

FRIENDS OF YELLAGONGA NEWSLETTER

September 08

THE FoY

58/2008



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MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and participate in the conservation, rehabilitation and protection of Yellagonga Regional Park to ensure long-term environmental sustainability and compatible human use.

TRIBUTE TO AN OUSTANDING MEMBER

A surprise farewell dinner was held in August to honour the contribution made to FoY by Jennifer Hawkes. She had thought she would just slip away into the sunset quietly but the Committee had other ideas. When President Will Carstairs congratulated Jennifer for her excellent work as volunteer coordinator, office manager and computer whizz, she responded by saying "when you think about it, none of us would have enjoyed this wonderful evening if a group of people in the early 90's had not decided that something needed to be done to save the Park and its lakes, and there were all the others who contributed along the way – I felt that I was just one of those".

Thanks for being "just one of those"

NO MORE POTS, PLEASE

In the November newsletter last year, we put out a call for more small pots for the nursery.

Nursery Manager, Frank Parrotte, now advises that we are "chock-a-block" with pots and asks that no

RECENT EVENTS

Two successful workdays – on July 26, a dozen people turned at Two Ducks Landing for Jacqui's well organized morning when her site was planted and weeded.

Then on 30 August, there was an e-x-p-l-o-s-i-o-n of people at Duck Landing when 20 ready helpers turned up at Peter Jacoby's site – so many that we finished early.

Great to see new faces and the return of some old ones. Big thanks to Peter, Marg, Sue, Barry, Jenny, Pena, John S, Frank B, Frank P, Graham, Ross, Vanna, Kevin, Christine, Wayne, Glenys, Chauncey (and Shane), John C, Heather and Di (who provided a very welcome morning tea.

PAYOFF IN SCONES & CREAM

A potential disaster loomed last month when Jacqui (our intrepid tour guide) who had agreed to lead a walk for residents of Meath Mews, reported in sick.

Despite inwardly panicking, Kevin stepped into the breach and gave the 25 retirees a tour of the Bindaree bush, pointing out numerous items of interest including the first *Donkey orchid* of the season. Frank then joined him and explained the workings of the nursery group and FoY in general. Kevin and Frank joined the Meath group for coffee, scones and cream back at the Meath village. Well done, Kevin, we knew you had it in you. And we are pleased to report that Jacqui made a quick recovery.

To view some of Kevin's photos of the wildflowers, go to

<http://www.yellagonga.blogspot.com/>

SPRINGTIME IN THE PARK

Now that spring has sprung, this is a great time of the year for a leisurely walk through Yellagonga Regional Park. One of the best places to see displays of WA's famous wildflowers is along the trail from Neil Hawkins Park to Edgewater – especially *spider* and *donkey orchids*.

GREAT GIFT IDEA

Gary Tate, a member of our nursery team, has compiled a 25-minute DVD which contains over 300 images of Yellagonga Regional Park, illustrating the biodiversity, beauty and recreational opportunities of the Park – with classical music as background sound. Gary's earlier version won the 2007 City of Wanneroo Award for Excellence. It also includes underwater video of feeding musk duck and long necked turtle. At \$20 this DVD would be a great overseas gift, souvenir or school resource. Call Gary on 9342.4685

DONATION OF SEEDS

When the Main Roads Dept planned the extension of the Mitchell Freeway, they collected provenance seed for their revegetation work prior to removing the existing bushland. The Friends would like to sincerely thank Main Roads for the kind donation of approximately 9kg of assorted seed which will be used for the future propagation of plants for the Yellagonga Regional Park.

SAVANNAH CATS

The threat posed by the importation of these animals was noted in last month's newsletter. Good to report that common sense has prevailed and the Minister for Environment has banned their importation into Australia.

ST STEPHEN'S STUDENTS

Recently 40 students from St Stephen's School pitched in to work at Bindaree Terrace Site.

After a short talk on safety issues by teacher Charles Biddle (and explanation of how to plant a tree), tools and groups were divided and everyone set t o w o r k .

A variety of species commonly encountered in the Park had been grown by the students in their own nursery from seed of local provenance provided by FOY. They included *Acacia saligna*, *Hakea prostrata*, *Jarrah*, *Marri* and *Tuart*. The planting areas had been cleared of weeds. Sticks had been placed where the plantings would go.

The large group meant it was difficult to keep everyone busy but between weeding, digging, watering and observing and with the assistance of FOY members, the time passed quickly.

Mr Charles Biddle supervised the collection of biota from the lake waters for later observation back at the school. A lot was accomplished and the students from the school are to be congratulated on their keenness to make a contribution to the health of the Park.

SEWER LINE INSPECTION

The Water Corporation plans to lay a sewer line within the wetlands to service over 400 homes to be built between Wanneroo Road and the Woodvale wetlands. FOY is trying to ensure that Water Corp and the developers do the right thing by the wetlands. Hats off to John Chester who readily accepted the Water Corp's invitation to trek through the area and view the planned route of the sewer. FOY is fortunate that John was available on the day to negotiate with the developers, Water Corp and DEC to achieve the best outcome for the Park.

