

## Protecting the future of fishing

Swan River Trust acting manager, Darryl Miller said recreational fishers must be aware of the need to protect shoreline vegetation to ensure the future of fishing in Western Australia.

“Digging for bait in inappropriate places and trampling reeds to gain access to the water are damaging the Swan and Canning rivers,” Mr Miller said.

“Recreational activities such as fishing are an important part of the social focus and enjoyment of the river, but we need to ensure that our activities don’t harm the river.

“Vegetation along the river banks is extremely susceptible to trampling. It is an important food source and habitat for fish as well as being vital for the existence of a healthy river.”

Mr Miller said there were many places along the Swan and Canning rivers where the shorelines had been damaged by people pulling out reeds, digging in the banks, dumping mud on reeds and trampling vegetation to get to the river. “Without shoreline vegetation and seagrass beds there would be fewer fish,” he said.

In November the Swan River Trust revised its policy on bait digging to better protect the environment but at the same



time the policy gives fishers greater choice of where to dig.

“The emphasis of the new policy has changed from where to dig to how to dig in a way that doesn’t damage the river’s shoreline vegetation and seagrass beds,” Mr Miller said.

The revised Swan River Trust policy for bait digging requires that digging occurs at least five metres from the shoreline and any vegetation.

The Swan River Trust has produced a brochure entitled ‘Fishing for a healthy river’. The brochure outlines the new rules for bait digging in accordance with the Trust’s revised policy.

The brochure and policy are available for viewing on the Trust website at [www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt). Hard copies will also be made available to recreational fishers through bait and tackle shops and from the Swan River Trust.

## Courtesy mooring buoys

The Swan River Trust has installed courtesy mooring buoys for public use at various locations around the Swan River.

Trust Chairman, Geoff Totterdell said that in the past there were no sites for people to moor their vessels for short-stay purposes.

“The courtesy mooring buoys provide private boat users with a suitable, legal and safe place to moor their boats”, he said.

“They are a highly visible orange to set them apart from the existing Department of Planning and Infrastructure mooring buoys and are clearly labelled with the Trust logo and their conditions of use.

“The attachment for boats is a four metre nylon cable with flotation collar bypassing the buoy. The design enables the moorings to be used by boats of up to 20 metres.

The design also ensures the buoy does not take any of the mooring strain and provides an easy pick up system for boats using the buoys. There are no piles used in this system.

“The courtesy mooring buoys are for short stays of up to four hours only”, Mr Totterdell stressed.

Courtesy mooring buoys are located at Barrack Square, Blackwall Reach, Mosman Bay North and Matilda Bay, with more to go in at Freshwater Bay.

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## Festivals of Water and Floatwell Designs

The Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA program – an environmental education program aimed at increasing community understanding about water quality and taking action for a better environment – has been running in the Swan Region for 12 years and has had great success with two new concepts, AquaFest and the Floatwell Design Competition.

### AquaFest 2001

More than 220 students and 70 adults from schools and community groups throughout the Swan Region came together to discuss water and environmental projects at the inaugural AquaFest in October during National Water Week.

The event was designed to provide groups who are actively involved in Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA, with an opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences.

Presentations and displays were innovative and entertaining, incorporating the school or group's knowledge and awareness of water quality monitoring and catchment management issues.



Lynwood Primary School winning entry



Parkwood Primary School winning entry

### Floatwell Design Competition

To measure river levels and water flow floatwells or gauging stations are located along major waterways throughout the state.

The two floatwells located at the Kent Street Weir on the Canning River become covered with graffiti, so local schools were invited to create a design incorporating the Cleanup Program's key message – HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY - for the concrete structures that will later be painted by the students.

Entries in the Floatwell Design Competition, sponsored by the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program were judged by Dr Lekias, Mayor of the City of Canning, local artist Jo Darbyshire, Wendy Yorke from the Swan River Trust and Paul Earp from the Water and Rivers Commission.

The winning entries were Lynwood Primary School and Parkwood Primary School which received a prize of \$500 each to enhance the school's environmental resources. The cheques were handed to teachers and students during the Canning River Festival on 11 November 2001.



## Congratulations to all involved in the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program!

SCCP was awarded a High Commendation in the 2001 Premier's Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management in the new category this year for Sustainable Environment.

A well deserved recognition of all the effort of everyone involved in the Cleanup Program.

### Woodside Corporate Care Day

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program in conjunction with the Bennett Brook Catchment Group held its second Corporate Care Day in November with a team of volunteers from Woodside Energy Limited. The enthusiastic group from the Exploration and Production IT team planted more than 1,000 *Juncus pauciflorus* rushes in the muddy, damp edges of the Bennett Brook in a record time of only one hour. Supervised by project officer, Sara Winter, the team also weeded a significant area of the foreshore, learning much about weed infestation and associated problems at the same time.

The team were also treated to an enjoyable afternoon under the shade of the trees and took part in testing the water quality of the open drain which leads from the Malaga Industrial area, passing through a variety of landuses into the brook. Trish Pedelty, Education Officer demonstrated how the Ribbons Of Blue/Waterwatch WA program assessed water quality using macro invertebrates as bioindicators of health of the waterway.

The range and diversity of species found by the Woodside team indicated a healthy, unpolluted aquatic environment that was able to support a large community of macro invertebrates.

Woodside has contributed significantly to Bennett Brook's environmental rehabilitation projects, with several staff teams coming to help the catchment group's revegetation program.

The Cleanup Program's Corporate Care Days has been developed to give the corporate sector an opportunity to play their part, enabling staff to take part in river restoration projects, to learn more about environmental river management, as well as to take part in team building opportunities.

