



CRREPA NEWS

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

Editor: Ken Keesing

Looking forward to seeing you at

CRREPA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

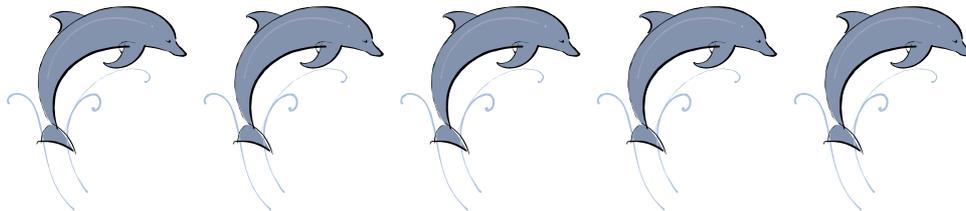
WHEN: Thursday, 27 May 2010 6:50 for 7:00pm start

WHERE: Canning River Eco Education Centre, Kent Street Weir
Kent Street and Queens Park Road, Wilson

SPECIAL GUEST: Dr Hugh Finn, Murdoch University

"River Dolphins"

Hear and see how our local river residents live.



FOCUS: 2009/10 Highlights | 2010/11 Committee | Plans for new year

RSVP: For catering purposes phone 9354 9734 or e-mail dinkum.results@iinet.net.au

CRREPA Sundowner December 2009



CRREPA NEWS

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Environment Protection Association (Inc)

PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148

PRESIDENT'S SNIPPETS

The past six months have seen:

Our annual **celebratory picnic** on the Shelley foreshore enjoyed by many – we look forward to even more members joining this casual annual catch-up on our lovely Canning foreshore.



Special thanks to Grecian Sandwell for her design of the new **CRREPA logo** depicting an egret, sedges and water.
Thanks also to SERCUL for early assistance with graphics.

The City of Canning is still considering our request for a **Cam Ross memorial** to acknowledge his contribution to the foreshore and community.

Whilst the **March storm** had a big impact on the foreshore and river (refer article and photos on page 5) we were lucky it wasn't more severe. The detrimental impact on fish, crustaceans and insects may have a follow on effect on the birds and dolphins.

The State Government's **Water Quality Improvement Plan** was released in January.



Based on predictive modelling the maximum acceptable load to the Swan and Canning rivers per year is 128 tonnes of total nitrogen and 14 tonnes of total phosphorus. Currently, 251 tonnes of nitrogen and 26 tonnes of phosphorus enter the system each year. The Plan aims to reduce the nitrogen load by 123 tonnes (49%) and phosphorus load by 12 tonnes (46%) annually.

It will guide investment during the next seven years, identifying the most cost-effective management actions to address sources of land-based nitrogen and phosphorus and improve estuarine and coastal water quality.

Special thanks to Diane Matthews for assistance with critique of the State Government **Healthy Rivers Action Plan**. Key points made by CRREPA included the need to review the seasonal timing of rehabilitation work; better use of local knowledge in selection of plants, planting design and engineering approaches; support for the Citizen Science approach to engage wider community.

Our annual meeting with the **City of Canning** officers, Steve Atwell and Jenni Andrews, held at CREEC, enabled us to check the foreshore management plan and coordinate future projects.

It was a pleasure to welcome **Rossmoyne High School student Stephanie** and her mum, Kylie, as we went on an investigative walk around the rehabilitation efforts of the City and Swan River Trust at Mumm's (Prisoners) Point. Stephanie was doing an 'Environment and Society' project and chose to study her local foreshore. We examined the work (still in progress at the time) from the fishing jetty around to both sides of the Shelley Sailing Club.

Stephanie and Kylie (3rd and 4th from left) with CRREPA members Ken, Sally and Coral [Keating]



PRESIDENT'S SNIPPETS

Earthworks and planting have been carried out by the City of Canning for the two trials for naturalising the **drains** at Zenith and Nearwater. (refer article page 7)

We have had on site meetings with City of Canning, Swan River Trust and Lions Club of Booragoon (LCoB) and prepared documentation for a **Riverbank Funding application** for significant rehabilitation work at 'Halophila Bay', opposite 135 Riverton Drive . The site where the LCoB jointly hosted World Environment Day 2009.

