

CRREPA NEWS

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

Editors: Ken Keesing & Colma Keating

ENJOY YOUR FORESHORE RESPONSIBLY

OUR ACTIONS IMPACT ON WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

Colma Keating

How lovely it is to get out on or along our beautiful Canning River for a walk, a ride, a picnic, a paddle or a spot of fishing alone or with family and friends. A down side however is that some of our actions are irresponsible and thoughtless. For example we are not doing the right thing with fishing tackle, foreshore vegetation or keeping our distance from birds and dolphins.

If **fishing line and tackle** are not disposed of properly they can end up injuring or killing birds, fish and dolphins. Recent avoidable fatalities and injuries were:

The death of an adolescent cygnet in November after it suffered fishing hooks and line embedded in its throat and stomach. Thanks to local residents who caught the distressed cygnet and took it to the Murdoch Vet Hospital (MVH) where sadly it died from its injuries. Thanks also to the staff at MVH for their efforts this and other times.

The deaths of four dolphins due to injuries from fishing tackle such as getting line caught around their flukes, causing cuts that led to fatal infections.



Photo: Courtesy of 'Canning Times'

Pelicans getting line caught around bills, thus starving to death or like the swans, lodged inside them after swallowing line and hooks.

Remember too, when your line tangles, take it home and snip it up before disposing of it in your bin.

Reporting injured wildlife: The public are encouraged to report any injured, orphaned or sick wildlife to the Department of Parks and Wildlife wildcare helpline on 9474 9055 or the Swan River Trust on 9278 0900.

Useful websites:

- River Guardians** (riverguardians.com)
- Dolphin Watch** (riverguardians.com)
- Swan River Trust** (www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au)
- Department of Fisheries** (www.fish.wa.gov.au)
- Department of Parks & Wildlife** (www.dpaw.wa.gov.au)



Marilyn Fowler, Bronny Read and Maureen O'Neill on the Canning foreshore after rescuing an injured cygnet and taking it to Murdoch Vet Hospital, where sadly it could not be saved. All three are concerned and frustrated about the lack of care taken with fishing line and tackle and the devastating impact on wildlife.

Photo: Martin Kennealey. Courtesy of 'Canning Times'

Reel it in: The Swan River Trust (SRT) has joined forces with Recfishwest, Native Animal Rescue, the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Marine Campaign and riverfront councils to install fishing-line disposal units at popular recreational fishing locations around the Swan and Canning Rivers. It is hoped the project will stem the impact discarded fishing gear has on wildlife. All rubbish that is collected during the project will be recorded and correctly disposed of, including the incinerating of fishing line and hooks and the recycling of lead sinkers.



Photo: Courtesy of 'SRT'

Thus far, among the rubbish collected in more than 20 bins placed around the metropolitan river park, there have been 1,165 bait bags and nearly seven kilometres of fishing line!
(Continued on page 2)

President's Report

Grecian Sandwell



At our annual end-of-year picnic CRREPA got a lovely surprise when we were presented with a certificate from **Toodyay Friends of the River (TFOR)** in 'recognition of outstanding achievements with river care and community engagement'. TFOR also acknowledged the 20th anniversaries of both groups and the rivers that link us.



Greg Warburton (TFOR) presenting CRREPA's president with certificate at annual picnic.
Rebecca (standing by Grecian) is a member of both CRREPA & TFOR.

great that 12 of these City officers could join us to enjoy the lunch which by then had turned into a celebration, as the City of Canning survived!

A member from each of Canning River Regional Park Volunteers, Friends of Queens Park Bushland (FoQPB), Wilson Wetlands Action Group, Friends of Bannister Creek, Friends of Rossmoyne Park and the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare gave a short speech thanking and acknowledging the help we had all received. Sian Mawson (FoQPB) finished her speech stating "*the City had fulfilled its motto 'Above all - Service' and we look forward to more of it*" which received great applause.



Steve Atwell, Manager, Engineering and Technical Services replied on behalf of the City, stating that "*the knowledge and condition of the natural areas of the City would not have been achieved without the dedication of environmental*

community volunteers. Your contributions have been invaluable". At a recent City event, he further commented that "*the volunteer community groups share the importance of our wonderful natural assets and their work adds value 1,000 fold*".

