



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

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

Going... going... finally gone

As we look back over the year one of the main highlights has been the long awaited removal of the Eastern States *Casaurina glauca* which was first reported on in CRREPA's September 2019 newsletter.

After an extended period of time with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Rivers and Estuaries Branch Statutory Assessments section, the City of Canning's (CoC) application for a permit to remove this woody weed from the western end of Shelley Beach Park and along the foreshore was approved.

In January 2023 CoC had 33 trees removed including a large number of suckers that had emerged in the recent years. The City has already planted 100 trees between Central Rd and Fifth Ave as part of the three - for - one replacement program required by DBCA.



Join us for the End-of-year Sundowner

WHEN: Sunday 26th November 2023 at 5.30pm
WHERE: Shelley Beach Reserve (near Beatrice Avenue roundabout)
A shady spot with a beautiful view
CRREPA PROVIDES: Roast Chickens and glasses
BYO: Salad or nibbles to share *as well as your drinks, picnic utensils, chairs, rugs etc*

RSVP for catering by November 17th: CRREPA@gmail.com

ROSLYN'S YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING RECOGNISED BY CANNING

L— R
Mayor Patrick Hall,
Roslyn Bartholomaeus,
Cr Mark Bain and
Deputy Mayor Cr Ben
Kunze



Roslyn Bartholomaeus' major voluntary contribution to CRREPA was recognised on 17 August 2023 by the City of Canning with the inclusion of her name on the City's Environmental Honour Board located at the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC).

Roslyn's nomination described her as an outstanding, community-spirited person who had been one of CRREPA's most committed and active volunteers since she, husband Michael and family, moved to Rossmoyne and joined the Association in 2010.

"Roslyn is the quintessential quiet achiever - respectful, capable and willing. She can always be relied on to help out, whether it's weeding or planting along the Lower Canning foreshore, picking up and dropping off tools before and after hands-on sessions, summer watering, baking cakes for post-work session morning teas and helping create photo displays for annual general meetings that acknowledge others' input and CRREPA's achievements. She has always been there for the 'out of the ordinary' requests."

As well as all her hands-on work, Roslyn served on the CRREPA committee from 2011 to 2018.

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:



YOUR CRREPA COMMITTEE 2023—2024



President:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
Foreshore Coordinator
Membership Officer

Stephen Johnston
Madeline Radestock
Sonia Langford
Sue Stanley
Liz Moore

Committee Members
Murray Radestock Lea Hadley

STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDS EROSION CONTROL WORK FOR THE FORESHORE

City of Canning contractors will undertake more erosion control work on six sites along the foreshore following the City's successful application for a \$23,559 grant under the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Riverbank Program.

The six sites are opposite: 117, 187, 341, 343, 345 and 347 Riverton Drive.

Since the Riverbank Program started in 2002, a total of \$60 million has been invested in over 360 foreshore restoration project sites within the Swan Canning Riverpark, with the State Government contributing \$30 million and local government matching every dollar. Funding focuses on projects that protect or enhance environmental, recreational, cultural and amenity values of the Riverpark.



Out and About



2024 PLANTING TO COMPLEMENT SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION OF HALOPHILA BAY

As we approach CRREPA's 30th birthday in May next year, it's worth reflecting on one of our biggest projects - the restoration in 2010 of the Halophila Bay area west of Second Avenue. It epitomises the Association's longstanding successful *modus operandi* – to be well informed, learn from past trial and error, work in close partnership with local and State Government and be determined to finish the job - that has stood it in such good stead and will continue to do so.

Halophila Bay is now a misnomer – there is no bay there but there was some 15 years ago when it had a beach that was subject to significant erosion.

The principal moving force for a solution to the problem – the project manager and funder, was a body that is sadly no longer, the Swan River Trust. Since the Trust's demise in July 2015, we have suffered from the lack of an adequately resourced, expert State Government body solely focused on the Swan and Canning Rivers.

The Halophila Bay project involved the installation of a limestone "toe" or a line of rocks placed in the river. Coir matting and large tree trunks were then pegged in place over the eroded area which was topped with tea tree woven into wire ties. CRREPA volunteers worked with the Swan River Trust staff and City of Canning Natural Areas Team to plant sedge and paperbark trees between the logs.

There were inevitably some challenges and setbacks: extreme early summer heat conditions, unusually high tides and a number of unsecured logs floated off down the Canning River – fortunately later to be retrieved. But the monument to the success of this partnership of State and local government and community volunteers is what we have today – a well vegetated, gradually sloping stable bank of sand that has built up naturally over time and almost completely obscured the logs.

