

Riverbank — restoration underway

On 3 January 2002 the Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards launched *Riverbank*, the Swan River Trust's four-year \$500 000 restoration and revegetation program for Perth's river shorelines.

This initiative will help to fund projects to restore degraded shorelines of the Swan and Canning rivers.

Dr Edwards said works planned included reconstruction of shoreline walls, stabilisation of shorelines and replanting of reeds.

'The program will fulfil a pre-election Government promise to address years of neglect of the riverbanks, with the money being used to prevent erosion, protect existing vegetation and encourage the establishment of native flora and fauna,' she said.

Some of the areas targeted for action in 2002 include parts of John Tonkin and Wayman reserves in East Fremantle, Ashfield Parade in Bassendean, and Lilac Hill Park in Caversham.

At the launch Dr Edwards handed over a \$15 000 cheque to the City of Melville to



Construction of limestone 'rip rap' walling at Wayman Reserve, East Fremantle. This work was let and supervised by the Swan River Trust.

help fund the first restoration project, where erosion is threatening the Canning River foreshore, between Canning Bridge and Mt Henry Bridge.

'This work is a positive step that will benefit the community and visitors to Perth, and increase people's use and appreciation of our unique river environment,' the Minister said.

As the majority of work will be in parks and reserves managed by local government, the Trust is working in partnership with local government on jointly funded projects. The four-year program complements the Trust's existing work in shoreline revegetation.

The majority of river walls, particularly downstream of the Causeway and Canning bridges, were built in the first half of last century, and are badly in need of maintenance, while in upstream areas,

erosion has undermined reed beds and riverbanks.

Roads and buildings, as well as river reclamation, have altered the natural erosion and deposition cycles of the rivers, and many old protective measures need to be upgraded.

Shoreline facilities and infrastructure, as well as natural features and vegetation need to be protected from flood flows, and wave energy needs to be dissipated.

The Trust is administering the program. As well as initiating projects we will be providing advice and technical support to local government on best practices in developing and managing foreshore restoration projects.

A proposed workshop in June 2002 will showcase best practices for implementing foreshore restoration works.

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Catchment groups receive funding

As part of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program \$415 000 was allocated to catchment groups in the Swan-Canning catchment in January 2002.

Program Manager Adrian Tomlinson said the continued support to catchment groups is a major part of the Cleanup Program working to reduce nutrients entering the Swan and Canning rivers.

This financial support will fund salaries for coordinator, on-ground project and education officers as well as provide much needed additional support for eight catchment groups.

These groups are in priority areas where nutrient problems are the worst and where the most work needs to be done.

'Community participation and the work of catchment groups is fundamental to the achievement of the Cleanup Program's goals', Adrian said.

'These groups work hard to develop and implement management plans for their catchment and undertake valuable on-ground restoration work.

'Catchment groups are a key to achieving the collective community action necessary to effectively improve water quality discharging into the Swan-Canning river system', Adrian said.

By providing support for the logistical components of catchment groups' operations, the Cleanup Program aims to give groups the security and ability to pursue other funding opportunities.

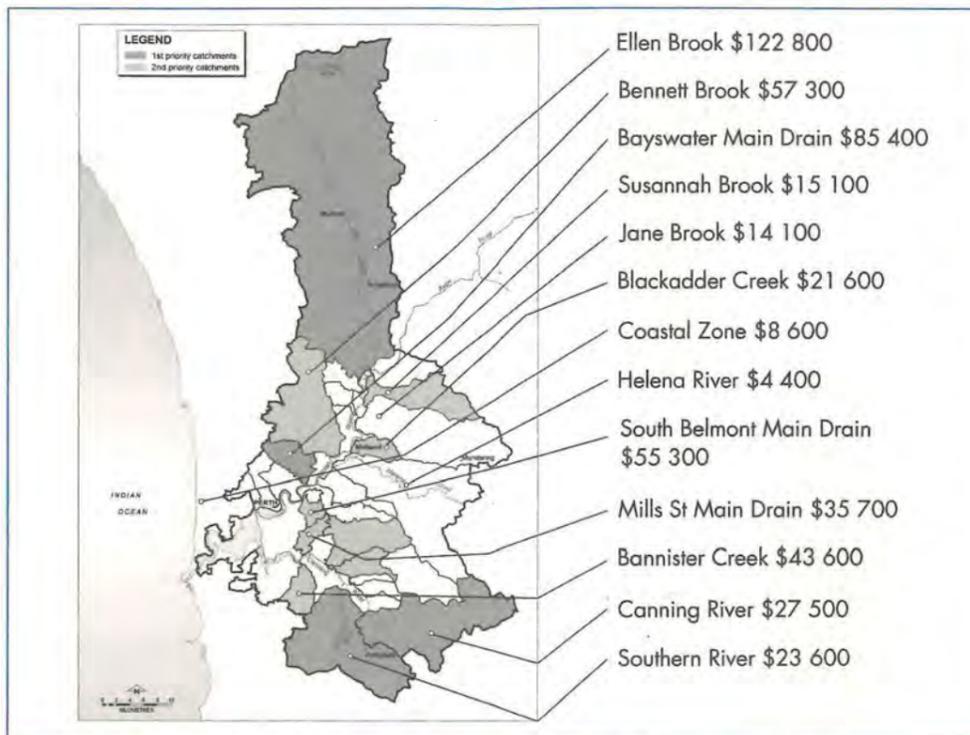
The financial support also allows catchment officers' to work directly with community members and local authorities in implementing important on-ground restoration activities.

