

SERCUL ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

*Community improving
the health of our land
and waterways*





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WELCOME

Welcome to the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare's (SERCUL) 2022-23 Annual and Financial Reports to our stakeholders, members and the community.

We are very proud of this year's achievements, which were undertaken in partnership with State and Federal Government agencies, Local Governments, businesses, schools, community groups and volunteers. Through these partnerships we have been working together to improve the health of our land and waterways.



20 YEARS OF LANDCARE

This year marks our 20th year operating as the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare.

In 2003 five catchment groups came together under the same roof at the Yule Brook Homestead in Beckenham. Thanks to a peppercorn lease from the West Australian Planning Commission and significant investment to renovate the property, a Lotteries Commission grant to

set up the property as an office space and the tireless work of catchment group volunteers who helped with painting and oiling floor boards SERCUL came into existence.

Over the years 100's of people have worked at SERCUL and 1000's have volunteered their time to make SERCUL a success story. While we can not mention everyone SERCUL's Inaugural Chairperson, Pat Hart; Chief Executive Officer, Julie Robert and Treasurer, Cam Clay were fundamental in the establishment of SERCUL. Long term staff members including Sandy Wainwright, Amy Krupa, Matt Grimby, Melinda Snowball, John Maliunas, Rose Weerasinghe, Monica Estrada, Jose Alcala and many, many others have shaped the organisation. In SERCUL's 20 year history there has only been two Chairpersons - Pat Hart and Stephen Johnston and three CEO's - Julie Robert, Brett Kuhlmann and Amy Krupa. This reflects a stability that is not often seen in other organisations.

To everyone that has been involved in the SERCUL journey, either through volunteering or working for us, funding our projects and staff, partnering with us on projects or contracting us for fee for service work we thank you!



SERCUL's official opening day in 2003, Left: Pat Hart and Alannah MacTiernan cutting the ribbon, Right: Volunteers planting the wetland below the homestead.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE STEPHEN JOHNSTON



Twenty years ago, SERCUL began as a small regional coordinating body for Perth's south eastern catchment groups with a handful of employees - set up on the initiative of, and wholly funded by, the State and Federal Government. It still broadly fulfils that original function but now for 35 community conservation member groups dedicated to protecting and enhancing land, lake and stream environments, extending from Friends of Paganoni Swamp in the south to the Friends of Jirdarup Bushland in the north, from Friends of Point Peron in the west to Friends of Ellis Brook Valley in the east. And we remain true to our original constitutional statements of vision, mission and objectives.

So, alongside all that continuity, how and why has SERCUL changed over the past 20 years? The main shift came 10 years ago when my predecessor, Pat Hart, first noted in the 2012-13 annual report that severe reductions in State and Federal funding opportunities for community environmental landcare had required SERCUL to examine how it could use the experience, abilities and successes of its staff to tender for contract opportunities that met its objectives. "The profits made from these projects would be reinvested back into achieving SERCUL objectives; including supporting community groups achieve their environmental endeavours," Pat wrote.

That is what SERCUL has been doing ever since, with increasing success, so that we are now a small to medium-sized, community-based, not-for-profit business that employs 38 staff and over the past year raised through contract and other private work, 60 per cent of our nearly \$2.5 million in annual income. This has required major changes in the way we run - and the way we think about running - the organisation. We have simply had to become far more professional.

The proposed amendments to SERCUL's constitution that emphasise our need to attract suitably experienced and qualified people to govern the organisation are small examples of this. But we have also, over the past 12 months:

- made wholesale changes to our accounting procedures to bring them into line with Australian accounting standards;

- had a rigorous review with a senior lawyer of the terms of our property lease with the West Australian Planning Commission;
- closely examined wage levels and given above average wage rises to help ensure we attract and retain high quality, experienced staff, and
- had a tighter focus on risk, particularly workplace safety and health risks.

While all of that may seem a world away from on-ground community conservation work, it all contributes to our continuing capability to undertake that work and support our members.

Notwithstanding SERCUL's success in raising income, we will always remain dependent on and grateful for the long-term operational funding arrangement that began through the Swan River Trust and continues through its successor, the Rivers and Estuaries Branch of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). It stands as a refreshingly positive contrast to the reluctance of some other arms of government to provide adequate administrative/operational support funding in their community grants for conservation initiatives. In these government quarters there appears to be a stigma attached to funding anything that cannot be seen on the ground. But like the unseen foundations of a house, there is a whole lot of unseen, background preparatory - and follow-up - work that is essential to the success of a major on-ground project, and that needs to be funded.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to SERCUL's staff, board members and other volunteers who have brought us through another successful year with an enhanced reputation, a significant financial surplus and improvements in governance and management that will set us up well for our opening year of SERCUL's third decade.

Stephen Johnston
Chairperson



CEO'S MESSAGE

AMY KRUPA

It is very hard to believe that SERCUL is now in its 20th year of operation. It just seems like yesterday that myself, Julie Robert and Pat Hart were on a catchment tour and one of the sites we visited in Beckenham had a ramshackle homestead on it that was in desperate need of some love. Around a year later we moved into that newly renovated homestead and the rest, as they say, is history.

A number of factors led to the formation of SERCUL but the main one was changes in Federal funding through the Natural Heritage Trust for the Catchment Group Coordinators (as they were known at the time) and the need to 'regionalise' the funding approach. Thus the Canning Catchment Coordinating Group, Bannister Creek Catchment Group, Belmont-Victoria Park Catchment Group, Canning Plain Catchment Group and the Phosphorus Action Group joined together and became SERCUL. The West Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and Lotteries Commission provided significant support and funding to allow us to set up the homestead as an office space. At the start there were eight staff members and State and Federal Government grants were the only source of income.

Now, 20 years later, there have been ebbs and flows of funding with some periods having significant funding invested in staff and programs and then this funding concluding with staff being lost in the process. This led to the establishment of our business arm, Environmental Services, which results in us now generating more than half of our income through landcare, monitoring and education fee for service work. This has provided financial security and the ability to employ staff and support our 35 community member groups with certainty. However, we still rely heavily on Local, State and Federal Government grants and support including from the City of Canning, State NRM Office and the Rivers and Estuaries Branch at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to undertake restoration work and to employ staff in our region.

The last year has seen some much needed work and renovations undertaken at the SERCUL office and the shed compound. At the 2021 State election our local Member of Parliament, Bill Johnston, committed \$100,000 to extend and upgrade our

shed compound area. The shed compound area was built by the WAPC in 2010 and allowed us to have a secure area to store our equipment, tools, trailers and a couple of vehicles that we had at the time. By 2021 we had outgrown this area and thanks to Bill's election promise and money raised through our contract work we now have more than doubled the size of the compound area. We also have a dedicated plant storage area that has permanent irrigation, a chemical storage area, a washdown area and plenty of space to store our seven trailers and nine vehicles. After nearly two years of planning and constructing the area we were pleased to show Bill around the completed compound earlier this year.

The SERCUL office also received some much needed attention this year. Our landlords, the WAPC, paid for four ceilings to be replaced while SERCUL paid for the internal walls and ceilings to be painted and the internal floor boards to be oiled. These renovations caused some major disruptions with everything moved out of the office and stored in a sea container in the car park and office based staff working from home for six weeks. However, it was definitely worth the disruption with a fresh looking office and a major clean out of 20 years worth of accumulated 'stuff'.

Last but not least, we would not have had such a successful year, both in achievements and financially, without our wonderful volunteers, Board members and especially our staff who go above and beyond to make SERCUL the place it is today. While all staff have made an amazing contribution I would like to especially thank Farina Gandadjaja and Jose Alcala for keeping the administration and finances of SERCUL on track while this area has undergone some major changes in the last year. Thanks also to Fiona Audcent-Ross for being thrown into the deep end and making sure that we are adhering to accounting practices and could complete the financial audit this year.

Here's to another 20 years of SERCUL success.



