



SERCUL

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Newsletter - Summer Edition

Welcome to our latest newsletter!

If you have any comment 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.

Setting high standards: SERCUL launches the Fertilise Wise product endorsement system

On the 1st of September 2009 SERCUL officially launched the Fertilise Wise Responsible and Effective Fertiliser endorsement. Products displaying the Fertilise Wise logo provide an assured guide to consumers that the fertiliser product is both environmentally responsible and highly effective.

SERCUL licenses the use of the Fertilise Wise logo on fertiliser products that have undergone, and passed, a rigorous independent scientific testing process. To gain endorsement, products need to demonstrate a low risk of nutrient contamination of waterways

and meet the Australian organic farming standards for heavy metal contaminants.

Fertilise Wise endorsed products also need to contain balanced levels of major and trace elements for growing healthy soil, lawns, plants and food and demonstrate that they will not contribute to soil acidity if used according to the label directions. Fertilise Wise endorsed products are required to be comprehensively labeled to indicate exactly how much fertiliser is required for particular plant types and what time of year the fertiliser is best and most safely applied. Products also have to be

highly effective as a fertiliser. To date the Shades of Green fertiliser range are the only products to have achieved Fertilise Wise endorsement.

SERCUL's Fertilise Wise program has evolved from a community information approach started by the Phosphorus Action Group in 2003, to now encompass a strategic

Contents

Fertilise Wise Endorsement Program Launch	1
Messages from the Chair	2
Permaculture Garden	3
Needs Workshop	3
SERI Conference	4
New SERCUL Staff	4
AGLG wins K.A.B. award	5
BCCG News	6
Community Calendar	7



The Fertilise Wise endorsement logo.

behaviour change approach. This approach has developed infrastructure for the delivery of triggers that stimulate fertiliser use behaviour change such as an easily identified and creditable logo to guide purchasing, provision of suitable products to purchase, a local distribution system and retail outlets.

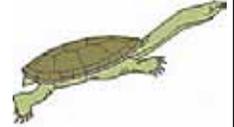
For more information visit the SERCUL website at www.sercul.org.au/fertilise_wise.html or for retail outlet information please visit www.stocktech.com.au/resellers.aspx



SERCUL Officers Paul Lock, Julie Robert, Amy Krupa and Chairperson Pat Hart at the Fertilise Wise launch.



Messages from the Chair



Christmas Wishes to all Friends and Partners of SERCUL



On behalf of committee members and staff of SERCUL I would like to extend our sincere thanks to you all for your commitment and dedication for the ongoing management and repair of our precious natural environment. We do appreciate the great partnerships and teamwork that we have either been involved with or have seen occurring throughout our region.

I wish also to acknowledge Julie Robert, our Manager/Coordinator for the outstanding role she has played over the past year for SERCUL. Julie's commitment and dedication has been a key component in our achievements.

As you are aware it is not always a smooth pathway we tread in our efforts to ensure our natural environment is managed and protected, but we are showing through our efforts and successes that it is teamwork, dedication and respect for each other that makes the journey rewarding and enjoyable.

Best wishes for the Festive Season and I hope that you take time out to relax and enjoy the break that you all deserve.

Pat Hart, Chair SERCUL

NRM Involvement is Growing in the South Region

SERCUL is stimulating the growth of Natural Resource Management in the South Region with many new projects commencing in the coming New Year. All of these projects assist with the management and protection of our natural environment. I encourage you to keep a watch on our website to gain a constant update. www.sercul.org.au

New Projects:

- SERCUL have just recently received funds from the State Dept of Environment and Conservation Community Environment Grants to assist with community volunteer support and capacity. This project is being implemented by Monica Estrada, who is working 2 days week to develop and implement a volunteer management system.
- The Department of Water is negotiating a major State & Australian Government partnership project worth more than \$8 million. The Australian Government Dept of Environment Heritage Water and the Arts project will assist in renewing some old urban drainage systems in the Cities Armadale, Gosnells and Canning. All partnerships are nearing agreement and we hope that these projects will commence planning early in the New Year.
- The WA Government has allocated significant NRM funding to the South Region for the implementation of the Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan. The Swan River Trust will work with SERCUL and other NRM partners to implement projects.
- SERCUL are partnering with Murdoch University to seek funding in a PhD project to investigate freshwater mussel locations and to investigate the role they have within the Swan & Canning waterways system.
- Another partnership project we are seeking funding for is to address sedimentation – this is a critical issue for the health of the rivers. The Swan River Trust has recently commenced some work in this area and SERCUL would like to assist to progress this by seeking further project funds to implement scientific assessments of deep pools and trial methods for prevention of sedimentation.

