

SERCUL

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Newsletter - Autumn Edition

Welcome to our latest newsletter!

If you have any comments on the newsletter or would like to be included on our distribution list please call us on 9458 5664.

Electronic newsletter

We are trying to cut down on the amount of paper we use. Please advise us if you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email. Email amykrupa@sercul.org.au to be included in the distribution group.

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We are very excited to inform that from now on, SERCUL's Newsletters are going to have a space dedicated to volunteering. In the Volunteer Corner we are going to include stories from our volunteers, highlight events and achievements related to our volunteers, articles about the meaning of volunteering for our lives and much more!

"I thought someone should do something, then I realised I was someone"
John F. Kennedy

Volunteering at SERCUL

Volunteers have provided SERCUL with general and specific skills and experience required for the running of the SERCUL committee and almost every SERCUL program including; site maintenance; planting, weeding, mulching; revegetation projects; office administration; office handyman; rubbish pick-up; drain stencilling; vegetable garden maintenance; special community events; volunteer education; knowledge management and website maintenance.

Volunteer contribution at SERCUL has increased during the past years. Between November 2008 and October 2009, the increment was around 12% compared to the previous year. The total volunteer contribution was represented by 21,704 hours (equivalent to ~\$632,220) meanwhile the previous year the total contribution was 19,181 hours (equivalent to \$575,430).

SERCUL appreciates and values the two-way relationship between the organisation and volunteers, and is committed to offer a Volunteer Program that not only assists SERCUL's work but also satisfies volunteer needs and expectations.

If you would like to volunteer contact SERCUL or visit our website: www.sercul.org.au



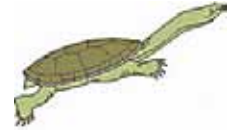
SERCUL offers volunteers the following support:

- 🌟 Training in all facets of environmental management
- 🌟 Employment & career changes
- 🌟 Support to inspire and motivate people to work in and towards their dream job
- 🌟 Inspiration to work on the land
- 🌟 Motivation to increase learning

YOU CAN BECOME A SERCUL VOLUNTEER TOO!



From the Chair



OLD DRAINS TO GET FACELIFT Urban Waterways Renewal Project



SERCUL are working in partnership with the Department of Water and Local Government to plan, design and implement the upgrading of 11 drainage and detention basin sites in the Cities of Armadale, Canning and Gosnells. A Federal election commitment from the Australian Labour Government was for \$4M for the Perth metropolitan 'Urban Waterways Renewal'. The project will be delivered under a National Partnership Agreement between the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments for Water for the Future – National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns. An additional amount of \$4.5M has been leveraged from State Government initiatives, Water Corporation and the Cities of Armadale, Gosnells and Canning to augment Urban Waterways Renewal work. SERCUL will provide significant support for the implementation of the project.

The Urban Waterways Renewal project is focused on implementing priority actions identified in the Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan and the local Water Quality Improvement Plans for Bannister Creek, Southern River and Bickley Brook catchments. The majority of the projects will convert existing urban drainage lines into living streams and by improving water retention and infiltration capabilities of compensation basins, stormwater quality will be improved!

State NRM Funds of \$3.19M have also been allocated to the Swan River Trust to implement the Swan-Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan. Of this, \$867,000 will be used for the construction of a living stream and two basin upgrades as well as complimentary works on the six Urban Waterways Renewal project sites in the Southern River catchment (City of Armadale).

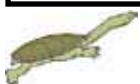
So weedy swales like this.....will transform into.....living streams like this



Drain in the Southern River catchment

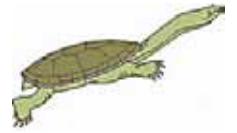


Bannister Creek Site 6 (six years post restoration)





