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# RiverView



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Above: (L-R) Trust chairman Charlie Welker, City of Bayswater mayor Terry Kenyon and Environment Minister David Templeman inspecting a river flow model. Below: Trust officers Rachel Spencer and Kirilee King at the expo. Right: Trust officers Kelly Richmond and Debbie Besch cutting the Healthy Rivers cake.

## River festival attracts thousands

Each year the Autumn River Festival attracts thousands of people to the shores of the Swan River from Maylands to Belmont and Bayswater, to celebrate its natural beauty.

This year's 8th annual festival was held on Sunday 1 April and brought the surrounding parks and waterways alive with activity.

Environment Minister David Templeman encouraged all Western Australians to do their bit to preserve and protect the Swan River.

"This festival is a reminder of just how fortunate we are as a community to have such beautiful rivers at our doorstep and how we must all play a role, however small, to protect them," Mr Templeman said.

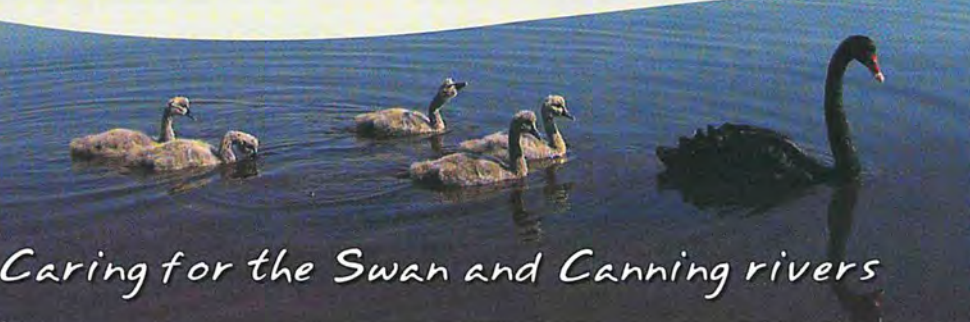
The Swan River Trust Healthy Rivers Community Expo at Riverside Gardens in Bayswater attracted hundreds of visitors.

The Expo provided public information on Trust projects which aim to improve water quality in the Swan and Canning rivers, including the soon-to-be-released River Guardians Pilot Program.

## New Environment Minister

The Swan River Trust welcomes David Templeman MLA as the new Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel.

Mr Templeman, who started this portfolio on 2 March 2007, has been the local member for Peel since February 2001. His passions include the arts, community development, education, and protecting and preserving the unique environment for future generations.



## Caring for the Swan and Canning rivers

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## Ellam Street jetty makeover complete

Maintenance of the Swan River Trust's Ellam Street depot heavy lift jetty in South Perth is complete.

The revitalised jetty now has a new pedestrian ramp to allow easier access and has been grit blasted and repaired.

Trust waterways program manager Liesl Jonker said a new standard in environmental best management practice was set while jetty repairs took place.

"Special attention was given to the sensitive environment where work was carried out, with total encapsulation of the jetty stopping any harmful materials going into the Swan River," Ms Jonker said.

"Although the jetty is obviously designed to allow the Trust to go about its work, the new jetty will also provide a valuable resource for the public to enjoy the beautiful Swan River in safety and comfort."



Above and below: Repairs on the heavy lift jetty at Ellam Street in South Perth are complete.



## DownStream

A new anthology about the Swan River will be launched towards the end of the year.

DownStream will be a collection of poetry, stories and photography from people who live near or enjoy the Swan River. There will also be information, reports and contacts details of government agencies and private organisations which help protect and improve the health and beauty of the river.

The book is an opportunity for the public to express their concerns for the Swan, share some fond memories or write about what the river means to them.

DownStream will be available from selected bookstores and organisations with the profits going to the upkeep of the Swan River.

Submissions need to be received by no later than 31 July 2007. For further information email [downstreamanthology@gmail.com](mailto:downstreamanthology@gmail.com)

*DownStream*

## Boat management a key focus

The Swan River Trust is inviting the community to help develop a draft Boating Management Strategy for the Swan and Canning rivers.

