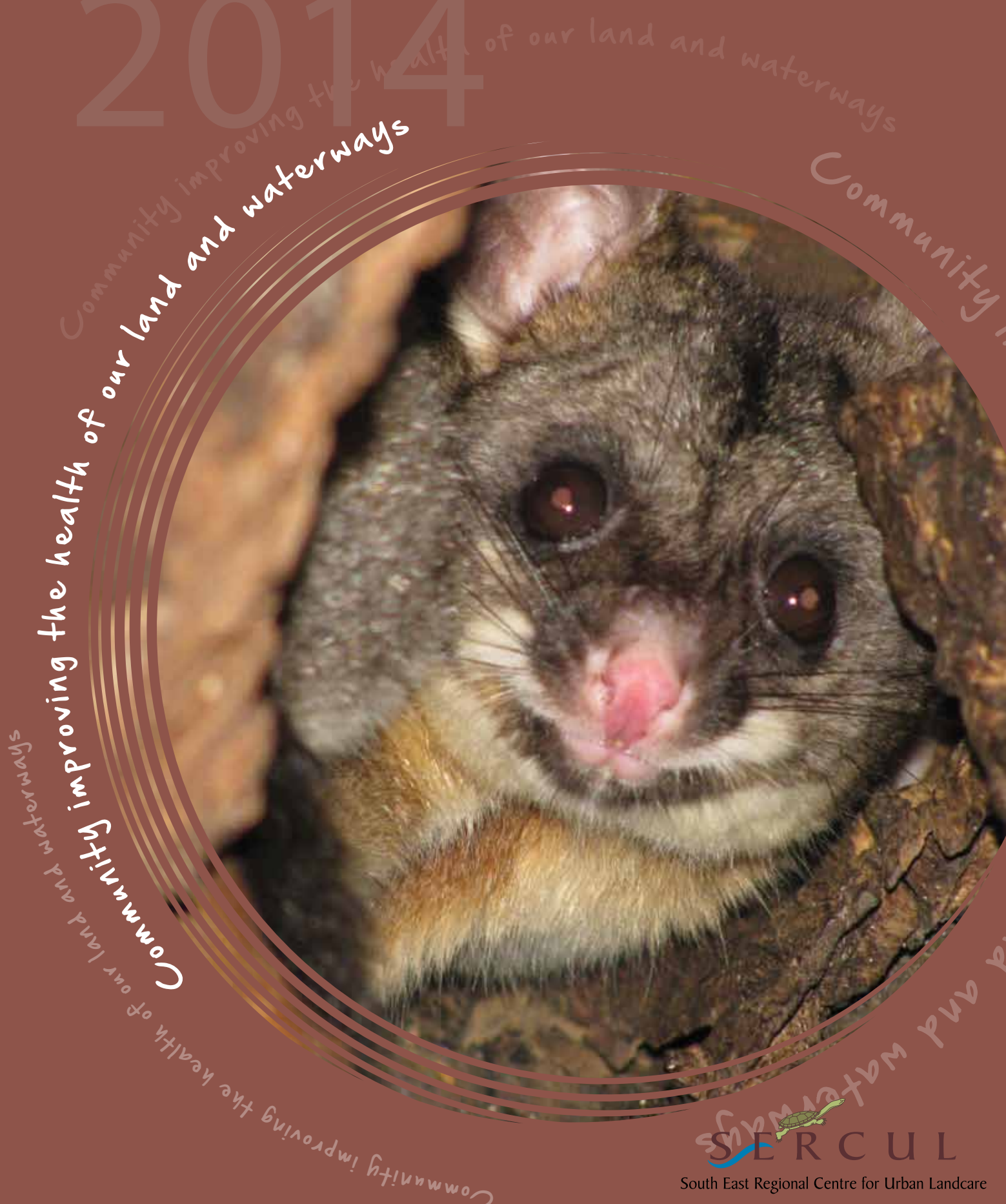


SERCUL ANNUAL REPORT

2014







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FEEDBACK





Chris Tallentire MLA
Member for **Gosnells**

Julie Robert
CEO SERCUL
69 Horley Road
BECKENHAM
WA 6107

Unit 1, 314 Spencer Road
THORNLEE WA 6108
Phone: 9493 2223
Fax: 9493 2224
Email: chris.tallentire@mp.wa.gov.au
Website: www.christallentire.com


Dear Julie

I recently took the opportunity in the Parliament to speak about the fantastic work SERCUL does.

I made mention of some individuals by name, so I have attached some copies of Hansard, the Parliamentary Report. I would be grateful if you could get a copy into the hands of the people I named.

I will be in touch in the future about action I'm co-ordinating as Shadow Minister for the Environment to try and reverse the cuts to both the Environment Grants and Environment Awards.

Yours sincerely



CHRIS TALLENTIRE MLA
MEMBER FOR GOSNELLS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE; LANDS

13 September 2013

Your local State M

"Thank you for making my experience with you through my work experience such a positive and enjoyable time. Continue to welcome volunteers such openly as if they had been there all along."

Mason Formentin
Volunteer, Kennedy Baptist College

"Yesterday was great fun and well worthwhile. You and John and the rest of your team are doing a great job!"

David Tyler
Volunteer, Mill Street Rotary

"Big excitement at our school today as we were exploring our frog pond habitat. We found 3 frogs looking quite at home. The kids were beside themselves. What species do you think they are? We thought motorbike frogs?"

Thanks so much for the incursion you ran last year - it's one of the best incursions in Perth. Tiddalik's Place is a big hit at our school. The special needs kids love to go and visit it regularly as do all of the other students."

Kristy Maher
Teacher, Good Shepherd Primary School



SOUTHERN RIVER COLLEGE
ABN 48 162 429 245
Southern River Road Gosnells WA 6103
Telephone: (08) 9493 2200 Facsimile: (08) 9493 2621



Ms Estrada
Sercul
69 Horley Road
Beckenham 6107

Dear Ms Estrada

I would like to personally thank you for your support in hosting students from Southern River College for Workplacement.

We are committed to establishing and maintaining strong links with business and industry and believe these links will help us provide more relevant and interesting programs for our students.

Students undertaking Workplacement have a significant edge when it comes to preparing for their future in further education and/or training, and in the workplace.

To express our gratitude in providing our students with a workplace opportunity, please accept the attached Certificate as a token of our appreciation.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

Yours sincerely

T. Healy
Co-ordinator
Workplace Learning
3 December 2013

Respect and Belonging

Email: SouthernRiverCollege@education.wa.edu.au Website: www.southernrivercollege.wa.edu.au

ACHIEVEMENTS and HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013 – 2014



Deb Taborda,
Amy Krupa and
Melinda Snowball at the
launch of the Freshwater
Fauna Teacher Guides



SERCUL became a Waterwise Partner with the
Water Corporation

\$41 522

Australian Government Funding
(exc GST)

\$910 141

State Government Funding
(exc GST)

\$279 186

Local Government Funding
(exc GST)

\$473 657

Other Project \$ Attracted
(exc GST)

>16 631 hrs

Volunteer Contribution

>\$540 990

Total Value of Volunteering
(Value of Volunteering = \$32.53/hr)

259 750

Plants Installed

>17 425

People Received Education,
via Direct Information or
On-ground Contact

115

Waterway Sites Sampled

604

Samples collected in the
Perth Region

FROM THE CHAIR – PAT HART



This has been a year of highs, lows, challenges and great achievements. The end of June saw the conclusion of our very successful Urban Waterways Renewal Program that has proven to be an outstanding success on many fronts. While the program has concluded, ongoing maintenance at

some sites will continue for a few more years. July saw SERCUL celebrating 10 years of our establishment and what a great celebration it was with many of our stakeholders and community coming together at SERCUL to reflect and celebrate with us. There were four new babies born to SERCUL staff members during the year and we've had two new SERCUL community executive members come on board—Geoff Pettifer and Max Houghton, our new treasurer. Both are very experienced in various fields that are of real benefit to SERCUL and are most welcome additions to our team. SERCUL has had the honour of being one of four finalists in the Australian Riverprize with the Bannister Creek Drains to Living Streams Program being selected. Judging took place in Canberra in September 2014 with Julie Robert making a presentation at this International River Symposium. Even though the Program did not win, this is an outstanding achievement for all involved over the past 18 years, particularly the Bannister Creek Catchment Group.

Our low came in November 2013 with the sudden loss of Cam Clay, a founding member of SERCUL, our treasurer and a really great person. We shall miss Cam as he was one of those people who was larger than life and totally committed to the management and repair of the environment. We are extremely pleased to see the City of Armadale intends to name a large open space next to the Wungong River in Armadale in honour of Cam. Another major low was the announcement by the State Government that the Swan River Trust—our key and critical stakeholder and amazing partner—is going to be amalgamated into the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Along with Kings Park, the Swan River is the top icon of our State and here we have a decision made that is going to have

far-reaching environmental, economical and social impacts. The community environmental groups that work with the Swan River Trust have clearly demonstrated that apart from the environmental benefits, there are clear social and real financial benefits for this State that community groups bring. We are very concerned that the new structure will not recognise these strengths and the commitment of community groups and organisations toward river protection. We also know how the Trust works and it is clear to all that with the amalgamation will come staff reductions. This will mean fragmentation and loss of historical and local knowledge and financial reduction for onground works and intervention. Those of us who have been around for many years have seen this all before within other agencies and once again it is the environment that suffers. What legacy are we handing on to future generations?

This Government decision brings on the challenges that community environmental groups face regularly—it's about survival. This time the challenge is the biggest we've ever had to face. SERCUL has begun to work through how we can increase our business service delivery while still meeting our aims and objectives. We believe there are some business opportunities to pursue; however, we recognise that without the core funding SERCUL and the two other sub regions receive from the Swan River Trust, it is going to be an extremely difficult task. With the other sub regional groups, we intend to put a case forward to the Department of Parks and Wildlife to continue this funding after 30 June 2015.

I wish to thank and congratulate all of our wonderful staff for their ongoing commitment to SERCUL. An amazing team that never fail to amaze my executive members and I. Thanks to the Swan River Trust, our key partner and all our other partners and stakeholders. To all the community environmental groups throughout our area, thank you for your ongoing commitment and dedication to the care of our precious environment. To my executive committee—thank you for all the time and effort you put into assisting me in the governance of SERCUL. Last but not least, thanks to our amazing CEO, Julie Robert, whose outstanding commitment and dedication to SERCUL is legendary.



Pat Hart
Chairperson

FROM THE CEO – JULIE ROBERT



The year of 2013 – 14 has seen a major shift in the SERCUL landcare services delivery model. We have gone from a predominantly community and NRM grant-driven program into a primarily environmental service delivery program that (hopefully in the future) will provide essential support to

the community landcare and environmental community development program.

This shift is necessary to improve and secure the long-term sustainability of SERCUL so the business of the organisation is not totally reliant on investment by Government in NRM, landcare or haphazard political decision making where the care of our environment is not considered or understood.

Investing in the technical expertise, experience and knowledge within the SERCUL staff has enabled the organisation to economically sustain business operations and continue to provide support to the environmental community groups in similar levels to 2012 – 13.

