



CRREPA NEWS

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

Editor: Ken Keesing



[29/8/13 Keating]



[8/9/13 Keating]

This August a pair of black swans successfully nested in Bull Creek on the banks of Yagan Wetlands, opposite the memorial lookout near Creekview Close. Five cygnets hatched and the three survivors glided along early in September watched by passersby and CRREPA members. Special thanks to Sheila Kelly, our 'birdo eyes' on the foreshore, for watching over the swan family and providing regular reports about bird sightings along the Rossmoyne-Shelley foreshore.



[Keating]

To celebrate national 'BUSHCARE MAJOR DAY OUT' on September 8th, CRREPA joined with the Lions Club of Booragoon for a weeding session on the Rossmoyne foreshore. The 32 volunteers worked in pleasant surroundings to clear the area of weeds. We were delighted when a pair of black swans cruised by showing off their new cygnets (see above). Many thanks to all for your weeding efforts and your contributions to our morning tea which was hosted by members Monica and John Reid in their riverside home. (See page 5 for more photos.)

PHOTO: Liz Moore, Sallie Bryant and Ken Keesing setting up the display and membership information.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — Grecian Sandwell



A big thank you to our past president, **Ken Keesing** for your dedication to the role over the last three years, prior to that your role as vice president for two years and committee member the year before. Ken represented CRREPA at many workshops and meetings over this time, met with CCC staff members on site and built up our display materials with Sallie Bryant. Luckily for CRREPA and the foreshore Ken is also always there at hands on sessions, remains on our committee and continues to edit our newsletter (this edition being his 9th). Beyond CRREPA, Ken is an active volunteer with the Canning River Eco Education Centre and the Rottnest Voluntary Guides Association. Congratulations Ken! Thanks also to all of last year's Committee including Liz Moore who has retired.

At our 2013 AGM, you elected a committee of eleven, whom in addition to the normal management responsibilities of CRREPA will help design and coordinate the celebrations to mark **20 years of your volunteering to care for the Canning Foreshore**. Please contact me with any ideas you may have for the celebrations.

After nineteen years of on ground work by CRREPA volunteers our monthly and special events continue to be well attended. The **Bushcare Major Day Out** on September 8th attracted 32 volunteers and the Living Drains project on July 4th attracted fourteen. Some of these members have attended hands-on sessions for the entire nineteen years! Thank you all for such a wonderful commitment. It would be fantastic to have some **younger people** join in these working bees and thus I encourage all members to spread the word and hopefully increase our on-ground workforce.

The **City of Canning's support** for our projects is so important and much appreciated as are their wonderful random weeding sessions. Without their help, many projects would be beyond our capabilities.



Members from the **Lions Club of Booragoon** continue to work between Second and Fifth Avenues. The steep, fenced slope is almost to the point of requiring no further maintenance and hopefully the Second Avenue site will have reached this state next year. Well done.



We look forward to working with the **Rossmoyne Primary School 'River Rangers'**, a cadet program hosted by the Swan River Trust that allows students to actively investigate local issues and design, evaluate and share the results of their projects with other schools and the wider community. Chris Malan and I met with Greg Wilson, Deputy Principal, to discuss the project which includes students having a weekly working session at Central Avenue. Initially this will involve compiling herbariums, weeding and planting. This project will be ongoing and will give the students an opportunity to conduct longitudinal studies. The enthusiasm for the project by pupils and teachers is very heartening.



The **lack of funding for the Swan and Canning Rivers** in the WA state budget is alarming. In August CRREPA wrote to the Premier, the Minister for the Environment and our local member requesting the \$16.25 million allocation for works including oxygenation plants, nutrient reduction, funding of environmental agencies and community grants be put back into the budget. We must continue to fight for this.

Since our **original constitution was written in 1994**, new compliance guidelines have been issued and model rules provided. In addition, the potential for some improvements in our constitution has been spotted (see page 6) and a sub-committee formed to review it. If and when new rules have been developed it will be necessary for members to attend a special meeting to approve them — thank you in advance.

