

## \$15 million funding boost for Swan and Canning rivers

The Swan and Canning rivers are set to benefit from a major funding boost aimed at preserving and protecting the waterways for generations to come.

Premier Dr Geoff Gallop said an extra \$15million would be spent over the next four years on projects such as restoring river foreshores and stripping algae-producing nutrients from drains flowing into the river system.

Dr Gallop said planning was underway for the creation of a new Swan River Park to recognise the iconic status of the Swan and Canning rivers.

A new *Swan River Act* would also be introduced to give greater powers to the Swan River Trust, the agency charged with protecting the river.

At the unveiling of the new environmental package on January 13, the Premier declared the Swan River to be Western Australia's first official heritage icon, as part of this year's 175th anniversary of the founding of the Swan River Colony.

Dr Gallop also acknowledged the significance to Aboriginal people of the Swan and Canning river system and its status as a heritage site.

"The Swan and Canning rivers are environmental, cultural and historic icons - they are the crowning glory of our beautiful city," he said.

"The river system is valued by all Western Australians and the initiatives I am announcing will ensure that it is properly managed and preserved for future generations."

The Premier said the Swan River Park would include the waterways and crown land in the existing Swan River Trust Management area.

Giving a greater mandate to the Swan River Trust through new legislation was vital in ensuring that the river system was managed in an integrated way.

"The Swan and Canning rivers are a complex, integrated ecological system and they must be managed as such," Dr Gallop said.

"Under the new legislation, the Swan River Trust will be vested with clear responsibilities and powers for managing and protecting the health of the river system.

"This will ensure that the Government's river and catchment management initiatives are properly coordinated."

Minister for the Environment Dr Judy Edwards said water drainage was one of the key issues the new legislation would tackle.

"We need to ensure that drains not only discharge water out of the landscape but are designed and maintained to remove nutrients before they enter the river," Dr Edwards said.

The programs to receive increased funding under the new \$15million package include:

**Riverbank foreshore protection and restoration:** The Government will provide \$4million - a boost of an extra \$3.5million - over the next four years to the Riverbank program, whereby the Swan River Trust works with local government to restore river foreshore, beaches and wetland areas, including through the construction and maintenance of retaining walls.

**Drain rehabilitation and nutrient stripping works:** Drains are a major source of nutrients entering the rivers, particularly during low flow periods when nutrient-rich groundwater is discharged. The Government will provide an extra \$4million over the next four years for nutrient-stripping works, including the reengineering of drains to reduce nutrient discharges, the creation of nutrient stripping wetlands, the restoration of tributary vegetation and the use of Phoslock™ and other materials which remove nutrients. This is on top of a one-off \$750,000 allocation made in 2003-04.



Premier Dr Geoff Gallop and Minister for the Environment Dr Judy Edwards.

**River, catchment and drain monitoring programs:** Between 2005-08, the Government will provide an extra \$1.35million to extend programs which monitor nutrient, phytoplankton and non-nutrient contamination levels in waterways, catchment areas and drains.

**Community-based nutrient reduction works and programs:** The Government will provide an extra \$1.25million over five years for catchment groups which implement nutrient reduction works aimed at improving water quality. Such works include the rehabilitation and revegetation of river foreshores, catchments, wetlands, drains and compensating basins. The extra funds will boost the Swan River Trust's contribution to the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program to \$350,000 a year, building on Alcoa funds of \$200,000 a year.

Next month, the Swan River Trust will start discussions with local governments, Aboriginal groups, community catchment groups, river user groups, business and the wider community concerning the proposal to create a Swan River Park and a new *Swan River Act*.

### Bumper issue

This January *RiverView* features eight pages of Swan River Trust activities, detailing work in the community, catchments and city, in drains, on the land and foreshore, and with the media - to HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY.

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## New direction for Swan River Trust

The new Swan River Trust Board intends to take a broader view of managing the Swan and Canning rivers, according to Board chairman Charlie Welker.

"Last year's fish kills and incidences of prolonged algal blooms are not acceptable and we are aiming to reduce the frequency and duration of these as far as possible," he said.

"We need to more fully understand the river system and the influences in the catchment as a basis for further action and the adoption of more in-depth investigations using adaptive management practices.

"To address the issues on the Swan River we need to be looking more widely in the catchment.

"The Trust has highly capable, specialised staff to implement the Trust's policies and programs but we need continued and increased community understanding of the issues and support throughout the catchments."

