

# WESROC News

May 2021



Photo by Jean and Fred (CC 2.0)

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## NATIVE PLANT SUBSIDY SCHEME

The WESROC Native Plant Subsidy Scheme is currently underway! A wonderful variety of native plants are available to residents at a 50% discount from APACE Community Nursery, 1 Johanna St in North Fremantle. 80 plants are available per residence and the scheme has been extended into June while stocks last!

Now that the COVID-19 restrictions have eased, residents can once again visit the nursery and select their own plants. Native plants make a beautiful addition to any garden, are waterwise and climate hardy, and help to provide habitat for wildlife, particularly our essential insect species such as native butterflies and non-stinging bees.

The Native Plant Subsidy Scheme continues to be a popular annual WESROC program, to the point where even during COVID lockdown in 2020 residents still took advantage of the NPSS and bought 15,400 plants. In 2021, there are lots of wonderful plants just waiting to be planted in local gardens!



## NATIVE VERGE WORKSHOPS

With the Native Plant Subsidy Scheme available to residents, now may be a good time to consider a verge conversion. Native verge gardens are wonderfully beneficial as they add habitat for wildlife and make for very attractive home frontage.

WESROC engaged with Apace Community Nursery to run two workshops that helped residents learn about converting bare or grass verges into thriving native gardens.

Over two consecutive Saturday mornings, the workshops were held at the Western Australian Ecology Centre (20 March) and the Grove Community Learning Centre (27 March) where 90 residents came to learn about native verge conversion techniques.

During the course of the morning, information on preparing the site, soil conditioning, weed control, plant choices for attracting birds and insects, intelligent waterwise design, how verges can form habitat corridors, and much more was discussed. Attendees had plenty of opportunity have their questions answered and were directed towards useful resources.

Feedback from the mornings was very positive, with the workshops described as “A real eye opener,” and “It was a great morning. Gave me real insight into Verge Gardening.”

Before starting work on a native verge be sure to check your local government’s verge (or Nature Strip) guidelines. Some local governments offer additional support for converting verges to native gardens, so contact them to learn what your options are.

### Hotels for Native Bees!

Ever dreamed of being a hotelier? It’s a big responsibility with massive financial commitments and long hours. Why not start small and become a hotelier in your very own home!

Native bee hotels are wonderful additions to any garden and provide much needed habitat for the small, essential pollinators. Unlike the hive building, social honeybee, native bees are mostly solitary and just looking for a small, hollow pocket to bed down in. Best of all, our native bees are not only unique and cute, but they’re also non-stinging!

There are multiple resources available online for building your own bee hotel or some premade models are available from retail outlets.



Bee hotel by gailhamshire (CC 2.0)



## FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL 2021

WESROC has conducted our biggest control program to date. For this round, 22 reserves were targeted for foxes, feral cats, and rabbits. The program ran from mid-April to mid-May and a results report will be prepared by the contractors. The control locations and target species are as follows:

Town of Cambridge - rabbit control.

City Beach | Floreat Beach | Templetonia Park

Town of Cottesloe - rabbit control.

John Black Dune Reserve | Grant Marine Park |

Cottesloe Native Garden | Cottesloe Foreshore

Town of Claremont - fox, feral cat, and rabbit control.

Lake Claremont | Foreshore Reserve (Bindaring Pde)

Town of Mosman Park - fox, feral cat, and rabbit control.

Greenplace Reserve | Buckland Hill | Minim Cove Park | Chidley Point Reserve

City of Nedlands - fox, feral cat, and rabbit control.

Shenton Bushland | Allen Park | Point Resolution | Hollywood Reserve

Surveys conducted at Mt Claremont oval and Birdwood Parade.

City of Subiaco - fox, feral cat, and rabbit control.