To all those who helped make this day such a success thank you. Special thanks to the Shelley Sailing Club for offering their premises, resources and to Peter Agar (Secretary) and David Brown (Rear Commodore Property) for all their help on the day in setting up the area, cooking and cleaning away. All up a great community effort. The feeling was we wish to do more of these 'joint group' catch ups. They are great for sharing ideas as well as for the soul.

(Refer page 8 for more photos.)

I look forward to catching up with you at our **AGM** on 21st May (see details page 7) and encourage you to consider putting you hand up for a stint on your committee. *Grecian*

With the impending Council amalgamations due to take place mid this year CRREPA and six other community conservation groups working within the City hosted a **thankyou lunch for the City of Canning and officers who have worked closely with us and assisted us in our projects over the years**. It was

Our actions impact on wildlife and habitat

Colma Keating

Continued from page 1

Trampling the foreshore vegetation:

If the foreshore sedges are damaged they are unable to hold the banks with their roots causing further foreshore erosion. Also this vegetated edge of the river provides important habitat where baby fish can grow, thus ultimately damaging the sedges means less fish to catch as well as less fish for the dolphins and birds.

Anglers should only fish from the jetties (Wilber, Shelley Beach and Mumm's Point off Watersby) and designated beaches. Remember to also 'fish for the future' by knowing the fishing regulations, including bag sizes and limits. For more information visit Department of Fisheries website www.fish.wa.gov.au.

Canoeists, board riders and dinghy users can continue to help by not dragging your craft over the sedges, just move along the river to a sandy beach area.

Getting too close to birds and dolphins:

We need to give our wild animals a chance to 'do their natural thing'. How lucky are we to have resident dolphins in our river. It's wonderful to watch people stopping to enjoy them. If you are lucky enough to be on the water with them, please continue to keep your distance (at least 100 metres in a boat and 30 metres if in the water) as they are easily disturbed from their natural feeding and parenting habits. Also, if on the water or the land, continue to give our birds their space and also don't feed them. Remember to keep your dogs under control to stop them from chasing birds.



(Refer also page 7).



Getting to know CRREPA

CRREPA was formed in 1994 with the aim of ensuring that the Lower Canning and Bull Creek riverine environments are restored and conserved as healthy habitats. As such, CRREPA's activities and efforts also benefit the enjoyment of the foreshore by present and future generations.

Our major activities include the revegetation of degraded areas along the local Canning foreshore and related wetland sites from Bull Creek to the Shelley Bridge. This involves planning, weeding, planting and summer watering. We also monitor birdlife and contribute to the Dolphin Watch Program.

CRREPA has become widely recognised as a knowledgeable voice on river foreshore conservation methods and management challenges. All our activities are approved by the Swan River Trust and the City of Canning who we often work alongside.



[Keating]

The last two newsletters have celebrated the efforts of the past 20 years. Many thanks to those who have helped make the difference with your hands-on efforts, your committee work and/or your membership fees. These fees are used to purchase plants and material for revegetation work, to update our displays and to meet some of the costs of producing and distributing our newsletters.

Our precious Canning and Swan River system is very fragile. It needs all the help it can get to survive!

We welcome new members and suggestions on how we can make CRREPA and the foreshore even better.

Group report Grecian Sandwell

Thanks to all who **watered plots over summer** near Yagan viewing platform, Central Ave and Rob Bruce sites. From my calculations that means at least 17 members deserve our thanks.

The Central Ave River Rangers site and a small section opposite Rob Bruce Park require infill planting and another season of summer watering. **Rossmoyne Primary School River Rangers** are doing a trial potting-up of *Juncus kraussii* which should be ready to go in once the weather breaks.

The **Lions Club of Booragoon** continue to take good care of the Second Avenue site with weeding year round and watering over the summer months.



2014 Bushcare Day, opp Rob Bruce Park

[Harris]



Pigface, responding well to trial

A new plant *Carpobrotus virescens* (pigface) is being trialled **east of Central Ave**. As part of the trial, these were watered three times and selectively weeded. The results will be of great interest and if successful would be replicated at similar sites. This site offers a challenge as past attempts at revegetation have failed. I suspect it has been an old road works dump.

We have had some great help from CVA volunteers with over 50 bags of weeds from the site since the plants went in. We are working with the City to help improve this barren area. For further information regarding this project contact Sallie Bryant on 9354 2949.