A stakeholders discussion paper was released early June to address boating issues which may have detrimental impacts on the environment or amenity of the Swan and Canning rivers.

Issues of concern to be highlighted in the strategy include boat wash, tender storage on foreshores, boat launching facilities, fuel and oil leakage, boat maintenance and mooring issues.

Department of Planning and Infrastructure statistics indicate that there is an increasing number of West Australians competing for space on the rivers. Registered recreational boat users increased from 56,000 in 1996 to 83,000 in 2006 – a jump of nearly 50 per cent in 10 years.

The Strategy will feed into a broader Riverpark Management Program being prepared as part of the new *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, which is expected to come into effect this year.

Research into boating impacts and the capacity for increasing river use will provide focus for the future.

Following stakeholder consultation, the draft Strategy will be released for public comment.

For further information on the Strategy contact Trust planning officer Paul Donovan on 9278 0928 or e-mail [paul.donovan@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:paul.donovan@dec.wa.gov.au)



## Yacht club expansion goes ahead

The Minister for the Environment has approved a proposed expansion of the Royal Perth Yacht Club in Matilda Bay, Crawley, with strict conditions to protect the environment and balance community benefits.

The approval will allow a 12 per cent expansion of the yacht club's existing lease area. This will make room for 30 extra boat pens.

As part of the expansion Royal Perth will upgrade the club's environmental management of its hardstand area. This will allow the club to better manage issues of concern such as antifouling and oil entering the Swan River.

To help offset the alienation of a section of the riverbed, the club has been required to designate a public transit zone along the foreshore and to provide a sullage pump-out facility that non-club members can use.

Trust chairman Charlie Welker said the approved increase should not be seen as a precedent. Future expansion proposals by yacht clubs and marinas would be carefully assessed on their merits.

The Trust's policy position is that expansion should be within existing lease areas or be only a minor amendment.

The Swan River Trust recommended against a proposal of a 25 per cent expansion of the marina. This was because of concerns that the expansion did not provide sufficient public benefit to outweigh the alienation of the additional area of the waterway from use by the community.



Students participating in the Catchment Activity Day in Bayswater.

## Children learn about the rivers

More than 250 primary school students learnt how to improve the health of the Swan River at the first Ribbons of Blue Catchment Activity Day.

Students in Years 5 to 7 from Beechboro, Illawarra, Weld Square, Ballajura and Lockridge primary schools took part in hands-on activities at Riverside Gardens in Bayswater.

Ribbons of Blue coordinator Kelli O'Neill said children learnt how their daily activities affected the rivers and what they could do to keep the rivers healthy.

"Because it is important that the next generation understands how pollutants and nutrients enter the rivers, we organised several activities to give them practical experience," Ms O'Neill said.

"We planted sedges along the foreshore, looked for native birds and tested water quality.

"To find out the students' understanding and values about the rivers we surveyed them before the event, and again afterwards to see how their perceptions had changed. We are now collating all the responses."

Ms O'Neill said all participants wrote a pledge about how they could keep the rivers healthy.

"The pledges were about picking up rubbish, washing the car on the lawn, fertiliser awareness, and keeping leaves and debris out of drains," she said.

"These are great pledges as it demonstrates the students really thought about the issues and the solutions."

For more information about Catchment Activity days or other Trust activities, visit [www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au](http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au) or call the Swan River Trust on 9278 0900.





## Riverbank picks up the pace

Since January 2002, the Swan River Trust has been working with local government to undertake foreshore protection and rehabilitation projects through the Riverbank program. Three recent successes have seen more than \$2.15 million spent in partnership foreshore projects along the Swan River.



## Healthy Rivers comment period closed

The public comment period for the draft Healthy Rivers Action Plan has closed.

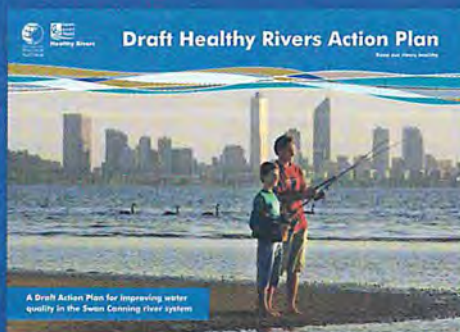
A total of 31 submissions were received from individual residents, community groups, and local and State government agencies from the Perth region.

