

WESROC News

April 2020

Photo by TerriAnne Allen



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 - A Global Focus on Plant Health
- 2 - Native Plant Subsidy Scheme
- 2 - Natives supporting Natives
- 2 - Western Suburbs Greening Plan
- 3 - Feral Animal Control 2019
- 3 - Whadjuk Trails Website
- 3 - Urban Vegetation and Heat Mapping
- 4 - Changes at WESROC
- 4 - Planned Projects for 2020

A GLOBAL FOCUS ON PLANT HEALTH

Human activity and a changing climate have drastically altered ecosystems, reduced habitat viability, and decreased biodiversity. Plant diseases and pests have caused great damage to native plants and effected the environment.

2020 is the International year of Plant Health with a focus on protecting plants to support the environment, boost economic development, help end hunger, and reduce poverty.

WESROC is actively doing its part in supporting plant health through programs such as the Native Plant Subsidy Scheme, greenways projects, urban vegetation imaging, and updating the Western Suburbs Greening Plan.

These programs are a combined effort by the Town of Claremont, Town of Cottesloe, Town of Mosman Park, City of Nedlands, Shire of Peppermint Grove, and City of Subiaco in partnership with the Town of Cambridge that will increase biodiversity values and create habitat corridors for native species in the western suburbs.



Hardenbergia comptoniana



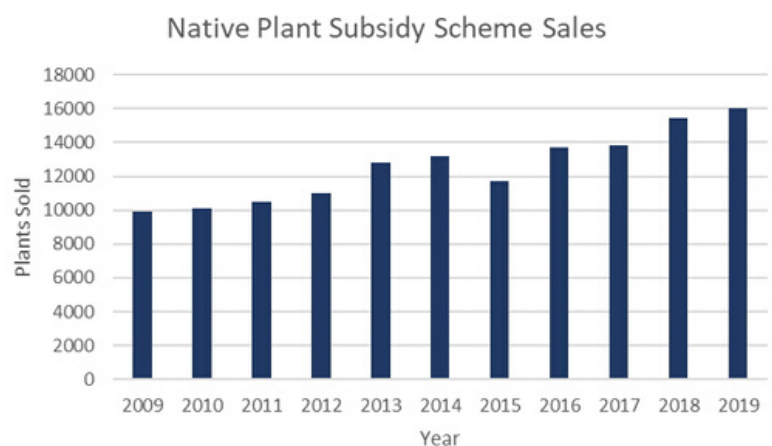
Acacia saligna

NATIVE PLANT SUBSIDY SCHEME

WESROC is pleased to announce that the Native Plant Subsidy Scheme (NPSS) is continuing in 2020. Residents from the WESROC suburbs and the Town of Cambridge can order native plants online for the subsidised cost of \$1.75 each from APACE Community Nursery.

Due to COVID-19, plants can be ordered from the APACE Nursery website through a 'click & collect' system during April for pick up in May. Nursery staff are working to minimise contact and will be organising pick up times so that social distancing can be maintained during plant collection.

Since the NPSS was established in 2008, it has supported the addition of over 100,000 native plants to western suburbs gardens. In 2019 a record 15,992 plants were sold and the NPSS continues to be popular with residents.



Natives Supporting Natives

Native plants have a large impact on supporting native insect life. For example, Orange Wattle (*Acacia saligna*) is an endemic species to the WESROC area and an attractive weeping shrub or short tree that supports numerous insects, including five butterfly species, 30 moth species, over 50 species of beetles, and over 40 additional bug species all of which are Perth region natives.

WESTERN SUBURBS GREENING PLAN

The Western Suburbs Greening Plan is a strategic planning document that has guided WESROC in integrating the natural environment into urban areas since 2002. It is undergoing an update and will provide a systematic approach to managing vegetation along road reserves and in parks and reserves, developing linkages between greenways and natural areas, and focus revegetation programs to increase canopy cover and habitat across the WESROC region. The document will act as a guide for cross-boundary collaboration projects to link green corridors between councils and maximise positive impacts for the environment.

FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL

A control program targeting rabbits, foxes, and feral cats was conducted during November and December in 2019. Feral Animal Control has been undertaken by WESROC annually since 2014. Foxes and cats prey upon native animals and it has been estimated that they are responsible for the extinction of 10 native species in WA. In the WESROC area there are birds, reptiles, and small mammals such as the Quenda (southern brown bandicoot) that have no defence against the introduced predators. Rabbits have a destructive impact upon the environment causing soil degradation, habitat loss, and compete for food resources. Rabbits breed multiple times a year and their population can exponentially increase without control measures.

The 2019 program saw seven sites targeted towards foxes and feral cats, and 11 sites targeting rabbits. Rabbits were controlled first with fox and feral cat control following. During the program, achievements included the capture of four adult foxes, one of the female foxes displayed signs indicating that it was part of a breeding pair.

This is an unfortunate 300% increase on the previous year's program but beneficial that they have now been removed from vulnerable habitats. After removal of the four foxes, no further fox activity was found at the three reserves where they were trapped. The Feral Animal Control program will continue in 2020.



Allen Park – Whadjuk Trails

Whadjuk Trails Website

The Whadjuk Trails website has been upgraded to be mobile phone friendly! The new upgrade ensures the website works on all mobile devices and will create a pleasant experience for visitors to the trails.

Visit whadjukwalkingtrails.org.au next time you walk the trails and enjoy a more interactive experience.

URBAN VEGETATION AND HEAT MAPPING

Tree canopy cover is important for the character, natural beauty, lifestyle, and sustainability of the WESROC region, and urban forests play a vital role through providing habitat for wildlife, slowing wind and stormwater, and cooling the built environment.

WESROC and ArborCarbon have commenced mapping of the Western suburbs to identify canopy cover and quality, and urban heat spots. This information will allow targeted approaches to identifying areas for increasing tree canopy cover, revegetation programs in parks and natural areas, streetscape planting to create greenway corridors, and urban planning to reduce heat spots.

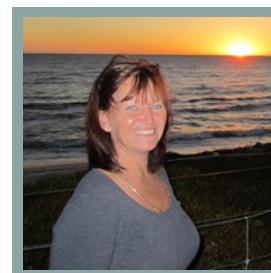
Photo by ArborCarbon



Assessing canopy cover and urban heat spots.

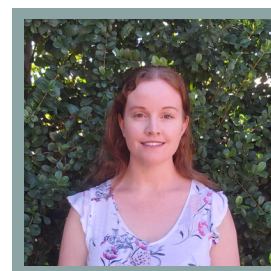
CHANGES AT WESROC

Sally Wallace is an icon at WESROC for implementing the Whadjuk Trails network and bringing together projects that spanned seven councils. Sally's dedication to the WESROC program and her bright character will be sorely missed. She is now enjoying her time in South Australia with family and running her trails business while exploring the Australian countryside with husband Roy. Thank you Sally for your years of dedication.



Sally Wallace

In November 2019, Sharon Munro was appointed to the role of WESROC Environmental Projects Officer. Sharon started her career in local government as an environment officer before moving into the Natural Resource Management field. Sharon has spent the last nine years at Perth NRM coordinating environmental management projects, conducting environmental education programs, and working with the local Noongar community to collate and share Traditional Ecological Knowledge.



Sharon Munro

COVID-19 has caused changes across the world and at WESROC we are taking precautions to protect our community and staff. Currently, staff are working from home and following directions from the Australian Government to do our part in reducing the potential spread of the virus. We are continuing to support our member and partner councils, and work towards a more sustainable future for the WESROC region. We hope that all our readers stay safe and well during these unprecedented times.

2020 WESROC PROJECTS

- Groundwater Aquifer Recharge
- Whadjuk Trails
- Urban Forest Plan and Vegetation Imaging
- Feral Animal Control
- Western Suburbs Greening Plan Update
- Coordinated Corella Control
- Rainbow Lorikeet Control
- Native Plant Subsidy Scheme
- NaturePlay WA Playbooks
- CLAG - Mosquito Control

Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils



In partnership with