The Cleanup Program has again contributed a further \$100 000 to the Swan-Canning Urban Landcare Program (SCULP). This program also receives \$250 000 funding from Alcoa.

Now in its fourth year, SCULP was established to give community groups easy access to alternative funding for on-ground revegetation and rehabilitation projects.

SCULP is managed by the Swan Catchment Council. The Swan Catchment Centre and the Swan River Trust support the Council in the administration of the project assessment and funding.

Anyone wanting information on SCULP, their local catchment group or on how to get involved in local activities to help keep our rivers healthy, should contact the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333.



Cleanup Program direct support for catchment groups and SCULP by sub-catchment 2001-2002.

Catchments, Corridors and Coasts

Staff from Swan River Trust, Water and Rivers Commission, Department of Agriculture and the Swan Catchment Centre took a coordinated approach in delivering environmental education at the Catchments, Corridors and Coasts (CCC) workshop in January 2002.

Partly sponsored by the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program for the third year running, the workshop is an Australian

Association for Environmental Education program that runs over five days.

Sixty participants took part in the workshop. The participants were from all walks of life and included school teachers, university students, local government, community members, farmers and landcare trainees. This year also included participants from Christmas Island and Malaysia.

The Cleanup Program-sponsored day provided participants with presentations, demonstrations and activities impacting on the Swan-Canning river system.



Tom Rose of the Water and Rivers Commission explains and demonstrates sampling techniques and regimes.

Trust Community Relations Officer, Silvana Affolter, said the day's theme was algae functions and structure, their impact on water quality and what the Cleanup Program is doing to reduce the incidence of toxic algal blooms.

'Apart from getting our message out there I wanted participants to go home with an appreciation of the complexity of algae and a good understanding of the Cleanup Program' she said.

For more information on the Catchments, Corridors and Coasts workshops contact Janette Huston on 9574 6039 or email peakpot@vianet.net.au.

Cleanup Program to reach new audiences

A key element of the Cleanup Program is to raise awareness and support community involvement in the implementation of the Action Plan by motivating and empowering businesses and the general public to change their behaviour, generate corporate support and contribute to activities that protect the Swan and Canning rivers.

Channel 7 are supporting the Cleanup Program in a dollar for dollar sponsorship arrangement to produce and air two community service announcements (CSAs).

The first, which began screening mid February 2002, relates to urban garden fertiliser awareness. Entitled the Silent Traveller the CSA asks that the community 'Fertilise Wise'.

The second relates to industrial processes and promotes better waste water management and cleaner production and will start airing in May 2002. Entitled Money Down the Drain it encourages businesses to 'Protect Your Profits, Protect Your River'.

Both CSAs include a call to action, using the Trust's 1800 062 549 information line.



Channel 7 crew on site at the premises of a converted Cleaner Production business.

Taking a more ominous tone than our previous CSAs produced in 2000, we follow fertilisers and industrial waste water through the ground, into drains and finally to the river.

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday, 3 March 2002

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program's interactive display – the Drain Game – played an active role in Clean Up Australia Day for the first time this year.

Taking place during the Melville Festival, the Drain Game was made available for volunteers and members of the public to play at the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program's Point Walter Clean Up site, on Sunday, March 3.

The game provides entertainment while demonstrating how everyone in the community can 'help keep our rivers healthy' by keeping rubbish and garden waste out of the storm water drains. It also provides Trust staff the opportunity to engage with members of the public in discussions about river management

issues and to pass on valuable information to those who are interested.