A visit from local **MLA for Riverton, Dr Mike Nahan** to our January meeting enabled us to discuss local environment issues and consider future impacts on the foreshore and river. **Piers Verstegen, Conservation Council of WA**, will be attending our April meeting to discuss similar environmental aspects.

In order to **promote CRREPA** we have begun offering our brochures, newsletters and information on the river and foreshore to passersby on our foreshore mornings and to advertise in the local IGAs and post offices. More recently we have advertised bird walks. Unfortunately the response has been very thin. Next time I'll insert the word "FREE" before bird walks.

WE'D LIKE YOU ON THE COMMITTEE!

We will be electing our 2010/11 Committee at our AGM (27 May) and hope you will consider nominating. The committee meets approx 4 times a year, with members focussing on areas of interest.

CRREPA Committee 2009/10

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

Members: **Bill Lambe**
Grecian Sandwell
Janine Wood
Joan Munro
Sallie Bryant

VACANCY

The volunteer roles of **coordinating monthly foreshore sessions** at Fifth-Beatrice and Watersby-Wadjup. Both Grecian and I have been doing this task for eight years and would like others to share the enjoyment. For further information see Page 10. Please ring Colma 93549734.



The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity.

STORM REARRANGES LANDSCAPE Colma Keating

The severe storm of 22nd March had a big impact on the Canning River.

Power blackouts at sewerage pumping stations resulted in 21 million litres of untreated wastewater and sewerage flowing into the Canning, Southern and Swan Rivers. This caused a temporary reduction in oxygen resulting in the deaths of fish, crustaceans and other water life. News reports highlighted the phenomenon of crustaceans walking out of the river to seek refuge and oxygen. Other contributors were the pollutants and organic matter carried by storm water drains, including from the light and medium industrial areas in the catchment. The Swan River Trust (SRT) erected signs to warn people the water was also unsafe for humans and pets.



Mature Flooded Gum and Sheoak uprooted opposite 163 Riverton Drive [Keating]

The foreshore also took a beating

At least five mature local native trees (flooded gums, sheoaks, marris and paperbarks) were lost and many were damaged.

In addition, the landscape trees, particularly those between Pleasant Place and Fifth Avenue were severely damaged.

The same tree after the cleanup, retaining roots and lower trunk



Congratulations to the City of Canning for:

- >their speed in making areas safe along the foreshore immediately after the storm,
- >removing the branches and debris and chipping for compost
- >continuing their policy of leaving roots and trunks of uprooted local native trees to ensure the foreshore is less disturbed and to ensure its value as habitat.

We now look forward to seeing the City's tree replacement policy in action.

Monday 22 March Storm Threatens 4.06 pm



Grecian Sandwell surveys the destruction of a landscape tree opposite 219. CCC policy is to replace it with a local native tree. [Keating]



Full Fury of the Storm at 5.07 pm



ENJOYING OUR FORESHORE

Grecian Sandwell

On Sunday April 11th an informative walk along the river from Watersby Crescent to Wadjup Point attracted 12 participants from the hands-on foreshore groups including the Lions Club of Booragoon. At the start, two ospreys were circling overhead and one of them we could see throughout the one and a half hour ramble.



We saw many species of birds including hundreds of musk ducks around Wadjup Point, where two days earlier I saw 120 grebes, 40 pelicans, 2 spoonbills and 30 swans. Apart from these there are always cormorants, darters, terns, ibis, pacific black ducks and stilts feeding or resting in the area.



In addition to bird watching we spent time looking at recent work done at Prisoners Point, Beryl Avenue, Modillion, fishing platform (Watersby), drain modification (Nearwater and Zenith) and Wadjup Point.



I encourage all members to join in these free activities.
Ring Grecian on 9354 9734 or email grecian@iinet.net.au to register on the mailing list.

