



Swan River Trust chairman Charlie Welker, left, and Statutory Assessments manager Paul Stephens checking out the Mends St Jetty.

Swan River Trust supports Mends Street developments

The Swan River Trust recommended conditional approval of a new jetty at Mends Street and the extension of the Bellhouse Café on the existing jetty in South Perth in September.

The Trust considered extensive public feedback and the City of South Perth's concerns before recommending approval with amendments.

Trust chairman Charlie Welker said the Trust recognised that the river, surrounding parkland and South Perth foreshore had regional significance for the wider community.

"The proposed development would enhance enjoyment of the river for visitors, better meet the needs of ferry passengers and be good for tourism," Mr Welker said.

"It is the Trust's role to consider regional benefits as well as local impacts. In this instance, the Trust recommended conditions to the approval to address local issues."

Mr Welker said the proposal complied with the Trust's aim to encourage a range of facilities, recreational and tourism opportunities that reflected and complemented the natural and built river environment, and preserved the cultural and heritage significance of the area. The height of the existing building is not proposed to change and the extensions will match.

The Minister for the Environment will take into account public comments received during the two weeks that the Trust's recommendation was available on its website, as well as the comments received during the consultation period in January.

Caring for the Swan and Canning rivers

High algal levels

Warm, calm, sunny days following rain that washed additional nutrients and organic matter into the river system are perfect conditions for the growth of many types of algae.

Routine weekly monitoring by the Swan River Trust and Department of Environment measured high levels of dinoflagellates during August and September in the lower reaches of the Swan and Canning rivers.

Trust Environmental Programs acting manager Dr Andrew McTaggart said the high algal levels were common at this time of the year coming into spring following late winter rains.

"A reddish-brown discolouration of water was observed in the river where *Prorocentrum cordatum* was present," Dr McTaggart said.

"It is common for this type of algae to cause foam to wash up on shorelines. It has the potential to poison shellfish in the area.

"The standing advice from the Department of Health is that as a precaution, people should not consume any shellfish from the Swan and Canning rivers."

The regular Algae Activity Report on the Swan and Canning rivers is updated every Friday and available on the Trust website at www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au.

The community are encouraged to call the Trust on 9278 0900 if they see any water discolouration or visible signs of poor river health.

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Swan River Trust members Pat Hart, Dr Jane Chambers, Neil Foley, and chairman Charlie Welker, Trust acting general manager Michelle Andrews, Trust member Jim Freemantle, Water Corporation asset management manager Phil Roeterdink, Trust member Dr Bruce Hamilton and Water Corporation Perth Region Business Manager Graham Cargeeg. Photo: Courtesy Water Corporation.

Talking water

Swan River Trust members toured the Water Corporation's drainage and sewerage network in Perth in September.

The Trust and Water Corporation work together on a diverse range of initiatives including Great Gardens workshops, the construction of the Liege Street Wetland, and Riverbank projects.

Trust chairman Charlie Welker said the members learned about the Water Corporation's RiverWise program, overflow risk management and on-ground works.

"The Water Corporation is a major river stakeholder and the tour strengthened our partnership," Mr Welker said.

"It is important we continue to strengthen partnerships with other agencies to protect the health of the Swan and Canning rivers."

Public access to rivers upheld

The Swan River Trust recommended approval to upgrade Harvey Beach facilities next to Harvest Road at Rocky Bay in North Fremantle.

Trust chairman Charlie Welker said the City of Fremantle proposed to replace and relocate the existing access path, limestone retaining walls and shade structures, as well as build a new shower facility and revegetate the site.

The Trust also continued to uphold its philosophy that the river is the public domain when it recommended against a proposal for a new private domestic jetty on the Swan River at Bassendean.

"The Trust acknowledged that the applicant had agreed to rehabilitate badly eroded foreshore as part of the project but this did not outweigh the Trust's general concerns about the proposal's impacts including privatisation of public property," Mr Welker said.

"Owning a property adjoining the river does not create an inherent right to develop in the river itself and there is no demonstrated community need or benefit from building a jetty at this location."

The Trust also took a strong stance when it reminded the WA Turf Club it must address environmental issues and go through due process in the assessment of its plan to redevelop the Belmont Racecourse on the Burswood Peninsula.

"Although it does not object in principle to the proposed redevelopment of the Belmont Racecourse, it is a dramatic change of use of the land which must be balanced by a range of environmental benefits," Mr Welker said.

