

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 (0422 590 029) or email (CRREPA@gmail.com) or postal address (CRREPA Members Officer: 16 Nearwater Way, Shelley 6148) To see your CRREPA Newsletter in COLOUR view or download it from the SERCUL website.

www.sercul.org.au/crrepa

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LARGE WOODY DEBRIS PROJECT FOR THE CANNING RIVER IS TERMINATED

After three and a half years of varied proposals, meetings, emails and phone calls - all interspersed by long periods of inactivity - OzFish has finally terminated its proposed project to install large woody debris (LWD) in the Canning River to provide fish habitat and increased river biodiversity.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) had supported the project through its Community Rivercare Program grants but finally had to bring it to a close after OzFish failed to meet the Department's requirements.

From the first onsite meeting on the proposal – at the original proposed location, Wadjup Point, in November 2017 with the original proponent, RecFishWest - CRREPA had consistently supported the project in principle but voiced strong concerns about some of the proposed locations of the LWD. Our greatest opposition was to OzFish's long-favoured site off Grecian's Spit because of the almost certain disruption by anglers to birdlife on or near the Spit. An alternative river location then proposed by CRREPA – near the corner of Fifth Avenue and Riverton Drive, Shelley – was found to be unsuitable and after community consultations last December, OzFish then nominated a site off CRREPA's Corinthian Road revegetation plot.



DBCA would consider supporting a similar project in future but acknowledges that important lessons have been learnt. A more rigorous approach would have to be taken with any future proponent about their proposed location. The permit issued to OzFish by the Department in June 2018 greatly underestimated the difficulties of finding a suitable deep-water location in the very shallow Canning River that did not adversely affect other river users and nearby birdlife.

In a submission to the Department following a tour of the Shelley-Rossmoyne foreshore we conducted last September for senior staff from its Rivers and Estuaries Branch, CRREPA said that any future funding agreement for a LWD project should first need to require the proponent to undertake within a prescribed period a thorough investigation of potential sites. This would involve full consultation with, and consideration of the interests of, all affected government and community organisations. The site(s) proposed should meet clear criteria that included having no impact on river and foreshore wild-life, foreshore vegetation and other users. A permit and funding for the second stage of the project should only be issued by DBCA when it was satisfied that the site(s) recommended by the proponent met all the criteria.

If the project proceeded and the LWD was installed, CRREPA emphasised that the permit conditions needed to specify that if the LWD was causing serious adverse environmental impacts which could not be rectified by the proponent, DBCA should require the project to be terminated and the LWD removed.

We finally recommended that if DBCA was considering allowing the LWD to remain in the river after the trial had concluded it should require the proponent to demonstrate that the LWD would not pose a long-term threat to wildlife in the river and its environs.

WINTER RAINS COME AT A COST

If you look at the amount of rainfall we had this winter you could be tricked into thinking life on the foreshore would be flourishing. Although the rain was welcome the many storms, usually on high tide, that accompanied the rain led to a large amount of erosion and debris being dumped on the riverbanks. The worst sites were our new Pleasant Place swale, Murray's Ditch and Wadjup Point.

Our 'Significant habitat Area' signs have been installed at Pleasant Place Dampland, Grecian's Spit, Wadjup Point and Shelley Bridge Lagoon. They are just another tool in our armoury used to educate the public about the significance of each area and what they need to do to keep the foreshore and its inhabitants safe.

In June the City of Canning (CoC) had the permits approved to remove two Tuart trees from opposite 311 Riverton Drive in Shelley. The larger of the trees had been under surveillance for several years due to it's declining health and many attempts were made to keep it alive by nutrient injections and improving the local environment, but none worked. CRREPA requested a number of branches be left along the edge of the vegetation in the area so we could extend our woody habitat and we also acquired a large pile of mulch which we used at Wadjup Point. The other tree had been dead for a few years and thankfully neither had any signs of nesting hollows.



