

# GREENPAGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MUNDARING AND KALAMUNDA  
FRIENDS GROUPS AND EASTERN HILLS CATCHMENT  
GROUPS

FEBRUARY 2009

## THIS MONTH

- **WATCHING OUT FOR WILDLIFE**
- **TCUP TIME**
- **BUSH SKILLS 2010**



### For more information contact:

Shire of Mundaring  
Bushcare Co-ordinator on  
9290 6685.

Shire of Kalamunda  
Environmental Reserves  
Officer on 9257 9806.

Eastern Hills Catchment  
Management Programme  
NRM Officer on 9424 2222.

## ***FIRE AND WILDLIFE***

The word 'fire' has been at the forefront of many of our minds this summer after the Victorian bushfires and the more recent Toodyay fires. Many of us in the Perth Hills have had some experience of a bushfire close to home.

With this heightened awareness of bushfires comes an opportune time to provide some information about the relationship between wildlife and bushfires; the impacts of bushfire on wildlife and what we can do.

Wildlife requires resources from their environments to provide food, shelter and areas to reproduce. Fire assists in making these resources available as well as affecting when, where and how they occur. Wildlife has adapted to living in fire prone environments in various ways including increased mobility so they can move out of the way of a fire and the ability to burrow, climb or hide in hollows and any areas of shelter. However, direct and indirect impacts on wildlife from bushfires can include death, smoke inhalation; predation and starvation due to lack of food resources.

After a fire the occurrence and abundance of wildlife is dependent on the composition and structure of the vegetation. A low intensity fire can leave patches of burnt and unburnt vegetation creating a diversity of different habitats for a wide variety of animals. A high intensity fire can leave more even burning of vegetation thereby decreasing the diversity of habitats. The composition and abundance of species changes over time since the fire occurred because of the different habitats and resources that become available over time.

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**Bobtail - *Tiliqua rugosa rugosa***

*Wildflower Society of WA Inc.*

*Eastern Hills Branch*

*Presents*

*Members Night*

Please bring 6-10 photos on disc or thumb drive and/or do a "Show and Tell".

**When:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
7.30 pm

**Where:** Octagonal Hall  
McGlew Road, Glen Forrest

**Cost:** \$2 (members and non members)

Cost covers tea, coffee and the chance to win a door prize

**VISITORS WELCOME**

For more information telephone:  
9295 4249 or 9294 1044

*Wildflower Society of WA Inc.*

*Darling Range Branch*

*Presents*

*Alec Hooper of Zanthorrea Nursery*

*On*

*Retailing Native Plants*

**When:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010  
7.30 pm

**Where:** Country Women's Association  
(CWA) Hall  
22 Central Rd, Kalamunda  
Parking off Central Rd, 100m from  
Mead St intersection.

**Cost:** \$2 (members) \$3 (non members)

**Door prize:** Donated by Zanthorrea Nursery

**Refreshments available before the talk**

**ALL WELCOME**

For more information telephone:  
Joan Francis on (08) 9359 3670

**The Darling Range Naturalists Club**

*Presents*

*Diana Papenfus*

*On*

*Greek Travels*

**When:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
7.30 pm

**Where:** C.W.A Hall  
Central Road, Kalamunda

**VISITORS WELCOME**

For more information telephone (08) 9294 1044

***Bushcare Basics***

**DATE:** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**TIME:** 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

**VENUE:** Gooseberry Hill Scout Hall, Ledger Road Reserve, Kalamunda (first right after Huntley Street and Gooseberry Hill Primary School)

Making a difference in the world is what bushcare volunteering is all about. Come and learn how to do it safely so you can go on doing it for years to come! The first part of this workshop focusses on basic safety know how and introduces participants to great sources of information. The second session will provide important information on *Phytophthora Dieback* and how to make sure you don't spread it on your site or bring it home with you.

**See next page for registration details.**

# BUSH SKILLS FOR THE HILLS WORKSHOPS



**Motorbike frog - *Litoria moorei***  
Photo courtesy of B. Maryan - Western Australian

## *Living With Frogs, Birds and Snakes*

**DATE:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**TIME:** Sessions commencing 9.30 am

**VENUE:** Lake Leschenaultia, Rosedale Road, Chidlow

There will be three workshops available on the day. You are welcome to select which sessions you would like to attend.

