

GREENPAGE

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

November 2010

THIS MONTH...

- Two Finalists in the 2010 WA Environmental Awards
- Helena Catchment Group Lunch p 5
- Free Risk Management training p 7



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.

Two Finalists in the 2010 WA Environment Awards – Bush, Land and Waterways Category

Two environmental volunteer Friends Groups active in the Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program within the EMRC region have been selected as finalists in the Bush, Land and Waterways Category of the 2010 Western Australian Environment Awards.

Helena River Catchment Group has been selected for their Helena River Rehabilitation Project (Pipehead Dam to Scott Street) and the Friends of Poison Gully Creek have been selected for their Poison Gully Creek Restoration Project in High Wycombe.

The Helena River Rehabilitation Project (Pipehead Dam to Scott Street) is a 10 year program which commenced in 2004 to rehabilitate a 5 km length of the Helena River from the Pipehead Dam to the Scott Street bridge. The program has involved returning this section of the Helena River and its surrounding vegetation to a more natural state by controlling weeds and replanting in carefully planned 'habitat islands' between areas of natural regeneration. This has improved riverine fauna habitat and water quality by diversifying the flora and re-establishing a ground layer that has helped to reduce pool sedimentation, which in turn will minimise loss of pools and associated aquatic fauna. Increasing the local flora diversity will assist in native fauna diversity, particularly local bird species. Other aims are to reduce fire hazard, to involve residents in river management and to create an attractive riverside for recreational users.

Poison Gully Creek Restoration Project has focused on the restoration, regeneration, decontamination and enhancement of a degraded section of Poison Gully Creek in High Wycombe since 1999. Their achievements have included: the

removal of truckloads of rubbish from creek bed and surrounds; the removal of invasive weeds, the majority being *Watsonia*, *Paspalum*, African Love Grass, Tambookie Grass, Blackberry and *Freesia*; direct seeding with local provenance to take the place of introduced species; the introduction of rust and leaf hoppers to control Bridal Creeper; fencing of sections of pathways with bollards to discourage misuse of paths; and nesting boxes provided for possums, bats and birds. Further aims of the project are to plant sedges and rushes along the banks of the creek to replace introduced species, thereby providing a habitat for the native fauna in the area as well as to help remove heavy metals introduced to the creek from road run off.



Kingia australis at Poison Gully Reserve
Photo by Elaine Sargent

More than 90 high quality and competitive submissions were received by Department of Environment and Conservation from across the State.

The awards presentation evening will be held on Saturday 6 November at the Hyatt Regency Perth where this year's winners will be announced. The dinner will provide an opportunity for everyone involved in the awards to celebrate the outstanding achievements of all nominees, finalists and winners.

For more information contact the EMRC's Natural Resource Management Coordinator on 9424 2242.

Susannah Brook Catchment Group Open Day - September 12, 2010



Local residents Caril and Malcolm Barker are living proof that landowners can run a thriving farm enterprise while protecting and enhancing biodiversity on their property. As two of the founding members of Susannah Brook Catchment Group (SBCG), the couple welcomed the local community to their property for an open day of landcare information from a variety of presenters. SBCG ran the event to attract new members and provide an on-ground learning opportunity for existing members as well.

"We're very passionate about preserving the wildlife corridors running past and through our land" said group chairperson Caril Barker. Her husband Malcolm added, "By fencing off sensitive areas we've been able to run our sheep farm without degrading the land or water quality of Susannah Brook". That the Barkers' sheep are regular entrants in the Royal Show is testament to the quality results they achieve.

Malcolm and Caril led participants on a tour of their property, discussing how they created and implemented their management plan, and answered questions as they came up. Along for the tour was a who's who of local landcare specialists, who shared their expertise with SBCG members and new residents to the Gidgegannup / Stoneville areas.

Penny Hussey, of Jane Brook Catchment Group, but representing the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) Land for Wildlife (LFW) program, had visited the property when it was first registered with LFW, and enthusiastically noted the improved state of the bushland on the Barker's property.

Bob Huston, also of DEC and founding member of the Wooroloo Brook LCDC, explained how he and his family manage the balance between bushfire preparedness and environmental preservation.

Terry High, a wildlife carer specialising in raptors, showed us two of his raptor companions, and explained the importance of maintaining adequate habitat in order to preserve the finely-balanced food chain.

The morning finished off with a sausage sizzle lunch, including lovely salads, luscious desserts and a cuppa among friends, new and old.