YOUR CRREPA COMMITTEE 2013 - 2014



President: Grecian Sandwell
Vice President: Sallie Bryant
Secretary: André Malan
Treasurer: Colma Keating

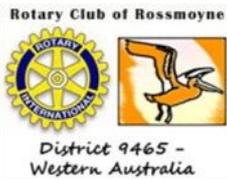
Committee Members
Susan Harris, Roslyn Bartholomaeus,
Ken Keesing, Joan Munro, Diane Matthews,
Chris Malan and Brian Munro

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

THE EDDIE HOLMES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD In recognition of the significant contribution made to their local community.

by Gino Monaco, Rotary Club of Rossmoyne

This year two people from CRREPA received our Rotary citizenship award. Mr Eddie Holmes presented the awards to Colma Keating and Grecian Sandwell. CRREPA works closely with the City of Canning on foreshore environmental maintenance, mainly from the Bull Creek inlet through to the Shelley Bridge. Their main aim is to ensure the continued environmental integrity of the foreshore despite continued extensive development throughout the area and some 45 storm water drains feeding into the river. Both ladies have been involved in various executive and other roles since not long after CRREPA was formed 1994.



[EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to Rotary for acknowledging community efforts beyond their organisation]

WEED ADAPTATION FOR SURVIVAL Grecian Sandwell

Cretan weed (*Hedypnois rhagadioloides*) demonstrates how difficult it is for both CRREPA and the City of Canning to eradicate invasive weeds as they are so quick at adapting and colonising.

Cretan weed is native to the Mediterranean. In this photo the large plant is 1 metre wide, 60cm high with a root 25cm long, whilst the smallest plant measures 4cm high, 1cm wide with a 2.5cm root.

Cretan weed first appeared along the foreshore about six years ago and in some areas has become an unwanted carpet in winter and spring. Like so many weeds it adapts very quickly to altered conditions to survive. The large plant was collected from a site that is not mown and shows the natural form. In expansive areas of weeds and grasses that are regularly mown, it has adapted, as the smallest plant shows, to flower and seed at a height that is not affected by mowing.



FORESHORE TO TELL ITS STORY IN SUMMER

Susan Harris (Interpretation Consultant to the City of Canning)



The many along the Canning River that helped with the Wadjup-Gabbilju foreshore walk interpretation signage project will be glad to hear there is considerable progress to report.

Following project clearances during the year, a terrific pace was set to enable production of the signs. During October, the project took centre stage in a little Australian factory specialising in etched anodised aluminium. The etching process is widely used in Europe to produce robust outdoor aluminium signs that do not fade.

The signs will be located at a couple of dozen sites along the foreshore. The sites include the Shelley Beach Park ablution block (outer walls) and Riverton Bridge (handrails). The rest of the signs will be at interpretation stopping spots on support stands made of weathering steel — an enriched long-lasting variety of mild steel, used by architects and sculptors because of its natural rusted colouring. The stands are designed to aesthetically nestle the information into the landscape in an unobtrusive way as prescribed in the foreshore's management plan. In several instances the stands will serve as barriers to protect vegetation.

The theme of the signage is the historical shallowness of the river from Salter Point upstream to the delta islands above Riverton Bridge. Many hundred residents and specialists in different aspects of the river volunteered information, furthered the research, or submitted comments on the proposed subject matter, etc. The content interweaves the area's natural and cultural histories, and is underpinned by a solid call for their conservation. Even this year's drain-swale work at Wadjup Point gets a mention: it is on a sign featuring photographs by some of CRREPA's past presidents of the planting on the Wadjup Point foreshore. According to Aboriginal consultant Richard Wilkes, "Wadjup" refers to land associated with/connected to fresh water. Wadjup is a key heritage feature of the Lower Canning.

The City's new CEO, Lyn Russell endorsed the project describing it as *"an innovative initiative that would help to give people a sense of place and celebrate the unique characteristics of the area, including our indigenous and colonial heritage"*.

The signs will be up in the new year. Watch the papers.

CREEC Canning River Eco Education Centre



**Situated at Kent Street Weir, Wilson
open Monday to Saturday**

Aim: To increase awareness and understanding of the Canning River and Regional Park through education programs and activities.

Education Officer: Hayley Bullimore
Administration: Tracy Lyon & Noeleen Edwards

E-mail: creec@canning.wa.gov.au Ph: 9461 7160
www.canning.wa.gov.au/creec

City of Canning Pending Foreshore Works by Merise Hocking | CCC Parks Conservation Officer

The Shelley Rossmoyne Foreshore will be a buzz of activity in late October/November with the completion of the drain swale projects at Wadjup Point and 235 Riverton Drive and commencement of three new foreshore restoration projects.

