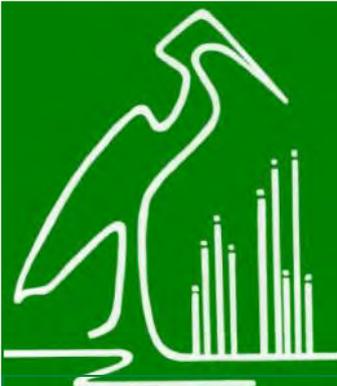


# CRREPA NEWS

## 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](http://www.sercul.org.au/crrepa.html)

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

### **VOICE YOUR SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION VALUES OF THE FORESHORE**

BY STEPHEN JOHNSTON

**After a delay of nearly 12 months caused by the public consultations on the Shelley Beach masterplan, the City of Canning's review of the 2002 Shelley-Rossmoyne management plan is finally re-commencing with an online survey and public workshops on 13 November and 4 December.**

The first workshop will be held on Tuesday 13 November 2018 to identify values and opportunities for management of the foreshore. The second will be held on Tuesday 4 December to discuss concepts and priorities for the draft management plan. Both workshops will be held at the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) at the corner of Kent Street and Queens Park Road, Wilson and run from 6.30 to 8.30 pm.

I strongly encourage you to complete the online survey and particularly to register online and attend the workshop: <https://www.yoursaycanning.com.au/shelley-rossmoyne-foreshore>. Before attending these I would also encourage you to read through the CRREPA submission which we lodged with the Council on 28 March this year (sent to you via e-mail on 8th November).

One of the most important themes from CRREPA's submission to the review is that the Council has already determined, particularly in its unanimous support of the Local Biodiversity Strategy in June this year but also in a range of other Strategies and policies listed on page 10 of our submission, that the foreshore must be managed as an ecological corridor linking the Canning River Regional Park and the bushland reserves along Bull Creek.

The task of the consultants commissioned by the City of Canning for the review, Urbaqua Land and Water Solutions, is therefore to determine how the foreshore can best be managed over the next 10 years to achieve that environmental objective while also enhancing its much-valued recreational roles. As the original foreshore management plan (page 10) put it: "Unless the conservation and restoration of the riparian vegetation is given very high priority, the recreational quality of the reserve will decline." But beyond that anthropocentric view of conservation, it is equally important "to protect and enhance the natural environment within the City" (Local Planning Strategy, page 15) for its own sake and for its future – for the insects, native birds and animals that live, nest, rest and feed in the foreshore native vegetation.

So I would encourage you to help promote this overall conservation goal and CRREPA's essential recommendations (page 18 of the submission) to help achieve it, including:

- Maintaining a strong commitment to revegetating significant areas of the foreshore through continuing the removal of grass and planting local native sedges, groundcovers and low shrubs and also maintaining the barrier strip between foreshore vegetation and lawn to enable the remnant vegetation to naturally regenerate up the slope.
- Substantially increasing the number of trees – particularly local region Eucalypts - along the foreshore (both in Natural Areas and Parkland), and maintain succession planting for senescing trees before they die.
- Protecting high conservation areas from people, dogs off leash and watercraft, including:  
Yagan Wetland, Pleasant Place Dampland, Grecian's Spit, Wadjup Point and the wide sedgebanks from Park Beach Close to Shelley Bridge.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS ON THE CRREPA COMMITTEE

**At the annual general meeting on 20 September CRREPA farewelled Grecian Sandwell, Roslyn Bartholomaeus and David Thwaites from the committee but welcomed back Liz Moore and two members who are new to the committee but well known along the foreshore, Murray Radestock and Madeline Radestock.**

