

CRREPA NEWS

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

Editors: Stephen Johnston and Sue Stanley

ENJOY YOUR FORESHORE RESPONSIBLY

Members please contact us by phone (9354 9734) or email (CRREPA@gmail.com) or postal address (PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148)
To see your CRREPA Newsletter in COLOUR view or download it from the SERCUL website.

www.sercul.org.au/crrepa.html

Please 'like' us on Facebook by viewing 'Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association'

Great response for summer watering

They were small, they were vulnerable and they were hammered by the sustained heat of a record-breaking summer. But thanks to the great efforts of CRREPA's watering teams, most of the seedlings planted last year at five of six foreshore sites survived – and some even prospered through the long, hot summer.

The same result would likely also have been achieved at the Central Avenue site had there not been an environmental vandal who is believed to have poisoned most of the new plantings along with established shrubs and trees including Swamp Sheoak (*Casuarina obesa*), Harsh Hakea (*Hakea prostrata*) and Coastal Saw Sedge (*Gahnia trifida*).



Keating

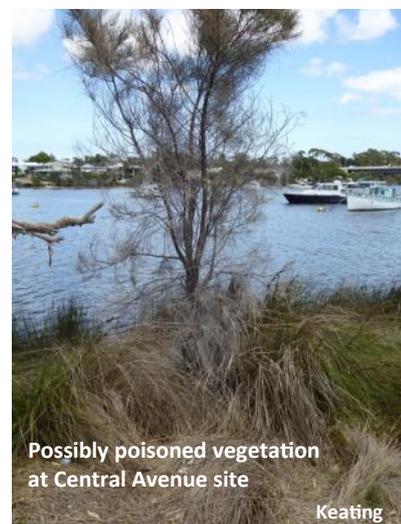
Some 40 volunteers answered the call to carry a watering can or hose connected to Canning Council watering points – at Wadjup, Rob Bruce and Lookout sites – and the taps of generous neighbour members living along Riverton Drive - the Galvins, Wilsons, Reids and Hitchmans. Such was the response that some volunteers were only rostered for a couple of sessions while others did up to 24 sessions. In addition, some non-member residents overlooking the new plantings adopted and cared for these plants over summer.



Keating

CRREPA's summer watering campaign extends back to its foundation year of 1994. With no Council watering points, the water had to be carted in plastic bottles, supplemented by the Council watering truck in latter years. Only in the last four summers has there been an open invitation to join the roster with a steady increase from 10 to 14 people over the past three years before the sharp rise in numbers this year. Seventeen of this year's volunteers were first timers. And with the number of positive comments our voluntary efforts attracted from passers-by, the number of willing hands could grow even more next summer.

Clearly plants under shade and semi-shade fared better and at the Fifth Avenue site this also affected the watering frequency – once rather than twice a week. But other observations on water run-off reinforce the importance of the pre-summer preparations around new plantings. Little water holding basins that are created at the initial planting need to be maintained around the plants whilst on slopes the preferable approach would be to have the basins just upslope of the plants so the water can filter downslope past the roots.



Possibly poisoned vegetation at Central Avenue site

Keating

Foreshore signs give new perspectives on the Canning

The installation of the Wadjup-Gabbilju foreshore walk interpretive signs between 18-21st January 2016, complementing those already installed at the Shelley Beach utilities building, has brought the fascinating history and natural values of the lower Canning to many thousands of people for hopefully years to come.

The public response to the signs has been strongly positive with the aims of interpretation to encourage awareness, appreciation and discussion already being achieved. Typical of the warm responses to the signs was a woman whose parents live in Rossmoyne: "Dad was saying he's lived there 30 years and didn't know a lot of that stuff. Gives the place soul and depth. They're great. Well done."

The project was the product primarily of the commitment by local resident and CRREPA member, Susan Harris, the input and encouragement from many specialists and residents, and the financial support of the City of Canning and Lotterywest.

After majoring in botany and earth sciences at university, Susan began a career in interpretation as a planner/researcher/writer on a government team in New Zealand making displays and audio-visuials for conserved places. She came to WA in the 80s and lived near the Canning River because she was undertaking postgraduate studies at Curtin University and was involved in a film project with David Bellamy. Since then she has worked for the State Government and as EcoMedia on environment matters south of the river, and for the last decade has focused almost exclusively on the Shelley-Rossmoyne foreshore.