Time	Workshop Topic
9.30 –11.00 am	<p><b>Snake Awareness Training</b></p> <p>* Important workshop for volunteers and others out in the bush *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and awareness in snake behaviour;</li> <li>• Occupational Health and Safety aspects to increase participants' knowledge to minimise the likelihood of snakebites;</li> <li>• Training in emergency first aid in the event of a snakebite;</li> <li>• Identify the place that snakes hold in the environment;</li> </ul> <p>The presentation includes displays, live exhibits of reptiles, course participation and questions. This workshop does not involve anyone having to handle reptiles if they do not wish to.</p>
11.30 am - 12.30 pm	<p><b>Lunch</b> - Provided for participants attending more than one workshop.</p>
1.00 - 2.30 pm	<p><b>Frogs</b></p> <p>We will be setting up a mock frog friendly garden and discussing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frogs of the area and their habitats, biology, calls</li> <li>• Monitoring of frogs</li> <li>• Impacts of frogs</li> </ul>
2.30 - 3.30 pm	<p><b>Afternoon Tea</b> - Provided for participants attending more than one workshop</p>
3.30 - 5.00 pm	<p><b>Birds</b></p> <p>The popular Birds Australia presentation – ‘everything that you ever wanted to learn about birds but were afraid to ask.’</p> <p>After the presentation we will be going for a walk around the Lake to do a bit of bird spotting (‘twitching’).</p> <p>If you have a pair of binoculars please bring these along for your own use.</p>

***If there is enough interest there will be a couple of children’s activities taking place:***

- Making felt frog bags
- Environmental art – make some art using found materials

Please advise if your children are interested in attending one or both of these activities when you register.

***Please note that these activities will require a gold coin donation by participants.***

## **REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL**

Please call Joanne Woodbridge on (08) 9424 2216 or email: [joanne.woodbridge@emrc.org.au](mailto:joanne.woodbridge@emrc.org.au)

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# Technical Courses Midland Campus



The following courses start at the Polytechnic West (formerly Midland TAFE) Midland campus the week beginning 8 February 2010. ALL courses count towards a nationally accredited certificate in Conservation and Land Management.

## ***ENROLMENTS***

Thursday 4th February 2010

Friday 5th February 2010

Midland Campus, Lloyd Street, Midland

## ***Courses***

### **Undertake propagation activities**

Learn about growing plants from seed and cuttings. Includes lots of practical, hands on work. Bring in some of your own seed.

**Time:** Mondays 5.30 – 7.30 pm

**Cost :** \$67.40 - Concession available

### **Conduct Seed Collecting Operations and Extract Seed**

Learn more about organising and doing your own seed collection and extraction.

**Please note:** Only for people with previous seed collection experience

**Time:** Mondays 7.30 - 9.00 pm

**Cost:** \$76.80 - Concession available

### **Maintain Wildlife Habitats**

Learn the habitat requirements of native animals and how to protect/enhance them. Includes field trip.

**Time:** Tuesdays 1.00 - 3.00 pm

**Cost:** \$67.40 - Concession available

### **Understanding Aboriginal Culture for**

#### **Land Mangement**

Learn local Aboriginal history and relationships to the land including use of plants and animals. Explore Aboriginal burning practices, kinship systems and the laws protecting heritage sites.

**Time:** Thursdays 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

**Cost:** \$70.55 - Concession available

***The following course starts at the Midland Campus the week beginning 29th April 2010.***

### **Treat Weeds**

Get some useful tips on identifying weeds and what to do with them.

**Time:** Thursdays 5.30 - 7.45 pm

**Cost:** \$67.40 - Concession available

**Further information** from Anne Taylor on 0414 845 064 (mobile) , (08) 9374 6314 or email: [anne.taylor@polytechnic.wa.edu.au](mailto:anne.taylor@polytechnic.wa.edu.au)

### **National Wetlands Update**

The Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts (DEHWA) has released an update on Australian wetlands. The update provides information and resources relating to wetlands conservation, management and education across Australia.

