

CRREPA NEWS

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

Editor: Ken Keesing

20th Anniversary Edition



[Photo: Connie Risbey]

Long time volunteers recognised by City of the Canning

Twelve environmental volunteers in the Canning region with at least 20 years of involvement under their belt were recognised for their efforts as part of the Blessing of the River in November 2013. City of Canning Commissioner Linton Reynolds said "The current condition of the Canning River and the surrounding area has a lot to do with these volunteers who have given up their time to the protection of the environment". CRREPA's Diane Matthews, Gary Matthews, Grecian Sandwell, Max Risbey and Colma Keating were all recognised. A commemorative honour board using recycled weir boards is now installed at the entrance to the Canning River Eco Education Centre at Kent Street Weir. [Extract from Canning Times by Sam Gibbs]

Please join us for your
20th ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CELEBRATION
Canning River Eco Education Centre
Kent Street Weir

6:45pm Thursday 29th May

6:45pm AGM for Members 7:30pm Celebration for Members and Guests

RSVP: Essential to let us know if you are coming. Please ring Susan 9368 1087 by 24th May or e-mail crrepa@gmail.com



President's 20th Anniversary Notes

On behalf of all of CRREPA's Presidents

Chris Baddeley (94/95), Margot Ross (95/96-97/98), Diane Matthews (98/99-04/05, 07/08),
Colma Keating (08/09-10/11), Ken Keesing (10/11-12/13) and Grecian Sandwell (05/06-06/07, 13/14).

Congratulations and thank you to members for 20 years of volunteering your time, expertise and/or resources and money. Over this period you have achieved so much. Sections of the foreshore have been transformed as we still continue to work towards our long term aim of establishing natural vegetation between the path and foreshore from Bull Creek to the Shelley Bridge.



After 20 years we boast a membership of 111, including families. More than 40 of you turn out for our annual big days weeding and/or planting and to our regular monthly sessions more than 30 of you help with foreshore care whilst continuing to enjoy our CRREPA community. It is also a time to acknowledge members no longer with us.

Over this time many members have also assisted the group by electing to go on the committee. We always need people with varying ideas and talents to bring enthusiasm to the group and so continue to improve our foreshore and to ensure CRREPA remains a healthy group.

This year with at least four retiring, I again encourage you to join the committee.

The City of Canning and its Bushcrew continue to support our efforts by including us in their yearly planning and by supplying plants, wetting agents, water, weed control, site preparation, requests for assistance from other agencies, entry point fencing, path realignment, assistance with grant applications and work permits. This translates to a very successful working partnership.



We have been assisted by the Swan River Trust (SRT) and the South East Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL). Both offer excursions to restoration projects in the Swan Canning Riverpark, where leaders of projects discuss in detail the pros and cons of different methods of restoration that we can consider for our part of the foreshore. SRT also provides guidelines for different restoration procedures and has carried out on ground works at sites including Prisoners Point and Modillion. SERCUL offers a wide range of support as needed including hands-on assistance for new plantings, hosting our webpage, and helping local schools who wish to participate in conservation and sustainable projects.



In 2007 the Lions Club of Booragoon approached CRREPA offering to contribute to the preservation of the Canning River Foreshore. They adopted the stretch from Tuscan Street to Fifth Avenue and ever since, the group has met regularly to plant, weed and water. Sincere thanks for your sustained efforts and for travelling some distance to do so.

Rossmoyne Senior High School DEC Bush Rangers, the local primary schools of Rossmoyne, Shelley and Queen of Apostles, the Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society, Ecoplan, Landcare Australia, SGIO Community, Swan Alcoa Landcare Program, the 1st Rossmoyne Shelley Scouts, Canning Sea Scouts, CSIRO Double Helix Club, Conservation Volunteers Australia and various corporations have all contributed to improving the foreshore by volunteering time, financial support and/or skills.



We have also gained advice, friendship and ongoing stamina from our neighbouring volunteer community groups including Canning River Regional Park Volunteers, Wilson Wetlands Action Group, Friends of Queens Park Bushland, Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands and Friends of Bull Creek Catchment as well as our local Canning River Eco Education Centre.