Mr Welker said the Trust was reviewing the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program as well as putting in place new actions such as treating nutrients in drains but many of the issues would take time to address and were a matter of community engagement.

"We all need to work together to help keep our rivers healthy," he said.



The Swan River Trust 2002-03 Annual Report and Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Year Four Action Plan Implementation 2003 brochure are now available. They can be read online at [www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au](http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au). The report is also available in hard copy or on compact disc by contacting the Trust office during business hours on 9278 0400.



Swan River Trust Board members, left to right: back row, Neil Foley, Pat Hart, Rod Willox, front row, Jim Freemantle, chairman Charlie Welker, Cleve Flottmann and Bruce Hamilton.

## Swan River Trust Board changes

Changes to the Swan River Trust Board have continued, with two new members joining the team on November 4.

Cr Pat Hart and Jim Freemantle replaced Cr Marion Blair and Tim Mather after their Board terms expired.

Cr Hart previously served on the Trust Board from 1997 to earlier this year as a community member. She is an Armadale City councillor and returns to the Board as the WA Local Government Association representative.

Cr Hart has more than 25 years experience in environmental protection and natural resource management from a catchment perspective, and is a respected community leader.

This is the first time Mr Freemantle has served on the Trust Board. He has a strong business background, especially in banking, and most recently held the position of Home Building Society chief executive officer.

Dr Brian Martin retired from the Board on December 15, and expressions of interest will be sought to fill his vacancy.

Other Trust Board members are chairman Charlie Welker, deputy chairman Rod Willox, Dr Bruce Hamilton, Neil Foley, and Cleve Flottmann.

Mr Welker thanked the out-going Board members for their dedicated service.

## Breath of fresh air for Canning River

Annual oxygenation of the Canning River started in November.

More than 2.3km upstream from Kent Street Weir is being piped with oxygen to prevent nutrients being released in the river.

Swan River Trust manager Rod Hughes said the oxygenation plant would operate for about four months, mainly at night.

"The method of taking water from the river, mixing it with oxygen and then injecting it back into the river is a successful tool in the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program's armoury to tackle nutrients that support the development of algal blooms," he said.

The Kent Street Weir boards were installed recently to prevent the flow of marine water into the upper reaches of the Canning River. This also has the effect of slowing water flow in the section of river now being oxygenated.

"Keeping oxygen levels up in this section of the river will help reduce the risk of serious algal blooms in that area over summer," Mr Hughes said.

"It is also a valuable tool in autumn when the run-off from the first rains causes oxygen levels to fall, often stressing fish and aquatic fauna."

## Algae Activity Reports on television and internet

Algae Activity Reports for the Swan and Canning rivers are now featured weekly on the Channel 9 News and Weather and the Swan River Trust's website.

The reports are made possible by extra Government funding allocated to the Swan River Trust for the extended implementation of its Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.

River manager Jane Latchford said the public asked for more frequent information about algal activity in the Swan-Canning estuary following the algal bloom earlier this year.

"The Algae Activity Report has been developed to fill this knowledge gap, and it will also help Perth residents understand the estuary's seasonal algal patterns," she said.

"The estuary is monitored weekly for nutrients, water quality and phytoplankton as part of the Cleanup Program, and these results are used to compile the Algae Activity Report."

The Department of Environment's Phytoplankton Ecology Unit measures the integrated microalgal cell densities and the simplified numerical data from these samples is used for the report.

"The report identifies the type of algae, its relative density, and its significance at 14 Swan and Canning river sites," Dr Latchford said.

For ease of displaying numerically-elevated algal levels, the Trust chose the following criteria for all species present:

- below 2000 cells/mL registers low on the scale and is represented by a blue dot;
- between 2000 cells/mL and 20,000 cells/mL is medium and represented by a yellow dot; and
- above 20,000 cells/mL is high and represented by a red dot.

The Algae Activity Report airs on Channel 9 each Friday during the Weather Report shortly before 6.30pm.

In the event of a potentially harmful algal bloom, the Department of Health will issue public health warnings.

An information sheet and more detailed *RiverScience* brochures about algae are listed on the Trust website at [www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au](http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au) and are available in hardcopy by contacting the Trust on 9278 0400 from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

To report an algal bloom or environmental incident in the Swan or Canning rivers after hours, call the Trust emergency hotline 0419 192 845.