The members of SBCG would like to thank all of the presenters, the SBCG committee, and EMRC Natural Resource Management Coordinator Karen Warner for their assistance in this very well attended, informative, and fun event.

If you are interested in knowing more about Susannah Brook Catchment Group, or would like to organise a similar event, please contact Caril Barker on 9574 6726 or malcolmbarker@graduate.uwa.edu.au





CATCHMENT GROUP MEETINGS

Blackadder-Woodbridge Catchment Group Incorporated

7.30 pm Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Midland Church of Ascension Hall (Side Room), 17 Spring Park Road, Midland

Contact Karen Warner on 9424 2242 or email: karen.warner@emrc.org.au

Helena River Catchment Group Incorporated

After Lunch, Sunday, 14th November 2010

Octagonal Hall, McGlew Road, Glen Forrest.

Contact Karen Warner on 9424 2242 or email: karen.warner@emrc.org.au

Jane Brook Catchment Group Incorporated

7.15 pm Thursday, 4 November 2010

Parkerville Fire Station, Riley Road, Parkerville.

Contact Leanne Kimberley on 9424 2245 or email: leanne.kimberley@emrc.org.au

Susannah Brook Catchment Group Incorporated

6:30pm, Thursday, 12 November 2010

End of year Celebrations

Lot 102 Strawberry Hill Drive, Gidgegannup.

Contact Leanne Kimberley on 9424 2245 or email: leanne.kimberley@emrc.org.au

Friends of Piesse Brook

7.00 pm Thursday, 18 November 2010

16 Roach Road, Kalamunda

Contact Karen Warner on 9424 2242 or email: karen.warner@emrc.org.au



**Join the Friends of Piesse Brook for a Busy Bee
at Piesse Brook on Sunday 21st November from
9.45 am – 12 pm.**

We meet at the entrance gate to the Kalamunda National Park
(at the far end of Schipp Road). If you would like to join us, please
contact either Gerry Brown on 9293 2517 or Bridgett Hogarth on email
bhogarth@ozemail.com.au for further details.

Please bring a pair of leather gloves, water bottle, hat, boots, raincoat if it's wet, and a
sense of humour!

THE GREATEST
GARDENING SHOW
 IN PERTH IS BACK

FREE EVENTS

THE BEST GARDEN TEAM ARRIVING IN PERTH FOR ANOTHER
 SERIES OF **FREE WORKSHOPS**

Don't miss this opportunity to transform your garden into an urban paradise, slashing your water and energy bills.

■ **Free to attend!**
 Book early & don't miss out! For free information or to register online visit www.greatgardens.info or phone our hotline on **1300 369 833**

LOCATION	DATE
Kalamunda	Wed 27th Oct
Kalamunda	Wed 28th Nov

Plus many more upcoming workshops near you. Check www.greatgardens.info

Great Gardens

Water for People

synergy

weeds 116

Department of Environment and Conservation

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN **environment** AWARDS 2010

Our environment, our future

WILDLIFE HELP WANTED

The DEC Wildcare Helpline is seeking volunteers to assist with responding to the public who need advice on care and rehabilitation of native Wildlife. The service receives calls for sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife. Referral is arranged to rehabilitation facilities, wildlife officers, and specialist veterinary clinics. Excellent on-the-job training and support is provided. Volunteers are mainly located at DEC offices in Kensington but on a roster system the helpline may be serviced from your own home anywhere in the State. These volunteer positions will suit you if you have an interest in native wildlife, and have some free time on a regular basis. The role is not physically demanding but it is helpful if you can maintain a calm and reassuring manner. For further information contact the Community Involvement Unit at DEC on 08 9334 0251, email hugh.maclean@dec.wa.gov.au or visit www.dec.wa.gov.au and click on Volunteer Programs.

Nearer to Nature volunteering

Becoming a part of DEC's *Nearer to Nature* team is easy and fun! If you have a little spare time and enjoy the outdoors, there is a wide range of opportunities in assisting *Nearer to Nature* to run programs at venues all around the Perth metropolitan area.

