

CRREPA NEWS

Newsletter of the Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association (Incorporated in 1994)

Editor Ken Keesing



Honorary Life Membership to Diane & Gary Matthews

It was with great pleasure that this year's AGM recognised the outstanding contributions of founding members Diane and Gary Matthews by granting them Honorary Life Membership of CRREPA.

Diane Matthews has held key roles on the committee for the past 15 years including President and Vice President, thus officiating at 60 Committee Meetings and 15 AGMs with the associated workload. This year, when sadly Cam was no longer able, Diane also took over his Treasurer and Membership Officer roles. On behalf of CRREPA, she has made significant contributions to environmental understanding, and management in WA. She has worked closely with City of Canning, Swan River Trust, Conservation Council, SERCUL, Urban Bushland Council and schools.

In addition to her work through meetings, submissions, letters, lobbying and being a spokesperson Diane contributed through hands-on activity on our favourite foreshore. This has included

not only designing grant applications and rehabilitation plans but also co-ordinating the sessions (plants, utensils, food and shelter) and instructing the members in setting out the plants, digging holes, planting, weeding, watering and then replanting and watering again if necessary.



Recently Diane has welcomed and supported the Lions Club of Booragoon members to care for the Tuscan to Fifth Avenue stretch of our foreshore.

Gary Matthews has contributed significantly to the care of the foreshore and the growth and success of CRREPA. For most of the past 15 years Gary has been a member of the Committee. Gary, through his support and active involvement, has helped

Diane to do so much over the years. Not forgetting the grunt work necessary for setting up bushcare days, weekend plantings, AGMs etc, that made CRREPA's activities run, let alone run smoothly! In the early years of CRREPA Gary was always there with his trailer delivering the plants, and all the paraphernalia needed to complete the task on hand. We are also indebted to Gary for much of our earlier photographic record.

Gary has also been the Honorary Auditor of CRREPA's financial records and given guidance on administrative, computing and technological issues. He will always be remembered for his excellent organisation of our Annual Xmas get-togethers on the foreshore. We look forward to enjoying many more of these with both Gary and Diane as our esteemed Honorary Life Members.

Where would CRREPA be without Diane and Gary? The scope of their achievement is remarkable and we, our children and the wider community can enjoy the legacy of their commitment every time we use our beautiful bushland and the foreshore.

CRREPA NEWS

Newsletter of the Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association (Inc)

PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Much has happened, both sad & celebratory, since our April Newsletter,

It is with sadness that we farewelled our founding member **Cam Ross** in May whilst reminiscing and acknowledging the sustained contribution he made to both CRREPA and the foreshore (refer p3). Special wishes to Rita, families, friends and colleagues.

Whilst welcoming Gary and Diane Matthews as **Honorary Life Members** (refer cover) CRREPA also established at the AGM two categories of life membership, one Honorary, the other Subscription.

Many thanks to the outgoing **2008/09 Committee**, particularly those who have chosen to take a break, Davina John, Diane



Matthews and Helen Carter. We hope you will rejoin the Committee in later years.

Welcome to our **2009/10 Committee** (refer p9) being a great mix of longer time 'officials' and new faces.

Grecian and I joined the **Lions Club of Booragoon** for fellowship, a meal and to present the CRREPA and LCB story in slides so their broader membership has a

better understanding of their environment project on the foreshore.

Thanks to **SGIO** for granting us \$2,750 for 2010 planting and to Grecian for preparing our submission (refer p5).

Our **Foreshore Groups** continue to work hard, enjoy the company and the location whilst doing great works (refer p4).

The **City of Canning** has upgraded the signs along the foreshore and is also upgrading and/or replacing fencing. We are also grateful to Mayor Delle Donne, Cr Morgan and Cr Olsen who joined us for our AGM. CRREPA also enjoyed the hospitality of the City at the annual Civic Dinner.

Special thanks to Ken Keesing for taking on the role of **Newsletter Editor**.

