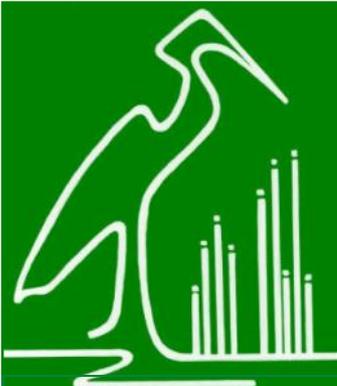


CRREPA NEWS

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 (9259 4434) or email (CRREPA@gmail.com)

or postal address (CRREPA Treasurer 21 Denise Close, Shelley 6148)

To see your CRREPA Newsletter in COLOUR view or download it from the SERCUL website.

www.sercul.org.au/crrepa.html

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FORESHORE REVEGETATION PROJECT DEFERRED

The CRREPA committee decided at its June meeting to defer for another year the proposed next stage of foreshore revegetation that extends about 80 metres from opposite the Corinthian Road-Riverton Drive intersection to opposite 121 Riverton Drive [Site 20].

The site includes both a narrow sandy shaded section subject to erosion at the bottom of Corinthian Drive and two wider grassed sections. While the site preparation and planting would not have commenced for another 10 or so months, grant applications to the Perth NRM for funds to purchase the plants were due by 10 July 2017 so a decision was required.

The critical issue in the committee's decision was not CRREPA's capacity to get the grant, undertake the planting in association with the City of Canning

Natural Areas Team (NAT), nor the weeding. The issue was the extra major demand on volunteers' time over summer to water many hundreds more seedlings in addition to those that were planted in recent years and still need regular watering. Based on our experience of using the SERCUL trailer and water tank over the past summer for the 123-129 Riverton Drive [site 19] sites and the filtration ditch near Beatrice Avenue, and assuming the NAT was still able to water fortnightly, we would have required two volunteers with a vehicle to tow the trailer, for around three to three and a half hours every fortnight from December 2018 to around early April 2019.

By deferring this project to the winter of 2019, we would hope that with reasonable rainfall over the next two winters, site 19 would only require the fortnightly watering by the NAT in the summer of 2019 and the SERCUL water tank and trailer could be used exclusively for the new plants at Site 20.

The committee's decision is another reflection of what is, along with intentional or unintentional damage to, and theft of, plants, the biggest constraint on the restoration of local native vegetation along the foreshore. Because of the often poor soil, lack of shade and groundwater, new plants have to be watered regularly over their first summers to achieve a satisfactory survival rate. Added to this challenge are the logistical issues posed by our very narrow, six-kilometre strip where plantings may be some distance from each other and require a number of watering points or a large mobile watering source. We raised this issue with our Bannister ward councillors, Ben Kunze and Patrick Hall at our meeting last December and I know they have given it some consideration. But it will also have to be addressed by the new management plan for the Shelley-Rossmoyne foreshore.



MAX RISBEY - The man who sowed the seeds

by Stephen Johnston



You shouldn't say: "somebody should", rather, "If I don't, who will?"

That simple philosophy ran through Max Risbey's 21 years of very active involvement with CRREPA which came to a close last year when he retired as convenor of the group responsible for the foreshore section from Bull Creek to Tuscan Street. Max was made an honorary life member of CRREPA in 2003, and recognised with other CREEPA members in 2014 on a City of Canning honours board for 20 years of voluntary work. But still his proudest memorials are the sedges and mature trees along the foreshore that he raised from seed in his Rossmoyne back garden. It was an enterprise fostered by the enthusiastic encouragement of one of CRREPA's founders, the late Margot Ross, and based on Max's recognition that he could save the Association a considerable sum of money if it used seedlings he had propagated rather than buying them from nurseries.

With no training, only some information sheets on reeds and sedges, Max became an accomplished local seed collector concentrating mainly on *Isolepis nodosa* (Club rush), *Juncus kraussii* (Sea rush) and *Juncus pallidus* (Pale Rush), along with *Melaleuca preissiana* (Stout Paperbark), *Melaleuca cuticularis* (Saltwater Paperbark) and *Eucalyptus rudis* (Flooded Gum). The

seeds were planted in trays, then the fledgling plants were transferred from the trays to tubes provided by the Council into potting mix provided by CRREPA. He raised thousands over the years, to be planted by CRREPA. The City of Canning made a significant donation to CREEPA for these plants, \$1000 of which went towards the Wilbur Street jetty reconstruction.