Interested? Phone our Programs Officer for more information on 9295 2244 or at www.dec.wa.gov.au



Nearer to Nature

The Darling Range Naturalists Club Presents Reynoldson Reserve, Wongan Hills

Leader: Diana Papenfus

When: Sunday, 21st November 2010
 at 9:30am

Meet: Wongan Hills Visitor Centre

Bring: Binoculars, lenses etc

VISITORS WELCOME

For more information, please telephone:
 (08) 9293 1676 or (08) 9294 1044

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CORNER

By Herbert Titelius

“So what does climate change mean in our day to day lives”

I was walking along the eastern margin of the Lion Mill Creek (Mount Helena) rehabilitation site that I assisted the Friends Group in rehabilitation over the last 10 years or so, when I saw something I was totally unprepared for. On my left hand side in the creek/ drainline was a whole series of bicycle jumps dug out of the sand and silt lined creekline and on my right hand side was the Shire of Mundaring built skate ramp adjacent to the local oval. What startled me was that on the one hand the Shire had spent many thousands of dollars to build this facility for our youth and yet those same free spirit youth saw fit to vandalise the adjacent rehabilitated land with what I called feral bicycle jumps. In the process our highly energetic darlings set to 10 year old eucalypts, Casuarinas and acacias, some with 10 to 15 diameter trunks, with axes.

So here is the connection with climate change. The feral bicycle jump appeared in winter in a season where the whole site used to be an inundated quagmire that would once have been impossible to construct a functional bicycle jump in. So one of the clear signs of how much the seasons have changed is that a wetland has become a dry/ moist land sandpit for our kiddies that no one wants to be responsible for to curtail the playful excesses.

On another site in Dianella I saw a pathetic bit of remnant wetland that was marked as being such by virtue of some beautifully old and gnarled melaleucas standing among a small vestige of remnant wetland understorey. What caught my eye was that on the floor of the pond that have been full of water to a depth of at least 1 metre was a bone-dry floor with dead and dried weeds. When one knows where to look for such signs, the impacts of a 10 to 20% on average reduction in annual rainfall is abundantly clear.

One does not need to look to the Arctic or the Antarctic regions where intrepid mineral explorers are eying off promising geological sites for the oil and mineral exploitation as more ice melts to get what climate change might mean. At a very local level it is also clear that climate change, whatever its causes, is changing our ecologies and the world we live in and giving us a new crop of challenges for us to manage.

Now back to the feral bicycle jumps at the Lion Mill Creek site. I certainly was startled, but resolved immediately to set to starting the process of dismantling the jumps with a shovel and a bit of elbow grease. Most of the axed tree will start to resprout with a coppice type tree form and continue to live. The temptation to rebuild the jumps will remain unless there is some education of locals and their children by the Shire and others to the effect that this wetland did not just happen. It was built by years of hard work by community as well as work paid for by the Shire of Mundaring in conjunction with grant money managed by the Jane group catchment Group. So the value of the site is not just the habitat value, but the fact that it came in to being by a considered approach and hard work. We don't accept vandalism of built structures and neither should we just stand by and not speak for a place that people and nature have built.

So will there be a happy ending here? The answer is that this is a work in progress like a lot of the big issues we will be dealing with in our lifetimes and beyond. There is no place to hide from the need to champion responsible environmental stewardship at all levels from the very local wetland and bush land rehabilitation projects to the issues of carbon emission control and reversal.

Reproduced from Eastern Hills Branch, Wildflower Society of WA ,September 2010

HELENA RIVER CATCHMENT GROUP

“Project tour – “Scott St to Pipehead Dam”

The Helena River Catchment Group is delighted to invite Jane Brook Catchment Group to visit the HRCG's project “Helena River Restoration: Scott St to Pipehead Dam”, and then to join us for lunch. This is a ten-year project along 5 km of river, started in 2005 and organised in stages, and still to be completed. It consists principally of weed control, followed by revegetation. This year it was entered for, and has reached the finals of, the WA Environment Awards “Bush, land and waterways” section.

Sunday 14th November

Time: meet 10.00 am, lunch at 12.00

Where: at small shopping centre, Scott Street, Helena Valley

Transport: Car pool or tag-along from there.

Wear: Wear bush clothes suitable for the day.

Bring: Refreshments/lunch at the Picnic Ground

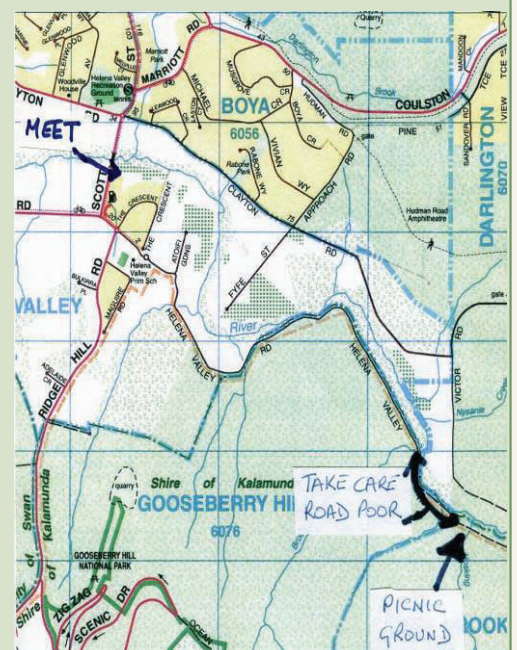
It is important that we know numbers, so if you can come, please reply to:

Penny Hussey

Chair, Helena River Catchment Group

phone (w) 9334 0530 (h) 9299 7024

email: penny.hussey@dec.wa.gov.au



So What's a "Friends of Group?"

