

# GREENPAGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MUNDARING SWAN  
AND KALAMUNDA FRIENDS GROUPS AND  
EASTERN REGION CATCHMENT GROUPS

August / September 2017

## Top stories this month:

- High School Students Upgrade Drainage in Glen Forrest
- Boya Heritage Trail
- Brushtail Phascogale Nesting Boxes
- Penny Hussey (OAM)

## Quick Contacts:

- City of Kalamunda on (08) 9257 9999
- Shire of Mundaring on (08) 9290 6666
- City of Swan on (08) 9267 9267
- EMRC on (08) 9424 2222

Let us know if you would like to receive this newsletter via email – it's another way you can help the environment! To register, email the EMRC at [environment@emrc.org.au](mailto:environment@emrc.org.au) with "Subscribe to Greenpage" in the subject heading and your email contact details. For further information, please contact Kate Malden at EMRC on (08) 9424 2216.

The Greenpage newsletter is compiled by the EMRC using multiple resources and authors. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the EMRC or the project sponsors.

Previous editions are available from [www.emrc.org.au/greenpage.html](http://www.emrc.org.au/greenpage.html)

## High School Students Upgrade Drainage in Glen Forrest

By David O'Brien, Shire of Mundaring

Early in June, the Shire of Mundaring had 12 students from Northam Senior High School visit Springside Park in Glen Forrest to assist with an ongoing project to reduce erosion and improve water quality within an open drain leading to Nyaanya Creek. These students are currently studying to complete their Certificate II in Conservation Land Management and Horticulture. This gave the Shire of Mundaring the opportunity to give the students a greater understanding of how these issues can be combated.



Photos : Courtesy of David O'Brien

Firstly, we set about installing rock riffles throughout the open drain in areas where the water gained its greatest momentum. By slowing the water speed, this reduces the destructive nature of the water on the soil structure of the drain by sediment being washed further down the creek system. This was followed by the planting of over 100 sedges with the intention that the sedges will assist in filtering rubbish and nutrients from the water that will wash down from surrounding roads.

Overall the day was an outstanding success with the students gaining a greater understanding of the impact that storm water can have on our water ways as well as acknowledging the individual difference they can make to their local environment.



For more information contact: David O'Brien, Supervisor of Environment and Horticulture from Shire of Mundaring on 9290 6749 or [HO@mundaring.wa.gov.au](mailto:HO@mundaring.wa.gov.au).

## Fire and Environment – Working Together

By Brad Thompson, City of Swan



Photo: City of Swan

The City of Swan's Fire and Emergency Management team and the Bushland Maintenance team are working closely to help enhance bushland areas while protecting residents by reducing bushfire risk. The two teams and local volunteer brigades worked together to undertake a fuel reduction burn in F.R Berry Reserve, one of the most pristine bushland areas in the City of Swan. The Bushland Maintenance team assisted the brigade members to implement dieback control methods on their trucks and boots.



Bush Regeneration team member Steve Cam decontaminating the wheels on a brigade appliance  
Photo: Debbie Screen

The controlled burn was conducted to reduce the fire risk to neighbouring properties, while at the same time lowering the fuel load within the reserve and minimising the risk of a fire taking place. Hot, uncontrolled fires not only risk lives, but also kill off native plants and seeds, and allow the invasion of undesirable and highly flammable weed species which can contribute to higher fire risk in the future.

On first glance, it would seem that Bushfire Mitigation and Bushland Maintenance are directly opposed to one another, with one team trying to remove the risk posed by vegetation and the other trying to preserve it. However, the two areas are linked in many ways. Some examples are:

- Invasion of bushland reserves by highly flammable weeds such as Flinders Range and Black Wattles affects both the health of natural bushland and increases the fire risk
- Installation of firebreaks to protect neighbouring properties while taking into account the surrounding vegetation and the actual fire risk posed reduces the need for excessive vegetation clearing
- Grass weed control assists with reducing flammability and prevents biodiversity loss of native plant species
- Undertaking fuel load reduction in autumn, which allows the opportunity for native plants to reproduce as normal in winter/spring

Ongoing communication between the Fire and Emergency Management team and the Natural Environmental Maintenance team allows effective co-ordination in planning future burn programs and follow-up weed control post-burn/unplanned fire events.