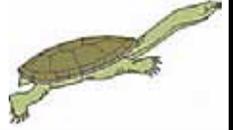


Freshwater Mussel (*Westralunio carteri*)





SERCUL Happenings



Permaculture Garden

Staff from SERCUL have completed a permaculture design course which included the development of a Permaculture garden at SERCUL in the grounds surrounding the homestead. On the 13th September 2009 the Permaculture course participants held a Permablitz, creating new raised garden beds, a citrus orchard, trellis with vine fruit, a worm farm made out of a recycled fridge and planted some fruit trees. The garden will provide a facility for organisations and groups working with disability services clients and will also be open the general public and other community members/groups who would like to get involved. If you are interested in getting a group involved or just take a keen interest please contact SERCUL.



Permaculture course participants doing a 'Permablitz' in the gardens at SERCUL, 13/09/2009.

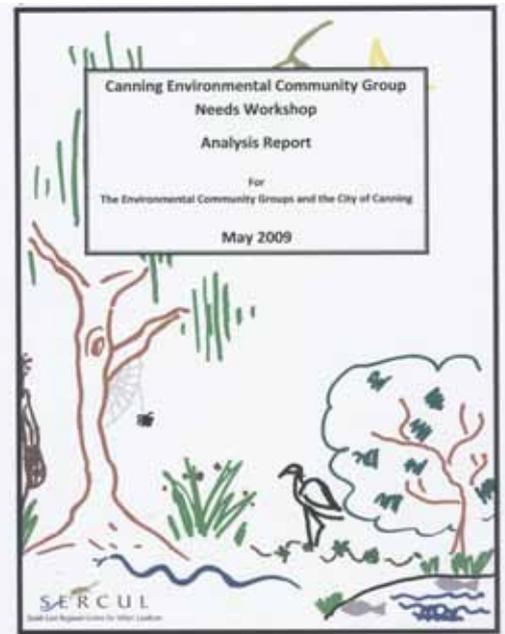


The new raised vegetable garden beds established by the permaculture course participants.

Needs Workshop

Following the 2008 Environmental Community needs survey which was sent out to the Environmental community groups in the City of Canning, a Needs workshop was held with the Environmental groups in May 2009. A draft report has been produced by SERCUL and the City of Canning with a final report due to be released in November. The workshop was well attended with many new ideas for the City and SERCUL to provide better community support to the groups and volunteers.

If you are interested in the report and would like a copy please contact SERCUL.



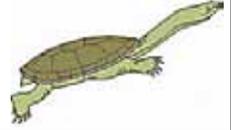
Stella Sofia Atkinson

Tom and Mikala Atkinson's daughter Stella was born on the 15th of October 2009. This was also the day of the SERCUL AGM, which Tom missed to welcome his little girl into the world. Sebastian Atkinson, born in 2007, now has a little sister. Hope to see you around SERCUL in the future Stella!





SERCUL Happenings



International scientists visit our iconic wetlands

35 international delegates attended the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SERI) conference wetland restoration field trip on August 27, 2009. The field trip was sponsored by SERCUL and it was part of the 19th SERI conference hosted by the Botanic Garden and Parks Authority being attended by more than 700 delegates.

This field trip gives the international science community a chance to understand the hard work and science behind managing the water issues faced by the South East region. Delegates also gained an insight into the wetland restoration projects and the programs SERCUL is working on.

A key focus of the field trip was showing delegates SERCUL's work in implementing cross boundary projects through developing partnerships with several state agencies and local governments but most important with the input of the community and volunteers.

The SERI conference ran from the 23-27 August 2009 and was held at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre. More than 140 posters, 5 workshops and 400 oral sessions were presented representing current research and global restoration practice including some case studies of Australia and Perth. The networking opportunity was great and the topics covered were overwhelming.

If you want to have a look at the conference program and abstracts please contact Ana Terrazas from SERCUL.



SERI conference delegates on the wetland restoration field trip in August.

Welcome to new SERCUL People!