Amy Krupa
Chief Executive Officer





STAFF EMPLOYED DURING 2022-23

Jose Alcalá – HR, Payroll and Administration Officer
 Hannah Anthony – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Amelie Bachir – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Matthew Barbour – Community Rivercare Officer
 *Matthew Bartley – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Daniel Batty – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Natasha Bowden – Education and Promotion Manager
 Warin Chotirosniramit – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Elbert Curtin – Environmental Services Supervisor, ESU
 Kezang Dema – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Riley Dennis – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 *Karl Dewar – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Dr Gun Dolva – Environmental Monitoring Officer
 Bethany Driscoll – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 *Jonathan Edgelow – Cleaner
 *Monica Estrada – Business and Finance Manager
 Ben Fenu – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Farina Gandadjaja – Administration and Finance Officer
 Raymond Grenfell – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Matthew Grimbly – Environmental Services Manager
 *Alexandra Hegarty – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Anisah Ilmenstein – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Amy Krupa – Chief Executive Officer
 Marco Lombard – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 *Jamie Lovell – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 *John Maliunas – Landcare Officer, Shed and Vehicle Manager
 Nathan Marecic – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Jordan Murfit – Landcare Field Technician, ESU and OHS Officer
 Luann Nilsson – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 *Andy Owen – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Marcus Palandri – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Melaine Segers – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Jayson Sekhon – Community Landcare Officer
 Melinda Snowball – Promotions and Graphic Design Officer
 Nora Steinruecke – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Elliot Stewart – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 *Talen Stroot – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 *Bianca Veth – Landcare Field Technician, ESU
 Dr Rose Weerasinghe – Ecologist
 Catherine White – Canning Community Landcare Officer
 Cat Williams – Community Landcare Manager
 Niamh Williams – Environmental Education Officer, Landcare Field Technician, ESU and Water Quality Officer
 *Serena Williamson – Business and Finance Manager
 Odin Yorke – Environmental Services Supervisor, ESU

*No longer working - left the organisation during the 2022-2023 financial year
 ESU - Environmental Services Unit.

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair: Stephen Johnston
 Deputy Chair: Kobi Bradshaw-Chen
 Member: Felicity Bairstow
 Member: Diane Dowdell
 Member: Fiona Audcent-Ross
 Member: Jacinta Riedel
 Member: Harry Sunarko

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WA CHAPTER STAFF:

Megan Mentz – Little Green Steps WA Program Manager
 *Belinda Bloxsome – WasteSorted Schools Officer and Little Green Steps WA Education Officer
 *Bronwen Veale – WasteSorted Schools Officer
 *Juliet Davis – Little Green Steps WA Education Officer
 Niamh Williams – WasteSorted Schools Officer and Little Green Steps WA Education Officer

2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

36

Friends
of groups
supported

84

Education workshops,
presentations and
displays engaging

3275
people

a+b=c

250

School presentations

85

Schools engaged in
on-ground activities and
environmental
education

124 431

Seedlings installed

416 HA

Weed management

92

Landcare
events



3536 individuals
contributed

9263

hours of volunteering labour

\$400 086

total value of volunteering

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



1788

Facebook page likes

2045

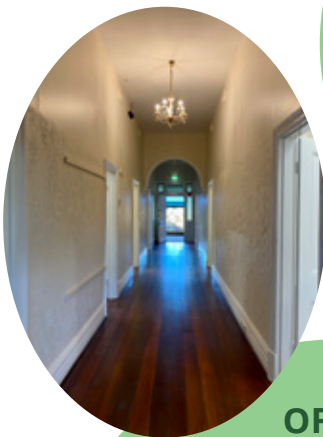
Facebook page followers

87 765

Facebook page reach

989

Subscribers to
SERCUL and education
newsletters



OFFICE RENOVATIONS

The SERCUL office underwent some much needed renovations after 20 years of use.

Four ceilings and associated ceiling roses and architraves were either replaced or rejuvenated. These ceilings were likely to have been in the house for many decades possibly even up to 100 years and they looked it!

The wooden internal floor boards were sanded and oiled back to their former glory and the internal walls, doors and ceilings were freshened up with a coat of paint.

UPGRADE OF SHED COMPOUND

Thanks to a \$100,000 election promise from Bill Johnston, Member for Cannington, we now have an expanded shed compound area that is more than double the size of the old compound. It has a plant storage area with permanent irrigation, a chemical storage area, a washdown area and plenty of space to store our trailers and vehicles.

Thanks Bill!



OUR CONSTITUTION

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

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

VISION

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

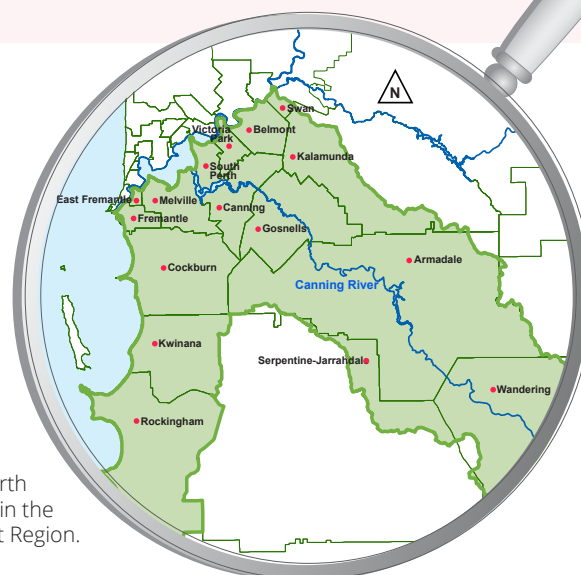
MISSION

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

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

OBJECTIVES

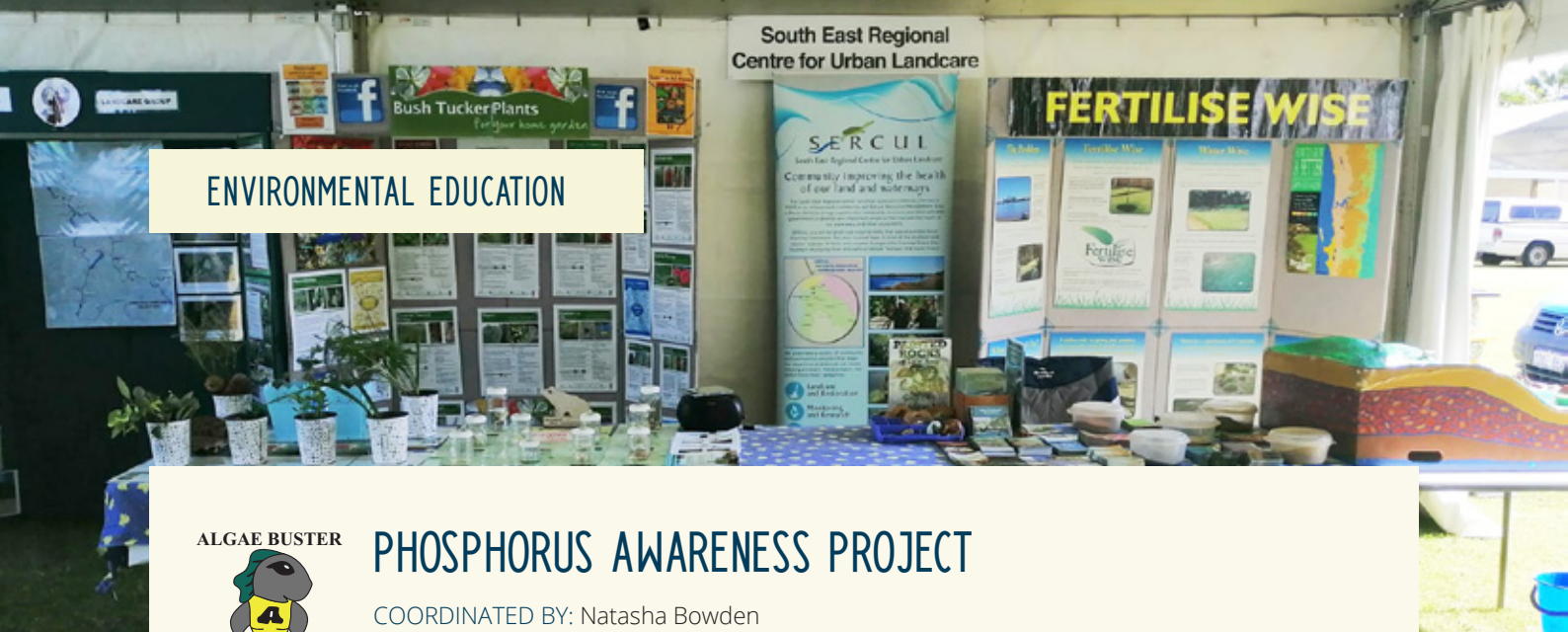
- To identify priority Natural Resource Management issues in the South Region in partnership with Community Groups, Local Government, State Government and Industry.
- Administer the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Inc. funds to promote the objectives and outcomes of the Association.
- Assist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





