

CRREPA NEWS

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

Editor: Ken Keesing

Congratulations Shelley Primary School



The membership of CRREPA was increased significantly when Shelley Primary School decided to join us in caring for the Canning River foreshore. Recently the school was enjoying breakfast at Shelley Beach for Bike Week when Sallie Bryant and Ken Keesing welcomed them to the Association. Ken reminded them how lucky they were to live in the area and that they could help care for the trees and plants and the health of the river. We wish to express our appreciation to the Principal, teachers and parents who have accepted our invitation to assist in the student's environmental education.



Photos courtesy of the City of Canning History Collection



Please join us for your **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

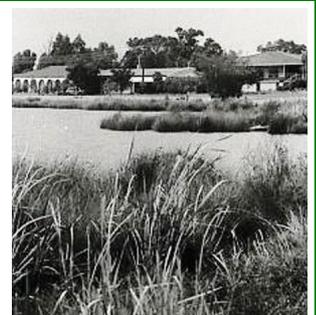
Thursday, 26 May 2011 6:50 for 7:00pm start
Canning River Eco Education Centre
Kent Street Weir
Kent Street and Queens Park Road, Wilson

Guest Speaker: Mr John Parker

President of the Canning Districts Historical Society

"The History of the Canning River"

RSVP: For catering purposes phone 9457 0775
or e-mail bcmunro@hotmail.com



Vice President's Snippets

Welcome to our many new members and thank you to our existing members for your support of, and contribution to our work on the foreshore. The past six month period has been a mixed one. We started with great expectations for the City of Canning's (CoC) Riverbank project at Halophila Bay which commenced in November (refer page 5). Despite the best efforts of the Swan River Trust (SRT), CoC staff and CRREPA volunteers its success has been hampered by severe heat and high tides that have taken their toll on the plants which will eventually stabilise and beautify the area and cannot be replaced until cooler weather. Local residents and CRREPA are disappointed with the visual outcome. Unfortunately, repairs to severe erosion take time.

Our annual end of year social in December was a great success with over 30 members enjoying the occasion at Shelley Reserve. Refer to page 3 for photographs. During the summer you would have noticed our members watering, weeding and tidying last year's new plantings. I thank all those undertaking this important task. The loss of so few plants over this very dry period is your reward. Unfortunately the CoC has also lost some of the trees planted last winter. We are saddened to think that the demise of some of these has been hastened by selfish and thoughtless acts of vandalism. Foreshore damage has occurred at Bull Creek by illegal dinghy launching. The SRT and CoC are taking action to prevent this happening. Anyone seeing breaches of the regulations is asked to report immediately by ringing the River Emergency number 1300 863 308.

Representatives of your Association have attended meetings conducted by the Swan River Trust in preparation for a document on the "Sharing of the River" to be released for public comment shortly. Many of the proposed changes will affect those who currently use the river for recreation. We have expressed our disappointment that more emphasis is not placed on conservation of the foreshore.

Recently CRREPA met with the CoC Parks and Gardens officers to co-ordinate our activities for the year. This was an opportunity for us to express our appreciation for the work done by the Bushcrew in support of our planting projects. This includes preparation of sites, spraying, weeding, removal of bagged weeds and watering. We suggested some sites suitable for storm water drain modification and drew attention to erosion at Modillion Avenue and Beryl Avenue beaches. We subsequently met on site with SRT officers who will consider offering Riverbank funding for the erosion sites. The CoC will consider providing funds for a further water filtration project and do the necessary engineering work.

Members can assist in the improvement of river water quality by encouraging the use of phosphorous free detergents and fertilizers and continuing to clean up after 'man's best friend' along the foreshore. Thank you for your continued support which you can also show by attending our AGM at CREEC in May. If you are interested in history you may learn more about Prisoners Point and the Convict Fence from our guest speaker.

Do you know your local trees?

Can you identify these as you walk, jog or cycle through the five kilometres from Shelley Bridge to Bull Creek?

Acacia (Wattle)

Casuarina (Sheoak)

Melaleuca (Paperbark)

Tuart



The UN declared that 2011 be the International Year of Forests

Canning River Eco Education Centre

Ken Keesing



Aim:

To increase awareness and understanding of the Canning River and Regional Park through education programs and activities.

Education Officer: Hayley Bullimore

Administration Officer: Tanya Porter

Kent Street Weir, Wilson

Phone: 9461 7160

Open: Monday to Saturday

The funding of the Education Officer position has been approved for three years. The Centre is well equipped to support teachers to conduct environmental studies during term times. School holiday activities for children and parents are also held. A Science Fair is run each year in August providing entertainment and learning for all ages. Information is available on the walking and canoe trails through the Regional Park. The facilities can also be hired for meetings. Tanya will be pleased to provide further information on request.