"I loved running beside Perth's rivers, and it was clear there was a need for interpretation," Susan said. "I spent many years consulting and searching in repositories of information. Throughout its development, more than 1000 people came in contact with the project."

But there were many challenges. "There were years when the project was either on a backburner or waiting for approval hurdles," Susan said. "At times the task was simply to keep the project alive. I found current publications left many questions, so reliable primary sources had to be sought.

"During the first year of the project, CRREPA's presidents suggested much of the potential content, for example the Beatrice Ave bird-viewing spot. The shallow water theme quickly emerged and aspects that didn't fit were kept to one side for the brochure. Even though the research was begun at a time when not much on the Canning was available on the web, most of the content is still not published elsewhere.

"The budget was less than the annual salary of many. Transforming the Shelley Beach utilities building into a mini-interpretation node saved an enormous amount of money, and the sale of my family's home paid my bills."

The challenge now is to preserve the signs. Susan has spent considerable time cleaning them and hopes others may take up the task if the Council can offer rags and disposable gloves on request.

"It's all about growing rust, while coping with birds using the signs for perching and dogs leaving trademarks," Susan said. "An unforeseen problem has been dogs shaking off brackish water, particularly onto the Bull Creek beach sign stand."



Susan Harris at the signs below Fifth Avenue

Johnston



Stanley



Harris



Stanley

Conference brings new ideas for wetlands conservation

Three CRREPA committee members, Colma Keating, (President), Sallie Bryant, (Vice President) and Liz Moore attended the 12th WA Wetland Management conference at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre on 2nd February 2016 in celebration of World Wetlands Day which commemorates the signing of the Convention on Wetlands in the Iranian city of Ramsar on 2nd February 1971.

The conference each year attracts about 160 delegates including community conservation volunteers, landowners, educators, local and State Government officers and private sector environmental officers involved with wetland management.

Colma said highlights of the Conference were the exchange of ideas, issues and projects. "Directly because of presenting at the conference we were invited to join Challenger TAFE students studying Conservation and Land Management with their lecturer Diana Corbyn to examine foreshore rehabilitation techniques - to learn from those that didn't work as well as those that did. It was rewarding to have CRREPA's expertise acknowledged." CRREPA committee member, Liz Moore, said the conference was well worth attending and with fees kept to a minimum, she would encourage other CRREPA members to attend next year.

The following is an excerpt of a paper prepared jointly by CRREPA and the City of Canning on some of the lessons that have been learnt about taking care of volunteers:

Splitting up the foreshore – for the first eight years we worked up and down the foreshore inviting all members to each work session. Then in 2002 we split our six kilometres into five sections and invited members and other locals, including residents of Riverton Drive that runs parallel to our area to five foreshore walks all held at the same time. Participants decided which area they would join and each group then decided when they would work. We believe this met a number of needs including:

- attachment to a particular bit of the foreshore; - a spot closer to home; and - a day and time that suited participants.



This approach also shared the coordination tasks across five volunteers. For bigger weeding and planting sessions - the entire membership is invited.

One hour, tools down is a mantra for our hands-on sessions. Short and sharp sessions, letting people go back to their other lives to take kids to sport, hang out the washing, read the paper etc without feeling guilty. It took us a long time to learn this lesson. Previously we worked until the job got done and sadly lost many a future foreshore carer along the way. For our bigger sessions, we extend to two-three hours followed by a 'sausage sizzle' or some such.

Please join us for your 22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Canning River Eco Education Centre
Kent Street Weir (cnr Kent St & Queens Park Rd, Wilson)
Thursday 26th May 2016 6.45pm for 7pm

Guest Speaker:

Dr Sabrina Trocini WWF 'Rakali our native water-rat'

RSVP 19th May 2016

Essential to let us know if you are coming and for catering.

Please ring 93549734 or e-mail crrepa@gmail.com



Nominations are open for CRREPA's 2016/17 Committee

Commitments include 4 meetings per year and an area of responsibility such as archives, liaison with City of Canning, media, foreshore groups, end-of-year picnic etc. Enquiries to Colma 9354 9734 or e-mail her at crrepa@gmail.com

Profiling the Black-Winged Stilt



Black-Winged Stilts: (*Himantopus himantopus*) have an extremely large range occurring widely throughout the warm areas of the world. In 2006 Birdlife International noted that the population worldwide was increasing.