With this ongoing working relationship, residents are able to have a lower bushfire risk whilst protecting the quality and health of their local bushland areas.



Bush Regeneration supervisor Michael Cook demonstrating dieback control to brigade members  
Photo: Debbie Screen

## Healthy Wildlife and Bush Skills 4 Youth Workshops Engaging Perth's Eastern Region By the EMRC



Stuffed Quentin

Waterbirds, possums, quenda (bandicoots), bobtails and other reptiles have been the stars of a series of workshops that have drawn more than 500 participants including over 200 children aged three to 15, to various locations throughout Perth's Eastern Region between early March and the end of July this year.

A successful partnership between two EMRC programs, Healthy Wildlife Healthy Lives and Bush Skills 4 Youth, resulted in the delivery of 12 workshops. The workshops focused on information about how people can interact with native animals in ways that are healthy for both the animals, the people and the environment. Topics included animal ecology, habitat, feeding and parasitic diseases.

For adults, presentations by scientists and wildlife carers covered these topics in detail and take home information sheets were provided to reinforce messages. Children learnt about interacting with wildlife through stories and games. A life size board game incorporating a Quenda Quiz helped children to remember important information about feeding quenda and creating suitable habitat in the backyard.

Workshops at Native Animal Rescue in Malaga and Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Lesmurdie proved to be popular as participants were able to tour the rehabilitation facilities and meet some of the animals up close.

The popular practice of feeding waterbirds bread was challenged during two workshops held in the City of Belmont. Located at Tomato Lake and Freshwater Park (Ascot), the workshops invited regular visitors to the park to learn about the problems caused by feeding waterbirds, who were then taken on a walk to identify the many bird species that frequent these areas.

The most popular workshop, Basking Bobtails and Beautiful Beasts, included information about injured animals and recognising bobtail flu. To date, we have repeated this workshop three times due to demand, with a fourth one planned for Saturday 12 August 2017 at Kanyana. To register go to the events page on the Healthy Wildlife website: [www.healthywildlife.com.au/events](http://www.healthywildlife.com.au/events).

For more information about Bush Skills 4 Youth, contact Cathy Levett on (08) 9424 2244.



Quenda Quest  
25 March 2017

Photos: by the EMRC



Attendees at the Bobtails and Beautiful Beasts Workshop

Photo: by the EMRC

## Boya Heritage Trail Celebrates Native Grasses

By Friends of Boya Trail



Renowned grass expert and illustrator Una Bell with Mundaring Shire President David Lavell



Cathy Levett, EMRC Bush Skills 4 Youth Project Officer with Yvonne and her grandchildren

Friends of Boya Trail held an open day in May to unveil a new interpretive sign about grasses provided by the Shire of Mundaring. Shire President David Lavell said community Friends of Reserves groups make a major contribution to maintaining and improving heritage features and the natural environment in the Shire. Unveiling the sign, renowned grasses illustrator and expert, Ms Una Bell, said it was important to recognize that not all grasses are weeds.

The sign features some of her illustrations of native grasses including: Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), Foxtail Mulga Grass (*Neurachne alopecuroidea*), Clustered Lovegrass (*Erogrostis elongata*) and Feather Grass (*Austrostipa elegantissima*). It contrasts them with weedy introduced grasses such as African lovegrass (*Erogrostis curvula*). She said the sign will help visitors and casual walkers on the trail know which grasses are native and which are introduced weeds.

"I've often found gardeners lovingly cultivating grasses that are really invasive weeds under the mistaken impression that they are natives," Ms Bell said. "I hate to disappoint them."

The unveiling of the interpretive sign was timed to be close to World Environment Day. This year's theme *Connecting People to Nature*, calls on us to get outdoors and into nature, to appreciate its beauty and its importance, and to take forward the call to protect the Earth that we share.

EMRC Environmental Project Officer, Bush Skills 4 Youth, Catherine Levett, led members and visitors on a nature tour of the Boya Heritage Trail and bushland pointing out natural phenomena, hidden native plants and signs of native animals, as well as showing children plant and animal features under portable iscopes. Ms June Prouse, coordinator of the Friends of Boya Trail, said the trail had become a great place for outdoor education and children.