The Clean Up Day was a great success with 60 volunteers picking up 52 bags of rubbish. The most exciting treasure found on the day was \$20 discovered by a lucky child in the bushland. Unfortunately the bulk of the rubbish was the ever dependable plastic, food wrappings and cigarette butts.

Darryl Miller, Swan River Trust Acting Manager said: 'Everyone's contribution is significant in helping to keep the rivers clean'.

'The community expects the rivers and shorelines to be clean yet every year people use them as a dumping ground'.



'Each year the Trust spends more than \$300 000 just to clean up the mess. That's \$300 000 of taxpayer's money spent simply because people don't dispose of rubbish properly.'

Last year the rubbish collected by Trust Field Operations crew included 91 shopping trolleys, 77 car tyres, 65 tonnes of general rubbish, 11 fridges and washing machines, 39 steel drums, 41 display signs and 2 cars.

Wilma and the boys on the job

Well they've done it again! The Swan River Trust Field Operations Crew have once again averted disaster and kept the Swan River safe for us all. In the process they demonstrated that Wilma Vincent really is a versatile lady.

A few months ago the Field Crew and their new work boat, Wilma, joined the Fire and Emergency Services Authority in an oil spill response drill at the Barrack Square jetties. They used the opportunity to put the work boat they helped design through her paces and they were impressed with the results.

On the afternoon of Saturday, 19 January, life imitated practice and they got to do it again – and this was no rehearsal. Six hundred litres of diesel was spilt into the river from the ferry refuelling facility at Barrack Square.

A fast response by the Trust's Field Operations Crew – David Fardig, Vaughan Smith and David Dean – saw Wilma and the boys on the job in time to get a boom around the spill and confine it to the area of the jetties. This effectively prevented the slick from spreading across a large area of Perth Water.

Wilma's manoeuvrability, forward work deck and front bow ramp proved invaluable in getting the containment boom deployed in the confined area between the jetties.

The Crew then worked into the night, with the help of Cleanaway, to skim the diesel from the river.



The few traces left after this operation, were then dispersed using Wilma's propeller and quickly evaporated from the surface of the water.

By Sunday morning there was nothing to indicate anything had even happened.

So next time you bump into a member of this elite group just remember, when you don't see a problem on the river it may well be because they got there first and did their job well.

Skills for nature conservation training calendar APRIL TO JUNE 2002

The Skills for Nature Conservation community training program aims to help Perth's growing and increasingly active community tackle threats facing our unique environment.

Participants can gain knowledge and practical skills training in: river, bushland, wetland and landscape values; restoration and habitat management; project management and group development.

These courses are designed for community group volunteers and students, state and local government officers, private landholders and anyone interested in making a difference to our environment. Training courses will be delivered by experienced local practitioners.

There is no cost to participants attending these training courses.

DATE	COURSE TITLE	DESCRIPTION
6 April 2002	Planning A Successful Workday	Learn how to plan and run a workday with your group. The Friends of Bold Park will be used as a case study.
20 April 2002	Essential First Aid	This nationally accredited course will provide participants with basic skills and knowledge to maintain life until the arrival of medical professionals, in the case of an accident.
4 May 2002	Down To Earth – Understanding The Values Of Soil	Understanding soils and how they can influence how we manage bushland and undertake revegetation activities.
18 May 2002	Helping Your Local Community Protect Your Bushland, Wetland And River	How to become involved in your local bushland and wetland, by joining a 'Friends' group or starting one up for your local area.
8 June 2002	Perth's Bushland Bonanza – Unique Natural Communities Of The World	Learn about the inter-relationships between plant and animal communities and the high species diversity across these communities.
4 Sessions: 18 & 25 June 2 & 9 July	Facilitation Skills	A course for group leaders or those wishing to take on a leadership role, which will explore the skills needed to lead groups in an effective way.
22 June 2002	Minibeasts As Indicators In Urban Bushland	Learn about the role of insects and spiders and other minibeasts in urban bushland and wetlands and how they can be used as indicators of bushland health.

For more information on these courses or to register your interest please contact Bronwyn Ryan at the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333.

Diary Notes

- Lord Mayor's Cup Corporate Rowing Challenge, sponsored by the City of Perth and the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, Sunday, 14 April 2002
- The biggest ever Garden Week, from 11 – 16 April 2002, back in Perry Lakes and this year featuring for the first time an ECOTOPIA Centre and including the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program's Drain Game, Fertilise Wise information and a Fauna Friendly Gardening display from the Swan Catchment Centre
- World Environment Day – 5 June 2002



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