PROJECT LINKS TO OUR OBJECTIVES

	Objectives									
PROJECTS	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION										
Phosphorus Awareness Project										
Mozzie Wise Program										
Little Green Steps WA										
WasteSorted Schools Program										
COMMUNITY CAPACITY										
Community Group Support										
Enable and Sponsor Volunteer Groups (CSGL18013)										
Building Community Capacity (CSGL20026)										
Canning Community Landcare										
LANDCARE AND RESTORATION										
Combatting the Impacts of Urbanisation (CSGL19094)										
Supporting the Landcare Community (CSGL21001)										
Living Landscapes - Improving the Condition of TEC										
Nurdi Park Living Stream										
Gabbiljee - Bull Creek Reserve										
Treasure's Paddock										
Hydrocotyle Eradication Program										
Aquatic Weed Management Training										
River Health Improvement Program										
Iconic Project North and South										
Community Rivercare Grants										
Keep Carnaby's Flying - Ngoorlarks Forever										
Yule Brook Restoration										
MONITORING AND RESEARCH										
Water Quality Monitoring										
Horley Road Wetland – Biomonitoring										
Adenia Saltmarsh Research Program										



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

ALGAE BUSTER



PHOSPHORUS AWARENESS PROJECT

COORDINATED BY: Natasha Bowden

The Phosphorus Awareness Project (PAP) is an education campaign that aims to educate the general community about the impact of too many nutrients entering waterways, in particular the Swan (Derbarl Yerrigan) and Canning (Djarlgarro Beeliar) River systems and wetlands, and how to reduce those levels. It includes the Fertilise Wise campaign.

SCHOOLS

246 SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS to 5587 students from 47 Primary and 6 High Schools.

30 PLANTING SESSIONS during which 1966 plants were planted by 1342 students and 147 teachers, contributing 791 volunteer hours.

Plants were used for revegetation projects, to beautify school gardens and to create frog habitat and Noongar Use (or 'Bush Tucker') Gardens. Planting events were tied in with classroom learning objectives.

COMMUNITY

9 DISPLAYS at workshops/fairs/open days/festivals held by various community groups, governments and not-for-profit organisations, which were interacted with by at least 1980 people.

Displays consisted of Phosphorus Awareness Project, Fertilise Wise and associated information available as pamphlets, stickers and on display boards.

42 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS to OSHC, Bush Ranger, River Ranger, teacher, garden, local government, community and homeschooling organisations, groups and clubs, that were attended by 973 people.

EVENTS

One Fertilise Wise Training Session held and attended by 32 participants from the Cities of Gosnells, Swan, Kwinana, Vincent, Mandurah and Cockburn.

Hosted two Canoeing on the Canning Professional Development Days, attended by 33 teachers and community members.

NUTRIENT SURVEY

The 2022 LGA Annual Nutrient Survey Report sent to all 30 Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in Perth. Responses received from 24 LGAs with a report and scorecards published.

VOLUNTEERS

Two Murdoch University interns and one international student contributed over 167.5 hours supporting the PAP program.

RESOURCES

Supported groups with RESOURCES on 17 occasions, distributing over 3114 of the five Grow Local Plants brochures, 605 of the Fertilise Wise brochures and 6620 general Phosphorus Awareness Project brochures, stickers and other resources, to nurseries, community and school groups.

PAP has been promoted in the MEDIA on at least 40 occasions via newsletters, websites, Facebook, YouTube, and the Education Departments Connect.

PAP YouTube Channel received 679 views.

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



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

MOZZIE WISE PROGRAM

COORDINATED BY: Natasha Bowden and Dr Rose Weerasinghe

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

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

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

This program is funded by SERCUL, the City of Belmont, Town of Bassendean and the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

OUTCOMES:

- Presentation at CONSTAWA (Conference of the Science Teachers Association of WA)
- Two stalls at the Town of Bassendean Markets
- Stall at the Margaret River Agricultural Show
- Stall at the Augusta River Festival
- Community Field Workshop in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River
- Workshop in Cowaramup
- Workshop in Augusta
- Stall at the City of Belmont Kidz Festival
- Four incursions at Belmont Primary School
- Presentation at WA Insect Studies Society



Shire of Augusta Margaret River team with Rose and Natasha



Bassendean markets stall



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

LITTLE GREEN STEPS WA PROGRAM

COORDINATED BY: Megan Mentz and delivered with Belinda Bloxsome and Juliet Davis

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

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

This program is funded by the City of Cockburn and the Waste Authority.

OUTCOMES:

PARTNERSHIPS

- Entered the fourth year of the 5 year partnership with the Waste Authority through WasteSorted Schools.
- Completed the final year of a two year partnership with the City of Cockburn with a new 3 year partnership starting from September 2023.

WORKSHOPS

- Created and delivered one Closed Loop Gardening in Early Years Settings workshop and one Economic and Built Environment workshop called 'Why Playing Shops is Vital'.
- Delivered five Reducing Waste workshops across Perth, with one in the Albany region, one Cloth in Childcare workshop for the City of Canning, one Cultural and Social Diversity workshop with Noongar Presenter Gail Barrow, one Planning for Sustainability workshop, two Introduction to Sustainability workshops (with a Noongar focus and a water focus) and one Biodiversity Actions and Awareness workshop.

RESOURCES

- Economic and Built Environment Audit Tool.
- Gardening with Compost and Gardening with Worms fact sheets.
- Cloth Nappy Guides and fact sheets for EY services.
- Early Years Waste Audit Tool kit.

PRESENTATIONS/EVENTS

- Presented to the Waste Educators Network on LGSWA Cloth Nappy trial.
- Presented two workshop sessions at the Early Years Wheat Belt Conference.
- Presented at Cockburn Early Years Network.
- Ran activities at Teddy Bear's Picnic and numerous Cockburn FDC Playgroup and Earth Day Expo October 2022.

WORKSHOPS

15 workshops delivered attended by 230 participants.

MEDIA

1900 people subscribed to our mailing list.

VOLUNTEERS

9 volunteers have contributed 500 hours of volunteering with the value equating \$16 855.

75

MEMBERSHIPS

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Cockburn and the Waste Authority.

Subsidiary partners providing in-kind support: The Wetlands Centre Cockburn, WMRC, EMRC, CREEC, City of Canning, Cities of Albany, Wanneroo and Melville and the Town of Vincent, Kam Andrews, The Nappy Guru.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

WASTESORTED SCHOOLS SOUTHERN METRO

COORDINATED BY: Niamh Williams, Bronwen Veale and Belinda Bloxsome

The WasteSorted Schools (WSS) southern metro is a program run by the Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter (AAEE WA) in partnership with the Waste Authority, which provides schools in the southern suburbs of Perth with WSS programs and support. HR for this program is provided by SERCUL.

The WSS programs and support includes:

- Providing schools with incursions educating on correct waste management behaviours, with a focus on conducting waste audit incursions
- Assisting with the WSS accreditation process and renewal
- Support with grant applications and planning
- Attending and presenting at staff workshops run by the Waste Authority.

The program aims to educate and assist teachers, students and schools by providing engaging and hands-on incursions. The incursions develop a greater knowledge and understanding of waste, this includes avoiding waste, sorting waste correctly and information on the different waste streams each school may have, recovering waste and seeing landfill as a final option, rather than the only option. The program also encourages and supports projects implemented by schools to achieve lasting behavioural changes in how waste is managed and used in each school community by both students and teachers.

34 schools
supported with a
WASTE AUDIT

8 schools had a
WASTESORTED RACE
INCURSION

16 schools
supported with
accreditation

37 schools
supported with
accreditation renewal

174 teachers and
3206 students
engaged

OUTCOMES

WasteSorted Schools continued to support and strengthen relationships with existing WSS accredited schools as well as engaged and encouraged new schools to be waste wise.

Waste audits gives the opportunity for students to directly see how much waste and what types of waste their school makes. It teaches students the importance of waste reduction methods and sorting waste into the correct waste stream to avoid all waste ending up in landfill. It also encourages students to think of ways to reduce their waste and help their school community. Audits are also a good way for schools to monitor their progress, by highlighting the success of current waste management strategies as well as identifying the areas that may need improving. A number of schools complete a waste audit annually to assist with continuing efforts of waste minimisation.

The WasteSorted race incursion continues to be a popular activity for primary school students. This incursion teaches the importance of sorting waste into the correct waste category and discusses methods of reducing the waste sent to landfills. This is done in an interactive way, with all students participating in sorting waste items into the correct bins, resulting in students and teachers feeling more confident in their waste management skills.

Schools have also been supported during the process of becoming WasteSorted School accredited, and during the accreditation renewal process. Assisting schools with this process has led to WSS grant application and project support. This is an important part for continuing our relationships and supporting schools with their waste minimisation efforts.