The update can be accessed from the DEHWA website under the publication Wetlands Australia: National Wetlands Update, 2010 - Issue No 18 at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/wetlands/index.html>



# Tree Canopy and Understorey Program

The Shire of Mundaring will once again be providing seedlings through the annual Tree Canopy and Understorey Program. Seedlings produced through the Tree Canopy and Understorey Program are available for all residential properties and Shire vested reserves within the Shire of Mundaring. This includes 21 suburbs from Helena Valley in the West to Wooroloo in the East.

The Shire provides seedlings on an application basis. Application forms can be obtained from: The Shire Office, Shire Libraries, and the Wooroloo, Chidlow, Stoneville, Mount Helena, Greenmount, Glen Forrest and Darlington Post Offices, as well as downloaded from the Shire website: [www.mundaring.wa.gov.au](http://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au).

**Applications will be accepted from mid February and closing on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.**

The website also has photos and descriptions of the species to help you make your choice. A catalogue of available plants with descriptions and photos will also be available for reference at the Shire Office, Shire Libraries and local Post Offices.

## CATCHMENT GROUP MEETINGS

**Blackadder-Woodbridge  
Catchment Group Incorporated**  
Contact Shenaye Mehmet on 9424 2264  
or email: [shenaye.mehmet@emrc.org.au](mailto:shenaye.mehmet@emrc.org.au)



**Jane Brook Catchment  
Group Incorporated**

7.30 pm Thursday 25th February 2010  
Parkerville Fire Station, Riley Road, Parkerville.

Contact Shenaye Mehmet on 9424 2264 or email:  
[shenaye.mehmet@emrc.org.au](mailto:shenaye.mehmet@emrc.org.au)

**Helena River Catchment Group  
Incorporated**

To be advised. Contact Craig Chaudhry on 9424 2245 or  
email; [craig.chaudhry@emrc.org.au](mailto:craig.chaudhry@emrc.org.au)

**Susannah Brook Catchment Group  
Incorporated**

7.15 pm Thursday 11th February 2010  
Gidgegannup Landcare Centre, Gidgegannup  
Showgrounds, Toodyay Rd, Gidgegannup.

Contact to be advised.

**Wooroloo Brook Land Conservation  
District Committee**

Contact Shenaye Mehmet on 9424 2264 or email:  
[shenaye.mehmet@emrc.org.au](mailto:shenaye.mehmet@emrc.org.au)

## Wooroloo Brook LCDC Final Landcare Breakfast

With the Wooroloo Brook LCDC hanging up their gumboots this year, it is time to celebrate the huge achievements and milestones of the group over the past 21 years!

The Wooroloo Brook LCDC is holding its last ever annual Landcare breakfast on:



Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010

Darlington Estate Winery, at 9.00  
am.

Breakfast will be subsidised at \$25  
each and numbers are limited.

If you wish to attend this event,  
please contact Ron or Kerry  
Bywater on 9573 6696.

# ***Watching Out for Wildlife after a Bushfire***

Bushfires can wipe out wildlife protective cover, nesting and roosting sites and food sources. Wildlife habitats may take up to a year to regenerate once a bush fire has occurred. Wildlife affected by a bushfire are more than likely:

- In shock
- Suffering from burns and/or smoke inhalation
- Injured
- Dehydrated
- Highly stressed – native animals are especially susceptible to stress and this alone is enough to kill them
- Hungry
- Frightened and disorientated
- Orphaned
- Highly vulnerable to predators
- Suffering from burns or wounds that could become fly-blown due to the warm temperatures

Injured wildlife, other than orphans, will adopt the preservation reflex whereby they will mask their pain and injuries in order to appear normal. Homes on the fringes of the fire will become a refuge for wildlife that may have been forced there by the fire.

**If you find an injured native animal suffering burns, is sick, or orphaned it is important not to frighten them.** All wildlife should be treated with caution, especially when they are distressed and injured. Untrained members of the public should only tend to those animals that are severely injured or unlikely to be able to care for themselves. Wildlife that may bite, or are otherwise dangerous (e.g. venomous snakes), should only be handled by trained wildlife carers or handlers.