End of Year Picnic 2010

A large number of members gathered in perfect conditions at our favourite spot under the casuarinas, overlooking the river; a chance to celebrate our achievements and thank everyone for their support. Our Committee members soon had glasses filled and the roast chicken served. We greatly appreciated the salads, bread and savouries you brought to share. We all had a great time and it was good to welcome new members.



CRREPA COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011

V President Ken Keesing
Secretary Liz Moore
Treasurer Colma Keating

Sallie Bryant
Bill Lambe
Brian Munro
Joan Munro
Grecian Sandwell



Dolphins return to the upper Canning River Bill Lambe

Despite more than 200 trained dolphin watchers monitoring dolphins in the Swan and Canning Rivers, there were no official dolphin observations in the upper Canning River (upstream of Fifth Avenue) between mid-May and late August 2010. We are happy to report that regular sightings are again being recorded.

A pathology report in 2010 into the death of six Swan River dolphins blamed a combination of disease, high-levels of contaminants and human impacts such as fishing lines. Dieldrin levels in dolphin tissue were reported to be amongst the highest levels in the world. CRREPA is proud of the work that it does to improve the water quality of the Canning River. Members have been heavily involved in establishing sedges (also known as rushes or reeds) along the foreshore. Sedges have shallow spreading surface roots which bind the soil and prevent erosion. The dense plantings of sedges that CRREPA establishes also trap dirt and water runoff from the adjacent land which significantly reduces the amount of algal nutrients and toxins entering the river.

In 2009, CRREPA urged the City of Canning to upgrade some of the drains along the Shelley foreshore to include a drainage basin, planted with sedges, that allows the water from the drains to seep through the plants before it flows into the river. Some sedge species are excellent at "nutrient stripping" and this is seen as an important step in improving the water quality. After the success of the conversion of the drains at Nearwater Way and Zenith Street, CRREPA is now in discussion with the CoC about other candidate drains to become sedge drainage basins.



A recent sighting of a dolphin in the Canning River
[Photo courtesy of Bill Lambe - CRREPA]



Sedge growing in Zenith Street filtration basin
[Photo: Keesing]

**Please check your mailing label on the front page.
If the word "Expired " appears, your subscription is DUE NOW.
PLEASE RENEW TODAY!**

CRREPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please detach and return this form (with your subscription) either:

by POST
CRREPA Treasurer
PO Box 3079 Shelley 6148

OR

by HAND
CRREPA Treasurer
187b Riverton Drive Shelley

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

wish to renew our membership for: **1 year (to 31 March 2012) \$5.50 (Student \$2.20)**
(Circle appropriate section) **5 years (to 31 March 2016) \$20.00 (Student \$10.00)**

_____ 2011 \$ _____
(Signature) (Date) (Amount enclosed)

(E-mail) _____

Please circle if you are interested in RECORDING, SEED COLLECTION, REVEGETATION, BIRD SURVEY
or COMMITTEE activities. About 1-2 hours per month. ANY HELP IS APPRECIATED.

Potting-up Sedges February and March 2011

CRREPA offered to pot-on plants held in the City of Canning nursery. About 750 *Juncus kraussii* and *Ghania trifida* sedges were potted into larger containers over two sessions. CRREPA has planted these two sedge species in large numbers around the foreshore and if purchased are quite expensive. *Juncus* will tolerate inundation, whilst *Ghania* will not, but will grow above the estuarine high water level. Both are valuable for preventing foreshore erosion and filtering pollutants from storm water entering the river. Both will be used for infill planting this winter. We believe the newly potted *Juncus* being taller will be able to cope with the high tides which have flooded and killed some of our earlier plantings.

CRREPA members Joan Munro, Sallie Bryant, Liz Moore, Chris Galvin, Christie Griffin, Gail Putz, Rosalie Spencer, Rosalyn Bartholomaeus, Colma Keating and Ken Keesing under the leadership of Grecian Sandwell toiled in the heat, smell, dirt and mozzies to successfully complete the tasks with good humour. We are most grateful to Max (Matt Box the Bushcrew boss) for providing all the tools, pots, potting mix etc at the CoC nursery which made the task manageable.



Halophila Bay Riverbank Project opposite 135-137 Riverton Drive, Rossmoyne

The devastating March 22 thunderstorm last year, caused major damage to trees and beaches on the foreshore at Rossmoyne and Shelley. The CoC quickly removed the debris and planted replacement trees associated with this and previous storms whilst the serious erosion at Halophila Bay is still being remediated. Significant engineering works began last November with a limestone “toe” being placed in the river. Coir matting and large tree trunks were then pegged in place over the eroded area which was topped with tea tree woven into wire ties. CRREPA assisted the SRT and CoC Bushcrew by planting some of the sedge and paperbark trees. It was a difficult sloping site and work was also hampered by extreme heat conditions and unusually high tides.



