

# WESROC NEWS



Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils

December 2014



The Iconic Swan River *Derbarl Yerrigan*

*“A comprehensively researched Foreshore Management Plan for the river is vital for planning for the future”.*

*- Mayor Max Hipkins*

## River Foreshore Planning

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) has appointed Seashore Engineering to undertake a study of the river foreshore area and produce a regional Foreshore Management Plan for the Swan River Estuary in the western suburbs of Perth.

Five WESROC members comprising the Towns of Claremont and Mosman Park, the Shire of Peppermint Grove and the Cities of Nedlands and Subiaco along with the State Government are jointly funding the study.

Grant funding provided through the Swan River Trust's Riverbank 2014-15 Funding Program works on a dollar for dollar basis and WESROC appreciates the assistance with its long term planning objectives.

The five councils have a combined 16.1 km foreshore estuary shoreline and are experiencing problems with river wall and cliff structural damage, erosion of foreshore areas placing some infrastructure and vegetation at risk.

The study will involve a detailed vulnerability assessment of the foreshore estuary and identify tailored solutions for each local government area.

City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said, “some of the longer-term solutions for river foreshore erosion are likely to be expensive. A comprehensively researched Foreshore Management Plan for the river is vital for planning for the future”.

## In This Issue

- WESROC embarks on long-term river foreshore planning
- Be Climate smart this summer
- Preserving Perth's Urban Forest
- Walk in Whadjuk Country
- Featuring Lake Claremont



## Be climate smart this summer

WESROC has timed the second phase of its climate smart awareness programme to coincide with preparing for the upcoming bushfire season.

Focusing on practical measures, WESROC is reminding residents to plan and prepare for extreme heat to keep families, pets and property safe this summer.

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting above median maximum temperatures for November to January in much of Australia including Perth.

WESROC is reminding residents to:

- keep yards and vacant blocks tidy with no long grass
- be alert for total fire bans
- service air conditioners before summer
- stay hydrated and store extra water in the fridge
- look out for elderly and people living alone and
- ensure smoke alarms are installed and working.

WESROC has produced a two sided DL fridge magnet to serve as an ongoing reminder to prepare for summer and winter events. Drop in to your local Council to pick one up and or check out their websites

## Preserving Perth's Urban Forest

Recently WESROC wrote to the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) requesting them to explore options for local governments to gain ongoing access to urban forest mapping reports from the [Urban Monitor Project](#) data currently with Landgate.

Remote sensing technology, used by CSIRO and partners in the project, has a wide variety of functions. These include measuring tree canopy cover over different periods of time, monitoring wind erosion, remnant vegetation health and a range of other land use applications.

Satellite imaging, data collection and analysis is expensive and outside the means of WESROC and most local governments.

The data and the publication of regular and consistent urban forest mapping reports, from a baseline year, would be beneficial to all local governments, and the State Government and would provide significant economies of scale.

WESROC also requested WALGA to lobby the State Government for an Urban Forest Strategy for Metropolitan Perth, with specific Tree Canopy Cover targets for future growth.

Currently there is no Urban Forest Strategy for Perth and the benefits of trees and vegetation in metropolitan areas include:

- provide shade and lower temperatures
- enhance biodiversity
- provide habitat and food for fauna
- produce oxygen
- prevent erosion
- intercept rainfall to help reduce flooding
- lower cooling costs and
- increase property values

The Urban Forest is under threat from development, a drier hotter climate and lower water tables.





## Walk in Whadjuk Country

On Sunday 30 November, 14 young people attended the walk in Whadjuk Country event at Allen Park Swanbourne.

After a traditional Noongar welcome by Elder Neville Collard, the group were guided on an unforgettable walk through a short section of the Bush to Beach trail. Along the way Neville shared his People's knowledge of plants and wildlife and showed how they were used for medicinal and other purposes. This included a demonstration of the Wilyawa leaves which are rubbed between the hands and used as an insect repellent and sunscreen. Adding water to the green pods produces a rich creamy lather and is used as soap.

The children painted their own piece of rock art before sharing the story and the significance of their own personal artwork. Participants were able to take their rock home as a memento of the experience. Everyone enjoyed being taught how to throw boomerangs and were only too pleased to have a go themselves. For lunch the group enjoyed a traditional bush tucker feast of roo and damper.



The children were enthralled while watching Neville make a traditional stone axe from natural ingredients, and a raffle at the end led to one lucky participant taking the axe home as a souvenir. The group also enjoyed storytelling, a question and answer session and learning some Noongar words.

As well as having a fun day out, the children were privileged to get a real hands on experience and insight into Aboriginal culture and enjoyed the local bushland.

The event was organised by Community Development at the City of Nedlands, is an excellent example of using the Whadjuk Trails for recreational activities, and indeed as a positive learning experience.

Further information on the trails is available at:

<http://www.whadjukwalkingtrails.org.au/>



# Featuring Lake Claremont

Lake Claremont is a parkland and natural area covering some 70 hectares. The lake is a Conservation Category Wetland under the Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992 and a Bush Forever site.

In 2009, following extensive public consultation the Town of Claremont closed the 'long-nine' golf course and converted the 21 hectares into a park around the lake. Plans were put in place to restore 10 hectares of the area with native bushland and vegetation.

A large part of the works involve the restoration of the wetland buffer and from 2007, the Town and the [Friends of Lake Claremont](#) (FOLC) have collectively planted around 338,000 native plants at Lake Claremont.

FOLC have obtained five 'Caring for our Country' grants to help revegetate the wetland buffer with indigenous native tube stock. Wetland buffers help protect the lake and improve water quality with the native plants providing habitat for migratory birds and food for the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoos.

A number of walking trails meander through the site giving different experiences, from Paperbark lined lake edges, tall Tuart, dense Peppermints and remnant Banksia woodlands. Walking amongst this bushland will make you forget you are only 10km from Perth and within an urbanised environment. Come watch the birds, smell the flowers enjoy the ambience of the lake and forget the hustle and bustle of City life.



Wetland buffer being planted



Wetland buffer after planting

## WESROC Musings

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) comprising the Town's of Claremont, Cottesloe and Mosman Park, the Shire of Peppermint Grove and the Cities of Nedlands and Subiaco along with the Town of Cambridge work on a voluntary partnership, on projects across or on shared boundaries, and to address cross-boundary regional issues.

- WESROC submitted a funding application for \$100,000 to the 20 Million Trees Programme in October. If successful the grant will be used to plant trees and native vegetation at 3 Bush Forever sites namely Lake Claremont, Point Resolution, Pelican Point / JH Abrahams Reserve and in the Quarry Amphitheatre site close to Bold Park.
- WESROC has canvassed adjacent landholders and is exploring ways to determine the number of foxes in the area and track their movements. Foxes have a detrimental impact on native wildlife and it is important to obtain a thorough understanding of their interaction with the local urban environment in order to determine the best control methods.
- The Yange Kep Bidi will be completed in February 2015 with the remaining 3 trails to follow soon after.

## Contact Us

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