Water expert

The Swan River Trust supported the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society's Water Symposium held in Perth in September.

Trust general manager Rod Hughes chaired a session about improved land management for water outcomes.

The Trust supported Dr John Tisdell, who is the Griffith University Cooperative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology deputy director and leader in its program on Sustainable Water Allocation. Dr Tisdell spoke about modelling sediment runoff in the catchment.

The session also included a presentation by South Australian Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation Strategic Policy director Claus Schonfeldt, who spoke about water resource management.



Extensive Royal Perth Yacht Club waterbed lease expansion proposed

The Swan River Trust has received public comments on a proposed expansion and redevelopment of Royal Perth Yacht Club, Crawley.

Trust statutory assessments manager Paul Stephens said the club's proposed application included a major expansion of its exclusive waterbed lease.

"Privatisation of the Swan River and expansion of the lease area were the main issues raised in the submissions, and these will be considered carefully by the Trust in formulating its advice to the Minister considering the proposal," Mr Stephens said.

The proposal also included:

- upgrade the marina wet pen facilities;
- install floating marina jetties;
- replace and add fixed moorings;
- redevelop and upgrade the land side hard standing and workshop area;
- upgrade the fuel facility; and
- install a floating wave attenuator.

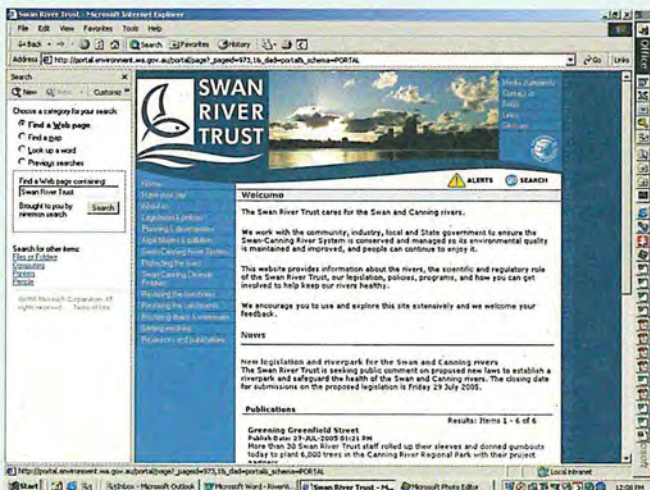
The Trust is waiting for the outcome of discussions between landowner the Department of Conservation and Land Management, and the Royal Perth Yacht Club before the proposal progresses further.

New Swan River Trust website

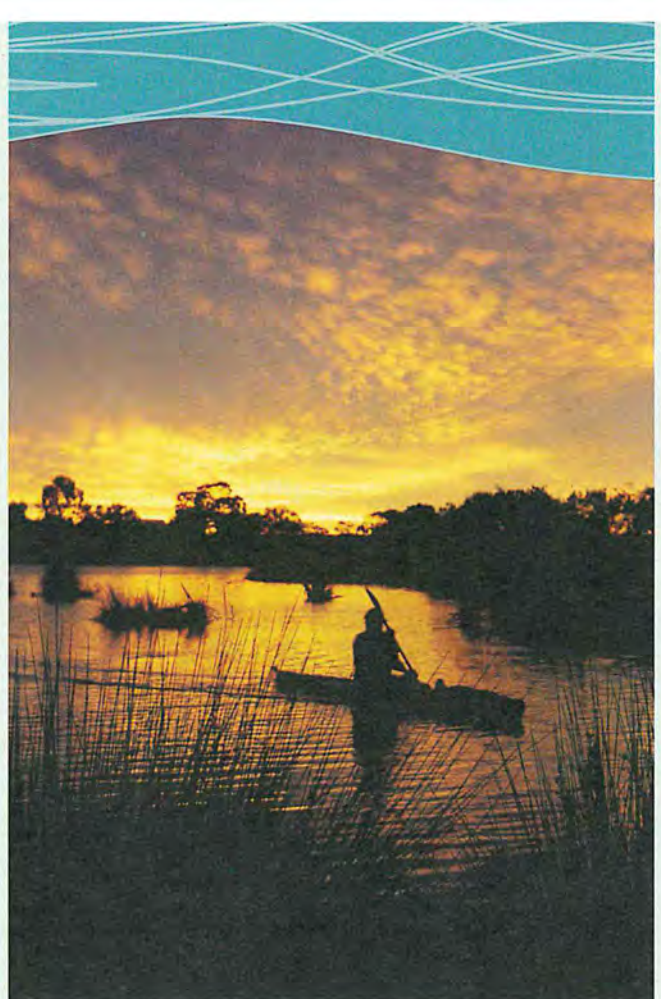
Information about the Swan and Canning rivers is now easier to find thanks to the new Swan River Trust website www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au.

