

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of numerous purple flowers, likely irises, with green foliage. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing yellow centers. The lighting is natural, creating soft shadows and highlights on the petals.

SERCUL 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Community improving the health of our land and waterways



CONTENTS

Welcome _____	3
From the Chair–Stephen Johnston _____	4
From the CEO–Amy Krupa _____	5
SERCUL Staff and Committee _____	6
2020–21 Highlights and Achievements _____	7
Our Constitution _____	8
Our Projects _____	9
Environmental Education _____	10-13
Community Capacity _____	14-21
Landcare and Restoration _____	22-33
Monitoring and Research _____	34-37
Environmental Services _____	38
New Projects for 2021–22 _____	39
Acknowledgements and Thank You _____	40



WELCOME

It is a pleasure to present the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare's (SERCUL) 2020-21 Annual and Financial Reports to our partners, members and the community.

SERCUL is the sub-regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisation that operates within the metropolitan and peri-urban areas of the Canning River Catchment and the southern suburbs of Perth. As part of the community, we work with State and Federal Government agencies, Local Governments, businesses, schools, community groups and volunteers to care for the environment and our local communities. This is done in many ways: working to improve biodiversity; protecting riverine, wetland and bushland environments; and engaging with our extensive community network to increase knowledge and skills in environmental management.

We are extremely proud of this year's achievements, which were undertaken in partnership with the community and a range of other important project partners and stakeholders. Through these partnerships we have been working together to improve the health of our land and waterways.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE STEPHEN JOHNSTON

Seven years ago, after reporting a healthy annual surplus, my predecessor, Pat Hart, foresaw a tougher future for SERCUL with the contraction of the formerly generous Government grant funding and the impending merger of SERCUL's core funding body, the Swan River Trust with the then Department of Parks and Wildlife. Pat commented in the 2014 annual report that the challenge for SERCUL, like all community environment groups, was survival, "to work through how we can increase our business service delivery while still meeting our aims and objectives."

Pat's words were prescient as that will forever remain our challenge. In succeeding Pat as chair, I gave a commitment at last year's annual general meeting that my preoccupation would be in seeking to strengthen the organisation so it was better positioned to continue its mission of supporting community-based landcare. I did so recognising that our \$300 000 surplus for the last financial year resulted from a confluence of events that would never be repeated – two unusually large and very profitable contracts and a large COVID-19 related government payment.

Consistent with my commitment, over the last 12 months the Executive Committee, Chief Executive Officer, Amy Krupa, and all Managers worked very hard to strengthen our capability. But much more work still needs to be done over the next 12 months and beyond as we face the harsh realities that this past year's \$74 446 deficit is the fifth recorded by SERCUL over the last seven years and another substantial deficit is forecast for 2021-22. We have and we will continue to keep a close check on costs where that is reasonable and feasible. But for all the time and effort that necessarily goes into doing this, there is inevitably a gradual diminishing return.

SERCUL's future mainly rests on two things:

Attracting sustained significant increases in profitable fee-for-service work, particularly in Environmental Services but potentially also in water quality monitoring; and

All levels of Government recognising fully their enormous dependence on the contributions of the voluntary sector by covering adequately the administrative costs connected with grant-based work. When politicians

receive generous electorate allowances and fully staffed and equipped electorate offices; when a large component of annual government budgets is devoted to covering departmental administrative costs; and when the private sector would not tolerate a requirement to consistently carry these costs, why should there be a different rule for the community sector?

For small community environment organisations that do not employ staff, the standard 10 per cent ceiling for admin costs is possibly okay. But for a much larger organisation like SERCUL that incurs the full range of costs and expenses in undertaking work on behalf of government, and in supporting volunteer services and small unincorporated community organisations to manage their finances and grants, 10 per cent is quite inadequate. For example, a grant that nominally covers only a staff member's salary, leaves SERCUL having to draw on its own funds generated by our Environmental Services team, to cover the on-costs.

We do greatly appreciate the long-standing funding we receive from the Rivers and Estuaries Branch of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and grant funding from Commonwealth and local government sources. But we still need a more mature and realistic approach that ensures all costs associated with funded activities are covered – on the strict proviso that community organisations provide high levels of accountability in seeking and acquitting that funding.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the great work of our staff over the last 12 months, to the Executive Committee for volunteering their time, experience and wisdom to the governance of SERCUL and to our member groups whose voluntary work in caring for the precious remnants of our natural estate is so valuable.

S. A. Johnston

Stephen Johnston
Chairperson



CEO'S MESSAGE AMY KRUPA

SERCUL has had another eventful financial year and there were indications early on that we would not be as financially successful as the previous financial year when we made a significant profit. Due to this financial forecast and a change in leadership of the Executive Committee it was decided that an 'Operational Audit' should be undertaken. This was the first ever audit of our operations and was conducted by myself, the SERCUL Managers and members of the Executive Committee. The audit entailed a rigorous review of all staff positions to identify where efficiencies and therefore cost savings might be found and where additional income might be raised. Through this process some staff are now working reduced hours and we have strategies in place to increase our income mainly through the education program and landcare environmental services.

We also looked at our administration processes and have simplified them by installing TANDA, an online timesheet system, which is now saving a lot of manual work in processing the payroll. We also completely changed our approach to financial reporting, thanks to the accountancy experience and a great amount of work invested by Executive Committee member, Fiona Audcent-Ross, in collaboration with Finance and Administration Manager, Monica Estrada.

The year was not all negative though as we were successful in receiving a large State NRM grant that allows us to support eight community groups in our region. We were also successful in receiving Swan Canning River Recovery Program Stage 3 funding through Perth NRM for five projects in our region. Ongoing funding from the Rivers and Estuaries Branch, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and from the City of Canning provides salaries for a number of staff members at SERCUL and allows us to support many community groups in our region. We were also fortunate to have ongoing funding from the Cities of Melville, South Perth, Bayswater and Swan and Whiteman Park with in kind support for DBCA to implement the water quality partnership program. The SERCUL Green Team members and Environmental Services Manager, Matt Grimbly continued their

outstanding work in environmental services, our business arm. The profit made from environmental services funds a number of staff positions and allows us to support the 40 plus community groups in our region. Without the support of our major partners and stakeholders we would not be able to achieve the landcare and community support outcomes that are showcased in this report.

A highlight of this year was having the pleasure of Amber-Jade Sanderson, Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Commerce attending our volunteer celebration event at SERCUL in May. We had a scrumptious morning tea with over 60 community group volunteers attending. The volunteers were able to speak with the Minister about issues in their area and the Minister showed a keen interest in their concerns. SERCUL also awarded a Life Membership at the celebration to Pat Hart who over 17 years was the driving force behind making SERCUL the reputable organisation that it is today.

Last but not least, I would like to say a big thank you to all the SERCUL staff for their professionalism and commitment to SERCUL. It has not been an easy year with some major financial challenges and changes to workloads and practices but everyone stepped up and put SERCUL first. This dedication from our staff and the commitment of our Executive Committee lend well to SERCUL growing and becoming a financially sustainable organisation.

Amy Krupa
Chief Executive Officer



STAFF EMPLOYED DURING 2020-21

Jose Alcala – HR, Payroll and Administration Officer

*Riley Ashton – Landcare Officer, ESU

Matthew Barbour – Landcare Supervisor, ESU

Daniel Barczy – Landcare Officer, ESU

Julian Beasley – Landcare Officer, ESU

Natasha Bowden – Education and Promotion Manager

*Paul Chauvel – Landcare Officer, ESU

Elbert Curtin – Landcare Officer, ESU

Riley Dennis – Landcare Officer, ESU

Monica Estrada – Business and Finance Manager

Erin Farley – Environmental Education Officer

Farina Gandadjaja – Administration and Finance Officer

*Raymond Grenfell – Landcare Officer, ESU

Matthew Grimbly – Environmental Services Manager

Alexandra Hegarty – Landcare Officer, ESU

*Ryan Hipworth – Landcare Officer, ESU

Amy Krupa – Chief Executive Officer

*Brody Loneragan – Landcare Officer, ESU

John Maliunas – Landcare Officer, Shed and Vehicle Manager

*Keith Martin – Landcare Officer, ESU

Alexei McKay-Koodravsev – Landcare Supervisor, ESU

Sarah Muller – Environmental Monitoring Officer

Darren O'Brien – Canning Community Landcare Officer

Wilson Orjuela – Landcare Officer, ESU and OHS Officer

Andy Owen – Landcare Officer, ESU

*Emily Rankin – Landcare Officer, ESU

Jayson Sekhon – Community and Grants Officer

Gavin Shoesmith – Landcare Officer, ESU

*Edward Snelling – Assistant Landcare Officer

Melinda Snowball – Promotions and Graphic Design Officer

Talen Stroot – Landcare Officer, ESU

Dr Rose Weerasinghe – Ecologist

Cat Williams – Community and Grants Manager

Odin Yorke – Landcare Officer, ESU

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WA CHAPTER STAFF:

Megan Mentz – Little Green Steps WA Program Manager

Emma Malloch – Little Green Steps WA Education Officer

Belinda Bloxsome – Waste Wise Education Officer

*No longer working - left the organisation during the 2020-2021 financial year

ESU - Environmental Services Unit

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Stephen Johnston

Deputy Chair: Kobi Bradshaw-Chen

Member: Felicity Bairstow

Member: Marc Lane

Member: Diane Dowdell

Member: Fiona Audcent-Ross



Staff members Darren, Jayson, Sarah, Erin and Farina enjoying a well earned treat after the completion of the WA State NRM grant submissions.



