



Monitoring Camera Snap Results

The bandicoot refuge project located in Kwinana and presented in Issue 2 of the e-news has progressed to a new monitoring phase.

Through support from Alcoa under the Challenger Beach Rehabilitation Project, a wildlife monitoring camera has been installed to record fauna at one of the four refuge sites.

The camera is triggered by a motion sensor during the day and an infra-red sensor at night; it can store approximately 3,000 images and can be programmed to suit particular animal characteristics.

Since the installation of the camera in the period from September to December 2010 the range of fauna photographed include the following: Red Wattle Bird, Crow, Turtle Dove, Singing Honeyeater and a Bobtail Lizard.

Rats have been recorded on 11 days, cats on three occasions and foxes on four occasions. Bandicoots were recorded on two separate occasions, once at 6 am and once at 10 pm.

The presence of foxes and cats at the site is concerning

and a control program will be implemented to reduce potential pressure on the bandicoots.

While there are numerous signs of rabbits in the area including scats and diggings, no photographs of rabbits have been taken as yet.



An Introduction to Coastal Gardens

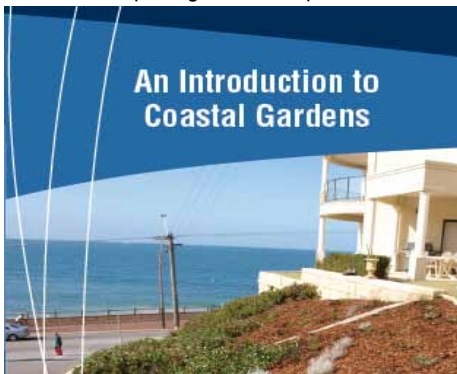
Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare, together with the City of Stirling and with support from Perth Region Natural Resource Management, has produced a brochure titled 'An Introduction to Coastal Gardens'. This brochure is part of a larger on-ground coastal restoration project funded through the Federal Government's Caring for our Country Community Coastcare Grants.

Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare is a volunteer group which has been working for many years along the coastal reserves of the City of Stirling. The group's objectives are to restore native biodiversity to these areas; eliminate invasive species, reduce erosion and increase ecological resilience; as well as community education and capacity building.

Through the many years of experience working in the coastal zone, the group recognised a greater need to educate the local community about the importance of using local native species in gardens and to reduce the impact of household escapees on coastal biodiversity. The brochure was put together in response to

this need, and to work in conjunction with other publications produced by the City of Stirling on growing native plants and waterwise gardens. It includes some key tips on planting and maintaining coastal gardens, as well as listing recommended plant species and those to avoid. The brochure also suggests reputable suppliers for local native plants and references other useful publications and websites for further advice.

The brochure was launched on Thursday the 2nd of December at Waterman's Bay, with City of Stirling Mayor David Boothman and Tony Krsticevic MLA (Member for Carine) in attendance. It is available from the City of Stirling; North Metropolitan Coastcare Officer - Ph 9285 5099; and Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare volunteers.



Catchments, Corridors and Coasts January 2011

Catchments, Corridors and Coasts (CCC) is a three-day professional development program initiated by the Australian Association for Environmental Education, which provides a snapshot of environmental education in WA from catchments, through corridors to the coast.

Snorkelling in the ocean, walking in the bush, getting up close and personal with native fauna and sharing experiences with broad scale farmers are just some of the activities you can experience in the action packed CCC program. The course is suitable for environmental educators, teachers, student teachers, local government staff and councillors, state government officers, international visitors, university and TAFE students, community groups and members of youth organisations.

Coastcare has been a part of this course for many years, and on Friday January 21st the North Metro Coastcare Officer delivered an education session to approximately 30 participants. This session highlighted several key messages, including understanding the importance of a biologically diverse and resilient dune system in the metropolitan area; threats to urban coastlines and appropriate 'best management and behaviour'; and the achievements of education and volunteer initiatives around the Coastcare Program.

End of year Coastcare Tour December 2010

It's always nice for Coastcare volunteers visit the coast and NOT have to do any work – and in this spirit we organised an end-of-year coastal tour in the south metro region. The tour was attended by 20 volunteers from various Coastcare and Friends Of groups.

The tour started in Fremantle, where we met Jake Tanner from the City of Fremantle to discuss their coastal rehabilitation projects and challenges at Sandtrax, Bathers and South beaches.

We continued on to Coogee Beach to have a look at rehabilitation of the dunes that has been ongoing for 8 years with great support from the City of Cockburn, and with some fantastic results evident.

In Kwinana we took a look at some new coastal projects that Craig has been involved with, a coastal viewing platform, indigenous coastal trail and bandicoot monitoring sites. We also stopped for a relaxing picnic and chat in the park, before heading down to Rockingham.

Here we were met by not only a fierce sea breeze, but also David Mort from the City of Rockingham, who talked to us about their coastal management and rehabilitation projects in the local area.

All in all, a great day that was enjoyed by everyone! Thanks to the local government staff that met us along the way, and to Craig for doing a lot of the talking! If you have ideas or suggestions for future Coastcare tours please let Kate or Craig know.