Fourteen years on, CRREPA volunteers will return to Halophila Bay next June to extend the native vegetation bordering the erosion control site. A narrow 78-metre strip of sloping turf will be replaced with a mixture of low to medium height local native plants and there will be some interplanting a little further west to reinforce the existing cover of the aptly named Harsh Hakeas or *Hakea prostrata*.



The project will again exemplify CRREPA's *modus operandi*. The choice of local native plants to be installed will be informed by some of our experiences of what has and hasn't worked well in the past. It will be a partnership with the State Government with more than \$10,000 of grant funding from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Community Rivercare Program and the City of Canning providing substantial in-kind support by preliminary poisoning of the turf, auguring the planting holes, fencing the site and fortnightly watering over the 2024-26 spring-autumn periods. And of course, CRREPA volunteers will do the planting and the subsequent weeding of the site. All going well, by about 2028 the plants will be self-sustaining and another significant section of our foreshore will have established, enhanced biodiversity.



History part 2

BELATED DEVELOPMENT BRINGS DESTRUCTION OF SHELLEY-ROSSMOYNE'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

After the departure in the 1830s of the earliest European settlers from Location 25 - what is now Riverton, Shelley and part of Rossmoyne - there were a number of attempts by land developers to delude potential buyers about the area's potential for farming. A syndicate bought Location 25 in 1914 and commenced subdivision and marketing of the Riverton Estate with overblown promises that belied the land's infertility:

"This magnificent estate offers unequalled opportunity to the artisan to acquire a snug little farm in which to invest his savings and spare time...This estate is well watered and has rich, dry swamps in abundance for fruit, vegetable, dairying, pig and poultry farming. The district will so be famed."

By 1918, 24 hectares of the estate were sold for the settlement of returned soldiers but the five who built homes and planted crops didn't have much success. In 1937 another land development proposal called the Shelley Beach Estate offered: *"...Two thousand acres of subdivided allotments (see poster right). Undulating country embodying swamp land and high, sandy ground . . beautiful scenic spots . . . fertile soil ..."*

In 1937 Victor W. Webb purchased all the remaining lots and undeveloped land in Location 25 from a Mr Dobson who had been trying to sell it for years. The Webbs initially fared no better as they tried to sell it off; they struggled to pay the rates and mortgage on the land that was mainly still bushland. After decades of failed attempts to establish farming in the area, its value was finally realised for suburban development. In 1951 the first auction was held offering 21 blocks from Central Road to the river. In the early 1950s, Victor Webb and his wife made a trip to Scotland which reportedly inspired Mrs Webb to suggest the name "Rossmoyne" for some of their land and it became the suburb's gazetted name in 1960.

Landowners who held blocks of Canning River swamp agreed in 1960 to a reclamation scheme initiated, financed and undertaken by the then Shire of Canning. Some 2.4 kms of foreshore were reclaimed and 14.5 hectares of privately-owned land resumed. The Shire undertook the filling, road construction and resurvey, providing access to 80 river frontage lots between Zenith Street and Fifth Avenue and the creation of Shelley Beach Park. A dredge, *Throsby*, after which Throsby Road, Shelley was named, cut a new channel along the river and removed 305,821 cubic metres of river bed to fill the low-lying sections. What was originally a complex mix of extensive sedgeland, paperbark thickets, saltmarsh, mud flats and wetlands backing onto Banksia and Jarrah-Marri woodland was turned into a bare sand plain.

By 1962 Rossmoyne was really starting to take shape. Most unlike today and rather oddly for a new suburb, the first community buildings catered for older people - the bowling club established in 1961 and Sherwen Lodge in 1961-62. Then came the Rossmoyne shops. The school was cut out of a 4-hectare block of Banksia woodland selected in 1955 and it was opened in February 1964, followed by the Rossmoyne community kindergarten in 1969.

As suburban development accelerated, the wetlands – the largest of which is the current site of Shelley oval - were drained, vegetation cleared and natural streams filled in or converted into drains. For the foreshore, the other major impact apart from the land reclamation scheme, was the construction of Riverton Drive and Bull Creek Road which defined the size of the foreshore reserve and in some places changed the foreshore soil profile. After thousands of years of minimal impact by people on the natural environment of Shelley and Rossmoyne, that all changed in just 10 years and the Canning River foreshore was a major casualty.

