

# WESROC NEWS



Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils

July 2015



Community members engaging with presenters and poster displays

## Community Waterwise Forum

Perth's changing climate was the driving force behind a community waterwise forum organised by the Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) with the support of Beyond Gardens, the Department of Water and the Water Corporation.

Around 50 people attended the Grove Library on Saturday 9 May to hear how to be more waterwise in and around the home. Shire President of Peppermint Grove, Rachel Thomas launched the event and explained that the six climate smart themes, of which 'safeguarding our water supplies' is one, stemmed from WESROC's 2010 climate change risk assessment and adaptation study.

Matt Walsh from the Water Corporation provided many water saving tips for the community in his "Securing Our Water Future" presentation. Ben Drew from the Department of Water explained the layout and relationship between the groundwater aquifers. He spoke about some of the broader issues surrounding Perth's water challenges and the need to do "more with less".

John Colwill from Beyond Gardens provided many useful tips to help minimise water use in peoples gardens. These included various improvements to Perth's sandy soils, which also results in healthy plants. He also debunked many of the myths and unsuitable gardening practices that are common in Perth.

*"WESROC's climate smart project highlights the need for us all to prepare for and adapt to Perth's changing climatic conditions".*

- Shire President of Peppermint Grove  
Rachel Thomas

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# Native Plant Subsidy Scheme Remains Popular



Cat Williams and some of the team at Apace community nursery showcasing the tubestock plants on display

## WESROC Sets Sales Target for 2016

The Native Plant Subsidy Scheme (NPSS) has proved popular with the western suburbs community yet again, with sales totaling 11,512 at the end of May 2015. WESROC and APACE Nursery have already started to plan for 2016 with the aim of WESROC reaching 100,000 plant sales through the scheme in just 9 years. While the NPSS began in 2006 WESROC started keeping sales data in 2008, and from then to 2015, plant sales in the western suburbs has reached 86,679. WESROC will of course need community support in Cambridge, Claremont, Cottesloe, Mosman Park, Nedlands, Peppermint Grove and Subiaco to achieve 13,321 native plants sales in May 2016. Prices will not change and residents in the western suburbs will be able to purchase plants at the subsidised price of \$1.50 each.



Guichenotia ledifolia

## APACE Revegetation Nursery

Apace Community Revegetation Nursery specialises in the supply of locally occurring species of the Swan Coastal Plain and Darling Range. Established in 1989, this was the first nursery in WA dedicated to supplying exclusively local native species for revegetation and landscaping projects throughout the Perth metropolitan region.

The nursery was also the first to grow and supply locally occurring rushes and sedges for wetland revegetation projects.

The nursery is accredited with the Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme of Australia and all stock is grown under strict hygienic conditions. APACE is a not for profit community based nursery, currently producing more than half a million plants, and provides a selection of two hundred and sixty different species.

For more information contact [APACE Nursery](#) and make sure to check out their online nursery for guidance on native plants suitable for each suburb.

The nursery is open to the public for native plant sales. Visitors can browse through the self-service section or get assistance from their experienced staff from 7.30am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday.

# Poster Displays Generate Much Community Interest



There was an abundance of information on display in the lead up to, during and in the week after WESROC's community waterwise forum.

The community were interested in the river foreshore vulnerability assessment being conducted by Seashore Engineering for the five 'river' Councils. The study is progressing with a draft report planned for delivery in early August.

Nedlands focused on river foreshore care and protection for its poster, while Subiaco and Cambridge highlighted hydrozoning, redesigning parks and best practice irrigation to reduce water use in parks. WESROC members promoted the native plant subsidy scheme and the pending Yange Kep Bidi.

WESROC's recently published Birds in Perth's Western suburbs brochure, the Climate smart fridge magnets, and the Department of Fisheries [Don't dump that fish brochure](#) proved popular.

The Water Corporation, Earth Carers, Coastcare, Permaculture West, Temflow and Rainwater Tanks WA all had interesting interactive water saving and water quality displays.

With the ongoing concerns about groundwater salinity it was timely to showcase the [Cottesloe Aquifer Recharge Project](#). The narrow strip of land between the Swan Estuary and the coast, known as the Cottesloe Peninsula, is to a large extent isolated from the regional Gnangara Mound flow system by the Swan Estuary.

This makes it an ideal case study for maximising stormwater as a resource and a demonstrable example of groundwater aquifer care. In fact Cottesloe's monthly bore water readings from January 2010 through to December 2014 show a steady decline of salt in the groundwater.

These results indicate the project has and is continuing to meet its main objective of preventing saltwater intrusion into the Cottesloe Peninsula.

In terms of water quality, and future proofing supply, WESROC is liaising with the Department of Water, the Water Corporation and the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities to explore options for 'fit for purpose' water for public open space throughout the western suburbs. Two key associated objectives are:

- to arrest the decline in groundwater levels; and
- to reduce salinity in groundwater.