*Renae Srdarev, left, and Alana Kidd from the Phytoplankton Ecology Unit analysing water samples for the Algae Activity Report.*



*The Algae Activity Report for December 12, 2003.*

## Phoslock™ to tackle nutrients in drains

Nutrients will be targeted before they enter the Canning River in a new approach using Phoslock™, initiated by the Swan River Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.

Cleanup Program manager Adrian Tomlinson said the new trial would focus on addressing nutrients in drains before they fed into the Canning River.

For the past four years the Cleanup Program has sprayed Phoslock™ in sections of the Canning River.

The first major application of Phoslock™ in the catchment will focus on the Mills Street Main Drain, which is identified in

the Cleanup Program's Action Plan as a priority catchment.

Dissolved phosphorus in the water binds to the Phoslock™ clay particles making it unavailable to support algal growth and effectively eliminating the nutrient's impact on the river.

"It is more desirable to treat nutrients in the drains where there is a higher degree of control over the trial environment and the result is likely to be more successful," Mr Tomlinson said.

About 26 tonnes of Phoslock™ will be continually applied to nutrients flowing through the Mills Street Main Drain from December to March.

## Abundance of awards

Several Swan River Trust and associated programs have been recognised with a range of environmental awards.

The Trust received a Judge's Encouragement Award in the 2003 Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships for WA.

The award recognised the partnership between the Trust, Ross and Galloway Real Estate and the City of Melville, to mark the International Year of Freshwater.

The partnership included:

- production of a Swan River 2003 environmental calendar distributed free by Ross and Galloway to 28,000 households in the City of Melville;
- Ross and Galloway's participation in the Trust's Clean Up Australia Day community activity in March;
- a schools poster competition on the theme of fresh water and river conservation; and
- participation with the City of Melville's Sustainable Garden Competition.

The WA Environment Awards finalists were also announced recently and many groups and programs were recognised for their 'grass roots' work.

North East Catchment Committee, formed from the Bennett Brook, Bayswater Integrated Catchment Management and Claisebrook catchment groups, won the Community Achievement Award and took out the top award as the overall winner.

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program's property planning project presented in partnership with Agriculture WA and Landcare Solutions was a finalist in the Promoting Behaviour Change section of the same awards.

Accolades were also dished out in October to the Bannister Creek Catchment Group, which was runner-up in the Alcoa Community Group section of the Landcare Awards.

The group, which is a Swan Alcoa Landcare Program funding recipient, was recognised for its strong community focus and spectacular results tackling issues relating to residential and industrial development, including excessive nutrients, major pollution events, weeds, huge increases in stormwater runoff, and developing a healthy relationship between recreation and restoration.

Creeklines once smothered with thick blackberry and morning glory are now filled with a rich native plant diversity able to support the fragile local fauna.

Since its inception, the group has attracted almost \$1 million in total funding. This has enabled more than 160,000 local native plants and 429 square metres of local native sedge to be returned to the catchment.



City of Melville's Claudia Simpson, left, Ross and Galloway's Peter Sim and the Swan River Trust's Katie Findley with the Prime Minister's award.



Ross and Galloway director Peter Sim and Swan River Trust communications manager Wendy Yorke lend a hand to help keep our rivers healthy.



Ross and Galloway's Peter Sim and Anna-Maria Andrew do their bit to clean up the river foreshore.

## \$450,000 for catchments

Community environmental groups throughout the Swan-Canning Catchment are the beneficiaries of \$450,000 in funding for on-ground work as part of a unique partnership between the Swan River Trust and Alcoa World Alumina Australia.

The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program has allocated \$450,000 to more than 30 groups for about 90 projects.

SALP was established in 1998 under the name Swan Catchment Urban Landcare Program and changed its name to reflect the significant contribution from Alcoa.

The Swan Catchment Council manages the program with support from the Trust and the Swan Catchment Centre.

Swan Catchment Council chairperson Sue Metcalf commended the groups for taking a leading role in achieving on-ground outcomes.

"SALP provides much-needed funds for local groups to achieve environmental restoration," she said.

## Interest in program evaluation and development of nutrient prevention technology

The Swan River Trust has received expressions of interest to evaluate its flagship Swan-Canning Cleanup Program and to develop projects to reduce the amount of nutrients in drains entering our rivers.

Proponents for both projects had until December 17 to register their interest and the documents are now being assessed.