"Volunteers benefit themselves as well as the environment. Working in the open air is good for your physical and mental health. The group has also been a source of education, friendship and support to me and probably that's the case for most of us," she said.

Friends of Boya Trail have received support from the Shire of Mundaring, the EMRC, Bush Skills 4 Youth, Parks and Wildlife Service and Swan-Alcoa Landcare Program.



Friends of Boya Trail

Photos: Courtesy of Friends of Boya Trail

## Penny Hussey receives Member of the Order of Australia (OAM)

By the EMRC



Penny Hussey OAM  
Photo: by the EMRC

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council would like to congratulate Penny Hussey on her recognition at the Queen's Birthday Honours for her service to the community. Penny received a Member of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to conservation and land management through her participation in a range of government and volunteer roles.

Penny is well known and respected throughout the Perth Hills and within the landcare community. Achievements of note include 18 years' service as Co-ordinator of the Land for Wildlife program within the former Department of Parks and Wildlife, six years as Co-ordinator of the WA Save the Bush Program and five years as the Executive Officer of the Roadside Conservation Committee within the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Penny has co-authored and edited many publications that are used regularly within the landcare community. Penny co-authored '*Western Weeds: a Guide to the Weeds of WA*' and edited and contributed to the Land for Wildlife quarterly newsletter, '*Western Wildlife*'.

Penny is the Chairperson for the Helena River Catchment Group. The group's focus is the restoration of the natural environment surrounding the middle Helena River between Scott Street, Helena Valley and the Pumpback Dam. The group is active in advocating for better environmental outcomes for the Helena River. Her experience and knowledge is invaluable when collaborating with developers and government departments managing land surrounding the river. Penny is the 'go to' person representing the middle Helena River catchment.

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council would like to formally acknowledge and recognise Penny's contribution to landcare.

## Brushtail Phascogale nest box inspection

Black Cockatoo Reserve Friends Group

By Kayelene Watts



Phascogale 'highway' – sapling used to reach the tree with the nest box.



Nesting material collected by the phascogale, including feathers



Rowan Duboulay with a nest box

Photos: Kaylene Watts

Some years ago, a group of students from the Midland Primary School were mentored by the Men's Shed to build some nesting boxes. Having recently found a deceased brushtail phascogale in their reserve, the Black Cockatoo Reserve Friends Group suggested they build some boxes for this nocturnal animal.

Joe Tonga from Natsync installed six boxes in December 2011, complete with a stencil of the rare marsupial on the front. Disappointment followed when feral bees took up residence and were carefully removed by an apiarist.

On a recent inspection, it was exciting to find that some of the boxes are being used by phascogales!



Mist over mountain, west coast of Hinchinbrook Island on the Great Barrier Reef - World Heritage Listed site  
*Image credit: Ian Hutton*



Magpie geese at a paperbark swamp in Kakadu National Park World Heritage Listed site  
*Image credit: Allan Fox*

## Investigation into Recent Climate-Driven Ecological Change in Australia

By CSIRO and Department of the Environment and Energy

The Department of the Environment and Energy, together with the CSIRO are undertaking an investigation to understand how Australia's biodiversity has been changing in recent years. A survey has been developed for input by the community.

The dedicated research page on the CSIRO's website gives the following details :

*As a part of this investigation the project team are seeking to understand how the 1°C increase in surface temperature experienced over the past century may have contributed to recent changes in biodiversity across the Australian landscape. To this end the project team are very interested in hearing about the experiences and observations of people who are familiar with different parts of Australia. The project team hope that their insights and stories will provide us with a unique view of how things are changing.*

*To participate, you would need to be able to select a natural area (e.g. your local region or farm, a Nature Reserve or urban bushland) that you have been familiar with for at least the last 10 years. Note that the project team are interested both in areas where change has been observed and where change has not been observed.*

*The survey can be found on the link below and is made up of a series of observational questions and an open section for people to tell us their stories. It would take about 30 minutes. Additional information about the project can be found on the second link below.*

<https://research.csiro.au/biodiversity-knowledge/projects/recent-history-climate-driven-ecological-change-australia/>  
[https://csirolandandwater.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dcjRc0gqVUMKeiN](https://csirolandandwater.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dcjRc0gqVUMKeiN)

The study is being carried out by Dr. Suzanne Prober and others from the CSIRO Land and Water and the Department of Environment and Energy.