The **City of Canning** has continued to water over summer and the newish living drain sites at Wadjup and opposite 235 Riverton Drive are benefitting.



2015 Wadjup living drain [Keating]

Target weeds for 2015 Grecian Sandwell

Weeds continue to have some of the greatest impacts on our foreshore rehabilitation, effectively 'robbing' nutrients and moisture from the local native plants—both remnant and planted by CRREPA.

This year you can help remove three target weeds. Apart from our organised hands-on weeding sessions I encourage all CRREPA members and their friends to take a plastic bag when walking along the river and to remove these, being careful to contain the seeds and dispose of them in your household bin.

Bearded oats (*Avena barbata*)

Description: A tufted grass growing to 1-1.5m. The loosely branched inflorescence has drooping spikelets. You might be calling this 'wild oats'. Flowers in spring.

Occurrence: All along the Shelley, Rossmoyne foreshore.



References: Hussey, Keighery, Dodd, Lloyd and Cousens (2007) 'Western Weeds' (2nd Ed), The weed society of WA Inc.

Acknowledgment of photos:

1. <http://galleryhip.com>
2. www.wswa.org.au
3. www.actaplantarum.org
4. www.depi.vic.gov.au
5. www.kew.org

Cretan weed (*Hedypnois rhagadioloides*)

Description: This hairy, sprawling annual also flowers in spring with single yellow heads. The head develops into a dark, woody, prickly seed case. Some plants measure up to a metre wide and 60cm high whilst others found in areas that are regularly mowed have quickly adapted and will flower at a height of 4cm and 1cm wide.

Occurrence: This is particularly bad between Second and Beatrice Avenues.



Caltrop / Puncture Vine (*Tribulus terrestris*)

Description: This prostrate annual with greyish leaves is often mistaken for a doublegee. The flowers are yellow and the fruits are spiny and roughly spherical. This is a summer weed.

Occurrence: Track going into Yagan wetland. This is not a common weed and therefore one we can eradicate.

Please also let me know of their location.



CRREPA events for ECO MAY

Communities and individuals all over WA will be hosting activities and events throughout May 2015 to celebrate our connection to living oceans, rivers and bush areas.

CRREPA is hosting:

- Weeding** Sunday 3rd 9-10am (location TBC)
- Birdwalk** Wednesday 13th 8-9am (Wadjup Point)
- Weeding** Sunday 17th 9-10am (location TBC)

For more info call Grecian on 9354 9734.

Join more 'Eco May' events. Check out calendar at: <http://ccwa.org.au/eco-may-2015>



CRREPA COMMITTEE 2014 - 2015

President
Secretary

Grecian Sandwell
Faye Morgan

Vice President
Treasurer

Sallie Bryant
Colma Keating

Roslyn Bartholomaeus
André Malan (dec)

Christine Galvin (ret)
Chris Malan

Susan Harris
Diane Matthews



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

Colma Keating - CRREPA Honorary Life Membership

Presented at end-of-year gathering, Shelley Foreshore, Sunday 7/12/2014
By Diane Matthews Past President & Honorary Life Member

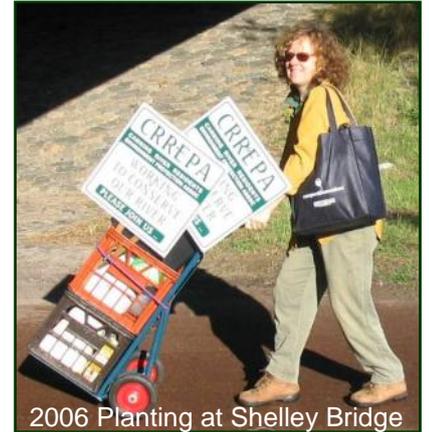
Colma is one of those people who is always thinking of how the people in the many organisations she has been involved with can work best to protect the environment. We at CRREPA have been very fortunate to have Colma living within our area of interest. Her kind and consultative personality together with her professional facilitation skills have benefited this organisation for so many years in so many ways.

Dear Colma has been a steady and supportive influence within CRREPA since the early days in the 1990s. One of the first, if not the first grant application to kick-start river care along our foreshore was put together by Colma. It underpinned the initial five site-works that were the first examples to the local residents of the capability of a voluntary community organisation such as CRREPA.