TUARTS

Most West Australians are familiar with the *Tuart*, the biggest native tree in our City. They only grow on the coastal strip from Cervantes to Busselton and are features of many coastal suburbs. A significant decline in *Tuart* health was first observed in 1994 and they are slowly disappearing from our environment.

The nursery recently donated some large potted specimens to DEC (who also purchased some smaller ones) which were immediately planted in the Park on open land near Hocking Road, Mooro Rd and Whitfords Ave. These *Tuarts* will need watering throughout the summer months and FoY has offered to do this using our water wagon.

INTERESTED IN WILDFLOWERS?

The Perth Branch of the Wildflower Society holds meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in the Subiaco Community Centre, 203 Bagot Rd. Doors open at 7.30pm and meeting begins at 8.00pm. You do not need to be a member of the Society to attend. A \$2 entry fee is charged at the door.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome new members Russell Calvert, Sue Snowdon, Pena Atanasoff, Frank Batty, Christine Towes (all of whom have already attended workdays – your commitment is really appreciated.) Also Sue Ujma who attended the Committee Meeting to explain she is doing her Honours Thesis on the Historical Geography of the Yellagonga Regional Park – from aboriginal people to present time.

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

Brickbat: to the graffiti “artist” who defaced the new interpretive sign at Lake Goollelal only days after it was installed. How about spending your energies pulling lupins or collecting rubbish in the Park instead of ruining expensive signage? You could earn far more respect from others and maybe even gain some for yourself.

Brickbat: to those dog owners who use the doggy poo bags provided by the City when walking through the Park and then leave their bagged dogs' deposits in a pile by the sign – especially in Perry's Paddock. Who do you think will remove it? Can't you do the decent thing and take it home with you – where it belongs?

Bouquet: to the City of Joondalup – for the work being carried out around Lake Goollelal. Gross pollutant traps and retention basins are being installed around the Lake to improve the water quality. Water quality is paramount as the water flows through the lake system from south to north – ending up at Lake Joondalup.

COULD THIS HAPPEN IN WA?

Retail giant Bunnings in Victoria may have unwittingly sold 4800 pots of one of the State's most threatening weeds to Victorian customers since January. The retailer risks a fine because of the sales, which raise serious questions about the ability of sections of the nursery industry to know, trace and properly label what it sells. Bunnings has advertised in newspapers for a product recall of the plant, known as Mexican feather grass. Some of the 4800 suspect plants were sold for \$39.98 in a pretty white cup and saucer as part of a Mother's Day promotion. It was also discovered that Big W in Victoria had sold about 100 of the weeds as part of a Mother's Day promotion.

Mexican feather grass (*Nassella tenuisima*) grows to about 70 centimetres tall and is native to North and South America. It is hardy, drought-tolerant and difficult to control. It is similar in appearance to one of the worst pasture weeds in Australia, *serrated tussock*, which costs the nation more than \$50 million a year in lost productivity and weed control

It's not easy being green Just ask Kermit the Frog

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Committee Meetings – All Welcome!

Wednesday 1st October 2008 at 7.00pm
Wednesday 5th November 2008 at 7.00pm
Venue: Landsdale Farm School, 80 Landsdale Road, Landsdale

WORKDAYS IN THE PARK

Saturday - 27 September 9.00am – noon
(Edgewater Site–lupin pulling)
Directions: Take Edgewater Drive and turn in to Garrong Close, head east on Apalie Trail and park opposite the bush section. Walk east, south-east towards Lake Joondalup where you will see signs and activity.
SAUSAGE SIZZLE TO FOLLOW.

Saturday – 25 October: 9.00am - noon
Coots' Corner (located behind Waldecks Nursery). Park along new section of Woodlake Rtt, Kingsley (eastern edge of Lake Goollelal).

NURSERY

Please call Frank Parrotte – 9402 4757

FOY Executive and Committee

Chair: Will Carstairs 9300 3763
Vice Chair: Peter Jacoby: 9448 1818
Treasurer: John Stenton 9448 2171
Sec.: Heather Chester 9309 2434
Nursery: Frank Parrotte 9402 4757
Volunteer Co-ordinator
Graham Sinclair 309 7192
Committee Members:
Kevin McLeod – 9409 9009
John Chester – 9309 2434
Richard James
Webmaster: – www.yellagonga.org

Site Bindaree – Nursery Group
Kingfisher Cove – Vacant Position

Duck Landing:
Peter Jacoby 9448 1818

Two Ducks Landing
Jacqui Purvis 9206 2987

Coots' Corner
Chauncey Johnson 9409 4333
Ocean Reef – David Taggart 9305 7164
**DEC YRP Community Advisory C'tee/
CoJ Conservation Advisory C'tee/
CoW Environmental Advisory C'tee/
CoW Bushcare Groups Rep –
John Chester 9309-2434**

This newsletter was printed as a community service – courtesy of Luke Simpkins MP.