With poor sandy soils, long, hot summers, occasional high tides and storm erosion the attrition rate for Max's plants could be very high and there were some places where, despite repeated attempts, they would not grow. But in many other places persistence paid off. He decided to adopt the approach that the group would only plant where there was a good layer of Council mulch. In his white or orange overalls, Max was a familiar figure riding a bike along the foreshore with a basket on the back holding a tray of plants and another basket on the front with bottles of water. At the planting site he used special tools he designed and produced himself, to make the job easier and a lot faster.

When Max takes his grandchildren down to the river to see trees that he raised and planted, like a group of *Eucalyptus rudis* near the seat opposite Mt Henry, it can prompt recollections of his own boyhood. As a 10-year-old living in Maida Vale he was taken by a neighbour to see a friend who lived in what was then the bush suburb of Rossmoyne. He recalls them pushing their way through what seemed a long stretch of reeds and rushes to get to the friend's boat. While sadly, most of that original vegetation has long since disappeared under decades of suburban development, Max has the continuing satisfaction of knowing that he has made a substantial and long-lasting contribution to the re-establishment of plants that once flourished along the Canning foreshore.

End-of-year Sundowner

- WHEN:** Sunday 3rd December 2017 at 5.30pm
WHERE: Shelley Beach Reserve (near Beatrice Avenue roundabout)
A shady spot with a beautiful view
CRREPA PROVIDES: Roast Chickens and glasses
BYO: Salad or nibbles to share

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 | https://www.friendsofqueensparkbushland.org.au |

FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

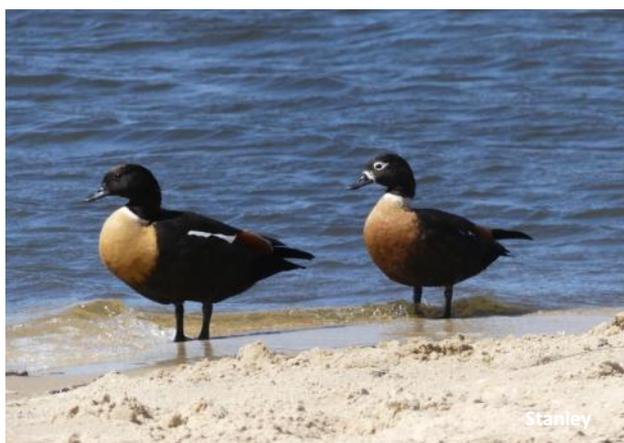
In the wake of the Council's unanimous vote of support on 16 May 2017 for a new management plan for the Shelley-Rossmoyne foreshore, it's too early to be able to articulate a clear timeline and process for development of the plan. The Notice of Motion at the May Council Meeting requested in part that the Chief Executive Officer 'brief Council on the review options and provisional budgetary considerations no later than the September 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting for its consideration'.



What we can be certain is that key State Government departments will need to be consulted - Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, previously the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW), and Planning Lands and Heritage which incorporates the former Department of Aboriginal Affairs as well as authorities like the Water Corporation with its responsibilities for sewerage pumping stations and stormwater drains. Key stakeholders will also likely be consulted in preparation of the draft, both external groups like CRREPA, the Riverton, Rossmoyne and Shelley Ratepayers' Association and relevant recreational user groups, as well as Council program areas like Enriching Canning (which includes events planning), Build Canning (which includes engineering and architectural services), Clean Canning (which includes property maintenance services) and Liveable Canning which includes both strategic and statutory planning. These consultation processes will all be guided by a Community Engagement Plan which is yet to be developed.

While the old management plan lapsed 11 years ago, a lot of it is still broadly relevant and an important step will be to review which recommendations of the old plan were not implemented and should be considered for incorporation into the new plan. When the new draft plan has been completed, Councillors will be provided with a briefing on the draft before it goes to a formal Council meeting for approval for release for public comment.

Australian Shelduck by Sue Stanley



While it's not at all uncommon in south-western WA, Australia's largest duck, the Australian Shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*) has until recently been rarely sighted along our foreshore. They prefer fresh water and if found in a saltwater habitat need to be within easy reach of freshwater. In recent times they have been seen at the Beatrice Ave spit which has the freshwater living drain running into it.