The majority of comments received were supportive of the draft Action Plan.

The Trust will analyse submissions, giving consideration to comments when developing the final Healthy Rivers Action Plan.

A final action plan will be submitted to the Environment Minister to release.

The Trust wishes to thank everyone who was involved in the consultation process.



## Belmont boat ramp gets facelift

More than \$200,000 was spent on a busy section of the Swan River foreshore in Rivervale.

A wooden structure deteriorated at Balbuk Way boat ramp causing riverbank slumping and erosion.

Through a Riverbank contribution of \$105,046 in 2005-06, the City of Belmont replaced the decaying structure with a limestone river wall and rock revetment.

The surrounding foreshore will be revegetated to provide additional riverbank protection and habitat for local native fauna.

Bank stabilisation works were completed in February with foreshore revegetation expected to be completed by the end of this winter.

The project is a partnership between the Swan River Trust, City of Belmont and Town of Victoria Park.



New limestone river wall and rock revetment in Belmont.

## Mounts Bay walling complete

The river wall between the Old Swan Brewery and Kings Park Avenue along the Swan River in Crawley has been given a new lease of life, with a \$2.1 million project now complete.

The partnership project between the Swan River Trust and the City of Perth saw the construction of a 410 metre section of new river walling along Mounts Bay Road.

As part of the Riverbank program, \$926,714 was committed to the project by the Swan River Trust.

## Rehabilitation of Banks Reserve begins

Erosion, weed infestations, and loss of native vegetation will be addressed in the Banks Reserve Foreshore Rehabilitation project.

The partnership project between the Swan River Trust and the Town of Vincent, which began in April, was awarded \$172,059 in Riverbank funding.

As part of this project, the eroded banks will be contoured and erosion control materials applied to stabilise the fragile foreshore. In addition, more than 5,000 local native trees, shrubs and sedges will be planted at the site.

It is expected that these works will increase habitat for local native fauna, mitigate erosion and improve the aesthetics of the area.





## Coastal Catchments Initiative

The Coastal Catchments Initiative is an Australian Government initiative which seeks to significantly reduce pollutant discharge to agreed hotspots.

The Swan Canning river system has been identified as a 'hotspot'. Through the Initiative the Trust is responsible for coordinating a water quality improvement plan to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus entering the river system.

The plan will identify the most cost-effective and timely projects for investment by Federal, State and local governments, as well as community and environmental groups.

As there are many other programs and resources already dedicated to improving water quality, the Coastal Catchments Initiative seeks to:

- provide integration and coordination through a single strategy; and
- find and address potential gaps.

Photography courtesy of Pam Osborne.



## what's on

### July

29 National Tree Day

### August

4 Ellen Brook Great Gardens  
Wondrous Winter Workshop,  
Bullsbrook 1 – 4pm

5&6 Avon Descent

18–26 National Science Week

For information on upcoming events,  
contact the Trust on (08) 9278 0900 or  
email [info@swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au).

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## Flows in the Canning studied

A trial to measure the effects of water flows in the Canning River was conducted this year.

The aim of the joint Swan Catchment Council and Department of Water (DoW) project was to define the flows required to maintain ecological values of the river.

The trial studied the best ways to maintain pool depths, water quality, aquatic ecology and vegetation needed to support the health of the Canning River.

DoW resource use director Rob Hammond said the trial involved reducing water flows between Araluen and Gosnells, and then gradually increasing the flows.

"Data, which was collated from six monitoring sites along the river, will be assessed to determine the most effective water release strategy," Mr Hammond said.

"Computer modelling of the river examined flow thresholds for river pools, with the aim of preventing low oxygen levels and fish kills.

"Low flows in the river during the hot, dry summer and autumn periods are also being measured to test methods of delivering water downstream of Canning Dam."

