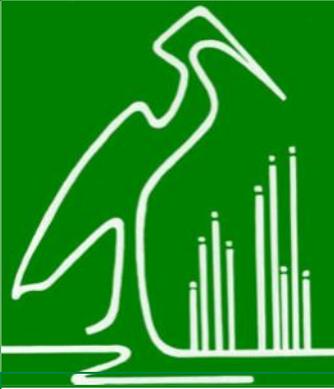


# CRREPA NEWS

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

Editors: Stephen Johnston and Sue Stanley

**ENJOY YOUR FORESHORE RESPONSIBLY**



Members please contact us by phone (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](http://www.sercul.org.au/crrepa)

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

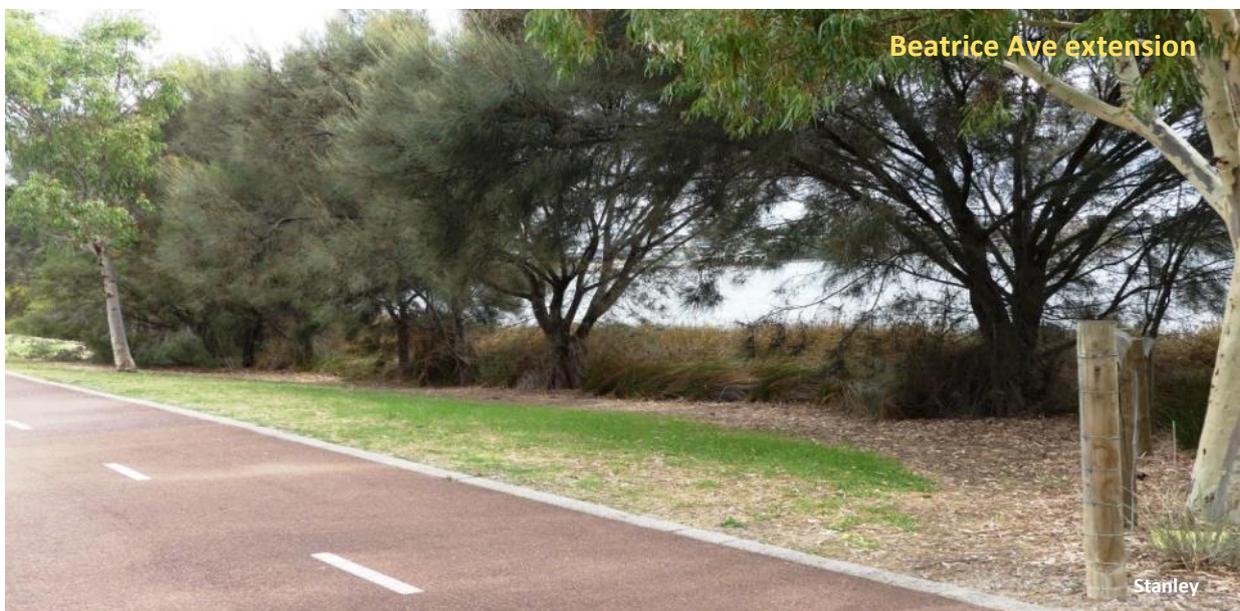
## GRANTS SUPPORT LONG-TERM REVEGETATION PLANS

**CRREPA has been awarded two State Government grants to support modest and sustainable foreshore revegetation projects over the next five years.**

The projects are the continued implementation of a key recommendation in the 1997 *Management Policy - City of Canning Foreshore Reserves* for "replacing turf between the dual use path and the river with endemic vegetation wherever practicable and appropriate..." which is reflected in the first recommended action of the 2019 *Shelley Rossmoyne Foreshore Management Plan*: "Continue to revegetate areas of the foreshore lacking vegetation in line with the City's priorities and recommendations by CRREPA."

In June we will be seeking assistance from CRREPA volunteers to plant 650 small local native plants in a narrow sloping section of what is now turf running about 32 metres west from the Beatrice Avenue revegetation site. The planting will strengthen the protective buffer around the Grecian Spit significant habitat site. Another six medium height shrubs will be planted near the river's edge opposite 231 Riverton Drive, Shelley. All the plants will be funded by a \$3409 grant from the Western Australian State Government's Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program which will also cover fortnightly contract watering in the 2022-23 spring-autumn period.

The City of Canning (CoC) will provide project support mainly by poisoning the turf, auguring planting holes, fortnightly spring to autumn watering and erecting a temporary fence to protect the Beatrice Avenue revegetation extension from trampling by people and dogs until the plants become fully established. cont...