Major highlights of the year have been the celebration of SERCUL's decade of landcare and the completion of the largest project SERCUL has ever undertaken—the Urban Waterways Renewal (UWR). The SERCUL final UWR report and the Department of Water's UWR Monitoring Report is available on the SERCUL website.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of all 11 projects that have now been completed and are being maintained by the relevant land managers in partnership with SERCUL.

The completion of A Teachers Guide to the Freshwater Fishes, Crayfishes and Mussels of South-Western Australia, a national curriculum-linked education program, by Deb Taborda, Melinda Snowball and Amy Krupa was another major highlight; it has taken two years of dedicated work to complete. It is a locally-created and highly-professional educational resource that is now available to the education sector on our local freshwater environment.

SERCUL were successful in gaining and delivering a number of new funded projects as well as some longer-term tenders with Local Governments, agencies and other businesses.

The financial status of SERCUL remained relatively stable throughout the year, though the completion of the UWR project has reduced the cash flow to a similar pattern of pre-UWR times.

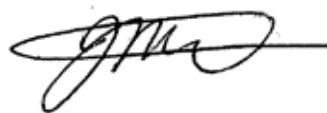
It is most unfortunate that the timing of this has coincided with a number of major political factors that is out of SERCUL's control. Local Government amalgamation together with State Government environmental ruthlessness in removing the independence of the Swan River Trust (merging them into the Department of Parks and Wildlife who are already financially stretched)—threatening the number one icon of Perth ... the Swan River—and the Australian Government slashing of environmental project funding directly impacts our ability to continue to effectively manage the environment.

However, SERCUL have managed to invest \$3 678 364 in environmental restoration, education, training and stimulating environmental community capacity.

I thank the community volunteers, including our dedicated SERCUL committee, who have helped SERCUL throughout the year by donating their time and energy to protect our land and rivers.

It was with great sadness that we said a final farewell to our local landcare ambassador, Mr Cam Clay, our inaugural Treasurer and the Chair of the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group. We miss him and thank Faye and his family for sharing him with us for so many years.

The new financial year brings new challenges for SERCUL as we seek to find the critical balance between sustainable business development and providing traditional community landcare support in our endeavours to protect and restore our environment.



Julie Robert
Chief Executive Officer

SERCUL CONSTITUTION

VISION

To have, as a given, the natural resources of the South Region of Perth managed in a healthy and sustainable manner by all stakeholders for future generations.

MISSION

The aim is to use integrated Natural Resource Management to develop cultural change in how the community views and interacts with the environment while promoting and actively participating in the improvement of the health of waterways and other ecosystems within the South Region.

OBJECTIVES

- a. To identify priority Natural Resource Management issues in the South Region in partnership with Local Government, State Government and industry.
- b. To ensure biodiversity within the South Region is monitored, protected and enhanced.
- c. Assist community, State and Local Government in the coordination of Natural Resource Management in the South Region.
- d. Support and encourage the implementation of best management practice of natural resources within the South Region.
- e. Recognise and embrace Aboriginal, cultural and natural heritage.
- f. Foster research on matters relating to the South Region's natural and cultural heritage.
- g. Work in partnership with Local Government, State Government and industry to educate the wider community to protect our natural resources.
- h. Support and encourage the formation and training of community environment groups.
- i. Support the development and implementation of projects that occur outside the South Region that align with and benefit the delivery of the SERCUL objectives.
- j. Administer the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Inc. funds to promote the objectives and outcomes of the association.



Bobtail in a Snake Bush



Isopogon dubius

THE NRM ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE IN PERTH

SERCUL, as an incorporated, independent community environmental organisation, is able to bring together the community, Local Governments, business, educational institutions and Government agencies 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 Swan 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 Yerrigan (the Swan River). This is shown on the map below:

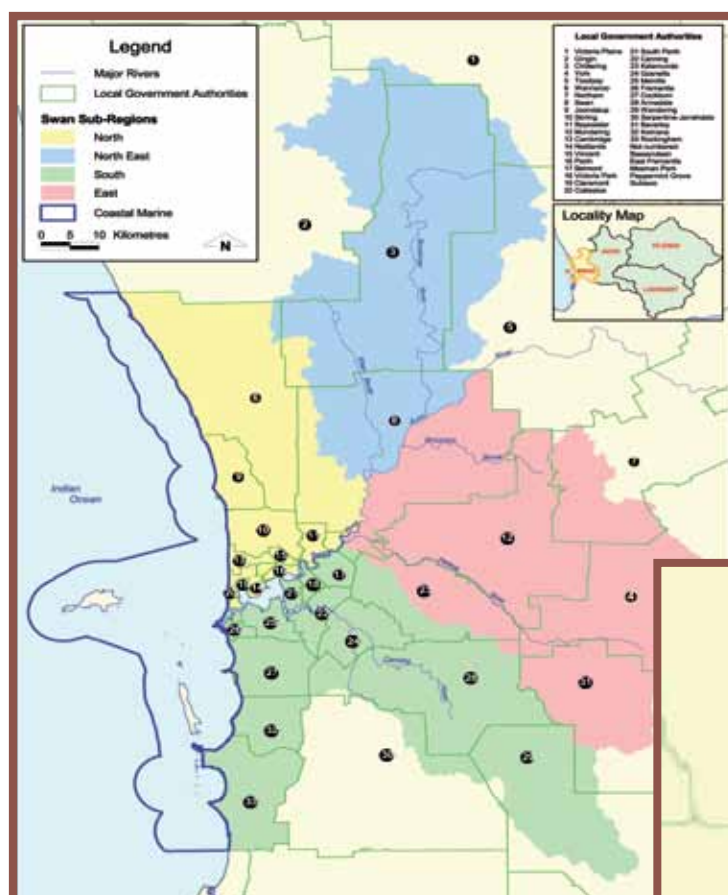
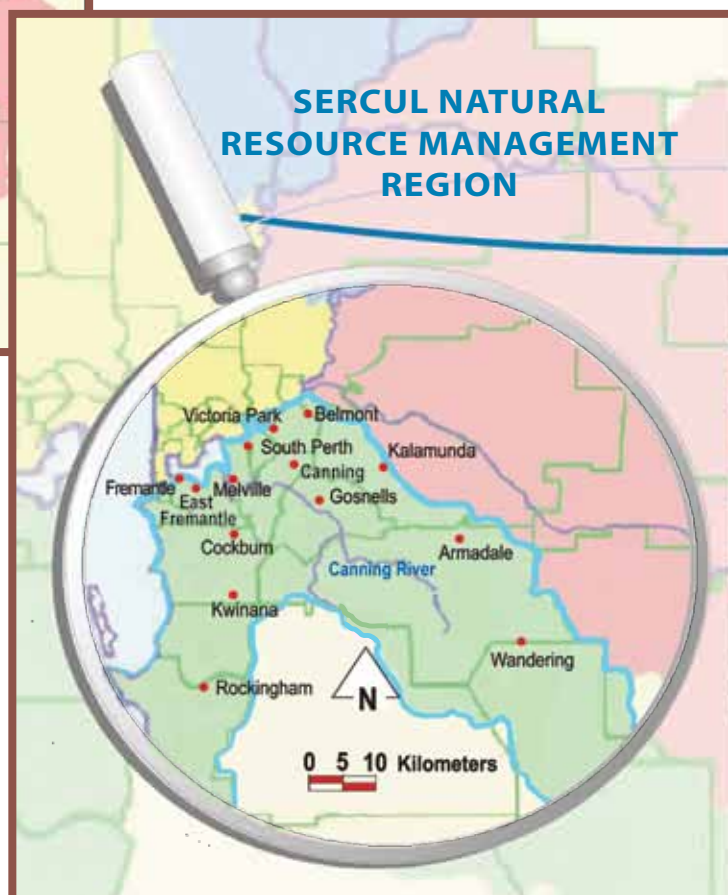


Figure 1: Division of the Swan NRM Region into five sub regions

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

Figure 2: South Sub Region



SERCUL STAFF AND COMMITTEE 2013 – 2014

STAFF EMPLOYED DURING 2013 – 14

Chief Executive Officer: Julie Robert
Financial Administration Manager: Sandy Wainwright
Financial Administration/HR Officer: José Alcalá
Education and Promotion Manager (PAP): Amy Krupa
Environmental Education Officer (PAP): Deb Taborda
Graphic Designer and Promotion Officer: Melinda Snowball
Little Green Steps WA Program Manager: Paula Kalinowski
Water Quality and Volunteer Coordinator: Monica Estrada
Landcare Services Manager (DNIP): Brett Kuhlmann
Urban Waterways Renewal Officer (Armadale): Glen Byleveld
Environmental Services Landcare Coordinator: Matt Grimbly
City of Canning Landcare Officer and BCCG Coordinator: Amy Warner
GIS and Projects Officer: Ditte Strebøl
Precinct Manager and Landcare Officer: John Maliunas
Landcare Officer: Tracy Evans
Landcare and GIS Officer: Alice Atkinson
Landcare Officer: Dan Friesen
Landcare Officer: Daniel Millea
Landcare Officer: Tony Parrelli
Environmental Engineer and Landcare Officer: Wilson Orjuela
Water Quality Officer: Hayden Lindsay
Restoration Ecologist: Rose Weerasinghe

GREEN TEAM STAFF

Russell Gorton
Chee Lum
Saw Ta Pweh
Saw Ha Say Htoo

REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

OTHER THAN SERCUL COMMITTEE

Errol and Margaret Harwood
Doug Murphy
Tina Thorne
Melanie Kowald
Darren O'Brien
Inclusion Western Australia

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Mrs Pat Hart
Vice Chair: Mr Marc Lane
Treasurer: Mr Cam Clay and Mr Max Houghton
Member: Mr Brian Aldrich
Member: Mr Geoff Pettifer
Secretary: Mrs Yvonne Ward