Jake getting some planting experience with SERCUL Officers John and Tom at Vellgrove Avenue Waterway.

Jake Usher has joined the SERCUL team as a Landcare Trainee. Jake has been volunteering at SERCUL since May 2009 and will now study with TAFE whilst working at SERCUL to learn all about landcare. He also helps out Matt Grimby at Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group.



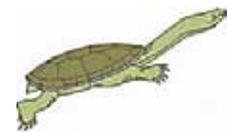
Monica Estrada, SERCUL Volunteer Coordinator.

Monica Estrada has commenced at SERCUL two days a week coordinating the volunteer records and will be setting up a web-based volunteer management system over the next 12 months. So far Monica has been interviewing SERCUL staff about their volunteer requirements and preparing a draft policies and procedures document for volunteer operations at SERCUL. She also continues to volunteer one day a week at SERCUL as she has been for almost two years. Monica's work is kindly supported by the DEC Community Environment Grants.





Armadaale Gosnell's Landcare Group



AGLG wins Keep Australia Beautiful Award



Armadaale Mayor Linton Reynolds, AGLG Coordinator Crystal McIvor, Gosnell's Mayor Olwen Searle and AGLG Chairperson Cam Clay at the Keep Australia Beautiful awards.

Picture courtesy of City of Gosnell's

The Cities of Armadaale and Gosnell's are celebrating the achievements of their community-based landcare group, which recently beat a strong field to take out a Keep Australia Beautiful WA Sustainable Cities award. The Armadaale Gosnell's Landcare Group (AGLG) won the Protection of the Environment category, which recognises achievement in the protection of the natural environment and, specifically, the preservation of native flora and fauna.

Armadaale Mayor Linton Reynolds congratulated Community Landcare Coordinator Crystal McIvor and River Restoration Officer Matt Grimby, AGLG's hard-working members and the volunteers who contributed to the award win. "With the support of stakeholders such as the Cities of Armadaale and Gosnell's, the AGLG has been operating continuously in our region since 1998 and has created a reputation for successfully delivering on-ground projects," Cr Reynolds said. "They have contributed a

great deal to the improvement and restoration of the natural environment by planting hundreds of thousands of native seedlings and undertaking weed control throughout sensitive bush and river foreshore sites."

City of Gosnell's Mayor Olwen Searle said the award reflected the group's commitment to protecting the environment and in particular, local waterways such as the Canning River. "Working across 18 sites in the Cities of Gosnell's and Armadaale, the Armadaale Gosnell's Landcare Group has made significant progress in improving habitat and water quality and reducing invasive weeds," Mayor Searle said. "The efforts of its members and volunteers are highly valued. The group not only gives our environment a better future but also shows everyone in the community what we have is worth saving."

Last year, approximately 2030 AGLG volunteers contributed to over 8185 hours of landcare work including hand weeding, woody weed removal, revegetation of degraded areas, restoration of foreshores and creation of wildlife corridors. Local volunteer groups such as schools, Scouts, Girl Guides, bushranger cadets, corporate bodies, local government, church groups and friends groups gave their time to the work.

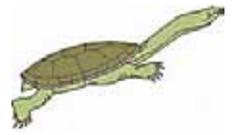
Sustainable Cities is an awards program coordinated by the Department of Environment and Conservation for urban and metropolitan communities in WA. The program recognises community organisations, schools, businesses, and local government agencies, who are active in their communities and are making valuable contributions towards environmental sustainability.

For more information on the Armadaale Gosnell's Landcare Group, or to volunteer, please contact: Matt Grimby on 0413 883 565.





Bannister Creek Catchment Group



Bannister Creek Reserve

The reserve restoration is progressing steadily with small numbers of plants being installed each year and with weed control being the biggest focus. The group still meets monthly on the second Sunday of every month at it's Bush Regen days.

The City of Canning has also made an addition to Nancy's site (located between Acacia Place and Iveston Road in Lynwood) with a bench seat (pictured below, left) and the possibility of a commemorative plaque for former Bannister Creek member Nancy Carlson.

If you would like to get involved please contact us on 9458 5664.



Bench seat at Nancy's site.