Following comments from the Swan River Trust (SRT) regarding the City's initial works, some minor amendments will be carried out to improve the functionality and aesthetic appeal of the drain swales.

These works will involve additional planting at both sites, converting the pipe outlet opposite 235 Riverton Drive to a bubble up pit and repositioning some of the limestone spalls.

In early to mid-November, you will notice the construction of a limestone wall at Shelley Beach by a City engaged contractor. These works are scheduled to take 10 days and will be followed by revegetation of adjacent riverbank areas.

The City has also met with Design Engineers and the SRT to discuss the proposed plans for riverbank stabilisation techniques at Beryl Avenue and Modillion Avenue. These plans are currently being formally prepared by the City's Design Engineers for review and approval by the SRT. It is envisaged that these works will be ready for commencement from mid-January 2014.

Amalgamation of the Swan River Trust into the Department of Parks and Wildlife

CRREPA members have been expressing concern that this change will adversely affect environmental protection of the river and foreshore. Environment Minister Albert Jacob announced that the Trust would be subsumed into the Department of Parks and Wildlife, which manages WA's 27 million hectares of parks and reserves. He said the move would be cost-neutral, that no jobs would be lost and that he had asked all of the Trust's board members to continue as an advisory body.

Mr Stephen Lloyd, SRT Manager of Riverbank has advised that there have not been any formal changes to the way the SRT operates. There will be a transition to amalgamation, which has not yet begun. The SRT has commenced a communications plan surrounding the coming amalgamation and Local Government Authorities and Community Groups will be formally informed by letter. The future availability of the annual Riverbank Grants and Proactive Funding programs, which CRREPA accesses in partnership with the City of Canning, will be advised in a forthcoming Ministerial announcement.

Bird notes and what we can all do Grecian Sandwell

The **nesting swans** in Bull Creek certainly captivated many locals. It highlights the importance of substantial stands of foreshore vegetation where nesting birds can breed successfully without disturbance.

As CRREPA continues to improve natural habitat with plantings between the path and river, we can look forward to an increase in waterbird numbers and species. The council and residents should embrace the corridor concept of planting trees, shrubs and groundcovers that provide food, nesting sites and refuge for native birds, reptiles and insects. Backyards, verges and local parks will then link significant areas of vegetation, providing a corridor for species to safely move along.

Buff-banded Rails and **Little Grassbirds** are now regularly seen, **Black-tailed Native hens** and **Purple Swampheens** are making infrequent appearances and there has been a once only sighting of a **Clamorous Reed-Warbler** along the Shelley Rossmoyne foreshore. **Eurasian Coots** are returning in small numbers, **Silvereyes** are rarely seen and **Brown Honeyeaters** numbers have declined.

The **White-faced Herons** (see photo) have raised another two chicks this year. Although the nest looked somewhat scrappy, full marks for their ability to construct one which has withstood numerous storms and since 2011 seven chicks have fledged from it.

The only positive outcome of having many boat moorings in Bull Creek is the safe roosting spots they provide for birds including **Pelicans** (see back cover). The very adaptable **Silver Gulls** have also nested on them!



CRREPA'S BUSHCARE MAJOR DAY OUT



[Keating]



[Keating]



[Keating]



[Keating]

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

For just an hour a month...in your favourite spot... 'Care for the Canning'



Applying bentonite clay to Rob Bruce Site 2/6/13 [Sandwell]



Lions Club @ Second Ave
4/8/13 [Sandwell]



Working with City of Canning, drain modification
4/7/13 [Keating]

**Please check your mailing label on the front page.
If the word "Expired" appears, your subscription is DUE NOW.
PLEASE RENEW TODAY!**

CRREPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

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 OR
PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148

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 2014) **\$5.50 (single / family)** **\$2.20 (student)**
(Circle appropriate section) **5 years** (to 31 March 2018) **\$20.00 (single / family)** **\$10.00 (student)**

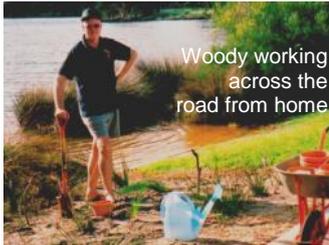
(Signature) (Date) \$ _____ (Amount enclosed)

(E-mail) _____

Please circle if you are interested in RECORDING, SEED COLLECTION, REVEGETATION, BIRD SURVEY or COMMITTEE activities. About 1-2 hours per month. ANY HELP IS APPRECIATED.

