

CRREPA NEWS

Newsletter of the Canning River Residents Environment
Protection Association (Incorporated in 1994)

Editors: Colma Keating & Grecian Sandwell [PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148]



Looking forward to seeing you at CRREPA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

WHEN: Thursday, 28 May 2009 7:15pm for 7:30pm start

WHERE: Canning River Eco Education Centre (Kent Street Weir)
(cnr Kent Street and Queens Park Road, Wilson)

FOCUS: 2008/09 Highlights | 2009/10 Committee | Presentation | Plans for new year

RSVP: For catering purposes phone 9354 9734 or e-mail dinkum.results@inet.net.au



2008 CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

Once again in December there was a Happy Christmas Gathering of members on the Shelley foreshore. This annual event has developed into an important opportunity for everyone to come together from the general membership, the different foreshore groups and the Committee, to socialize, reminisce and share a bit of self congratulations. It is also particularly enjoyable to catch-up with those members who through change of circumstance have not been able to participate as much as in the past.

This year CRREPA took the opportunity to acknowledge the significant and longstanding contributions of Gary Matthews, Diane Matthews and Cam Ross – with a very small selection of framed images that were relevant to their contributions thus far!!

[Photo: Terry Potter]

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Environment Protection Association (Inc)
PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148

PRESIDENT'S SNIPPETS

Highlights &/or focus since October include (** = see extended articles in this newsletter):

Foreshore working groups – thanks to continued monthly contributions which result in effective rehabilitation, whilst enjoying local company and our natural environment.

New Projects – the Committee has been developing a list of potential projects, all of which need some research. Ideas include:

- Foreshore history book, – using some of our photos
- Promotion, Communication Flyers
- Walks & Talks – to encourage understanding and participation
- Park benches with 'CRREPA plaques'
- Plants for foreshore rehabilitation
- Roosting platform for ospreys (as long as not competing with Mt Henry roost)
- Roosting pontoon or sculptures (so birds are less disturbed by foreshore users & dogs)
- Static display – for promoting

- CRREPA & foreshore
- Table for membership & general info – for use during weekend foreshore sessions
- Water trolley – for transporting small water tank &/or water bottles.

Canning River Eco Education Centre – participation in Conservation Week 2009 **

City of Canning – our active working relationship continues with briefing sessions and weekly liaison with the Environment Officer or Bushcrew. Key issues/activities include:

- Signs to both acknowledge CRREPA's rehabilitation work as well as to inform the community of the importance of the foreshore vegetation (Nov 08 – Mar 09)
- Audit of fencing and signs along foreshore including recommendations for removal &/or upgrading (February/ March 09)
- Weekly summer watering with Bushcrew **
- Trampling of vegetation (eg Bullcreek) and disturbance of rehabilitation efforts (eg Modillion beach)
- Drains project – progressing with

- joint design and rehabilitation **
 - CCC Bushcrew Workplan for Rossmyrne/Shelley Foreshore
 - Collection of weeds following CRREPA's foreshore sessions (ongoing)
 - Undermining of Tuart at Wadjup Point – replenishment with river sand (October 08)
 - Eradication of rabbits near Shelley Bridge (November 08)
 - Interpretive foreshore signs developed by Susan Harris – going to Council (May 09)
 - World Environment Day Rehabilitation Project with Lions Club of Booragoon (7 June 09) **
- Special thanks to Steve Atwell, Jenni Andrews, Leonard Stapp & colleagues.
Thanks also to Cam Ross & Sallie Bryant for keeping a watching brief on Council matters.

New logo for CRREPA – the Committee has narrowed down preference for new logo to an egret design by Grecian Sandwell.

Colma Keating
(President)

FAREWELL & THANKS TO BAUERS

Best wishes to Bronwyn & Geoff Bauer who have joined our Saturday 'Watersby to Wadjup' foreshore sessions since 2000 as well as tended to the area in their own time including hand watering with rain collected in their rainwater tank. Whilst their contribution and company will be missed, we wish them well for their next adventures in Queensland.

**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) to either:

by POST
CRREPA Treasurer
PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148

OR

by HAND
CRREPA Treasurer
187b Riverton Drive Shelley

(Note: leave personal details blank if unchanged from mailing label on page 1)

I/we _____ & _____
(Family name) (First names of members)

wish to renew our membership for: **1 year (to 31 March 2010) \$5.50 (Student \$2.20)**
(Circle appropriate section) **5 years (to 31 March 2014) \$20.00 (Student \$10.00)**

(Signature) _____ 2009 \$ _____
(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.

NOTE: We need non-participative members too! Your membership and moral support is highly valued!

