



CRREPA NEWS

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

Editors: Stephen Johnston and Sue Stanley

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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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CRREPA submission on foreshore management plan goes to the Council

After many hours of work by current and former committee members, the Association's submission to the review of the 2001 Shelley-Rossmoyne foreshore management plan was sent to the City of Canning on 28 March 2018.

The submission's 27 pages comprise an introduction, a pictorial of our foreshore restoration achievements, the strategic and scientific rationale for enhanced conservation protection, our vision for the foreshore and specific recommendations on how to achieve it.

The submission recognises the huge improvements in the environmental state of the foreshore since the early 1990s that have been brought about by a major cooperative effort between principally CRREPA and Lions Club of Booragoon volunteers and City staff, particularly the Natural Areas Team. "This has been achieved through the combination of removal of lawn and revegetation with sedges, groundcovers and low shrubs together with natural regeneration assisted by the creation and ongoing management of a barrier strip between foreshore vegetation and lawn to enable remnant vegetation to extend naturally up the slope," the submission says. "..... there is now an almost continuous band of sedges from Yagan Reserve to Shelley Bridge that provide protection and stability for the six kilometres of foreshore... CRREPA members have recorded 79 different bird species along the foreshore of which 37 are seen on a regular weekly basis.... But much more needs to be done to strengthen the foreshore's viability as an ecological corridor between Canning Regional Park, Yagan Wetland Reserve and the bush reserves along Bull Creek, while also providing visitors with shade and a lovely natural setting for passive recreation."

CRREPA's key recommendations focus on:

- protecting high conservation areas along the foreshore like Yagan Wetland, Pleasant Place damland, Grecian's Spit and Wadjup Point from people, dogs off-leash and watercraft;
- identifying which areas are best suited to revegetation through removal of grass and planting local native sedges, groundcovers and low shrubs;
- maintaining the barrier strip between foreshore vegetation and lawn, enabling the remnant vegetation to naturally regenerate up the slope;
- substantially increasing the number of trees – particularly local region Eucalypts and maintaining succession planting for senescing trees before they die;
- maintaining existing river access points; and
- auditing all stormwater pipes that flow directly into the Canning to identify which ones deliver water with low levels of pollutants and therefore require no modification and others which should be shortened to discharge into vegetated biofilter trenches.

To view the submission, please go to our website 'http://www.sercul.org.au/crrepa/' and look under 'downloads'



From grass to native vegetation – CRREPA foreshore revegetation gets new boost



Three more areas of the Shelley-Rossmoyne foreshore will be revegetated over the next three years following CRREPA's success in gaining funding from the State Government.

With the strong endorsement of the City of Canning and City's commitment to considerable contributions of in-kind support, CRREPA applied for a modest part of the \$900,000 offered through the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) Community Rivercare Program Grants to revegetate two grassed areas this year and a third in 2020-21. The two areas for this year are near Grecian's Spit, opposite 239-241 Riverton Drive North, Shelley and the eastern side of Wadjup Point, Shelley.

CRREPA Vice President, Grecian Sandwell, said the Beatrice Avenue site was chosen because of its proximity to the most important waterbird resting and feeding site along the Shelley-Rossmoyne foreshore. Grecian said the planting would provide an extension of the vegetation buffer between Riverton Drive and the Spit. She said Wadjup Point was chosen to expand the currently narrow band of riparian vegetation on this prominent and much visited point. The City's Natural Areas Team (NAT) has already poisoned the turf at these sites, the plants have been ordered and shortly before the scheduled planting dates in June, the NAT will augur planting holes. The 950 plants to be put in are sedges, rushes, rhizomatous, low shrubs, perennial herbs and groundcover including *Juncus krausii*, *Facinia nodosa*, *Conostylis candidans* and *Dianella revoluta*, that are native to the local region and have proven successful at other foreshore revegetation sites.

CRREPA has always followed the principle that it's not the number of plants put in but the number that survive which is important so the time and effort that is expended on planting will necessarily be exceeded many times over by the time and effort expended in weeding and watering. This approach and good site selection have been the key reasons for the success of the 2016 revegetation site opposite 123-129 Riverton Drive, Rossmoyne.

Grecian said she was also conscious of the warning in the City's 2006 *Watercourse Reserves Management Strategies* that "the conversion rate of turf to bush should be carefully controlled so that the revegetation process includes a sufficient commitment of resources and time for successful establishment before the conversion of new areas commences."



"There will be no increase in the area we have to water because Wadjup Point is reticulated and we have left 2019-20 as a consolidation year before we embark in 2020-21 on the largest site, opposite 117-121 Riverton Drive West, Rossmoyne," Grecian said. "This includes a narrow sandy shaded section subject to erosion at the bottom of Corinthian Drive and two wider grassed sections lined with mature melaleucas. It will connect a 1995 CRREPA planting site, west of the Corinthian Road intersection with the 2016 site."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and THANK YOU

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

Hooded Plover - a welcome visitor at the 2018 Annual Shorebird Count



CRREPA members met at two sites to record birds for the 2020 Shorebirds Survey for 2018. On Sunday 11 February a hooded plover was recorded at Grecian's spit at the end of Beatrice Avenue. The bird was seen a few days later at Shelley beach adjacent to the jetty where it was foraging alongside a pied oystercatcher.

This bird is occasionally seen along our foreshore where we should do all in our power to ensure it is left undisturbed.