*Above: L – R: DoW hydrographer Glenn Biggins and restoration officer Michael Kelly installing flow monitoring instruments at Pioneer Park in Gosnells.*

*Below: DoW Kylie La Spina undertaking ecological flow monitoring in the river.*



## Trust Mayoral Forum popular with local councils

Earlier in the year, Mayors and Chief Executive Officers from local councils in the Swan Canning Catchment attended the Trust Mayoral Forum co-hosted with the City of Swan.

The forum provided an opportunity to discuss environmental issues relevant to the entire catchment, foreshores and waterways.

It allowed information sharing and identification of problems that could impact negatively on the rivers.

One of the most topical issues for discussion was how local councils and the Trust could work better together.

Climate change was another issue of interest. The Trust has established a panel of scientific experts and one of its tasks is to look at the impact of climate change on the rivers.

This information will be shared with the councils so a collaborative approach to addressing the issues can be developed.

The Trust plans to hold another Mayoral forum in September, co-hosted with the City of Bayswater.

## Jetties policy finalised

A new Trust policy which supports the use of community jetties on the rivers has been finalised.

The policy (SRT/D21) combines two previously existing Trust policies which relate to private jetties, boatsheds, launching ramps and wharves, and jetties controlled by commercial operators.

One key amendment to the policy is that the Trust will not support development applications for private use structures such as jetties, boat houses, boat sheds, launching ramps, slipways or wharves on or abutting Crown land.

Private jetties effectively privatise the foreshores which restricts public use of the rivers.

A three-month public comment period on the draft policy encouraged the community to have their say on new private and community jetties being built on the Swan and Canning rivers.

Trust statutory assessments manager Paul Stephens said the draft policy was advertised for public comment last year.

"Eight submissions were received, six of which were from individual community members, and two from community groups with an interest in jetty structures," Mr Stephens said.

"The submissions were taken into account when developing the final policy, which can be viewed, along with the new policy, on the Trust website, [www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au](http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au)."



## Pleasing the river

By John McBain

Can you see into the future  
When the Swan River is pristine  
And all the people who come say  
It's the best river we've ever seen.

Did you know the Swan River  
Was once really nice and clean  
Then West Australians changed it  
It makes our society sound mean.

That brings us to the question  
Of what we all need to do  
To make the iconic Swan River  
Pristine for them an' me an' you.

When you're sittin' by the river  
Having a chat or a barbeque  
When you leave to go back home  
Take what you brought with you.



Above and below: Trust staff worked quickly to ensure no oil entered the Swan River.

## Trust responds to oil spill

A multi-agency response ensured a transformer oil spill at Banks Reserve in Mount Lawley was cleaned up quickly and efficiently.

Staff from the Swan River Trust and departments for Planning and Infrastructure, and Environment and Conservation responded to the spill after a truck accident.

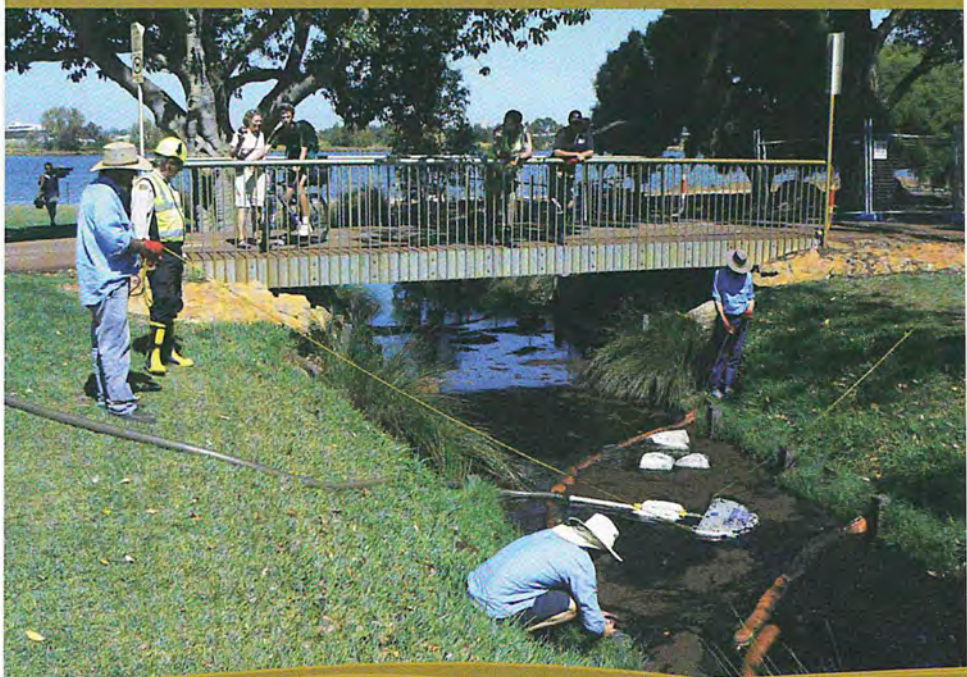
Trust waterways program manager Liesl Jonker said a transformer fell off the back of the truck, spilling about 4,000 litres of transformer oil which entered drains leading to the Swan River.