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

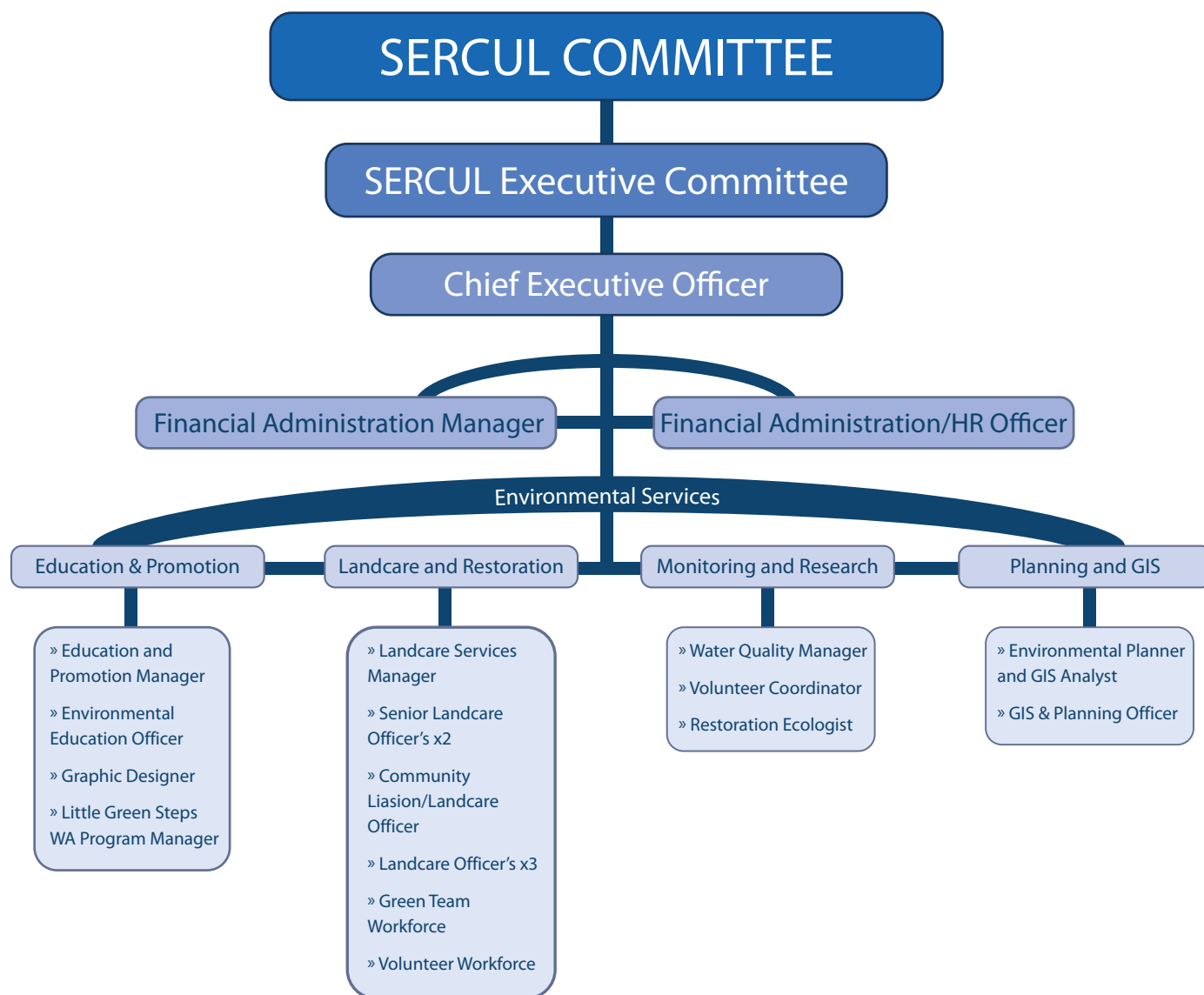
Sally Bryant
David James
Dick Stone

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Swan River Trust
City of Armadale
City of Belmont
City of Canning
City of Cockburn
City of Fremantle
City of Gosnells
Town of Kwinana
City of Melville
City of South Perth
Town of Victoria Park



SERCUL STAFF AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

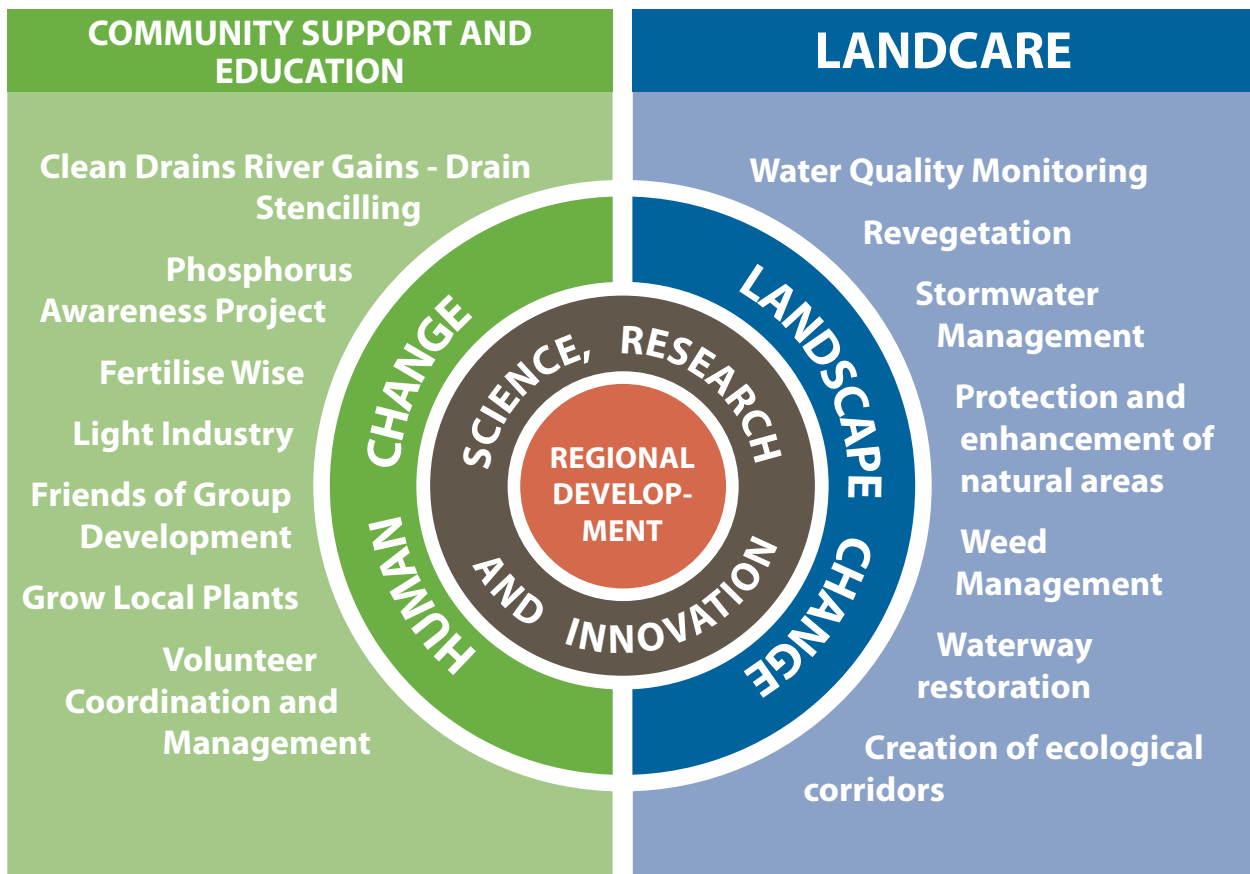
The SERCUL Strategic Futures Plan identifies the pathways for the delivery of our objectives toward achieving our Vision.

The Strategic Plan outlines realistic short- and long-term goals and objectives to deliver on four key recommendations:

1. Consolidation of the organisation toward a more sustainable business model: including improving capacity, security and expanding service delivery growth.
2. Marketing/Promotion: Extend and update the marketing of the SERCUL environmental expertise, knowledge and project demonstration sites.
3. Extend knowledge transference, setting up baseline research techniques within the projects as they are being developed, to gain saleable products, skill extension and NRM resources.
4. Education and Community Training: Gain the use of a facility to increase the sustainability of providing training and increasing the transference of NRM skills out into the broader community.

SERCUL NRM PROGRAM AREAS

SERCUL NRM PROGRAM AREAS



Hardenbergia comptoniana, Native Wisteria



COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

Education Projects

ALGAE BUSTER



PHOSPHORUS AWARENESS PROJECT

Coordinated by Amy Krupa and Deb Taborda

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project is an education campaign for the general community, educating them to decrease their nutrient outputs and thus algal blooms in the Swan and Canning River Systems.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Displays — 19 displays at the Perth Garden Festival, Community Science Expo and other community festivals speaking with more than 5100 people.

School Presentations — 249 presentations to 6270 students from Kindy to Year 12.

School Planting Sessions — 34 planting sessions by Kindy to Year 12 students, including constructing a wetland and bogs at Lynwood SHS, with:

PLANTS INSTALLED — 8005

VOLUNTEERS — 1065

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 1410

VALUE — \$45 867

Community Presentations — 24 presentations to 585 people.

LGA Annual Nutrient Survey — 2014 survey sent to Local Governments in June. Received 20 responses and report is currently being written.

Supported Groups with Project Resources — on 43 occasions.

Canoeing on the Canning — hosted two with 50 teachers attending this professional development workshop.

Catchments, Corridors and Coasts — on the organising committee and presented at this three-day course attended by 21 participants.

Fertilise Wise Project — over 1995 of all five brochures distributed at events and to nurseries.

Grow Local Plants Project — over 6095 of all five brochures distributed at events and to nurseries.

Brochure Distribution — over 16 730 Phosphorus Awareness Project resources distributed.

Articles — about the Project in newspapers and newsletters on 27 occasions.

Education Newsletter — four per year distributed to 295 schools and teachers.

Clean Drains River Gains — three drain stencilling sessions held in Rossmoyne and Leeming with 60 drains stencilled by students from Rossmoyne PS and Leeming SHS Education Support Centre Bushrangers.

VOLUNTEERS — 36

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 40

VALUE — \$1301



FERTILISE WISE FERTILISER TRAINING

Coordinated by Amy Krupa

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project aims to train school gardeners, turf managers and Local Government officers in fertiliser best management practices, specific to Perth. The training is organised by SERCUL and delivered by John Forrest, a lecturer in turf management at Challenger Institute of Technology.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Four training sessions held with 78 turf managers trained from 46 organisations including public and private schools, Local Governments, universities, golf clubs, country clubs and fertiliser contractors.
- Partnership with the Water Corporation to provide this training for school gardeners.



Lynwood Senior High School's constructed wetland



Testing soil pH at School Gardener Training

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

Education Resources

FRESHWATER FAUNA TEACHER GUIDES

Coordinated by Deb Taborda, Melinda Snowball and Amy Krupa

PROJECT OVERVIEW

A Teacher's Guide to Freshwater Fishes, Crayfishes and Mussels of South-Western Australia was officially launched by SERCUL Chair, Pat Hart, at a River Guardians School Education Program Teacher Workshop held on Wednesday 26th March, at the Canning River Eco Education Centre.

The Teacher's Guide is a companion document to the book A Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes, Crayfishes & Mussels of South-Western Australia, two brochures and three short films which were launched in 2011 in collaboration with Murdoch University's Freshwater Fish Group and Fish Health Unit.

A Teacher's Guide to Freshwater Fishes, Crayfishes and Mussels of South-Western Australia has separate booklets for each year level from Years 1 – 10. The aim of this Teacher's Guide is to provide a supporting document for the book, A Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes, Crayfishes and Mussels of South-Western Australia and enable students to develop an understanding of the importance of our local native fish and fauna as well as the problems they face in our waterways. This resource was written to provide teachers with specific year level activities which link directly to the National Science Curriculum with a local focus.



At the launch of the Freshwater Fauna Teacher Guides

BUSH TUCKER RESOURCES AND INCURSIONS

Coordinated by Amy Krupa, Melinda Snowball and Deb Taborda

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The SERCUL have updated the very popular 'Bush Tucker Plants for your Home Garden' brochure and have developed detailed Fact Sheets for 27 Bush Tucker plants. The use of Bush Tucker plants in home and school gardens is becoming more and more common. Bush Tucker plants are local native plants that were used by local Aboriginal people before European settlement of Australia. While we generally call them 'Bush Tucker' plants they quite often were used for more than just food; many plants were used seasonally for medicine or as a resource to make something.