Grecian Sandwell was by far our longest-serving retiree from the committee and is one of CRREPA'S most esteemed figures. Grecian moved to Shelley in 1991 and was doing hands-on foreshore care by herself for three years before CRREPA was formed. She attended the community meeting that led to CRREPA's formation and became active on the committee. She has served in an official capacity as President, City Council Liaison representative and Foreshore Group Coordinator from 2002 until last year, as well as being the Fifth Ave-Beatrice Ave Sub-section coordinator. As Foreshore Coordinator she wrote grant applications, ordered and received plants, looked after them before planting, contributed articles to CRREPA News, worked with students from local primary and high schools, organised 'corporate days', represented the Association at workshops and events, established the CRREPA Bird List, welcomed people to the foreshore care groups and did many, many hours as a hands-on worker including summer watering on at least a weekly basis by herself, with the Natural Areas Team (NAT) or with other members. She would also join the NAT for many of their weekly foreshore work sessions. In 2010 her contribution was recognised by CRREPA with Honorary Life Membership and by the City of Canning in 2013 with her name included on the Volunteers' Honour Board at CREEC.



Roslyn Bartholomaeus joined the committee in 2011 and has effectively gone about setting up our displays at events like the former Blessing of the River and at AGMs while also organising working bees on the foreshore.

David Thwaites joined the committee two years ago and his parting, much valued contribution was to suggest our guest speaker for this year's AGM, Mel Turner, who gave us a memorable presentation on underwater life in the lower Swan River.

Liz Moore is re-joining the committee after a two-year break; she was also previously on the committee from 2004 to 2013, which included three years as secretary, and was elected again for 2015-16. Liz joined CRREPA on her retirement from full-time environmental work. Having lived in Shelley for many years she appreciates CRREPA's foreshore restoration work and is keen to contribute to this.

Madeline Radestock has been a member of CRREPA for two years, mainly participating in weeding and planting teams. She has been a long-term supporter of nature and wildlife groups in the UK and now Australia. Madeline shares a great interest with Murray Radestock in birds and is working on improving her identification techniques helped by a recent trip to Broome Bird Observatory. She may occasionally be spotted jogging along our beautiful foreshore training for the five-kilometre Parkruns and previously for the 12-kilometre City to Surf.

Murray Radestock's love of nature and travel stems from his background as a geologist and from his mother, who was a founding member of Earth Sanctuaries which was later acquired by the Australian Conservation Foundation. Born and bred in Adelaide, he first worked in Indonesia as a coal exploration geologist and then in Queensland. His career then morphed into energy trading in Melbourne and for another 16 years in UK and Germany. In the UK he supported Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust, RSPB, Woodland Trust and Farms for City Children. Upon returning to Australia in 2016, Murray joined CRREPA and Birdlife Australia and supports Native Arc (rehabilitation of all native animals). He feels very fortunate to live near the Canning River foreshore and is currently working on the therapeutic aspects of weeding.

# Attacking a Mammoth Spring Task

This spring our volunteers really have earned their stripes. The mild winter and good rainfall have not only been a boost for our plantings but the weeds have emerged with such vigor it's been a challenge to find our plants amongst them.

Since July we have already had 14 weeding mornings including our 'Big Day Out Amongst the Weeds' as well as numerous efforts by individuals resulting in 123 bags of weeds so far. We have concentrated on oats, clover, dandelion, rye grass and clearing enough space around our plants to allow them to grow unhindered. One good sign this spring is that the vetch at our Central Rd site has reduced significantly since last year.

Last year we put in 1391 volunteer hours which equates to 37 full time working weeks, did 139 hands on sessions and produced 203 bags of weeds.



The summer watering roster is currently under construction. While we are gradually reducing the amount of watering to our more established sites, in the hope they can survive unaided we will still monitor them and water accordingly. The City of Canning is watering four of our sites on a fortnightly basis and SERCUL (South Eastern Regional Centre for Urban Landcare) has again lent us their Water tank trailer on a fortnightly basis to assist with watering where there is no water source.



## Join us for the End-of-year Sundowner

- WHEN:** Sunday 2nd December 2018 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 *as well as your drinks, picnic utensils, chairs, rugs etc*

**RSVP for catering by November 26th: Madeline 0402 646 595**  
**[CRREPA@gmail.com](mailto:CRREPA@gmail.com)**

# NOT 1, NOT 2, NOT 3, BUT 4!

By Colma Keating

CRREPA joined the “Great Aussie Backyard Bird Count” (GABBC) again this year,

The observation times were arranged around the low tides to maximise the exposure of the sand bank at Grecian’s Spit, Beatrice Avenue, Shelley and an invite to join was circulated to the Hands-on Foreshore Care Group. We used a clever app from GABBC to record the sightings. It is very user-friendly and has an identification system if needed.