"Absorbents were put on the road to stop oil entering drains and a containment boom was used at the end of the drain entering Walters Creek," Ms Jonker said.

"A cleanup crew pumped out the drains, and manta skimmers and suction trucks were used to remove oil directly from affected water.

"Nearby residents visited the site and indicated that they were happy with the cleanup."

To report incidents which may be harmful to the rivers contact the Trust on (08) 9278 0900 or after hours on 0419 192 845.



When you go into the garden shop  
Please leave some things on the shelf  
Water soluble fertiliser and chemical  
'Cos they're bad for the river's health.

Put the food scraps from your kitchen  
And all of your lawn clippings too  
In your compost bin or worm farm  
They'll turn to free fertiliser for you.

If you've got some paint left over, or  
You've changed the oil in your car  
Please don't pour them down the drain  
'Cos to the river system it ain't far.

When you're living in a catchment  
And you know, all of us do  
Everything that goes in the ground  
Will surely end up in the river too.

Please, if living in West Ourstralia  
Please, always keep it in your head  
Please look after our Swan River  
Please, remember what I just said!!



## News in brief

- Trust staff recently checked out the lower Ellen Brook Catchment, guided by staff from the Chittering Landcare Centre. Works will soon be undertaken in the priority catchment with extra funds allocated to the Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program.
- The Tranby foreshore rehabilitation project has been delayed until spring this year. The \$420,000 makeover near Tranby House in Maylands will include realignment of a pathway, fencing, bank stabilisation works and planting of local native vegetation.
- The Technical Advisory Panel met for the first time in May to discuss the best approach to tackle climate change. The panel was set up as part of the draft Healthy Rivers Action Plan to advise the Trust on critical scientific and management issues.
- The first Corporate Care Day for this winter took place on 21 May. Staff from PricewaterhouseCoopers spent the day at Southern River Boardwalk in Gosnells planting 2,800 sedges, weeding and learning about keeping the rivers healthy. Other organisations can book a Corporate Care Day with Trust events officer Rachel Wilson by calling 9278 0914 or emailing [rachel.wilson@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:rachel.wilson@dec.wa.gov.au)



Above and below: Environmental officer Peter Adkins explains proposed works in the Ellen Brook Catchment.



## Great Gardens

The new series of the Wondrous Winter Great Gardens Workshops in the Ellen Brook Catchment wraps up on 4 August.

The pilot program was developed in response to a commitment made to develop and deliver an integrated urban and rural environmental education program.

Five integrated rural and urban workshops were organised for this winter in the high priority Ellen Brook Catchment in Muchea, Vines, Baskerville, Bindoon and finishing up in Bullsbrook.

The free workshops focussed on fertiliser and water-wise principles and featured practical river-friendly environmental practices for gardeners to create sustainable gardens.

The public can still register to attend the last workshop which is to be held at Picket Park Hall, Chittering Road in Bullsbrook from 1 – 4pm by calling 1300 369 833 or registering online at [www.greatgardens.info](http://www.greatgardens.info)



Keep our rivers healthy