Further to the information resources, the Education Team have developed an incursion to take into classrooms to provide hands-on experiences with Bush Tucker plants. The incursions have been extremely popular, speaking to 1089 children across 45 presentations since August 2013.

The 'Bush Tucker Plants for your Home Garden' brochure and the Fact Sheets are available at: www.sercul.org.au/bushtucker.html



Example of a bush tucker fact sheet and drawings of bush tucker

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

Education Resources and Programs

ALGAE BUSTER



PAP SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMS NATIONAL CURRICULUM LINKING

*Coordinated by Deb Taborda and
Amy Krupa*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Phosphorus Awareness Project (PAP) school programs are long established, and have been seen to be effective tools in educating students across the Perth Metropolitan Area about the issues surrounding the Perth catchment area, in particular, the Swan-Canning River Park.



Students learning about catchments

With the introduction of the Australian Curriculum and the Sustainability Curriculum Framework, an opportunity to cement meaningful curriculum links into the PAP was seen. Writing of this package is currently underway and once completed will enable educators to quickly and easily adopt the project into his or her program.



*Rivervale Childcare Centre planting vegetables with
Little Green Steps WA*

LITTLE GREEN STEPS WA PROGRAM

Coordinated by Paula Kalinowski

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The pilot program was completed in 2013 with February 2014 marking the beginning of new funding to start the 'implementation phase' of Little Green Steps (LGS) WA, an Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter project. LGS WA supports Education for Sustainability in the early years learning sector for children aged 0 – 8 years.

LGS WA provides professional development workshops, resources, newsletters, ideas 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.

LGS WA has also partnered with the City of Cockburn for a one-year trial of a local Government based approach. As part of this agreement, LGS WA is based at the City of Cockburn's Coolbellup Hub office. SERCUL employs the LGS WA Program Manager.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Workshops completed in Perth, Busselton and Albany with 90 participants;
- New logo and branding to distinguish WA's program from original based in NSW;
- New partnership established with Waste Wise for a part-time position in 2014/15;
- Attended two community events: Community Science Expo 2013 and Coogee Beach Festival 2014.

VOLUNTEERS — 5

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 345

VALUE — \$11 223

*Kindly funded by Lotterywest
and the City of Cockburn*

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

Volunteer Program

SERCUL VOLUNTEER COORDINATION PROGRAM

Coordinated by Monica Estrada

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SERCUL has continued implementing a volunteer management program which has enabled SERCUL to gain a lot of hard work from volunteers and at the same time has offered people opportunities for learning, to gain experience and to give back to the community.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Coordination of volunteers into SERCUL and other community groups' activities using the principles and procedures developed during this program.

We would like to thank all those volunteers who have really committed themselves to help us deliver our projects on ground, analyse water quality, maintain our veggie garden and perform various office tasks.

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS — 49, including 32 students

FOUR GROUPS — Inclusion Western Australia, Bentley Transition Unit, Curtin University Volunteers and Ruah Inreach

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 1831

VALUE — \$59 562

Value of Volunteer hours

2013 — **\$31.65 per hour**

2014 — **\$32.53 per hour**



Inclusion WA volunteers at Bannister Creek

CHEVRON – CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA PARTNERSHIP

Coordinated by Amy Warner

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Chevron Australia began a sponsored partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and SERCUL in 2011 to assist in restoration works undertaken along the Swan-Canning River System and its tributaries. Over 2011 and 2012, Conservation Volunteers Australia gave 42 weeks of assistance to numerous SERCUL projects and their partners.

The final year of the formal partnership was 2013, with 2163 volunteer hours being provided over the July – December period.

SERCUL would like to extend our thanks to CVA for their effort in furthering the partnership into 2014 with more funding sourced through Chevron Australia. The January – June 2014 period has seen a further 938 volunteer hours provided to SERCUL through general CVA work days, the Summer School Program, the Aboriginal Training Program and Chevron Corporate Days.

Thanks to Katie, Simon and Aaron at CVA and Chevron Australia for their ongoing support in helping to keep our rivers healthy.

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 3101

VALUE — \$100 876

Kindly funded by Chevron and Conservation Volunteers Australia



CVA volunteers planting at Vellgrove Avenue

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

Administration Services

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

Coordinated by Sandy Wainwright, Jose Alcala and Julie Robert

The SERCUL Financial Administrators continue to provide financial management and/or payroll assistance to the following community groups in the SERCUL area:

- Bannister Creek Catchment Group
- Two Rivers Catchment Group
- Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group
- Canning River Regional Park Volunteers
- Friends of Wireless Hill
- Kaarakin – Black Cockatoo Preservation Society
- Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter

SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY NRM GROUPS

The SERCUL, through Austcover who provide the Community Environment Insurance Program, provides a lower cost Public Liability Insurance Policy to 15 'Friends of' SERCUL member groups, to enable them to continue to operate within public land. Each group holds an independent policy coordinated by SERCUL. The cost of each policy is \$120 per annum. Some Local Governments refund these costs to SERCUL which we are very grateful for.

SERCUL supports community NRM groups in our region through hosting web pages for 23 groups on the SERCUL website. The Friends of Bull Creek Catchment web page was developed this year. Community group events and work days are also advertised on the SERCUL website on the Events Calendar and in SERCUL newsletters.

Community NRM groups including the Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands, Friends of Mary Carroll Wetland, Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group, Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association and the Two Rivers Catchment Group also regularly borrow planting and event equipment.

NEW GROUP FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SERCUL have been working with the Friends of Woodlupine Brook and have also looked at assisting the community to form a group to look after Brolga Lake in Willetton. The Willetton Community Garden, being established beside Rostrata PS in Willetton, is also being supported.



CVA volunteers planting at Vellgrove Avenue

LANDCARE PROGRAMS

Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program

LIEGE STREET WETLAND

Coordinated by Brett Kuhlmann

Location — Carden Drive, Cannington

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2012, extensive maintenance was undertaken throughout Liege Street Wetland to remove accumulated sludge and sediment which was impacting the wetlands' ability to remove nutrients from the stormwater. Following this project the sedges within the wetland needed to be re-established; this proved challenging due to the resident population of Purple Swamphearts preying on newly-planted sedges.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

This was the second summer season of sedge re-establishment within the wetland. Floating cages of bird netting have proved successful in protecting the establishing sedges from predation by Purple Swamphearts. This technique was used to continue the establishment of sedges in the wetland.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 3850

VOLUNTEERS — 29

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 188

VALUE — \$6116

Kindly funded by the Swan River Trust and the City of Canning

WHARF STREET WETLAND

Coordinated by Brett Kuhlmann

Located adjacent to the Canning River in the City of Canning administration centre parkland

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Wharf Street Wetland contains two subsurface flow gravel beds which form part of the treatment train to remove nutrients while the stormwater passes through the wetland. The focus this year was to increase the vegetation within these gravel beds in order to facilitate an increase in microbial activity.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

With assistance from the City of Canning, depressions were excavated within the gravel

pits to prepare for the planting. A concerted labour effort was undertaken by the Cert IV Conservation and Land Management students from Midland Polytechnic West to manually dig and move the gravel to install sedges and ground covers within these subsurface wetlands.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 1145

VOLUNTEERS — 27

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 116

VALUE — \$3773

Kindly funded by the Swan River Trust and the City of Canning

ANVIL WAY WETLAND

Coordinated by Brett Kuhlmann

Location — Anvil Way, Welshpool

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Anvil Way Wetland project involved the conversion of a main drain compensating basin into a wetland, while retaining the flood mitigation capacity within the drainage network. The project aims to reduce nutrient and pollutants being transported through the system to the Canning River. Construction was undertaken in 2011, so this site is in its third year of establishment and maintenance phase.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

A focus has been on the management of *Typha orientalis* within and general weed management around the wetland. The living stream below the wetland has been enhanced through the installation of sedges along the banks. Regular hand weeding has enabled the sedges to establish successfully.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 2227

VOLUNTEERS — 35

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 198

VALUE — \$6441

Kindly funded by the Swan River Trust, Water Corporation and the Public Transport Authority



Volunteers planting at Anvil Way Wetland



Floating bird netting at Liege Street Wetland

LANDCARE PROGRAMS

Canning River Restoration Project

CANNING RIVER FORESHORE RESTORATION

Coordinated by Matt Grimbly

Located along the Canning River at Kent Street, Wilson; Nicholson Road, Langford; Yule Brook Foreshore, Beckenham; and Goolamrup Reserve, Kelmscott

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Working with Friends of Groups and community volunteers to improve the condition of the Canning River foreshore.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Weed control since 2010 and planting since 2011 at these sites has seen native vegetation establishing well and weed levels reducing; leading to an improvement in habitat and foreshore condition across these sites.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 15 000

VOLUNTEERS — 204

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 959

VALUE — \$31 196

*Kindly funded by
State NRM Program*



Planting sedges in the Canning River Regional Park

CANNING RIVER REGIONAL PARK POST FIRE RESTORATION PROJECT

*Coordinated by Matt Grimbly
and Daniel Millea*

*Located at Canning River Regional Park,
Marmot Way, Ferndale*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project continues to see excellent results since the fire in 2011. There has been a strong survival rate of *Melaleuca raphiophylla* and *Eucalyptus rudis*. Replanting of understory species such as *Baumea juncea* and *Juncus kraussii* has since taken place. This will provide excellent understory which did not respond well to the 2011 fire. Weed control is being undertaken to ensure the project continues to see excellent results.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 21 545

VOLUNTEERS — 116

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 526

VALUE — \$17 111

*Kindly funded by the Swan River Trust and
the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program*

NATIONAL TREE DAY 2013

*Coordinated by Two Rivers Catchment
Group and assisted by SERCUL*

The Two Rivers Catchment Group (TRCG) and SERCUL planted 3000 sedges on the Canning River foreshore near the Canning River Eco Education Centre in Wilson. Fifty volunteers helped with this effort and were rewarded with a BBQ lunch kindly catered for by the Canning City Lions Club.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 3000

VOLUNTEERS — 50

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 150

VALUE — \$4880



Canning River



Canning River after sunset

LANDCARE PROGRAMS

Environmental Services

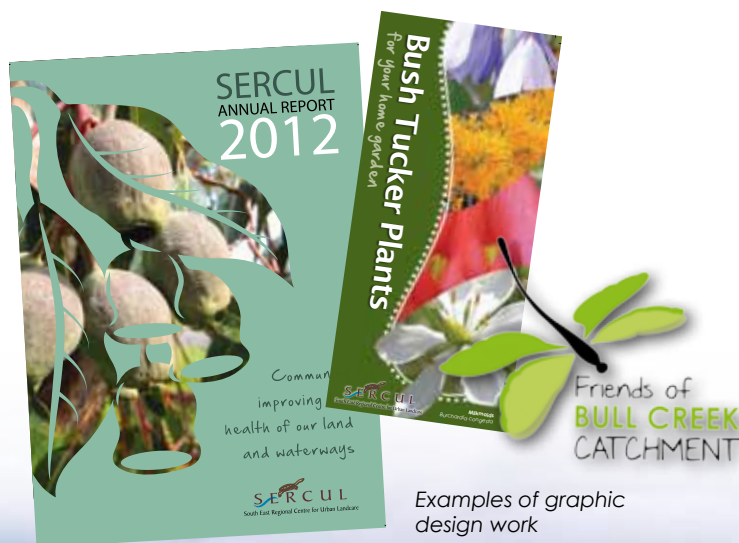


SERCUL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PROGRAM

SERCUL has been expanding its capacity as an environmental services provider over the past year. We have a team of staff experienced in the delivery of both chemical and manual weed control in natural areas including waterways and bushland, planting, fencing, weed and vegetation condition mapping, development of management plans for bushland reserves and waterways and water quality monitoring services including Sampling Analysis Plans and trend analysis.