This program is funded by the Waste Authority and partnered with WasteSorted Schools and SERCUL



COMMUNITY GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

SERCUL's Community Landcare Team have completed a busy year supporting multiple landcare groups and projects within our region. Throughout the 2023 financial year 29 individual projects were implemented by 18 community groups each utilising various levels of support from SERCUL.

A further 34 projects have been managed directly by SERCUL in partnership with stakeholders, land managers and other groups. Wherever possible the broader community has been provided opportunity to contribute through volunteering in on-ground activities including school and tertiary education students and corporate groups.

The most frequent support requested from SERCUL remains in seeking grant funding and facilitating grant sponsorship. At the end of June 2023, we have 40 ongoing projects with a potential 28 landcare projects under development, including 11 sub-projects pending funding approval with the WA State NRM office. To accommodate these projects, it is essential that we work within our capacity and plan, sometimes up to three or more years so we can meet group requirements, and yet ensure SERCUL itself is adequately resourced to employ officers to manage and report against the projects.

Pleasingly for us, this year was the first without mandated COVID restrictions for some time, and we have bounced back to deliver some fantastic outcomes in landcare across our region. This would not be possible without the support and dedication of volunteers. As always, we thank you all, and we appreciate the numerous land managers, funding bodies and stakeholders who support the work we do.

CONTINUING PARTNERSHIPS FACILITATE OUR WORK WITH THE LANDCARE COMMUNITY!

SERCUL has employed an officer in support of the DBCA Community Rivercare Program since November 2021. DBCA continued to fund this position through the 2023 financial year. A key function of the role is to develop and implement two significant projects in the Cities of Armadale and Bayswater addressing water quality improvement. See the separate write ups for these projects on page 30. We thank the DBCA Community Rivercare Program (Rivers and Estuaries Branch) for continuing to support this role at SERCUL.

The long-running Canning Community Landcare partnership, which provides for a landcare officer to be hosted by SERCUL, continues to be funded by the City of Canning. This position assists landcare projects in the City and supports community landcare groups, especially those working around the Canning River and Bannister Creek Catchment. New projects being developed by DBCA Regional Parks and by the City of Canning utilising the Swan-Canning Rivers Urban Forest Funding (SCRUF) will draw on this officer to support on-ground works and facilitate contributions from the broader community. More on this, and the other projects supported by this officer can be found from page 18 of this report. We thank the City of Canning and especially their environmental team for their ongoing support.



COMMUNITY GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

COMMUNITY LANDCARE GROUPS SPONSORED

Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor
Friends of Booragoon & Blue Gum Lakes
Friends of Booyembara Park
Friends of Clontarf Hill
Friends of Forrestdale
Friends of Fremantle Beaches
Friends of Gabbiljee
Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands
Friends of Hollis Park
Friends of Jandakot Regional Park – Harrisdale Swamp and Acourt Blocks
Friends of Jirdarup – multiple grants
Friends of Mosman Park Bushland
Friends of Paganoni Swamp – multiple grants
Friends of Samson Park
Friends of The Spectacles
Friends of Wireless Hill
Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group
Wilson Wetlands Action Group

CITY OF GOSNELLS GRANT

SERCUL was successful in securing a Level 1 Community Grant from the City of Gosnells for \$2000 to facilitate the purchase of an iPad to assist us in the graphic design and monitoring work we do in-house and for local schools and community groups.

30

FRIENDS OF COMMUNITY GROUPS SUPPORTED

29

SPONSORED GRANTS FOR

18

FRIENDS OF GROUPS

9

WEBPAGES HOSTED FOR FRIENDS OF GROUPS

3

GROUPS PROVIDED WITH FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

5

GROUPS PROVIDED WITH PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

38

FULL MEMBERS

6

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

COMMUNITY CAPACITY GRANTS

ENABLE AND SPONSOR VOLUNTEER GROUPS DELIVERING ON-GROUND OUTCOMES

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES –
(CSGL18013, YEAR 5 OF 4 - EXTENSION)

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams and Jayson Sekhon

This multi-year grant commenced in 2019 providing sponsorship of nine individual community landcare groups in the SERCUL region. A range of landcare activities aimed at protecting and improving the condition of urban bushlands was carried out. The grant was due completion in June 2022 however it was extended to allow for some activities to be completed during this financial year. This project has now been completed.

THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AND KEY WORKS WERE FUNDED OVER THE FOUR YEAR GRANT TERM:

- Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor - supply of native tubestock for revegetation and resource for community landcare event.
- Friends of Booyembara Park - supply of native tubestock for revegetation and resource for community landcare event.
- Friends of Gabbiljee - weed control, revegetation tubestock and community landcare events.
- Friends of Clontarf Hill - supply of native tubestock for revegetation and support for community landcare event.
- Friends of Fremantle Beaches - supply of native tubestock for revegetation and support for community landcare event.
- Friends of Hollis Park - supply of native tubestock for revegetation and support for community landcare event.
- Friends of Paganoni Swamp – dieback treatments and vehicle dieback control zones including limestone track installation.
- Friends of The Spectacles - weed control, revegetation tubestock and funds for landcare events and workshops.
- Friends of Wireless Hill - manual weed control around sensitive orchid habitat.

This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.

1
LANDCARE EVENT

2700
PLANTS INSTALLED

38
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$4530
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Fremantle

City of Melville

Department
of Biodiversity,
Conservation and
Attractions

TOTAL FIGURES FOR FOUR YEAR GRANT

203
LANDCARE EVENTS AND
WORKSHOPS

49 545
PLANTS INSTALLED

11 703
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$584 895
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING

COMMUNITY CAPACITY GRANTS

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY THROUGH VOLUNTEERING IN PERTH'S URBAN NATURAL HABITATS

(CSGL20026, YEAR 2 OF 3)

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams and Jayson Sekhon

This is the second year of a three-year sponsorship grant supporting eight landcare groups. Several of these projects are community partnerships with DBCA Regional Parks Unit and we thank DBCA for their continued support and engagement.

FUNDS HAVE PROVIDED FOR A RANGE OF ON-GROUND WORKS AS FOLLOWS:

- Bickley Brook and Reservoir - revegetation tubestock, weed control, brochures and signage.
- Friends of Harrisdale Swamp – feral bee control, tubestock and woody/climbing weed control.
- Friends of Jandakot RP (Acourt Blocks) – tubestock and chemical weed control.
- Friends of Jirdarup Bushland – motion sensing cameras for fauna monitoring of bird watering stations and capacity building workshops.
- Friends of Mosman Park Bushland – manual weed control assistance at Buckland Hill.
- Friends of Samson Park – revegetation tubestock and community workshops on restoration techniques and Aboriginal Culture.
- Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group - project coordination, signage, feral bee control, weed control, dieback treatment and tubestock for revegetation.
- Wilson Wetlands Action Group – ground preparation, weed control and tubestock.

This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program

205 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

6
WORKSHOP EVENTS

6
LANDCARE EVENTS

11 041
PLANTS INSTALLED

1978
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$98 060
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

Department
of Biodiversity,
Conservation and
Attractions



Harry Sunarko planting at Harrisdale Swamp



Cat Williams planting at Samson Park



Marco removing weedy Acacia at Jandakot RP

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE

COORDINATED BY: Catherine White

The City of Canning has had a long-term relationship with SERCUL and currently funds the Canning Community Landcare Officer position. To deliver this role the officer assists with landcare projects and works alongside environmental groups within the City of Canning. This role also works closely with the Bannister Creek Catchment Group, to write and implement grants across the Bannister Creek Catchment.

In the past financial year, the Canning Community Landcare Officer has worked with the Canning River Regional Park Volunteers (CRRPV), Friends of Queens Park Bushland (FoQPB), Canning Sea Scouts and Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association (CRREPA). On-ground assistance included manual weed control, planting day assistance and preparation, and watering. The officer has also worked alongside CRRPV to deliver two workshop events for Earth Day. This event involved teaching students how to pot on sedges. The City of Canning and SERCUL have also been involved in the Saving our Snake Necked Turtle Program, which is focused on protecting turtles as they leave the wetlands to nest. The tracking location is at Wilson Lagoon and will be continuing this year. SERCUL looks forward to supporting more groups within the City of Canning in the future.

Considerable work has been planned for the next financial year, with funding approved for a DBCA Rivercare grant at Bannister Creek Adenia. This grant will be administered by the landcare officer and Bannister Creek Catchment Group. Bannister Creek Catchment Group also have a pending application for a SALP grant. The landcare officer has facilitated the writing of a State NRM grant to be administered by CRRPV. This grant will be working at the Old River Channel in the Canning River Regional Park, restoring a degraded section of riverbank. Extensive work has been undertaken by CRRPV revegetating the area adjoining the south end of the project site. We wish CRRPV success with their grant application and look forward to working with them in the future. The officer has also been involved in the planning process for Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest (SCRUF) projects, which will be delivered through DBCA and the City of Canning. The officer will be involved in seed collection, facilitating on-ground events with community and planting.