Trust communications manager Wendy Yorke said the website was designed to provide the community with updated and improved information regarding the work of the Trust and the management of the Swan-Canning River System.

An email address has also been established especially for planning issues. Send comments, submissions and queries direct to planning@swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au



The new Swan River Trust website is easy to navigate and features additional information.



Legislation to safeguard the Swan and Canning rivers will soon be introduced to Parliament.

New riverpark laws step closer

The Swan River Trust is finalising the development of draft legislation to establish a riverpark and safeguard the health of the Swan and Canning rivers.

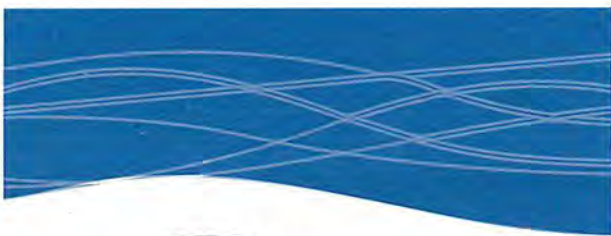
These initiatives will provide better coordination and management of activities that affect the community and ecological values of the rivers.

Trust Strategic Programs manager Darryl Miller said the draft legislation was circulated to key stakeholder groups for recreation, industry, catchment management, conservation and the rural and Noongar communities, as well as to State agencies and local governments along the rivers.

Twenty-seven submissions were received during the public comment phase in July, 2005.

"It is anticipated the Minister for the Environment will introduce the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill during the November session of Parliament," Mr Miller said.

Information about the proposed legislation for the Swan and Canning rivers is available on the Trust's website www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au or by contacting the Trust on 9278 0900.



The Liege Street Wetland.

Tackling nutrients the natural way

Strong community interest in the Liege Street Wetland continued in September when more than 20 people attended a free workshop.

Wetland Management: Techniques for Solving Problems was part of the popular Skills for Nature Conservation training program, provided by the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program through the Swan Catchment Centre.

The workshop focused on the importance of wetlands and the role they can play in water treatment and nutrient removal.

Trust Drainage Improvement Project manager Rachel Spencer spoke to participants about the Liege Street Wetland and conducted a site tour with staff from the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare.

The wetland was constructed in 2004 to remove nutrients from urban stormwater before discharging into the Canning River where they have the potential to fuel algal blooms.

"Initial monitoring of the wetland has shown positive results, with a decrease in nitrogen and phosphorus," Ms Spencer said.

"In addition to treating urban stormwater, the wetland has also provided valuable habitat for local wildlife and an education and passive recreation opportunity to the local community."

Behaviour changes identified

Maximising links between environmental education programs and increasing volunteer numbers to enable behaviour change were key factors identified in the first of a series of Swan-Canning Cleanup Program community development workshops held this year.

Twenty-six Cleanup Program environmental education deliverers analysed the effectiveness of their projects at the first workshop.

Projects represented included Ribbons of Blue, Swan Alcoa Landcare Program, Great Gardens, Heavenly Hectares and Property Planning, Phosphorus Action Group, Corporate Care Day Program, Local Government NRM Policy Development, and the Skills for Nature Training, and Community Education provided by the Swan Catchment Centre.

Cleanup Program acting manager Kirilee King said key areas included identifying and maximising links with other programs, funding issues, best management practice in local government, increasing volunteer numbers, and tools to effect behaviour change.

Participants discussed community based social marketing principles and conducted a barriers and benefits analysis for each project.

"The workshop highlighted the extensive work being carried out by the Cleanup Program in the community awareness and education area," Miss King said.

"There were many positive comments from participants throughout the day. Many said they felt refocused and encouraged to achieve more with their Cleanup Program projects."



Swan-Canning Cleanup Program behaviour change workshop facilitator Gary Hodge, Cleanup Program acting manager Kirilee King and communications manager Wendy Yorke.

Program finalist

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program was a finalist in the 2005 StateWest Achievement Awards for Marketing Excellence.

The awards were held at His Majesty's Theatre on October 5.