While there has been considerable investment in projecting the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem distributions under various climate change scenarios in Australia, there have been few studies that have investigated the ecological impacts of the change that has already occurred. Investigating this recent ecological change and using this knowledge to evaluate the capacity of our current models to predict (hindcast) past change will substantially improve our understanding of climate-driven change processes. In addition, it will support interpretation of confidence in models projecting ecological change into the future.



Snow thawing out and filling the Eucumbene River at Kiandra in New South Wales  
*(image credit: Arthur Mostead)*

## Workshops



### Basking Bobtails

**Where:** Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, 120 Gilchrist Rd, Lesmurdie  
**When:** Saturday, 12 August 2017, 9:15am (registration), 9:30am – 12:00noon

Designed to be family friendly, this workshop will enable participants to learn about bobtail ecology, what food bobtails like to eat and how to attract bobtails to your garden. Find out about bobtail flu and what to do if you find a sick or injured bobtail. There will be an opportunity to meet a bobtail up close. Morning tea will be provided. To register visit [www.healthywildlife.com.au/events](http://www.healthywildlife.com.au/events) or phone (08) 9424 2216.



Photo: Kimberley Page

### Mapping

**Where:** EMRC Administration, 226 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont  
**When:** Tuesday, 15 August 2017, 10:00am – 12:00noon (9:45am registration)

**This training session is for Catchment and "Friends of" members only.**

A mapping tool has been developed to equip community groups with the ability to record NRM projects on a database in a shared repository. This mapping data will capture the importance smaller projects have on a larger scale catchment, helping develop corridors and ecological linkages. Gaia Resources, the tool developer, will be running this comprehensive training session to set you up with everything you need to know to use the tool. RSVP by 11/8/17. To register email [environment@emrc.org.au](mailto:environment@emrc.org.au) or phone (08) 9424 2216.



Photo: by the EMRC

### Healthy Birds, Healthy Garden 2

**Where:** Function Room, City of Belmont Civic Centre, 215 Wright Street, Cloverdale  
**When:** Saturday, 19 August 2017, 9:15am (registration), 9:30am – 12:00noon

Presented by Mike and Rachel Green, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Darling Range Branch of WA Naturalists' Club, this workshop will leave you inspired by the birds in your garden. Find out how to identify the birds in your garden and their calls, how to attract birds to your garden, how to use birdbaths, bird perches and bird boxes, and more. See many excellent photographs of birds, videos of birds so you can practise identifying them and learn how to use Michael Morcombe's "Birds of Australia" App to help identify birds and their calls wherever you go in Australia. Morning tea will be provided. To register visit [www.healthywildlife.com.au/events](http://www.healthywildlife.com.au/events) or phone (08) 9424 2216.



Photo: Kimberley Page

### Restoration for Reptiles

**Where:** Pickering Brook Sports Club, 35 Weston Road, Pickering Brook  
**When:** Saturday, 16 September 2017, 10:00am - 2:00pm



Photo: by the EMRC

Are you interested in reptiles? Do you believe in dragons? Lizards, snakes, goannas and even dragons all live in our urban bushlands. Come along to this workshop to get up close and personal with some of the reptiles you might see in Perth's urban bushlands. Find out how to create different habitats in your garden, bushland or revegetation area that will help attract and retain these fascinating creatures. Light lunch provided. To register email [environment@emrc.org.au](mailto:environment@emrc.org.au) or phone (08) 9424 2216.

## Plant Identification

**Where:** Stratton Community Hall, 17 Jecks Place, Stratton

**When:** Saturday, 23 September 2017, 9:00am – 12:30pm



Photo: by the EMRC

Due to popular demand, the Plant Identification workshop is back again in 2017 to help you improve your plant ID skills. The workshop will be a great introduction to Western Australia's native plants and common weeds. Environmental consultant Amanda Spooner will cover plant characteristics and taxonomy (including a practical session on identifying some common species and tools available to assist with your identification), as well as taking everyone on a short walk into the nearby bushland. Bring along your local plant books, hand lenses if you have them, hat, comfortable shoes and your enthusiasm! Morning tea will be provided. To register email [environment@emrc.org.au](mailto:environment@emrc.org.au) or phone (08) 9424 2216.

