

WESROC NEWS



Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils

July 2014



Neville Collard, Sally Wallace and Premier Colin Barnett MLA

“The Whadjuk Trails project is excellent and I am honoured to pass on, and leave behind my peoples stories to the next generations”.

- Neville Collard

Whadjuk Trails Celebration

Premier Colin Barnett MLA joined Noongar Elder Neville Collard, Mayor Ron Norris, a host of western suburbs luminaries, Sponsors, Friends Groups and members of the public to officially open the Wardun Beelie Bidi trail on 30 May 2014.

The end of Autumn event brought glorious weather for the short 2 kilometer walk following the ceremony. The Wardun Beelie Bidi is the second completed trail in the [Whadjuk Trails](#) network.

The trails are truly intergenerational celebrating and preserving Noongar culture through the use of modern technology. Referring to quick response codes, Neville Collard said he was honoured to pass on his peoples stories to this and future generations.

The Whadjuk Trails project had its genesis in 2002, when the local friends groups started annual walks celebrating and linking remnant bushlands in Perth’s western suburbs.

Premier Barnett praised the Whadjuk Trail Network and said it provides a fantastic opportunity for the community to engage in recreation while interacting with the natural environment. The trails are being funded by Lotterywest, the Department of Sport and Recreation and WESROC.

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Grevillea preissii

Native Plants Continue to Grow

WESROC's 2014 Native Plant Subsidy Scheme (NPSS) remains popular with the community, with this year's sales to residents in the western suburbs, totaling 13,276 around 500 up on last year.

This local greening and water-wise initiative began with the City of Nedlands and the not-for-profit APACE Community Nursery in 2002. It grew with the involvement of WESROC in 2006, and soon after expanded to some of the Councils south of the river.

The NPSS works by Councils ordering plants in advance, based on the previous years sales, and the quality tube stocks are available to residents at the subsidised cost of \$1.50 during the month of May.

Plants on offer include trees, shrubs, sedges and groundcovers. The variety of plants suit a range of purposes including bush tucker, drought and shade tolerant and those providing a food source for native birds.

The Towns of Claremont, Cottesloe, Mosman Park and Cambridge, the Shire of Peppermint Grove and the Cities of Nedlands and Subiaco collaborate in coordinating and promoting the scheme. The cost sharing arrangements for newspaper advertising, for example, provides significant savings to member councils and ensures a consistent message and recognisable brand for local residents.

The community are clearly demonstrating an increasing appreciation of the benefits of native plants in their gardens and verges in Perth's long hot summers. Native plants are resilient, require little maintenance once established, and add lots of colour to the neighborhood.

The combined total of plants sold through WESROC's NPSS from 2008 to 2014 is 75,168.

WESROC Launches Climate Smart Project

WESROC highlighted the importance of Perth's urban forest at the launch of its Climate Smart series at the Grove Library on Saturday 15 March.

The 130 people who attended the "Preserving our Urban Forest" event enjoyed informative engaging stallholders and presentations, with the children in awe of Kaarakin's two live Carnarby's Cockatoos.

Dr Paul Hardisty illustrated the climate change impacts that Perth is experiencing and their increasing severity by 2030. His message of valuing the role of trees in reducing temperatures in urban areas fitted well with Peter Ciemitis' contention of the need for better urban planning to prevent the unnecessary loss of the urban forest.

The Beyond Gardens Team rounded off the morning with an entertaining workshop on Bioscaping (landscaping for WA conditions and habitat).

For further information see the feature in [Local Government Focus](#) June 2014.



Margaret Owen and Frauke Chambers



Sand drift into drains

The guidelines contain practical measures for minimising sand drift, and are designed specifically for the geotextile material to be retrofitted to the temporary fence panels, used widely throughout Perth.

The Sediment Control guidelines are available on the seven western suburbs Council websites.



Sediment build up in Mable Talbot

Local Councils bear costs of sediment clean-up

Local governments spend millions of dollars each year on drainage infrastructure to prevent flooding and damage to roads and property.

The drainage system, just like guttering and downpipes on peoples houses, works best when clean and free from debris.

Sediment and other building materials entering the drains can restrict flow and lead to localised flooding.

The sand especially when combined with organic material contributes to the pollution of Perth's waterways.

The financial costs of educting clogged drains, on local roads, falls entirely on local governments.

WESROC has developed Sand Drift Prevention and Sediment Control Guidelines for Building Sites to help tackle this problem.

Plastic Free July

It is not too late to participate in 'Plastic Free July'. So let's take up the challenge and attempt to refuse or at least reduce single use plastic for the rest of this month.

'Single Use' includes plastic shopping bags, plastic cups, straws and plastic packaging to name a few. All of these are often found in our rivers, wetlands, lakes and ocean and have detrimental impacts on riverine and marine life.

The [United Nations](#) recently reported that plastic waste causes US \$13 billion damage to the marine ecosystem.

The plastic free July campaign is a great example of thinking 'globally and acting locally'. The idea started with the Western Metropolitan Regional Council, and was developed by Earth Carers, as a local community initiative in the western suburbs in 2011. It is an educational and behavior change campaign focusing on the importance of reuse.

The idea has expanded and includes a range of "convenience" items such as disposable coffee cups, and vegetables placed on trays and "sealed" in glad wrap.

So start off small by:

- Bringing your own reusable shopping bag to the supermarket;
- Taking your own reusable cup to buy takeaway coffees;
- Try not to purchases plastic bottles—again use a reusable water bottle; and
- Avoid using a straw when you purchase a drink.

Remember when milk used to come in glass bottles? Well it still does check out [Sunnydale Dairy](#) based in the Western Suburbs for a list of retail outlets.

For more information and ideas click on the [Plastic Free July](#) website.

Greening the railway reserve

WESROC member councils have collectively planted around 37,000 plants along the Perth to Fremantle railway reserve since 2008.

The plantings are part of a collaborative voluntary greening agreement signed by the Chief Executive Officers of the Public Transport Authority, Main Roads WA, WESROC members, and the City of Fremantle.

The voluntary agreement to create a green corridor along the rail reserve relies on commitment by all parties to deliver the project. Some of the WESROC members have finished their section of the rail reserve, while others such as the cities of Subiaco and Nedlands, are continuing with annual plantings of their areas along the reserve.

Recently the City of Nedlands revegetated part of the grass verge on the eastern side of the railway line north of the Karrakatta underpass. Following removal of environmental weeds and limestone road base, mulch was laid over the greenway project area and approximately 3000 water-wise, locally occurring native trees, shrubs and groundcovers were planted in June 2014.

The City of Subiaco has prepared 1500m² of the railway road reserve close to Hamersley Road and Lawler Street for planting. The City is aligning its plantings with 'National Tree Day' Sunday 27 July and volunteers are welcome to help plant this section of the reserve.

Greening the railway reserve assists in protecting biodiversity, providing improved habitats and connectivity for local fauna.

The parties agreed that the project can be delivered without impacting on the primary purpose of the railway corridor, which is of course providing public transport.



An area of the reserve before planting



An area of the reserve being planted



4 year old plantings along the reserve

Contact Us

This is the first WESROC newsletter and we encourage you to give us your feedback.

Feel free 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



Western suburbs leading the way as Waterwise Councils

The seven western suburbs Councils have all achieved Waterwise council status and collectively form close to one-third of the 23 Waterwise Councils in WA.

This fantastic achievement demonstrates a strong commitment to water conservation by the Councils and their communities.

While the Councils were responsible and rewarded for their individual Waterwise achievements, they engage in information sharing, and for some projects direct collaboration through WESROC.