Bannister Creek School

Bannister Creek Primary School

The new school (pictured above, right) that is situated on the old Lynwood Primary school site is due to open in 2010. The school has adopted native plant and animal names for the different areas of the school which will tie into and focus on the Bannister Creek Reserve. The BCCG will also work closely with the school to develop education programs that relate to the reserve and the restoration of the remnant bushland on the school site.

History of Bannister Creek

The BCCG are working progressively towards the construction of a book that encompasses the history of the Bannister Creek Catchment and its relationship with the surrounding community. We ask if anyone has any information or photos on this to please contact us on 9458 5664 or email melindasnowbal@sercul.org.au

Jaccard/Hybanthus Project

As part of the Canning and Southern Rivers Urban Drainage renewal projects funded by the federal government, the Department of Water, Swan River Trust, City of Canning and SERCUL have supported and developed a project in Bannister Creek to remove weed infestations, stabilise the waterway and install water quality improvement infrastructures in the Jaccard Way to Hybanthus Road part of the Bannister Creek. The BCCG and SERCUL will assist to implement the works, remove weeds and restore the native vegetation. If you would like to learn more about this project and get involved please contact SERCUL.

Hawkesbury Lakes and Vellgrove Avenue Waterway Project

The Bannister Creek Catchment Group has received a total of \$158,132 from SALP 2007 and 2008, Australian Governments Envirofund and the State Government (DEC) for the restoration of Hawkesbury Lakes and Vellgrove Avenue Waterway project. Stages 1 and 2 are now nearing completion with over 100,000 plants installed and another 15,000 plants to go in winter 2010 with the project successfully receiving SALP 2010 money.

Projects like this not only help the environment by providing habitat and food for animals, birds and insects that live in the waterway but also help in the improvement of the water quality. The water quality has improved in the waterway over the last two years with formal testing to be done in spring 2009.



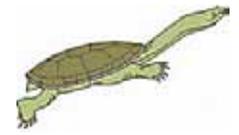
Hawkesbury Lakes before, left (Jan 2007) and after planting, right (2009).





Calendar of Events

What is happening in your catchment?



Date & Time	Activity/Event	Group Contact
Saturday 28 th November 9am - 12pm	<p align="center">Sedge Planting Day</p> <p>Hosted by the Waterbird Conservation Group. Everyone is welcome. Morning tea provided.</p> <p>Location: Folly Pool, Baldivis</p>	<p align="center">Waterbird Conservation Group Contact: Ruth 9339 5501</p>
Saturday 12 th December 8:30am	<p align="center">CRRPV Work Day</p> <p>Site to be confirmed (probably Urban Forest)</p>	<p align="center">Canning River Regional Park Volunteers Jo 9458 3669</p>
11am - 3pm Saturday 12 th December	<p align="center">Walk Against Warming</p> <p>Walk Against Warming is Australia's largest day of community action on climate change and every year CCWA runs the Walk Against Warming in Perth. This year, the walk will take place on Saturday 12th from 11am to 3pm from the Perth Cultural Centre to Russell Square. At its conclusion, this family-friendly event will include stalls for businesses, government and community organisations as well as entertainment for people of all ages.</p> <p>Location: Start at Perth Cultural Centre at 11am Further details: www.conservationwa.asn.au</p>	<p align="center">Conservation Council of Western Australia www.conservationwa.asn.au</p> <p align="center">Contact: 9420 7266 or conswa@conservationwa.asn.au</p>
Wednesday 16 th December 7:30pm	<p align="center">CRRPV Meeting</p> <p>Canning River Eco-Centre Kent St, Wilson</p>	<p align="center">Canning River Regional Park Volunteers Jo 9458 3669</p>
Wed 13 th to Fri 15 th January	<p align="center">Catchments, Corridors and Coasts 2010</p> <p>Presented by the Australian Association for Environmental Education (WA).</p> <p>Snorkelling in the ocean, walking in the bush, getting up close and personal with native fauna, sharing experiences with broad scale farmers – these are just some of the activities you can expect when you participate in the action packed Catchments, Corridors and Coasts (CCC) Program.</p>	<p align="center">Catherine Baudains Ph: 0409374231 Email: c.baudains@murdoch.edu.au</p> <p align="center">Visit the SERCUL events website for the full brochure.</p>

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 even 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
Sustainable Production 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
Community River Restoration Officer - Matt Grimbley

Email: firstnamelastname@sercul.org.au

SERCUL Committee:

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

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South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

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