SERCUL Happenings



Beckenham Open Space Updates

- The absence of rain over the summer has facilitated weed management at the BOS by leaving the team with existing weeds to hand pull or spray. This is positive as only a few new weed thickets have emerged over this time.
- The plantings in the Men of the Trees - Bowra and O’Dea sponsored Memorial Groves are growing well, are healthy and the weed control has been outstanding! Many sites will be further planted this year to continue restoration works.
- The new shadehouse near the shed has been fitted with irrigation and is now nurturing plenty of young, healthy vegetable, herb and local native seedlings. Thanks goes to the great team at Panama Studios for their help and successful seed sewing!
- The permaculture garden is running well with a prolific harvest of delicious cherry tomatoes and cucumbers in the summer, and now the pumpkins and melons are growing and ripening for the picking. There are plenty of herbs, such as basil, thyme, lemon grass and curry leaves - delicious!
- Restoration work has commenced on the north-facing smaller boardwalk. Termite damage has occurred to a main support beam and was fortunately spotted early.
- The SERCUL landcare team have commenced a 12 month weeding contract at the beautiful Wireless Hill park with the Friends of Wireless Hill and City of Melville. This project is funded by the Swan Alcoa Landcare Project (SALP).
- **Dog Walkers Beware:** The drought has brought out a few Dugite snakes hunting for a food source. One was recently spotted at the homestead, terrorizing Amy with his/her presence! Other critters spotted by John, Jake and Tracy recently have been a large monitor goanna, juvenile king skinks and some beautiful rainbow bee-eaters were sited feeding above the Yule Brook Homestead. A “Twitter’s” delight!

From the SERCUL Landcare Team: Tracy, Jake and John!



King Skinks embracing in the SERCUL native garden

Shingleback Bobtails Spotted at Wireless Hill Park

By Jake Usher

The recent storm in March has heralded a change of season for Perth into ‘Djeran’. Djeran is a period of two months within the Noongar cycle of six seasons. The Djeran season is when the weather becomes cooler and the westerly winds come from the south.

Since the storm, the usual winter weeds have begun to emerge splitting the soil that has been parched by such a long dry summer. The storm has also stirred the native wildlife of wireless hill park into action, with the sightings of numerous shinglebacked skinks or bobtails feeding on local bushland plants and insects. Bobtails as they are locally known are members of the skink family. The skinks seen in Wireless Hill park are *Tiliqua rugosa rugosa* and the Noongar name is Yourin. There are over 370 species of skinks that are known in Australia.

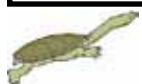
The skink mating season is spring and early summer and give birth (no eggs) in late March to April. They

are monogamous (have one partner) and they can live up to 20 years, but normally 10 to 15. Their sizes have ranged from babies approximately 15cm long and the stunning adults to 30cm in length. Their beautiful colours of olive brown, black, red and orange provide a very good camouflage against the sandy soil. There is a rare subspecies on Rottnest Island, *T. r. konowi*, it is blackish with creamish spots and only grows to about 20cm.

The skinks give birth to one to two (rarely three) live young at the beginning of autumn and are now preparing for hibernation over winter. They will forage for a variety of foods including snails, insects, carrion, fungi, native vegetation and flowers. We observed skinks eating the purple flowers of the *Hemiandra pungens*.

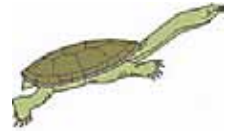


Shinglebacked bobtail at SERCUL





SERCUL Happenings



Gosnells Community Bendigo Bank Sponsorship

In 2009 Gosnells Community Bendigo Bank offered sponsorship to help SERCUL purchase a vehicle, equipment and volunteer clothing to assist in landcare activities and the smaller environmental groups in the South-East Region. It has been difficult to find funding for equipment for on-ground work for a number of years and our new relationship with the Gosnells Bendigo Bank has already provided some vital assets.

In early 2009 Gosnells Bendigo Bank put funds towards the purchase of a Toyota Hilux 4WD Ute which has been used to transport volunteers, plants and equipment to restoration sites. They have also assisted in helping SERCUL have a professional on-hold message created for our phone system. SERCUL are currently working with Gosnells Bendigo Bank towards having T-shirts printed to provide to volunteers working with SERCUL on revegetation projects.



Right: Jake Usher, Tom Atkinson and John Maliunas on site with the new Toyota Hilux, sponsored by Gosnells Community Bendigo Bank

CLEAN DRAINS



RIVER GAINS

Since March 2006, the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL), in conjunction with the City of Melville and All Saints' College students, have been running a stormwater pollution awareness campaign called 'Clean Drains River Gains'. The campaign aims to highlight the link between stormwater drains and natural waterways and to raise awareness on how to reduce pollutants entering creeks, rivers and wetlands.

Each year, All Saints' College students go out with SERCUL and stencil the drains surrounding the wetlands and residential areas with the campaign logo as part of their 'Helping Hands' Community Service Program.

The campaign not only raises awareness of the link between drains and natural waterways via the stenciling; but also provides quality information through letterbox drops on how City of Melville residents can change their habits to reduce pollutants entering the river.

SERCUL would like to thank the 182 students and teachers from All Saints' College that have put about 1350 hours into the implementation of the campaign around the City of Melville during the last five years.

