

Swan River foreshore work

In February the Environment and Heritage Minister, Dr Judy Edwards, announced *Riverbank* funding for foreshore restoration work in the City of Subiaco and the Town of East Fremantle.

The City of Subiaco has repaired a 100-metre section of walling at JH Abrahams Reserve. The work will end continual erosion of the shoreline behind the wall and reinstate the damaged pathway. The new wall ensures that public access and recreational use of this popular area will be maintained.

The Town of East Fremantle has started reshaping a 100-metre section of Norm McKenzie Reserve to increase the stability of the beach. The three-week project began on 20 February 2003. The area was reclaimed in the 1960s and has gradually eroded to a point where existing recreational infrastructure is at risk and continual erosion of the shoreline is occurring.

A section of existing carpark and riverwall has been removed to facilitate reshaping of the foreshore. The design minimises the amount of foreshore protection work required and will create a larger beach area. The project provides increased opportunity for public recreation in an already popular area.

The Trust contributed \$8 300 to the City of Subiaco and \$17 217 to the Town of



Town of East Fremantle Chief Executive Officer, Stuart Wearne and Deputy Mayor Liz Lovell discuss with the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr Judy Edwards the work being undertaken.

East Fremantle to match local government contributions.

The *Riverbank* program fulfils a pre-election Government promise to address years of neglect of the riverbanks, with

\$500 000 over four years being used to restore and protect the Swan, Canning and Lower Helena river foreshores.

If you would like more information on *Riverbank* please contact Jane Latchford at the Swan River Trust on 9278 0400.

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Development proposals now on-line



Details of development proposals received by the Swan River Trust, as well as recommendations and advice, are now accessible to the public on a new webpage on the Trust's website.

The information, which will be updated fortnightly, is available in a user-friendly format readily accessible to anyone with on-line facilities. Hard copies can also be provided.

Acting Trust Manager Darryl Miller said the move implements one of the principal recommendations of the recent independent review of the Trust.

"Having this information readily available to the public provides greater transparency and accountability and ensures community views on management and protection of the Swan and Canning rivers can be considered when decisions on development are made," he said.

"This new on-line access also provides the community with an easier opportunity to comment on Trust recommendations and advice."

People will have 14 days to comment on applications that require the Minister's approval. Check out our website at www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt.

Clean Up a great success



Team members (left to right) Andre Gumprecht, Jamie Coyne, Vince Matassa, and Damian Mori volunteered to make their contribution on the day.

National Clean Up Australia Community Day, held annually on the first Sunday in March, once again prompted the Trust to clean up Point Walter Reserve for a successive third year. It was a great success with 100 volunteers picking up 124 bags of rubbish. The unusual items found were a cash register, a brand new credit card and a mannequin's arm. Unfortunately the bulk of the rubbish was the ever present plastic bags, takeaway food containers, bottles, cans and broken glass.

This day followed the Trust's Clean Up Australia Business Day on 25 February 2003 when four members of the Perth Glory soccer team joined 30 volunteers from the Swan River Trust, Water and Rivers Commission and Department of Environmental Protection. The group headed down to the Canning River between Cloisters Boat Ramp and the Canning Bridge before work to collect rubbish along the river foreshore. Two hours and 52 bags later saw the area looking spectacular.



Accountants go wetland weeding

In December 2002, 15 employees from the international accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers took part in a Corporate Care Day at the Coolgardie Living Stream Project in Garvey Park. The joint project of the City of Belmont and the Belmont-Victoria Park Catchment Group is changing the drain into a living stream.

PricewaterhouseCoopers has recently established an independent Foundation to support community organisations and encourages its staff to help the wider community to have a positive impact on society. Landcare was identified by the company's staff in Perth as one area that they would like to help with.

The Trust was delighted to help the PricewaterhouseCoopers Foundation become involved in the Corporate Care Day Program, which is an initiative of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program. The Corporate Care Day Program provides the corporate sector with the opportunity to play their part by working on the land to

help keep the rivers healthy.

PricewaterhouseCoopers staff, assisted by the City of Belmont's Environmental Team, helped by planting 1000 Shore Rush seedlings, which brings the total planted (including trees and shrubs) this year to 21 700. They also laid mulch around the plants, weeded in the wetlands and placed woody debris (large branches and logs) in the planted area to provide habitat for insects and lizards.

By giving staff the opportunity to take part in revegetation and restoration projects, businesses can make a significant contribution and do something worthwhile for their community. Businesses also benefit because the work helps bridge the



John O'Connor, Partner, Assurance and Business Advisory Services and Julie Cox, Director, Corporate Finance and Valuations of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

gaps often found in the workplace. Working on the land is a great opportunity for staff to see their colleagues in a new light and share a common purpose.

For further information on the Corporate Care Day Program please contact Wendy Yorke at the Swan River Trust on 9278 0400.

