



On the Foreshore

FRIENDS OF ATTADALE FORESHORE (INC)

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Second Quarter 2010

New Web Site

Thanks to a program for third-year students of Multimedia at Murdoch University, FOAF has a new-look website.

Called MCC338 *Multimedia Client Project*, the unit is designed to encourage students to develop their professional skills and better prepare them for developing their post-university careers.

The students assigned to work with FOAF were outstanding.

Bernard Yehuda and Shannon Lockett worked with a member of the FOAF Committee to produce an extremely attractive and easy to use space, providing both historical and current information on the activities of FOAF.

We are delighted with the outcome and thank the students for their fabulous efforts.

Updated information will be steadily added to the site and the Calendar of Events will soon be in operation.

Members are encouraged to visit:

www.sercul.org.au/foaf



Shannon and Bernard

Committee Changes



Mike Nichol at work

The FOAF Committee has undergone some changes over the course of this year.

The role of Chairperson has been assumed by Mike Nichol. Long-serving Secretary Colin Heinzman has resigned from the Committee, and Janis Hosking has replaced him. Paul Wang has become Vice Chairperson and Shirley Walters has joined the Committee.

We extend our sincere thanks to Colin Heinzman for his wonderful contribution to the work of FOAF over many years, and welcome others to their new positions.

The group has also taken advantage of the Bracks Library for its monthly Committee Meetings.

The 2010 FOAF Committee now comprises:

Chair: Mike Nichol

Vice-Chair: Paul Wang

Secretary: Janis Hosking

Treasurer: David Lloyd

Committee:

Margaret Alexander

Lindsay Lloyd

Margaret Matassa

Catherine O'Neill

Michael Paterson

Shirley Walters.

Forthcoming Events

- WEEK COMMENCING 30TH AUGUST—PLANTING IN THE BLUE WREN SITE AND OSPREY SITE
- WEEK COMMENCING 20TH SEPTEMBER—MORE WORK IN THE BLUE WREN SITE
- TUESDAY 5TH OCTOBER—ALCOA ACTIVITY DAY
- THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER—WEEDING IN THE ABC RESERVE
- TUESDAY 19TH OCTOBER—WEEDING IN THE DEC RESERVE

Inside this issue:

THREE PROBLEM WEEDS	2
THE RED-NECKED STINT	2
THE ALFRED COVE NATURE RESERVE	3
THE ATTADALE BUSH CONSERVATION RESERVE	3
THE BLUE WREN PROJECT	3
STRONG SUPPORT	4
SOME OF OUR SUPPORTERS	4

On the Foreshore

Three Problem Weeds: Common Fennel, Cotton Palm & Japanese Pepper



Common fennel

Common fennel, American cotton palms and Brazilian pepper are spreading along the foreshore, especially in the A Class Reserve between Troy Park and Lentona Street.

Native to the Mediterranean, fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) grows to a height of 2.5 metres, while the American cotton palm which is native to

south-western North America grows to 16 metres tall.

What is known as Brazilian pepper - but we in WA call Japanese pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) - is a suckering tree that grows to around 7 to 10 metres.

All three weeds have "jumped the garden fence" as they say - probably

through gardeners dumping their refuse on the foreshore - and all three are very difficult to remove.

They are steadily destroying the natural vegetation and causing loss of habitat. Hence they need to be removed as soon as possible and replaced by indigenous shrubs and trees.

Red-necked Stint

THE RED-NECKED STINT IS OUR SMALLEST WADER AND ONCE VISITED ALFRED COVE IN GREAT NUMBERS. OCCASIONALLY THE RED-NECKED STINT DOES RETURN TO THE COVE BUT THE NUMBERS HAVE DECREASED DRAMATICALLY.

The Red-necked stint is a migratory wader, breeding in Siberia and west Alaska and then moving to non-breeding areas in South-East Asia and Australia. They arrive in Australia from late August to September and leave from Early March to mid-April. Some first-year birds may remain in Australia.

This amazing little sandpiper's migration between the two places can be a journey of as much as 12500km and they can fly more than 3200 km non-stop.

Population growth and economic development are the biggest threats to the habitat of the Red-necked Stint. Their survival is affected by the destruction of their wetlands, pollution and hunting. The major stopover points along their migratory path can be populated by humans. Severe weather can also affect the birds: being blown off course can deplete their

energy supplies, and they may then die of exhaustion.

Red-necked Stints frequent tidal flats, salt-marshes, beaches, wetlands (coastal and inland), salt-fields and sewage ponds all over Australia.

The Red-necked Stint was once a very common visitor to the Swan River in years gone by. Unfortunately they were virtually absent during the current survey period 2006-2009. Some of the birds have been leg-flagged on the Swan River in order to track their movements. The result indicates the population moves around the Swan coastal plain. Leg-flagged Red-necked Stints have also been sighted on Rottnest Island and in the Peel Inlet to the south of Perth.