Also known as the Mountain Duck or Sheldrake, its genus, *Tadorna*, has Celtic roots and means 'pied water fowl'. They graze on green grass on land and also eat algae, insects and molluscs. The Australian Shelduck is an unmistakable large brightly coloured duck with an upright stance and a small head and bill. The male ducks' head and

neck are black with a green tinge and the breast is a cinnamon colour. The upperwing coverts form a white shoulder patch. The female ducks have a white eye ring and a chestnut breast.

The Australian Shelduck nests in large tree hollows well-lined with down. The female incubates the eggs while the male defends the brood territory. The species is monogamous and some pairs form permanent bonds. They are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

“.....I was keen to give a little back,” Sallie Bryant reflects on her years with CRREPA

Towards the end of this year, former CRREPA vice president and long-serving committee member, Sallie Bryant, will make what is likely to be a permanent move back to her home state of Queensland to join husband, David, who relocated there for work in 2016.



This impending move prompted Sallie to step down from the CRREPA committee at the annual general meeting in May after nine years' service, six of them as vice-president. While the position of vice-president is often the stepping stone for ascension to the presidency, that was not a role Sallie aspired to, indeed she counts herself lucky to have avoided it for so long. "I just strived to support the president at any time, helping out where I could and endeavouring to lighten their load," Sallie said.

Her first contact with CRREPA came when she encountered CRREPA members "having a wonderful time weeding and watching the Dolphins that had come close by. As a regular user of the Shelley foreshore I was keen to give a little back in helping a unique, tranquil and beautiful environment that we are so privileged and fortunate to have and clearly needing all the help it can get to withstand the pressures of development and negative human impact."

Despite having three children under the age of eight, working part-time and having significant parent support commitments at Shelley Primary school and on sports committees, Sallie soon commenced her energetic and varied involvement with CRREPA.

"Before the advent of email our family helped out for some five years with preparation of the newsletters for distribution, folding and labelling them. I delivered all the newsletters a couple of times but we then moved to dividing them up for distribution among committee members wanting to help and I would deliver a bundle to each of them. I also took on a role of boosting our volunteer membership through displays at weeding sessions, membership brochures and photo displays at the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) and Riverton library of our work achievements, volunteer events and birds along the Canning.



"For the past 6 or so years I have been CRREPA's representative on the committee of the South-East Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) and worked with the SERCUL team on a successful grant application for CRREPA for much-needed ergonomic weeding tools, flags and work signs to bring the public's attention to our volunteer work days. I also sought extra volunteer help through Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and SERCUL for some areas along our stretch of foreshore that we needed help with. The Green Army has also been a really valuable contributor."

In 2014 Sallie began co-ordinating improvement of the site near the junction of Riverton Drive and Central Road, Rossmoyne with the City of Canning to increase native plant cover, reduce weeds and provide a better habitat for insects and birds. With the support of many volunteers, Sallie estimates that more than 250 bags of weeds have been removed over the 40-metre long site and new plants installed. Central Road has been particularly challenging because of a lack of tree cover, poor soil conditions, repeated thefts of new plantings, trampling and destruction of plants by dogs and humans. Nevertheless, persistence, strong volunteer support and public awareness have made a difference. Sue Stanley has now succeeded Sallie as Central Road coordinator.

Sallie said her involvement in CRREPA had been very positive and inspirational "Everyone is always friendly, cheerful and there is always great chatter. It is great working alongside like-minded people, inspired by the outdoors and wanting to help their environment. While our achievements along the foreshore may not be obvious to the passer-by, the before and after photos show they have been quite amazing over the 23 years. I will look forward to enjoying a weeding session along the foreshore whenever I'm in Perth and get the chance."

Guided Tour of Queens Park Bushland

The Friends of Queens Park Bushland will be providing a special guided tour for CRREPA members and friends of a very important patch of remnant bush at 9am on Sunday 10 September 2017.