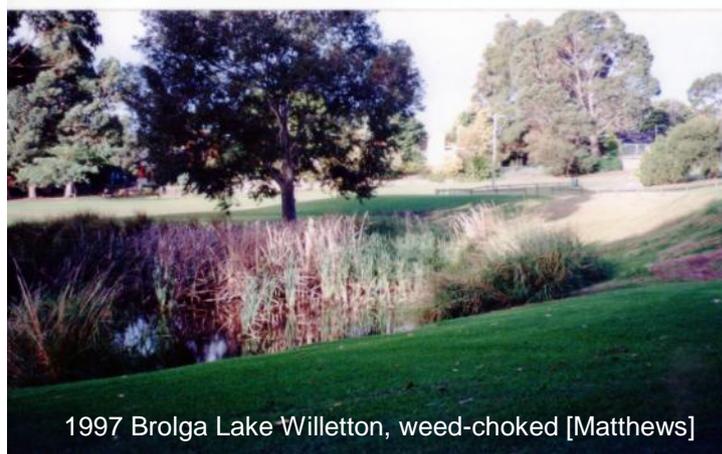
TWENTY YEARS OF THANKS TO ALL.

Looking Back — Brolga Lake an early challenging project for CRREPA in 1997

Honorary Life Member Diane Matthews

Hidden in Brolga Park, between Karel Avenue and Burren Gate in Willetton, is a small lake with a small island in the middle. Around May 1997 CRREPA was approached by the City of Canning and the then Water & Rivers Commission to consider implementing a rejuvenation and revegetation project for this lake.

At that time Brolga Lake was one of the water-testing sites being targeted by CRREPA. Any overflow from this lake travelled by pipe into Bull Creek on the far side of Karel Avenue. The lake was choked with Typha (Bulrushes) and Paspalum grass and this together with the nearby residents' habit of feeding the local ducks with copious quantities of bread, all contributed to very poor water quality results.



1997 Brolga Lake Willetton, weed-choked [Matthews]

Over the next twelve months, CRREPA members together with Tim Rogers, the newly appointed City of Canning Bushcare Officer, worked to remove the weeds and prepare the lake margins for planting. Timber planking was laid across the Typha and with careful moves it was possible to pull the younger plants at the furthest edge and gradually work your way back on your knees towards the bank, pulling the Typha etc as you went. A small boat was used also at one stage. It was messy (one wetting that we know of) but invigorating work with visible results.



1998 Weeded and planted [Matthews]

In July 1998 the margins were ready for planting and a collection of reeds and rushes (including *Lepidosperma longitundinale*) were put in. Frustratingly the ducks proceeded to pull plants out! However, over the following few years with some reinforcing planting, particularly along the east bank, a mix of planted and self-sown seedlings (including attractive *Lobelia alata*) established themselves. Signs were erected advising against feeding the ducks.

Sixteen years later, as part of the local catchment, Brolga Lake is again in need of some love and care. There is very little open-water remaining and professional advice on the future management of the vegetation could be timely.

Unfortunately, the island has been compromised. From having a thick understory habitat of sedges, it is now trampled bare. CRREPA has a history with Brolga Lake but has limited resources and is therefore unable to actively manage this site. This is also the case with the Friends of Bull Creek Catchment who work behind the Rossmoyne Senior High School.

Perhaps a local 'Friends of the Lake' can be created to help conserve this important area. Next time you are going to Southlands Shopping Centre, detour and have a look.

YOUR RIVER NEEDS YOU - JOIN IN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contact Grecian on 9354 9734 or crrepa@gmail.com to be part of the enjoyment of making a difference

CRREPA COMMITTEE 2013 - 2014



President
Secretary

Grecian Sandwell
Andre Malan

Vice President
Treasurer

Sallie Bryant
Colma Keating

Roslyn Bartholomaeus
Diane Matthews

Susan Harris
Joan Munro
Ken Keesing

Chris Malan
Brian Munro

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

CRREPA'S 20th CELEBRATIONS NEWS

Recollections from Honorary Life Member Max Risbey

I joined CRREPA shortly after retiring at the end of 1994. One day when helping with planting seedlings that were costing 40 cents to \$1:00 each, I thought "I can raise these and save a bit of money for the group".

