



# CRREPA NEWS

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

Editors: Stephen Johnston, Ken Keesing and Sue Stanley

*ENJOY YOUR FORESHORE RESPONSIBLY*

### President's Report - Colma Keating

Thanks for entrusting me with your president's role. I am looking forward to working with you all over the next 12 months.

As extended by Grecian at our AGM, special thanks to all on the 2014/15 committee including retiring members Chris Galvin, Chris Malan, Susan Harris and Faye Morgan and a special thought for André Malan (dec) who sadly did not finish his term. Welcome to the new committee ([see page 2](#)) which boasts a mix of new and returning members, including for the key secretary and treasurer positions. There was a buzz across the committee when CRREPA received donations from members of \$100 and \$1000. We want to use these donations for something significant. If you have any suggestions please let us know. Thank you again to our donors.

Grecian, Sallie, Max and the Lions Club of Booragoon have been busy organising hands-on foreshore sessions, including working closely with the City of Canning along the strip of foreshore opposite Mt Henry which is being transformed. Thanks to all those who have participated in these sessions.

The Archive Sub-Committee (Diane, Sue, Colma) is seeing light at the end of a very long and dark tunnel. By the time you read this we will have pulled together copies of minutes for all 22 AGMs and 135 Committee Meetings as well as 42 editions of CRREPA News. An extra bonus is that Sue has made digital copies and we have a set for the City of Canning History Room. Now on to other historical documents and photos!!

Many thanks to Sue Stanley for setting up our CRREPA Facebook page so we can notify you of upcoming events. We also invite you to send in your positive experiences along the foreshore for us to share - including photographs.

### A Site of Persistence - Sallie Bryant

A 50-metre long site between 50 to 61 Riverton Drive, around from the corner of Central Avenue, has posed continuing rehabilitation problems for many, many years. It always seems to have been the weedy, barren stretch of our beautiful foreshore. Endless hours of work have been put in by CRREPA members to revegetate and improve the site's environmental contribution to the river ecosystem. But it's been a struggle. There has been a very high mortality rate for our plantings. Nevertheless, some sedges have survived over the years and hopefully we can now build on this success.

Over the past 12 months 600 sedges, a selection of ground covers and flowering native plants up to one metre high have been planted. The weeds that have grown up among the sedges planted last year have not been removed and they were not watered over summer. But more than 50 per cent of the sedges are now well established. The 150 flowering native shrubs planted in June 2015 are being carefully monitored.

An enormous effort by so many people has gone into this project this year with 131 volunteer hours. On 10 and 11 June we had 14 CRREPA members, the City of Canning Bushcrew, Conservation Volunteers Australia, and SERCUL. More than 150 bags of weeds were removed and the Green Army spread two truckloads of mulch, supplied by the City of Canning, which has helped suppress some of the weeds. The drain site project at this site has also been completed by the City of Canning where there was a broken drain and planting has been completed.

If anyone would like to adopt a metre or two of the site, please contact Sallie on 9354 2949.



[photo: Colma Keating]

## Saving and caring for our local Osprey

On 22 May this year one of our members, Sheila Kelly, found a sick Osprey in the sedges in Bull Creek and notified the City of Canning Bushcrew. The team collected the Osprey and passed him onto the WA Conservation of Raptors Group. He was very sick with possible botulism poisoning but with a lot of patience and loving care the Osprey they named *Oskarlini* was released on 20 June about 30 metres from where he was found.

Some interesting notes about our local Osprey from Wikipedia:

*The Osprey is the main avian predator of larger fish in the [Mt Henry] area. Commonly called a fish hawk, the osprey has a long body (60 cm) and a wing-span of 135–180 cm. They can be found nesting on dead trees, utility poles, pylons and floating buoys. Osprey may only be present for a few weeks of the year but can take up to 2 fish per hour (30–60 cm long). Average consumption rate has been estimated at 0.23 kg/day. The Osprey currently nesting on the Mount Henry Peninsula is nearly a permanent resident of the area; it nests on a platform and post donated by Western Power after a fire swept through the bush-land in late 1997.*

*The Osprey is notable as the best example of the predator-prey relationship within the Mount Henry Peninsula region. It is an ecological specialist (it depends on particular types of diet or habitat). The osprey's main diet is fish, and its opposable back claws let it grasp fish as it dives. It is believed to be the only bird in the area to fully submerge itself in a dive. The Osprey feeds on nearly any fish which it can digest - fish species identified in the Mount Henry-Canning River area are Black Bream, Swan River Goby and Perth Herring.*

Mavis Andrews, who coordinates the Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group, has advised that the Osprey nesting pole at Mt Henry was erected in 1998 and in October 2000 nest building commenced. By 2004 the nest was solid enough to raise a chick. One chick was also raised in 2005 and 2006, and since 2007 two young have been raised each year. They return to the nest in July and depart in December.

**Foreshore Co-ordinator – Grecian Sandwell**

### Join us for Big Day Out!

Each year the City of Canning provides CRREPA with 500 native plants. These went in early and are doing well. Some were helped along by a new product called TerraCottem. This soil conditioner promotes great plant development and the polymers in the mix absorb and store water which is available to the plant through its root hairs. We will monitor the effectiveness of the product over the next year.

We will celebrate 'Big Day Out Amongst The Weeds' again this year on **Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 am**. Keep this time free to join in the event followed by a sausage sizzle. **Please RSVP to [crrepa@gmail.com](mailto:crrepa@gmail.com) by September 6th or phone 9354 9734** if you will be attending so we can organise the catering. All members will be notified of the site details closer to the day.

**We are very grateful for the support provided by SERCUL**

To see your CRREPA Newsletter in COLOUR view or download it from their website.  
[www.sercul.org.au/crrepa.html](http://www.sercul.org.au/crrepa.html)

### YOUR CRREPA COMMITTEE 2015 - 2016

**President:** Colma Keating  
**Vice President:** Sallie Bryant  
**Secretary:** Elsie Fisher  
**Treasurer:** Bill Lambe

**Committee Members**  
Grecian Sandwell, Roslyn Bartholomaeus,  
Liz Moore, Diane Matthews,  
Stephen Johnston, Sue Stanley and Dick Bolton

Members please contact us by phone (9354 9734) or email ([CRREPA@gmail.com](mailto:CRREPA@gmail.com)) or postal address (PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148)

**Your local Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association**

CRREPA NEWS No. 43 August 2015 Page 2



Stuart Payne from WA Conservation of Raptors WA and Oskarlini [photo: Bill Lambe]