Graphic design services, environmental education workshops and school curriculum education package writing are now also being offered.

We have a wide range of clients including Local Governments, State Government agencies, other community and friends of groups and private landholders.



Examples of graphic design work

LANDCARE PROGRAMS

Environmental Services

LAKE COOGEE RESTORATION

*Coordinated by Matt Grimbly
Located at Lake Coogee
Russell Road West, Henderson*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The objective of this project is to revegetate a completely degraded area of open space at the southern edge of Lake Coogee. SERCUL won this tender in 2012 and since then we have been controlling weeds across the 4.5 hectare project site with revegetation beginning in winter 2014.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Weed control across 4.5 hectares including boom spraying and hand spraying. Installation of 57 000 tubestock. Fencing off the project site to prevent access of off road vehicles

PLANTS INSTALLED — 57 000

SERCUL has a contract with Landcorp to undertake this project



Lake Coogee Project — Above: Before restoration; Below: After weed control and first planting





Wimbledon Street Wetland after earthworks



Wimbledon Street Wetland after first planting

LANDCARE PROGRAMS

Yule Brook and Beckenham Open Space

BOWRA AND O'DEA MEN OF THE TREES MEMORIAL GROVES

*Coordinated by John Maliunas
and Tracy Evans*

Commenced in 2007, this partnership with Bowra and O'Dea, Men of the Trees nursery, the West Australian Planning Commission and SERCUL has implemented the Memorial Groves program within the Beckenham Open Space (BOS). Each year a site is chosen for planting and each plant can be dedicated to the memory of a passed loved one with the installation of a plaque.

Given the agricultural history of the BOS, this project will also aim to restore the area with native, endemic plants creating habitat and food for our precious wildlife.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 3095

VOLUNTEERS — 150

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 757

VALUE — \$24 625

*Kindly funded by Bowra & O'Dea, Men
of the Trees and the Western Australian
Planning Commission*

CANNING RIVER BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

*Coordinated by Tracy Evans
Canning River, Beckenham*

This on-going project aims to increase the biodiversity of the site on the Canning River floodplain, while also enhancing the linkages to the Canning River Regional Park.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 1912

VOLUNTEERS — 46

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 110

VALUE — \$3578

*Kindly funded by the Australian
Government's Caring for our Country
Program*

WIMBLEDON STREET WETLAND

*Coordinated by Tracy Evans
and John Maliunas*

Yule Brook, Wimbledon Street, Beckenham

Restoration works of this drainage site of the Yule Brook commenced in 2013 with a partnership formed by the Department of Water (DoW) and SERCUL. Major works by the DoW have occurred including scalping, contouring and the weed management. Planting by SERCUL staff and community volunteers has proceeded well.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 1725

VOLUNTEERS — 19

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 80

VALUE — \$2602

*Kindly funded by Swan Alcoa Landcare
Program and Department of Water*

PERMACULTURE GARDEN

The permaculture garden at the SERCUL office has continued to produce a modest yield of vegetables and fruit over the year with the help of many volunteers who have contributed their efforts.

Our thanks go to the many people who have helped, but in particular Inclusions WA who have fed, watered, pruned and weeded the garden. Their commitment has been fantastic and we are very grateful for all of their hard work.



Produce in the SERCUL permaculture garden

LANDCARE PROGRAMS

UWR Project Maintenance

URBAN WATERWAYS RENEWAL PROGRAM

The Urban Waterways Renewal (UWR) program successfully combined techniques in river restoration with the principles of Water Sensitive Urban Design to improve water quality, natural diversity and urban form at 11 sites in the South East Region. The project included the conversion of compensation basins to constructed wetlands, deep drains to living streams, rain garden construction and foreshore and floodplain restoration.

In 2013 the Urban Waterways Renewal Program entered its maintenance phase, with hand over back to our Local Government partners.

SERCUL would like to thank the Cities of Armadale, Canning and Gosnells for their commitment to maintain the project sites and seek opportunities to add value and extend existing works. SERCUL would also like to thank the Swan River Trust for their support to extend project sites in Southern River and Canning.

During this maintenance phase, SERCUL has remained committed to improving project sites through weed control, infill planting, rubbish removal and erosion control.

PLANTS INSTALLED — **28 000**

VOLUNTEERS — **122**

VOLUNTEER HOURS — **550**

VALUE — **\$17 892**



Lynwood Senior High School students planting in the Bannister Creek UWR section





Scarred tree near the Canning River



LANDCARE PROGRAMS

Aquatic Weed Management

AMAZON FROGBIT CONTROL

Coordinated by Brett Kuhlmann

Located — Liege Street Wetland in Cannington and Bannister Creek in Lynwood

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The first outbreak of Amazon Frogbit *Limnobium laevigatum* occurred in Liege Street Wetland in February 2013 at which time a containment and removal program commenced. During this year, surveys of the wetland continued through the summer to ensure that all of the plant material had been found and removed. No further plant material was found within Liege Street Wetland and it was determined that the site was clear of the infestation.

However, a second outbreak of Amazon Frogbit was found in Bannister Creek in March this year. The Bannister Creek outbreak was tracked back to an open section of the Bannister Creek Main Drain adjacent to the Whaleback Golf Course. How it entered the drain is unknown. By the time this infestation was noticed, it had spread over 1.2 km downstream. Uncontrollable outbreaks of Amazon Frogbit have become multimillion dollar environmental and commercial management issues in other countries. SERCUL is working with multiple stakeholders to prevent this scenario from occurring here.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

It was determined Liege Street Wetland was free of Amazon Frogbit and that the control program conducted had been successful. The outbreak in Bannister Creek was contained and the extent of the outbreak was mapped. Hand removal of the bulk of the infestation was completed and weekly surveys to map and remove any remaining plant material was undertaken. This survey and removal program continued until the main rains started, after which the containment of any material within sections of the creekline was not possible. The success of this program will not be known until the coming summer, when the plant is actively growing and the surveys of the creekline commence again.

VOLUNTEERS — four community individuals and four City of Canning staff

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 71

VALUE — \$2310

Kindly funded by the Water Corporation, Swan River Trust and SERCUL



Amazon Frogbit

Setting up netting to trap the Amazon Frogbit from moving further downstream in Bannister Creek

Aquatic Weed Management

MILLS STREET DRAIN HYDROCOTYLE CONTROL

Coordinated by Matt Grimbly

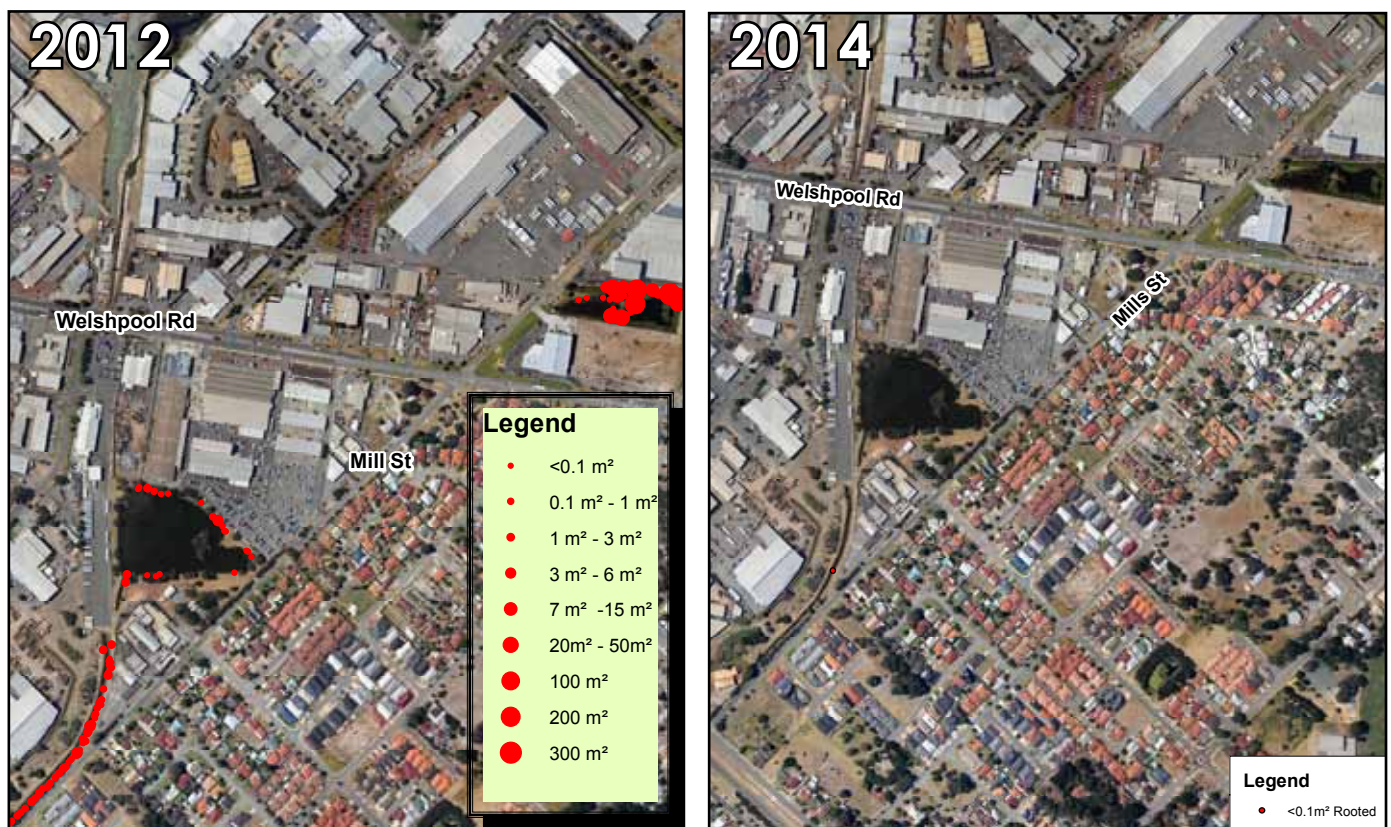
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Since 2012, SERCUL has been controlling *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* in Mills Street Main Drain. This Weed of National Significance (WoNS) has the potential to severely impact on aquatic ecosystems and has been prolific in this drain prior to work commencing in 2012.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

We are aiming at eradicating Hydrocotyle from this system and have now managed to get the infestation down to very isolated instances where it is only small numbers of new germinants appearing (see map). Both chemical and manual removal methods are used on a monthly basis to move towards eradication of this serious weed.