CEO, Amy Krupa and staff celebrating her 20th year working at SERCUL.




2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

 over **4513** individuals
contributed

 **13 560**
hours of volunteering labour

\$593 112
total value of volunteering

 **162** Landcare events

199 525
Seedlings installed


1033 HA WEED MANAGEMENT

Value of volunteering: \$20/hr for children under 16 and \$50/hr for adults.

 **71** EDUCATION WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS AND
DISPLAYS TO **4720** PEOPLE

a+b=c **308** SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Schools engaged in
on-ground activities and
environmental education **84**

 **36** Friends of groups supported

1257 FACEBOOK TOTAL PAGE LIKES
31 620 FACEBOOK TOTAL PAGE REACH



845  PEOPLE SUBSCRIBED TO
SERCUL AND EDUCATION
NEWSLETTERS



Pat Hart with her farewell present from the SERCUL staff and Executive Committee.



Pat being presented with her Life Membership certificate by current SERCUL Chairperson, Stephen Johnston.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - PAT HART

Pat Hart was made the third life member of SERCUL at our volunteer celebration in May 2021. Pat was the inaugural SERCUL Chairperson and held the position for 17 years until her retirement from the SERCUL Executive Committee in October 2020. Pat was instrumental in making SERCUL the successful organisation it is today and continues to fight for the Canning River at any opportunity. Thanks Pat for your huge contribution to SERCUL over many years.



SERCUL, as an incorporated, independent community environmental organisation, is able to bring together the community, State and Federal Government agencies, Local Governments, businesses and educational institutions to plan for, develop and implement projects that will improve the natural environment using a strategic and integrated approach.

SERCUL is a sub-regional organisation that operates within the metropolitan and peri-urban areas of the Canning River Catchment. The area covered takes in most of the southern and eastern suburbs of Perth and includes Dyarguu (the Canning River), the Southern-Wungong River and parts of Derbarl Yaragan (the Swan River).

VISION

To have the Natural Resources of the South Region of Perth managed in a healthy and sustainable manner by all stakeholders for future generations.

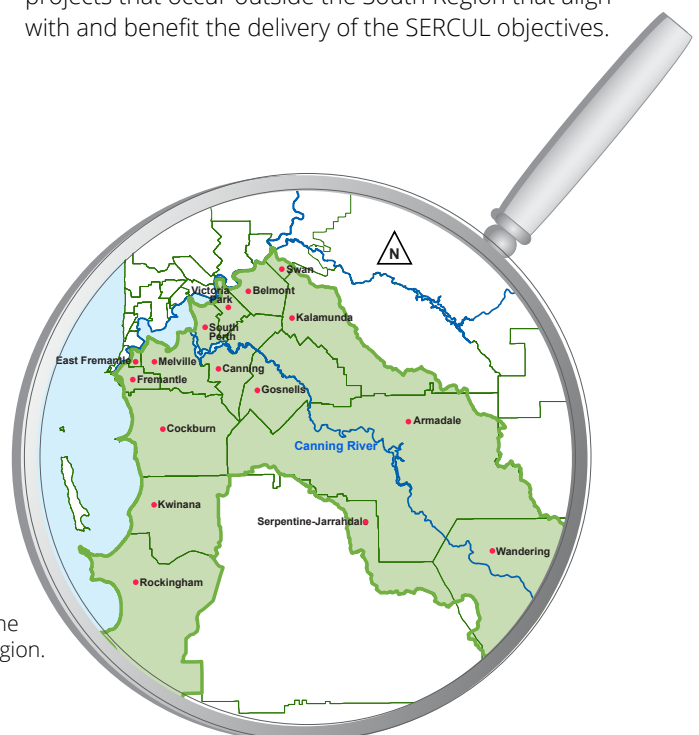
MISSION

To use integrated natural resource management to foster cultural change in how the community perceives and interacts with the environment, whilst promoting and actively participating in the improvement of the health of waterways and other ecosystems within the South Region.

OBJECTIVES

- To identify priority Natural Resource Management issues in the South Region in partnership with Community Groups, Local Government, State Government and Industry.
- Administer the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Inc. funds to promote the objectives and outcomes of the Association.
- Assist Community Groups, State and Local Government in the coordination and delivery of Natural Resource Management in the South Region.
- Support and encourage the implementation of best management practice of Natural Resources within the South Region.
- Recognise and embrace cultural and natural heritage.
- Foster research on matters relating to the South Region's natural and cultural heritage.
- Work in partnership with Community Groups, Local Government, State Government and Industry to educate the wider community to protect our natural resources.
- Support and encourage the formation and training of community environment groups.
- Support the development and implementation of projects that occur outside the South Region that align with and benefit the delivery of the SERCUL objectives.

The South Region is defined as consisting of those parts of the Cities of Armadale, Belmont, Canning, Cockburn, Fremantle, Gosnells, Kalamunda, Kwinana, Melville, Rockingham, South Perth and Towns of East Fremantle and Victoria Park which fall within the boundary of the Swan Natural Resource Management Region.





PROJECT LINKS TO OUR OBJECTIVES

Projects	Objectives								
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION									
Phosphorus Awareness Project									
Mozzie Wise Program									
Little Green Steps WA									
COMMUNITY CAPACITY									
Community Group Support									
Volunteer Program									
Canning Community Landcare									
Enable and Sponsor Volunteer Groups (CSGL18013)									
LANDCARE AND RESTORATION									
Combatting the Impacts of Urbanisation (CSGL19094)									
Heartbeat of NRM (CSGL18024)									
Resilient Landscape Program – Living Landscapes									
SCRRP – Stage 2 (Bull Creek and Nurdi Park)									
SCRRP – Stage 3 (Bull Creek)									
SCRRP – Stage 3 (Treasures Paddock)									
SCRRP – Stage 3 (Hydrocotyle Eradication Program)									
SCRRP – Stage 3 (Aquatic Weed Management Training)									
Canning River – Horley Road									
Beckenham Memorial Groves Project									
River Health Improvement Program									
Booragoon and Blue Gum Lakes									
Murdoch University – MERG									
Horley Road Wetland – Drainage System									
MONITORING AND RESEARCH									
Water Quality Monitoring									
Amazon Frogbit Research Program									
Horley Road Wetland – Biomonitoring									
Adenia Research Program									



ALGAE BUSTER



PHOSPHORUS AWARENESS PROJECT

COORDINATED BY: Natasha Bowden

The Phosphorus Awareness Project (PAP) is an education campaign that aims to educate the general community about the impact of too many nutrients in the Swan and Canning River systems and wetlands, and how to reduce those levels.

SCHOOLS

308 SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS to 7469 students from 62 schools from Kindy to Year 12.

35 PLANTING SESSIONS during which 1889 plants were planted by 1722 school students and 116 teachers, equating to 1448 volunteer hours.

COMMUNITY

11 DISPLAYS at the City of Gosnells Plants for Locals, Friends of Jirdarup Let's Celebrate our Bushland, Whiteman Park EnviroFest, Turf WA Expo, Future Footprints PALS Conference, City of Kalamunda Environmental Expo, Perth Garden and Outdoor Living Festival (4 day event) and Bannister Creek Catchment Group Wetland Education Workshops, speaking with more than 2652 people.

41 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS to 1058 people.

EVENTS

Organised/facilitated a FERTILISE WISE TRAINING session attended by 26 people from three local governments at Canning River Eco Education Centre.

Hosted the annual CANOEING ON THE CANNING workshop with 12 teachers and community members attending this professional development workshop.

Hosted two CANOEING ON THE CANNING whole school PD days for teachers from North Parmelia PS (21 attendees) and Bannister Creek PS (52 attendees).

NUTRIENT SURVEY

2020 LGA Annual Nutrient Survey Report published. Responses from 21 of the 30 LGAs were received.

This project is funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Rivers and Estuaries Branch.

VOLUNTEERS

Three Murdoch University interns contributed 218 hours of volunteer work supporting the PAP program, SERCUL projects and developing content for the YouTube Channel about the Importance of Saltmarshes and Frogs of the Perth Region.

RESOURCES

Created NOONGAR USE GARDEN DESIGNS for three schools including Hazel Orme Kindergarten, Maylands Peninsula PS and Thornlie PS.

Supported groups with PROJECT RESOURCES on 26 occasions. Over 1208 of the five Fertilise Wise Project brochures and 1808 of the five Grow Local Plants brochures distributed at events, to nurseries and community groups. Over 11 505 Phosphorus Awareness Project brochures, stickers and other resources distributed.