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, LIONS CLUB OF BOORAGOON & YOU

In mid 2007 the Lions Club of Booragoon adopted a slice of the Rossmoyne Foreshore. Since an initial foreshore walk with Diane Matthews they have organised hourly working bees once a month between Tuscan and Fifth Avenues which have included weeding, watering and adding to earlier plantings.

Very quickly they decided they could make an even bigger contribution by setting up a rehabilitation project for the eroding bay opposite 135 Riverton Drive. CRREPA met on site with the City

of Canning (CCC) Environment Officer, Jenni Andrews, to discuss best management options and have drawn up a rehabilitation plan using appropriate local plant species. As the project continues CRREPA has placed plant orders with APACE and Natural Area Management Services, using savings to purchase them and has met on site again with CCC to mark out areas for weed/grass spraying by the City. In addition, CRREPA's Max Risbey will also contribute plants from local seeds he has collected and propagated.

The major planting will be linked to World Environment Day and many hands will make light work. The group is calling for volunteers to assist:

- Sunday 7th June
- 9am
- Opposite 135 Riverton Drive, Rossmoyne

Please let Anne Good know that you can help out on World Environment Day (9330 633896 anne.good1@bigpond.com).



Weed removal at Tuscan – results of just one hours work by the Lions Club of Booragoon in April [Keating]

TWENTY-NINE NEWSLETTERS PLUS - TO CAM'S CREDIT

Cam Ross is an integral part of CRREPA – from working alongside his wife Margot Ross (dec) as a key driver in the foundation of the group, through to his roles on the committee including Treasurer, Membership Officer and Newsletter Editor. In fact Cam brought us all of the 29 Newsletters over the past 15 years.

As many of you are aware, cancer initially struck Cam in 1998. Never one to be ordered around, Cam has worked hard to understand his condition, fought to get access to all variants of improvements and cures, paid highly for cutting edge medication and participated in medical research. Late last year, with his health failing, Cam opted to pass on his roles to others on the committee whilst he used all his energy to prepare for a series of operations. Best wishes to Cam, his wife Rita and their families and friends as they corral their energies to fight his cancer whilst enjoying every extra day together.



VOLUNTEERING VACANCIES

Give Colma a call to discuss 9354 9734

ARE YOU OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER EDITOR?

Only two newsletters per year with articles and photos contributed by members – how good does that sound?

We have Adobe InDesign software which I have managed to use (I hope ...proof in what you are holding in your hands) following a quick coaching lesson from Cam.



WE'D LIKE YOU ON THE COMMITTEE!

We will be electing our 2009/10 Committee at our AGM (28 May) and hope you will consider nominating.

The committee meets approx 4 times a year, with members focussing on areas of interest.



COMBINING FUN AND LEARNING – BUT SADLY LACKING PROMOTION

The Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) participated in the 2009 Conservation Week (30/3-4/4) with hands-on activities for school children, professional development for teachers and an activity and information filled community day. As part of the spreading of knowledge and understanding, local conservation groups were invited to participate via displays and information stalls.

Whilst the school program was

fully booked it was disappointing that promotion was not forthcoming and so community members missed out on the range of great activities including canoeing, bird walks, raptor displays, Marsupial Hospital, Perth Zoo highlights, eco-nav challenge, macro invertebrate sampling, plant giveaways, climate change movies and talks as well as delicious savoury and sweet morsels hand-baked by the Canning River Regional Park Volunteers. Here's hoping CREEC and the City of Canning will support Conservation Week in 2010 – this time with appropriate promotion.

Attendance numbers aside, participating pumped some new vigour into CRREPA. Many thanks to CRREPA members who assisted in pulling together our display and to providing our human face when they joined the roster to talk with visitors, to Kagi family for printing our brochures and to Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society for the kind loan of their display boards.

Congratulations to CREEC's Tanya Porter (coordinator) and Marcus Good (education officer) for their professional and friendly approach to the week and the inclusion of local groups.



CRREPA member Judy Mercer 'on duty' during Conservation Week 2009 [Keating]

Special thanks to the Kagi Family and the City of Canning for assistance with printing of the CRREPA Newsletter.

A STICK IN THE MUD

At low tide if you are standing along the foreshore near Violet Street (looking for the Little Grassbird - refer below) the remains of a barge can be seen near the convict fence.

Built in 1907 for the Swan River Shipping Co Ltd and measuring 32 by 8 metres the barge was named 'Python'.

In the 1940s she was towed up the Canning River by Mr Joe Hill for Mr H Tilly who was taking her to the Clontarf School so the students could play on her beside the jetty. Due to shallow water the tow boat was unable to proceed past Salters Point so the school was notified and students tried to pole it up to their jetty. The barge became stuck in the mud and was never moved.