## Fire and Biodiversity

**Where:** Lot 1, West Swan Hall, 1 West Swan Road, Henley Book.

**When:** Sunday, 5 November 2017, 9:00am – 12:30pm.

Are you concerned with fire safety while still wanting to keep the natural vegetation on your property? This workshop provides information on appropriate species of native plants to use within your Bushfire Protection Zone. This includes the ecological effects of fire in regards to native plants in nature. The setback required of vegetation for safety and other environmental considerations. To register email [environment@emrc.org.au](mailto:environment@emrc.org.au) or phone (08) 9424 2216.



## First Aid for Wildlife

**Where and When:** Alton Park Public Library - Saturday 5 August 2017, 10:00am – 11:30am - Phone 9207 8585

Ballajura Public Library – Saturday 12 August 2017, 10:00am – 11:30am - Phone 9207 8686

Midland Public Library – Monday 21 August 2017, 10:30am – 12:00noon - Phone 9267 9020

Bullsbrook Public Library – Saturday 2 September 2017, 10:30am – 12:00noon - Phone 9207 8989



### First Aid for Wildlife

Presented by the Department of Parks and Wildlife

Suitable for adults and children aged 15 and above

Organised by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the *Nearer to Nature* program provides the community with unique, enjoyable activities that help participants discover marvellous natural areas in and around Perth and the south-west. Join us for an up-close encounter with some cute native animals. Hear personal stories from a Wildlife Carer on how these animals came to be in their care. Learn "what to do" if you had to care for an injured animal and how to contact the appropriate wildlife networks.

Join us for an up-close encounter with some cute native animals!

Learn personal stories from a Wildlife Carer on how these animals came to be in their care.

Learn "what to do" if you had to care for an injured animal and how to contact the appropriate wildlife networks.



Nearer to Nature

Presented by Parks and Wildlife Services, this event is suitable for adults and children aged 15 years and above. Organised by the Government of Western Australia, the *Nearer to Nature* program provides the community with unique, enjoyable activities that help participants discover marvellous natural areas in and around Perth and the south-west. Join us for an up-close encounter with some cute native animals. Hear personal stories from a Wildlife Carer on how these animals came to be in their care. Learn "what to do" if you had to care for an injured animal and how to contact the appropriate wildlife networks. Bookings are essential and can be made by phone, online at [www.swan.wa.gov.au/events](http://www.swan.wa.gov.au/events) or in person at one of the above listed library branches.



Nearer to Nature

Alton Park Public Library	Saturday, Aug 5, 10am - 11:30am	Phone: 9207 8585
Ballajura Public Library	Saturday, August 12, 10am - 11:30am	Phone 9207 8686
Midland Public Library	Monday, August 21, 10:30am - 12:00pm	Phone 9267 9020
Bullsbrook Public Library	Saturday, September 2, 10:30am - 12:00pm	Phone 9207 8989

Bookings are essential and can be made by phone, online at [www.swan.wa.gov.au/events](http://www.swan.wa.gov.au/events) or in person at a library branch.



## Meeting dates

### Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group Inc.

**Thursday, 9 November 2017, 6:30pm**

Old Midland Courthouse, Helena St, Midland  
Contact Karen Warner on (08) 9424 2242 or email  
[karen.warner@emrc.org.au](mailto:karen.warner@emrc.org.au)

### Helena River Catchment Group Inc.

**Monday, 21 August 2017, 7:00pm**  
**Monday, 16 October 2017, 7:00pm**

Octagonal Hall, 52 McGlew Road, Glen Forrest  
Contact Jaya Vaughan on (08) 9424 2245 or email  
[jaya.vaughan@emrc.org.au](mailto:jaya.vaughan@emrc.org.au)

### Lower Helena Association Incorporated

**TBC September 2017, 6:30pm**

Contact Miroslav Vujaklija on (08) 9424 2264 or email  
[miroslav.vujaklija@emrc.org.au](mailto:miroslav.vujaklija@emrc.org.au)

### Jane Brook Catchment Group

**Thursday, 24 August 2017**  
**Thursday 26 October 2017**

Mundaring Sharing, 3 Craigie Place, Mundaring  
Contact Jaya Vaughan on (08) 9424 2245 or email  
[jaya.vaughan@emrc.org.au](mailto:jaya.vaughan@emrc.org.au)