Debris in Pleasant Place swale

Stanley

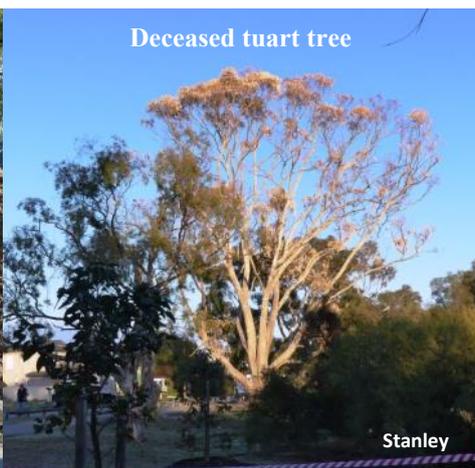


Stanley



Mulch from tree

Stanley



Deceased tuart tree

Stanley



Remnant logs

Stanley

On a bright note our recent plantings that were done behind fenced areas and/or had CRREPA signs installed haven't had any plants stolen. This is in vast contrast with recent years.

In summing up this last year, we planted 1095 seedlings and pulled out 160 bags of weeds that were picked up and disposed of by CoC. We spent a total of 1341 hours volunteering on the foreshore which equates to one full time person for 36 weeks with a \$ value of \$40,205. A big thank you to all our hands on volunteers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and THANK YOUs

We are very grateful for the support provided by the City of Canning, SERCUL, DBCA, Perth NRM and Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

River Guardians
Birds of the Canning River
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
Urban Bush Council

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

Vale Ken Keesing (19 Oct-1934 to 4 Aug 2021)

by Colma Keating

2021 has been a big year for losing some of our very active CRREPA Members.

This time we celebrate the contributions that Ken Keesing made to CRREPA.

Ken and June (dec 2014) settled into Shelley after many, many shifts (think it was about 20!!) as Ken worked across the state and as far afield as Christmas Island in his roles as either teacher, deputy principal or principal. Ken tells a story that June said the next move had to have a river view – and what a fabulous view they enjoyed. CRREPA and the Lower Canning River that they both enjoyed gained hugely from Ken's active on-ground care, advocacy and administration.

Ken joined CRREPA in 2004. He started his 'hands-on' activities with the 'Saturday Morning Watersby to Wadjup Sub-Group' alongside Coral, Breda, Liz, Michelle, Grecian, Julie, Bronwyn, Geoff, Chris and Colma. Within three years, Ken was already generously contributing his time and skills to the CRREPA Committee in roles of Committee Member (two years), Vice President (three years) and President (two years).



CRREPA members between 2009-2015 would have enjoyed the 13 editions of CRREPA News that Ken either edited or co-edited. His first front page 12 years ago was celebrating the Honorary Life Memberships of Diane and Gary Mathews (sadly Gary also passed away this year).



One of Ken's other great contributions that will live on has been his photographic documentation of both our rehabilitation sites and our activities. A living legacy are his Tuart Trees near the Shelley Bridge, from seeds germinated by Ken from his and June's big Tuart in their front yard.

Ken will be remembered for his bright smile, for always being very welcoming to new and old members and for his willingness to 'chip in'.

In addition to CRREPA, Ken was also a longstanding and active volunteer with both the Rottnest Guides and at our City of Canning's Canning River Eco Education Centre at Kent Street Weir. Only weeks before he died, Ken received a long service award from the Rotto Guides for 35 years of dedication.

How lucky for CRREPA and the Lower Canning to have such wonderfully generous people.

Special thoughts to Ken's family, colleagues and friends – thanks for sharing him.

Belated condolences to Rosalie Spencer

We were also saddened to hear of the passing in December of Rosalie Spencer's husband Alan. Many of you would know Rosalie from her hands-on foreshore care, particularly with the 'Yagan to Tuscan Sub-Group' led by Max Risbey.

Even more of you may remember Rosalie because she and Judy Mercer were renowned for the morning teas. In fact the cups, thermos, jars, bags and containers that we currently use were donated to CRREPA by both Rosalie and Judy. They will be pleased that their offerings had an outing on Saturday 9 October for CRREPA's Annual Big Day Amongst the Weeds. A strange coincidence is that both Alan Spencer and Ken Keesing were active members of the Rottnest Guides.

Special thoughts to Rosalie, Alan's family, colleagues and friends and thank you for caring for our natural world.

