmas we lost a very loved and treasured friend, Snorkel the Echidna from Chidlow Marsupial Hospital. Snorkel was unwell for some time and despite the best efforts from his carer, Liz Appelt he passed away from unknown causes.

Snorkel came to Chidlow after the 2003 Wooroloo fires. While still only a baby puggle in his burrow, a bulldozer scooped him up when preparing a fire break. Luckily a fireman saw him, realised he had a broken leg and raced him off to the Chidlow Marsupial Hospital. With the love and care of his new mummy, Liz, Snorkel soon recovered. He became a loved family member and extremely important for education about this special animal.

Over the years Snorkel was a star performer at many activities. He entertained children and adults as she wandered around happily during activities. One of snorkels favourite things was laying on his back letting the children tickle his tummy.

Echidnas belong to a unique group of egg laying mammals called monotremes. The only other monotreme in the world is the platypus. They are toothless and feed on ants and termites (although Snorkel did love the occasional ice-cream).

In 2004, local author Linda Kirchner wrote a book based on the dramatic life of Snorkel the Echidna. The book can be purchased from the Perth Hills Visitor Centre at a cost of \$10 with half the sale price going to the Chidlow Marsupial Hospital.

Snorkel will be greatly missed by everyone at N2N and the many hundreds of people who came to activities and got to know and love him.



Written by Jill Francis

# Disability Access in our parks

The Department of Environment and Conservation is a partner of the You're Welcome Access Initiative, facilitated by the Disability Services Commission (DSC). The Swan Region has been the first within DEC to take part in this initiative.

The initiative aims to address two major access issues identified by people with disabilities, their families and carers. The first issue relates to the difficulty people with disabilities experience finding accurate, detailed and easy-to-understand information about access at places they wish to visit. This information is necessary for people to make decisions about which community services and facilities meet their specific access requirements. The



second issue identified is the need for businesses and community spaces to become more accessible, including the provision of appropriate customer service.

Audits of parks and recreation sites across the Swan Region were carried out using the checklists provided by the DSC. These were not designed to make judgment as

to whether a site was deemed 'accessible' or 'not accessible', but to collect specific access information about a site and its facilities. The information collected is for the new 'You're Welcome WA' website, which allows people to use a search function to find venues specific to their needs or to find out about the accessibility of places they wish to visit.

Jess McShane has recently completed a review of the key



parks in the Swan Region and made recommendations on how these sites could be upgraded to improve access for people with disabilities. The Districts have already begun to implement some of these recommendations.

It should be noted that while this information is aimed at people with disabilities the information collected will also benefit visitors desiring a less strenuous experience, including seniors, children, people with strollers and physically challenged people. The website can be accessed at [www.accesswa.com.au](http://www.accesswa.com.au).

Written by Jessica McShane

## Perth Hills Centre News

If you have ever telephoned the Perth Hills National Parks Centre you will most likely have noticed that it is an absolute 'mouthful' to pick up a phone and say "good morning, Perth Hills National Parks Centre, how can I help you?".

This is one of the reasons that a decision has been made to change the name of the centre to the Perth Hills Centre.

We know.....first is was the Hills Forest Discovery Centre, then the Perth Hills National Parks Centre, and now the Perth Hills Centre! What next? You may have to watch this space, but don't be confused when you hear someone pick up a phone and say "Good morning, Perth Hills Centre, how can I help you?".

The new title fits better on street signs too!

If you are visiting the Perth Hills, do call in to say hi. The centre is beautifully located within the Beelu National Park and is a delightful place to stop for a coffee and get all the information you need on walk and cycle trials and how to make the most of your visit to one of the many Perth Hills National Parks. The Centre is located on Allen Road in Mundaring and the contact number is 9295 2244.



# Southern Darling Project

The Southern Darling Recreation Strategy is a cross government strategy which was initiated by the fall out of the loss and reinstatement of Logue Brooke Dam. Our current government acknowledged there were significant issues in and around the Perth Hills and South West Region in relation to recreation in and around water catchments.

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) received funding to develop a cross government agency strategy to address this issue. DSR developed a methodology to address the issues and look for potential solutions. Two groups were established to drive the project.

The first group is the Reference Group whose role is to ensure this project receives the attention it deserves at all levels of government and assists with the change management required across a range of agencies. Jim Sharp has recently been invited to be a part of this group as a DEC representative.

The second group is the Project Strategy Group. This group's role is to ensure a true cross agency approach is developed, design the framework including consultancy works to be conducted, review reports and make recommendations for change and ultimately the final strategy. Kathleen Lowry and Rod Annear are currently the DEC representatives on this team.