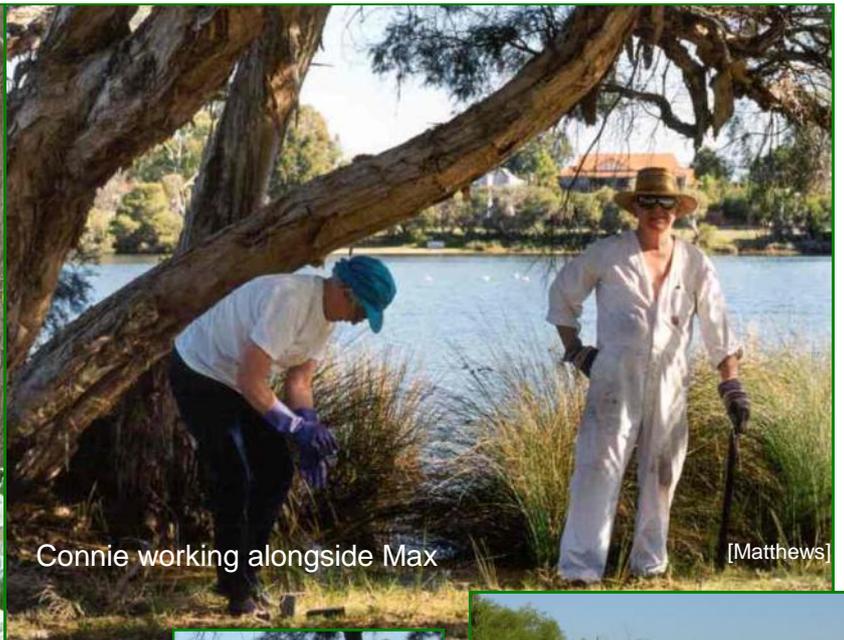
After some trials and a few errors plus encouragement from Margot Ross, (it was very difficult to say no to Margot Ross) I began raising reeds and trees from seed obtained from local plants. For a few years I raised a few thousand seedlings each year.

CRREPA paid for the potting mix and over a number of years the Canning Council purchased plants that I raised. CRREPA also donated part of this income, namely \$1,000, towards the Wilbur Street jetty reconstruction.

It is always disappointing when plants failed due to high tide and storm erosion or hot dry summers. You have to accept that only a few percent will survive. When they do survive it is rewarding to see mature trees and reed banks knowing that you had a hand in it. I like to point out to my grand children trees that I have raised and planted.

It was also an honour to be awarded a CRREPA Honorary Life Membership in 2003.

It has always been rewarding to work with CRREPA members each month and on major jobs and to fondly remember those who are no longer with us.



Editor's Note: Over the past 20 years, many of you will have seen Max working along the foreshore with his bike and usually in his white or orange overalls. Max utilizes his trusty old bike for his various foreshore activities. Depending on the situation, the front basket may contain bottles of Max's special plant growth concoction, or herbicide for weed control. The rear carrier holds a large tray full of juvenile plants ready for planting.



Signage set for foreshore

Susan Harris, Interpretation consultant to the City of Canning

Walkers along the Wadjup-Gabbilju foreshore (coinciding with most of CRREPA's stretch along the Lower Canning) will soon be able to appreciate that it is a tricky place to manage. On the other side of the Indian Ocean there are estuaries in South Africa a bit like ours, but even amongst Australia's eastern states' estuaries it is not easy to find equivalents for solutions. ^{[1][2]} For a start, our tidal range is unusually small, and during summer droughts the upper parts of our estuaries can be barely even shallow pools. ^[3]

To make it more difficult, Wadjup-Gabbilju's soil is not its original soil, the estuarine geography is not Nature's own design, and everything that's been brought in has its own innate properties. This means the beautifully soft edges of the Canning can be a nightmare on wheels for an erosion scientist and an unravelling experiment for a rehabilitator. Thus, any progress in prolonging the estuarine strip as a lovely sliver of nature is a feat. No wonder CRREPA gets exhausted hunkering down year after year, trying to extend the life of the foreshore! Conservation is enough of a battle without it being tricky!



Early viewing of signs at CRREPA's 2013 Christmas picnic [Keating]

Research needed at any depth

Whilst our attention is sometimes drawn to the deepest parts a boat first encounters after leaving our South Indian Ocean coastline, the Convict Fence in the Canning has flagged the shallowest for over a century — a stretch so long and shallow that settlers requested kilometres of navigation channels, lined with convict-built experimental fencing.

CRREPA will always need to be innovative and clever. Given its honourable mission to deliver nothing but the best in Nature's terms, CRREPA's frontline has to continue to be steadfastly committed and to work hard with little conventional economic encouragement. It is therefore a privilege for the Wadjup-Gabbilju foreshore walk project to have had CRREPA endorse the proposed signage so regularly and in such a determined manner.