In Australia they are a common nomad in wetlands and estuaries where they forage in wet mud and shallow fresh or brackish water. They are often recorded at low tide in summer along the Shelley foreshore and around Riverton Bridge either in pairs or small groups. They do not form flocks.

Easily identified by their jet black wings, long spindly pinky-red legs, black bill and red eyes, they are beautiful to watch as they stalk so carefully in search of food. Their legs are longer than other wader birds but their foraging is restricted to water up to 15 centimetres deep as they do not swim or submerge in search of food. Their voice has been described as single yelping or puppy-like barking. When alarmed and in flight the call is repetitive and higher pitched.



Other close birding sites where you may see them are Alfred Cove, Bibra Lake and the Como foreshore.

CRREPA welcomes City's new environment manual

CRREPA has welcomed the development of an Environmental Community Group and Organisation Manual by the City of Canning in consultation with the nine environmental groups known to be in the Canning area. It is available online at:

http://www.canning.wa.gov.au/images/stories/Environmental_Community_Group_and_Organisation_Manual.pdf

The City's chief executive officer, Lyn Russell, said the manual provides "practical advice for establishing and coordinating groups, information on natural area management techniques, the roles and responsibilities of the City and groups, occupational safety and health requirements, insurance and liability, work planning, evaluation and reporting, funding opportunities and training and professional development." Both in Ms Russell's foreword to the manual and at a workshop for Canning environment groups held on 24th February 2016, the Council was keen to emphasise its recognition of the depth of experience of long term volunteers and established groups, their understanding of the City's role and requirements and the need to avoid duplication and too much additional administrative work.

The most contentious requirements in the manual relate to the groups' workplace health and safety responsibilities when working on Council-managed land (recognising that significant areas of conservation reserve land in Canning are the responsibility of other organisations including the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Water Corporation and Catholic Church). While all CRREPA's area of responsibility is Council-managed land, we have our own insurance covering covering volunteers and public liability. However, at the workshop the City's coordinator of conservation and environment, Kathleen Ridgwell, advised that we needed to also adhere to requirements of the City's insurer.

The publication and promotion of the manual helped prompt a review by the CRREPA committee of its current workplace health and safety procedures. A new additional requirement for CRREPA will be to prepare annually what the Council calls a Job Safety and Environmental Analysis (JSEA) which sets out the main categories of work to be carried out, the possible associated hazards and the controls identified to reduce the hazards. We will also need to ask all volunteers to fill out a short, one-off volunteer registration form in addition to signing on and signing off at the work activity. Other new requirements, which CRREPA is already fulfilling, are the preparation of an annual work plan – CRREPA committee members discuss our work plan with Council officers each year, and an annual report which includes the number of work days, volunteers involved, seedlings planted, grants received and what data has been collected.

3000 new plants set for the foreshore

CRREPA's revegetation of the Canning River foreshore will get a further boost this year with another 3000 plants to be planted in Rossmoyne at three sites between Corinthian Road and Second Avenue and at the Central Avenue site. The first three sites are areas of grass surrounded by well-established Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) and Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*).

About two thirds of the plants will be the Bare Twig Rush (*Baumea juncea*). The remainder will mainly be a mix of ground covers and shrubs including *Conostylis juncea*, *Conostylis candicans*, *Hemiandra pungens*, *Hibbertia racemosa*, *Gompholobium tomentosum*, *Astartea scoparia*, *Dianella revoluta* and *Gahnia trifida*.

Purchase of the plants was made possible with a \$6300 grant which was submitted on CRREPA's behalf by the South East Regional Centre of Urban Landcare (SERCUL). The grant money came from the Swan Canning River Recovery Programme which is managed by Perth Natural Resource Management (NRM) and is part of the National Landcare programme. The grant covers the cost of the plants and 20 kilograms of Terracottem soil conditioner, the remarkable mixture of more than twenty hydro-absorbent and nutritive components that was originally developed in Belgium to combat desertification in Africa. Terracottem helps retain water for plants and speeds the establishment of new plants. It is claimed that it reduces water consumption by up to 50% and dramatically improves establishment of the root system. Any grant money left over will go to a liquid wetting agent which can be broadly applied to the plants by volunteers and the Council water truck.