Colma Keating

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If the word "Expired" appears, your subscription is DUE NOW.
PLEASE RENEW TODAY!**

CRREPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please detach and return this form (with your subscription) either:

by POST

CRREPA Treasurer
PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148

OR

by HAND

CRREPA Treasurer
187b Riverton Drive Shelley

(Note: leave personal details blank if unchanged from mailing label on page 1)

I/we _____ & _____

(Family name)

(First names of members)

wish to renew our membership for:
(Circle appropriate section)

1 year (to 31 March 2011) \$5.50 (Student \$2.20)
5 years (to 31 March 2014) \$20.00 (Student \$10.00)

(Signature)

2009

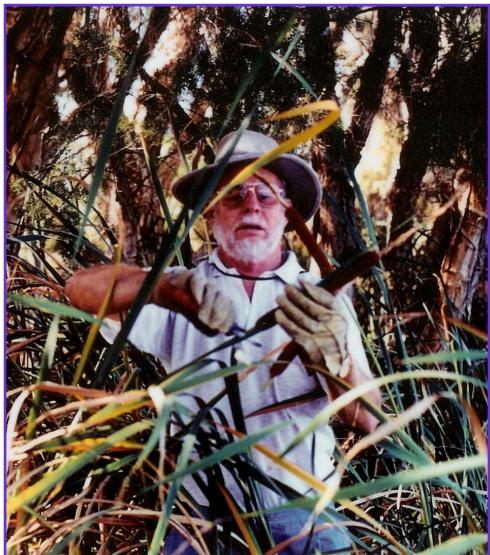
\$ _____

(Amount enclosed)

(E-mail) _____

Please circle if you are interested in RECORDING, SEED COLLECTION, REVEGETATION, BIRD SURVEY or COMMITTEE activities. About 1-2 hours per month. ANY HELP IS APPRECIATED.

VALE CAM ROSS 1934 - 2009



Cam Ross has been one of those very special people in history who come along at a time of social change and unhesitatingly step out of their comfort-zone and voluntarily work towards achieving that change, and inadvertently along the way become a local hero.

In 1994 Cam, together with wife Margot and a small dedicated team, formed the Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association (Inc.) (CRREPA). After Margot so sadly died in 1998 it was heart-warming to see how the calm and loving companionship Cam found with Rita, renewed his energy and enthusiasms.

We can forget very quickly what things were like in the past even when it is only 15 years ago. Back then there was little in the way of local community action to protect the local environment. Previously much of the debate and action had been focused on the big ticket issues like duck-shooting, logging of native forests, and damming wild rivers for hydro-electricity. However, when it was proposed to clear the understorey of sections of Yagan Wetland Reserve, which is jointly managed by Melville and Canning City Councils, to create an open park-like setting with sculptures and boardwalks, Cam and Margot galvanized the local community to form a group to speak up for the undisturbed Canning River and Bullcreek Inlet environments that supported some of our remaining birds and animals.

Cam and Margot spoke to the local people while on their constitutional along the foreshore footpath and also knocked on doors. Together with other members they lobbied Councillors and State Government officials and before we knew it, we had become an integral part of decision-making for Yagan Wetland Reserve and also the entire Ross-moyne-Shelley foreshore. It was realised that due to its importance as habitat the Yagan Reserve had previously been vested by the State of Western Australia in the City of Canning as a Conservation of Flora and Fauna Reserve and this, together with concerns about managing anti-social behaviour in an isolated site, resulted in the cancellation of the joint Cities' proposal.

Cam and Margot were consequently on all the advisory bodies involved in developing the inaugural City of Canning Policies and Management Plans created for the Reserve and the associated foreshores. One practical result is that the City of Canning is the only local authority to have regulations in place that can be used to protect local foreshores and infrastructure, for example the recent pressures from increased boat ownership. Cam was also a vocal negotiator for the re-instatement of the boundary between Sherwin Lodge and Yagan Reserve; was active in encouraging submissions from CRREPA questioning the wisdom of proposals for commercial ferry services, boat ramps, commercial houseboats, sea-plane joyrides, and associated parking and toilet facilities along our narrow foreshore; and was ever vigilant that boaters respect the foreshore and avoid the vegetated areas. Cam and Margot were responsible for having the bollards erected along the entire foreshore which was being torn up by hooligans in cars at night, and Cam was recently responsible, while struggling with his illness, for the erection of the extra protective fencing along the Ross-moyne foreshore to reduce damage from unthinking boat owners seeking access to the increased number of moorings within Bullcreek. He had direct contact with Swan River Trust CEOs and the City's Rangers and never hesitated to contact them to request action to protect the river and foreshores when he saw the need.