This project is funded by the City of Canning.

2012
PLANTS INSTALLED

172 VOLUNTEERS

contributing

385.5 HOURS

=
\$10 845

VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Canning

Department
of Biodiversity,
Conservation and
Attractions

Bannister Creek
Catchment Group

Water Corporation



Volunteers from Treemission at Lambertia Creek



Cat White planting at Lambertia Creek

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE

ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR REHABILITATION PROJECT

PROJECT LOCATION: Lambertia Creek, Ferndale

This year was the final of the three-year rehabilitation project at Lambertia Creek in Ferndale. Lambertia Creek is an establishing living stream project that adjoins the Canning River Regional Park.

The project was designed to increase the ecological strength at the confluence of Lambertia Creek and the Canning River. This project site also connects with works undertaken at Bannister Creek Adenia. The primary aim was to increase the native vegetation coverage and reduce the spread of weeds into the Canning River Regional Park.

This year saw 4463 seedlings planted, all by volunteers. The focus of the planting was to improve the riparian edge of the creek, as this area is most vulnerable to weed incursions. Wetland sedges and shrubs were planted in dense clusters to allow for quick establishment. Thanks to this technique, and a mild summer, we have seen the revegetation take off in this area. This project was done in collaboration with the Bannister Creek Catchment Group and the City of Canning.

This project is supported by the Swan Canning River Recovery Project, managed by Perth NRM and funded by the Australian Government.

5
LANDCARE EVENTS

5.5 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

4463
PLANTS INSTALLED

132 VOLUNTEERS

contributing

352 HOURS

=
\$12 755
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

3
LANDCARE EVENTS

3.9 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

5080
PLANTS INSTALLED

59 VOLUNTEERS

contributing

272 HOURS

=
\$11 890
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING

FLOODPLAIN MAINTENANCE AND ENRICHMENT

PROJECT LOCATION: Bannister Creek, Bywood Way, Lynwood and Vellgrove, Parkwood

The Bannister Creek Catchment Group have done a lot of work at Bywood and Vellgrove over the past 20 years. Both areas are established living streams, with good canopy cover from mature trees. The primary aim of this project was to increase the density of lower and mid-storey plants to create more habitat. The second aim was to reduce erosion and sediment entering the waterway by planting sedges along the riparian zone. The nature of Bannister Creek is that it is highly susceptible to weed outbreaks, due to being such a wet and dynamic site. Weed control was included to reduce weed density, and to address any new infestations. This project was achieved in collaboration with the Bannister Creek Catchment Group and the City of Canning.

This project is funded by the Perth NRM Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.



Lynwood Senior High School students planting at Bywood

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE

STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION TO OUR BANNISTER CREEK ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

This is a multi-year project running from 2021-2023 across the Bannister Creek Reserve. This project had two elements, to engage with the community and to set up some baseline monitoring data for macroinvertebrates along Bannister Creek. Macroinvertebrate monitoring will enable a new measure of success for future revegetation projects, as well as giving a broader understanding of the ecosystem.

The workshops were designed to engage different groups of people at Bannister Creek. Three workshops were run at Bannister Creek, one history night; one night stalk and one Noongar cultural workshop with Djirrily Dreaming. These workshops were well attended and demonstrated the public interest in learning more about Bannister Creek.

Macroinvertebrate monitoring gave a snapshot into the health of the ecosystem. It also further demonstrated the dynamic nature of Bannister Creek, with quite different results being found in different seasons. Thanks to all those who attended a workshop or assisted with monitoring. This project was done in collaboration with the Bannister Creek Catchment Group and the City of Canning.

This project is supported by the Swan Canning River Recovery Project, managed by Perth NRM and funded by the Australian Government.

3
EDUCATIONAL
WORKSHOPS

attended by

93
PARTICIPANTS

2
MONITORING EVENTS

9 VOLUNTEERS

contributing

42.5 HOURS

=
\$2125
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING



*Dr Rose Weerasinghe and Matt Barbour
macroinvertebrate monitoring*



Night stalk at Bannister Creek



COMMUNITY CAPACITY

CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE

CLIMATE RESILIENT CATCHMENT PROGRAM - BANNISTER CREEK CATCHMENT

PROJECT LOCATION: Bannister Creek Reserve, Portcullis Park and Adenia Park

This project is in the second year of a multi-year project running from 2022-2025 and focuses on sites not only at Bannister Creek, but across a much broader area within the Bannister Creek Catchment. This project aims to increase connectivity across highly fragmented sites within the catchment.

This project includes revegetation and weed control across three sites: Bannister Creek Reserve, Portcullis Park and Adenia Park. A total of 7360 seedlings were planted across the three project sites, across four community planting events. Revegetation established nicely over the summer, and seed collection was also successful. A big thank you to all of the volunteers who volunteered over the past financial year. This project was done in collaboration with the Bannister Creek Catchment Group and the City of Canning.

This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.

4
LANDCARE EVENTS

1
SEED COLLECTION
WORKSHOP

6.4 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

7360
PLANTS INSTALLED

136 VOLUNTEERS

contributing

427 HOURS

=
\$14 960
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING



Teachers from St Norberts College planting at Adenia



Lynwood Senior High School students planting at Bannister Creek

LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

0.7 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

4
LANDCARE EVENTS

10 613
PLANTS INSTALLED

97
VOLUNTEERS
contributed

449
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$16 840
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

TOTAL FIGURES FOR TWO YEAR GRANT

20 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

38
LANDCARE AND
WORKSHOP EVENTS

47 906
PLANTS INSTALLED

698
VOLUNTEERS
contributed

3254
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$144 160
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

COMBATTING THE IMPACTS OF URBANISATION

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES – (CSGL19094,
YEAR 3 OF 2 - EXTENSION)

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams, Matt Grimbly (Boneseed) and
Dr Rose Weerasinghe (Adenia)

This funding supports eight sub-projects each of which is SERCUL-led in partnership with various land managers and stakeholders. Although this grant was initially of 18 months in duration several extensions were sought to facilitate approvals and works at the Horley sub-project, a further short extension to finish work at Bickley and Horley Basin took the project into the 2023 Financial Year. This project has been completed.

OUTCOMES:

- Adenia Saltmarsh – continued revegetation, weed control and monitoring.
- Bickley Recreation Camp – signage, revegetation and weed control of priority weed species.
- Boneseed Elimination (Perth Region) – location, mapping and removal of Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) in places within the Cities of Armadale, Kalamunda and Swan, plus sites in Shire of Mundaring.
- Canning River – weed control and revegetation near Bacon Street-Kent Street Weir.
- Horley Road 3 Basin – planning approvals, earthworks, weed control and revegetation.
- Jandakot Regional Park (Acourt block) – revegetation and weed control targeting woody species.
- Robert Weir Basin, Melville – partnership with City of Melville and Water Corporation to revegetate compensation basin to meet urban canopy planning and improve urban drainage.
- Yule Brook – floodplain weed control and revegetation of understorey.

This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program



Students planting at Bickley Brook

PROJECT PARTNERS

Dept of Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

Cities of Swan, Kalamunda and
Armadale, Shire of Mundaring

Water Corporation

City of Melville

DBCA

CSIRO and Perth NRM

LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

37.6 HA
WEED
MANAGEMENT

6
LANDCARE EVENTS

2
WORKSHOP EVENTS
attended by

70
PARTICIPANTS

7952
PLANTS INSTALLED

372
VOLUNTEERS
contributed

2105.5
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$101 900
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING

SUPPORTING THE LANDCARE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT IN PERTH'S SOUTH EAST

(CSGL21001, YEAR 1 OF 3)

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

This grant commenced in July 2022 and will run for three years. In addition to supporting five community-led projects as outlined below, SERCUL directly manages two projects: Yagan Wetlands and Horley Basin.

This grant also brings much needed project coordination funds to SERCUL along with provisions for community workshops and networking events. These funds support the Community Landcare team who can in-turn support friends' groups across the SERCUL region.