Woodside are setting an excellent corporate example by allocating 12 hours of each staff members working time each year as part of a corporate initiative to be more involved with their community and to give their staff the opportunity to support and assist community activities outside of the office environment.

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program is keen to encourage more people to get involved and share in the work.

For more information about how you or your group, or department or business can be involved in a Corporate Care Day, making your contribution to HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY please contact Wendy Yorke at the Swan River Trust on 9278 0592.

### The Drain Game

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program has recently developed an innovative activity – the Drain Game. Designed as a fun, educational and hands-on activity, the game promotes the message "don't let your river go down the drain".

Created for children as well as their parents and carers, the colourful activity presents a hands-on approach to community education, as well as entertainment while also demonstrating how everybody in the community can 'help keep our rivers healthy' by keeping rubbish, chemicals and garden waste out of storm water drains.

A children's activity sheet reinforcing the messages is also handed out to children who play the game.

Making sure that only rain goes down the drain is an important aspect of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.

The game made its debut at this year's Royal Agricultural Show. Children of all ages had the time of their lives throwing balls representing different items of rubbish into matching bins on a colourful, cartoon backdrop.

### Heavenly Hectares seminars a raging success

The Department of Agriculture, as part of their Swan-Canning Cleanup Program project, with assistance from local landcare coordinators, has completed a series of 10 three hour seminars for owners of small farms and properties.

The Heavenly Hectares seminars were attended by more than 500 people and helped landholders particularly those with limited agricultural knowledge, know more about their land and how to develop their 'dream' lifestyle.

At the seminars, people learnt about many issues such as fire, weeds, pastures, trees and living on a small rural property. They also became more familiar with their soils and actually got a glimpse of what different soils look like two metres down, by studying 'soil peels', where a



If they missed, the rubbish went down the drain and they watched how quickly it flowed into the river and amongst wildlife habitats.

Parents and children read the messages on the bins which recommend the most appropriate ways of disposing of their rubbish responsibly. Swan-Canning Cleanup Program staff also talked to parents and children playing the Drain Game about the management of the Swan and Canning rivers.

Public response was overwhelming and the Drain Game has proved to be extremely popular. Since its debut the game has travelled to the Ribbons of Blue AquaFest celebrations, Chattering Landcare Centre, City of Gosnells EarthFest 2001 and the Canning River Festival.



section of a two metre deep profile is preserved in a display case.

Most of those present have taken the opportunity to nominate for further free weekend field walks on a vast range of subjects such as weed control, pasture establishment and tree selection.

If you would like to know more, please contact Brian Lloyd at the Department of Agriculture on 9274 5355.

**HELP KEEP  
OUR RIVERS HEALTHY**

Find out how you can do the right thing by the river – phone 1800 062 549  
or check the advice on our web site [www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt)

## City of Belmont tackles the elements

Operational staff from the City of Belmont took on an enormous task during November to remove bamboo (*Arundo donax*) from the Belmont foreshore below the old St. John of God Hospital. In an area with extremely difficult foreshore access, the Swan River Trust field crew were on hand with the Trust's Seagull Barge to transport staff and take the bamboo to the Abernethy Boat Ramp where it was later taken to landfill.

Tackling the unfavourable conditions of heat, humidity, mosquitos, flies and the occasional snake it took the City of Belmont and Trust staff five days to remove bamboo from a 700 square metre section of the river shoreline.

The embankment has been mulched and will be stabilised with Coir fibre matting

in preparation for planting next year.

This work is part of the City of Belmont's Swan River Foreshore Rehabilitation Project which was initiated by the City in 1998. The project area covers six hectares of river foreshore along the Swan River.

The objectives of this five year project include the removal and control of weeds; protecting existing remnant vegetation; re-establishing native plant species and vegetation communities; stabilising eroded embankments along the river by the establishment of dense sedge and rush communities; and to encourage the community, local



government and stakeholders to undertake a cooperative approach to enhance, protect and preserve the natural values of the Swan River.

The Trust is pleased to have been involved and encourages other local councils to contact them if they require assistance in helping to keep our rivers healthy.

## Swan Catchment Centre on the move

The Swan Catchment Centre has relocated to new premises in Middle Swan.

The Swan Catchment Centre provides training, resources, advice and information to anyone involved in restoring and protecting the natural environment in the Perth metropolitan area and its surrounds.

The Swan Catchment Centre is now located at the old administration building of the City of Swan, 80 Great Northern Highway, Middle Swan. You can contact centre staff on telephone 9374 3333 or by faxing 9374 0685 or view their website at [www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon).

## Hot off the press

- The Derivation of Percentile Quality Criteria for the Swan-Canning Estuary: A Binomial Approach, October 2001
- Fishing for a healthy river, November 2001

## Environmental volunteers honoured

Environmental volunteers were honoured with a celebration in Middle Swan on Saturday December 1, 2001.

Part of the International Year of Volunteers activities, the occasion was hosted by the Swan Catchment Council.

Chairman of the Swan Catchment Council Mike Grasby acknowledged the crucial role that volunteers play in protecting and restoring the environment.

"The combined efforts of many dedicated volunteers have multiple benefits," Mr Grasby said.

"Not only do they achieve practical outcomes, they also raise awareness of environmental issues across the community."

More than 250 environmental groups are active throughout the Perth metropolitan area and its surrounds. Volunteers are involved in restoring and protecting bushland, wetlands and waterways.

Some of the projects that environmental volunteers can be involved in include weeding, replanting with native species, water quality monitoring, surveying flora and fauna, assisting in landcare

information centres and even bird watching.

For more information on how you can become involved in restoring and protecting Perth's natural environment contact the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333.

**2002** *Members of the Board and staff of the Swan River Trust wish all our readers a very happy and prosperous New Year!*



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*Protecting the Swan-Canning river system for the future*