Cleanup Program acting manager Kirilee King said the finalist award recognised the program's efforts to raise community awareness of algal blooms in the Swan and Canning rivers and how everyone had a role to play to **HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY.**

what's on

November

- 3 Environmental Education: The Way Forward.
Half-day forum to consolidate ideas about the
State's environmental education.
- 7-9 Wetlands workshop
WA Ecology Centre, Bold Park, Floreat.

Great Gardens Workshops



www.greatgardens.info
or hotline 1300 369 833

November

- 9 City of Stirling Civic Centre, 25 Cedric Street,
Stirling, 6.30-9.30pm.
- 8 Drill Hall, Murray Street, Bayswater, 6-9pm.
- 15 Raphael Park Clubrooms, corner Armagh and
Gloucester streets, Victoria Park, 6.30-9.30pm.
- 20 Jarrah Room, Cottesloe Civic Centre, Broome
Street, Cottesloe, 2-4.30pm.

Community expo

Have you ever wondered how algal blooms occur or how the Swan River Trust looks after the rivers?

Work is underway for a community expo that will feature the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program projects, including scientific demonstrations and hands-on activities.

The free expo will be part of the Autumn River Festival at Riverside Gardens, Bayswater, on Sunday, 6 April, 2006.

Mark the date on your calendar and pay a visit to the Trust's marquee to find out how you can **HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY.**

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Funding round opens in October

State and local government agencies can take advantage of the second round of Riverbank Program funding this year by registering an Expression of Interest by 2 December.

Environmental Programs acting manager Dr Andrew McTaggart said the Swan River Trust was calling for applications for restoration and rehabilitation projects along the foreshore of the Swan and Canning rivers.

"One million dollars is available during 2005-06 as part of the Trust's Riverbank program," he said.

"Community groups can be involved by working with local and State government agencies."

More information is available on the Trust's website www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au or by contacting the Riverbank project officer on 9278 0900 for more information and an application form.

Community grants help save rivers

More than \$320,000 was recently allocated to 10 projects to help rehabilitate and restore the Swan and Canning rivers through the Trust's Riverbank Program.

Minister for the Environment Judy Edwards said the grants were part of \$1 million available this year for local and State Government agencies working in partnership with the community to undertake foreshore protection and rehabilitation projects.

Works are being undertaken at:

- Goodwood Parade boat ramp in Rivervale;
- Kent St Weir and Wilson Park in Wilson;
- Shelley foreshore;
- Coombe Reserve in Mosman Park;
- Freshwater Bay foreshore;
- Banks Reserve in East Perth;
- Beckenham foreshore;
- Pioneer Park in Gosnells; and
- Canning River Regional Park in Ferndale.

Greening Greenfield Street

More than 30 Swan River Trust officers rolled up their sleeves and donned gumboots to participate in a Corporate Care Day in the Canning River Regional Park.

Trust staff planted 4,700 trees and shrubs to help restore the Canning River foreshore near the Greenfield Street Bridge in Ferndale.

Trust communications manager Wendy Yorke said the Trust was working with the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Canning River Regional Park Volunteers and South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare.

"Urgent action was required to control weeds and provide a habitat for local fauna, following an extensive fire which occurred earlier this year," Mrs Yorke said.

"The Trust will provide \$17,525 in emergency funding to the site from the Riverbank Program for on-ground works and is assisting stakeholders to manage and implement the project works."

A large amount of weed control work has been undertaken since February, with 4000 local native sedges planted along the riverbank in April and a further 4000 native sedges planted during a community day on Sunday, 11 September.

National exposure for Trust

Initiatives implemented by the Swan River Trust including the Liege Street Wetland were featured in the national ABC television program How the Quest was Won in the lead-up to National Tree Day.

Trust general manager Rod Hughes and strategic programs manager Darryl Miller explained how the land and river system was connected and highlighted ways that everyone could HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY.

Tips on how you can help are available on the Trust website at www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au/getinvolved.



Trust officer Vikki Santwyk joined more than 30 fellow colleagues who participated in a Corporate Care Day at Greenfield Street.



ABC television reporter Brendan Hutchens interviewing Swan River Trust general manager Rod Hughes.

Focus on Foreshore Protection + Rehabilitation

Have you met the 'A-Team'?

Alison McGilvray, Alison Fitzsimons and Alison Wilson are the three members of the Swan River Trust's Foreshore Assessment Team.