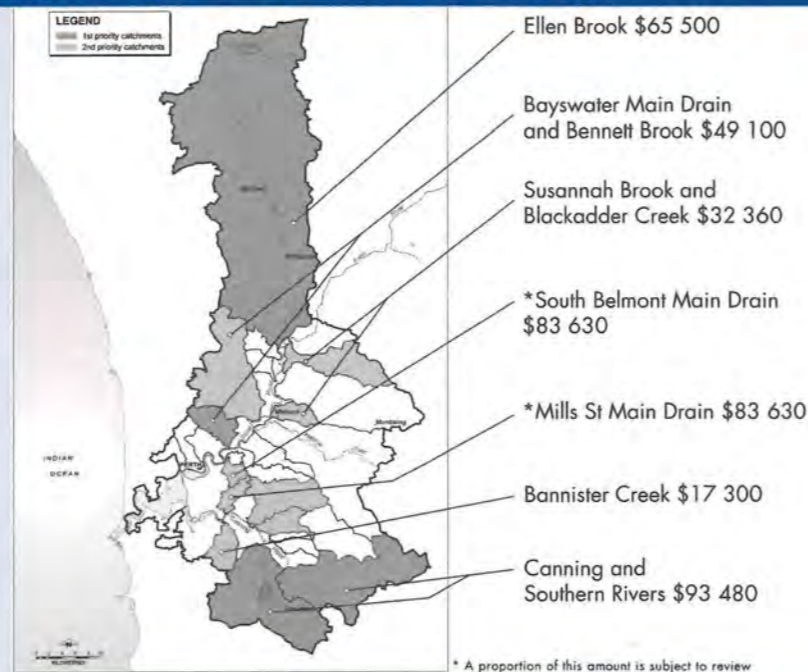
Swan-Canning catchment groups receive funding

As part of the Swan River Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, \$425 000 in direct funding is being provided to catchment groups in the Swan-Canning catchment for the coming year.

Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards 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. Now in its fourth year of Action Plan implementation, this financial support will fund salaries for coordinator, on-ground project and education officer positions 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.

"The Cleanup Program also distributed a further \$100 000 to community groups through the Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program (SCULP). Dr Edwards said the Trust's Cleanup Program contribution complements the major contribution from Alcoa. This year over \$400 000 was provided to community groups for on-ground works. The cheques were presented at a ceremony on 6 February 2003.

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



Swan-Canning Cleanup Program direct support for catchment groups by sub-catchment in 2002-2003.

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

Skills for Nature Conservation training calendar

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

Next quarter's training (April to June 2003) includes the following courses, talks and workshops:

Date	Course title	Description
April 12 2003	Managing Bushland for unplanned Fires	Hear from fire fighters, the community, and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority of their experiences managing fire in urban bushland.
3 May 2003	Leadership	Learn the skills to successfully lead community environmental volunteers, using case studies and discussion.
17 May 2003	After a Bird survey, what next?	Do you want to know more about using data from bird surveys for management of your bushland?
7 June 2003	Understanding ecosystems	Learn more about the relationship between flora and fauna in different ecosystems and soil types across the Swan Coastal Plain.
14 June 2003	Fungi Foray	Come on a fungi foray into Warwick Bushland to learn what fungi is, where to find it and how to identify it.
21 June 2003	Wonderful wetlands	Site visits and discussions of theory will be used to explore natural wetland processes, functions, management and restoration.

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

City of Perth's irrigation project

There has been much activity on the Ozone Reserve near the Swan River foreshore in East Perth. The City of Perth's first stage of its irrigation and storage lakes project is in full swing.

The City of Perth is undertaking stage one as part of a larger project to establish an efficient, fully automated irrigation system for the river foreshore parklands area extending from the Esplanade Reserve to Heirisson Island.

The current irrigation system draws water from an artesian bore located at Langley Park. At present irrigation pipes must be moved manually. In the past the majority of irrigation occurred during the day resulting in high evaporative losses. Irrigation is done in the early morning but the pipes still need to be moved manually.

Water from the bore also has a high iron and manganese content which results in staining of footpaths, buildings and other infrastructure, and causes clogging of the irrigation pipes. The City of Perth plans to treat the bore water to remove iron and manganese to reduce the clogging of pipes and aesthetic problems, and to install an irrigation system that will enable a more reliable and efficient use of water.



Water will be pumped from the bore on Langley Park to a water treatment plant where it will be treated to remove dissolved iron and manganese. The treated water will then be pumped to the lake on Ozone Reserve.

The site is currently an open reserve with very little vegetation. The addition of lakes landscaped with native reeds and vegetation will attract waterbirds, provide

more shade on the reserve, and improve the recreational value of the area. A boardwalk will be constructed to allow close up viewing of the birdlife.

Stage two includes three storage lakes on the Esplanade opposite the Bell Tower.

If you would like more information on the project please contact Richard Freeman, Manager, Urban Development on 9461 3161 at the City of Perth.

What's on

- **Pictorial Magic: Boats on the Swan River** is a special exhibition for City of South Perth Fiesta 2003 and runs till the 31 May 2003 at Heritage House Cultural Centre, Cnr Mends Street and Mill Point Road, South Perth.
- **Autumn River Festival**, From Maylands to Caversham, March 30, 2003 – A celebration of the Swan River's natural beauty
- **Perth Flower and Garden Week**, Perry Lakes, April 3-8, 2003 – Check out this years ECOTOPIA Centre
- **Bridges Fun Run**, April 6, 2003 – Would you like to join the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program team?
- **Lord Mayor's Cup** – WA Rowing Club, Barrack Square, April 6, 2003 – A corporate rowing regatta presented by the WA Rowing Club and supported by the Swan River Trust.
- **World Environment Day**, Forrest Chase, Perth, June 5, 2003 – The Department for Environmental Protection, the Water and Rivers Commission education and community involvement programs are combining with the Swan River Trust, the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program and the Swan Catchment Centre to organise activities, displays and performances for an audience of primary school children and the general public.

If you would like more information on the above events please contact Silvana Affolter at the Trust on 9278 0400.



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