The immediate and basic needs of injured wildlife are:

- Secure containment to prevent further injury
- Warmth
- Quiet
- Dark
- No food or water - once a wildlife carer has made an assessment of the animal then the carer may wish to provide the animal with rehydrating liquid.
- Urgent help from a qualified person, either a vet or a wildlife carer.

If the animal is small:

- Place it in a pillow case or cloth bag. If this is not possible place a thick cloth, such as a towel, at the bottom of the container to allow the animal to grip. The cloth should not have any loose threads in case the animal entangles its claws.
- Place the animal in a box a little larger than the animal, preferably not a cage, so that the animal does not do further damage to itself or its feathers. Ensure that the container is well fastened and has ventilation.
- Place the box in a shady/cool place that is quiet and dark if possible. Do not place water in the box as the animal will more than likely overturn the water container and end up getting wet and losing body heat.
- Contact a wildlife carer, Wildcare helpline or vet and make arrangements to bring the animal to the centre/carers.



If the animal is large:

- Keep clear of the animal and attempt to leave it undisturbed (i.e. keep pets away and unnecessary vehicle traffic).
- Note its location and apparent difficulty.
- Contact a wildlife carer, Wildcare Hotline or a vet and describe the situation. The carer/vet/helpline will then offer advice on how to proceed.

***You can help the wildlife by:***

- Placing water around your house both on and above the ground (see information below about providing water for wildlife).

- Keeping domestic animals restrained for a few weeks after the fire.
- Being careful of what food you leave out – seek advice first – in case you attract foxes, rats and predators.
- **Not** leaving food out for animals in natural bushland or burn-out areas.
- **Not** trying to catch or corner animals stranded in a small area in case they are frightened back towards the fire.
- **Not** attempting to catch kangaroos as you can cause myopathy (affects muscles) if chased. Kangaroos can also inflict serious injuries to humans.
- Taking care whilst driving in areas that have been affected by the fire as animals will be on the move in search of food and shelter.
- Planting trees and shrubs that provide shelter and food for wildlife after the fire has been through – or perhaps do this when the weather cools to create a wildlife habitat.
- Building bird nesting boxes to replace logs and hollows destroyed in the fires

During the hottest months numerous animals are brought in to wildlife carers because of heat stress. **Offering water** is recommended particularly during hot days. Some simple guidelines when putting out water are:

- Place water containers at different heights and sizes for different species of animals: Ground level: skinks, lizards, echidnas, kangaroos, etc. Bird baths on pedestals: birds. Higher level/trees: possums, gliders, birds, etc.
- Place rocks or branches inside the water containers to help small animals that may fall into the water to get out and avoid drowning.
- Make sure the water container is properly secured so it does not tip over if the animals step on it in order to drink.
- Place the water containers in a shady and safe area, accessible for the wildlife, far from pets that may hurt or hunt the wildlife.
- Top up and change the water regularly to ensure a constant supply of fresh clean water.

Dehydration and burnt paws are very common during hot days. When encountering animals affected by hot weather, contact your local wildlife carer or vet or call the Wildcare Helpline for further assessment and treatment.

**If you find** any nocturnal animal, e.g possums, wandering around during the day, you need to ring for help immediately. If the animal is lethargic and does not try to get away from you please seek help. In the case of a possum or bird, and if you are confident enough to do so, try placing a cool, wet towel over the animal to pick it up and put it in a well ventilated box. Offer water in a bowl. Many animals that are suffering from heat stress will not drink on their own. You need to get this animal to an experienced carer as soon as possible so they can start rehydrating the animal.

**REMEMBER to note the exact location and time of day that the animal was found** as all carers endeavour to return the animals to their own territories when it has recovered. This is critical in the case of extremely territorial birds such as magpies. As a member of public there are penalties for holding onto wildlife without the relevant permit. It is in the best interests of the animal's health to get them to an experienced carer as soon as possible.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACTS:**

**DEC Wildcare Hotline** operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, diverting to after hours numbers at nights and weekends, to provide immediate assistance - **CALL (08) 9474 9055**

**Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre** - advice and assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week - **CALL (08) 9293 1416**

**DEC Wildlife Rehabilitators' Course** - DEC provides a comprehensive [Wildlife Rehabilitators' Course](#) for people interested in helping our wildlife.