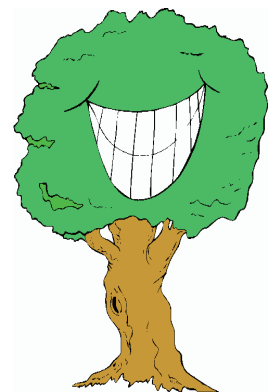
1. Have you ever noticed a bushland reserve near you in need of some love and attention?
2. Would you like get your hands into the earth and feel refreshed and satisfied?
3. Do you want to meet people in your community and make new friends?

Yes? Then the answer is forming your own or joining an existing "Friends of Group". Its like adopting a piece of the environment and helping it to flourish and rehabilitate. A "Friends of Group" can simply be one person living next door to a bush reserve, or it can be a family, a street or a group of people wanting a hands on, outdoor earth-based project to work together on. The best thing is that you can work in your own time and at your own pace.

Simply contact your local shire to register. Your shire will guide you to the local catchment group and together they will give you support and technical advice on habitat rehabilitation, creek line restoration, the local flora and fauna species, funding opportunities and all the safety, training and insurance requirements. Your local shire can also provide seedlings and rubbish removal among other benefits. Once registered, your requirements may include keeping a dairy of your bushcare activities and a register of volunteers on workdays.

Catchment groups such as Jane Brook Catchment Group have regular meetings to support their "Friends of Groups" and to discuss other projects and important environmental issues. The meetings are a great opportunity to learn more about your local environment and to have a cuppa and meet like-minded environmentally passionate people. Catchment groups within the Perth's Eastern Region are also supported by EMRC's Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program who all work together to create the best outcomes for our local bush reserves.

So If you would like to become a member or form a "Friends of Group" just phone your local government environmental representatives or one of EMRC's NRM Officers who will be able to facilitate this for you. Contact details are on the back of the Greenpage.



Free Community Group Training



EVENT MANAGEMENT MADE EASY

This session will help to outline the key practices and processes for planning, programming & staging a successful event for your organization. Session 2 of the workshop series will focus on:

- Clarifying & understanding what makes an event
- Identifying key elements of events
- Applying event design principals
- Using various forms of available event management tools
- Marketing your event
- Planning budgets and creating strategies for possible shortfalls
- Scheduling events and organizing a timeline
- Organizing key tasks – before, during & after the event

Date: Wednesday 17th November, 2010

Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm Supper supplied

Booking required by: Monday 15th November 2010

Location: Old Midland Court House, Helena St, Midland (Behind Midland Library)

For more details or to book please ring Dianne Gates on **9267 9136** or

email: dianne.gates@swan.wa.gov.au

Light supper provided

Swan-Canning Online Leadership Program

Are you 18 – 25 years of age with an interest in the Swan -Canning River Catchment?

Millennium Kids Inc is looking for 24 young people to help develop a series of workshops for young people from New Norcia to Perth including water quality monitoring, bush tucker programs, tree planting, bird watching, photography and habitat protection. The outcomes of these workshops will be featured on www.millenniumkids.ning.com, a partnership between the Centre for Water Research UWA and Millennium Kids, where young people through schools and community groups can share information on our river systems.

Come up with your ideas and help develop a project in your community for 2011.

The four day training program will be run on weekends and during the school holiday period in January 2011. The course will cover training and costs associated with the following:

- ♦ Food and accommodation
- ♦ Reptile Workshop
- ♦ MK Ten Step Inquiry Methodology
- ♦ First Aid
- ♦ Risk Management and Assessment
- ♦ MK Facilitator t-shirt
- ♦ Project Planning
- ♦ Kayaking on the Swan River
- ♦ Meetings with river and catchment stakeholders
- ♦ Working with Children Check

Cost: \$200.00.

For an application pack email info@millenniumkids.com.au or call 0418 923 968 to discuss this opportunity.