For more information about the campaign or stormwater pollution and the damage it causes to our waterways, as well as some practical steps you can take to prevent it please visit www.sercul.org.au/cleandrain.html



**Clean Drains
River Gains
is an entrant
in the
KABC Sustainable
Cities 2010.**

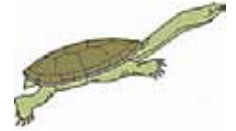


All Saints College students and teachers with programme coordinator Joanne Bosorio and City of Melville Environmental Officer Deanne Wynn.





Two Rivers Catchment Group



National Tree Day 2010

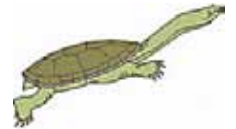
The Two Rivers Catchment Group and the Bannister Creek Catchment Group will be holding a National Tree Day volunteer planting event on Sunday 1st August 2010. Last year the TRCG National Tree Day was very successful with over 7000 trees, rushes and other natives being planted at Masons Landing. This year Bannister Creek Catchment Group has jumped on board so National Tree Day 2010 is set to be a big one! We will be planting at the Greenfield Street Bridge site in the Canning River Regional Park, Cannington from 9am to 3pm. Volunteers will need to wear appropriate clothing, such as a hat, covered shoes, long-sleeved shirt and long pants and please bring along your own garden gloves and a mug if possible. The Cannington Lions Club will be cooking up a barbeque lunch for volunteers and tea, coffee, drinking water and planting tools will be provided. If you would like more information please contact Tom Atkinson at SERCUL on 9458 5664.



Volunteers planting by the Canning River at the 2009 National Tree Day.



City of Armadale



Streamcare Promotion 2010

Since the inception of the City of Armadale's Streamcare Project in 2002, the City of Armadale has helped hundreds of landholders take care of their local riverside environment. The program aims to revitalise local streams and improve the habitat for native fish and wildlife through the planting of native flora and careful use of weed control, fertilisers and pesticides by landowners.

Any City of Armadale resident who has a waterway flowing through their property has the chance to participate in the program. Landholders can receive technical advice regarding weed control, herbicides, property planning and revegetation, all specific to their property from the City's Streamcare Promoter. Landowners may also be eligible for free native plants through the program, to revegetate their waterway and create a healthier environment.

Be part of Streamcare today and watch the benefits flow on and on. If you live in the City of Armadale, have a waterway on your property and would like to be involved in this program, please contact the City of Armadale Environmental Officer, Paula Haro at pharo@armadale.wa.gov.au or on 9399 0111.



Degraded River System

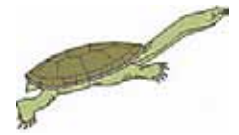


Planting degraded river system





Community News



CALL for papers!

Abstract submission, for either oral or poster presentations, closes 31 May 2010.
 Please visit our website <http://www.environment.murdoch.edu.au/groups/ecology/workshop.html> for abstract submission guidelines, as well as further symposium details.

This symposium seeks to provide a forum for discussion of how to manage, conserve and restore the natural ecosystem fragments in urban areas of the Australasian region, with a strong focus on the needs of the rapidly growing urbanized areas of coastal SW Australia.



Focal Urban Ecosystems :

- Bushlands
- Wetlands
- Estuaries
- Coasts

WA State Government Pulls Funding for the Canning River Eco Education Centre teacher

The City of Canning have been advised that the Department of Education will not continue to provide funding for a full time teacher at the Canning River Eco-Education Centre as from June 30th 2010. They will however, continue to support a teacher at a centre in Herdsman Park in the North of the River. We invite the community to write to Minister Liz Constable MLA to raise your concern regarding the deletion of this funding for a highly successful education program.

Prior to the school holiday period, the CREEC Week event for schools was held, where special guest presenters took students on free rotating workshops. Even with heavy storms on the Monday we were able to put 200 students through the events. Creepy Crawlies workshops were popular in the Canning school holiday workshop, where children created their own buggy book bags, and their own personal bug-catchers.