Apart from participating in the many hands-on activities along the foreshore, Colma has also involved herself in representing and promoting CRREPA. An example of her facilitation occurred some years ago when almost overnight angling became very popular, due to prizes being awarded by a tackle shop for the capture of tagged fish. A very successful promotion for fishing but a disaster for foreshore maintenance. Colma organised a meeting between the Conservation Council of WA (the State's peak community conservation organisation), the City of Canning, RecFishWest and the Swan River Trust to raise awareness of the problems and to seek solutions. The local fishing jetties were a result of this awareness raising. Of course nothing is perfect and ongoing problems continue. However, without such people as Colma prepared to confront issues and seek solutions very little would be achieved for the environment.

As well, over the years, Colma has taken hundreds of photos of CRREPA activities and archived them; been a CRREPA Newsletter Editor; as well as Treasurer and membership recorder. Together with Grecian she has compiled Environmental Awards nominations and organised partnership workdays with other organisations. Also created photo presentations to show CRREPA's proud history at AGMs and celebrations such as we have had this 20th year. All these activities happen behind the scenes and take hours of voluntary time and which contribute greatly towards the management of CRREPA and consequently our local foreshores.

Colma cares deeply about human interaction and how best to make us all welcome and appreciated when we involve ourselves in CRREPA activities. She has been a constant rock and support for both myself and Grecian over the years of our Presidencies and after her long involvement, and in our 20th year, it is fitting that on behalf of all CRREPA members I have great pleasure in presenting Colma with an Honorary Life Membership.



Thanks to the City of Canning.

A grant from the 'Community Partnership Fund' has contributed to the cost of printing this edition.

We will use additional copies to encourage more locals to join us and to help educate foreshore users about the importance and uniqueness of the area and how we can all make a positive difference.



Once again CRREPA took part in the **2020 National Shorebird Count**. This was well attended by members and passersby learnt much from stopping for a chat. The stars of the day were three pied oystercatchers and a solitary greenshank.

Instructive 'Canning River Birds' Website Colma Keating

As Bill Lambe, a fellow CRREPA member tells us as we enter his website *"It is my pleasure to display the wonderful birds of the Canning River and City of Canning. I hope the photographs will be of interest to birdwatchers and of some value as an additional resource to help identify the local birds"*.

Bill has developed a wonderful and practical website that combines his interests of walking, photography and nature. I hadn't realised just how generous this is, nor how spoilt we are until I was recently in the suburbs of Brisbane for a month and try as I may, I just couldn't find a site that would provide me with information on the local birds of Fig Tree Pocket.

The site gives at least three easy ways to access the birds. Via 'thumbnails' (as you hover over the photo, the name appears), via a bird list and/or by using a search function. Also, when you get to the photos there is the added surprise of having more than one photo of each bird to look at, which really helps with getting to know them even better.

Congratulations and thank you Bill.

<http://canningriverbirds.com>

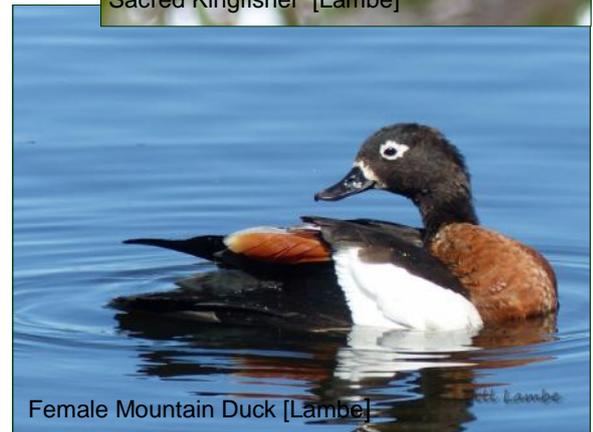


Eastern Osprey [Lambe]



Sacred Kingfisher [Lambe]

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Birds of the Canning River, Perth, Western Australia' website. It features a navigation menu with links for Home, Thumbnails, List of Birds, Favourite photos, About, Acknowledgements, and Contact. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area includes a photograph of several ducks on a log in a river, a quote from Bill Lambe, and two buttons: 'Go to Thumbnails (To identify birds)' and 'Go to Favourites (To see the best photos on this site)'. Below the buttons, there is a paragraph of text about bird species in WA and a signature for Bill Lambe.