This program is proudly supported by Lotterywest

2010 EWAN WEEDS FORUM

FRIDAY
19TH NOVEMBER

REGISTRATION
8.45AM

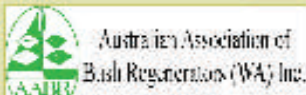
FORUM
9.00AM TO 1.30PM

VENUE

Cockburn Wetlands
Education Centre
84 Hope Road BIBRA LAKE



SPONSORS



A FORUM FOR FRIENDS GROUPS, LOCAL GOVT WORKERS
AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN WEED-MANAGEMENT ISSUES

WADING THROUGH WETLAND WEEDS

MANAGING WEEDS IN OUR LOCAL WETLANDS

Topics include:

- *Priority Wetland Weeds in the Swan Region*
- *IT Applications for Weed Management*
- *Not All Weeds Are Bad ! The Wilson Wetland Story*
- *Planning and Implementing a Successful Weed-Management Program*

*Participants are invited to join an optional guided walk around
the wetlands after lunch.*

Morning Tea and Light Lunch Provided



WEEDS OR WILDFLOWERS
Environmental Weeds Action Network (WA)

REGISTRATION & ENQUIRIES:

To register your attendance or for further enquiries please contact us through one of the following:

- enquiries@environmentalweedsactionnetwork.org.au
- telephone Cathie on 93392439
- PO Box 380, GREENWOOD WA 6024



NATIONAL
RECYCLING WEEK
PLANET ARK

8 - 14 November





DEC Education Schools Programs

The Department of Environment and Conservation runs a variety of education programs and provides professional learning opportunities for teachers and educators. Programs cover all aspects of the department's work, from air and water quality monitoring, to waste, wildlife and conservation education. Resources are developed so as to help fulfil student outcomes under the WA curriculum framework, and programs include opportunities for both in-class and outdoor experiences. No matter whether you are in a metropolitan area or in a more remote area of Western Australia, our staff will be able to provide you with exciting, relevant and valuable learning resources and support.

DEC Bush Rangers

Bush Rangers WA, Helping the Community through a variety of local conservation projects. Bush Rangers WA the Department of Environment and Conservation's branch of Cadets WA. "A State Government funded youth development program, aimed at creating exciting opportunities for young people of secondary school age.

View the website:

www.dec.wa.gov.au/bushrangers/

AirWatch

Provides information for Teachers, Students, and Households.

The AirWatch Schools program is an initiative aimed at developing environmental awareness in students, specifically about air pollution. Through AirWatch Schools, students learn about their local air and how they can help to keep it clean.

View the website:

www.airwatch.wa.gov.au.

Waste Wise Schools

Provides information for Teachers, Students, and Households.

Waste Wise Schools throughout Western Australia are reducing waste to landfill by implementing the 3Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle - while developing positive environmental values in students and the whole school community.

View the website:

www.wastewise.wa.gov.au.

Marine Parks WA

A wealth of resources and information about Marine Parks

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) manages marine parks and reserves and the marine parks and animals in these areas on behalf of the people of Western Australia.

View the website:

www.marineparks.wa.gov.au.

Ribbons of Blue

WaterWatch WA

Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA is an environmental education network aimed at increasing community awareness and understanding about local water quality, and taking action for a better environment.

View the website:

www.ribbonsofblue.wa.gov.au.

CONTACT DETAILS

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THE NOONGAR SEASONS

Kambarang - October/November

A definite warming trend is accompanied by longer dry periods and fewer cold fronts crossing the coast. The height of the wildflower season, Kambarang offers a riot of colour, including *Verticordia insignis*, mangles Kangaroo Paw, Blue Leschenaultia, graceful Honey Myrtle, roadside tea-trees and elegant Beaufortia. Many groups now combine in larger groups up to 100 or more as the coastal area has abundant food to feed large groups.



This is a busy time in any garden, with light pruning of shrubs to reduce woodiness, the removal of old, dead plant material from the garden beds, and pruning of faded flowers paws and *Patersonia occidentalis* after they finish flowering.

Photos from Kaditj Online Internet Café

<http://www.kaditj.com.au/web-data/Stationery/CulturalNotesSeasons.html>



If you would like to receive the Greenpage by email please contact Joanne Woodbridge at EMRC by email joanne.woodbridge@emrc.org.au with "Subscribe to Greenpage" in the subject heading and your contact details.

If you do not have email and would like to receive the Greenpage by post, please contact Joanne Woodbridge by telephone on (08) 9424 2216.



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