Cam has been Treasurer from the beginning of CRREPA and also Newsletter Editor, Membership Officer and cameraman, taking a constant interest in our activities. Cam's drive has always been to conserve and maintain the integrity of the Yagan Reserve and associated river foreshores, and as a result, through a healthy natural habitat, to provide pleasure and benefit to both present and future generations. His aim has also always been to eventually see both the State and Local Governments assume responsibility for the sustainable management of these environmental assets. Since 1994 there has been significant progress towards these objectives. Whilst looking back through CRREPA's collection of Newsletters and 'before' and 'after' photos it is possible to recall the many issues and degraded areas that have been successfully worked on over the years by CRREPA. Once again you are made aware of the truly wonderful example and legacy of community service that has been left to us by Cam to carry on into the future.

Adapted extracts from 'Farewell Cam', Diane Mathews' eulogy 18/5/09

**Founding Member 1994
Treasurer 94-08
Newsletter Editor 94-08
Membership Officer 94-08
Watching Brief CCC 94-08
Eyes of Bullcreek 94-09**

GROUP UPDATE REPORT - October 2009

Grecian Sandwell

All groups have been busy (see photos) this planting season. A total of 3,412 plants went in at three new revegetation sites and where needed 'fill ins' along the Rossmoyne-Shelley foreshore and the Yagan fenced area.

This season's plant list included

1,000 *Facina nodosa* and *Juncus krausii* raised by Max Risbey.

322 provided by the City of Canning:

6 *Melaleuca cuticularis*, 40 *Baumea juncea*, 160 *Patersonia occidentalis*, 116 *Conostylis aculeata*.

2,090 purchased from APACE and Natural Area & Management Services:

12 *Juncus pallidus*, 20 *Hypocalymma angustifolium*, 20 *Hypocalymma robustum*, 48 *Conostylis aculeata*
80 *Centella asciatica*, 600 *Baumea juncea*, 1,310 *Juncus krausii*.

It is important that our projects can be easily maintained by our hands-on volunteers until the sites are well established. There is a lot still to do before our overall aim is achieved and the best way to work towards that aim is to be well organized, to plan ahead and keep the projects at manageable levels.



Preparing the ground 7/8/09 and planting 28/9/09 opposite Rob Bruce Park [Keating]

Revegetating a new site involves

- Liaising with the City of Canning (CCC)
- Choosing a site
- Deciding on plants
- Preparing a planting map
- Collecting and germinating seeds by CRREPA member/s
- Ordering other plants well in advance from specialist nurseries
- Meeting onsite with group leader, members and CCC
- Preparing the site (incl weed control by CCC, digging out grasses)
- Organising the planting day
- Watering in new plants
- Weeding the site regularly until plants are well established
- Watering of plants weekly throughout the first summer with CCC.

Weeding of sites continues and we are always happy to welcome members to join in these working sessions.



Planting at Beryl Avenue
11/7/09 [Keating]

Members and residents not yet participating and wishing to do so please contact a group leader. The information you need is on the last page of this CRREPA News.

Recognition by the City of Canning of the contribution made by CRREPA



CITY OF CANNING WATERCOURSE RESERVES MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES 2006

A REVISION OF THE CITY OF CANNING FORESHORE
RESERVES MANAGEMENT POLICY DOCUMENT



The good work of our Association's members has been recognised in a publication 'City of Canning Watercourse Reserves Management Strategies 2006' which is available on loan.

All these groups and bodies make a major contribution to the preservation and restoration of bush and riparian habitats. Without them the City's watercourse reserves would be significantly more degraded than they are today.

This refers to CRREPA along with Canning River Regional Park Volunteers, Wilson Wetlands Action Group, Friends of Queens Park Bushland, Phosphorous Action Group and SERCUL (Page 14).

The sign below, stands near Wadjup Point among some casuarinas and a wattle bush in flower. It is a beautiful spot and typical of the improvement to the foreshore achieved by CRREPA over the past 15 years.

Congratulations to all our members past and present who have earned this well deserved recognition.



SGIO Community Grant



Photo courtesy of SGIO

CRREPA was successful in receiving a significant Community Grant from SGIO on the 31st July 2009. The \$2,750 grant is to purchase 1,000 *Baumea juncea* plants to replace 100 square metres of weeds next year.

Grecian Sandwell and Colma Keating represented CRREPA at the presentation of the grant by **Hon. Donna Faragher, Minister for the Environment & Youth** and **Colin Tierney, State Manager for SGIO** hosted by Ardross Primary School.

Another highlight of the event was Year 3 students taking visitors around their 'sustainable steps' program including a worm farm, vegetable garden, native plant nursery, recycling projects and rehabilitation of adjoining bushland.