OUTCOMES:

- Friends of Booyembara Park – revegetation stock, materials for fencing and limestone track.
- Friends of Fremantle Beaches – Leighton Beach revegetation with tube stock.
- Friends of Hollis Park – funds to continue revegetation of habitat corridor in South Fremantle.
- Friends of Jirdarup – funds for manual weed control.
- Friends of The Spectacles – funds for NAIDOC landcare event, revegetation and weed control in Banksia Woodland surrounding the wetlands.
- Horley Basin 3 – funds support on-going weed control while the revegetation work completed under CSGL19094 establishes. Funds for infill planting will see a further 5000 stems p.a. added to the site.
- Yagan Wetland – partnership project with City of Canning, contributing funding for control of climbing woody weeds and other priority species in an aquatic environment.

This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program



Brushcutting at Horley wetlands



Planting at Hollis Park



Friends group weeding in Jirdarup Bushland

LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

REHABILITATION OF THE CANNING-YULE BROOK CONFLUENCE

DBCA COMMUNITY RIVERCARE

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

This project centres on a 700m stretch of the Canning River and includes the Yule Brook floodplain where the two waterways meet. The site is dynamic, being subjected to rapid inundation during rain events, but then drying to a hard compacted soil in summer due to the high clay content.

Total project value is \$111k over a four-year period, including grant funding, volunteer, and in-kind contributions. Revegetation of 2000 plants per annum will be carried out alongside supporting weed control to clear woody weeds and grasses to improve the density of native riparian vegetation along the rivers.

Part of the project includes hosting an annual Community Night Stalk to encourage new visitors to the area. The first of these held in November 2022 drew 41 attendees including Maddington Scout Group, and we were fortunate to see frogs, bats, possums and many spiders and insects during the evening.

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

2
LANDCARE EVENTS

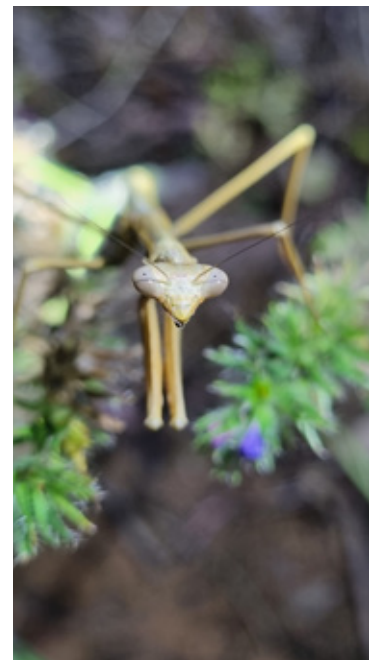
9 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

102
VOLUNTEERS
contributed
299.5
VOLUNTEER HOURS

=
\$8795
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING



SERCUL's nightstalk at Beckenham Open Space



Mantis seen during nightstalk

LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

ENHANCE THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION VALUES OF THE YULE BROOK PALUSPLAIN AND SUMPLAND

COORDINATED BY: Dr Rose Weerasinghe and Matt Grimby

PROJECT LOCATION: Yule Brook, Beckenham

Yule Brook sumpland and palusplain (small wetlands) area is one of the key catchments of the Canning River which provides suitable habitats for biodiversity. SERCUL is situated alongside the Yule Brook and has a longstanding commitment to rehabilitating the area. Some areas are dominated by *Paspalum distichum*, *Paspalum dialatum* and other weeds, which prevent the germination of native species, reduce habitats for aquatic fauna and increase mosquito breeding habitats.

The project contributed to the ongoing rehabilitation of the Yule Brook ecological corridor along different sections through the past few years. This project has achieved major project objectives by improving hydrology of small wetlands to enhance habitats of the Yule Brook floodplain. The couch biomass removal from the boardwalk wetland has increased water depth and the water flow of the wetland, which has increased aquatic fauna.

OUTCOMES:

- Carried out priority weed control in 1.34 ha.
- Revegetated 2441, mixed dicot and monocot native seedlings within both floodplain and foreshore understory areas.
- Increased water depth and the flow of the boardwalk wetland.
- Increased sighting of water birds, frogs and macroinvertebrate diversity and abundance after couch removal.
- Project provided opportunity for University and TAFE students to participate and learn skills about ecological restoration and macroinvertebrate monitoring and identification.
- Project provided a site for in-situ wetland education (citizen science) opportunity for school children.

This project is funded by the Perth NRM Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.

4
EVENTS

1.34 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

2441
PLANTS INSTALLED

44
VOLUNTEERS
contributed

305
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$15 100
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING



Wirrabirra PS students learning about wetlands

LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

SWAN CANNING RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM – STAGE 3

NURDI PARK LIVING STREAM

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

PROJECT LOCATION: Nurdi Park, Riverton

This project provides ongoing maintenance of the Nurdi Park water treatment train constructed in 2020, under the previous Stage 2 funding round. Stage 3 funding has provided for regular monitoring, litter removal and weed control at the site. The City of Canning as a key project partner continues to provide support to the site through both its Parks and Gardens and Natural Area Maintenance Teams.

Starting in early 2022 an experiment to monitor and assess nutrient entering and leaving the water treatment train was commenced by researchers from the University of WA. This work will hopefully continue with funding from Perth NRM with preliminary findings indicating that the wetland basin flora provides more nutrient stripping function than the living stream. Results should be available from late 2023.

At completion of the project in June 2023 Nurdi Park was handed to the City of Canning who will manage future on-going maintenance. Encouragingly, residents have shown some interest in forming a landcare group at Nurdi Park and the City will be engaging with the community further in this process.

This project is supported by the Swan Canning River Recovery Project, delivered by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.

1 HA
WEED
MANAGEMENT &
LITTER REMOVED

40
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$1615
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Canning
Water Corporation



Removing biomass Nurdi living stream



Community weeding morning with local residents

LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

SWAN CANNING RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM – STAGE 3

TREASURE'S Paddock

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

PROJECT LOCATION: Treasure's Paddock, Ferndale

Treasure's Paddock is a seasonal wetland located near the Canning River which is significant for its proximity to an adjacent clay pan salt marsh which is a threatened ecological community. This restoration project aims to increase resiliency and create a buffer for this clay pan while boosting local biodiversity and connectivity to the Canning River.

To close out the final year of the project from July 2022 to June 2023, SERCUL staff installed over 21,000 sedges at Treasure's Paddock! 8190 were planted in the later parts of winter 2022 with another 13,230 planted in the first month of winter 2023. Due to the clay soil and high water table, the revegetation installed across the three years of this project have mostly all done very well, with plants from the first year standing several meters tall, and clumps of sedges installed less than a year ago looking lush and mature. This project has been a great success with many species of native fauna making use of the site and the vulnerable clay pan protected with a dense belt of vegetation and signs installed.

This project is supported by the Swan Canning River Recovery Project, delivered by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.

1.5 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

21 420
PLANTS INSTALLED

PROJECT PARTNERS

Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions

GABBILJEE – BULL CREEK RESERVE

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

PROJECT LOCATION: Gabbiljee Reserve, Bull Creek

This three-year project is a continuation of the previous 2 stages of the Swan Canning River Recovery Project. Our aims in this third stage are to extend our management of the site into previously weed infested areas and to make significant progress towards controlling blackberry and lantana across Gabbiljee Reserve. Alongside this weed control, ongoing revegetation will occur to fill these newly opened areas. This project is carried out in close collaboration with the Friends of Gabbiljee Reserve and City of Melville.

In our final year of this project, nearly 9000 plants were installed and the weed control has continued with very minimal lantana and blackberry continuing to germinate which will be controlled through ongoing management.

This project is supported by the Swan Canning River Recovery Project, delivered by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.

9 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

8929
PLANTS INSTALLED

78
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$3360
VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

Friends of Gabbiljee,
City of Melville, Perth NRM

LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

SWAN CANNING RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM – STAGE 3

HYDROCOTYLE ERADICATION PROGRAM

COORDINATED BY: Matt Grimbly

PROJECT LOCATION: Canning River

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

There has not been any Hydrocotyle found since December 2022. Whilst we can not say that it has been completely extirpated it is nearing this goal. Summer 2023/24 will be a key time to ensure that no germinants are able to establish.

This project is supported by the Swan Canning River Recovery Project, delivered by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.



One of the last persistent patches of Hydrocotyle hiding amongst *Bacopa monnieri*. Also in the photo is *Sagittaria*, another serious wetland weed.

AQUATIC WEED MANAGEMENT TRAINING

COORDINATED BY: Amy Krupa

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

The four workshops for Operators (three held at CREEC and one for City of Swan staff) is hands on and involves identifying aquatic weeds, techniques for controlling aquatic weeds, learning how to map and remove the weeds onsite and case studies are presented about how to respond to an aquatic weed outbreak.

