



'THE FOY'

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

66/2010

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and participate in the conservation, rehabilitation and protection of Yellagonga Regional Park to ensure long-term environmental sustainability and compatible human use.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Christmas and New Year seem just a memory as here we are, six weeks already into 2010 and to us at FOY, it means an important event is about to take place. With the New Year comes our Annual General Meeting which is to be held this year on 17th February at the Landsdale Farm School at 7.00pm. Every member is reminded of the importance of: (a) being there in person OR (b) sending in your proxy. You should have received your official notification of the AGM already.

All positions will become vacant so there is a chance to nominate if you wish to be on the committee and nominations would be very welcome. In the hopes of a good turnout, we will be booking the meeting room and kitchen at the Farm School as we shall be providing supper. Follow the path from the Nursery and you can't miss it. If you cannot be there, please take the time to forward your proxy. Please don't feel that if you don't send your proxy, it's OK as others will. Unfortunately in today's busy world this happens all too often and it is frequently a battle for the committee to reach a quorum.

FOX CONTROL

After much lobbying by FOY, we have reached an understanding with DEC and Cities of Wanneroo and Joondalup who have all agreed to fund ongoing fox control within Yellagonga Regional Park. Our sincere thanks go to all these organisations for agreeing to deal with this problem so readily. This is wonderful news – especially as the long necked turtles (Chelodina oblonga) seem to have the odds stacked against them (see next article).

PUBLIC OUTRAGE OVER DEAD TURTLES



An horrendous sight greeted park users recently- read on.....

... Last week, an officer from Dept of Fisheries, set "fyke" traps on the western side of Lake Goollelal near the lookout to collect samples, we assume, of the fish population. Our publicity

officer, Gary Tate, observed these traps being pulled for inspection at midday on Friday. To his horror he saw drowned turtles being discarded casually by this officer. When Gary returned to photograph the dead turtles, he had to retrieve them from the reeds where they had apparently been dumped. He was able to drag out some bodies near the water's edge but sighted some more dead on the lake's floor. Many locals and regular visitors to this area were mortified to see the dead turtles and contacted various press organisations. (A very short segment was shown on Channel 7 News 31/1/10 and is due to appear in newspapers)

Why did these poor creatures have to die? Was it pure ignorance, careless sampling, casual indifference or lack of communication between government departments? Probably due to a bit of each of the aforementioned. FOY has been working relentlessly to save our iconic turtles from extinction and a government employee merely discards these drowned turtles as collateral damage! It is just not good enough and your Committee will not stop until we find out what action will be taken to ensure this NEVER happens again. Currently the Nature Protection Division of DEC is dealing with this and we will be kept in the loop. Apparently the Dept of Fisheries has since been told that all sampling must cease until a net is designed to include buoyancy chambers. However, the "fyke" net (as was being used) is designed to be used for sampling only marginal areas of the wetlands and should only be partly submerged in the water allowing air-breathing creatures to surface when necessary, not as a completely submerged trap causing air breathing animals to drown. Further, this employee had been commissioned to take "samples" at all wetlands from Geraldton to Bunbury and eastwards to Northam. What devastation has he foisted on other wetlands already?? Without Gary Tate's eagle eye, no-one would have been any the wiser. Thanks Gary. We will keep members informed.

THANKS LOTTERYWEST

Lotterywest has graciously given FOY a generous grant to allow us to fit out the new upstairs office area. This area will give FOY a new large area in which to hold meetings, hold seminars and information sessions etc. Thanks must go to Graham Sinclair for his hard work in applying for this grant and to Kate from Lotterywest who saw our vision and supported our application. Volunteers Grant: Our hardworking Treasurer, John Stenton, is also very diligent in applying for relevant grants and recently received one from the Federal Government to cover expenses for volunteers. Good work, John!

THE GREAT DONGA CLEANOUT

Our call to helpers to clean out our existing headquarters (known affectionately as "The Donga") received an overwhelming response. Concerns were held for everyone's comfort as 42 deg was forecast, but with so many hands making such light work, we all were sitting down with a rewarding cup of coffee at 10.00am. Thanks to all those who gave their time and muscle power so willingly.