There are a number of factors that could have contributed to the decline in wader numbers.



Stint feeding on a mudflat

The health of Swan River is under considerable pressure. Recreational pressures could also be a contributing factor.

The installation of a low barrier fence to separate pedestrians and dogs from roosting and feeding sites at Alfred Cove has proven most effective.

Alfred Cove is the last significant wader site along the Swan River.

by Toni Webster

(Toni is a FOAF member and is involved in monitoring bird numbers on the foreshore.)



The Red-necked Stint

The Alfred Cove Nature Reserve

Much of our attention in this special A-Class Reserve has been on what we have called the Osprey Project.

This Project aims to restore the foreshore vegetation between Troy Park and Tompkins Park—an area of enormous importance to various and many water birds.

Rampant *kikuyu* and *typha* as well as acid-sulfate soils have been just a few of the challenges. However, even though there is still much to be done, much has been

achieved.

FOAF has received two Grants to assist in this: a *Caring for Our Country Community Action Grant* and a DEC *Environmental Communities Grant* totaling around \$40,000.

In addition we have been supported by volunteers from Neptune Marine and the *National Australia Bank*.

The team from Neptune Marine braved 42-degree heat in February to prepare part

of the area for planting; while Burke Drive resident Geoff Lim organized colleagues from his section at NAB for two days of planting recently.

Together with DEC staff, and other FOAF, FOPC and community volunteers, over a hundred people have contributed time to this important initiative.

We thank everyone involved and look forward to continued support.



Neptune Marine Volunteers

The Attadale Bush Conservation Reserve

Now in its eighth year of rehabilitation the ABC Reserve is thriving.

Consistent spraying and hand weeding has resulted in few infestations of weeds.

Planting of native seedlings have grown up well, filling out gaps and producing vital habitat for the local fauna, which is now abundant in this 2.2 hectare area.

Black shouldered kites regularly patrol and rest in the Reserve, rainbow bee-eaters, a host of honeyeaters and thornbills, and striated pardalotes are among the many residents.

Some infill planting on a small scale and (as long as funding is available) spraying to control weeds will continue in order to ensure the long term health of this Reserve.

A community weeding day, supported by the Swan River Trust *River Guardians*, will be held on Thursday 14th October.

There will be a marquee for shelter and morning tea and a lunch time sausage sizzle will be provided.

Volunteers are asked to wear long sleeved shirts, trousers, closed shoes or boots and bring gloves, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and water bottles.

A WEEDING DAY
WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY 14TH
OCTOBER FROM
9.00AM TO
2.00PM.
MEET AT THE
WEST END OF
THE RESERVE.
ALL WELCOME!

The Blue Wren Project

FOAF has received funding of \$19,900 from *Lotterywest* to continue work on the bush and wooded areas to the west of Troy Park.

Part of the *Bushland Forever Site 331*, the area is significantly degraded and in urgent need of restoration.

With continued support from the City of Melville, running

grasses and other weeds have been sprayed and a planting program commenced.

Woodside has also sponsored the project by funding a team of CVA volunteers. These volunteers recently joined a large group of people from FOAF and the wider community in planting

over three-thousand sedges in the western wooded area.

These sedges will improve the health of the existing stands of *melaleuca* and *eucalypt* as well as providing habitat for fauna.

Good winter rains will see them thrive.



Volunteers Cissy, Cathie and Carmen stop for a break



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Caring for our local river foreshore environment

FRIENDS OF ATTADALE FORESHORE (INC)

Strong Support

This year, FOAF has been very successful in its pursuit of funding to improve the health of the foreshore.

Currently it is managing the following Grants:

- Caring for Our Country Community Action Grant
- DEC Environmental Communities Grant
- Lotterywest Grant
- Swan Alcoa Land Project Grant
- Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations Grant

In all these Grants have brought a total of around \$70 000 for action in both the A Class Alfred Cove Nature Reserve and Bush Forever Site 331 (which includes the ABC Reserve).

In addition to this wonderful funding support, various projects have attracted generous sponsorship by three Corporate bodies:

- Neptune Marine
- Woodside and
- National Australia Bank.

FOAF also works closely with and enjoys mutually supportive relationships with the City of Melville, the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Swan River Trust, Conservation Volunteers Australia and SERCUL.

Together with all our wonderful local and wider community volunteers:

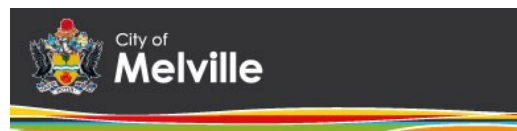
Thank you one and all!

If you would like to join one of our teams of community volunteers working on the foreshore on a regular (if not weekly) basis, please contact FOAF on foaf@iinet.net.au
 You will be very welcome!

Some of Our Supporters



Department of Environment and Conservation



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



woodside



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Conservation Volunteers Australia

NEPTUNE MARINE SERVICES LIMITED