Project update

All the signs (i.e. text and images on aluminium) have been made. They were funded partly by a grant from Lotterywest that many Canning groups like CRREPA wrote letters (brilliant letters) of support to help the City secure. The steel support stands for the signs are currently being made.

Although aware we are behind schedule, and apologise for the terrific delays this project has often encountered, we have held back on installing the 11 signs for the ablution block and Riverton Bridge handrail until the stands for the other signs are ready. The time of year for installation will depend on progress through the final fabrication firms, but we anticipate the public will be able to join a celebration of their installation in warm weather, certainly before the end of the year!

It was a remarkable mix of much effort that got the project this far. The project's Interpretation Plan acknowledges the names and specialities of all stakeholders and the many other contributors. The following is a small selection of occasional background assistants that probably rarely get the praise they deserve: CCC Librarians like Kevin and Gaye, Engineering's Chang, and committed Parks & Streetscapes staff members like Ian Pound and Pam and the humble honest planet-protectors like Warwick from the other side of the river. But mention should also be made here of the solidly-reliable convict warder descendants *et al* along the foreshore that witnessed most, if not all of the project's breaths! Many thanks to CRREPA and the members of its committees, especially Ken and Joan.

World Oceans Day is on 8th June. <http://sustainability.canning.wa.gov.au/Events/world-ocean-day-3>



Susan with paperbark sign [Keating]
Inset: Corner of prototype rusty steel stand

REFERENCES

- [1] Brearley, A. (2005): *Swanland*, UWA Press, Western Australia.
- [2] DOW Water Science Technical Series Reports: <http://www.water.wa.gov.au/PublicationStore/first/100214.pdf> page 8
<http://www.water.wa.gov.au/PublicationStore/first/84252.pdf> page 11
- [3] Harris, T.F.W. (2002): *The South Indian Ocean — aspects of its exploration, form and flow*. Unpublished manuscript 250pp by my late oceanographic father in his retirement which I am happy to lend. It explains our place alongside the vast salt-water body that we know so little about.

CRREPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Refer to 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 2015) **\$5.50 (single / family)** **\$2.20 (student)**
(Circle appropriate section) **5 years** (to 31 March 2019) **\$20.00 (single / family)** **\$10.00 (student)**

(Signature)

(Date)

\$ _____
(Amount enclosed)

(E-mail) _____



CRREPA NEWS

Newsletter of the Canning River Residents
Environment Protection Association (Inc), November, 1994

Editor: Cam Ross,

[2014 Editor's Note: After a long battle with cancer, sadly Cam passed away in 2009. We acknowledge his significant contributions.]



This is CRREPA's first newsletter. We hope to produce two per year. The next one will be in April, before our Annual General Meeting.

As you know, CRREPA was formed last May by Canning residents who were alarmed about the degradation of the Canning River & Bullcreek Wetland areas. CRREPA's main aim is to ensure that our unique riverine environment is both restored and conserved for future generations to enjoy.

In June we presented a comprehensive submission to the Swan River Trust (SRT) about future management plans for the Lower Canning River. Our views were well received, and many of our recommendations should appear in the final draft.

Since then we have forged excellent links with the SRT, which has led to the SRT sending members of their busy field staff to teach CRREPA members how to collect and test water samples from the river. This month the SRT officer responsible for the final draft plan inspected foreshore degradation with our Vice-President (Margot Ross) in order to be more informed about the problems we face along the foreshore.

CRREPA became incorporated in August and our membership exceeds 200. We are fully accredited with the Canning City Council, who have supported our efforts with a donation of \$150. A presentation about the Bull Creek wetlands and the Canning foreshore will be made to full Council on November 25.

We anticipate that most of our ideas will be incorporated in the Council's management plan for the wetland/foreshore area.

Greening Australia Project

Our applications to Greening Aust for 15,000 juncus plants (reeds), and to the Council for 2000

paperbarks, 500 river gum & 500 sheoak seedlings was approved.

It is expected that these plants will become available next year to enable us to start revegetating the most seriously denuded areas of the foreshore.

CRREPA has several important interest groups. They are:

Water Sampling & Testing Group

This group is involved in collecting and testing water samples from several sites in the Canning River, ranging from the Bullcreek inlet (and above) to upstream from Riverton Bridge, near the old Adenia Road tip. The group has been fortunate to have had the assistance of Mr Paul Rieffer, of the Ribbons of Blue Scheme which is under the control of the SRT. Paul has given up three of his Sunday mornings over the past four months to educate the group about the mysteries of accurate water sample collection and testing.