WESROC also availed of the opportunity to highlight the low water levels in the superficial aquifer in its submission to the [Senate Inquiry into Stormwater Resources in Australia](#)



Some of the poster displays at waterwise forum

# Lake Monger Reserve Ecological Restoration Program

Lake Monger Reserve in the Town of Cambridge comprises 38 hectares of regionally significant recreation reserve and 71 hectares of conservation wetland. The lake forms an important habitat and permanent drought refuge for a range of species. A significant portion of the lake is registered as an Aboriginal heritage site of historic and mythological significance.

Between 1914 and 1966 the reserve was used as a refuse site, and in the 1940's poor water quality caused by increased nutrient levels became and remained a serious problem for some time.

By the early 1990's, Lake Monger was described as one of the most degraded wetlands in the Perth Metropolitan area, prompting the development of a scientific environmental management plan and rehabilitation plan. These have guided the transformation of Lake Monger over the last 20 years, back to a pristine wetland.

The eastern side of the lake was rehabilitated during the 1990's and 2000's, large sections of lawn was removed and replaced with native vegetation. Major stormwater drains were also removed from the lake and redirected into revegetated open drains. The vegetation served as a barrier between the lake and Mitchell Freeway and serves as a filter for pollutants from the Freeway and nutrients from surrounding suburbs.

Lake Monger is currently the subject of further ecological restoration works on the western bank, the need for which was identified in the Town's Lake Monger Reserve Management Plan 2008-2018.

The aim of the restoration program is to:

- restore ecological communities to provide a variety of fauna habitats for breeding, feeding and nesting;
- improve water quality; and
- protect and enhance the natural beauty and historical value of Lake Monger.

Works will be carried out over five stages with 1 and 2 completed. The initiation of Stage 1 was celebrated with a community planting day in 2014 where members of the community participated as well as the 2 neighbouring primary schools, Lake Monger Primary School and Bold Park Community School. A Welcome to Country Ceremony was held and the cultural and environmental significance of the lake was explained.

Stage 2 commenced on World Environment Day in 2015 with the Town's annual Schools Arbor Day planting taking place along the lake's edge in participation with Cambridge Rotary and Birdlife WA.

The ongoing and future focus for Lake Monger is to meet the Town's vision for Lake Monger Reserve *"to be recognised as a conservation wetland and a significant recreational facility enjoyed and managed with the community."*

The installation of Yange Kep Bidi (Wetlands Trail) in 2015 will allow for recreational linkages from Lake Claremont, Perry Lakes, Herdsman Lake and Lake Monger. The Yange Kep Bidi is part of the [Whadjuk Trail Network](#) being implemented by WESROC.



Restoration works at Lake Monger



Local students and Birdlife Australia



Mayor Withers addressing students

## Contact Us

For further information about WESROC, to comment on current articles or for suggestions on future articles please send an email titled WESROC News to:  
[vcusack@nedlands.wa.gov.au](mailto:vcusack@nedlands.wa.gov.au)

# WHADJUK TRAILS CONTINUE TO GROW

In June 2015, the Acquittal of the second Lotterywest funding grant marked a further acquired milestone for WESROC. The remaining grant for the Whadjuk Trails will see completion of the Karda and Karak Bidi during the 2015/2016 financial year.

Our almost 80km network of walking trails success story is in line with the master plan of inclusion, allowing for people of all levels of fitness and ability to enjoy, appreciate and learn about our remnant bushlands on family and pet friendly trails. Able to be walked in shorter segments, sections are both wheelchair and cycle friendly, with alternate routes suggested where required.

Our “pilot” Bush to Beach Trail (16.3km) marked the beginning of a well used network, with completion occurring during 2012. The second trail, Wardun Beelie Bidi (17.4km) was concluded with a launch by Premier Colin Barnett at Chidley Point in Mosman Park. Publication of apps on these first two trails have attracted more than 15,000 viewers to date!

The third trail in the network, Yange Kep Bidi at 21.2km long is the longest linking wetlands through the Western Suburbs. Incorporating stakeholders that include Bold Park, City of Stirling and DPaW, co-ordination has presented additional challenges, with this trail now due for completion in winter 2015. The trail has 19.5km directionally marked, with interpretive signage content currently at graphic design stage, and housing manufacture underway. Noongar stories have been recorded, and editing is being undertaken. Development of the website is keeping track in the background. The Yange Kep Bidi brochure is printed, with final edits to the App being carried out in time for installation.

Work on the gorgeous Karda Bidi and fourth trail of 10.6km has forged ahead with 9.5km directionally marked to date. Fabrication of interpretive signage is underway awaiting detailed locations and recordings to determine ultimate sites. This trail showcases the grandeur of Perth, taking in views across the iconic Swan River. Hugging the Swan River it includes the additional partners; Kings Park, DPaW, and the City of Perth with implementation expected in November 2015.

Work has started on the Karak Bidi. Route adjustments are still under investigation due to deviations in various sectors. This approximately 14km trail has directional signage manufactured, the brochure in the initial stages, App 40% mapped and stories not started. The trail will be completed during the first half of 2016.