Along with the usual shorebirds, 10 swans and six mountain ducks were also seen. The resident swan population has increased and mountain ducks, terns and spoonbills are regularly sighted. This year we also noted the number of birds on the old convict fence as this structure provides important resting spots for cormorants, darters, pelicans, osprey and others. Each year bits of the fence disappear and so the safe resting places for birds continue to decline. Prior to development many of these water birds would have rested along the foreshore.

For members present at the count on the 11th we all witnessed the detrimental effects drones have on birds. At 9:00am one passed over the spit when all swans took flight and the other species were disturbed.

Finally we have a new Constitution

After a lengthy review process by the Committee and a few former committee members, CRREPA now has a new constitution which meets the key requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*. The process started in 2016 when a sub-committee comprising Stephen Johnston, Grecian Sandwell, Bill Lambe and Sue Stanley reviewed, clause by clause, the relevance of a model constitution which had been prepared by the State Government to help incorporated associations bring their constitutions up to the new requirements.

A draft was prepared, submitted to the AGM in May and then after further comments, revised and submitted to members again. The process culminated on Thursday 26 October last year when 22 members braved very wintry conditions at Shelley Beach Park for a special general meeting which passed the final revised draft. Our new constitution was then lodged with the Commissioner for Consumer Protection.

CRREPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – NOW IN SEPTEMBER 2018

With the adoption of our new constitution, our financial year will run from July to June and therefore our AGM will from now on be in the second half of the year.

This year the AGM will be held on **Thursday 20 September 2018** at the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) on the corner of Kent Street and Queens Park Road, Wilson.

It will commence at 7.00 pm. The guest speaker this year will be scuba diver, Mel Turner, on the diverse marine life found in the Swan River, where it's been found and what they have yet to encounter but reasonably believe may live in the Swan. On the basis of her group's observations, Mel will share her thoughts on the health of the Swan River ecosystem and the main threats.

Refreshments will be provided after the formal meeting.

You will be reminded closer to the event.

Queens Park tour



Members of CRREPA were again invited to take a guided tour of an area of bushland in Queens Park. Our tour guide Sian Mawson, Chairperson of Friends of Queens Park Bushland, showed us through a man-made wetland that was once an open drain running through a weed filled paddock. With the help of Main Roads, WA Water Authority and City of Canning the area was engineered into three ponds filtering runoff from stormwater drains into the Canning River.

In 17 years, a relatively short space of time, this wetland has become a home and breeding ground for a large number of birds and animals.

Sights along the foreshore



Draft biodiversity and street trees strategies chart a greener future for Canning

Two new City of Canning strategies – the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy and the draft Street Trees Strategy will, if adopted by Council, provide further powerful complementary strategic support for continuing revegetation of the Shelley-Rossmoyne foreshore.

Their starting points are the huge loss of native vegetation and tree canopy within the City. Native vegetation covers less than seven per cent of the City and many of these areas are small and fragmented. Canning has tree canopy cover of only 13 percent, the third lowest level of the 29 Local Governments assessed within the Perth metropolitan area.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy has two main recommendations that are of greatest relevance to the foreshore. It firstly recognises the criticality of “ecological linkages” which include the Shelley-Rossmoyne foreshore corridor between the Canning Regional Park and the Bull Creek reserves, starting with the Yagan Wetland Reserve. The draft Strategy provides another level of support for enhancing this corridor through a program of continuing revegetation that both broadens and fills gaps in the canopy cover. It also takes a most welcome wider view that the principal foreshore ecological linkage needs to be complemented by interconnected areas of local native vegetation on all categories of Council and State Government (eg Water Corporation)-managed land in Shelley and Rossmoyne: parks, street verges, compensation basins and drainage reserves.

The draft Strategy recommends improving the protection status of native vegetation in the City and formalizing recognition of its conservation significance by changing the purpose of some reserves to conservation or, as with the Shelley-Rossmoyne foreshore, adding conservation to their current purpose of Parks and Recreation.

The draft Street Trees Strategy complements these recommendations by highlighting the multiple benefits of trees, including their potential to form biodiversity corridors, and committing to a one per cent increase each year in tree canopy cover in the City of Canning to 2021. This would amount to a total of 4000 extra street trees.

Vale Anne McDonald and Peter Staer



Anne and her husband John moved into Shelley in 1998 and were active hands-on CRREPA members until they moved to Jolimont in 2007 as Anne's Parkinson's progressed.

Many of you will remember their efforts along the foreshore and their great company at our hands-on sessions, the End-of-Year Picnics and at the AGMs.



This time we sadly tell you that Peter Staer is no longer with us. CRREPA received the following message from his wife and family on 12 March 2018.

*Hello,
this is just to let you know that Peter Staer
changed his address to heaven at 8 am this morning.
Thanks
Shalom
Merle & family*

Wadjup Point West Foreshore Restoration

Foreshore stabilisation works on the western side of Wadjup Point have finally been completed after initial rejection by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) - Rivers and Estuaries Division of the City of Canning proposal.

After further talks between CRREPA, DBCA, the City of Canning and its contracting company Natural Areas Consulting, a new proposal was submitted and this time agreed to. Work to install a wall of low gabion baskets with brush matting in front was completed in November 2017 and as you can see in the photos below the western side of Wadjup Point is now structurally capable of handling the strong westerly winds and high tides.



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>



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