Female Mountain Duck [Lambe]

Nature on our doorstep Colma Keating



Cormorant on roosting tree [Bryant].

Unlike most waterbirds, darters and cormorants do not have water repellent coating on their feathers. Whilst this seems a bit strange, it's really very clever. If they had water repellent wings, air would get trapped as they dive for fish, keeping them far too buoyant.

A down side is that they need to dry their wings out to prevent them from getting too heavy for flying and also to reduce the risk of sinking and drowning.

This is why we see that great sight of birds on branches, pipes and posts with their wings outstretched ...drying their feathers in the sun.

Thanks for marvelling at them from a distance and not disturbing them (including keeping your dogs under control) as otherwise they may fly away before their wings are sufficiently dry and may drown or just might choose not to visit our foreshore again.



Darter drying wings, picking up glow from setting sun [Lambe].

We are very grateful for the support provided by SERCUL including hosting our web page.
www.sercul.org.au/crrepa.html

Wadjup-Gabbilju foreshore walk coming to life

Grecian Sandwell

Congratulations to the City of Canning and EcoMedia consultant Susan Harris on the beginning of the installation of the foreshore interpretive signs that Susan and the City have been developing.

The first of the Wadjup-Gabbilju foreshore walk signs were installed at Shelley Beach Park, including the clever and eye-catching way to have a 'pelican on a post' to help tell the story! Best wishes with the installation of the remainder of these informative, artistic and sensitive signs.



Vale June Keesing



Whilst many of you may not have known June, one of her qualities was her

interest in what one had been up to, or what one thought about current issues. June was also very much the silent partner who supported Ken to do the active and visible volunteering that he does with CRREPA, the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) and the Rottneest Guides. June had a long and active volunteering life including giving back to the community with the Girl Guides.

Special thoughts to Ken, family and friends on the passing of June.

HOW CAN YOU HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Become a CRREPA member:

Join us for just one hour a month caring for the foreshore in an area closest to you; weeding, planting or watering.

Join us to bird watch, for walks and to learn about the river.

Avoid trampling foreshore vegetation.

Do NOT pour pollutants down any drains.

Do NOT feed native birds.

Reduce your use of garden fertiliser.

Clean up after your dog.

Take your fishing line, tackle and other rubbish home.

Keep informed about rivercare methods and the challenges for managers.

Let us know what other things we can all do...

Please join us for your 21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

**Canning River Eco Education
Centre
Kent Street Weir
(Cnr Kent St & Queens Park Rd)
Thursday 21st May
6:45 pm for 7pm
Guest Speaker TBC**

RSVP 17th May

Essential to let us know if you are coming and for catering.

Please ring 9354 9734 or e-mail crrepa@gmail.com

MYSTERY MEMBERSHIP RENEWALis it you??



Do you have a Bank of Queensland Account??
Did you pay your membership fees in November 2014??

If so, thanks. But please let me know who you are, as there is no reference name on your payment. Treasurer, Colma 9354 9734.

CRREPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Refer to your mailing label for membership details. If due, please detach and return this form (with your subscription) either:

by DIRECT CREDIT

BSB: 806015 Account No: 1528154
Account Name: CRREPA
Reference: mem YOUR NAME

OR

by POST

CRREPA Treasurer
PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148

OR

by HAND

CRREPA Treasurer
187b Riverton Drive Shelley

I/We _____ & _____
(Family name) (First names of members)
wish to renew our membership for: **1 year** (to 31 March 2016) **\$5.50 (single / family)** **\$2.20 (student)**
(Circle appropriate section) **5 years** (to 31 March 2020) **\$20.00 (single / family)** **\$10.00 (student)**

(Signature) (Date)

\$ _____
(Amount enclosed)

(E-mail) _____



Your local Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association

CRREPA NEWS

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



CRREPA
PO Box 3079
Shelley 6148



City of Canning staff acknowledged at the 'thank you' lunch held at the Shelley Sailing Club.
Tracy, Hayley, Max, Kathleen, Jenni, Tehlia, John, Janelle, Merise, Luke, Mary and Steve.

Volunteer Community Conservation Groups acknowledge the advice, resources & support received from the **City of Canning** over the years...



City of Canning staff and local community conservation groups acknowledging the City's support and enjoying opportunity to catch up
(Refer to President's Report page 2)



Your local Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association