The Queens Park Regional Open Space is along Welshpool Rd in Queens Park, Welshpool and East Cannington and contains 19 hectares of remnant Banksia/Marri bushland. It is located on the eastern part of the Swan Coastal Plain where alluvial clays originating from the Darling Plateau meet grey Bassendean sands blown in from the west. This soil type supports the Southern River Vegetation Complex and is the last remaining reserve of this type in the City of Canning. All of the Queens Park Bushland has been given Bush Forever status. A wetland has been constructed near to Station St, East Cannington, from a Water Corporation drain surrounded by highly degraded land. This holds excess water runoff and provides a habitat for local wetland animal species.



Courtesy of FoQPB

The tour for CRREPA members will be led by the chairperson of the Friends of Queens Park Bushland, Sian Mawson. "We'll start by looking at a historically winter wet area that is suffering from a lack of water," Sian said. "Looking at one of the threatening features of the site, we'll detail how we've turned it to our advantage. Then we'll move to an area that has been bare since at least the 1950s and what we've had to do to get things to grow there. Depending on time and interest, we can then go wildflower watching around the rest of the reserve."

Just so we can get an idea of numbers, could those who will be attending the tour please email Stephen Johnston at CRREPA@GMAIL.COM by Monday 4 September 2017.

The meeting place for the tour is the carpark to the Neighbourhood Centre on Whitlock Rd, Queens Park, opposite the intersection with Reginald St at 8.50 am.

SPRING ALONG THE FORESHORE

It looks like the good winter rains along with all the hard work done by the volunteers watering over summer will make for a great display along the foreshore this spring.



Hibbertia racemosa

Hemiandra pungens (upright)

Conostylis candicans

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and THANK YOU

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

WADJUP'S BEEN THE POINT OF ATTENTION

Wadjup Point has this year been a focus of an important public debate with wide, positive outcomes; restoration work by the City of Canning of its eastern side and continued erosion of its western side after a Council restoration proposal was rejected by the then Department of Parks and Wildlife (now part of the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions).

The public debate was whether Wadjup should be included in an extended dog exercise zone on the Shelley foreshore. CRREPA took a leading role in the debate, not only to voice concerns about the environmental impacts of dogs off-leash at an important site for water birds, but also the inappropriateness of introducing significant changes in foreshore management in the absence of a current management plan.

The three positive outcomes were:

- rejection by Council of the proposed dog exercise zone extension,
- unanimous support by Council for a motion by Councillors Ben Kunze and Patrick Hall, prompted by CRREPA's lobbying, for a review of the 11 years out-of-date Rossmoyne-Shelley foreshore management plan; and
- an assessment by the Council, in response to a question from one of the proponents of the dog exercise zone extension, that highlighted Wadjup's importance as an extensive shallow water/mudflat feeding ground for many wading birds including the migratory Common Greenshank and the Hooded Plover which is listed as a Vulnerable Species in Australia.



Besides Prisoners Point, Wadjup is the most prominent point along the Rossmoyne-Shelley foreshore and particularly its west facing, but also its east facing flank have long been subject to erosion. The Council was planning to undertake foreshore stabilisation works on both sides in May and June to minimise the erosion impact caused by wind and wave action and uncontrolled access which placed public safety, the environment and adjacent infrastructure at risk. The restoration plans were developed in collaboration with CRREPA and the then Department of Parks and Wildlife.

On the western side, the proposed works were to include minor contouring of the riverbank, installation of low gabion baskets, placement of small limestone spalls and revegetation with low level native plant species. Gabion baskets provide long term bank stability and their porosity allows for reduced wave impact on the riverbank. Unfortunately, the Department's Rivers and Estuaries Division rejected the Council's proposal for low gabions and there have been discussions between the Council's contractor, Natural Areas Consulting, and a coastal engineer to decide on an alternative approach. Meanwhile, as the photograph shows (top left), the usual winter combination of strong westerly winds and high tides have continued to erode the bank.

Work on the eastern side was undertaken on 6 June with contouring of the riverbank, placement of erosion control matting, installation of one row of coir logging and revegetation. The structure has survived well under the continuous high tides we have been experiencing and it seems the limestone path has helped guide the public away from the vegetation.



YOUR CRREPA COMMITTEE 2017 - 2018



President: Stephen Johnston
Vice President: Grecian Sandwell
Secretary: Sue Reynolds
Treasurer: Bill Lambe

Committee Members
Roslyn Bartholomaeus,
Sue Stanley and David Thwaites