SERCUL has a contract with the Water Corporation to undertake this project



Mill Street Main Drain *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* survey, Railway Parade to Orrong Road, Map 1 — March 2012, Map 2 — August 2014



Riverside Lane after first planting in 2012



Riverside Lane 2014

LANDCARE PROGRAMS

Other Projects

WUNGONG RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

Coordinated by Glen Byleveld

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project includes four sites located on the intersection of Lake and Ranford Roads in Armadale. In 2012–13, four wetlands and two swales were constructed in this area with the aim of reconnecting the Wungong River with its floodplain. The restoration works provide pre-treatment of run off from Forrestdale Business Park while creating habitat for local flora and fauna.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

This project extends works completed under the Urban Waterways Renewal program. The extension also connects with restoration works carried out by the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group (AGLG). The combined works include 1.5 km of foreshore restoration and 7.5 hectares of floodplain restoration. This year, weed control and revegetation works have continued with bank stabilisation and erosion control measures implemented. SERCUL also commenced work on the design of a heritage trail for the area with the support of the City of Armadale.

SERCUL would like to thank Karl Karu of Urban Ecosystems, whose passion has driven this project from design through to implementation.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 15 000

VOLUNTEERS — 25

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 150

VALUE — \$4880

*Kindly funded by the Swan River Trust,
City of Armadale and State NRM Program*

SERPENTINE WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

Coordinated by Glen Byleveld

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project involves revegetation of the Lower Serpentine River floodplain adjacent to the Anstey Road Wetlands in the City of Rockingham.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Ongoing weed control and revegetation has been successful on the river floodplain. A fence line was installed to protect revegetation works from cattle access and grazing. Monitoring of vegetation, bird life and water temperature has been conducted this year to provide baseline data to measure restoration success.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 23 000

Ha WEED CONTROL — 6

FENCING — 850 m

Kindly funded by Alcoa Foundation



*SERCUL Environmental Services staff planting at
Serpentine Wetland*

LANDCARE PROGRAMS

Other Projects

BANNISTER CREEK AND TOM BATEMAN WETLAND MANAGEMENT PLANS 2014 – 2024

*Coordinated by Julie Robert
and Glen Byleveld*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

SERCUL was awarded the tender in 2012 to produce management plans for both Bannister Creek Park and Tom Bateman Wetland. Both sites provide an important case study in drainage reform and applied ecology. The management plans provide a review of previous management actions and recommendations for the next ten years.

*Kindly funded by the Swan River Trust
and City of Gosnells*

WIRELESS HILL PARK

*Coordinated by Tracy Evans
and John Maliunas*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The aim of works at this site, located in Ardross, has been to hand weed for Perennial Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) located in the main wildflower walk of the park. Recently, this has been extended to include a small site of the park located next to the Melville Council office. Weeding also includes the removal of bulbous weeds such as Freesias, Lachenalia and Gladioli. The policy of the Friends of Wireless Hill is to not use herbicides to encourage the regeneration of endemic native species, especially the magnificent and diverse displays of orchids for which Wireless Hill is renowned.

Our thanks to Dr. Margaret Matthews and the Friends of Wireless Hill Park and to the City of Melville for giving us the opportunity to weed in such a beautiful location.

*Kindly funded by Swan Alcoa Landcare
Program, Caring for our Country Community
Action Grants and the City of Melville*



Wireless Hill Park bushland

Other Projects

TOM BATEMAN RESTORATION PROJECT

Coordinated by Brett Kuhlmann

Location of project — On the corner of Roe Highway and Nicholson Road in Thornlie

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project is aimed at improving the amenity, habitat value and water treatment capability of the inlet pond within Tom Bateman Wetland. The inlet pond had accumulated extensive amounts of sediment since the wetland was constructed in 2003. Woody weed and exotic grasses dominated and significant amounts of polystyrene beads and other gross litter items had accumulated around the edge of the basin.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The collapsed inlet infrastructure was replaced by the Water Corporation. Working with the Water Corporation, approximately 6900 cubic metres of sediment was removed from the basin. Following weed mapping of the site, the woody weeds were removed and dense mats of kikuyu up to one metre high were cut out and treated. Weed management across the site was undertaken in preparation for next year's revegetation program.

ESTIMATED IN KIND VALUE — \$35 000

by the Water Corporation in replacing the collapsed inlet infrastructure

Kindly funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Program and the Swan River Trust

BRENTWOOD MAIN DRAIN TO LIVING STREAM PROJECT

Coordinated by Brett Kuhlmann

Location of project — On the corner of Pulo Road and Leach Highway in Brentwood

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Brentwood Main Drain Living Stream is a priority project in the Bull Creek catchment to achieve improvement in water quality. The project involves a 60 m piped section and 130 m of trapezoidal drain along the Brentwood Main Drain and Mandala Crescent drainage lines.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The focus of this project during the year has been to understand the site constraints and driving influences on this site to inform the design. A feature survey has been conducted along with; vegetation and weed mapping; soil sampling to determine the groundwater levels and assess the potential for acid sulphate soils; heavy metals and other contaminants and a continuation of the water quality monitoring.

VOLUNTEERS — 1

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 6

VALUE — \$195

Kindly funded by the Australian Governments Caring for our Country Program, Swan River Trust, Main Roads WA, Water Corporation and the City of Melville



Tom Bateman Wetland before and after earthworks

LANDCARE PROGRAMS — COMMUNITY GROUPS



BANNISTER CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

Coordinated by Amy Warner

BANNISTER CREEK

Located in Lynwood, Ferndale and Riverton

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Bannister Creek Catchment Group (BCCG) has two Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) funded projects along Bannister Creek. The first project, the Understorey Project, runs from the top end of Bywood Way (the washing machine) down to the weir at Acacia Place with the main aim being to establish groundcover and low-midstorey plant species.

The second SALP funded project is the removal of threatening weeds from Bannister Creek (Ferndale) in between Metcalfe Road and Adenia Bridge. The main aim of this project is to combat a variety of aggressive weeds such as Blackberry, that threaten the survival of local native plants.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

This year, 130 students from Riverton Primary School assisted the Bannister Creek Catchment Group install 2000 plants at the Understorey Project site for Schools National Tree Day. The BCCG would like to thank the students and staff for their great work and enthusiasm on the day.

Bushcare's Major Day Out 2013 was held at the Ferndale site and was co-hosted with the City of Canning. More than 1000 sedges were installed which has helped reduce weed re-invasion following intensive weed control. Thanks to the volunteers that attended and to the City of Canning for their ongoing support.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 3500

VOLUNTEERS — 135

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 729.5

VALUE — \$23 731

*Kindly funded by Swan Alcoa
Landcare Program and supported
by the City of Canning*

HAWKESBURY – VELLGROVE ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

Located in Willetton and Parkwood

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Vellgrove Ecological Corridor Project site is located in Parkwood and bordered by Vellgrove Avenue and Roe Highway. This site is in its seventh year of restoration and has seen great success in establishing vegetation.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2013 – 14, nearly 50 well-established feral casuarinas were removed from the Hawkesbury – Vellgrove sites which will assist in reducing the number of self-seeded feral Casuarinas that will be found along Bannister Creek. As many of these trees were congregated in one area, their removal provided an ideal location for planting this season.

Corpus Christi College assisted the BCCG for two days of planting in this area with further assistance from Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). More than 2000 plants were installed over this winter period.

Many thanks to the students and staff at Corpus Christi and CVA for their volunteer effort.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 2650

VOLUNTEERS — 107

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 408

VALUE — \$13 272

*Kindly funded by Swan Alcoa Landcare
Program and the City of Canning*





LANDCARE PROGRAMS — COMMUNITY GROUPS



BANNISTER CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

Coordinated by Amy Warner

NICHOLSON ROAD BUSHLAND

Located in Langford

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The aim of this project is to create an effective wildlife corridor enabling fauna to traverse safely between the Tom Bateman Wetland (Thornlie) and Nicholson Road Bushland (Langford) via the tunnel under Roe Highway. It also aims to control the exotic grasses invading the vegetation stands.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Revegetation works at the site were undertaken by Conservation Volunteers Australia, SERCUL and Bentley Health Unit volunteers.

Seed collection activities have been undertaken here allowing the BCCG to utilise provenance stock in this project.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 2240

VOLUNTEERS — 21

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 82

VALUE — \$2667

*Kindly funded by State NRM Program
and Western Australian Planning Commission*

TOM BATEMAN WETLAND

Located in Thornlie

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The BCCG have undertaken planting alongside the pathway at Tom Bateman Wetland for the past three years. This site has traditionally seen a lot of vandalism due to the high traffic load of weekend sporting activities. In recent years we've had a greater level of planting success.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In July 2013, more than 70 volunteers from Ruah assisted in installing 2000 plants at this site. This year a Chevron Corporate group of nearly 30 participants volunteered their time to install a further 1700 plants. Many thanks to Ruah and Chevron staff for their great efforts.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 3700

VOLUNTEERS — 114

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 403

VALUE — \$13 110

Kindly supported by the City of Gosnells



Chevron staff following a planting session at Tom Bateman Wetland

LANDCARE PROGRAMS — COMMUNITY GROUPS



BULL CREEK CATCHMENT

*Coordinated by Dan Friesen
Located in the Bull Creek Catchment, City of Melville*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

SERCUL is working directly with the Friends of Bull Creek Catchment and the Rossmoyne Senior High School Bush Rangers, assisting with the removal of blackberry, weed management and revegetation of native species. The project aims to protect and enhance the biodiversity of Bull Creek while addressing and improving the water quality.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Friends of Bull Creek have continued to be an extremely active group. This year not only has the Friends of Bull Creek increased its number of active members, but now also meet twice a month to undertake restoration activities within the reserve. The Rossmoyne

Bush Rangers also continue to meet roughly three times a month undertaking weeding, planting and water quality monitoring.

The previous year's revegetation has flourished with this intensive care and all parties involved in Bull Creek's restoration have an air of enthusiasm, pride and passion. Wendy Corrick, convenor of the Friends of Group and leader of the Rossmoyne Senior High School Bush Rangers has been an outstanding cornerstone to the foundation of the Bull Creek restoration efforts.

Kindly funded by Swan Alcoa Landcare Program and State NRM Program

PLANTS INSTALLED — 16 000

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 1174

(BUSH RANGERS — 405, FIVE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS — 379, FRIENDS GROUP — 390)

VALUE — \$38 190



Friends of Bull Creek volunteers working on one of their workdays



Bull Creek before blackberry removal



Bull Creek after blackberry removal

Booragoon Lake before weed removal



Friends of group after planting day

Booragoon Lake after weed removal



LANDCARE PROGRAMS — COMMUNITY GROUPS



BOORAGOON AND BLUE GUM LAKES

*Coordinated by Dan Friesen
Located at Blue Gum Lake, City of Melville*

BOORAGOON LAKE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

SERCUL is working with the Friends of Booragoon and Blue Gum Lakes to undertake Japanese Pepper removal and the protection and enhancement of Booragoon Lake's biodiversity.