Foreshore erosion * Current challenges

The foreshore has been badly eroded in several places by storm surge, boat wake and vandalism. Our Association has been very active in trying to prevent further deterioration but members were devastated when vandals trampled and pulled out newly planted vegetation. Winter storms have removed beach front and threatened trees close to the bank.

The Swan River Trust has announced funding for engineering work at Wadjup Point and Prisoners Point. This will be carried out next summer when limestone boulders will be placed in the river to form a barrier. At Wadjup Point the new wall will extend from the existing gabion structure around the tree roots to the beach.



The path is now the retaining wall

Only the roots of the threatened paperbark trees are holding the river at bay on this section of the foreshore opposite 125 Riverton Drive.

The CCC has applied for a development permit to reposition the path which will then enable rehabilitation of the foreshore. This work is planned for early next year.

Rossmoyne beach erosion

Grecian ponders the fate of the remaining bank in front of 137 Riverton Drive and the threatened stand of casuarinas on the flooded point after the storm in May this year. The Swan River Trust has commissioned a study of the effect of boat wash and wind waves by the Curtin Centre for Marine Science. Will it be in time to save several sites in Rossmoyne and Shelley?



Modillion Avenue site a disaster

The previous restoration work of staking coir logs and matting, then brushing and planting behind, at the Modillion Ave site, has been eroded by high tides, winter storms and possibly increased wash from boats. At the time (Feb 2008) CRREPA queried the sustainability of the materials and asked for rocks and logs as used at other SRT rehabilitation sites. Look back at the photo in CRREPA News #28 to see what we have lost. The CCC has applied for a permit to fence the site, however there are no immediate plans for its remediation.

At Shelley Beach and some other sites the CCC proposes to plant native couch to stabilise the eroded areas.

Deliberate vandalism or thoughtless disregard

The well established sedge bed seems to have been pulled out and trampled by boating or fisher folk. Countless hours of work and hundreds of dollars worth of plants have been wasted. Furthermore disturbance also opens the area to risk of erosion. CRREPA and Lions Club of Booragoon met with City of Canning (CCC), Swan River Trust and Recfishwest to discuss foreshore issues. CCC is erecting a fence with appropriate signs, so let us hope there will be a marked improvement by thoughtless users of the foreshore.



The Foreshore Matters

World Environment Day and The Lions Club of Booragoon

As reported in the *Canning Times* (June 26, 2009), members of the Lions Club of Booragoon (LCB) have been working along the Rossmoyne foreshore from Tuscan to Fifth Avenue. World Environment Day (WED) was their major session for 2009 which attracted 33 LCB and CRREPA volunteers. All were rewarded by dolphins playing and fishing just off shore whilst preparing the ground and planting 1,126 mini pots of the local sedges, *Baumea juncea*, *Juncus kraussii*, *J. pallidus* and *Facina nodosa*. WED efforts were supported by the City of Canning with Bushcrew Leader, Leonard Stapp, joining the day to assist with traffic management, transport of plants and watering in of the freshly planted sedges.



"Our involvement with CRREPA has added another dimension to our community service," said Anne Good, Chairman of the Environment Project, Lions Club of Booragoon.

"As individuals we have learned a great deal about the river from the very knowledgeable people who have instructed us at our sessions. Much praise is due to these devoted volunteers," she said.



Demise of the Living Drains project

As a result of a suggestion by a member, CCC funding was approved for the development of this Nearwater drain site. The proposed work involved removal of the pipe and excavation of a depression which when planted would provide stormwater filtration before entering the river. This 'eyesore' would have become a place of beauty and served a very worthwhile purpose.

The Canning Times reported on a "TOXIC' waterway in crisis" (April 7, 2009). A Swan River Trust report revealed that Bullcreek and Lower Canning were placed in 'category one' for toxic chemicals in the water. The CCC advised local residents that the funds for the "Living Drains" project were to be used for drainage water improvement further away from the river where they believe it would be more effective. Should we try to resurrect this project again? Let us know your opinion.



Vandals beware

This sign on the Rossmoyne and Shelley foreshores should serve as a deterrent to thoughtless people who destroy or damage fringing vegetation. Many are unaware of the role of natural vegetation in stopping the foreshore eroding (refer p6) and providing habitat for birds and animals that keep insects like mosquitoes in check.

In the Melbourne bay-side suburb of Brighton, similar signs also include an offer of \$2000 reward for the prosecution of such offenders!