Acknowledgement: "Swan and Canning River Wrecks" by Colin Scrimshaw (Maritime Archaeology Association of WA)



A NEW SIGHTING

The Little Grassbird has been sighted in the sedges near Violet Street. This unobtrusive mostly brown bird with its low, weak, fluttering flight is very distinctive. It breeds mostly between August and January, laying between three to five eggs. The song at breeding time is a rather plaintive three noted monotone.

REF: Birds Australia 'Waterbirds of the Canning River Regional Park'

HAVE YOU ANY PHOTOS OF CRREPA ACTIVITIES OR THE RIVER FORESHORE?



We are developing a reference catalogue of the CRREPA photo collection and would like to borrow any extra photos that may be out there.

We can scan or copy them to go towards building a photographic record to tell the CRREPA story. These can then be used as a resource for articles, displays and perhaps even a booklet.

If you can contribute to this project please contact **Diane Matthews** on 9457 2896, or email gdmattthews@ozemail.com.au. Whilst digital photos cannot be accepted through this email address, they can be collected on a memory stick or CD-Rom.

Remember we will need help with details such as **subject, location, date** and **photographer**.

Hoping you can help.

WATERING MADE EASY

It has been our practice to water new plantings over the hot months of their first year. In the past we have filled plastic bottles and carted them by pushbike, trolley or car to the furthest sites or by foot to closest sites.

Then, for a couple of summers the City of Canning (CCC) complemented this by engaging a watering contractor. This was a costly exercise that wasn't wholly satisfactory.

This summer the watering has been done every Tuesday by the CCC Bushcrew and a CRREPA volunteer. The CCC also provided the water truck and watering cans until the first week in April when the watering cans were upgraded to a pump and a long hose with an adjustable spray nozzle. With these improvements at either end of this new watering contraption could be found a very happy Bushcrew member or a very happy CRREPA volunteer. This new method of watering is ideal, as the droplets are very fine and in areas where the soil is water repellent it soaks in quite readily. Smaller droplets are also kinder to very young seedlings.

In addition to helping the plants through the hot weather, there has also been an exchange of practical bush regeneration methods between CCC and CRREPA, such as location of watering depressions (eg upslope) and propagation techniques.

Thanks to the CCC and the CCC Bushcrew for this ongoing practical support.



Nov 05 - Using plastic bottles & trolley [Sandwell]



March 09 - Using watertruck & cans. CRREPA's Grecian Sandwell with Leonard Stapp (CCC Buscrew) hand-watering @ Second Avenue [Keating]

LIVING DRAINS UPDATE

Since the last CRREPA News, the City of Canning has received approval from the Swan River Trust for retrofitting stormwater drains that empty directly into the Canning River near Zenith Street. These are two of 49 stormwater drains along the 6km foreshore stretch from Bullcreek to the Shelley Bridge. Following earthworks that are still subject to weather and availability of staff, CRREPA volunteers will plant up these sites to become natural filters of stormwater before it enters the river.

[Refer also to contaminants article, page 7]



One of the drains to be retrofitted - Feb 09 [Keesing]

Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association

Just an hour a month...

in your favourite spot...

can help 'Care for the Canning'

You now have at least five chances each month when you can join with CRREPA members and the wider community in the 'hands-on care' of the Rossmoyne/Shelley Canning River Foreshore.

Even if you can only make it once a year,
we'd love to have your company and contributions.

'Caring for the Canning' areas	Volunteer Coordinators
Bullcreek to Tuscan St <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Last Sunday of the month 	Max Risbey - 9457 1347
Tuscan St to Fifth Ave <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date to be decided each month 	Anne Good & Lions Club of Booragoon - 9330 633896 anne.good1@bigpond.com
Fifth Ave to Beatrice Ave <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First Sunday of the month ▪ Every Tuesday 	Grecian Sandwell - 9354 9734 grecian@iinet.net.au
Watersby Cres to Wadjup Point <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Second Saturday of the month 	Colma Keating - 9354 9734 dinkum.results@iinet.net.au
Wadjup Point to Shelley Bridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As need basis 	Grecian Sandwell - 9354 9734 grecian@iinet.net.au

Weeding, planting, seed collection and propagation, rubbish removal, birdwatching, monitoring and planning are some of the activities we hope to continue within these sections.

We encourage individual, family and group (eg schools, scouts, guides, social) involvement and welcome your suggestions for other interesting ideas/activities as well as best times for your participation.

To ensure these will become regular, enjoyable social events whilst benefiting our environment, the program for each 'foreshore care section' will be determined by that group. We also believe that this format of hands-on involvement will keep us all better informed about our foreshore, its management and CRREPA's contributions.

To join a working group near you and/or along your favourite part of the foreshore, please contact the respective volunteer coordinator.



Looking forward to working alongside you on the foreshore!!