Appeared in MEDIA articles on 48 occasions, including online via newsletters, YouTube, newspaper articles and Facebook. Four Schools Catchment Education Newsletters were distributed to approximately 476 recipients per newsletter.

Two new VIDEOS were added to the SERCUL Phosphorus Awareness Project YouTube Channel about the Importance of Saltmarshes and Frogs of the Perth Region and received 170 views. The 11 videos already on the channel had an additional 497 views over the past year.



Ranford Primary students planting



MOZZIE WISE PROGRAM

COORDINATED BY: Natasha Bowden and Dr Rose Weerasinghe

The Mozzie Wise Education Program was developed as a key component of SERCUL's integrated mosquito management approach within the Perth Region. SERCUL produced the Mozzie Wise Education Program and associated resource materials with the support of the Department of Health WA.

The aim of the program is to educate local communities and school children on all aspects of mosquito breeding prevention and personal protection and to increase children's science knowledge to help them understand the effect of their actions on the environment. Informed communities that act upon their knowledge play a critical role in preventing mosquito borne-diseases, providing mosquito control and reducing the use of chemicals.

The Mozzie Wise School Educational Program is linked to the relevant Science Learning Area of the National Curriculum and provides a Teacher's Guide for levels from Kindergarten through to High School.

OUTCOMES:

- Mozzie Wise educational stall at City of Belmont Family Fun Day and attended by over 800 people.
- Four Being Mozzie Wise incursions to 57 high school students at Curtin University's Biology, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES) Day.
- Mozzie Wise static display set up at Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC).
- Participated and presented at the Department of Health Annual Contiguous Local Authority Group (CLAG) Forum.

This program is funded by the Cities of Bayswater and Belmont.



Applecross Primary students planting



Gosnells Primary students excursion at SERCUL



Gosnells Primary students excursion at SERCUL



St John Bosco student planting



LITTLE GREEN STEPS WA PROGRAM

COORDINATED BY: Megan Mentz and delivered with Emma Malloch

Little Green Steps WA (LGSWA) is a program of the Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter with HR management provided by SERCUL.

LGSWA supports Education for Sustainability (EfS) in the early years sector. This includes childcare centres, family day care, primary schools, preschools, kindergartens, and out of school hours care services for children aged 0-8 years. LGSWA provides professional development workshops, resources, newsletters, ideas, expo demonstrations and networking opportunities to anyone that would like to improve their understanding of sustainability and link these practices with the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standard.

OUTCOMES:

PARTNERSHIPS

- Entered the 2nd of a three year partnership with Waste Wise Schools, completed a two year partnership and renewed for another two years with the City of Cockburn and continued an ongoing open-ended partnership with the City of Canning.

WORKSHOPS

- Delivered six Reducing Waste workshops across Perth, with two in the Kimberley region; two Sustainability Workshops in Perth for City of Joondalup and Mercy Care; new Biodiversity Awareness and Actions in Early Years Setting workshop created; created and delivered a new Planning for Sustainability in Early Years Setting Workshop and two workshops for the City of Cockburn – Cultural Competency in the Early Years and Grow It Local Compost Workshop.
- Attended a Strategic Planning Day for LGSWA and created a strategic and marketing plan.

RESOURCES

- Developed eight audit sheets to compliment Planning for Sustainability Workshop, created the inaugural Sustainability calendar for early years and created the Fun with the Snake-necked turtle kit.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Presented at Cockburn Early Years Network Early Childhood Chat, ran activities at Froggy's Festival and numerous Cockburn FDC Playgroup and Aboriginal Playgroup sessions, provided resources for AAEEWA stall at Coogee Live and presented at Earth Day Expo.

OTHER

- Successfully completed the Melville Workshops Grant and received a Greening Your Community small grant to buy new laptops for LGSWA.
- Recruited new volunteers

This program is funded by the Cities of Canning, Cockburn, Melville, Joondalup and the Waste Authority.

WORKSHOPS

20 workshops delivered attended by 400 participants.

MEDIA

1850 people subscribed to our mailing list.
Four newsletters sent.

VOLUNTEERS

15 volunteers have contributed 600 hours of volunteering with the value equating \$30 000.

75

MEMBERSHIPS

PROJECT PARTNERS

Cities of Canning, Cockburn, Melville, Joondalup and the Waste Authority.

Subsidiary partners providing in-kind support: Mercy Care; Henderson Environmental Centre & Multicultural Futures, SERCUL, CREEC, EMRC, Bunbury Harvey Waste, Parks & Wildlife Broome, City of Broome Waste, Revive Kununurra, EY Services: One Tree-Kununurra, Indigo Montessori Broome, Treasure Island Child Care - Cannington; Success Early Learning, Willetton Child Care, Canning Vale pre-kindy, Joondalup Tafe.

Other funded partners: Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation; Djirrilly Dreaming & Danny Ford.





Friends of Jirdarup's valiant weeding team with their haul. Fiona, Paula, Helen and Wendy. Photo Credit: Friends of Jirdarup

COMMUNITY GROUP SUPPORT

Engaging and supporting our community remains a major focus for SERCUL staff, where we serve as a hub for environmental groups to build their capacity, enable them to access funding and ensuring their project success by establishing strong partnerships. As community groups are as diverse as they are many, we adapt our assistance to suit each of their individual needs.

SERCUL continues to provide a wide range of support services to the landcare community within our region with 36 groups assisted this financial year.

SERCUL continues to provide financial management and/or payroll assistance to Bannister Creek Catchment Group, Wilson Wetlands Action Group, Canning River Regional Park Volunteers, Friends of Queens Park Bushland and Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter.

SERCUL sponsored grants and/or grant applications for the following 24 groups through 2020-21:

1. Bungendore Park Environmental Group
2. Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor
3. Friends of Booragoon and Blue Gum Lakes
4. Friends of Booyembara Park
5. Friends of Clontarf Hill
6. Friends of Forrestdale
7. Friends of Fremantle Beaches
8. Friends of Gabbiljee (Bull Creek)
9. Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands
10. Friends of Harrisdale Swamp
11. Friends of Hollis Park
12. Friends of Jandakot Regional Park
13. Friends of Jirdarup Bushland
14. Friends of Ken Hurst Park
15. Friends of Mosman Park Bushland
16. Friends of North Lake
17. Friends of Paganoni Swamp
18. Friends of Point Peron
19. Friends of Samson Park
20. Friends of The Spectacles
21. Wadjup-Gabbilju Foreshore Group
22. Friends of Wireless Hill
23. Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group
24. Wilson Wetlands Action Group

36
FRIENDS OF COMMUNITY
GROUPS SUPPORTED

28
SPONSORED GRANTS FOR

24
FRIENDS OF GROUPS

9
WEBPAGES HOSTED FOR
FRIENDS OF GROUPS

5
GROUPS PROVIDED WITH FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

6
GROUPS PROVIDED WITH PUBLIC
LIABILITY INSURANCE

38
COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBERS
OF SERCUL

5
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF SERCUL



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon and Melinda Snowball

SERCUL manages a volunteer program which unites volunteers looking to give back, get involved, gain experience and learn about the landcare industry with SERCUL's projects which rely on community involvement. This year has seen an increase in work experience students from universities, TAFE's and high schools. Their regular commitment has been of great assistance at our events. In addition to work experience and regular volunteers, SERCUL projects have had volunteer groups from a range of sources such as schools, universities, TAFE's, community groups and corporate groups. We would like to thank all volunteers who have assisted with our projects over the year for their amazing dedication and hard work!

This year we had 43 active volunteers who have contributed a total of 1844 hours of in kind labour to our many onground landcare and research projects and support for our administration team. We have had Cannington Education Support Centre and the Department of Justice Young Offenders Program maintaining our homestead grounds and gardens, they have contributed over 160 hours.

We would like to thank all the volunteers for their continued dedication and support to our organisation.

43
ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

1844
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$92 212
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



Clipsal WA corporate group planting at the Canning River site.



Ecologist Rose and volunteer assistant Tyla macro sampling.

This program is funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Rivers and Estuaries Branch.



South Metro TAFE students weed mapping in the State NRM Yule Brook project site.



Meeting with volunteer Morgan (COVID-19 safe) who has been assisting us with our social media.



Volunteer Doug Murphy, who has been with us for eight years helping with the homestead maintenance.



CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE

COORDINATED BY: Darren O'Brien

The Canning Community Landcare Officer is funded through a partnership with the City of Canning. The Officer provides support to the Canning environmental community groups and Bannister Creek Catchment Group (BCCG).

The Canning Community Landcare Officer supported five Canning groups including the Canning River Regional Park Volunteers, Friends of Queens Park Bushland, Friends of Rossmoyne Park, Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association and Wilson Wetlands Action Group with community based activities.

It has been a busy year for the BCCG, continuing its landcare work through 2021 and successfully securing funding for six projects. In spite of COVID-19, the community volunteer presence has been overwhelming doubling the volunteer contribution since last financial year.

We thank all volunteers for their passion for the environment in helping us to reach our project milestones. We welcome the new community partners and give our sincere thanks to returning partners.



PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Canning
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions
Water Corporation

5
LANDCARE EVENTS

2.5 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

3653
PLANTS INSTALLED

241
VOLUNTEERS

525
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$21 420
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

This project is funded
through the Swan Alcoa
Landcare Program.

ENRICHING UNDERSTOREY DIVERSITY OF BANNISTER CREEK CATCHMENT CORRIDORS

PROJECT LOCATION: Bannister Creek, Bywood Way, Lynwood

The aim of this project is to improve the native understorey within the Bywood section of Bannister Creek. The support from the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program has enabled us to expand rehabilitation to other parts of the living stream to improve the overall water quality of the Bannister Creek Catchment.

OUTCOMES:

- 241 volunteers from Bannister Creek Primary School, Murdoch University Environmental Science Association (MUEEnSA), Cannington Community College and BHP Corporate installed over 3500 native seedlings.
- Increased native flora density on creek banks to reduce erosion, sedimentation and improve water quality.
- Significantly reduced fumaria, veldt grass and other priority weeds.



MUEEnSA planting sedges along the banks of the Bannister Creek



CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE CONTINUED

COMMUNITY CREATING RESILIENT BUSHLAND CORRIDORS

PROJECT LOCATION: Bannister Creek – Adenia Park

The project aim is to maintain and improve the ecological resilience of the Bannister Creek – Adenia Reserves by expanding the native buffer zone to protect the vulnerable saltmarsh community.

OUTCOMES:

- Installation of 7820 native seedlings by community, corporate and school volunteers from 11 different groups.
- Reduced the overall abundance of fumaria and veldt grass reducing competition for existing native flora.
- Provided an opportunity to collect vital provenance native seeds for future restoration endeavours.



e-WA Rotary volunteers planting

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.

7
LANDCARE EVENTS

5.2 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

7820
PLANTS INSTALLED

695
VOLUNTEERS

2088
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$74 955
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

2
LANDCARE EVENTS

5.5 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

500
PLANTS INSTALLED

20
VOLUNTEERS

63
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$3150
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR REHABILITATION PROJECT

PROJECT LOCATION: Lambertia Creek, Ferndale

The project focused on improving the vegetation between the Lambertia Creek to the end of the Bannister Creek in the Canning River Regional Park.

OUTCOMES:

- The project achieved the primary goal of suppressing weeds and creating optimal conditions for the initial and subsequent revegetation. Weed control focused on Watsonia and Gladiolus and other priority weeds.
- 20 volunteers from Bakers Hughes Corporate, Canning River Regional Park Volunteers and local residents helped with restoration works.



Lambertia Creek planting day



Baker Hughes Corporate group

This project is funded by the Swan Canning River Recovery Stage 3, supported by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.



CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE CONTINUED

RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE BIODIVERSITY OF BANNISTER CREEK

267
VOLUNTEERS

669.5
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$27 085
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT LOCATION: Bannister Creek Foreshore

The project focused on works in degraded upland pockets of the Bannister Creek Living Stream. The key aim was to improve understorey diversity.

OUTCOMES:

- Revegetation was completed using a method of cluster planting, with high species diversity and chemical-free weed control to encourage natural native flora recruitment.
- Installation of 3367 native seedlings with Riverton Primary School, MUEEnSA and Cannington Community College.

8
LANDCARE EVENTS

4 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

3367
PLANTS INSTALLED

This project is funded through the Australian Government – Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment - Communities Environment Program.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONNECTION TO BANNISTER CREEK CATCHMENT

This project aimed to provide free environmental education workshops for the local community enabling them to gain insights and citizen science skills.

OUTCOMES:

- Held four workshops: Cultural Learning with Djirriily Dreaming and a Wetland Discovery Day with 79 participants attending.
- Monitoring points were set up to collect macroinvertebrate taxa diversity, abundance, and their respective SIGNAL scores. The SIGNAL scores help determine the present health of the Bannister Creek Living Stream.



Cultural workshop participants with Belinda from Djirriily Dreaming



Natasha from SERCUL teaching the community about macroinvertebrates

4
EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

2
MONITORING EVENTS

21
VOLUNTEERS

38
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$1900
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

This project is funded by the Swan Canning River Recovery Stage 3, supported by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.



CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE CONTINUED

ENHANCEMENT OF BANNISTER CREEK AND CANNING RIVER REGIONAL PARK BOUNDARY

PROJECT LOCATION: Bannister Creek - Adenia, Ferndale

The project focused on creek restoration and controlling specific wetland weeds including *Paspalum sp.* and *Commelina sp.*

OUTCOMES:

- Installed over 3490 native seedlings with Curtin Volunteers and Baker Hughes Corporate group.
- Held a Clean Up day with the Canning River Regional Park Volunteers.
- Improved understanding of the rapid changes of the water availability within the Bannister Creek – Adenia corridor.
- Identified key rehabilitation windows through monthly monitoring which will help prevent loss of installed stocks due to flash floods or rapid drying in identified floodplains.



Curtin Volunteers planting sedges



Baker Hughes Corporate group planting

5.35 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

3
LANDCARE EVENTS

3490
PLANTS INSTALLED

32
VOLUNTEERS

194
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$9 700
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

This project is funded through the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Community Rivercare Program.



ENABLE AND SPONSOR VOLUNTEER GROUPS DELIVERING ON-GROUND OUTCOMES

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES – (CSGL18013, YEAR 3 OF 4)

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

This project entails sponsorship of nine community landcare groups implementing a wide range of activities including revegetation, weed control, dieback protection and community environmental workshops. Most groups host an annual revegetation day inviting the broader community to attend; these events are supported by SERCUL.

Most groups are located within the City of Fremantle, where in recent years effort to support the formation and growth of local environmental groups has been very successful.

The grant also supports two highly active groups working in the south of our region; Friends of Paganoni Swamp and Friends of The Spectacles. These two groups look after significant reserves of 700ha and 360ha respectively: containing Swan Coastal Plain Banksia Woodland TEC and other priority species. The dedicated work of these volunteers' compliment DBCA who are the managers of these reserves.

Melville group, the Friends of Wireless Hill, have been sponsored by SERCUL for many years and we are pleased to continue supporting this group in their delivery of adaptive weed control in sensitive habitats.

SUPPORTED GROUPS:

- Friends of Clontarf Hill (Fremantle) – Revegetation and weed control.
- Friends of Booyembara Park (Fremantle) - Revegetation.
- Friends of Hollis Park (Fremantle) - Revegetation.
- Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor (Fremantle/Cockburn sites) – Roe 8 restoration.
- Friends of Paganoni Swamp (Rockingham) – Seed collection, revegetation, weed control and track improvement for dieback control.
- Friends of The Spectacles (Kwinana) – Revegetation including a NAIDOC planting event with Welcome to Country, workshops and weed control.
- Friends of Fremantle Beaches (Fremantle) – Revegetation and litter removal.
- Friends of Wireless Hill (Melville) – Manual weed control in orchid habitat.
- Friends of Gabbiljee (Bull Creek, Melville) – Weed control and revegetation.

44
LANDCARE EVENTS

21 391
PLANTS INSTALLED

2838
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$140 265
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



Friends of Gabbiljee volunteers with giant fleabane weed



Children looking for birds at The Spectacles birdhide

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Fremantle

City of Melville

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This project is supported by
funding from the Western
Australian Government's
State NRM Program.





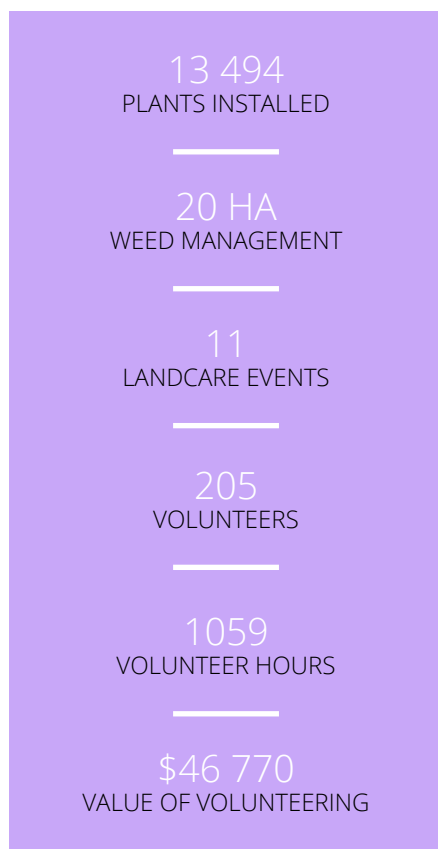
COMBATting THE IMPACTS OF URBANISATION

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES – (CSGL19094, YEAR 1 OF 2)

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

This project consists of eight sub-projects working in conjunction with a range of local government, state government and community groups:

- Adenia Saltmarsh TEC, Canning River Regional Park – restoration, monitoring and field workshops (see pg 37).
- Bickley Brook – revegetation and weed control around the Brook and Reservoir.
- Boneseed Eradication Program – Cities of Armadale, Kalamunda, Swan and Shire of Mundaring.
- Canning River – weed control and revegetation (Kent Street to Bacon Street).
- Horley Wetland 3 – water sensitive urban drainage project – earthworks and revegetation.
- Friends of Jandakot Regional Park – grass and woody weed control with revegetation.
- Robert Weir Compensation Basin – reshape basin, weed control and revegetation.
- Yule Brook – lower Yule Brook to confluence, weed control and revegetation.