The Friends of Group are managing weeds and planting native species along a section of the lake with support from SERCUL. SERCUL is managing the Japanese Peppers and all chemical weed control.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

SERCUL has continued to build its relationship with the Friends of Booragoon and Blue Gum Lakes; providing support, expertise, equipment and the writing of grants on behalf of the group. The Friends of Group has developed a sense of achievement and attracted many new members this year with a real feeling of building up a team. New partnerships have been formed with Brentwood/Winthrop Scouts, Ardross Primary School and Murdoch Challenger Institute of Technology students who have agreed to partake in planting of this year's revegetation site. We also were very lucky to have a beautiful welcome to country presented by Trevor Walley on one of our community planting days.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 6900

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 267

VALUE — \$8686

Kindly funded by State NRM Program

BLUE GUM LAKE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Blue Gum Lake is an expression of the water table and as such dries out seasonally. The lake's water level was artificially regulated for many years and only in recent years has returned to mimic a more natural cycle. The artificial regulation of the lake's water level has caused loss of habitat and vegetation. Now that the lake has been allowed to mimic its natural cycle, opportunity has been provided to revegetate the lake with plants that will improve water quality, provide habitat, shade and protect the lake.

Currently the lake's surrounding vegetation and water quality is extremely poor; consistently showing test results well below pH levels suitable for aquatic life. This project aims to remove the couch and other various weeds that currently dominate the lake's vegetation and replace them with species native to the lake—improving habitat and water quality.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

This year Blue Gum Lake has been successful in attracting SALP funding to continue the revegetation work. A section of couch has undergone management and will be ready to revegetate once the winter water levels recede.

SERCUL has also formed a new partnership with a group of Challenger Institute of Technology students, who have agreed to undertake weed management, planting and also perform semi-regular water quality monitoring.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 4750

*Kindly funded by the
Swan Alcoa Landcare Program*

LANDCARE PROGRAMS — COMMUNITY GROUPS



ARMADALE GOSNELLS LANDCARE GROUP

Coordinated by

*Community Landcare Coordinator: Les Judd (until May 2014) and Jen Francis (July – current)
Community Landcare Officer: Alice Atkinson (July – August), Jo Garvey (September – January)
and Shane Hunter (April – current)*

The Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group (AGLG) cares for the Upper Canning, Southern and Wungong Rivers and their tributaries. In the 2013 – 2014 financial year AGLG extended their caretaker role from 17 permanent sites to 23 sites within the City of Gosnells and the City of Armadale. This was to reflect the extra financial contributions for personnel received from both Cities' Councils. In 2013 – 2014, AGLG worked across their project sites with their 26 friends groups, numerous schools and other members of the community. A total of 29 planting days were held (mostly in July, August and June). AGLG also hosted or were present at five community workshops and events, including the Minnawarra Festival, where 5000 people attended and the Kelmscott Show.

A key achievement for AGLG in the past year was the completion of the Scott Road Fire Recovery Project. The Australian Government through the Caring for Our Country Program (CFoC) allocated \$50 000 to the project to restore and revegetate an area affected by the Kelmscott Bush Fires in February 2011. The Friends of Scott Road and AGLG have been working together closely to implement the fire recovery project for Canning River Reserve 232 and Scott Reserve over the last four

years. The project, through its weed control, rabbit control, revegetation, erosion control and community education workshops has removed two Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), improved the biodiversity of the natural area, created a wildlife corridor, improved the water quality of the Canning River, stabilised the banks of the Canning River and promoted environmental values to the Scott Road landholders. Even though the main works have been completed on this project, AGLG continues to undertake regular site inspections to monitor native plant establishment and weed introductions.

PLANTS INSTALLED — 35 470

VOLUNTEERS — 2065

VOLUNTEER HOURS — 2979

VALUE — \$96 907

Kindly funded by the City of Armadale, City of Gosnells, the Swan River Trust, Alcoa, Perth Region NRM, Western Australian Planning Commission, Australian Government Caring for our Country Program, Landcare Australia and Coca-Cola



Planting at Tom Bateman Reserve

MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Water Quality Monitoring

WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Coordinated by Monica Estrada

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project has been supported by the Local Government Authorities (LGA's) involved, the Department of Water (DoW) and by the Swan River Trust (SRT). The project aims to promote a cooperative approach to Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) across the Perth Region. SERCUL's main roles, in conjunction with the Aquatic Sciences Branch of the Department of Water, are to: assist stakeholders to assess their water quality data requirements; provide assistance in the preparation of sampling and analysis plans; undertake sampling; and write annual reports.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Five water quality monitoring programs conducted: Bayswater Brook, Bennett Brook catchment, Bull Creek catchment, Bannister Creek catchment and City of South Perth catchment and their respective reports were prepared, with the exception of the Bannister Creek nutrients investigation.
- Eight partnerships with: City of Bayswater, City of Melville, City of Swan, City of South Perth, City of Canning, Whiteman Park, DoW and SRT.
- The data has been providing information for the Swan River Trust and for the Department of Water calibration models.
- Assistance to the Department of Water in the water quality sampling at Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program (DNIP) sites and to the City of Bayswater in water quality and sediment sampling at Bassendean.
- Analysis of the results of the water quality data the City of South Perth collected between 1989 and 2008. The draft for the ranking analysis was finished and a tour/workshop will be held to include management recommendations for all sites included in the analysis.
- Budget for five Sampling Analysis Plans (SAPs) to be developed for 2014 – 15 were prepared (Bennett Brook, Bull Creek catchment [City of Canning side], City of Melville lakes and Bull Creek catchment, City of South Perth catchments and Bannister Creek catchment). Their respective SAP's are under revision.
- Water quality data analysis for DNIP projects (Anvil, Liege and Wharf) as part of the macroinvertebrate monitoring and Tom Bateman Reserve for the Management Plan.

CATCHMENTS — 11

SAMPLING EVENTS — 67

SAMPLE SITES — 115

WATER SAMPLES COLLECTED — 484

SEDIMENT SAMPLES COLLECTED — 64

MACROPHYTE SAMPLES COLLECTED — 56

VALUE — \$382 543



*Redmond Reserve GPS at
City of South Perth catchment*



Sampling at Bannister Creek



Sampling with AGLG at Palomino Reserve

*Kindly funded by Swan River Trust; Department of Water;
Cities of South Perth, Bayswater, Swan, Melville and Canning and Whiteman Park (WAPC)*

MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Mosquito Research

MANAGING MOSQUITOES

Coordinated by Dr. Rose Weerasinghe, Glen Byleveld, Julie Robert and Brett Kuhlmann

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project aims to develop an ecologically sound approach to mosquito management in WA. Current mosquito management techniques are limited to the use of pesticides that may impact non-target organisms and only provide a short-term treatment option.

The project has collected information and developed research proposals to better understand mosquitoes and ecologically-sound mosquito management, liaised with Local Government and the Department of Health to survey current management techniques.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

A research proposal has been prepared to identify the influential factors on mosquito development in stormwater facilities in the Perth Region and project partners are being sought.

The proposal will provide an understanding of the influence of factors such as drainage design, natural predators and vegetation maintenance on mosquito populations. With this information, guidelines will be established for drainage design and maintenance that will reduce the reliance on pesticide use.

COMMUNITY MOSQUITO AWARENESS STRATEGIES

Community mosquito awareness strategies have been prepared and implemented to educate school children and local communities.

Public education is a key component of a successful integrated mosquito management program and once people know where to look, they can identify and eliminate potential mosquito breeding habitats around their homes and neighbourhood. An informed public will help mosquito control officers minimise breeding sites in residential areas, help reduce misinformation and minimise unreasonable demands for chemical application.

Public education tools include: public presentations, school curriculum materials, brochure, poster and a logo that has been approved as part of the Swan Canning Rivers resubmitted CLAG (Contiguous Local Authority Group-City of Canning and City of South Perth) application.

SERCUL have held a mosquito awareness evening with the City of Canning and the Department of Health to share information with the community.

Kindly funded by Perth Region NRM and City of Canning



Mosquito larvae monitoring

AUDITOR'S REPORT

W F DAWSON & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants



Chartered
Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH EAST REGIONAL CENTRE FOR URBAN LAND CARE INC (SERCUL)

Scope

I have audited the financial statements of **SERCUL** which has been classified as a non general purpose account, for the year ended 30th June 2014.

The Association's committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements. The information the statements contain and the accounting policies used are determined by the committee so as to meet the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of these accounts in order to express an opinion on them to the members.

I disclaim any assumption of responsibility, for any reliance on this report or these accounts, to any person other than the members, or for any other purpose other than for which they were prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether these accounts are free of material misstatements. My audit procedures include an examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts shown in these accounts. These tests have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, these accounts are fairly presented.

My audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on this basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly the operating results of **SERCUL** for the 2013/2014 financial year and its financial position at 30th June 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W F Dawson'.

Signature of Auditor:

Name of Auditor: **WARREN FRANCIS DAWSON**
W F DAWSON AND ASSOCIATES
PO BOX 2063
CHURCHLANDS WA 6018

19th August 2014

Principal: Warren F Dawson ACA ACIS
Level 3, Suite 17 30 Hasler Road, OSBORNE PARK WA 6017
Correspondence - PO Box 2063, Churchlands WA 6018
Telephone: (08) 9244 5560 Facsimile: (08) 9244 5516 Mobile: 0411 809 748
A.B.N.: 30 802 594 173
Email: warrendawson@gmail.com
(Liability limited by a Scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

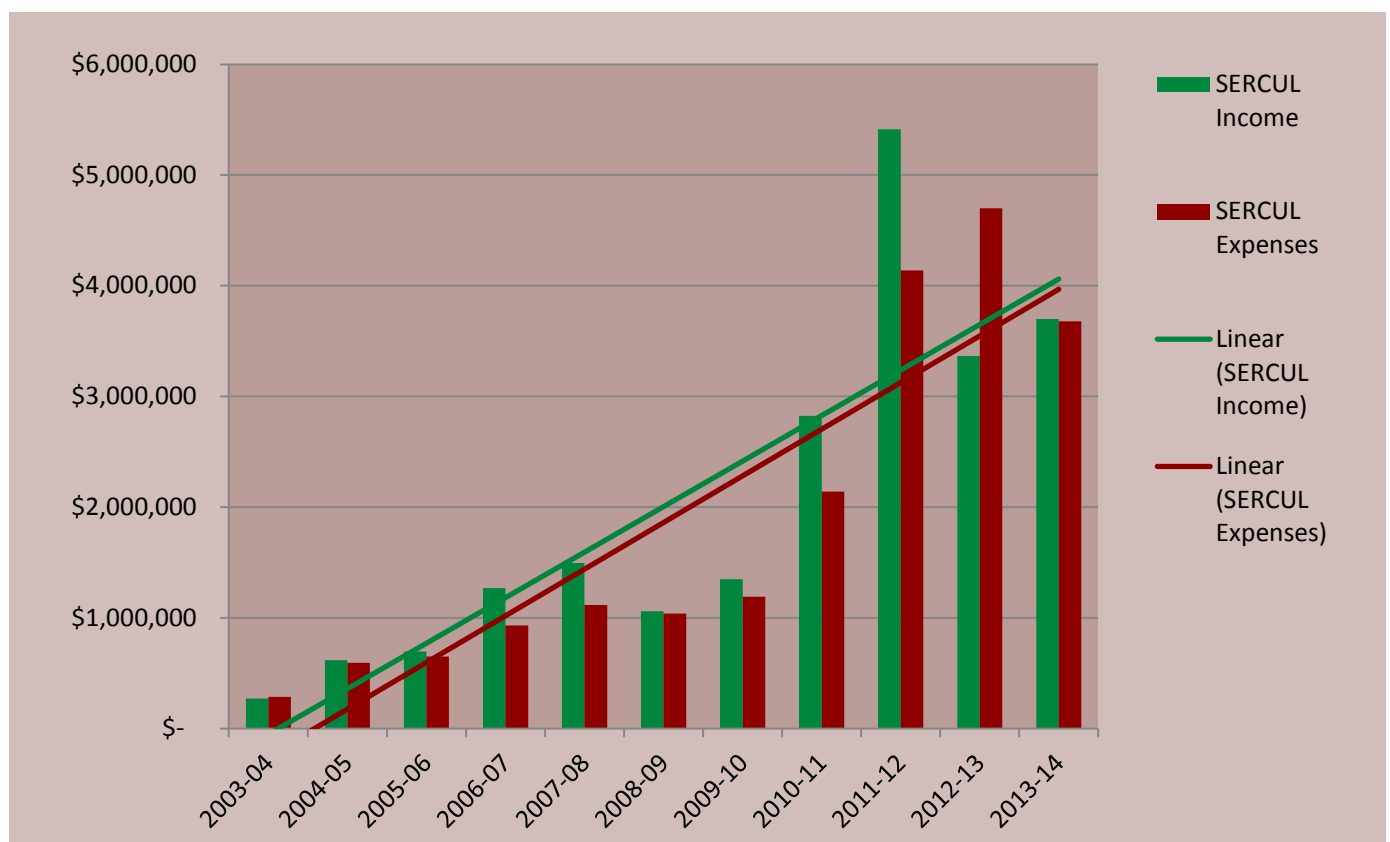
Eleven-year Progression of Actual Cashflow 2003 – 2014