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

City's rivers awash with toxins

BEATRICE THOMAS

3/13/09 23

The Trust said yesterday seven "priority one" sites covered a stretch of river from Maylands to the CBD

The Swan and Canning rivers are con-

minants combined the findings from two reports into contaminants in drains, tributaries and river sediment.

an urban area but were a reminder that stormwater drains across the catchment area led to rivers.

blueprint for future management. It said it was not intended to provide advice on public health,

'Toxic' waterway in crisis

CANNING TIMES APRIL 7

By CAROLINE SMITH

Bull Creek was one of three sites reporting the presence of mercury, and one of four showing cadmium, with zinc, lead and sele-

Principal scientist Kerry Trayler said the presence of contaminants was the result of past environmental practices still im-

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) regional coordinator

3 YEAR SEDIMENT SURVEY FINDINGS
LOWER CANNING = PRIORITY 1
BULLCREEK = PRIORITY 1

SWAN CANNING RIVER SYSTEM

Non-nutrient contaminants program

The Swan River Trust's non-nutrient contaminants program was a three-year program to determine the nature of contaminants, other than nutrients, delivered to and present in the Swan Canning river system.

Non-nutrient contaminants include: pathogens; heavy metals; low-level persistent organic compounds such as pesticides and herbicides; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons; polychlorinated biphenyls; and anionic surfactants; and contaminants resulting from disturbed acid sulphate soils and sediments.

The Department of Water undertook the program on behalf of the Trust through a series of assessments conducted in the Swan Canning Catchment.

The technical reports all provide baseline information on contaminants but focused on different areas to get an overall snapshot. The 4 reports are:

1. Baseline study of contaminants in the Swan Canning catchment drainage system
2. Baseline study of contaminants at three disused landfill sites
3. Baseline study of organic contaminants in the catchment drainage system using passive sampling devices
4. Baseline study of contaminants in the Swan Canning estuary sediment.

The results, although typical of an urban area, are an important reminder that stormwater drains across the entire catchment lead to the rivers.

Further testing will soon be carried out in East Perth to get a better picture of whether the contaminants found are affecting aquatic life.

Downloads

- The technical reports are available on the Department of Water website (www.water.wa.gov.au)
- The Trust's summary report is available from www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au

Extracted from: www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au

Extracted from: Canning Times 7/4/09

'Toxic' waterway in crisis

Bull Creek was one of three sites reporting the presence of mercury, and one of four showing cadmium, with zinc, lead and selenium also at high levels.

In Lower Canning researchers picked up significant levels of zinc, lead and selenium.

Kerry Trayler, Swan River Trust principal scientist said "We still need to remind people not to put paint, fertilisers or other chemicals into stormwater drains, and there seems to be some effects from road run-off."

Refer also to 'Living Drains Update' page 5

Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association
Birds sighted along the Shelley/Rossmoyne foreshore

Which ones do you see?

RAPTORS

- Osprey
- Little Eagle
- Australian Hobby
- Black Shouldered Kite
- Brown Falcon

LAND BIRDS

- Pallid Cuckoo
- Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike
- Red Wattlebird
- Little Wattlebird
- Rainbow Bee-eater
- Mistletoe Bird
- Striated Pardalote
- New Holland Honeyeater
- Singing Honeyeater
- Brown Honeyeater
- Silver Eye
- Red Tailed Black Cockatoo
- White Tailed Black Cockatoo
- Galah
- Red Capped Parrot
- Ringneck (28) Parrot
- Welcome Swallow
- Willie Wagtail
- Australian Magpie (Mud) Lark
- Magpie
- Australian Raven
- Southern Boobook (Owl)
- Butcher Bird
- Rufous Whistler
- Western Gerygone

FERALS/ESCAPEES

- Rainbow Lorikeet
- Pigeon
- Laughing Dove
- Spotted Dove
- Cockatiel
- Laughing Kookaburra

WATER BIRDS

- Nankeen Night Heron
- Large Egret
- White Faced Heron
- Sacred Ibis
- Spoonbill
- Black Swan
- Avocet
- Greenshank
- Hooded Plover
- Black-winged Stilt
- Clamorous Reed Warbler
- Buff-banded Rail
- Little Grassbird
- Australasian Little Grebe
- Eurasian Coot
- Maned Duck
- Musk Duck
- Pacific Black Duck
- Fairy Tern
- Caspian Tern
- Darter
- Little Pied Cormorant
- Pied Cormorant
- Great Cormorant
- Little Black Cormorant
- Sacred Kingfisher
- Pelican
- Silver Gull

YOUR ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS

Birds recorded 1991-2009 by Grecian Sandwell, member of CRREPA

Updating the list: CRREPA welcomes your contributions of bird sightings.
Just contact Grecian on 9354 9734 or grecian@iinet.net.au so they can be added to the list