This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program

OUTCOMES:

- Three planting events at Bickley with Orange Grove Primary School, PCYC and Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp Staff.
- Four events at Yule Brook with North Metro TAFE – planting, litter and weed removal.
- Yule Brook Weed Mapping with South Metro TAFE CLM students.
- Planting event at Jandakot Regional Park with DBCA Regional Park Unit
- Weed removal, monitoring and imagery for Jandakot Regional Park.
- City of Gosnells Bush Fire Brigade – site preparation (burning) and drone imagery for Horley Basin 3
- Perth NRM, CSIRO and City of Kalamunda staff – field assistance with Boneseed detection.
- Two events with Harrisdale SHS Bushrangers – Yule Brook revegetation and weed removal.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Dept of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries

Cities of Swan, Kalamunda
and Armadale, Shire of
Mundaring

Water Corporation

City of Melville

DBCA

CSIRO and Perth NRM



DBCA staff assisting with revegetation at Harrisdale.



THE HEARTBEAT OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES – (CSGL18024, YEAR 2 OF 2)

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

This project comprises two main elements:

- an on-ground focussed partnership to continue the restoration of Bickley Brook. The project included weed control and planting, plus the development of two short walk trails and ten signs. This trail was developed in conjunction with Yelakitj Moort consultants for assistance with Noongar cultural content.
- an allocation of funding that enabled SERCUL to employ a Community Landcare Manager who together with a small team of officers assists community groups with project development and grant applications, provides technical advice on a wide range of practical landcare matters and support groups through the SERCUL sponsorship process.

OUTCOMES:

- Volunteer Celebration Event – key event in May 2021 during National Volunteer Week with 64 community group volunteers in attendance at SERCUL.
- Seed collection from 18 species supplying provenance seed for future SERCUL projects in the lower Canning River region.
- 4000 Darling Valley species planted at Bickley Brook with assistance from Orange Grove PS students and PCYC Gosnells.
- Ten interpretive signs developed for Bickley walk trails highlighting flora and fauna in the Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp area.

4000
PLANTS INSTALLED

502
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$63 800
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING
figures are over the 2 year project.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries (Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp)

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.



Orange Grove PS students planting at Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp



Volunteer Celebration held during National Volunteer Week



Door prize winner receiving their prize from WA Environment Minister, Amber-Jade Sanderson



Community volunteers - David James, Unice Robinson, Pat Hart, Stephen Johnston and Wendy Corrick



RESILIENT LANDSCAPE PROGRAM – LIVING LANDSCAPES

IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES IN THE SWAN NRM REGION – (SERCUL sub-project, Year 3 of 4)

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams and Matt Grimbly

PROJECT LOCATIONS: Brixton St Wetlands, Paganoni Swamp and Forrestdale Lake

2021 is the third year of this ongoing project utilising over \$130K of federal funding through Perth NRM.

Three significant reserves are being managed in the SERCUL region and each was selected for its significant flora and habitat values, each containing at least one Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) and rare or priority flora. Activities to protect and enhance these reserves include removal of large, dumped rubbish; boundary fencing; weed distribution mapping and flora surveys. Some of these activities are in-kind contributions led by DBCA, providing excellent knowledge sharing opportunities for the volunteer community.

The project delivers against a scheduled list of works to be carried out each year, with the following outputs:

OUTCOMES:

- Follow-up weed control at Forrestdale Lake: 90ha
- Feral bee control at Forrestdale Lake: 110ha
- Pest animal control at Paganoni Swamp: 700ha
- Weed control at Greater Brixton Street Wetlands: 54.5ha
- Weed control at Paganoni Swamp: 171ha
- Seed collection days at Brixton St Wetlands: 6 days

PROJECT PARTNERS

Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands

Friends of Paganoni Swamp

Friends of Forrestdale

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

This project is supported by Perth NRM, through funding from the Australian Governments National Landcare Program.



Mapping at Paganoni Swamp



Friends of Paganoni Swamp members hand weeding



SWAN CANNING RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM – STAGE 2

GABBILJEE RESERVE AND NURDI PARK LIVING STREAM

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams and Jayson Sekhon.

PROJECT LOCATIONS: Gabbiljee Reserve, Bull Creek and Nurdi Park, Riverton.

Due to COVID-19 lockdowns in Perth in early 2020 both projects, which were due for completion in June 2020, were extended into the early part of the 2020-21 financial year. The key aim of these strategic projects was to improve water quality through the Swan-Canning Estuary. For both, the substantial revegetation work was carried out by SERCUL Environmental Services, with funding through the SCRPP2. A total of 57 290 stems were planted across the sites.

OUTCOMES:

GABBILJEE RESERVE (BULL CREEK) – work to eliminate blackberry, woody acacia and other woody weeds continued, along with weed control in support of revegetation in the floodplain. Gabbiljee is a permanent waterway and weed growth is rapid and dense. As areas were cleared of weeds, planting followed of mainly riparian sedges and shrubs.

NURDI PARK – completion of the earthworks to create the living stream and water treatment basins allowed the revegetation to finally take place through September into October 2020. A final community planting event to install the last 1000 plants was well attended by Federal and State politicians and representatives from our partner groups and the community.

ONGOING WORKS:

Works at Gabbiljee will continue through Perth NRM Swan Canning River Recovery Program – Stage 3 funds. This work will be assisted by the Friends of Gabbiljee. The SCRPP – Stage 3 will also fund maintenance and future infill at Nurdi Park.

The Nurdi Park Living Stream project is included in a man-made wetland study with the University of Western Australia. This study involves collecting and analysing data to assess the ability of the new wetland to strip nutrient before water enters the Canning River.

27 007
PLANTS INSTALLED
(Bull Creek)

30 283
PLANTS INSTALLED
(Nurdi Park)

35
VOLUNTEERS

\$1750
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Canning
Water Corporation
Perth NRM
Friends of Gabbiljee



Nurdi Park Living Stream immediately after earthworks were completed



One of two treatment basins that take overflow from the Nurdi Park Living Stream

This project is funded by the Swan Canning River Recovery Stage 2, supported by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.



SWAN CANNING RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM – STAGE 3

During the 2021 financial year, several Swan Canning River Recovery Program projects completed Stage 2 funded works (see page 25) while several new projects commenced through Stage 3 funding. This round had a very focused target area for eligibility centred around the lower Canning River.

The Stage 3 projects include Gabbiljee (Bull Creek) Restoration, Treasure's Paddock Revegetation, a continuation of the Hydrocotyle Eradication Program, Aquatic Weed Management Training and Adenia Saltmarsh research program (see page 37). Three of these new projects are located within the Canning River Regional Park.

A Nurdi Park Maintenance Program will also be funded under Stage 3, with works commencing July 2021.

GABBILJEE (BULL CREEK) RESERVE

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

PROJECT LOCATION: Gabbiljee Reserve, Bull Creek

This three year project is a continuation of the previous two stages of the Swan Canning River Recovery Program. Our aims in this third stage are to extend our management of the site into previously weed infested areas and to make significant progress towards controlling blackberry across Gabbiljee Reserve. Alongside this weed control, ongoing revegetation will occur to fill these newly opened areas. This project is carried out in close collaboration with the Friends of Gabbiljee Reserve (formerly Friends of Bull Creek Catchment) and City of Melville. As this project has only recently begun, the focus has so far been on site preparation and weed control with planting to come in the 2021-2022 financial year.

9 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

PROJECT PARTNERS
Friends of Gabbiljee
City of Melville

TREASURE'S Paddock

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

PROJECT LOCATION: Treasure's Paddock, Ferndale

This seasonal wetland occurring on a paddock near the Canning River is significant for its proximity to an adjacent clay pan salt marsh which is a threatened ecological community. This restoration project aims to increase resiliency and create a buffer for this clay pan while boosting local biodiversity and connectivity to the Canning River. As this project is just starting, the first year mostly consisted of site preparation carried out in the form of weed control of the paddock of couch grass, followed by the funded planting of 2000 of the 8000 wetland trees and shrubs to go in this season. The following two years will see the continuation of this planting to create a robust corridor and buffer as the revegetation establishes.

2000
PLANTS INSTALLED

1.5 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

PROJECT PARTNERS
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Clay pan threatened ecological community while dry



The same location while flooded in the winter

These projects are funded by the Swan Canning River Recovery Stage 3, supported by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.



SWAN CANNING RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM - STAGE 3 CONTINUED

HYDROCOTYLE ERADICATION PROGRAM

COORDINATED BY: Matt Grimbly

PROJECT LOCATION: Canning River

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides has been a major problem in the Canning River and its tributaries since the early 1990's, at times covering the Canning River from bank to bank upstream from Kent St Weir. This project is a continuation of the first and second rounds of the Swan Canning River Recovery Program which greatly reduced Hydrocotyle coverage and abundance. Hydrocotyle has continued to germinate in the Canning River and Wilson Lagoon in the Canning River Regional Park. This program will now be extended as part of the Swan Canning River Recovery Stage 3 to continue mapping and controlling Hydrocotyle until the seedbank is exhausted.