CRREPA's Foreshore Groups Coordinator, Grecian Sandwell, said once the plants were delivered by SERCUL, it was expected to take about a week to plant them – a joint effort between CRREPA volunteers and the City of Canning Bushcrew. Grecian said this schedule was based on a planting rate of up to 30 plants an hour with a density of five to seven plants per square metre.



WEBSITES OF INTEREST

- | | |
|---|---|
| River Guardians | http://www.riverguardians.com (inc Dolphin Watch) |
| Birds of the Canning River | http://www.canningriverbirds.com |
| Friends of Queens Park Bushland (FQPB) | http://www.friendsofqueensparkbushland.org.au |

CRREPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

If due, please detach and return this form (with your subscription) either:

<p style="text-align: center;">by DIRECT CREDIT</p> <p>BSB: 806015 Account No: 1528154 Account Name: CRREPA Reference: mem YOUR NAME</p>	<p>OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">by POST</p> <p>CRREPA Treasurer PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">by HAND</p> <p>CRREPA Treasurer 21 Denise Close Shelley or 187b Riverton Drive Shelley</p>
---	---	---

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

wish to renew our membership for: **1 year** (to 31 March 2017) **\$5.50 (single / family)** **\$2.20 (student)**
(Circle appropriate section) **5 years** (to 31 March 2021) **\$20.00 (single / family)** **\$10.00 (student)**

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

(E-mail) _____

CRREPA volunteers count birds on the Canning

About a dozen CRREPA members gathered on the foreshore near the Beatrice Avenue spit (also known as Grecian's Spit) for about an hour on the mornings of 6th and 7th February 2016 to contribute to the National 2020 Shorebird Count coordinated by Birdlife Australia.



It was the fourth year CRREPA had been involved in the program which aims to reinvigorate and coordinate national shorebird population monitoring in Australia. Volunteers conduct annual counts at over 150 key shorebird areas to identify national population trends. Birdlife Australia also hopes to be able to discover what is driving any population changes, both locally and throughout Australia.

The CRREPA members recorded 26 different birds over the two sessions, 14 of these were seen on both days and some were first sightings for volunteers. Birds recorded, that are described as rare or unusual just 3km upstream in the SERCUL/Birdlife Australia brochure, included the Hoary Headed Grebe (rare), Caspian Tern, Crested Tern, Osprey and Buff-Banded Rail.



Blessing our river at Shelley foreshore

On November 29th 2015 the City of Canning joined with the Department of Parks and Wildlife in holding the 'Blessing of the River' ceremony on the Shelley Foreshore.

CRREPA, along with a number of other community groups, were invited to set up displays of their work in tents alongside the festivities. Although the weather was fine it was extremely windy making it incredibly hard for the volunteers to keep the displays grounded. Unfortunately the event wasn't organised as well as when it was at Kent St Weir and the emphasis was more on the Dragon boats than the environment.



CRREPA would like to thank Sallie Bryant and Roslyn Bartholomaeus for setting up the display, the City of Canning for organising the tent, the volunteers who came along to help show the public what CRREPA is all about and those members who dropped in for a chat.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and THANK YOUs

We are very grateful for the support provided by the City of Canning and SERCUL.

We thank IGA Rossmoyne for their donation towards the cooked chickens for the Christmas party.

Large apartment development could have impact on Yagan

A proposal by Adventist Residential Care to build an eight-storey apartment block in Rossmoyne near the corner of Leach Highway and Webb Street has raised serious concerns among CRREPA members about its potential impact on the adjoining Yagan Wetland Reserve.

The building would be the tallest in the region and comprise 86 apartments, 113 parking bays, a bowling green and other amenities including a pool, gym, function rooms and cafe/shop. It is part of a two phase development plan that also includes three additional apartment blocks (seven, six and three storeys) and a caravan parking area.

CRREPA has done voluntary landcare work at the Yagan Wetland Reserve since the organisation's inception 21 years ago. In a submission to Canning Council, CRREPA President, Colma Keating, said we were fortunate to have the substantial block of remnant local native vegetation in the Reserve, which had been recognised as a Conservation Category Wetland and a Bush Forever Site. Colma said CRREPA had identified 13 issues that must be fully addressed to ensure the Reserve was not compromised by the proposed development. If these could not be addressed satisfactorily the current proposal should not proceed.