The Foreshore Matters Ken Keesing

During 2009 the CCC started several engineering works on the foreshore reserve which were funded by the SRT River Bank Program. Cement pipe drains at Zenith and Nearwater have been replaced by filtration "living drains". After planting of native vegetation this winter these areas will not only enhance the beauty of the foreshore but also ensure that storm water is filtered before entering the river. We hope that the success of the "living drains" will result in many more pipe drains, currently discharging directly into the river, being similarly upgraded.



Pipe at Nearwater February 2009



Drainage basin October 2009

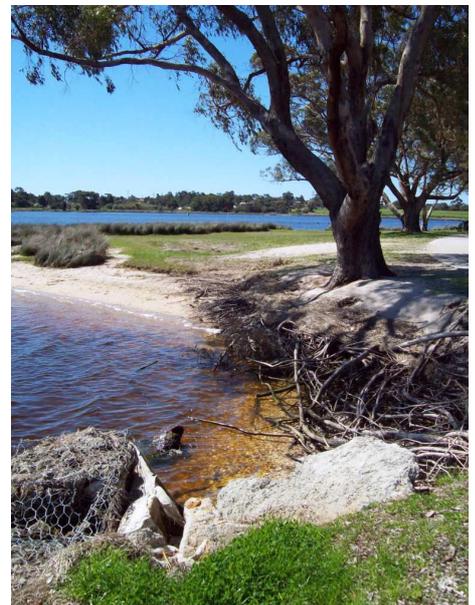


Limestone and Sedge filter March 2010



Wadjup Tuart July 2009

The CCC have started two major expensive engineering solutions to erosion of the foreshore from storm surge and boat wake damage in Shelley. The smaller project at Wadjup Point has been completed. The magnificent Tuart tree near the point has been saved from almost certain loss this winter. A substantial limestone barrier has been installed and the newly created foreshore area around the tree will be planted this winter. **Congratulations to all concerned at CCC and SRT for completing this work before this year's winter storms arrive.**



Threatened September 2009

The work at Prisoners Point is ongoing and quite complex. The solution chosen has been the result of careful consideration of a failed project at Modillion Avenue, where the materials used were washed away in high tides and winter storms. A large amount of small limestone rocks has been placed to cope with extreme wave action and protect the coir rolls and layers of tea tree, all well wired and staked very securely. Sedge has been planted in the water and is growing well. Plantings higher up have not survived. The photographs taken in March show the work which extends from both sides of the Shelley Sailing Club building around to the fishing jetty. Some more stone is yet to be placed to complete the work and planting in a fenced off area will need to be done during the winter.



Limestone west of SSC



Limestone east of SSC



Coir rolls at the fishing jetty

YAGAN WETLAND RESERVE

Grecian Sandwell

Yagan Wetland Reserve and the adjacent Bull Creek Wetlands make up Bush Forever site 338. This listing as a Bush Forever site recognises the environmental values at Yagan Wetland Reserve, including its habitat refuge for several significant birds and reptiles.

In 2007 the City of Canning, in partnership with the CRREPA were successful in a grant application to the Commonwealth Government to remove Lantana and Blackberry. Both of these are 'Weeds of National Significance'. They can invade and displace native vegetation, and reduce habitat for native fauna. The weed infestation at Yagan Wetland Reserve also made the area impenetrable and reduced the amount of sunlight entering the lower storey vegetation beneath the canopy.

With the grant monies, the City employed the contractors Natural Area Management Services (NAMS) to remove the Lantana and Blackberry. NAMS spent approximately three weeks cutting the Lantana and Blackberry thickets from the native vegetation and continue to make a monthly visit to the site to control regrowth and progressively control other environmental weeds in the wetland. The City will continue to engage contractors to undertake regular maintenance at Yagan Wetland Reserve and will also continue to work with CRREPA at the wetland. Ultimately the understory will be replanted with native wetland species.

Another site adjacent to the wetland, that was originally earmarked as a seed nursery, is gradually being revegetated. Over the past two years this area has been planted up with a variety of native species. CRREPA's volunteers will complete the plantings this season, followed by a weekly watering over the dry months.