Works have included the control of other associated weeds in the areas of Hydrocotyle infestations to allow access to the germinating Hydrocotyle and the regular mapping and removal (over a 21 ha area) of Hydrocotyle as it occurs to prevent the rapidly growing plants from reaching maturity and setting seed.

AQUATIC WEED MANAGEMENT TRAINING

COORDINATED BY: Amy Krupa

Aquatic Weed Management Training is held at the Canning River Eco Education Centre and is based on the Aquatic Weed Management Manual that was authored by Julie Robert and produced by SERCUL. SERCUL run this training in partnership with Julie, who is the trainer, with support of SERCUL staff.

The Operators training is hands on and involves identifying aquatic weeds, techniques for controlling aquatic weeds, learning how to map and remove the weeds onsite and case studies are presented about how to respond to an aquatic weed outbreak.

Three training sessions were held in the latter half of 2020 for 34 weed management operators with funding from Stage 2 of the Swan Canning River Recovery Program. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we were unable to run these workshops in the first half of 2020 when they were originally scheduled. Further funding through Stage 3 of the Program has allowed us to run two Operators workshops in April and May 2021 with 25 participants. In September 2021 we will also be running another Operators workshop and a Decision Makers workshop which is aimed at Officers that make decisions on budgets and risk assessment of aquatic weed outbreaks.

5
WORKSHOPS

59
PARTICIPANTS



Participants identifying aquatic weeds during the training.



Matt Grimbly explaining how to map and remove aquatic weeds at Wilson Lagoon where Hydrocotyle was once rampant.

These projects are funded by the Swan Canning River Recovery Stage 3, supported by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.



CANNING RIVER FORESHORE – HORLEY ROAD

CANNING RIVER FORESHORE RESTORATION AND ENHANCING LINKAGE WITH HORLEY ROAD WETLAND

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

PROJECT LOCATION: Canning River, Beckenham

This project focused on increasing the diversity and density of understorey species in the riparian and 50m buffer zone along a 600m stretch of the Canning River. The project also improved the connectivity of vegetation between Horley basin 2 and the river. SERCUL Ecologist Dr Rose Weerasinghe conducted macro-invertebrate surveys in the Horley basin providing practical field work opportunities for TAFE students from North Metro campus.

Through year one preparatory weed removal work was carried out and the extensive revegetation planting was carried out through year two, the 2021 financial year. Alongside this revegetation chemical and manual weed control was continued. The key target species treated were Japanese Pepper, Blackberry, Cotton Bush, Paterson's Curse and various perennial grasses.

The first plantings carried out in August 2020 show excellent results so far with survival rates of 95%, owing much to the heavy clay soils and shade provided by mature *Eucalyptus rudis*. The project was well supported with groups and individuals participating from a wide range of backgrounds.

OUTCOMES:

- Three school planting sessions with Rosalie Primary School students, Cannington SHS ESU students and Harrisdale SHS Bushranger Group.
- Four separate student groups from North Metro TAFE, conducting planting and macroinvertebrate surveys.
- Corporate planting and weeding day with Scheider Electric/Clipsal WA.
- Planting with the Department of Justice
- Macroinvertebrate survey day with SERCUL volunteers.

10
LANDCARE EVENTS

18 466
PLANTS INSTALLED

4 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

140
VOLUNTEERS

540.5
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$15 240
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



Corporate planting day with Clipsal WA



???

PROJECT PARTNERS

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and
Attractions

WAPC

This project is funded
through the Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions Community
Rivercare Program.



BOWRA & O'DEA AND TRILLION TREES BECKENHAM MEMORIAL GROVES PROJECT

COORDINATED BY: John Maliunas

PROJECT LOCATION: Beckenham Open Space, Beckenham

The Bowra & O'Dea and Trillion Trees Beckenham Memorial Groves project, commenced in 2008 with the goal to create Memorial Groves for the families of Bowra & O'Dea Funeral Directors clients. Each Grove has approximately 4000 trees and native plants. This project will continue until 2022, with each established Memorial Grove being preserved for a minimum of 25 years.

This year due to COVID-19 restrictions no planting days with volunteers took place. SERCUL Environmental Services team members and staff installed the 4000 plants supplied by Trillion Trees.

4000
PLANTS INSTALLED



PROJECT PARTNERS
Bowra and O'Dea
Trillion Trees
WAPC

This project is funded by Bowra & O'Dea Funeral Directors and supported by Trillion Trees.

RIVER HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - RHIP

COORDINATED BY: Erin Farley and Jayson Sekhon

PROJECT LOCATIONS: Wharf Street Wetland, Anvil Way Wetland, Liege Street Wetland, Manley Street Basin and Bickley Road Basin

In 2021 the Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program (DNIP) was renamed the River Health Improvement Program (RHIP) with oxygenation now included in the program. SERCUL assist DBCA Rivers and Estuaries Branch staff with coordinating and delivering monitoring and maintenance activities at RHIP sites within the Cities of Canning and Gosnells.

The annual weed mapping was undertaken in November. In March sediment removal was undertaken at Anvil Way Living Stream by the Water Corporation. This project was undertaken to reinstate the design water levels of the system. Over time the channels at Anvil Way have been slowly filling with sediment to the point that the system was not functioning as originally designed.

May saw the development of a plan to tackle the grass weeds problem in the channels at Liege Street Wetland. The preliminary plan is to sandbag, pump and drain one section of the wetland in the 2021/22 summer so that grass weeds can be appropriately treated.

In 2020 SERCUL also took over the monthly water quality sampling for Anvil Way, Wharf Street and Liege Street sites. This also includes twice yearly sediment sampling at all three sites, as well as quarterly ground water sampling at Anvil Way.



PROJECT PARTNERS
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and
Attractions
City of Canning
City of Gosnells
Water Corporation

This project is funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Rivers and Estuaries Branch.



RESTORATION OF BOORAGOON AND BLUE GUM LAKES

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

PROJECT LOCATION: Booragoon Lake, Booragoon and Blue Gum Lake, Mount Pleasant

These two culturally and environmentally significant wetlands are the northern most of the Beeliar Wetland Chain. Working closely with the Friends of Booragoon and Blue Gum Lakes and the City of Melville, SERCUL has worked on the restoration of a section of each of these lakes for several years now. As part of this project, the Blue Gum Lakebed Restoration began in 2020 on the highly degraded, seasonally-dry, western lakebed. After clearing the dense couch grass which dominated the lakebed for many years, dense replanting of the lakebed began in early 2021 prior to the lakebed filling this winter.

The 40 000 sedges, shrubs and trees planted from February to April this year required massive community contribution with assistance coming from five school groups (Forest Crescent PS, Brentwood PS, Aquinas College, Santa Maria College and Rossmoyne SHS), seven corporate groups (BHP, NS Projects, Worley, Stantec, Titan, Dept of Finance and Volunteering WA) and ten community groups (Friends of Booragoon and Blue Gum Lakes, Friends of Gabbiljee, Piney Lakes Volunteers, Wirambi Landcare, Melville Rotary Club, Trees4Australia, SERCUL volunteers, UWA Guild, Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group and South Metro TAFE).

Our gratitude to everyone who assisted with this enormous undertaking. The transformation of this site has only just begun, and we look forward to seeing it's growth in the coming years as the plants establish and more native wildlife return to the newly restored lakebed.



Corporate volunteers join SERCUL landcare officers with the winter restoration planting at Booragoon Lake



Blue Gum western lakebed volunteer planting day in early 2021

20
COMMUNITY EVENTS

47 200
PLANTS INSTALLED

3.1 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

476
VOLUNTEERS

1612.5
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$63 487.5
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

Friends of Booragoon and
Blue Gum Lakes
City of Melville

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program



MURDOCH UNIVERSITY – MURDOCH ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION GROUP

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED FAUNA HABITAT CONSERVATION

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

PROJECT LOCATION: Chelodina Reserve, Murdoch University

Working closely with Murdoch staff, Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group (MERG) members and the general community, we coordinate this project taking place in the conservation category Chelodina Wetland, Murdoch Banksia Woodland threatened ecological community and the 15 ha wildlife corridor connecting them. These sites are important habitat and food sources for wildlife including quendas, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos, Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos and many others.

As it is located on a university campus, there is also great educational value in this bushland for the students of the university and nearby TAFE, and the many environmental research projects which take place here. This project aims to continue the management of this valuable bushland by carrying out tasks such as controlling priority weeds, replanting native flora and maintaining artificial Cockatoo nest boxes. Over the last financial year, over 8500 plants have been installed with the assistance from four corporate groups along with MERG and SERCUL volunteers.