Fond memories of happy times with valued members who passed away recently

Formed in 1994, CRREPA is a collection of mostly local Rossmoyne and Shelley residents who care strongly about our wonderful Canning River, Bullcreek and their foreshores. Thus, what a shock August and September was to CRREPA and Shelley-Rossmoyne families and friends with the sudden deaths of long term members **Warren (Woody) Wood** (9/8) and **Rona Chamberlain** (15/8) as well as our CRREPA elders **Jack Sutton** (18/8) and **Norah Sandwell** (28/9).



Woody working across the road from home

Both **Woody** and **Rona** focussed their hands-on efforts to the Bullcreek and Rossmoyne end of the foreshore as well as joining other busy bees further

east. Archival photos show Rona along with husband John joining in all the hard yakka weeding and planting sessions - always with such energy and friendly companionship.

In addition to working at hands-on sessions, Woody was the eyes and ears of Bullcreek, providing alerts



Rona & John 'bookending' CRREPA friends after a busy bee

and photos to the Swan River Trust on breaches by boaters, fishers &/ or other users

of the foreshore as well as supporting wife Janine when on the committee.

Many of you will remember **Jack** and **Dot** (dec) Sutton's magical garden on the corner of Second Avenue and Riverton Drive. Along with Jack's sister-in-law Vera Colley, they were inaugural members of CRREPA.



Norah was roped into CRREPA by her daughter Grecian. In the early days she made cakes for the monthly working bees. Her tap was the watering source for years as the bottles were filled to water the newly planted seedlings at sites along the foreshore. She also 'babysat' many a tray of seedlings, caring for them from delivery date to going into the ground.

Because of their contributions both in membership fees and actions, our and your Canning River and Bullcreek are in much, much better shape, as is our local community group.

(Thanks to Janine, Diane, Vera and Colma for photos.)

YOUR SUNDOWNER INVITATION

WHEN: Sunday, December 1 at 5.30 pm

WHERE: Shelley Reserve (Beatrice Avenue)
A shady spot with a view

CRREPA PROVIDES: Roast chicken

BYO: Salad or nibbles to share
as well as your drinks, picnic utensils and chairs

RSVP for catering by 20 November:
Joan on 9457 0775 or crrepa@gmail.com

Please come and catch up whilst enjoying our beautiful river setting.

Constitutional changes perhaps?

Colma Keating

As raised at our 2013 AGM, your Committee is currently considering the merits of updating our Constitution. The four key reasons are:

Financial years: The misfit of our CRREPA year (1st May - 30th April) with normal financial year gives financial management a few headaches being:

- bank statements align with the financial year of 1st July - 30 June, thus don't fit neatly with our bookwork and records
- the GST also aligns with the financial year of 1st July - 30 June and thus our Business Activity Statement (BAS) reporting to the Australia Tax Office spans two of CRREPA's years (ie 1st July - 30th April from one year and 1st May - 30 June from another).

AGM Timing: There is an impossibility sought in our Constitution (Clause 12) "*The Annual General meeting of the of the members shall be held in April each year*".

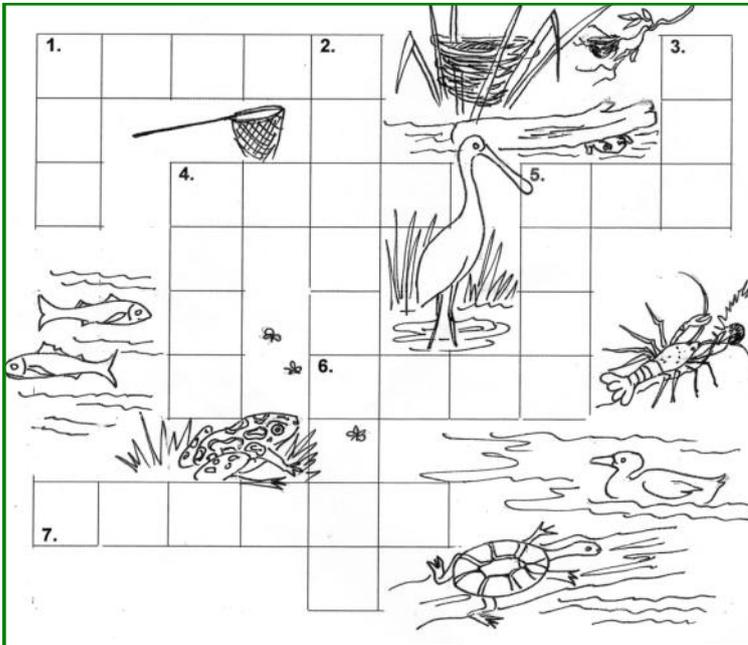
- this conflicts with the close of the year being 30th April and as such it is not possible to get the financial statements completed and audited before the 'year has closed'
- whilst we still legally meet the *Associations Incorporation Act* by holding our AGM within 30 days of end of April, it may be 'cleaner' to have this corrected.