This project is supported by the Swan Canning River Recovery Project, delivered by Perth NRM through funding from the Australian Government.



Participants learning how to map and control aquatic weeds



Participants identifying aquatic weeds during the training

4
WORKSHOPS

77
PARTICIPANTS

LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

LIVING LANDSCAPES

IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES IN THE SWAN NRM REGION – (SERCUL sub-project, Year 5 of 5)

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams and Matt Grimbly

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

This past year represents the final of a five-year programme of conservation works in Forrestdale Lake, Paganoni Swamp and the Brixton Street Wetlands. Each of these locations was selected because these reserves contain several Threatened Ecological Communities on the Perth Swan Coastal Plain being: Claypan, Tuart and Banksia Woodland plus Declared Rare Flora.

The schedule of works was designed in partnership with the land managers DBCA, Perth NRM and the three community groups who contribute to the on-ground work. We appreciate the tremendous contribution of the volunteers, DBCA Regional Parks Unit staff and the DBCA Urban Nature Team in support of this project. Works planned for the final year include flora survey and weed mapping alongside continued weed control.

OUTCOMES:

- Forrestdale Lake: weed control, feral bee control, weed distribution survey of target species.
- Brixton Street Wetlands: weed control, weed distribution survey, flora survey.
- Paganoni Swamp: feral animal control, debris removal, weed distribution survey and revegetation.

Works to the value of \$61,675 exc GST were supplemented with a combined in-kind contribution of \$108,530 from community landcare volunteers and DBCA officers. SERCUL provided 84.5 hours of support providing grant reporting and on-ground assistance. Some funds were available from this grant to support the SERCUL finance team.

- Total weed management area: 133.7 ha
- Revegetated area: 1792 stems at Paganoni Swamp over 1.32 ha

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

PROJECT PARTNERS

Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands

Friends of Paganoni Swamp

Friends of Forrestdale

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Fencing at Paganoni Swamp



Amanda and Deb planting at Paganoni Swamp



LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

ICONIC PROJECTS NORTH AND SOUTH SUB-REGIONS OF PERTH

COORDINATED BY: Matthew Barbour

PROJECT LOCATIONS: City of Bayswater and the City of Armadale

The State Government has contributed \$940,000 towards two Iconic projects in the North and South sub-regions of Perth. These projects aim to improve riparian habitat by identifying priority sites, undertaking any site-specific measurements to determine project suitability and work with relevant stakeholders to develop and deliver the project implementation plan. The City of Bayswater has been consulted to help implement the project in their council for the North sub-region and the City of Armadale has been identified for the South sub-region.

The North Iconic project is in the City of Bayswater, and is located at the Rudloc Reserve, and aims to deliver a constructed wetland where the current drain runs through. This project is currently at the community consultation stage. GHD has undertaken the concept design with the aim of building an upgraded asset for Water Corporations stormwater capacity infrastructure, with an interactive public space that will benefit the local community.

The South Iconic project has moved from being sediment removal at Roley Pool to restoring a section along the Wungong River. The Roley Pool investigation showed that sediment removal was not a viable project in terms of environmental and economic outcomes. A Carter's Freshwater Mussel survey, fauna survey, bathymetric survey, fish survey, and water quality (water, oxygen, and sediment) were all conducted which lead to this conclusion. The new project location along the Wungong, ties in with the City of Armadale's detailed design for the Wungong River Concept Area. The iconic funding is prioritising the section from McNeil Road to Bay Court, as an area requiring restoration works.

Both projects are focused on delivering enhanced community value, habitat, and water quality improvements along the Canning and Swan Rivers.

The Iconic projects are funded through the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Rivers and Estuaries Branch.

COMMUNITY RIVERCARE GRANTS

COORDINATED BY:
Matthew Barbour

The Community Rivercare Officer has been involved with the approval of 12 Community Rivercare round 6 grants for 2022-23. This included assisting with planting 1,200 seedlings for the Friends of St Leonards and assisting other friend's groups with planting and site preparation. This involved working alongside DBCA, Canning Sea Scouts, and Lockridge Primary School to deliver their projects. The grants from round 5 this year generated a total of 36,011 plants installed, 13 habitat boxes installed, 3,157 adult volunteer hours and 436 child volunteer hours contributed.

The Community Rivercare grants are funded through the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Rivers and Estuaries Branch.



Community Rivercare Officer Matt sampling at Roley Pools

LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

COMMUNITY RIVERCARE PROGRAM: GABBILJEE RESERVE

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

PROJECT LOCATION: Gabbiljee Reserve, Bull Creek

Our one year project working at Gabbiljee with the Friends of Gabbiljee has gone very well. Earlier in the year, SERCUL staff managed to clear a section of the creek that was formerly unmanaged and filled with a dense mix of invasive weeds. Thanks to the local community, we installed over 1200 wetland plants in this area which have all established well and look great.

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

1214
PLANTS INSTALLED

9 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

37.5
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$1875
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

Friends of Gabbiljee
City of Melville

RIVER HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - RHIP

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

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

SERCUL assists the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions with coordinating and delivering monitoring and maintenance activities at River Health Improvement Program sites within the Cities of Canning and Gosnells. These sites include Wharf Street Wetland, Anvil Way Wetland, Liege Street Wetland, Manley Basin and Bickley Basin. SERCUL's role includes liaising with partners, monitoring progress at RHIP sites and reporting to DBCA.

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

LANDCARE AND RESTORATION

KEEP CARNABY'S FLYING - NGOORLARKS FOREVER

COORDINATED BY: Matt Grimby

PROJECT LOCATION: Cities of Cockburn, Melville, Wanneroo

This project is funded by Lotterywest and coordinated by Murdoch University to engage the community in revegetation with native species to provide foraging habitat for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos. Sites for revegetation were chosen using roosting site and flight path data supplied by Murdoch University and Birdlife Australia to maximise the benefit of planting species to provide food for Carnaby's.

The project involved installation of advanced trees and seedlings at ten sites in the local government areas of Cockburn, Melville and Wanneroo.

This program is funded by Lotterywest through Murdoch University's Keep Carnaby's Flying program.

7
LANDCARE EVENTS

19 340
PLANTS INSTALLED

306
ADVANCED TREES
INSTALLED

248
VOLUNTEERS
contributed
765.5
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$38 275
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING



Planting at Piney Lakes Reserve for Keep Carnabys Flying

PROJECT PARTNERS

Murdoch University,
City of Cockburn, City of
Melville, City of Wanneroo,
Birdlife Australia, Perth
NRM, Winjan Rangers,
Kaarakin, Peel Harvey
Catchment Council,
Serpentine Jarrahdale
Landcare, Urban Bushland
Council

MONITORING AND RESEARCH

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

COORDINATED BY: Dr Gun Dolva

In 2022-2023, SERCUL coordinated Water Quality Monitoring Partnership Programs in two key catchments of the Swan-Canning river system (South Perth Catchment and the Bennett Brook Catchment). These projects, supported by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), relevant local government authorities (LGAs), and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage/West Australian Planning Commission (Whiteman Park) continue to promote a cooperative approach to water quality monitoring. For each program, SERCUL prepared a sampling and analysis plan (SAP); conducted the sampling, collated and analysed data to produce a report highlighting important findings and provided recommendations. Data generated by these programs was submitted to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) Water Information Reporting (WIR) database for use by DBCA Rivers and Estuaries Branch to implement local Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIP). SERCUL also coordinates independent water quality monitoring programs for several local governments in areas where water quality is of particular local interest. This includes water and aquatic invertebrate assessments at Lake Claremont, water quality at constructed wetlands at McDougall Park, assessments of the water quality at Cygnia Cove, and water quality in the Kalamunda and Belmont areas (new projects to be reported on in 2024).

Furthermore, SERCUL has a collaborative arrangement with DBCA to undertake surface water, groundwater, and sediment sampling for three projects established as part of a River Health Improvement (RHI) plan (formerly known as the Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program (DNIP). The RHI plan is funded through DBCA Rivers and Estuaries Branch as part of the Healthy Catchments Program, whose aim is to reduce nutrients and contaminants entering the Swan and Canning Rivers.

Findings from the monitoring plans suggest that activities aimed at improving river and wetland ecosystems has had positive outcomes for the health of many of the monitored ecosystems. Existing wetlands are of particular interest as these seem to be more resilient and be able to respond better to rehabilitation and restoration activities than other wetlands. In addition, early results suggest that constructing filtering wetland systems can remove excess nutrients, particularly in wetlands where flow through is poor. Ongoing monitoring of urban wetlands will continue to build a data base of information that can lead to better understanding and management of these systems.