Shenton Park Bushland and Lake Jualbup | Rosalie Park

## Managing Mozzies

The WESROC CLAG received approval in August 2020 in time for the 2020-2021 summer mosquito management 'season'. The Cities of Nedlands and Subiaco – as the principal stakeholders – applied for and received funding from the Department of Health Mosquito Control Advisory Committee for mosquito management and education strategies across the 2020-2021 season. This included funding towards mosquito control supplies and Fight the Bite educational materials.

The first meeting of the WESROC CLAG was held on the 3 November 2020, with representatives from the City of Nedlands, City of Subiaco, Town of Claremont, Town of Cottesloe, Town of Mosman Park, and Department of Health present. It was a valuable opportunity to discuss mosquito management for the upcoming season and hear from the Department of Health in regard to the predictions for the summer ahead.

*Continued on page 4...*





With predictions indicating increased rainfall and higher tides favourable for mosquito breeding, and unseasonal Ross River Virus cases already reported within WA, the importance of mosquito management, educational activities, and collaboration became a priority. The second meeting of the CLAG was planned to be held in the middle of the mosquito management season, however was cancelled due to the Perth COVID lockdown in place at the time. The final wrap up meeting for the WESROC CLAG for 2020-2021 was scheduled for Tuesday, 27 April 2021.

## BAITING FOR THE BIRDS

Mice are getting a lot of media coverage at the moment due to the plague proportions in NSW, prompting residents across Australia to take greater notice of rodent activity around their homes and community. However, it is important to remember that rodents are a part of the food supply for Australian wildlife, particularly raptors.

Some rodent baits won't just poison the mice and rats that consume them, but also anything that then consumes the poisoned rodents. This is called secondary poisoning and is very common because slow and sickly poisoned rodents are easier to catch, and the carrion from poisoned rodents may be consumed by predators. Rodent bait isn't only toxic to mice and rats, it's toxic to anything that eats it and the poison can remain in the body for weeks after the rodent has succumb to it.

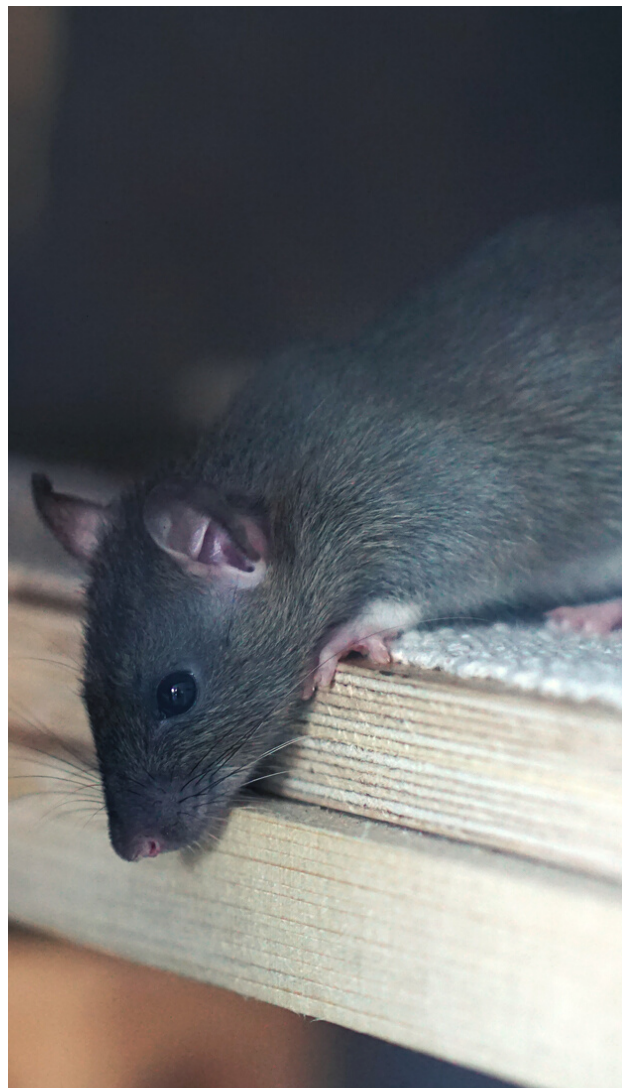
To reduce rodent activity around your home, here are some simple things you can do:

1. Keep compost/worm farms in a closed unit rather than an open pile. This reduces food sources and nesting locations for rodents.
2. Keep gardens clean of leaf litter or rubbish that can be used for nesting material.
3. Store firewood off the ground wherever possible (this is good for the firewood too).
4. Keep any heat packs or items containing grain in closed containers with a lid, such as old biscuit tins or Tupperware containers.
5. Try non-toxic forms of pest control, such as snap or cage traps.

If baiting is required, place the bait in locations that rodents are likely to frequent but wildlife unlikely to access. Most importantly, use bait that has warfarin or coumatetralyl as the active ingredient and is unlikely to cause secondary poisoning. Read the label and save the lives of our native wildlife.



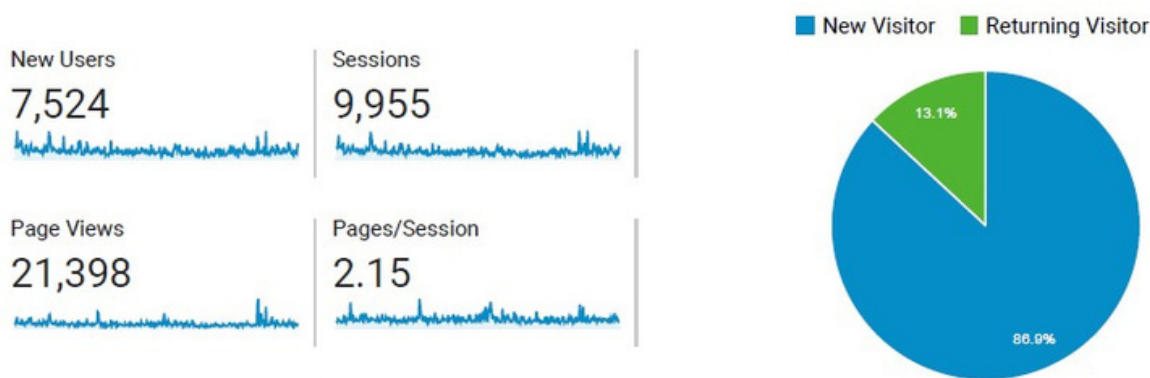
Tawny Frog Mouth by Michael Howard (CC 2.0)



## Whadjuk Walking Trails Website

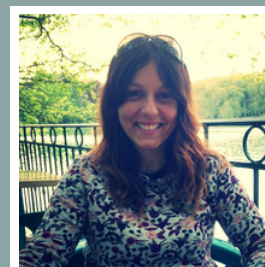
The Whadjuk Walking Trails website tracks visitor statistics and provides an indication of usage and interest in the trails. From June 2020 to April 2021 the website had 21,398 pageviews and an average of 630 visitors per month. This is an increase of 11% compared to 2019-2020.

Of those pageviews, 86.9% were from new visitors and 13.1% were returning visitors. 47.4% of website visitors used Australian registered devices and the remaining 52.6% used internationally registered devices. This demonstrates that even during a global pandemic when travel is strictly limited, the Whadjuk Walking Trails website is attractive and engaging for local and international users.



## Changes in the WESROC Team

WESROC thanks Veronique Largier for her time as a member of the WESROC Environmental Improvement Committee and wish her the very best in her new career endeavors. During Veronique's time at the City of Subiaco she contributed to some amazing projects, such as the floating installation at Lake Subiaco Common, implementation of the native verge conversion program, and the Cliff Sadlier living stream.



Adeline Morrissey will also be missed at WESROC, but thankfully for only a temporary time. We offer Adeline and her husband our sincerest congratulations on the birth of their son and wish Adeline and her baby health, peace, joy, and - perhaps most importantly - sleep! Take your time, and we look forward to having you back on the team when you're ready.



Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils



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