Then in June 2024 we will revegetate two sites, a 78-metre sloping section near Halophila Bay where CRREPA and the CoC successfully undertook a major foreshore stabilisation project in December 2010, and an area opposite 131 Riverton Drive. The Halophila Bay site, opposite 135-137 Riverton Drive, Rossmoyne, has been previously subject to small CoC-CRREPA revegetation initiatives which have seen the successful establishment of some aptly named Harsh Hakea (*Hakea prostrata*). Based on that experience, CRREPA’s foreshore coordinator, Sue Stanley, said the emphasis for the 2024 project would be planting a smaller number (relative to the site area of 0.0258 hectare) of larger local native plants than we usually put in. Sue said public access to the Canning River would be maintained by a walkway at the eastern end of the site, running alongside an existing fence (see photo above).

This project will be funded by a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Community Rivercare Program grant of \$10,262 that will also cover fortnightly contract watering over the 2024-26 spring-autumn periods. The CoC will water the site on the alternate fortnights and provide the same site preparation and fencing services as for the Beatrice Avenue revegetation extension.

The criticality and labour intensiveness of hand watering new revegetation plots is attested by the fact that nearly half the State NRM and three quarters of the Community Rivercare program grant funds will be spent on this service. Without it, and in the absence of nearby watering points for CRREPA volunteer watering, many of the new plants would be unlikely to survive the dry six months with only the CoC fortnightly watering.



### 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>

## RECORD SUMMER HEAT PROMPTS REFLECTIONS ON PAST AND FUTURE REVEGETATION

**A** summer that was marked by new temperature records provided insight into what scientists have been warning us for many years will be the new norm. Perth's mean maximum of 33.3 was one degree higher than the previous Perth record; the 13 days with maximum temperatures of at least 40 almost doubled Perth's previous summer record of seven days; and the six consecutive days in January with temperatures of at least 40 was also unprecedented.

So, what were the consequences for our revegetation plots along the Canning foreshore and what are the lessons for the future? The smallest impact was evident at the June 2018 planting sites – Wadjup Point and Beatrice Avenue.

At Wadjup, despite weekly watering by our volunteers, some of the plants between the path and bubble-up drain succumbed, particularly the *Conostylis* and *Patersonia*. A positive side-note is the growth of groundcover vegetation behind the fence at Wadjup indicating that most people are now doing the right thing and not encroaching into this area. For example, an informal foot-pad (pictured) to the Point is now largely overgrown with grass, sedges and *Suaeda*. At the Beatrice Avenue site, helped by a continuing stream of sub-surface moisture, the *Juncus kraussii* and *Ghania trifida* have continued to grow well and now form a strong buffer for the Grecian's Spit significant habitat area with only limited evidence of people walking through to get to the river.



The greatest summer impact has been at the Corinthian Road site planted in June-July 2020. It has had the advantages of a significant amount of shade from mature Swamp Paperbarks (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*), sub-surface moisture and weekly watering during the 2020-21 summer autumn by the City of Canning (CoC) and the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) contractors funded by a small grant from Perth Natural Resource Management (NRM). However, the grant expired last year so the site has been watered only fortnightly by a CoC contractor. The main losses have been *Hibbertia*, *Hypocalymma* and *Patersonia* and some of the sedges especially towards the back of the plot and on the western side. Our other sites at Central, Rob Bruce and Beryl have had minor losses due to twice weekly watering in the hottest months of Summer.

So what have we learnt from this experience? Firstly, the importance of continually reviewing which of the local native plants we have installed are the most drought-tolerant. Secondly, the need to always include contract watering in grant applications. CRREPA grant applications for revegetation will always now include a substantial component for contract watering to supplement the CoC watering. Finally, it has reinforced the value of selecting revegetation sites where there is evidence - in the form of green grass all year-round - of sub-surface moisture.