### Friends of Piesse Brook

**Wednesday, 18 October 2017, 7:00pm**

Contact Miroslav Vujaklija on (08) 9424 2264 or email  
[miroslav.vujaklija@emrc.org.au](mailto:miroslav.vujaklija@emrc.org.au)



**WILDFLOWER SOCIETY  
OF WA (INC.)**

**EASTERN HILLS BRANCH**

## WA Wildflower Society – Eastern Hills Branch

Contact Pam Riordan on

[pamela.riordan@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.riordan@gmail.com) or phone 0404 959 654

[www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/branches/eastern-hills-branch](http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/branches/eastern-hills-branch)

[www.facebook.com/easternhillswildflowers](http://www.facebook.com/easternhillswildflowers)



**Friday 25 August 2017** Octagonal Hall 52 McGlew Road Glen Forrest 7pm – Kevin Thiele from WA Herbarium discussing pollination  
**Saturday 26 August 2017** Wildflower Walk 10:00am – 12:00noon at Jan Pittman's Gidgegannup Property. Contact Pamela Riordan  
**Monday 11 September 2017** Octagonal Hall 52 McGlew Road Glen Forrest 12:00noon – 3:00pm Learn to Propagate. Contact Sandy at  
[sandyroger.stone@gmail.com](mailto:sandyroger.stone@gmail.com)

## WA Wildflower Society - Darling Range Branch

The Darling Range Branch meets at the Old Guide Hall, 5 Sanderson Road, Lesmurdie (Cnr Lesmurdie & Brady Rds) at 10:00am on the second Sunday of every month from February to November.

**Next Meetings: 10:00am, Sunday 10 September 2017, then Sunday 8 October 2017**

Come and see our local collection of wildflowers at our herbarium.

WILDFLOWER WALKS are held on the fourth Sunday of every month from April to October.

Contact Lynda Tomlinson at [wildflowers@ozemail.com.au](mailto:wildflowers@ozemail.com.au) or phone (08) 9291 8753 Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00am and 2:30pm. Members and non-members all welcome.

For further information, visit <http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/>

## WA Naturalists' Club - Darling Range Branch

Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month in Jorgensen Park Pavilion, Crescent Road, off Mundaring Road, Kalamunda  
For further details please contact Darling Range Branch Nats on 0436 448 647 or email [DRB@wanaturalists.org.au](mailto:DRB@wanaturalists.org.au)

## Position Vacant – Jane Brook Catchment Group

Jane Brook Catchment Group Incorporated is a landcare volunteer organisation seeking a Vice President and Treasurer. Meetings are held bi-monthly in Mundaring from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. Information on Jane Brook Catchment Group can be found at [www.facebook.com/pg/janebrookcg/about/?ref=page\\_internal](http://www.facebook.com/pg/janebrookcg/about/?ref=page_internal)

Please contact Jaya Vaughan for more information at [jaya.vaughan@emrc.org.au](mailto:jaya.vaughan@emrc.org.au) or phone (08) 9424 2245.

## Monthly Features

The information for this edition's Noongar Season and Plant of the Month is provided by the EMRC's Bush Cards 4 Youth, part of the Bush Skills 4 Youth program. The cards will provide a useful education tool for kids to explore their bushland environment with EMRC Environmental Projects Officer, Cathy Levett. The information for this edition's Weed of the Month comes from City of Kalamunda's Garden Escapes Know Your Weeds!

The original information is from sources including South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council Kaartdijin Noongar - Noongar Language <https://www.noongarculture.org.au>, the Djidi Djidi Aboriginal Women's Group, Darlington and Surrounds Local Flora and Bushlands by Cliffs Burns, the Western Australian Herbarium and Amanda Spooner.

### Noongar Season – Djilba

#### August / September – Cold with less rain - The Growing Season



*Pityrodia augustensis* Munit  
(Lamiaceae) Photo: S. Patrick

Djilba is a transitional time, with very cold and clear days, becoming warmer, windy and rainy, then sunny. As the weather changes Noongar groups move to drier areas. Common foods found along the rivers include eggs from emus, swans and ducks supplemented by berries, roots and some larger game. This is the start of the massive flowering explosion that happens in the south west.