Bull Creek Wetlands October 2009



Bull Creek Wetlands January 2010
Low Tide and ribs of Mayflower wreck

REVEGETATION SITES for the coming season

Grecian Sandwell

There will be four main planting sites this year :

- # In the area between **Bullcreek and Tuscan St**
200 *Conostylis* and 200 *Baumea juncea* will be planted.
- # **The Second Avenue site** will have an interesting mix of
350 *Baumea juncea* 40 *Patersonia occidentalis* and a few low shrubs.
- # **Beryl Avenue** will have additional *Baumea juncea*.
- # *Baumea juncea* will also be planted opposite **Rob Bruce Park**.

TURTLE TALK by Diane Matthews

How much do you know about the Oblong Turtle? The following information has been supplied by the South East Regional Centre of Urban Landcare (SERCUL) in Beckenham.

The Oblong Turtle, *Chelodina oblonga*, is also known as the Western Long Necked Turtle. They occur in the Perth metropolitan area in permanent and seasonal freshwater bodies including rivers, lakes, dams, swamps, damp lands and constructed wetlands.

The turtles are most commonly seen in spring and summer. Between September and January each year the females leave the water in search of suitable sandy soils in which to lay their eggs. The female lays 2 – 16 leathery eggs in a hole that she digs with her back feet. The eggs hatch in 26-41 weeks (depending on weather conditions and temperature).

Baby turtles are called hatchlings and are the size of a 20 cent coin when born. Adult turtles can reach a length of 50cm. Adult turtles are carnivorous with fish, frogs and invertebrates on their menu. Hatchlings feed on small crustaceans.

Oblong turtles are in fact true turtles and not tortoises as they are sometimes referred to. They have flippers or webbed feet for swimming while tortoises have stumpy, solid feet for walking on land.

SERCUL has been working with the Excelsior Primary School whose students are lucky enough each year to see adult and hatchling turtles walking through the school on their way back and forth from sandy breeding grounds and the local wetlands. The students have created a "Turtle Warriors" group and together have developed a Turtle Kit to help manage and educate about turtles found on the school premises. They are also working on a website, a movie, an electronic slide show and a book. They also conduct regular assembly announcements at school to address the educational responsibilities of the Turtle Warriors organisation.



Thanks Diane. For more info on SERCUL www.sercul.org.au We hope to hear more of the Turtles being studied by the students at Excelsior. The photo is by T Chapman DEC/WA. A very informative article on the *Chelodina oblonga* is available from DEC in "Fauna Note No. 37". Oblong Turtles may be kept as pets in WA but a licence from DEC is required. Note though that the Red-eared Slider Turtle is not native to Australia and it poses an extreme risk to Western Australia's natural environment. The Ed.

Weeding, Weeding and More Weeding Grecian Sandwell

With winter approaching, preparation for planting and protection of existing plants is an important task for CRREPA members. During the past year our foreshore groups have continued to remove weeds, which if left, inhibit the growth of native plants. Some weeds such as Dock and Arum Lily have almost been eradicated. Not so the prolific Watsonias and Rye grass.

Great success has been achieved with removal of the following weeds:

Bulrush - removed by both CRREPA members and the City of Canning (CCC) Bushcrew

Dock - dug out by CRREPA members ensuring that the masses of seeds are bagged

Cape Tulip - Sprayed out by contractors employed by CCC

Arum Lily - Removed by contractors employed by CCC

We are now targeting the following weeds by hand removal and spraying:

Annual rye grass, Cape Weed, Fat Hen, Fleabane, Flat Weed, Soursob, Gladiolus, Barley Grass, Grasses such as Kikuyu and Couch are common along the foreshore reserve. The CCC maintains a barrier between these and native vegetation using a selective spray which targets grasses only.

Thanks to the following City of Canning officers for their continued support of CRREPA's activities and aims: Parks Conservation Officer, **Jenni Andrews**, Bushcrew Team Leader, **Leonard Stapp**, and the Bushcrew team of **Janelle de Silva**, **Rowan du Boulay**, **Kim Prior** and **Clinton Frame**.

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.

Even if you can only make it once a year, we'd love to have your company and contributions.

'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
Fifth Avenue to Beatrice Avenue 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!!

Having a party?
30 Wine Glasses are available from
CRREPA



\$10 hire 93549734



Your local Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association