# THE FALL AND RISE OF A FORESHORE TUART

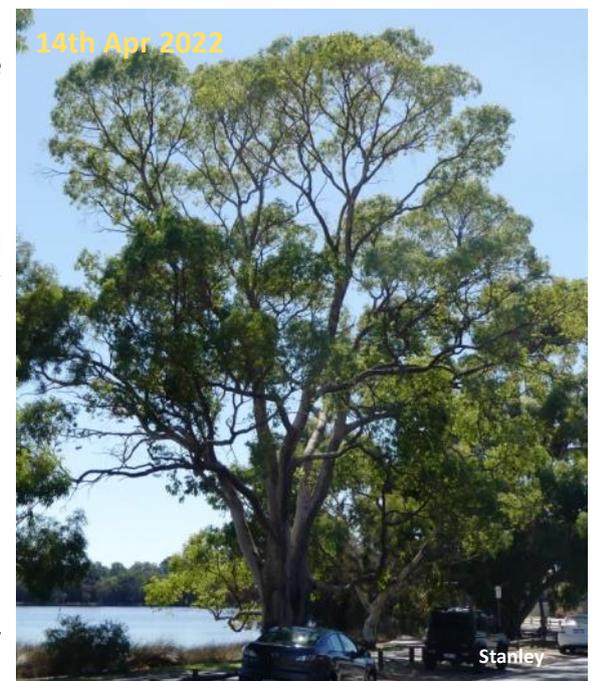
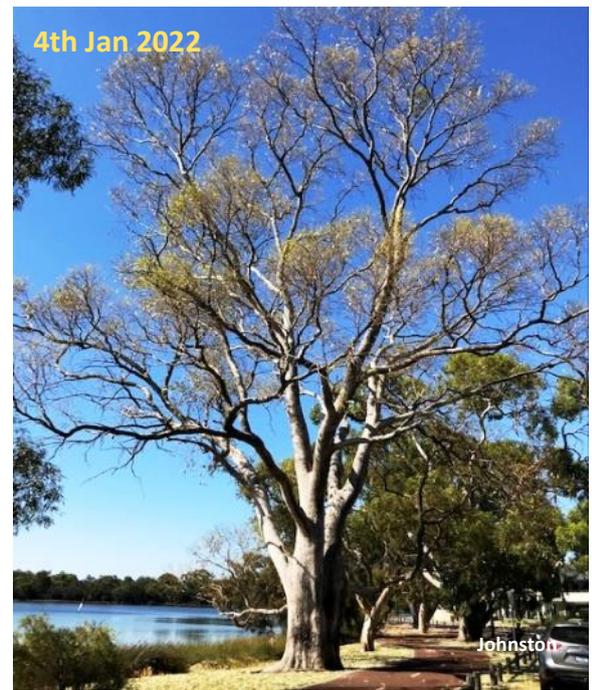
In the midst of Perth's Christmas-New Year heatwave, a few people who ventured out along the eastern end of the Shelley Rossmoyne foreshore were shocked to see the sudden demise of a large, old Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) near Linkwater Street, Shelley.

A carpet of dead leaves had formed around the base and most of the leaves that remained on the tree were browning. The City of Canning responded promptly to calls from the community to investigate and commissioned an arboricultural assessment. Within four days of being notified the City's Parks staff commenced drenching the tree's roots and surrounding soil with 5000 litres of water, seaweed extract and organic wetter twice a week for three to four weeks. This was then reduced to once weekly for a couple of weeks. The City's intense life-saving treatment was rewarded very quickly as the Tuart sprouted new growth on all its branches. By late February the tree looked to have fully recovered.

So, what caused its rapid decline and what can be done to limit the likelihood of another episode? The consultant arboriculturalist, Brad Bowden, found that the tree was healthy, but a period of drought stress had led to the sudden loss of leaves. Mr Bowden said laboratory analysis of soil sampled within the Tuart's dripline showed phosphorus, copper and manganese were below the recommended levels. Phosphorus deficiency often results in small leaf size and leaf-shape distortion and can cause leaves to drop early.

Mr Bowden recommended non-invasive treatment to control termites and improvements to the root zone including the application of wood chip mulch and liquid composts/fertilizers to improve soil structure and nutrition. He said these could improve tree health and the tree's capacity to produce new wood to maintain its strength.

In implementing the recommendation, the City has to first determine the high tide line to ensure that mulch is not washed into the river, then after some ground preparation lay an Australian standards quality mulch to a depth of 65 to 80 mms. With sustained very high summer temperatures likely to become more common, the health of this Tuart and many other trees on the foreshore that don't have reticulation will have to be monitored closely, particularly as they grow in poor soil that is subject to compaction from the hundreds of people who use the foreshore every week.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and THANK YOUs

We are very grateful for the support provided by DBCA, State NRM, Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources and:



## JOINING FORCES TO TACKLE THE WEEDS OF YAGAN WETLAND RESERVE

It is one of only six Bush Forever sites in the City of Canning, protects the mouth of one of the main tributaries of the Canning River, has high exposure to thousands of people who travel along Leach Highway every day and was the pivotal site in the formation of CRREPA 28 years ago. But tucked in between Bull Creek, Adventist Homes, the Highway and Bateman Park, the significance of the 5.4 hectare Yagan Wetland Reserve can be easily overlooked, helped by the great difficulty of access into its thick vegetation.