## **References:**

Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au) and <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/full/3502/1868/1/1/>

*Glove Box Guide: Sick, Injured or Orphaned Wildlife.* Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. <http://www.kanyanawildlife.org.au/contact.php>

Graeme Eggleston *Caring for native animals after bushfires.* Primefact 404, November 2006. NSW Department of Primary Industries. <http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/home>

Wildlife Rescuers [www.wildliferescuers.org.au](http://www.wildliferescuers.org.au)

# Fire Retardant Plants

Recently I had a resident contact me asking for information on fire retardant plants. She was concerned as she had Eastern states Eucalypts on her property that were shedding long strips of bark and posed a fire risk. She was keen to replace these Eucalypts long term with local species that were fire retardant.

There is information available about fire retardant plants but it is worth noting that **no plant is completely non-flammable**. Fire retardant plants will normally burn at a lesser rate than other plant varieties. Australian native plants use fire as a means of seed dispersal and propagation, so are well adapted to survive bush fires.

Native plants, varieties of trees, shrubs and ground covers, considered to be fire retardant have the following characteristics:

- Resist intense burning
- Less chance of contributing to ember attacks
- High salt content
- High moisture content
- Low volatile oil content in leaves
- Thick, well-defined bark
- Few branches which grow low to the ground
- Rarely shed large quantities of leaves and twigs
- Have seeds that are usually enclosed in woody capsules

*This information is from the website of the Australian Native Plant Society (Australia) (ANPSA)*

## Australian Plants for Fire Prone Areas

The following article was published in the March 1994 issue of "Native Plants for New South Wales", the newsletter of the Society's NSW Region. It resulted from numerous enquiries that were received following the disastrous New South Wales bushfires of January 1994.

All plants, whether they are exotic or Australian, will burn when subjected to sufficient heat. Different fire conditions have varying effects at different times on the same species. Nevertheless, trees of the type recommended as fire retardant, if correctly sited, conserve moisture, serve as a wind break by absorbing and deflecting radiant heat from the fire and act as a barrier to flying sparks and embers. In any area likely to be subject to bush fires, attention must be given to proper planning and regular maintenance.

The following are some of the factors that should be considered:

- Plant trees at least 5 m from house to allow clear access.
- Space trees and shrubs to avoid continuous canopy that may carry fire. Careful arrangement of plants is essential. Don't have trees that overhang the house.
- Use plants around the house that can be pruned when fire threatens. Trees and shrubs with lignotubers will re-sprout and recover quickly if it is necessary to cut them back hard in the face of threatening fire.
- Monitor the growth of trees and shrubs so that pruning is maintained, dead limbs removed and leaves put into compost bins with lids.
- Avoid growing Conifers, rough fibrous bark trees such as *Syncarpia glomulifera* and "candle bark" trees (loose bark hanging from tree). Eucalypts of the following type are hazardous: *E. globoidea*, *E. viminalis* and *E. oreades*.

**"ALL PLANTS, WHETHER THEY ARE EXOTIC OR AUSTRALIAN, WILL BURN WHEN SUBJECTED TO SUFFICIENT HEAT."** ANPSA

### Further information:

The Department of Agriculture, Western Australia has published a document - *Farmnote 87/2000: Fire Management and Revegetation [Western Australia]* by Ryan Denham and Steve McDonald, 2000. This discusses the concern for farmers for increased fuel load and fire risk that occurs in revegetated areas. [http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/objtwr/imported\\_assets/content/lwe/vegt/reveg/f08700.pdf](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/objtwr/imported_assets/content/lwe/vegt/reveg/f08700.pdf)

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has produced a special edition of LANDSCOPE magazine, *Fire – the Force of Life*, which focuses on the role of fire in the landscape and in land management. Copies are available from the local DEC offices.

### Books:

Webster, Joan (2000), *The Complete Bushfire Safety Book*. Random House Australia.

### Internet:

*Australian Plants for Fire Prone Areas*. Australian Native Plants Society (Australia)

<http://asgap.org.au/fire.html>

Glen Forrest Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

*Hazard Reduction Burn Information*.