Cleanup Program manager Adrian Tomlinson said the evaluation was part of its five-year Action Plan and the winning tender would also provide guidance for the Cleanup Program's future directions.

"The Cleanup Program was developed in 1994 to reduce nutrient inputs and algal blooms in the river system, and the original Action Plan was implemented in 1999," he said.

"It identifies that urban and rural coastal plain catchments are significant sources of nutrients, and that decomposition of organic material entering the rivers from the catchments is an important factor in deoxygenation of the rivers and the development of algal blooms.

"An evaluation was always planned for the fifth year to refocus the Cleanup Program in the light of scientific information and inevitable changes in institutional arrangements and community priorities.



"Projects funded in this round include sand dune and degraded land rehabilitation, reducing erosion, fencing, revegetation and biodiversity enhancement.

"Since its inception, SALP has funded almost 400 projects worth \$2 million throughout the catchment. It is a vital tool to address catchment issues and help keep our rivers healthy."

South East regional coordinator Julie Robert and Tom Bateman Wetlands site project coordinator Karl Karu show a group of Swan-Canning Cleanup Program supporters the wetlands design and discuss plant selection. The reserve is one of 90 projects to benefit from the latest round of Swan Alcoa Landcare Program funding.



"The Cleanup Program now boasts more than 50 people working on 21 projects across several State agencies, regional and local governments and catchment groups and the time is right to evaluate its direction.

"The boost of \$1.2 million funding announced by the State Government in June for immediate and long-term river protection strategies also needs to be included in the evaluation because it has provided greater scope for the Cleanup Program to ensure the ongoing health of the Swan-Canning estuary.

"About half of this extra funding was allocated to the Nutrient Intervention Program and some of this money will go towards the development of technology to limit nutrients entering our river system through drains."

Mr Tomlinson said several companies had expressed an interest in designing innovative products, management strategies and services to remove nutrients and organic matter from water in drains and tributaries.

"Many nutrients entering our waterways are a result of urban, industrial and rural activities in the catchments, such as the application of fertilisers, waste from abattoirs and intensive farming practices," he said.

"These new technologies will be an important tool in our armoury to help keep our rivers healthy."

## Swan River Trust boat honours top sailor

A new Swan River Trust resource to help keep our rivers healthy was launched on December 2 by Minister for the Environment Dr Judy Edwards.

The 9.1m work boat was named in honour of WA sailing legend and Swan River Trust former deputy chairman Noel Robins OAM, CM, who passed away in May.

More than 50 invited guests, including friends and family of Noel Robins, attended the boat launch at the Trust depot in Victoria Park.

Close family friend Syd Corser said Mr Robins grew up near the Swan River Trust Ellam Street site where the boat was launched and he had many fond memories of time spent fishing and sailing on the river.

Dr Edwards and Trust chairman Charlie Welker also spoke of Mr Robins' strength of character and dedication to the State's waterways.

Mr Welker said it was a fitting tribute that Mr Robins was remembered for his dedication to the WA environment, especially its waterways and the sport of sailing.

"He was a Waterways commissioner from 1979 to 1995, Water and Rivers Commission board member from 1995 to 2003, Swan River Trust deputy chairman from the Trust's inception in 1989 to his death, and the Swan Avon Integrated Catchment Management Group inaugural chairman," Mr Welker said.

"Noel was injured in a car accident on Mounts Bay Road when he was 21 years-old, but never conceded he was incapable of a physical challenge despite being officially classified as a walking paraplegic.

"He was an inspirational sailor who achieved international recognition as one of Australia's greatest yachting heroes.

"Noel represented Australia 16 times, won four Australian and 13 State championships and was the oldest Australian team member to win a gold medal at the Sydney 2000 Paralympics."



Swan River Trust chairman Charlie Welker applauds as Minister for the Environment Dr Judy Edwards dedicates the new boat.

The mono-hull vessel named in Mr Robins' honour, was built by Albany company Westerberg Marine and replaced the former work boat *Jack Mattinson*, which the Trust used for 12 years.

"The boat features a Volvo Penta in-board diesel engine and is fitted with equipment designed for the Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program river monitoring program," Mr Welker said.

"The boat includes an electric winch to drop probes to different depths up to 18m, a drop-down front bow so the boat can access the river bank, a global positioning system and fully enclosed deck area.

"Trust operational staff helped design the new vessel which has already exceeded expectations in performance and safety."