Membership: Clause 3 states "*All residents of the City of Canning*".

- we currently welcome and have members from beyond the City of Canning. Many do so as a sign of support and encouragement for CRREPA's work, others are also active
- with proposed Local Government amalgamations, we are unsure where our on ground area will fall as well as the councils in which our members will be.

New Model Rules: In 2007/08 the WA Government reviewed the *Associations Incorporation Act 1987* which included providing a set of 'Model Constitution Rules' that we can use. This will ensure we meet all the new regulations as well as simplify the process. The down side, that our Constitution would grow from 3 pages to 12!

If you would like to assist and/provide advice to the committee please contact Colma on 9354 9734 http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/consumerprotection/PDF/Associations/Inc_Assoc_Model_Rules_20111.pdf



Crossword puzzle for the Juniors or the "Young at heart"

from Joan Munro

Clues across:

1. Birds sometimes hide their among the reeds.
4. An animal that starts life as an egg, then a tadpole.
5. Gilgies use their claws to a burrow.
6. The edge of a creek or river.
7. A wetland animal with a hard shell and a long neck.

Clue down:

1. A useful thing to catch small water animals.
2. A tall white bird with a funny-shaped bill.
3. A good thing to hide under, even under water.
4. Wetland animals with fins and scales.
5. A waterbird with webbed feet.

Bull Creek Catchment Water Quality Improvement Plan

Implementation Report

The Swan River Trust (SRT) Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the Bull Creek Catchment is being implemented this year. CRREPA is one of the stakeholders involved in this very important program designed to improve the quality of water entering the river, for which the SRT has allocated \$125,000 funding.

We are implementing the plan through our revegetation and education activities as follows:

1. Raising Community awareness of the need to reduce phosphorus and nutrients from entering the drainage system by setting up displays and providing printed materials.
2. Assisting Rossmoyne Primary School River Rangers to stencil drains, identify weeds, plant nutrient stripping sedges on the foreshore.
3. In partnership with the City of Canning apply for SRT Riverbank funding to convert existing open drains to filtration swales planted with sedges.

We are hoping that existing practices will continue when the SRT is amalgamated with the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Minister Jacob is currently making policy statements on this matter. In a letter to River Guardians he said, ***"The new combined SRT and DP&W workforce will unite a range of expertise leading to streamlined river management services and improved protection of the river system."***



Special thanks to **Fiona Bartholomaeus** who has been doing regular weeding sessions towards her 'community service section to earn the Queen's Guide Award'. Her mum Roslyn has been joining her.



Join FREE Bird Walks

on the Canning Foreshore

hosted by **CRREPA**

****66 species recorded, including
29 waterbirds, 5 raptors
Book with Grecian: 9354 9734**

Having a party?

CRREPA's 30 wine glasses are available for \$10 hire



Book from 9354 9734

**Our special thanks to the
City of Canning
for their assistance with
the cost of the printing of
our CRREPA Newsletter.**

**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

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



[Terry Potter]

Pelican Kindergarten Thanks to Terry Potter for capturing these juvenile pelicans resting on a houseboat in Bull Creek, watched over by the older colony. The pelicans hatched on Penguin Island.
Note Shag roosting on branch overhanging bank—it looks like it is sitting on the pelican's wing!



Bushcare Major Day Out
8 September 2013
(see front cover and page 5)

[Keesing]

Your local Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association