Over the five days:

- passers-by were invited to have a look through the binoculars;
- between 3-6 members participated each day;
- we took turns using the GABBC app for recording our sightings;
- 12 checklists were submitted (82,328 nationally);
- 38 bird species were recorded (662 nationally); and
- 738 individual birds were sighted and enjoyed (2.6 million nationally).
- a count was done further upstream at Wadjup Point of 19 species and 80 individual birds by Sue.



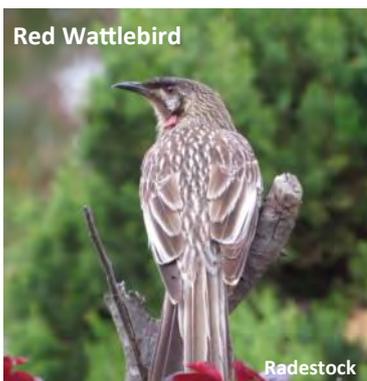
Photo: By passer-by on Murray’s camera

However, each day, a special bird eluded us, annoyingly appearing after we submitted our count electronically:

- On Monday it was a **Buff-banded Rail** which dashed across the road to forage in front gardens with Murray prepared to sacrifice himself to stop the vehicles on Riverton Drive;
- On Tuesday it was a **Yellow-billed Spoonbill** which glided in for a feed. Unlike day one, not to miss out on this record we immediately started another 20 minute survey!! We were then also rewarded with two **Black Winged (Pied) Stilts**. But we had packed and gone home when an SMS arrived from Madeline “*not 1, not 2, not 3 but 4 bb rails on spit just after you left! Photo evidence available*”. Murray, who stayed later most days got to observe a family of four **Buff-banded Rails** feeding along the edge of the sedges. (The two chicks were first sighted on 4<sup>th</sup> October as little black balls of fluff following their parents, close to the protection afforded by the sedges);
- On Wednesday it was a **Little Egret** with its lovely fine head feather which arrived on the spit;
- On Thursday it was an **Osprey** that appeared when we did our early morning weeding session at Rob Bruce site immediately after the bird count.
- On Friday it was two **Pied Oyster Catchers**, a **Hooded Plover** and the first of this season’s **Fairy Terns** which put in appearances later in the afternoon. Madeline who was walking past, returned home quickly to retrieve binoculars, pen and paper and did a 20 minute solo survey that increased our species number by almost 10 per cent.

Apart from enjoying our neighbourhood nature in good company and fabulous Spring weather, other highlights were:

- four dolphins feeding on Friday;
- actually getting a clear view of the Little Grassbird, rather than the usual flutter of wings as it seems to ‘jump across the sedges in a dark blur’;
- an Osprey executing a successful dive close to shore and flying off with an impressive catch;
- a Caspian Tern also catching a sizeable fish and then having to ward off the preying seagulls when it returned to the spit;
- Grecian and Murray who couldn’t help themselves as they resorted to weeding in between birding; and a ‘squadron’ of 17 pelicans high up on the thermals, forming a ‘v’ as well as soaring in circles.



Red Wattlebird

Radestock



Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike

Stanley

# Current listing of Birds Sighted on the Foreshore



Canning River Residents  
Environment Protection Association (Inc)

## Birds sighted along the Rossmoyne-Shelley WA foreshore (Yagan Wetland to Shelley Bridge)

Which ones do you see?

Updating the list CRREPA welcomes your contributions of bird sightings. Just contact Grecian on 9354 9734 so they can be added to the list.