## Ton of support at Cool Night Classic

Swan-Canning Cleanup Program team members were out in force on October 29 for the PricewaterhouseCoopers Cool Night Classic five kilometre fun run/walk.

The SCCP team raised \$2000 for Foodbank WA and won the Corporate Cup for the largest team – 100 registered members blinded the competition with the continuous stream of white t-shirts emblazoned with the Swan River Trust message, HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY.

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Swan River Trust field crew members, left to right: Dominic Heale, Rick Jenkins, Leon Sherridan and Vaughan Smith with the Trust's two work boats.



## Series success

The recent Great Gardens workshops were so successful with the community, a finalé was held in Forrest Place on Sunday, December 14.

The workshops were funded by the Swan River Trust and delivered in partnership with the Water Corporation, by Landcare Solutions, with the endorsement of the Nursery and Garden Industry Association of WA.

More than 2000 people attended the 20 free suburban workshops from September to November.

At least 50 people attended the finalé and many others watched from the surrounds without registering as participants.

The workshops were designed to educate community members that what they did in their gardens in the 2116 square kilometre Swan-Canning Catchment affected the health of the Swan and Canning rivers.

Trust communications manager Wendy Yorke said that everyone had a role to play to help keep our rivers healthy and the workshops empowered gardeners with the knowledge and skills to make a difference.

"The Trust has received strong feedback from spring workshop participants to hold another series, and as a result, planning is underway for an autumn Great Gardens series," she said.

## Win for triple bottom line at Southern River

A decision by Main Roads WA to build a \$3million bridge over the Southern River in Gosnells has been welcomed by the Swan River Trust and Environment Minister Dr Judy Edwards.

Dr Edwards said the decision marked a change in direction for Main Roads, which had proposed to build a 90m wide, six-lane culvert over the river, as part of the Tonkin Highway extension.

She said a bridge was preferable because bridges tended to be wider, let in more light and retained river embankments beneath, while culverts were built directly into the landform.

The Trust raised concerns about the environmental and social impact of the culvert because it would have blocked all natural sunlight and restricted opportunities for people and animals to move freely along the river corridor.

According to Dr Edwards, the decision was an example of the Government's commitment to the triple bottom line, where environmental and social impacts were balanced with financial aspects.

"While the cost of building a culvert was lower (\$1.4 million), the long-term environmental and social impacts had to be balanced against the short-term financial savings," she said.

Swan River Trust principal assessments officer Peter Tapsell said the Main Roads WA decision was in line with the Trust's recommendation for protection of the river and surrounding environment.

"We investigated the culvert proposal and recommended that it be refused due to its environmental impact and the increasing significance of the river for recreational use," Mr Tapsell said.

"A major residential development is planned for the area and this decision will ensure the community has access to the river in the future."

## River users reminded to HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY

Pollution is a major issue for the Swan River Trust.

Apart from the nutrients leaching into our river system, the Trust deals with littering, illegal dumping and toxic spills such as sewage and diesel.

In recent months, incidents have included a significant diesel spill that was contained and cleaned up by the Trust, Department of Environment and Department for Planning and Infrastructure at Barrack Square jetties, an investigation into illegal dumping of slate at The Esplanade in Ascot, and a large sewage spill in Guildford.

Trust river manager Jane Latchford said it was disappointing that not everyone took the health of the Swan and Canning rivers seriously.

"There is legislation in place to protect the rivers. Penalties from an on-the-spot fine to prosecution can result for anyone found breaking the law," she said.

"Our waterways are not dumping grounds, they are seen by many as the lifeblood of Perth and should be treated with care and respect.

"People need to be mindful of how their actions impact on the rivers and how we can all work together to help keep our rivers healthy."

To report a river emergency or illegal dumping, contact the Trust on 9278 0400 or after hours on 041 919 2845.



Swan River Trust inspector Andrew Richardson with a piece of slate recovered from the Swan River.



Perth residents are as passionate about their beaches as they are about the Swan and Canning rivers, so it was no surprise that the Swan River Trust field crew's work at South Perth foreshore shown above, sparked much interest with local beach users.

The field crew restored the Coode and Mends street beaches in November.

Their itinerary until January includes similar work on other public beaches including Point Walter, Narrows Bridge, sites along Kwinana Freeway and other public eroded areas.