This program is funded by the Cities of South Perth, Bayswater and Swan; Whiteman Park (DPLH), Town of Claremont and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions - Rivers and Estuaries Branch (DBCA).

OUTCOMES:

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

- Bennett Brook catchment (City of Swan, City of Bayswater, and Whiteman Park);
- City of South Perth catchments (City of South Perth);

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

- Cygnia Cove Estate (City of South Perth);
- Lake Claremont (Town of Claremont)
- Constructed filtering wetlands at McDougall Park (City of South Perth)

River Health Improvement Program:

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

6

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

29

SAMPLING EVENTS

88

SAMPLE SITES

446

WATER SAMPLES COLLECTED/
LOGGED

37

SEDIMENT SAMPLES COLLECTED

MONITORING AND RESEARCH

HORLEY ROAD WETLAND

BIOMONITORING PROJECT

COORDINATED BY: Dr Rose Weerasinghe

Systematic biomonitoring at the wetland has been conducted by SERCUL and volunteers on an in-kind basis since 2016. The aims of this project are to track and record ecological changes that may be occurring in the wetland as a result of wetland rehabilitation and to collect ecological data that will contribute to a better understanding of mosquito breeding in relation to other ecological factors in this system and similar systems.

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

OUTCOMES:

- Continued post-rehabilitation investigations;
- Two native submerged plants (Charophyte, Chara spp and native water lily, *Ottelia ovalifolia*) naturally regenerated in the runoff basin after weed biomass and sediment removal activities;
- Native shrubs and sedges naturally regenerated from seed banks in the couch biomass removed areas of the second basin;
- Increased diversity and abundances of macroinvertebrates, and decreased mosquito breeding (only rare occurrence) in runoff basin and the wetland;
- The wetland provided opportunity for University and TAFE students, and community volunteers to participate and learn skills relevant to wetland rehabilitation, ecological monitoring, and analysis;
- Wetland provided in situ learning opportunities for school students to embrace wetland education;
- Provided macroinvertebrates for SERCUL's educational programs: school incursions/ excursions and community workshops;
- Presented findings of the wetland rehabilitation at the Trillion Trees AGM.

This project is supported by SERCUL In-kind.

5
VOLUNTEERS
contributed

43
VOLUNTEER HOURS



\$2150
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING



Native lily found growing in first basin after weed and sediment removal



Volunteer - Nora monitoring at Horley

MONITORING AND RESEARCH

ADENIA SALTMARSH RESEARCH AND RESTORATION

COORDINATED BY: Dr Rose Weerasinghe and Matt Grimbly

The Adenia saltmarshes are located in the Canning River Regional Park (CRRP) and are one of the few remaining areas of estuarine saltmarsh vegetation in the Swan-Canning River system. They are representatives of temperate saltmarshes which are recognised nationally as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) and are listed as a Priority III Ecological Community in WA. Saltmarshes, such as these, are critical blue carbon sinks, because they remove carbon from the atmosphere at a higher rate than tropical forests. When these habitats are degraded, an enormous amount of carbon can therefore be emitted back into the atmosphere.

The project aims are to learn saltmarsh ecology, rehabilitation techniques, enhance the quality of this TEC and to help mitigate climate change by increasing carbon sequestration services by saltmarsh plants and ecosystems which are one of the important blue carbon systems.

OVERALL OUTCOMES:

- Completed flora and vegetation survey and the report;
- Continued biomonitoring in management area;
- Removed aggressive weeds: invasive *Typha orientalis* and salt water couch, *Paspalum vaginatum* and other weeds in 1.8 ha;
- Collected and propagated provenance species seeds and cuttings. Of these 12,727 provenance halophytes planted;
- Conducted an experimental halophyte translocation trial.

EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Cooperate Revegetation Day with BHP Corporate;
- Bio Monitoring and Education Day: Environmental Monitoring Students from North Metropolitan TAFE;
- Saltmarsh Rehabilitation and Education Field Workshop with Conservation and Ecosystem Management students, North Metropolitan TAFE;
- Presentations at SERAG's AGM; Blue Carbon Panel Discussion for Environmental Sustainability, Conservation & Climate Action Branch, WA Labor and field presentation at Adenia for Environmental Planning students, Curtin University.

This project is supported by the Swan Canning River Recovery Project, managed by Perth NRM and funded by the Australian Government

6
EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND
PRESENTATIONS

12 727
PLANTS INSTALLED

1.8 HA
WEED MANAGEMENT

79
VOLUNTEERS
contributed

611
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$30 550
VALUE OF
VOLUNTEERING

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Canning and
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Saltmarsh Rehabilitation and Education Field Workshop with Joondalup NMTAFE students at Adenia



BHP Cooperate Revegetation Day

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



MANAGED BY: Matt Grimbly

This financial year has seen SERCUL deliver many weed control, bushland maintenance, revegetation and erosion control projects for a wide range of clients.

We have installed over 600,000 seedlings including a large scale wheatbelt revegetation project.

We have completed over 1000 hectares of weed control in sensitive bushland and aquatic environments, helping to maintain biodiversity and protect our precious natural areas from the threat of weeds.

Our skilled team of Field Technicians has grown to 23 staff who are passionate about the protection and rehabilitation of our unique landscapes.

CLIENTS INCLUDED:

- Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group
- Bannister Creek Catchment Group
- Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
- City of Armadale
- City of Cockburn
- City of Fremantle
- City of Gosnells
- City of Melville
- City of Nedlands
- City of Perth
- Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor
- Canning River Residents Environmental Protection Association
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Friends of Clontarf Hill
- Friends of The Spectacles
- Insite Landscapes
- Lynwood Senior High School
- Murdoch University Environmental Restoration Group
- Nativ Carbon
- Serpentine Jarrahdale Landcare
- SUEZ
- Syrinx Environmental
- Town of Cottesloe
- Trillion Trees
- Workpower Environmental Services
- Private residents

NEW PROJECTS COMMENCING 2024

DBCA COMMUNITY RIVERCARE: SALTmarsh RESTORATION PROJECTS AT ADENIA AND FERNDALE

SERCUL was awarded two 2 year grants for rehabilitation of two sites within the Canning River Regional Park, both working on temperate saltmarsh communities. The total value of these projects including funding plus in-kind and volunteer contributions is \$136K. These projects will be coordinated by SERCUL Ecologist Dr Rose Weerasinghe, incorporating research and monitoring of tidal behaviours and macro-invertebrate sampling. Both projects commence from July 2023.

Project 1. Improving water quality, habitats, and bank stability by restoring degraded Canning River riparian zone in Ferndale - Threatened Ecological Community, Temperate Saltmarsh.

The rehabilitation activities planned to be undertaken at this site meet most of the biodiversity and ecosystem enhancement of TEC protection and City of Canning priority area management requirements through removing threats and collecting necessary scientific information.

Project 2: Enhancing water quality, blue carbon habitats and bank stability by restoring degraded Canning River tidal flats in Adenia - Threatened Ecological Community, Temperate Saltmarsh.

The restoration activities planned to be undertaken at this site meet all objectives of the Rivercare program being the improved habitat for native fauna, foreshore condition and water quality, and to prevent erosion along the waterways in the Swan-Canning Catchment.

PROTECTING THE BUSHLANDS OF THE ROCKINGHAM LAKES REGIONAL PARK WA STATE NRM CSGL22001

This is a three-year sponsorship grant supporting two volunteer landcare groups working in bushlands of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. This funding will facilitate over 700ha of weed control in the bushlands and the total project value over the three years is \$436K including in-kind, cash and volunteer contributions.

- Friends of Paganoni Swamp - seed collection and local provenance plant production.
- Friends of Point Peron – weed control and mapping of Italian buckthorn population.

NE BEELIAR WETLANDS AND SURROUNDS COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM WA STATE NRM CSGL22002

This 1 year sponsorship grant supports the work of five community groups. Project coordination funds allow SERCUL to provide an officer to work closely with each group, assisting with the implementation of their projects. Total value of the project including in kind and volunteer contributions is \$549K.

- Friends of Blue Gum and Booragoon Lakes – weed control, macroinvertebrate survey, revegetation.
- Friends of Gabbiljee – weed control, macroinvertebrate survey, revegetation.
- Friends of Ken Hurst Park – weed control and revegetation.
- Friends of North Lake – seed collection, local provenance tubestock, weed control.
- Friends of Wireless Hill – weed control.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANK YOU

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

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

As we commence the 2023–24 financial year, we look forward to continuing to work together to achieve many more positive environmental outcomes for the South Region.

FUNDING BODIES AND PARTNERS





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