### RAPTORS (5)

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

### LAND BIRDS (30)

- Fain-tailed Cuckoo (Jul'18 KEATING)
  - Pallid Cuckoo
  - Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike
  - Red Wattlebird
  - Little Wattlebird
  - Rainbow Bee-eater
  - Mistletoe Bird
  - Striated Pardalote
  - New Holland Honeyeater
  - Singing Honeyeater
  - Brown Honeyeater
  - White-cheeked Honeyeater (post Feb'04)
  - Silver Eye
  - Red Tailed Black Cockatoo
  - Camaby's Black Cockatoo (post '04)
  - Galah
  - #  South Western Corella (post Feb'04)
  - Red Capped Parrot
  - Ringneck (28) Parrot
  - Welcome Swallow
  - Tree Martin
  - Willie Wagtail
  - Australian Magpie (Mud) Lark
  - Magpie
  - Australian Raven
  - Southern Boobook (post '04)
  - Butcher Bird (post '04)
  - Rufous Whistler (post '04)
  - Western Gerygone (post '04)
  - Grey Fantail (post '04)
- ### FERALS/ESCAPEES (6)
- Rainbow Lorikeet
  - Feral Pigeon
  - Laughing Turtle-dove
  - Spotted Turtle-dove
  - Cockatiel
  - Laughing Kookaburra

# Re Corella, origin unsure, could be crosses

### WATER BIRDS (41)

- Nankeen Night Heron
- Large Egret
- Little Egret (Dec'16 STANLEY)
- White Faced Heron
- Pacific Heron (Mar '15)
- Australian White (Sacred) Ibis
- Yellow-billed Spoonbill
- Black Swan
- Avocet
- Greenshank
- Hooded Plover
- Black-winged Stilt
- Common Sandpiper (post '04)
- Purple Swamphen (Aug'13)
- Black-tailed Native Hen (post '04)
- Pied Oystercatcher (post '04)
- Sooty Oystercatcher (post '04)
- Clamorous Reed Warbler
- Buff-banded Rail
- Spotless Crake (Jun '14)
- Little Grassbird (post '04)
- Australasian Grebe
- Hoary-Headed Grebe (post '04)
- Great Crested Grebe (Mar'17)
- Eurasian Coot
- Maned Goose / Wood Duck
- Musk Duck
- Pacific Black Duck
- Mountain Duck / Shelduck (post '04)
- Grey Teal
- Caspian Tern
- Crested Tern (post '04)
- Fairy Tern
- Darter
- Little Pied Cormorant
- Pied Cormorant
- Great Cormorant
- Little Black Cormorant
- Sacred Kingfisher
- Pelican
- Silver Gull

### YOUR ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS

Birds recorded 1991–2018 by Grecian Sandwell, member of CRREPA.

(updated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018)

## CRREPA RECEIVES LARGE DONATION

CRREPA was recipient in late September of a most generous donation of \$4000 from an organisation called, Biodiversity Protection WA Inc whose mission according to its website is “funding practical, local environmental projects.”

In a letter of appreciation to the Secretary of Biodiversity Protection WA Inc, Tim Mitchell, the CRREPA President, Stephen Johnston, said the donation would provide a major boost for CRREPA’s continuing complementary objectives of protecting, preserving, restoring and revegetating the Canning River foreshore in Shelley and Rossmoyne and Yagan Wetland Reserve. He cited the use of donations this year to buy and have installed in foreshore trees three nesting boxes that will hopefully be used by Striated Pardalotes and a project that has just commenced for development of a herbarium and photographic catalogue of local native plants and weeds that are found along the middle Canning.



## New Visitor Welcomed To Shelley Shores



In recent weeks we have had the pleasure of seeing a single Purple Swamp Hen down at Grecian’s Spit, on the pipe opposite 189 Riverton Drive and on the Shelley Beach lawn area. Previously they had only been seen breeding in the Bull Creek area.

The Purple Swamp Hen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) is a large rail. Unlike many wetland birds which have dull plumage to camouflage them amongst the vegetation, the Purple Swamp Hen has a purple-blue neck and chest with a red oversized bill and frontal shield. It has a white undertail which contrasts with its black upper parts.

The Purple Swamp hen is found near freshwater streams and swamps and, although they prefer to wander along the edges of the water and amongst the vegetation, they are proficient swimmers and will take to the air to escape danger. Their diet

includes the soft shoots of reeds and rushes and small animals like frogs and snails. They also steal eggs and eat ducklings when they can catch them.