The annual restoration work included levelling the beach by adding sand to the gullies caused by storms, drains and runoff.

Trust site manager David Färdig said 85 per cent of sand was recycled in the beach areas by using excavators to dig it out of the river and about 15 per cent was sourced from other areas.

An excavator, two bobcats, a front-end loader and a truck were used to complete the work.

"About 1250 tonnes of sand was redeposited during the restoration works at Mends and Coode street beaches," Mr Färdig said.

"Restoring the beaches is important for public health and safety as well as aesthetic reasons."

Trust field crew members, easily identifiable in their navy polo shirts, spoke to a large number of community members who walked past the restoration works.

"People were keen to find out what was happening on their beloved foreshore and they were happy to learn it was being restored," Mr Färdig said.

## Increase in companies caring for the river

Corporate Care Days have grown in popularity this year, with six organisations participating since June.

The Corporate Care Day Program is an initiative of the Swan River Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, designed to give the corporate sector the chance to play their part in helping to keep our rivers healthy.

In the past six months, participants from PricewaterhouseCoopers, Australian Mining Consultants, Challenge Bank, Melville Amateur Angling Club, Woodside and Electronic Data Systems have helped the Bannister Creek and Claisebrook catchment groups and the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group with restoration and revegetation work.

The success of the Corporate Care Day Program is evident with companies returning for annual wetland weeding and tree planting days, enabling staff to experience progress on-site and proof of the very real contribution that they are making to help keep our rivers healthy.

Two organisations have also indicated that they want to adopt a site so they can continue to manage and improve it.



Melville Angler's Club member Don Cox and his grand-daughter Justine help the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group with a rehabilitation project at John Okey-Davis Park in September.

Communications manager Wendy Yorke said Corporate Care Days were a great way businesses could help the community and environment.

Their staff benefited from networking, learning new skills and environmental information while working in the catchment with community groups.

If your company, committee, club, school or community group is interested in becoming involved in a planting or weeding Corporate Care Day, please contact the Swan River Trust on 9278 0400.

## Tune in to the Trust



Garden Gurus Neville Passmore, left, and Trevor Cochrane show television viewers a variety of garden practices they can implement to help keep our rivers healthy.

The Swan and Canning rivers feature in a series of television and radio advertisements airing from December to March.

The advertisements on Channel 9 and Austereo's MIX 94.5 and 92.9 FM focus on ways the community can help keep our rivers healthy through actions in their homes and gardens, as well as enjoying the river when boating and fishing.

Funding for the partnerships was made possible through the State Government's extra support of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program earlier this year.

Footage for the Channel 9 commercials was featured in the recent series of five Gardening WA spring program segments and two Postcards WA stories screened recently.

Meanwhile, the Trust's Austereo partnership also includes a guest appearance on MIX 94.5 Botica's Bunch and Earthcare, as well as 92.9 FM's Zara, Troy and Bernie show.

## What's on January – March 2004

### JANUARY

- 8-9 Catchments, Coasts and Corridors, environmental education program.
- 13 Catchments, Coasts and Corridors River Care Day sponsored by the Swan River Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.
- 14 Catchments, Coasts and Corridors final day of program.
- 26 Australia Day. Remember to help keep Australia beautiful at this event by using the recycle and general rubbish bags which you can dispose of at bin banks located at exits. Also look out for the Drain Game.
- 29 Swan Alcoa Landcare Program cheque presentations to community groups.

### FEBRUARY

- 14 Leighton Offshore River Clubs Invitational Race – Toxic Cup yacht race, Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club, sponsored by the Swan River Trust.
- 19 Turf Sustainability Manual launch by Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council and the Swan River Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.
- 21-22 Drain Game at Swanfish Fishing Festival.
- 29 Drain Game at Hyde Park Community Fair.
- TBA Launch of Swan River Trust new website [www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au](http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au). Get a sneak preview by checking out what's already there and watch out for more information.

### MARCH

- 1 Drain Game at Hyde Park Community Fair.
- 2 Cleanup Australia Business Day.
- 5 Cleanup Australia Schools Day.
- 7 Cleanup Australia Community Day.
- 28 Autumn River Festival, Maylands, Bayswater and Belmont. Free family entertainment, environmental information and activities, including a Great Gardens autumn workshop, sponsored by the Swan River Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.
- TBA Great Gardens autumn launch and second series of workshops throughout metropolitan Perth.



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Caring for the Swan and Canning rivers