To be valid, each sample must be collected halfway between the water surface and the bottom. (Not as easy as it seems!). Care must be taken to ensure that bubbles are prevented from entering the test bottle. Then each sample is measured on site, for temperature, PH, turbidity (water clarity) and salinity. These tests are similar to those done on the family swimming pool.

However tests for dissolved oxygen, phosphates and nitrates are also necessary. These are more complex so it will need a few more sessions before we can complete them with the desired accuracy.

It is anticipated that regular tests will be done at least 4 times per year and the results both published in the Canning Melville Times and sent to SRT for further analysis.

Seed Collection & Propagation Group

This group has collected hundreds of seed pods of River Gums, River Sheoaks, from along the foreshore. The Council will provide its plant nursery facilities to propagate the seeds, which we hope will be ready for planting in 1995.

Replanting Foreshore Vegetation Group

This group will be busy when the seedlings are ready for planting, although it is expected that Council staff will do most of the hard work.

Foreshore Vegetation Survey Group

This group has completed a very comprehensive survey of part of the foreshore adjacent to the Bull Creek wetlands, near Bullcreek Road. Many exotic plants were identified that must be replaced with indigenous plants.

Bird Survey Group

The Bullcreek wetlands and mudflats are frequented by a very diverse population of aquatic and terrestrial birds. This fragile habitat is threatened by those who support the idea of constructing boardwalks, pathways etc. through that area. Such development would be counter productive and probably drive the birds away!

At present the wetland birds can easily be observed from the existing dual-use pathway that skirts the Bullcreek inlet.

Several sub-groups observe and record bird sightings along selected areas of the foreshore.

We have been delighted at variety and quantity of birdlife seen. Since the barrier fence was erected about 5 years ago there has been a significant increase in the bird population along the entire foreshore.

CRREPA Community Involvement and Environmental Education
Can you spot yourself? Thanks for your contributions over the past 20 years.

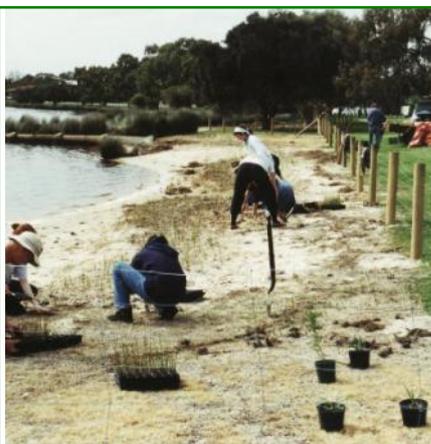


[Keating]

2013 A very successful weeding day last October with the local 1st Rossmoyne Shelley Scout Group. Their hard work resulted in a large number of full bags put on the roadside for collection by the City. A rewarding and enjoyable day for all.



2007 Landcare Australia Corporate Day with Woodside at Bull Creek [Keating]



1997 Murdoch Brand Wildflower Society and CRREPA opp 183-189 Riverton Dr [Matthews]



2001 National Tree Day [Matthews]



2003 National Tree Day [Matthews]



2005 Planting in the rain [Keating]



2012 Mulching at Shelley Bridge [Harris]



2006 Committee Meeting [Keating]



2005 Weeding Bull Creek [Matthews]



2008 Rossmoyne SHS Bush Rangers at Yagan [Sandwell]



2013 Wadjup Living Drain [Keating]

Your local Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association

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CRREPA
PO Box 3079
Shelley 6148



Join **FREE Bird Walks**
On the Canning Foreshore
hosted by CRREPA
66 species recorded, including
29 waterbirds, 5 raptors
Book with Grecian 9354 9734

2014 Birdwatchers recording for National Shorebird 2020 Survey [Harris]



1995 Bushland Care Day [Matthews]



2012 Nearwater Living Drain [Keating]



2007 Introducing Lions Club of Booragoon to foreshore & CRREPA



2011 CRREPA Display at Big Day Out Amongst the Weeds [Keating]



2009 World Environment Day Halophila Bay [Keating]

Our special thanks to the City of Canning for their assistance with the cost of the printing of our 20th Anniversary Newsletter

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

Your local Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association