Purple Swamp Hens are normally found in small groups which consist of more males than females. Their nest is a platform of trampled reeds with the surrounding vegetation sometimes being used to form a shelter. All family members, including the young from previous broods, share the incubation and care of the young.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and THANK YOU

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

### WEBSITES OF INTEREST

River Guardians  
Birds of the Canning River  
Friends of Queens Park Bushland

<http://www.riverguardians.com> (inc Dolphin Watch)  
<http://www.canningriverbirds.com>  
<https://www.friendsofqueensparkbushland.org.au>

## Pottiputkis make an easier planting in the Yagan mud

by Colma Keating

CRREPA's planting morning on 8 September 2018 along Bull Creek in the Yagan Wetland Reserve was certainly a very different experience for many. It involved not the usual short stroll from the car to the Canning foreshore but a longer walk to the planting site, along a sometimes steep and muddy slope between the Adventist Homes' boundary fence and Bull Creek.

There was lots of mud and slushy water at the site, 1,200 tubestock to be planted and some clever contraptions called Pottiputki Planters that are ideal for such conditions and certainly make the task a lot easier than the early efforts of CRREPA in Yagan Wetland between 1994 and 1999 when it was all hand planting with trowels.

The Pottiputkis comprise a long tube with a beak at the base, some levers and springs. You push the closed beak about 10 cm into the wet ground, push a foot lever to open the beak and push the mud away, drop the plant down the tube and lift the contraption out of ground. This leaves the plant's green leaves on the surface and its roots in the hole that's just been created. After pushing some mud into the hole with your foot to ensure the roots are buried and clicked the lever that closes the beak again, ready for the next plant.

The planting morning was organised by Dan Friesen of the South East Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) under the auspices of State Natural Resource Management (NRM) grant to SERCUL for the Community Restoration of the Bull Creek Catchment. The planting day was a nominated activity under the grant.



## New Life on the Canning

Akuna and calf at the bottom of Fifth ave



# Getting to know our local plants

By Colma Keating

Nine CRREPA members, family and friends benefited from Bush Plant Identification (ID) Workshops in October. The ID sessions were designed and delivered by Julia Cullity, Community Bushland Coordinator of the Urban Nature Program, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). They were hosted by the City of Melville (Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre) and City of Kwinana (Wandi Community Hall).



The sessions were a great combination of information and activity. We learnt some basics about monocots, dicots, parts of the flower and modifications to leaves. We had a go at identifying plants in the families of Proteas (*Hakea*, *Grevillea*, *Banksia*), Peas (*Daviesia*, *Gompholobium*), Sedges (*Facinia*, *Mesomelaena*), Grasses (*Ehrharta*), Wattles (*Acacia*) and Myrtles (*Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia*, *Melaleuca*). We learnt about different resources that are available to identify plants and habitat including:

- interactive electronic programs 'Wattle' for Acacia identification, 'FloraBase' for descriptions and locations of all WA Plants and 'NatureMap' for records of geology, landscape, plants and fauna;
- identification keys such as 'Flora of Perth Region' (Marchant *et al*), 'Flora of the South West (Wheeler *et al*) and 'Common Native Grasses of the Perth Region' (Bell); and
- books with illustrations or photos including 'Plants of Kings Park' (Bennett), 'Plants of the Perth Coast and Islands' (Ripsey and Rowland) and 'Western Weeds' Hussey *et al*.



A short walk in the surrounding bushland also highlighted how getting to understand the growth form of the plant and its location in the landscape can be useful in identification.

All up a stimulating and instructive session delivered in a supportive environment with like-minded members of local urban landcare groups like CRREPA.

For more information and resources <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/off-reserve-conservation/urban-nature>

## Would you like to attend a Bush Plant ID Workshop?

If we get enough interest, we can work with DBCA's Urban Nature, the City of Canning and the Urban Bushland Council to hold a local session.



## YOUR CRREPA COMMITTEE 2018—2019

**President:** Stephen Johnston  
**Vice President:**  
**Secretary:** Sue Reynolds  
**Treasurer:** Bill Lambe

### Committee Members

Sue Stanley, Liz Moore, Madeline Radestock and Murray Radestock