## Project Challenges

The Department of Water's Policy 13 was also being reviewed, which addresses the issues of recreation in and around water catchments.

The Strategy Group and Reference Group were instrumental in setting the foundations for each agencies response to the Parliamentary Enquiry on Policy 13. It has become evident in recent times of the cultural change both in the Department of Water and the Water Corporation.

This transition management approach occurred due to the intense works of the Southern Darling Recreation Strategy group. The outcomes of the Parliamentary enquiry will assist in the continued direction of the strategy which is due for response in June 2010.

The initial direction of the Strategy Group was to set the foundations, collect data in relation to best practices across Australia and internationally and

develop a solution for a 'management of catchment' approach as opposed to a risk adverse approach.

The project is currently moving in to a more operational phase now with a focus on the rationalisation of recreation pursuits in and around catchments, dams etc.

## Impacts for DEC

The next step for the project will be to finalise the rationalisation of activities and recreation sites against community needs/wants. This critical piece of work will enable DEC to have data on which recreational sites are in use, which need upgrading and which recreation activity is compatible with catchments and dams etc. Currently the project has collected data from Dwellingup to Collie, however with the Policy 13 review, there has been a request to expand this to include from Perth (Mundaring) to Albany.

Once the Southern Darling Strategy is completed, it will be a framework for recreation in Peth to the South West. The key challenges to DEC will be how this strategy is linked to the existing DEC management and recreation planning processes. The DEC planning process is legislative based under the CALM Act. The Southern Darling Recreation Strategy will provide the conceptual framework driven from the Parliamentary enquiry for the detailed planning request by DEC.

It will be critical for DEC to play a key part in the Southern Darling project to ensure these potential conflicts are established before the strategy is completed.

Written by Kathleen Lowry



Logue Brook Dam

# Launch of the Great Cocky Count

The official launch of the Great Cocky Count took place at the Kaarakin Sanctuary on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April. The launch was a great success and very well attended with guests from DEC, Birds Australia, a number of the projects volunteers and, a number of our beautiful feathered friends.

This is the second survey of its kind, the first being in 2006. Organised by DEC in conjunction with Birds Australia's Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project, the project aims to determine the population of this threatened species in the Greater Perth region, from Moore River in the north, east to York and south to Yalgorup. The survey will help determine whether the population has declined or increased since the last survey.

DEC Swan Region Ecologist, Geoff Barrett, said that "more than 1000 volunteers participated in Birds Australia's last survey, which found that there were at least 4,500 birds of this species on the Swan Coastal Plain at that time.



Speakers at the launch, from left—Quinton Burnham, Glen Dewhurst, Geoff Barrett, Bruce Haynes, Helen Morton, and Olwen Searle.

Guest speakers included:

- Mr Bruce Haynes, Chair of Birds Australia WA Group.
- Hon Helen Morton, Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region.
- Mayor Olwen Searle from the City of Gosnells.
- Dr Geoff Barrett, joint project manager with Raana Scott from Birds Australia spoke about the project.
- Mr Glen Dewhurst from the Rehabilitation Centre spoke about the rehabilitation of sick birds, particularly in the aftermath of the recent storms
- Mr Glen Dewhurst from the Rehabilitation Centre spoke about the rehabilitation of sick birds, particularly in the aftermath of the recent storms.

Afternoon tea and a tour of the rehabilitation centre followed the launch ceremony.



The star of the day!

# Perth Hills Admin Ladies Clean-up!

The Perth Hills Districts Administrative team decided that Keeping Australia (and in particular the Perth Hills) clean was a worthy cause when they participated in the Keep Australia Beautiful Council initiative. Gloves and rubbish bags in hand, the ladies spent a couple of hours collecting rubbish in the Pickering Brook NP on Tuesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. In keeping with the saying 'any good deed deserves



Pauline Pollock, doing her bit to Keep Australia Beautiful

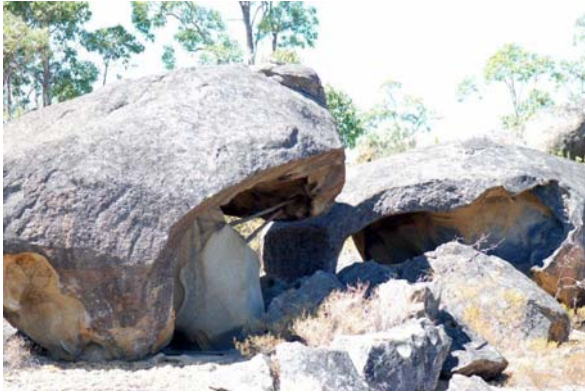
reward' morning tea at the Heritage Rose Gardens and café in Carmel followed. It's all in a days work! Well done to the ladies for doing their bit for the environment!.