CRREPA'S PHOTO ALBUM

Spot the difference! Fourteen years of foreshore care at the revegetation site west of the stormwater pipe opposite 183-189 Riverton Drive, Shelley.
Thanks to all who have contributed.



1995: Planting with Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society – 20/8/95 [G Matthews]



1997: Fence protecting the area as the sedges are establishing – 9/2/97 [G Matthews]



2009: Fence now removed. Sedges, saltwater couch and sheoaks well established – 26/5/09 [Keating].

THE RIBS OF THE MAYFLOWER

The 'Mayflower' was built in 1908 at the Royal Ophir Boat Sheds by George McCarter and Peter Anderson. She had a draught of 4 feet and was 49 feet long and 11 feet wide. In 1912 the State Government used her on the Mends Street run and in 1938 the service also called at Queen Street. By 1949 we know that she was still with the State ferries and during the summer months did private charter cruises with up to 77 passengers.

In 1979 the boat drifted onto a shallow bank of the Swan River at Belmont, just upstream of Belmont Creek. She stayed there for several months until refloated by the new owner who after major repairs was taking her downstream. It became evident that she would not make the trip without further substantial repairs so was moored in Wreck Bay Appletree. While waiting for repairs she sank at her moorings and began to break up during a heavy storm.

The remains were taken to Fremantle and following an inspection it was decided to return her to the river. She was taken to Bullcreek and moored where her hull still remains and can be seen at low tide.

Acknowledgement: "Swan and Canning River Wrecks." By Colin Scrimshaw (Maritime Archaeology Association of WA)



Lions Club of Booragoon weeding near Tuscan Street 17/5/09 [Keating]

LOCAL RAPTOR

Next time you pass the bottom of Fifth Avenue - check the top of the Norfolk Island Pine to see if the resident **Australian Hobby** (Little Falcon) is perched up there.



*Graphics
courtesy of
Australian
National
Botanic
Gardens*



New CRREPA Committee 2009/10

President: Colma Keating
Vice President: Ken Keesing
Secretary: Liz Moore
Treasurer: Brian Munro

Committee: Grecian Sandwell
Janine Wood
Joan Munro
Sallie Bryant



**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO CRREPA'S
ANNUAL END-OF-YEAR GET TOGETHER**



WHEN:	Sunday December 6th @ 5.30 for 6.00 pm
WHERE:	Shelley Reserve (Beatrice Avenue end parking is best) A shady spot with grass, barbecues, playground, toilets and view of the river
WE SUPPLY:	Champers, orange juice and chickens
YOU BRING:	Whatever else you need to relax and enjoy the company (Chairs, rug, salad, bread and BYO)
RSVP:	Janine Wood on wswood@iinet.net.au or 9457 8865. (To ensure sufficient catering is provided)

Please come and meet the Committee and other CRREPA members while enjoying some champagne and chicken in our beautiful river setting!



Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association

Just an hour a month...

in your favourite spot...

can help 'Care for the Canning'

You now have at least five chances each month when you can join with CRREPA members and the wider community in the 'hands-on care' of the Rossmoyne/Shelley Canning River Foreshore.

'Caring for the Canning' areas	Volunteer Coordinators
Bullcreek to Tuscan Street Last Sunday of the month	Max Risbey - 9457 1347
Tuscan Street to Fifth Avenue Date to be decided each month	Anne Good & Lions Club of Booragoon - 9330 6338 anne.good1@bigpond.com
Fifth Avenue to Beatrice Avenue Every Tuesday First Sunday of the month	Grecian Sandwell - 9354 9734 grecian@iinet.net.au
Watersby Crescent to Wadjup Point Second Saturday of the month	Colma Keating - 9354 9734 dinkum.results@iinet.net.au
Wadjup Point to Shelley Bridge As need basis	Grecian Sandwell - 9354 9734 grecian@iinet.net.au

Weeding, planting, seed collection and propagation, rubbish removal, birdwatching, monitoring and planning are some of the activities we hope to continue within these sections.

We encourage individual, family and group (eg schools, scouts, guides, social) involvement and welcome your suggestions for other interesting ideas/activities as well as best times for your participation.

To ensure these will become regular, enjoyable social events whilst benefiting our environment, the program for each 'foreshore care section' will be determined by that group. We also believe that this format of hands-on involvement will keep us all better informed about our foreshore, its management and CRREPA's contributions.

**To join a working group near you and/or along your favourite part of the foreshore,
please contact the respective volunteer coordinator.**

Looking forward to working alongside you on the foreshore!!



Your local Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association