Halophila Bay—Grecian, Rosalie and Dick



Halophila Bay— City Bushcrew brushing over logs (Keesing)



Halophila Bay—Erosion remediation



Grecian Sandwell and CRREPA members planted the sedge between the logs.

Work on this site will continue when the weather is more favourable.

[Photos: Keating]

'Care for the Canning' Foreshore Groups

Grecian Sandwell

THE CANNING RIVER NEEDS YOUR HELP

Hour long working sessions take place monthly. This is when new areas are planted up and watered through the first summer and existing revegetation sites are weeded.

Since our last newsletter (October 2010) members have been busy caring for the foreshore opposite:

- Mt Henry Bridge
- Second Avenue (with Lions Club of Booragoon)
- Fifth Avenue
- Rob Bruce Park
- Beatrice Avenue and
- Beryl Avenue.

Other areas worked on included:

- Halophila Bay (see also article page 5)
- Bull Creek and
Nearwater and Zenith living drains.

In addition we have had two potting-up sessions at the CoC nursery. Often the seedlings we order are delivered later than expected, thus missing out on winter rains and many do not have well established root systems making survival a lot tougher. We hope to achieve better survival rates by potting-up into larger containers (refer page 5) so they can develop a much stronger root system before planting out.

No new sites are planned for 2011; instead we will concentrate on maintenance, a small amount of infill planting and trial different approaches to weed control.

More volunteers are needed and are most welcome to help in these activities. If you wish to be involved in improving your natural environment contact Grecian on grecian@iinet.net.au or 9354 9734.



Potting sedge at the CoC nursery.
Second session on 31st March



Collecting water at Rob Bruce Park 6th March
[Photos: Keating]



Watering at the Beryl Ave site in February



Watering opposite Rob Bruce Park 6th February

Local birds to look for on your foreshore

Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*)

By Grecian Sandwell



Join

FREE

Bird Walks

On the

Canning Foreshore**

hosted by

CRREPA

****64 species recorded, including
28 waterbirds, 5 raptors**

Book with Grecian: 9354 9734

Hundreds of Musk Ducks are often seen during the day floating mid-stream in the Canning River between Wadjup Point and Shelley Bridge, closer to the Clontarf foreshore. Other sightings of smaller numbers are also common along the river.

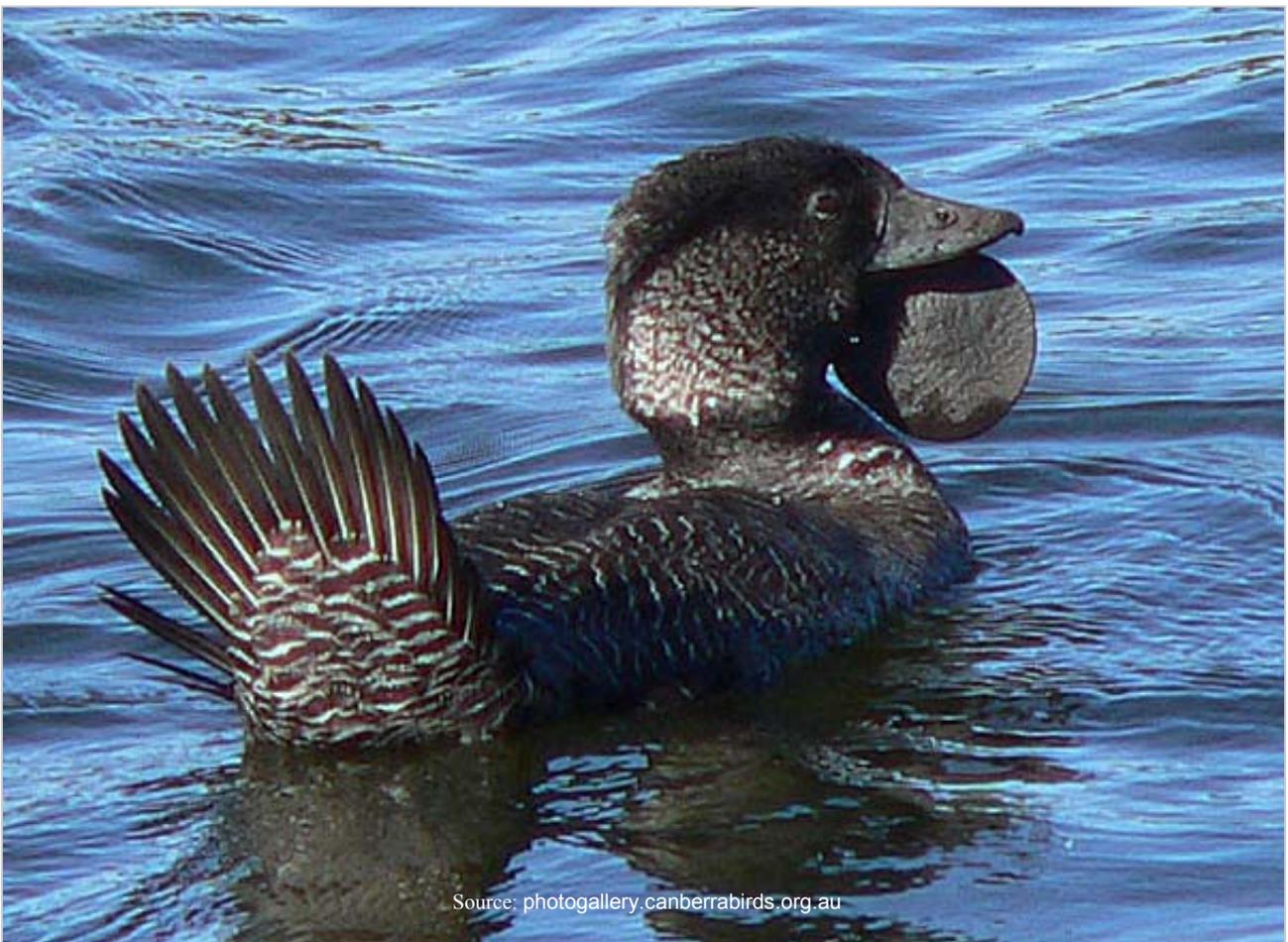
After dark, they move down river often close to the bank moving back up river before dawn. They are quite easy to identify, sitting very low in the water with a fan-shaped tail. These ducks are mostly blackish-brown, crossed with fine lines of brownish-white. The bill is black and the males have a large pendulous black lobe below it. For the females, the lobe is very small.