Flowers of all colours abound, including the blues and purples of the dianellas and purple flags. Soon the flower stalks of the balgas emerge. We now see the swooping protective behaviours of the magpie, willywagtail and wattle bird.

### Weed of the Month

#### Flinders Range Wattle – (*Acacia Iteaphylla*)



Plant Me Instead!!  
Toothed Wattle – *Acacia Dentifera*  
A medium shrub to 3m high.  
Yellow flowers from August to  
November



Photo: City of Kalamunda – Gardens Escapes  
Know Your Weeds!

This wattle is endemic to the Flinders Ranges of South Australia and has become invasive outside of this region. It is a dense shrub growing up to 4m. Seeds are spread by water, birds, ants, dumped garden waste, and the movement of soil, and are long lived (greater than 5 years).

To remove, hand-pull seedlings and fell mature plants.

### Plant of the Month

#### Swamp Peppermint - Myrtaceae (*Taxandria linearifolia*)

*Linearifolia* : Latin *linearis* = linear + *folia* = leaf

The Swamp Peppermint is a small tree or shrub growing to 6m high with narrow leaves that are 1.5 – 3.5cm long. Numerous small (1/2cm diameter) white flowers with five petals from September to December (Djilba-Birak) and sometimes in March (Bunuru). It grows in loam, clay sand or gravel soils with quartzite and laterite, occurs along creeks and streams, or in winter-wet depressions. It often grows in dense thickets which can dominate swamplands within the jarrah forests. In the jarrah forest, the *Taxandria linearifolia* swamp shrublands are considered distinct communities.

The thickets provide cover for birds such as the red-eared firetail finch, inland thornbill, splendid fairy-wren, red-winged fairy-wren, white-browed scrub wren and western spinebill. Swamp Peppermint thickets also provide shade to pools, creating cool and damp habitat for frogs. Native flies, bees and beetles, including jewel beetles, are attracted by the nectar. Scorpion flies and robber flies hunt these smaller insects.



Small white flowers bloom from  
September to December



Typical *Taxandria linearifolia*

## Fauna of the Month

### Splendid Fairy-wren (*Malurus splendens*)

By EMRC

There is no false modesty attached to the Splendid Fairy-wren — it lives up to its name. Male birds in breeding plumage, shimmer in electric shades of violet-blue, turquoise and pale-blue, relieved only by a few bands of inky black feathers. However, it is not all glitz and glamour because, as in most species of fairy-wrens, males in non-breeding plumage and females are mostly drab brown, although their long tail feathers are dull-blue. The species lives in arid and semi-arid Australia, where it inhabits shrublands and shrubby woodlands.



Splendid Fairy-wren (*Malurus splendens*)

**Description:** The breeding plumage of the male is predominantly blue, varying from cobalt-blue in the east of its range to violet-blue in the west. It has black bands at the base of the tail (absent in the violet-blue birds), across the breast and from the beak, through the eyes to join a band across the back of its neck. Its crown and cheek patches are paler blue. Wings and long tail are brown with a blue wash. His beak is black and his legs and feet are brown-grey. In non-breeding plumage, called eclipse, he is very similar to the female, being pale brown above and buff to white underneath although he retains the blue wash on wings and tail. The female does not have the blue wash on her wings, but does have a reddish-tan line from beak to eye that extends into a ring around her eye. Her beak is reddish-tan.

**Behaviour:** Feeding – Like most of the fairy-wrens, Splendid Fairy-wrens eat mostly insects and forage on both the ground and in shrubs. They live in groups which forage together.

**Breeding** - The Splendid Fairy-wren female builds an oval domed nest of dry grass, strips of bark and rootlets, with an entrance two thirds of the way up one side. The female is the only member of the group to incubate the eggs, but all members of the group feed the chicks.

**Distribution:** These birds are widely distributed across Australia in two areas. One area is from about Shark Bay south through WA, through SA except the coast to about the Flinders Ranges and the southern and central parts of NT. The eastern area includes SA from the Flinders Ranges, the far north-western tip of Vic, NSW east to about Moree and Balranald and south central Qld.