CREEC Autumn Programmes 2010 “EXPLORE YOUR PARK”

Freshwater Fauna of the Canning River

Come along and find out about the freshwater fauna in the Canning River, presented by Dr David Morgan/Stephen Beatty and Phd Candidate Michael Klunzinger, Freshwater Fish Unit & Murdoch University
 This is a free seminar and will be held at:

Canning River Eco Education Centre
 Kent Street, Wilson
 Tuesday 25th May 2010
 7.30pm - 9pm

Tea and coffee will be provided.
 Please RSVP to SERCUL on 9458 5664 or to bonitaclark@sercul.org.au by Friday 21/05/10

For information about mussels please see the new website:

www.mussellwatchwa.com



Pictures in the Park Getting Started in Nature Photography

Discover the beauty of the Canning River Regional Park's native plants and animals with members of the Canning Photo Workshop Inc. In this beginners guide to wildlife photography you'll get tips and tricks on how to get the most out of your digital camera as well as the opportunity to get feedback on your own shots. The “rules” of nature photography will be explained for those people who want to go on to enter national and international competitions. No prior knowledge will be expected. Cameras are optional, but please come equipped with walking shoes and outdoor clothing if you intend to participate in the optional shoot.

Saturday 22nd May 2010
 9.30am – 12.30pm
 \$8.00 per person

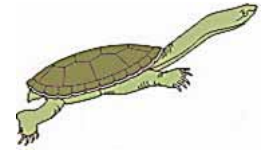
Bookings are Essential. For more information or to register please contact CREEC on 9461 7160 or email creec@canning.wa.gov.au





Calendar of Events

What is happening in your catchment?



Date & Time	Activity/Event	Group Contact
Tues 25th May 7:30pm - 9pm	Freshwater fauna of the Canning River, Free seminar by Michael Klunzinger - PhD Candidate, Dr Dave Morgan and Dr Steven Beatty. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please RSVP by 21st May. Canning River Eco Education Centre, Kent St, Wilson	Bonita Clark bonitaclark@sercul.org.au 9458 5664
Sunday 23rd May 9am-11am	WWAG Work Day Volunteers welcome! Please wear enclosed footwear, hat, long pants and sunscreen. Site TBA	Wilson Wetlands Action Group Russell 9258 7301
Wednesday 2nd June 7:30 - 9:30pm	BCCG Meeting Where: SERCUL – 69 Horley Rd, Beckenham	BCCG Melinda 9458 5664
Monday 7th June	CRRPV Foundation Day Celebrations in conjunction with City of Canning @ Kent Street Weir	CRRPV Jo 9458 3669 or email Pam
Wednesday 9th June 7.30pm - 9pm	TRCG Meeting City of Belmont	TRCG Vicky 0409 113 027
Sunday 13th June 9am - 11am	BCCG Bush Regeneration Day: Planting Where: TBA	BCCG Melinda 9458 5664
Monday 14th - Wednesday 16th June 9am - 12:30pm	WWAG Arbor Event working with Ecojobs Details TBA	WWAG Russell 9258 7301
Wednesday 16th June 7:30pm	CRRPV Meeting @ Canning River Eco-Education Centre	CRRPV Jo 9458 3669
Sunday 20th June 9am - 11am	WWAG Work Day Volunteers welcome! Please wear enclosed footwear, hat, long pants and sunscreen. Site TBA	WWAG Russell 9258 7301
Wed 25th - Fri 27th August	Perth Urban Ecology Symposium Registration Essential www.environment.murdoch.edu.au/groups/ecology	Billi W.Veber@murdoch.edu.au

Please RSVP to the relevant Contact Group to attend these activities and events.
***Check the SERCUL website www.sercul.org.au/events.html for updated events.**
 If you have an upcoming event and would like it included in the Calendar of Events
 please email the details to amykrupa@sercul.org.au





South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

SERCUL Staff:

- Regional Coordinator - Julie Robert
- Water Management Officers - Tom Atkinson, Ana Terrazas
- Canning River Project Officer - Glen Byleveld
- Phosphorus Awareness Project Coordinator - Amy Krupa
- Landcare Officers - Melinda Snowball, Tracy Evans, John Maliunas, Jake Usher
- PhD Candidate and research officer - Paul Lock
- Financial Admin Officer - Sandy Wainwright
- Administration Assistant - Bonita Clark
- Volunteer Coordinator - Monica Estrada

Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group Staff:

- Community Landcare Coordinator - Crystal McIvor

Email: firstnamelastname@sercul.org.au

SERCUL Executive Committee:

- Chairperson - Pat Hart
- Deputy Chair - Marc Lane
- Treasurer - Cam Clay

Contact Us At:
 69 Horley Road,
 Beckenham WA 6107
 Phone: 9458 5664
 Fax: 9458 5661
 Website: www.sercul.org.au

If undeliverable, please return to:

SERCUL
 69 Horley Road
 Beckenham WA 6107



South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

The South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare wishes to thank our main sponsors.