Unfortunately Yagan is a haven for weeds because of its well-watered alluvial soil, constant supply of seeds from Bull Creek's large suburban catchment area and garden runaways from the neighbouring Adventist Homes. In a 1995 draft management plan, CRREPA said the Reserve had "become infested with exotic plants and weeds which are out of control and threaten many indigenous plants....areas of severe weed infestation [which] have all but eliminated the natural understorey."

Yagan is still infested with weeds and the challenge to get them under control remains formidable. A weed map in 2018 found that nearly 97 per cent of the Reserve had weeds and "the central part of the creek is close to experiencing almost total replacement of the native understorey species with weed species." The most recent weed mapping commissioned by the City identified 41 species from 21 plant families, two of which are a respectively a declared pest and a weed of national significance - Blackberry (*Rubus ulmifolius*) and Arum Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*). A total of 26 species were identified as 'high' impact while 24 were classified as being 'rapid' in their invasiveness.



The most visible weed is Morning Glory (*Ipomoea cairica*), which the Urban Bushland Council describes as a "rampant twining weed [is] capable of smothering all vegetation. Along creeks and rivers it smothers fringing trees... causes acute disruption of ecological processes, dominates and/or significantly alters vegetation structure, composition and function of ecosystems." In 2020 Morning Glory reportedly covered 1155 square metres or 2.04 per cent of the Reserve – up from 1.19 per cent two years earlier. But this coverage has increased very considerably since then so it now smothers trees over much of the Reserve's eastern corner.

Morning Glory will be the principal target for environment services staff from the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL), funded by a three-year grant from the State Government's Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program, in a collaborative weed control program with the City's Natural Areas Team (NAT). The overall objective is to concentrate on a small number of priority weeds so demonstrable progress can be achieved.

SERCUL staff will trace the main trunk of each Morning Glory plant, cut it about two metres above the ground, lay the trunk on the ground and apply herbicide to it, leaving the extensive stems trailing through the trees to die off. Meanwhile the NAT will focus on woody weeds, including Blackberry, Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*), Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), Figs (*Ficus carica*) and Geraldton Wax (*Chamelaucium uncinatum*) as well as introduced grasses.



# OUT AND ABOUT

## December 2021 Sundowner



## Shorebird Count Feb 2022



## CR SPENCER-TEO HELPS CRREPA WIN AN EQUIPMENT GRANT

**B**annister ward Councillor Amanda Spencer-Teo played a key role in enabling CRREPA to obtain a \$2800 Commonwealth Government Volunteer Grant.

CRREPA had previously been approached about the grants by the office of the Hon Ben Morton, Member for Tangney, but after some consideration we declined as we were unable to identify any major items we needed. But when Cr Spencer-Teo approached us on behalf of Mr Morton's office some weeks later we had by then identified the need for a portable display stand to show photographs of our activities and achievements at events like volunteer expos. The display stand, a hose reel and other items were included in a list sent to Cr Spencer-Teo who followed through with Mr Morton's office until we were notified in December that our application had been successful.



## WATERBIRD SAVIOURS NEED OUR HELP

**O**ne of the organisations that is very important to the health of the waterbirds along our foreshore is Western Australian Seabird Rescue (WASR). It is a volunteer organisation based in coastal south-western Australia who rescue and rehabilitate hundreds of waterbirds yearly.

This wonderful group of volunteers gives their time to retrieve birds that are sick, injured or have been entangled in fishing lines, hooks and other debris. Sometimes they spend several days searching for birds that have been reported by the public. If the bird needs treatment they are passed on to centres like Wildlife WA and some of the volunteers even care for the birds until they are fit enough to be released.

The attached photo is of a Darter at Salter Point spit that had plastic and material wrapped around its beak. Darters have a serrate beak which prevent fish from escaping and it is almost impossible for the darter to untangle itself which means it can't feed and will die.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or helping the WASR purchase the equipment and feed they need to rescue and care for the birds, go to their website <https://wasr.org.au/>.



If you see an injured waterbird like swans, ducks, pelicans, darters, cormorants etc please call WASR on **(08) 6102 8464** seven days a week from 8am to 6pm. Outside of these hours and for all other wildlife emergencies, please call the Wildcare Helpline on **(08) 9474 9055**.

### YOUR CRREPA COMMITTEE 2021—2022



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

Stephen Johnston

Madeline Radestock

Bill Lambe

Sue Stanley

Liz Moore

### Committee Members

Murray Radestock