**Habitat:** These birds live in arid to semi-arid areas, in mostly dense shrublands or woodlands of acacia, and mallee eucalypt with dense shrubs.

Content sourced from Bird Life Australia.

<http://www.birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/splendid-fairy-wren>

## Off the Shelf

### The Southwest

#### Australia's Biodiversity Hotspot

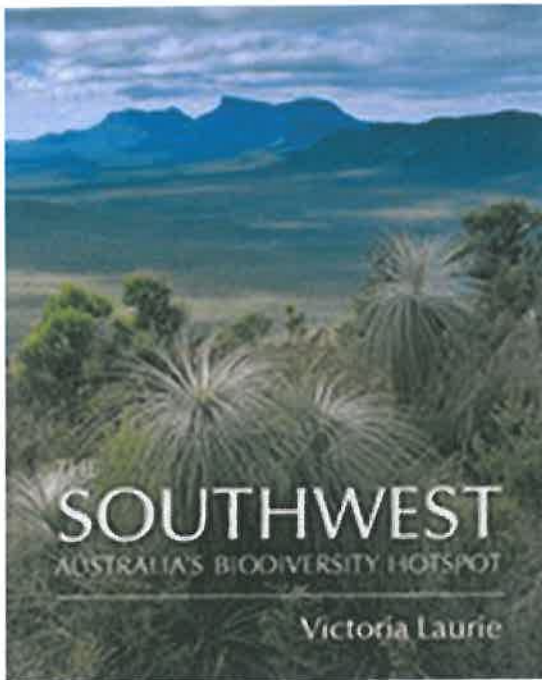
Author: Victoria Laurie

The Southwest: Australia's Biodiversity Hotspot, Victoria Laurie  
Paperback - June 2015 - AU \$45.00

Life forms and landscapes are a feature of this informative and thrilling discovery of a region that has evolved with abundant biodiversity because of its isolation. Victoria Laurie offers us in words and pictures the southwest of Australia, a land triangle that encompasses a multitude of natural worlds. One third of all known Australian plant species is found growing in the southwest, and the region has been designated 'Australia's Global Biodiversity Hotspot,' one of only thirty-four such hotspots in the world and the only one on this continent. Driven by her own passion for this country, Laurie presents us with the voices of scientists and those dedicated to protecting a fragile ecology supporting up to 150,000 species.

See more at:

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/book/6865/#sthash.ny4ak2F5.dpuf>



### Contact Details

#### Karen Warner

NRM Coordinator

EMRC

Telephone: (08) 9424 2242

Mobile: 0428 101 223

Email: [karen.warner@emrc.org.au](mailto:karen.warner@emrc.org.au)

#### Miroslav Vujaklija

Environmental Projects Officer

EMRC

Telephone: (08) 9424 2264

Mobile: 0427 088 213

Email: [miroslav.vujaklija@emrc.org.au](mailto:miroslav.vujaklija@emrc.org.au)

#### David O'Brien

Supervisor Environment and Horticulture

Shire of Mundaring

Telephone: (08) 9290 6749

Email:

[DavidO'Brien@mundaring.wa.gov.au](mailto:DavidO'Brien@mundaring.wa.gov.au)

#### Jaya Vaughan

Environmental Projects Officer,

EMRC

Telephone: (08) 9424 2245

Mobile: 0408 924 989

Email: [jaya.vaughan@emrc.org.au](mailto:jaya.vaughan@emrc.org.au)

#### Mick Davis

Environmental Friends Group Officer

City of Kalamunda

Telephone: (08) 9257 9999

Email:

[mick.davis@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:mick.davis@kalamunda.wa.gov.au)

#### Bradley Thompson

Coordinator Natural – Environmental

Maintenance

City of Swan

Telephone: (08) 9267 9443

Email:

[bradley.thompson@swan.wa.gov.au](mailto:bradley.thompson@swan.wa.gov.au)

Do you have a story or event relevant to the Greenpage? Forward your contributions to [environment@emrc.org.au](mailto:environment@emrc.org.au) or phone

Kate Malden on (08) 9424 2216

Copies of the Greenpage newsletter, as well as other information, can be found at:

[www.emrc.org.au/eastern-region-catchment-management-program.html](http://www.emrc.org.au/eastern-region-catchment-management-program.html)

Proudly Supported By



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