<http://www.glenforrestfirebrigade.org/hazard.php>

*Fire retardants*

<http://www.glenforrestfirebrigade.org/species.php>

Bushfires - An Integral Part of Australia's Environment.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/>

[Lookup/6C98BB75496A5AD1CA2569DE00267E48](http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6C98BB75496A5AD1CA2569DE00267E48)

Fire and Biodiversity: The Effects and Effectiveness of Fire Management. Proceedings of the Conference held 8 - 9 October 1994, Footscray, Melbourne.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/series/paper8/index.html>

## Internet Resources: Fire Retardant Plants

Gill, A Malcolm (Dr), [How Fires Affect Biodiversity](#). Paper published in *Fire and Biodiversity: The Effects and Effectiveness of Fire Management*. Biodiversity Series, Paper Number 8  
[http://www.anbg.gov.au/fire\\_ecology/fire-and-biodiversity.html](http://www.anbg.gov.au/fire_ecology/fire-and-biodiversity.html)

Men of The Trees (MOTT) provide seedlings, mainly trees, to the public.  
<http://www.menofthetrees.com.au/>

Zanthorrea Nursery has information on their web site, as well as expert knowledge on native plants.  
<http://www.zanthorrea.com/info.php>

## **Flower Feature:** **Rattle Beak Orchid - *Lyperanthus serratus* Lindl**

Conservation status: Not threatened.

Flower length: approx. 2.5 cm  
Flower width: 3-5 cm  
Plant height: 0.25–0.5 m

Flowers are green, brown and yellow  
Flowering period: late September to early October

A genus of two species with one endemic to Western Australia, *Lyperanthus* is a small genus of tuberous terrestrial plants in the [Orchidaceae](#) family.

Two of the species are native to Australia and bloom in spring. They are dormant in summer.

These orchids are found in a number of habitats such as Jarrah and Marri forests, coastal heath and woodlands. Rattle Beaks prefer sand, loam or sandy clay soils.

Distribution: Southwest Botanical Province, Avon Wheatbelt, Esperance Plains, Jarrah Forest, Swan Coastal Plan, Warren.

The plants are usually seen as individual plants or a few together. There are several flowers at the top of each stem. The single leaf is arched, ribbed, and linear.

The Rattle Beak Orchid is a plainly coloured orchid and can be hard to see against the bush. They are commonly found poking up through vegetation; especially balga.

Once seen however, they are very striking and you wonder how you could not have seen them. A tip is to look for the long narrow leaf that is quite distinctive, and then look for the flowers.

The flowers produce a distinct rattle when shaken, hence the common name of 'rattle beaks'.



**Photo: Rattle Beak Orchid -  
*Lyperanthus serratus* Lindl**

### References:

Esperance Wildflowers – William Archer  
<http://esperancewildflowers.blogspot.com>

Florabase – Western Australian Herbarium, DEC.  
<http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au>

Liddlelow, Bob (2006), *A Guide to Native Orchids of South Western Australia*. R&R Publications Australia.

Pacific Bulb Society  
<http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/HomePage>

# CONTACTS

**Silvia Rosenstreich**  
Bushcare Co-ordinator  
Shire of Mundaring  
Telephone: (08) 9290 6685  
Email:  
[silviarosenstreich@mundaring.wa.gov.au](mailto:silviarosenstreich@mundaring.wa.gov.au)

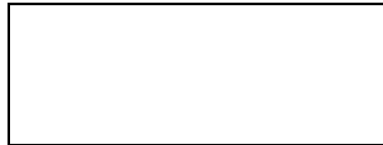
**Karen Britza**  
Environmental Reserves Officer  
Shire of Kalamunda  
Telephone: (08) 9257 9806  
Email:  
[karen.britza@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:karen.britza@kalamunda.wa.gov.au)

**Craig Chaudhry**  
NRM Officer – EMRC  
Telephone: (08) 9424 2245  
Mobile: 0439 095 263  
Email:  
[craig.chaudhry@emrc.org.au](mailto:craig.chaudhry@emrc.org.au)

**Shenaye Mehmet**  
NRM Officer - EMRC  
Telephone: (08) 9424 2264  
Mobile: 0427 088 213  
Email:  
[shenaye.mehmet@emrc.org.au](mailto:shenaye.mehmet@emrc.org.au)



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