

# WESROC NEWS



Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils

December 2016



Greg Trevaskis, CEO Nedlands, Neville Collard, Noongar Elder, Cr Rob Thomas, Cottesloe, Cr Dawne Horrex, Peppermint Grove, Deputy Mayor Jenna Ledgerwood, Mosman Park, Cr Binks, Nedlands, Mayor Ron Norris, Mosman Park, Mayor Max Hipkins, Nedlands and Cr Julie Matheson, Subiaco with the iconic Whadjuk Trails message stick.

*“The unique combination of remnant bushlands, historical significance, and the connection with traditional owners places the Whadjuk Trails well ahead on the world stage”*  
- STEVE BENNETT

## Whadjuk Trails Extend a Further 21.9km

On Friday 18 November 2016, the Karda and Karak Bidi linking trails in the Whadjuk Network of trails were officially opened to the public. Noongar Elder Neville Collard conducted the Welcome to Country and presented the iconic Message stick to Mayor Max Hipkins from the City of Nedlands.

The event was well attended by many elected members from the WESROC councils. Also present were executive staff, friends and community groups and the supporting bodies of Lotterywest, the Department of Sport and Recreation, and Perth NRM who collectively funded and facilitated the successful development of the trails. After recognition of sponsors, Lesley Shaw of the Friends of Allen Park led attendees on a 1.4km walk.

A gorgeous day at 26 degrees enabled all to enjoy the walk, captivating views and incorporating history. The included sectors of bushland showcased the Karda and Karak Bidi effortlessly with expertise on fauna, flora and historical sights provided by Lesley.

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## Responsible Cat Ownership Campaign

WESROC in partnership with Cat Haven are reminding residents of the obligations and benefits of being a responsible cat owner. The 'Responsible Cat Ownership' campaign, which will run from October through to March, is in response to a report received by WESROC on regional feral animal monitoring and control that focussed on rabbits and foxes.

The report revealed cats to be a problem affecting native wildlife habitats in the western suburbs. Thirty eight motion sensor cameras captured cats on 73 occasions, rabbits on 35 and foxes on only five. A domestic cat survey for the seven councils has since been compiled and before the campaign 2813 cats are registered.

Cat owners are reminded that under the *Cat Act 2011*, all cats must be microchipped, sterilised/desexed and registered with the local council before they reach six months old. Kittens can be sterilised from eight weeks of age.

Roz Robinson, Chief Executive Officer Cat Haven said: "For maximum health and social benefits, all kittens should be sterilised before they reach sexual maturity which is usually around three months".

If not already done, residents should get their cats vaccinated and microchipped by their vet at the same time and follow up with their annual boosters. Cat Haven offers concession card holders a discount on sterilising and microchipping your cat.

Town of Claremont Mayor Jock Barker said: "WESROC and the Cat Haven should be congratulated for running what is clearly a positive campaign on responsible cat ownership". Some benefits of cat sterilisation include:

- Less chance of your pet developing certain types of cancers and infections
- Lifespan of a cat is 15 years compared to only three years if unsterilised
- A less temperamental and easier to manage pet
- Reduced risk of loss or injury from cats escaping to mate
- Reduced registration and vet fees
- No unwanted litters.

It is recommended that cats wear a collar with a bell on it to help reduce the chances of them catching native wildlife. Cats should also be kept in-doors at night to prevent them from coming into contact with native and feral animals which pose a risk to their health (Feline immunodeficiency virus, and bites and scratches that can turn into abscesses).

For further information, residents should contact their local council or Cat Haven.

# Whadjuk Trails Shine on World Stage.

Native birds were appreciated during the walk and the innovative QR codes enthralled listeners with Noongar stories as they enjoyed the tranquil bush escape within Suburbia.

WESROC member councils are proud to deliver this asset to their communities where it will foster increased appreciation of unique local bushland, the beautiful Swan River *Derbarl Yerrigan*, the pristine coast and magnificent views.

Steve Bennett from the Department of Sport and Recreation spoke about his recent attendance at the world trails conference in Tottori Japan. He said that “the unique combination of remnant bushlands, historical significance, and the connection with traditional owners places the Whadjuk Trails well ahead on the world stage”.

Western Australia is arguably the national leader in state-wide management and co-ordination of trails showing a greater understanding of their importance.

The outdoors and nature based activities account for a \$23 billion economy in Australia. With 27 per cent of all overnight visitors to the state hitting the trails, we are entitled to feel proud that our investment in the Whadjuk Trails has been well spent.

Mayor Max Hipkins said: “With five out of the six trails now completed it is time to start thinking of ways to promote the Whadjuk Trails as a fantastic tourist opportunity for visitors to Perth”.



*A Rainbow Bee-eater poses for walkers to enjoy.*



*Elected members and dignitaries with Steve Bennett  
Department of Sport and Recreation*



*Lesley Shaw shares her knowledge of the local bushlands with walkers*



*Walkers stop to take in the views from Birdwood Park*

# New Library Management System for Western Suburbs Libraries

Five western suburbs libraries have received a significant upgrade to their library management system (LMS) in December 2016. The new modern system called Spydus has been rolled out at the Grove, Claremont, Nedlands, Mt Claremont and Subiaco libraries replacing the system in use for 16 years.

The cutting edge, cloud-based LMS will allow library staff and users to access the system from any device (mobile, tablet or laptop) and expand libraries' services outside the confines of physical buildings.

The Western Suburbs Library Group (WSLG) was formed under the auspices of WESROC in 1998 when a joint tender process by the councils of Subiaco, Peppermint Grove, Claremont and Nedlands resulted in the acquisition and implementation of both hardware and software for a centralised LMS.

Shire of Peppermint Grove President Rachel Thomas said: "Shared library services like LMS's has provided significant cost savings to the participating councils over the years and we are looking forward to further cost savings for many years to come".

Spydus helps libraries achieve improved service standards and greater efficiency. It is designed around the core objectives of convenience, knowledge and manageability to deliver high quality, easily accessible services.

City of Subiaco Mayor Heather Henderson said: "We welcome a new and improved system that is easy to use, more comprehensive and better for our community."

"It comes with many unique features. Users will be able to set up their own profile and nominate their preferred genre of books or receive a notification when their favourite author has arrived".



**Sarah Liddiard, Manager Community Hub Town of Claremont**



**Overview of City of Nedlands Library**



**City of Subiaco Library Staff serving customers**



**Stewart Farley, the Grove Library with Trish Townsend, Auslan Interpreter at the popular 'story time' session during Disability Awareness Week 29 November 2016**

## Contact Us

This is the sixth WESROC News and we encourage you to comment on the current articles or contact us for suggestions on future articles.

Send an email titled WESROC News to:  
[vcusack@nedlands.wa.gov.au](mailto:vcusack@nedlands.wa.gov.au)