The 2013 – 2014 financial year has seen a relatively steady cash flow throughout with a slightly higher annual income of \$3 698 760 compared to the previous year of \$3 363 878. This increase is primarily due to the expansion of the SERCUL environmental services rather than an increase in grant-funded projects.

The annual expenditure was significantly reduced from \$4 138 092 to \$3 678 634 which reflects both a positive response to a directive from the management team of the SERCUL to

tighten up spending as we proceed toward a more sustainable landcare business model.

Overall, the SERCUL financial status has remained strong throughout the year, despite the reduction in operational capital and investing in plant and equipment that was necessary to support the expansion of the environmental services unit. The SERCUL finished the year with a minimal overall profit of \$78 915.



- Analysis of how the SERCUL income was derived in 2013 – 14, reveals that 71% of income achieved was derived from the delivery of environmental services and 29% came from grants.
- An environmental service is defined as funds derived from tenders, quotes and delivery of services not provided within a grant. Grants are purely those funds that the SERCUL applies for through a grant process.
- In the 2012 – 13 year, the income from environmental services was also 71% and grants 29%. The increase in environmental services in the 2012 – 14 period is due to the determination that the Urban

Waterways Renewal project be regarded as the SERCUL providing a service to the Department of Water rather than the SERCUL receiving funding as a result of a grant.

- In the 2014 – 15 year, we are predicting that the environmental services will grow to around 80% and grants will form the remaining 20% of the SERCUL income.
- The shift toward the delivery of environmental services is necessary for the SERCUL organisation to remain sustainable and not be reliant on politically-driven environmental funding programs that do not sufficiently provide for long term employee and environmental security.

FINANCIAL REPORT

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2014

	Jun 30, 14
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Bendigo Term Inv. 136641388	908,052
Bendigo working a/c 136248010	257,021
BendigoTerm Inv. 141340877	515,637
Capacity Builder Accou143399459	34
Petty Cash	83
Petty cash - PAP	62
Public Env.Fund 147844088	121
Total Chequing/Savings	1,681,010
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	243,057
Total Accounts Receivable	243,057
Total Current Assets	1,924,067
Fixed Assets	
Computer Equipment	
Prov.for depn Computer equip.	-87,716
Computer Equipment - Other	94,917
Total Computer Equipment	7,201
Motor Vehicle at cost	
Prov. for depn Motor Vehicle	-140,636
Motor Vehicle at cost - Other	154,739
Total Motor Vehicle at cost	14,103
Office Equipment	
Prov for depn Office Equipment	-57,551
Office Equipment - Other	70,358
Total Office Equipment	12,807
Plant & Equipment	
Prov for depn Plant & Equipment	-82,138
Plant & Equipment - Other	146,158
Total Plant & Equipment	64,020
Total Fixed Assets	98,131
TOTAL ASSETS	2,022,198

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2014

	Jun 30, 14
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Grants in advance	334,242
Payroll Liabilities	19,403
Provision for LSL and AL	145,171
Tax Payable	36,984
Total Other Current Liabilities	535,799
Total Current Liabilities	535,799
TOTAL LIABILITIES	535,799
NET ASSETS	1,486,399
EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	1,407,484
Net Income	78,915
TOTAL EQUITY	1,486,399

FINANCIAL REPORT

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Profit & Loss July 2013 through June 2014

	<u>Jul '13 - Jun 14</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Administration	293,949
Bank Interest-Public Env. Fund	1
Canning River Fish Passage	0
COC Landcare	55,000
DNIP 13-14	27,736
DNIP 14-15	23,800
Educational Operations	28,850
Employment.	1,523,855
Environmental Project Operating	66,260
Environmental Services	26,021
Healthy Rivers 13-14	225,000
Healthy Rivers 14-15	50,000
Laggards-Wages Insurance Admin	13,080
Mill St Drain-Hydrocotyle	9,815
PAP operating costs	9,202
Planning & Construction	19,485
Project Management	854,940
Slab Gully 2012-13.	29,211
SNRM12079 Yule Brook & Bickley	15,300
SNRM12095 Bickley Brook	7,900
SNRMCA04-Wungong R./Ranford Rd	7,000
SRT-Tom Bateman Res.	50,000
SRT Brentwood Living Stream.	80,070
Vehicle & Landcare Maintenance	187,368
Water Quality Partnership	94,925
Total Income	3,698,770
Gross Profit	3,698,770
Expense	
Administration.	263,333
ALCOA Foundation Grant-219825.	104,649
Anvil Way-Water Corporation.	3,386
Anvil Way 13-14 Maintenance	8,000
Anvil Way Water Corp Trial.	3,162
Bannister Creek Res Man. Plan	9,132
CAG11-00037 B Creek Wetlands	6,653
CAG12-00201 Blue Gum Lake.	4,480
DECCG12HR Hydrocotyle CRRP	9,711
Depreciation Expense	59,759
Educational Operations.	14,862
Employment-	1,578,119

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Profit & Loss July 2013 through June 2014

	Jul '13 - Jun 14
Environmental ProjectOperating.	18,424
Environmental Services.	42,683
Healthy Rivers 14-15.	393
Hydrocotyle Weed Control Trial.	7,336
Lake Copulup-Water Corp.	7,001
Leave entitlement provision	33,009
Macroinvertebrate monitoring	24,131
Mill St Drain-Hydrocotyl	16,181
PAP-oper costs	39,202
Planning & Construction.	15,344
Project Management.	805,661
PUES.	3,871
SALP09S12-Tom Bateman.	3,856
SALP10S13-Yule Brook Wetland.	8,283
Slab Gully 2012-13	22,156
SNRM 12079 Yule Brook/Bickley	26,800
SNRM 12095-Bickley Brook.	23,675
SNRMCA04-Wungong R/Ranford Rd	10,061
SRT Brentwood Living Stream	78,355
SRT Tom Bateman Res.	62,154
Tom Bateman Management Plan.	21,431
Urban Renewal Projects.	16,254
Vehicle & Landcare Maintenance.	172,673
Water Corp UWR	35,995
Water Quality Partnership.	118,456
Total Expense	3,678,634
Net Ordinary Income	20,136
Other Income/Expense	
Other Expense	
Asset purchases-Computers	-3,720
Asset purchases-Motor Vehicles	-13,636
Asset Purchases-Office equip	-1,018
Asset Purchases - Plant & Equip	-40,405
Total Other Expense	-58,779
Net Other Income	58,779
Net Income	78,915

STATEMENT BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

69 Horley Road,
Beckenham, Western Australia 6107
Telephone: 08 9458 5664
Facsimile: 08 9458 5661
Website: www.sercul.org.au

STATEMENT BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL CENTRE for URBAN LANDCARE (INC.)

In the opinion of the Members of the Committee;

- (a) The accompanying Profit and Loss Statements are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Group for the year ended 30th June 2014.
- (b) The accompanying Balance Sheet is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group as at the end of that period.
- (c) At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Accounts of the Group have been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.

Max Houghton
Treasurer

Date: 11 September 2014

Patricia Hart
Chairperson

Date: 11 September 2014

NEW PROJECTS FOR 2014 – 2015

SERCUL HOMESTEAD RESTORATION

SERCUL is located in Beckenham at the historic Yule Brook Homestead which was constructed in 1906. The homestead is listed under the National Heritage Trust and is a rare and representative example of Victorian Regency style homesteads of the day.

SERCUL was successful in receiving a Lotterywest grant to renovate the rendered surfaces of the homestead chimneys and repair the chimney flashings to stop leaking on to the ornate homestead ceilings. The work is expected to commence in November 2014 and be completed prior to winter.

This project will be the first of many restoration projects on the old homestead that will continue over the coming years. This is to ensure the safety of staff and volunteers working in and around the house and ensure it keeps its heritage listing.

Kindly funded by Lotterywest



The chimneys at the Yule Brook Homestead will be restored

NICHOLSON ROAD OXYGENATION PLANT

Construction of the Nicholson Road oxygenation plant north of Nicholson Road Bridge has been proposed as a management response to the long periods of low oxygen that affect the nearby reach of the Kent Street Weir Pool in the Canning River. The 2.2 km target area has more than ten years of water quality monitoring history that demonstrates the requirement for oxygen intervention for the upper reach of the weir pool. SERCUL are managing bank stabilisation and revegetation works at the oxygenation plant site. Works commenced in June 2014 and will continue until 2016.

Kindly funded by Swan River Trust

WUNGONG HERITAGE TRAIL

The City of Armadale have engaged SERCUL to design materials for an interpretive trail that guides visitors through the Wungong River Restoration projects completed as part of the Urban Waterways Renewal Project. The trail will increase visitors' awareness of the sites heritage and natural attributes as well as how recent projects have attempted to conserve and restore these values.

Kindly funded by the City of Armadale



Restoration work at Nicholson Road Oxygenation Plant

THANK YOU



The care and protection of the Natural Resources of the South Region can only happen with the ongoing support of community groups, non-Government organisations, volunteers, Local Government Authorities, State and Australian Government Departments and private business project partners.

The South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Inc. Committee and Staff sincerely thank you all and look forward to continuing our partnerships in 2014 – 2015 to achieve an even more sustainable approach to Natural Resource Management in Perth, Western Australia.

Good luck for 2014 – 2015

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FUNDING PARTNERS

The success of the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare's project delivery is a direct result of financial and in-kind contributions from the following Australian Government Departments, WA State Government Departments,

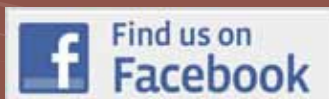
Natural Resource Management Organisations, private businesses, Local Governments and community groups. We would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank you for your assistance over the 2013 – 2014 year.





South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

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