Foreshore restoration manager Dr Katinka Ruthrof said the Foreshore Assessment Project aimed to map the condition of the foreshore in the Trust Management Area to prioritise areas for protection and restoration.

"The A-Team is gathering information about the vegetation, the shoreline structure and the hydrodynamic processes, including erosion and sediment movement," she said.

"The valuable baseline data being collected will help inform management decisions regarding foreshore protection and restoration now and in the future.

"So far the A-Team has walked the length of the foreshore from Fremantle to Herrisson Island to collect data."

Dr Ruthrof said research and collaboration with Murdoch University was being undertaken through the support of Honours student Alison McGilvray, and a graduate work placement for Alison Wilson.

The Foreshore Assessment Project is a partnership between the Swan River Trust and the Swan Catchment Council, which administers Natural Heritage Trust funding.



Alison Fitzsimons, Alison McGilvray & Alison Wilson.

Foreshore herbarium

Swan River Trust officers have established a herbarium to help identify native plant species and weeds along the Swan and Canning rivers.

Foreshore restoration manager Dr Katinka Ruthrof said the herbarium was an important part of the Foreshore Assessment Project.

"Information gathered to form the herbarium will help determine appropriate species for foreshore revegetation, and help the assessment project define the extent of well known weeds, and provide an early warning of the presence of invasive, recently introduced weeds," she said.



Foreshore Assessment Project officer Alison Wilson.

The Trust herbarium has been established in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Land Management as part of the WA Herbarium's Regional Herbarium Network, and is funded by the Trust and the Swan Catchment Council.

Spotlight on Mosman Park

Walking along the Mosman Park foreshore is all in a day's work for the Trust's Foreshore Assessment Team.

The team collected vegetation data from parkland and degraded bushland near Chidley Point in Mosman Park this winter.

Foreshore restoration manager Dr Katinka Ruthrof said the team was pleased to find natural regeneration of native plants including *Conostylis*, *Acacia* and *Banksia* among the invasive weed species.

"The study identified a number of invasive weeds such as Black Flag, WA Blue Lupin and Bridal Creeper," she said.

"However, the naturally occurring limestone cliffs have provided refuge for native species, which are still abundant in these areas, and are a great habitat for birds and other animals."

Dr Ruthrof said initial condition assessment of the foreshore of the lower Swan and Canning rivers would be concluded by the end of next year.

Environmental education top of agenda

The Swan River Trust's extensive role in supporting environmental education was recently highlighted in a State-wide survey.

Fifty-one organisations delivering 96 programs responded to the Environmental Education Advisory Committee's first survey of environmental education programs in WA.

Results showed that the Trust, through the Cleanup Program, supported 30 per cent of the environmental education programs that received external funding from State Government – three times more than any other Government agency.

The most common target audience was the general community or householders, and retail and industry sectors were the least targeted for environmental education.

Habitat protection was the main environmental issue addressed by almost 75 per cent of programs, while energy conservation, travel alternatives and vehicle use were the three least targeted issues.

Results from the survey are available on the Department of Environment's website www.environment.wa.gov.au by clicking on 'working with the community' then selecting 'community involvement' under the 'community heading at the top of the page, or by contacting Bernie Riegler at the department on 9278 0644.



The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program was highlighted as a major contributor in the State's first survey of environmental education programs.

Spring into Great Gardens

A third spring series of the highly popular series of free Great Gardens community workshops are being held throughout Perth.

Swan River Trust communications manager Wendy Yorke said more than 7000 people had attended the three-hour workshops supported by the Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program since 2003.

"The workshops feature practical, river-friendly environmental practices that gardeners can implement to create beautiful, cost-efficient and sustainable gardens," Mrs Yorke said.

"Excess nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen in fertilisers applied to gardens enter the river system through run off into drains and via groundwater.

"These nutrients change the ecological balance in the rivers and can fuel toxic and nuisance algal blooms, which sometimes lead to fish deaths when combined with other river conditions.

"Gardeners attending the workshops can find out how to be fertilise and water wise to help keep our rivers healthy."

Contact the Great Gardens hotline on 1300 369 833 or www.greatgardens.info to register or find out information about environmental gardening practices, upcoming workshop locations and times.



Royal Show

River friendly gardens were a feature of the Land Experience exhibition at the Perth Royal Show from 24 September to 1 October.

The Swan River Trust sponsored Great Gardens talks each day and a demonstration garden based on sustainable environmental practices.

Trust officers also took the opportunity to survey people about their river values as part of *Riverplan* research.