The issues included the potential for significant soil movement and use of water in both demolition and construction. Responsible conditions needed to include retention of all drainage within the development site so it did not impact on the Reserve. Similarly, demolition rubble and construction materials would need to be stored away from Yagan and the adjoining foreshore, then removed and watered to ensure that builders' dust does not move onto the reserve.

CRREPA was also concerned about the potential to expose subsoils that could lead to the well documented condition of acid sulphate soils. An investigation would be needed to determine if these soils might be created and measures taken to mitigate any effects.

Issues around the significant amounts of infill across all phases of the development included the potential to bring in dieback-affected soils that could leach or flow down to the Reserve as well as airborne movement of dust and soils that could smother plants, settle and silt up Bull Creek. Infill would need to be sourced from non-dieback affected areas and onsite best practice dieback hygiene management approaches followed by all staff, contractors and visitors. Colma said the proposal called for significant excavation and dewatering which could result in the drying of the soil and possible movement of water from the dewatering process into the Reserve.

CRREPA strongly opposes a proposal that the access track be extended from Bull Creek Road along the Sherwin Lodge boundary to Leach Highway. Colma said this was proposed in the past but the problems had not changed and are acknowledged in the current Bushfire Management Plan - erosion of a steep slope, an expensive bridge would be required, there would be significant disturbance to this important wetland during construction of the bridge and the track has real potential to encourage undesirable access by vandals, weeds and animals to either wetland or aged care facility.



courtesy — Adventist Residential Care development application report

Rain brings new Christmas party venue

The unseasonal wintry weather that looked set to put a dampener on last year's CRREPA Christmas party on 6th December, prompted a quick change of plan away from the Shelley foreshore to what was generally agreed to be a very good venue - an undercover lunch area in the grounds of the Rossmoyne Primary School.

Around 35 people enjoyed each other's company and a wide range of delicious food as we reflected on another successful year for CRREPA. A number of items were left behind and at least one, a cutting board, has still not been claimed by its owner.

Many thanks to the Rossmoyne Primary School for coming to our rescue.



Keating



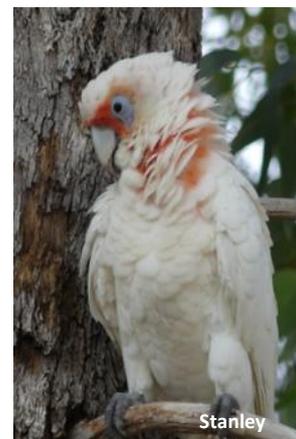
Keating

Can you find the local birds and animals?

I	H	T	U	R	T	L	E	S	D	W	D	I	C	M
R	B	M	G	Z	L	K	N	W	A	S	K	H	O	P
F	L	I	N	J	Z	J	A	A	K	A	T	U	R	E
N	H	Z	S	O	X	T	C	N	A	N	N	X	M	E
N	I	H	P	L	O	D	I	M	A	D	Z	J	O	X
Z	V	I	D	H	H	A	L	S	A	P	X	Q	R	J
Y	S	K	E	T	L	M	E	A	L	I	T	G	A	S
T	E	R	C	L	M	B	P	H	K	P	F	J	N	J
C	O	R	E	O	D	O	T	B	G	E	S	O	T	G
N	U	R	P	A	A	B	E	Z	G	R	E	G	U	T
P	O	R	R	S	E	T	R	Q	G	B	O	L	E	B
C	D	T	L	T	O	A	G	A	E	R	L	R	T	X
O	E	U	Q	E	X	I	E	R	F	M	N	Y	G	T
R	Z	J	C	L	W	L	G	C	L	U	C	X	G	B
I	G	I	P	K	U	T	S	T	I	L	T	K	C	H

The following are spelt out in the puzzle square:

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| Osprey | Darter |
| Dolphin | Pelican |
| Curlew | Gull |
| Sandpiper | Bobtail |
| Duck | Corella |
| Swan | Frog |
| Ibis | Tern |
| Egret | Stilt |
| Heron | Grebe |
| Cormorant | Turtle |



Stanley

YOUR CRREPA COMMITTEE 2015 - 2016



President: Colma Keating
Vice President: Sallie Bryant
Secretary: Elsie Fisher
Treasurer: Bill Lambe

Committee Members
 Grecian Sandwell, Roslyn Bartholomaeus,
 Liz Moore, Diane Matthews,
 Stephen Johnston, Sue Stanley and Dick Bolton