SERCUL staff Jayson and Eddy, joined by MERG and SERCUL volunteers, with plants for the Murdoch Wildlife Corridor



Corporate volunteers and work experience students work together to prepare plants for installation



New interpretive sign installed near the Chelodina Wetland as part of this project



SERCUL work experience students, Candice and Giorgia, gather planting gear for this 2021 Chelodina planting event

45
COMMUNITY EVENTS

8533
PLANTS INSTALLED

19 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

216
VOLUNTEERS

835
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$39 500
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

Murdoch Environmental
Restoration Group
Murdoch University

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.



HORLEY ROAD WETLAND - BASIN 1

REHABILITATION OF THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF THE WETLAND

COORDINATED BY: Dr Rose Weerasinghe

PROJECT LOCATION: Horley Road, Beckenham

The Horley Road Wetland was previously degraded and dominated by exotic grasses (*Paspalum distichum* and *Cynodon dactylon*) and other weeds, which can prevent the germination of native wetland species, reduce macroinvertebrate habitat variety, and provided pockets of stagnant water for mosquitoes and midges to breed. SERCUL has been trialling integrated approaches of rehabilitation techniques to improve the Horley Road Wetland since 2016. The Horley Road Wetland was recognised as a Healthy Wetland Habitat and initial rehabilitation activities were funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

The main basin of Horley Road Wetland has had weeds removed chemically and manually over the past few years under different grant projects. This has increased biodiversity and reduced mosquito and midge breeding. The adjacent road runoff basin and drainage system entering the wetland, however, was severely degraded, with sedimentation occurring in the runoff basin and the basin and drainage system heavily infested with weeds.

The project aimed to rehabilitate the drainage system by enhancing the hydrology and removing sediment, pollutants and weeds from the runoff basin that receives water from Roe Highway and other drains before it enters the main basin of the Horley Road Wetland.

SERCUL greatly appreciates all of the voluntary consultancy work undertaken to plan this project by wetland consultant, the late Karl Karu and his wife Sandy.



View of road run off basin after removal of sediment and weeds

OUTCOMES:

- Weed management, sediment and pollutant removal and drainage rehabilitation improved the runoff basin and the Horley Road Wetland hydrological capacity;
- Biodiversity has increased after rehabilitation of the wetland;
- Weed management and drainage rehabilitation of the wetland reduced mosquito breeding habitats and improved natural water flow and predator access as well. This will be of benefit to the local community by way of a reduction in nuisance mosquito numbers that affect human health and the quality of life;
- Overall, this project improved both human and environmental health by improving water quality, improving habitats, increasing biodiversity, improving mental health and decreasing mosquito born disease risk.

1.3 HA
AREA MANAGED

10
VOLUNTEERS

47
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$2350
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

Gosnells Volunteer Bush
Fire Brigade
WAPC

This project is funded through the Australian Government – Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment Communities Environment Program.





WATER QUALITY MONITORING

COORDINATED BY: Sarah Muller and Monica Estrada

In 2020-2021, SERCUL coordinated Water Quality Monitoring Partnership Programs in three key catchments of the Swan-Canning river system (South Perth Catchment, Bull Creek Catchment and Bennett Brook Catchment). These projects, which were supported by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), relevant local government authorities (LGAs), and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage/Western Australian Planning Commission (Whiteman Park) have promoted a cooperative approach to water quality monitoring. For each program, SERCUL prepared a sampling and analysis plan (SAP); conducted the sampling; collated and analysed data to produce a report highlighting important findings and provided recommendations. Data generated by these programs was submitted to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) Water Information Reporting (WIR) database for use by DBCA Rivers and Estuaries Branch to implement local Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIP). SERCUL also coordinates independent water quality monitoring programs for several local governments in areas where water quality is of particular local interest.

Furthermore, SERCUL has a collaborative arrangement with DBCA to undertake surface water, groundwater and sediment sampling for three projects established as part of the River Health Improvement Program (RHIP). RHIP is funded through DBCA Rivers and Estuaries Branch as part of the Healthy Catchments Program, which aims to reduce nutrients entering the Swan and Canning Rivers.

OUTCOMES:

Three programs implemented for the DBCA/LGA Water Quality Partnership Programs:

- Bennett Brook catchment (City of Swan, City of Bayswater and Whiteman Park);
- City of South Perth catchments (City of South Perth);
- Melville Bull Creek catchment and Melville Lakes (City of Melville).

Four programs implemented for independent water quality monitoring programs for LGAs:

- Cygnia Cove Estate (City of South Perth);
- Swan Lakes (City of Swan);
- Bull Creek East (City of Canning), and
- Kalamunda/Woodlupine (City of Kalamunda).

River Health Improvement Program:

- undertaking surface water (monthly basis), groundwater (quarterly basis) and sediment (twice-yearly) monitoring at three RHIP projects: Anvil Way Compensation Basin, Liege Street Wetland and Wharf Street Wetland, on behalf of DBCA.



Water sampling at Bennett Brook

7
PROJECT SITES

116
SAMPLE SITES

36
SAMPLING EVENTS

422
WATER SAMPLES
COLLECTED

40
SEDIMENT SAMPLES
COLLECTED

This program is funded by the Cities of South Perth, Bayswater, Swan, Melville, Kalamunda and Canning, Whiteman Park (WAPC), and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions - Rivers and Estuaries Branch.



AMAZON FROGBIT RESEARCH PROGRAM

COORDINATED BY: Dr Rose Weerasinghe with assistance from Andy Owen, Darren O'Brien and Natasha Bowden

Amazon Frogbit, *Limnobium laevigatum* is a perennial herbaceous aquatic plant belonging to the Hydrocharitaceae family. This species was imported to Australia as an ornamental aquarium plant and now poses a serious threat to Australian waterways due to its explosive rate of spread. Amazon Frogbit was listed as a declared pest in Western Australia in October 2018 and was placed on the Western Australian Organism List. SERCUL commenced a research project on Amazon Frogbit to minimise the knowledge gap and improve management of the species.

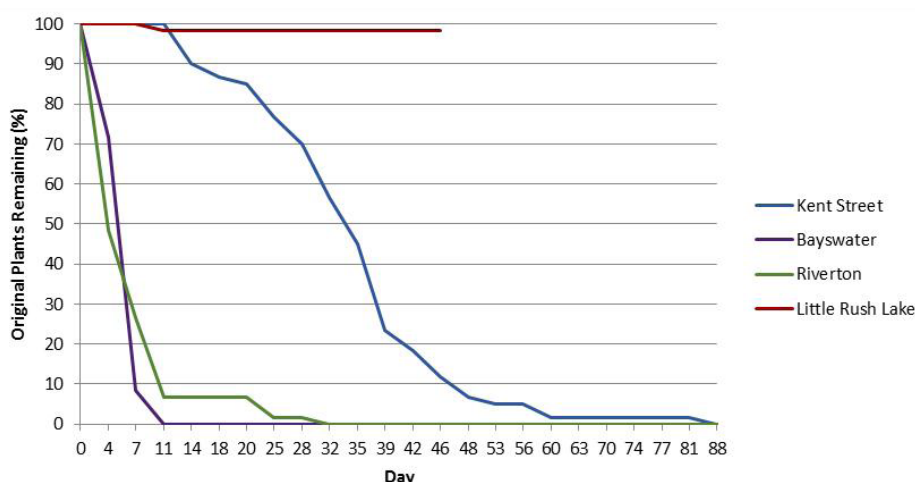
The aim of this program is to investigate Amazon Frogbit's potential spread to, and establishment in, rivers with different salinity levels and to understand other ecological conditions to maximise control methods.

OUTCOMES:

- The ex-situ mesocosm experiments and field investigations were conducted. A mesocosm is a created small ecosystem, bridging the gap between experimental work and field studies. We created different mesocosms at the SERCUL premises using readily available materials to perform five Amazon Frogbit experiments (refer to picture).

It should be noted that in this experiment, due to limited facilities and capacity, measurement or control of environmental conditions such as sunlight, temperature, dissolved carbon dioxide, oxygen or nutrients was not possible. In order to evaluate the salt tolerance of Amazon Frogbit comprehensively and intuitively, other variables should be controlled. In this study, visual ratings allowed for the evaluation of the survival of Amazon Frogbit in experimental mesocosms, which was the main focus.

- Ex-situ experimental data was used to prepare a report. To view the report visit: www.sercul.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Amazon-Frogbit-Research-Report-2020web.pdf



Experimental mesocosms at SERCUL

Figure 1: Percentage of original plant remaining in each treatment and control mesocosm

The average salinity for each mesocosm differed, Bayswater was the most saline with an average salinity range of 22.72 - 26.93 ppt and Little Rush Lake (control mesocosm) the least saline with an average salinity of 1.67 ppt.

This experiment identified that Amazon Frogbit can survive in river water over 35 days in the 12.16 to 19.60 ppt salinity range with brackish conditions, and a short period of about 14 days at salinity ranges of 22.72 - 26.93 ppt. The short survival period of Amazon Frogbit in river systems is enough for them to easily re-disperse to fresh water habitats by wind, currents, tidal action, birds or recreational activities. As the stormwater network systems connect with rivers, this can be rapidly spread to many areas through drainage infrastructure and could grow amongst other weeds without being noticed.