CRREPA Site Tours with South Metro TAFE, Urban Bushland Council and Perth NRM

by Colma Keating

CRREPA was busy this year with many site tours including three education/awareness focused tours exploring the variety of rehabilitation approaches that we have been using since our inception in 1994:

- South Metro TAFE Conservation and Land Management Students joined us for the fourth year (May 17);
- Members of the Urban Bushland Council WA Inc (September 12); and
- Members of Perth NRM (September 23).

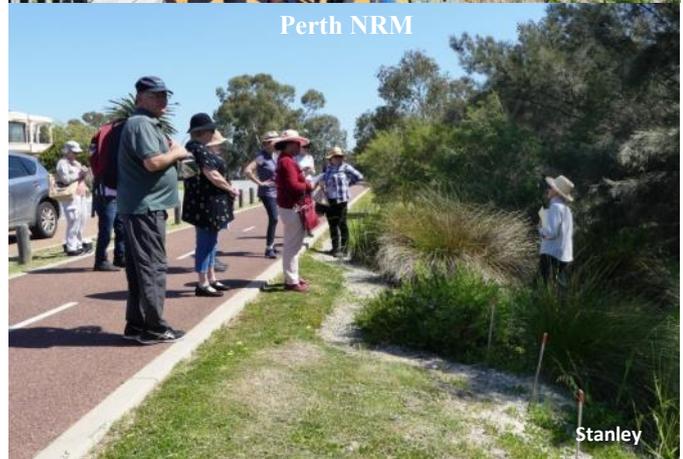
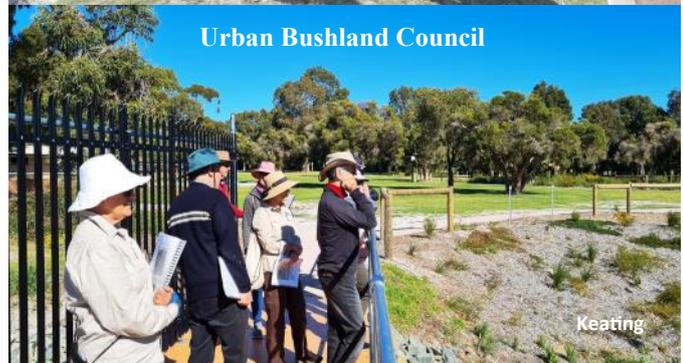
In addition, it was great to have CRREPA Members also join these tours – a fabulous way to step back and see what, why and how the rehabilitation works have been undertaken in collaboration with others, in particular the City of Canning (CoC) and the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL).

This year we included the fabulous Nurdi Living Stream that has created a much more interesting habitat for birds and insects as well as for the local community. Once the waters settle and move through the two basins to remove nutrients and chemicals they travel north in pipes under Leach Highway near the Corinthian Park Tennis Club and eventually feed directly into our patch at Grecian's Spit (Beatrice Avenue).

We are grateful to Cat Williams (SERCUL) for guiding us at Nurdi Living Stream, to Max Box, City of Canning Natural Areas Team Leader for guiding in May and to Grecian, Stephen, Sue and Colma for representing CRREPA and guiding along our foreshore.

We have also pulled together some very informative photo-books that demonstrate the amazing achievements of all our collective hard yakka! Click here <https://www.sercul.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CRREPA-Site-Tour-Booklet-NurdiRossmoynShelley-Sept-2021.pdf> to check some of the sites out – many that you would have contributed to.

If you would like us to run some more site tours for you, family, neighbours, friends – let us know. A great way to introduce new and old residents who may hopefully join us to continue our important and impressive work.



Join us for the End-of-year Sundowner

WHEN: Sunday 5th December 2021 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 30th: Madeline 0402 646 595
CRREPA@gmail.com

BIG DAY OUT AMONGST THE WEEDS 2021



YOUR CRREPA COMMITTEE 2021—2022



President:
Vice President:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
Foreshore Coordinator
Membership Officer

Stephen Johnston

Madeline Radestock
 Bill Lambe
 Sue Stanley
 Liz Moore

Committee Members
 Murray Radestock