The male's courtship is a very elaborate affair. Staying in one spot kicking jets of water some two metres up and behind them and then raising their head; they expand the lobe under their bill. The tail is then raised and fanned out over their body. Going lower in the water they then whistle and go round and round in a tight circle.

After mating, the female goes away to begin the clutch alone. No pairs are formed and the male may have several mates. These ducks are totally aquatic and pretty helpless on land. Their diet includes insects, fresh water mussels, snails, frogs and some seeds from water plants.

I highly recommend a walk along the river after dark to listen to their fantastic calls and water spouting during the mating season. Sometimes they are close enough to see from the shore.

Reference: Readers Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds (1988)



Source: photogallery.canberrabirds.org.au

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Environment Protection Association (Inc)**

**CRREPA
PO Box 3079
Shelley 6148**

For just an hour a month...in your favourite spot... 'Care for the Canning'

| 'Care for the Canning' areas | Volunteer Coordinators |
|--|---|
| Bullcreek to Tuscan Street Last Sunday of the month | Max Risbey – 9457 1347 |
| Tuscan Street to Fifth Avenue Date to be decided each month | Anne Good & Lions Club of Booragoon – 9330 6338 anne.good@optusnet.com.au |
| Fifth Avenue to Beatrice Avenue First Sunday of the month | Grecian Sandwell – 9354 9734 grecian@iinet.net.au |
| Watersby Crescent to Wadjup Point Second Saturday of the month | Colma Keating – 9354 9734 dinkum.results@iinet.net.au |
| Wadjup Point to Shelley Bridge As need basis | Grecian Sandwell — 9354 9734 grecian@iinet.net.au |

Looking forward to working alongside you on the foreshore!!

Weeding, planting, watering, seed collection and propagation, rubbish removal, bird watching, monitoring and planning are some of the activities we hope to continue within these sections.

We encourage individual, family and group (e.g. schools, scouts, guides, social, corporate) involvement and welcome your suggestions for other interesting ideas/activities as well as the best times for your participation.

To ensure these will continue to be regular, enjoyable social events whilst benefiting our environment, the program for each 'foreshore care section' will be determined by that group. We also believe that this format of hands-on involvement will keep us all better informed about our foreshore, its management and CRREPA's contributions.

To join a working group near you and/or along your favourite part of the foreshore, please contact the respective volunteer coordinator.

Having a party?
CRREPA's 30 wine glasses are available for \$10 hire



From 9354 9734

Special thanks to the **City of Canning for
their assistance with the printing of your
CRREPA Newsletter.**

Your local Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association