Graceful Sun Moth's On the Wing in February and April

The Graceful sun-moth (*Synemon gratiosa*) is listed as 'fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct' under the WA Conservation Act and has been accorded endangered status under State and Commonwealth legislation. The Graceful sun-moth can be found on coastal sands, limestone and heath and is associated with *Lomandra maritima*. While surveys carried out in 2010 extended currently known populations additional survey work is still required to gain a better understanding of its distribution and status. If you have *L. maritima* in your coastal reserve you may have the Graceful sun-moth and it may be on the wing and visible from mid February to early April. Keep an eye out when you are walking through your reserve and if you think you have seen the moth contact your Coastcare Officer or local DEC representative.



Coastcare at the Royal Show

Coastcare spent a day at the Royal Show promoting its community involvement program by highlighting the work that volunteers undertake in the coastal zone.

A steady stream of visitors passed by the display, asking questions on a range of topics such as plants suitable for the coastal zone and potential impacts of sea level rise on the Perth coast.

Having the a range of costal plants on display prompted discussions on how more residents can use native plants to reduce water consumption and lower fertilizer usage.



above: Kate Spatore at the Royal Show



above: Craig Wilson at the Royal Show

My Cockburn Sound Competition

A new competition for people who enjoy the natural values of Cockburn Sound is now open for entries until 28 February.

Cockburn Sound has been, for many years, a popular place for visitors, holiday makers, fishers, recreational boaters and beach walkers enjoying the natural environment of this delightful coastal destination.

We would like to hear your stories about Cockburn Sound and you can add a photo as well. Winning entries will receive cash or other prizes donated by Bell Scuba and Rockingham Wild Encounters and will be published.

For more information contact craig.wilson@kwinana.wa.gov.au

Neil Hackett
Bell Scuba

Bell Scuba have been operating dive services on the beach at Rockingham for the past 10 years for divers visiting attractions including the Bell Park Wreck Trail, one of the most dived sites in Western Australia. "Diving in Cockburn Sound will bring you face to face with octopus, fish, and crabs also the beautiful and delicate sea horse" says Neil Hackett, Bell Scuba Managing Director. "With great water quality and safe, sheltered conditions for diving we are gearing up for a busy summer dive season"

Glenn Dibben
Blue Lagoon Mussels

Blue Lagoon Mussels have been growing mussels in Cockburn Sound for the restaurant and retail trade since 1988. "We have had great success growing quality mussels due to excellent water quality and good circulation around our suspended growing ropes" says Blue Lagoon Mussels Director, Glenn Dibben. "Our mussel ropes have created new habitat and we often see shrimp, crabs, stingrays and occasionally furia around our mussel farm a good indication of biodiversity in Cockburn Sound"

Terry Howson
Rockingham Wild Encounters

"We have been running ecotourism tours in Cockburn Sound for the past 22 years delighting both locals and international guests who view the dolphins, penguins and sea lions in their natural state", says Rockingham Wild Encounters Director, Terry Howson. "Cockburn Sound supports a diverse community of animals and we are confident that the natural environment of Cockburn Sound will continue to support our business into the future" he says.

TELL US YOUR COCKBURN SOUND STORY & WIN \$250

additional prizes donated by Bell Scuba and Rockingham Wild Adventures

We would like to hear your favourite story or experience of Cockburn Sound - fishing, boating, snorkeling, holidays.

my cockburn sound

Send us your story of up to 500 words (you can include a photo). Winning stories will be published locally.

Two prize categories: Student & Open | Entries close: 28 February 2011
Send entries to the Coastcare Officer craig.wilson@kwinana.wa.gov.au

COASTCARE in the KIM
KWINANA INDUSTRIES COUNCIL

Coastcare and WA Disabled Sports

The Coastcare Program has recently initiated a partnership with the WA Disabled Sports Association, undertaking activities in both the north and south metropolitan areas.

In the north, adult participants of a camp at Em Halliday campgrounds joined Kate for a coastal education session at Whitfords Nodes beach, and removed some invasive plant species and a significant amount of rubbish from the edges of the path up to the lookout. Afterwards the group did a beachcombing session at the water's edge, discussing marine flora and fauna – and anything else interesting that was found!

In the south, a team of students from Eastern Hills High School attended a camp at Woodman Point and spent time controlling invasive weeds in the Regional Park. The day concluded with a 'Creature Feature' beachcombing activity and beach clean up. Lots of fun with an important message - marine debris is damaging our coastal animals.



Can you name these coastal birds and win a prize?

Preparing our Coasts for a Changing Climate

The Australian Government's Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has recently released a series of maps showing low lying areas vulnerable to sea level rise.

In Western Australia, maps of the coast from Perth to Mandurah showing sea level scenarios of 0.5m, 0.8m 1.1m and relevant for the year 2100 are now available to view. Maps can be accessed via the following site: <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/australias-coasts-and-climate-change.aspx> or directly on http://www.ozcoasts.org.au/climate/Map_images/Perth/mapLevel2.jsp