Story and photos by Vera Sulc

# Rock Cave Relics—Paul Tholen

My focus for the past fifteen years with DEC has been developing an understanding of the flora and fauna of the Swan and Wheatbelt Regions, mitigating threats and passing on the environmental message. I enjoy this work as it takes me to some fantastic locations and allows me room to work with people in the community who are passionate about the same things that I am.



Mushroom Rock

The forest offers another story, the story of our past and one that is fading fast, as we concentrate on the present and prepare for the future. To two of DEC's intrepid volunteers Fred and Jean Hort, the find of an historic camp and working through the mystery surrounding such a find is almost as exciting as locating and describing a rare species.

A handful of rusty nails, a rusty flat file, an old food can key, a horseshoe to attach to the heel of a leather boot, an iron cog and a couple of marri bush pole struts; items not uncommon in an out of town rubbish tip, but clues to a bygone era when set against the backdrop of an isolated granite outcrop miles from the warmth of any home, let alone the comforts of a community.

Eighty to a hundred years ago, someone lived here, in this forested landscape. For how long or for what purpose we can only guess. A woodcutter perhaps wanting to stay close to the perfect jarrah stand? Or a swagman, sheltering for a stint from a persistent storm. Are the nails and file part of a farrier's kit, used to repair the broken shoes of draft horses, required in the forest to pull out the largest of the tree logs? These are questions without answers.

One of the more indicative clues lies in the cog that was left behind. The make and construction of this item was common between 1910 and 1930; however the use of the item at this location will remain a mystery. The nails and possibly the file seem to be handmade and not part of the mass

manufacturing process that followed in the 1940's, another clue to the age and era surrounding the bush camp.

So where to from here? Leigh O'Brien from the Western Australian Museum supports the notion of keeping such historical evidence out in the field; in-situ so to speak for future explorers to rediscover over time. This idea is captured in the preparation of burn prescriptions, where locations of our cultural heritage, both Indigenous and European are excluded from fire and therefore protected.

If there is one moral to this story, one critical idea that I would like to impart to the reader, it is that we need to keep our outlook broad. It is easy to focus within our key area and dismiss the rusty cog lying next to the Wongan cactus or Mogumber bell, but to do this, we allow a small piece of history to simply fade away.



Rusty nails

Thanks to Fred and Jean Hort and Michael Pasotti for bringing the find to my attention and taking the time to search and take photographs. Thanks also to Tom Niven, Kevin Pollock, Leigh O'Brien and Roger Underwood in forwarding their thoughts on the possible history associated with the find.



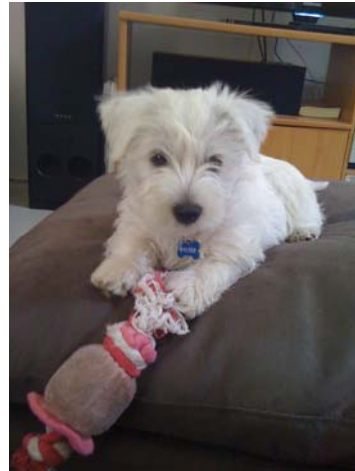
File and horseshoe



# Weddings, Parties, Anything!



Richard Boykett celebrated his 40th birthday and a job change in March this year. Bentley staff farewelled Richard at a morning tea. Richard is now located at the Karratha office.



Emma Simpson has a new addition to the household - introducing Baxter. Baxter enjoys playing with toys, walks to the park and most of all, chewing Emma's beautiful shoes. Fortunately this stage will most likely only last for about two years. Thanks to Baxter for providing Emma with an endless excuse to go shoe shopping.



Emma and Craig Simpson were married in Margaret River on the 20th of March. Congratulations to the Bride and Groom.



Shawn, Jen and Jai would like to announce the arrival of their beautiful baby boy Taj Thomas. Born at 1.30 pm, weighing 3385 grms and 50 cm in length. Mum and bub doing fine and an extremely proud Dad and brother.



We welcome Glenys Exley to the Swan Region. Glenys has taken over the role Executive Officer to Paul Brown and comes to us from the Department of Commerce. Glenys is very friendly and you will no doubt have the opportunity to work with her at some stage in the future.



Somebody celebrated their 50th birthday. I will let you guess which photo is taken at the beginning of the day and which one is taken at the end of the day!

Looks like a great celebration—Happy 50th birthday to Derek Winters—proving you are never too old to pole dance!