HORLEY ROAD WETLAND

BIOMONITORING PROJECT

COORDINATED BY: Dr Rose Weerasinghe

PROJECT LOCATION: Horley Road, Beckenham

The Horley Road Wetland was selected for the study due to its ecological and sociological value within the Yule Brook system. Systematic bio-monitoring at the wetland has been conducted by SERCUL and volunteers on an in-kind basis since 2016. The aims of this project are to track and record ecological changes that may be occurring in the wetland as a result of wetland rehabilitation and to collect ecological data that will contribute to a better understanding of mosquito breeding in relation to other ecological factors in this system and similar systems.

The information obtained from this project can be used to assist wetland managers with restoration activities, and for managing wetland mosquito populations for human health and environmental purposes.

OUTCOMES:

- Continued post-rehabilitation monitoring of mosquito larval counts, other macroinvertebrate populations, birds, frogs, and water quality physicochemical parameters in the wetland;
- Data shows an increase in densities of native fauna and flora since we completed the rehabilitation trials at the run off basin, drainage pipes and the Horley Road Wetland main basin;
- The improved water flow reduces the stagnation that allows mosquitoes and midges to breed;
- Provided opportunities for University, TAFE students and community volunteers to participate and learn skills relevant to wetland rehabilitation, ecological monitoring, and analysis;
- Provided in situ learning opportunities for school students to embrace wetland education and
- Wetland provided macroinvertebrates for PAP program school incursions and excursions.

SUMMARY:

- Project monitoring identified the importance of the appropriate management of drainage systems, sediment and weeds in wetlands in ensuring environmental and human health risks are minimised.
- Ongoing monitoring is required to determine the impact of rehabilitation efforts on the ecology and biodiversity values of the wetland.
- From a conservation perspective, the wetland provides a safe breeding ground for frogs, habitats for macroinvertebrates and other diverse wildlife.



North Metropolitan TAFE, East Perth campus - Environmental Monitoring students assisting with bio-monitoring

15
VOLUNTEERS

102
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$5100
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

This project is supported by
SERCUL In-kind.



ADENIA RESEARCH PROJECTS

COORDINATED BY: Dr Rose Weerasinghe and Darren O'Brien

PROJECT LOCATION: Adenia Park, Riverton

The project site is a temperate saltmarsh located in the Canning River Regional Park (CRRP), with estuarine saltmarsh habitats recognised nationally as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) since 2013 and ranked as vulnerable. The saltmarsh vegetation complex is also listed as a priority III ecological community in Western Australia.

Systematic bio-monitoring and rehabilitation at Adenia Saltmarsh has been conducted by SERCUL with stakeholders including Curtin University and North Metro TAFE students through different grants since 2016. The aim of these projects was to learn about and help mitigate climate change by increasing carbon sequestration services by saltmarsh plants and ecosystems, both of which are important blue carbon systems.

CURRENTLY SERCUL HAS TWO PROJECTS:

REHABILITATION OF TEMPERATE SALTMARSH TEC IN THE CANNING RIVER REGIONAL PARK

The project will remove the competition of invasive weeds to native vegetation by stimulating native species regeneration and enhancing habitat qualities. The infill-revegetation of provenance species will assist in suppressing the weed species whilst maintaining ecological value and diversity of the area. The project will also collect ecological data in the rehabilitation area and comprehensive vegetation and weed surveys in the broader natural area.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

This project is funded by the Swan Canning River Recovery Stage 3, supported by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.

ADENIA SALTMARSH REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION PROJECT

The aim of this project is to conduct experimental rehabilitation trials, educate local community about the importance of saltmarshes as blue carbon sinks and to enhance the quality of this Threatened Ecological Community and thereby strengthen the ecological linkages to which it belongs.

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Canning
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.

OVERALL OUTCOMES:

- Continued baseline ecological monitoring, vegetation mapping and plant surveys and mosquito larval surveys;
- Curtin University and North Metropolitan TAFE students assisted with monitoring of macroinvertebrates and ground water/surface water quality in both project sites;
- Removed aggressive weeds;
- Conducted two experimental halophyte translocation trials;
- Collected and propagated provenance species seeds and cuttings;
- Installed 2432 local provenance plants;
- Held an educational field workshop on saltmarsh vegetation and rehabilitation with 20 participants;
- 68 volunteers contributed over 395 hours towards these projects.



SERCUL registered volunteers (University and TAFE students) assisting with ecological monitoring



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

MANAGED BY: Matt Grimbly

Environmental Services are undertaken on a fee for service basis. The specific intent of this delivery model is to generate income to support community groups and capacity in our region. It is recognised that in an ever tightening and diminishing funding environment there is limited external financial support provided to this area. Environmental Services undertaken by SERCUL are in the areas of Monitoring and Research, Education and Promotion and Landcare and Restoration. The majority of proceeds that are generated by the Environmental Services Unit come from Landcare and Restoration.

This financial year has seen SERCUL deliver many weed control, bushland maintenance, revegetation and erosion control projects for a wide range of clients. Work has included the control of weeds in sensitive remnant bushland, the successful control of serious aquatic weeds such as Amazon Frogbit, revegetation and erosion control of river foreshore and bushland areas and manual control of large infestations of woody weeds.

CLIENTS INCLUDED:

- Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group
- Bannister Creek Catchment Group
- City of Armadale
- City of Canning
- City of Cockburn
- City of Fremantle
- City of Gosnells
- City of Melville
- City of Nedlands
- City of Perth
- DBCA
- DPIRD
- Friends of Clontarf Hill
- Friends of The Spectacles
- Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group
- SUEZ
- Trillion Trees
- Water Corporation



SERCUL Environmental Services team members Julian and Matt in Jandakot Regional Park.



SERCUL Environmental Services team member Talen brush cutting Typha at the Horley Road Basin 3 project site.



WA STATE NRM GRANTS

CSGL20026 – three-year grant commencing from July 2021

This grant sponsors eight community groups with a range of projects as follows:

- Wilson Wetlands Action Group – Weed control program and revegetation.
- Bickley Brook – Fringing vegetation infill planting and weed control.
- Forrestdale (Harrisdale Swamp) – Weed control and planting in ephemeral wetland.
- Friends of Jandakot Regional Park – Revegetation of degraded areas, weed control of woody acacia and love grass.
- Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group – Weed control, dieback protection and revegetation.
- Friends of Samson Park – Plants for revegetation and community workshops.
- Friends of Mosman Park Bushland – Provenance plant production and weed control.
- Friends of Jirdarup Bushland – Community workshops and weed control.

Two large WA State NRM applications were written in May 2021. Both grants are pending and if successful will support the following sub-projects commencing mid-2022.

CSGL21001 – Eight projects, including five community group sponsorships, project coordination and community support funds:

- Yagan Wetland – Weed control in partnership with City of Canning.
- Boneseed – Continuing work through CSGL19094 towards Boneseed Eradication in Perth Hills.
- Horley-Yule Brook – Infill planting and supporting weed control.
- Friends of Hollis Park – Sponsorship of Friends group, plants for community planting event.
- Friends of Freo Beaches – Sponsorship of Friends group, plants for community planting event.
- Friends of Booyembara Park – Fencing and revegetation.
- Friends of Jirdarup – Weed control assistance.
- Friends of The Spectacles – Plant supply and weed control.

CSGL21008 – Five groups in Melville supported, plus coordination funds:

- Friends of Wireless Hill – Weed control program.
- Friends of Ken Hurst Park – Revegetation of old tracks and watering.
- Friends of Booragoon/Blue Gum Lakes – Infill planting and weed control.
- Friends of Gabbiljee (Bull Creek) – Ongoing weed control of priority species, revegetation.
- Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group – Weed control, revegetation and cockatoo nest tubes.

NURDI PARK LIVING STREAM

PERTH NRM – SWAN CANNING RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM STAGE 3

From July 2021 this funding together with a contribution from Water Corporation will commence a two-year program of litter removal, weed control and infill planting at Nurdi Park Living Stream in Riverton. Funds are also available to design and produce interpretive signage to explain the function of the water treatment basins.

SHED COMPOUND UPGRADE

DBCA SMALL GRANT PROGRAM

Through an election promise from Bill Johnston, Member for Cannington, we have secured a \$100,000 grant to upgrade and expand the shed compound area at SERCUL. Works will include a new plant storage area with reticulation, chemical mixing and washdown area with a bunded pit and carports to protect trailers, vehicles and other equipment.

Works will commence in the latter stages of 2021 and will be completed by the end of June 2022.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANK YOU

The achievements of the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare's project delivery are due to the financial and in-kind contributions from Federal, State and Local Governments and income generated by SERCUL's Environmental Services team through its contract work. We sincerely thank all our partners and the local community across the South Region for their continuing support which has allowed us to achieve the outcomes highlighted in this report.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work alongside our project and industry partners, government agencies, local government, Aboriginal organisations, community groups and volunteers in the delivery of natural resource management and landcare in the South Region. We share our achievements with this positive and supporting network.

As we commence the 2021–22 financial year, we look forward to continuing to work together to achieve many more positive environmental outcomes for the South Region.

FUNDING BODIES AND PARTNERS





South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

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