The FOY Removalist Team - (photo Gary Tate)

Our witty publicity officer, Gary Tate, made a humorous DVD of the day which the Committee found very funny. Copies are available on request! The Donga has now gone to a good home – purchased by FOY Member David Hancock.

MORE BAT BOXES

This Newsletter seems to be filled with "thankyous", but we simply must add one more. Jim Ryall, from the Nursery Team, who is a wood craftsman, has kindly made more bat boxes to be installed in the Park. The bats now have another three boxes to call home. Thank you so much Jim for your attention to detail and donation of your expert labour. Hope the job didn't drive you too batty!

CITY OF JOONDALUP FESTIVAL

The Annual City of Joondalup Festival will be held this year over the weekend of March 27/28. To illustrate what fun guys (not "fungi") we are, the Committee has suggested that FOY form a group to march in the Festival Street March on Saturday 27th March. Most of the Committee will be attending and we would welcome more participants.

If you would like to join us for some fun, please contact the editor a.s.a.p. We can loan you a matching T-Shirt and hat for the event and can promise you will have a fun time.

BINDAREE BUSHLAND

Kevin and Tamsyn work every second Saturday at the Bindaree Bushland. If you would like to be part of a team protecting this valuable piece of bush in Kingsley or even just an occasional helper, please contact Kevin on 9409-9009.

SEEN (SCENE) IN YELLAGONGA REGIONAL PARK

Roving observer Gary Tate reports that currently there are thousands of birds in the lakes, particularly Lake Joondalup. Hundreds of avocets and other waders are arriving as water levels drop. Most of the flowers are now finished, but a few *Dichopogons capillipes* (long stalks with purple-pink flowers along stalk) and *dianella* are still evident. Walkers are once again warned to watch out for tiger snakes and dugites.

AVOCETS (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*) These nomadic wading birds are found throughout mainland Australia and breed mainly in the south western interior. They have a chestnut brown head and neck with a white eye-ring and a long upturned black bill. Rest of the body is white except for two black streaks along the back. Wings are white with black wing bars and tips. Their long legs are pale grey-blue back. The sexes are similar, but the males have a more sharply upturned bill. This species is endemic to Australia.

BANNER

John Chester is currently having a couple of large banners made for FOY featuring our usual logo (now in colour!). It was Committee Member, Marian Napier-Winch who suggested the clever motto which typifies FOY's objectives.



It is planned that a similar banner will also be placed at our work sites one week prior to the workday announcing that FOY will be working there on the coming Saturday and everyone is welcome. Hopefully, it may encourage new workers!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM – February 17, 2010 commencing at 7.00pm at Landsdale Farm School.

Committee Meeting – Landsdale Farm School on Wednesday March 3, commencing at 7.30pm. All Welcome

Nursery – Frank and his team work every Saturday and Tuesday morning at the nursery.

FOY Committee

Chair: Will Carstairs 9300 3763

ViceChair: Peter Jacoby 9448 1818

Treasurer: John Stenton 9448 2171

Secretary: Heather Chester 9309 2434

Nursery: Frank Parrotte 9402 4757

Vol.Coordinator: Graham Sinclair 9309 7192

General Committee: Kevin McLeod 9409 9009

/John Chester/ Marian Napier-Winch / Sue Walker

Site Managers:

Frog Hollow: Barry & Scott Poole 0419 929 678

Edgewater: Will Carstairs 9300 3763

Bindaree Terrace & Bindaree Bushland – Nursery Group

Duck Landing: Peter Jacoby 9448 1818

Two Ducks Landing: Graham Sinclair & Meath Team 9309 7192

Coots' Corner: Chauncey Johnson 9409 4333

Ocean Reef – David Taggart 9575 3153

DEC YRP Community Advisory C'tee - John Chester 9309-2434

Newsletter Editor: Heather Chester (hrchester@yahoo.com)

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PLEASE SEND IN YOUR PROXY FORM FOR A.G.M.