



'THE FOY'

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009 65/2009

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.

POSSIBLE TURTLE MEAT TRADE--BE VIGILANT

Turtle expert, Dr Jacqueline Giles, is very concerned at the level of poaching activities occurring in many Perth wetlands – including our own Yellagonga Regional Park (YRP).

The Dept of Environment & Conservation (DEC) have reportedly been removing traps from many metropolitan wetlands. She raised concerns several years ago that a possible turtle meat trade may be happening across Perth. Jacque tells the editor that a couple of years ago she “babysat” some turtles while the local government authority beautified the wetlands. They were very healthy plump specimens when she returned them to their home. A media statement was released heralding their return to the wetland – a week later there were none left!

We ask that members be vigilant and report any suspicious activities around the lakes to DEC on 9431.6500.

TURTLE RESEARCH

The hands-on section of this research has now been completed. Thank you to the many volunteers who spent several hours developing bulging biceps by paddling the canoe and assisting Jacqui Giles. Unfortunately Jacqui only trapped 94 specimens, in total and most of these were males. We look forward to receiving the completed report from Jacque in the future.

Thanks must go to John and Marian Napier-Winch who filmed these goings on. When the report is officially presented to FOY, the film will also be viewed. Members will be invited.

By the way, wetland ecologist Dr. Jacqueline Giles' PhD thesis was on turtles' underwater vocalisations, identifying an extraordinary range of 17 different sounds.

Further, we wish to sincerely thank the City of Joondalup and Dept of Environment & Conservation – both of whom partially funded this research.

PROTECTION OF TURTLE NESTS

Whilst on the subject of turtles, it is distressing to see the damage that foxes do to the turtles' nests. When alerted by FOY member Traudl Tan to some recently laid nests around Lake Joondalup, “Foxbuster & Honorary NinjaTurtle” Kevin McLeod sprang into action. He covered each nest with steel mesh to prevent them being dug up. It seems to have worked, as one nest was later partially attacked by a predator, but the marauding animal obviously found the steel mesh too much of a hindrance and gave up. If anyone sees a nesting turtle please note the spot and ring Kevin on 9409 9009 or 0403 991 372

immediately. Time is of the essence as an uncovered nest was destroyed within 24 hours of laying.



Jacque Giles and John Stenton check a turtle trap in Lake Joondalup
(Photo: John Napier-Winch)

FOX CONTROL ON ITS WAY

Discussions are currently underway with FOY, DEC and Cities of Wanneroo and Joondalup to undertake fox control within YRP. Apparently, the best time is during late summer/autumn when food sources are limited for the foxes. More on this in future newsletters.

OCEAN REEF SITE

David Taggart, a founding member of FOY, started revegetating his site at the southern end of Lake Joondalup near Ocean Reef Road in May 1998. When he started work on it, the area was covered in Cape Tulip and large areas of bulrush (*typha*) around and in the water. There was very little remnant vegetation left. Since starting work on this site he has planted a corridor of freshwater Paperbarks and Flooded Gums along the water's edge and also various other wetland species including *Melaleuca teretifolia* of which there were only seven plants remaining at the Woodvale end of the lake. He has now got the number up to several hundred. As well as planting he has experimented with direct seeding which has been reasonably successful. With this method, he has been able to get an area of Flooded Gum woodland and a few small areas of *Tuart*, *Banksia prionotes* and *attenuate* established. He has been controlling the bulrush (*typha*) with a brushcutter and saw, as it was threatening to take over the area and replaced it with the

native species *Baumea articulate* and *Shoenpectos vallidus*. Recently colonies of variegated fairy wrens have returned to the site along with other bush and water birds. The Ocean Reef site is a magnificent tribute to one man's concerted effort. Thanks go to you David (and your one-man band!)

TWO DUCKS LANDING

Graham and his team from Meath Mews have cleared around plantings. Unfortunately, there has been some mortality, but most plants have survived and some are doing quite well. Recent showers have helped but the sandy soil dries out quickly and they will be carting some water in there shortly.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Eric Smith who is already part of Graham's team at Two Ducks Landing, Lee Buurman and Julie Royce both of whom will be assisting in the maintenance of Bindaree Bushland.

BINDAREE BUSHLAND BBQ SUCCESS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, FOY hosted a barbecue at Bindaree Bushland in Kingsley to find new volunteers amongst the neighbours who would care for this pristine piece of bushland. A pleasant morning was enjoyed by all and nearly a dozen neighbours arrived for the tour and barbecue. Kevin has taken a list of names and a weeding roster will be sent out to the willing workers in the near future.

CURRENTLY SEEN IN THE PARK

There are still some lovely displays of wildflowers in YRP but with the warmer weather snakes are now very active. Tiger snakes are out all year round, but dugites are currently very active within the Park. A reminder - Dogs must be kept on leashes for their own protection from snakes.

PUBLICITY OFFICER

FOY is extremely pleased to welcome aboard Gary Tate as our new publicity officer. Gary who spends countless hours around Yellagonga Regional Park photographing the wildlife is renowned for his magnificent photographs. Because so many people asked him what he was doing, Gary designed small business cards with FOY's details on them to hand out to interested park users. An very innovative idea, Gary !

BAT BOXES

From Foxbuster to Ninja Turtle to Batman! After much research on bats and their lifestyles, Kevin has persuaded the Committee to purchase a bat box, which can hopefully be replicated by our master carpenter Jim Ryall. These boxes will be secured via steel cable and huge nail to tuarts within YRP. Similar boxes have been installed in other metropolitan parks for micro bats' use. The design is quite unique and up to 30 micro bats were found roosting in one box in Shenton Park. Although it may take up to two years before the bats move in, it will be a wonderful way to encourage bats to YRP. Bats can eat up to their own weight of midge each day. Who knows, they may even be instrumental in the Cities not having to spray the lakes for midge anymore !

YOUR INPUT PLEASE

We would really appreciate input from our members for the newsletter. If you have something to say, advice to offer, questions to ask or contribution of any kind, please contact us .

THE FOY COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THE VERY BEST FOR XMAS AND LOOK FORWARD TO HOPEFULLY SEEING YOU AT A WORKDAY IN 2010



Huge thanks must go to our hardworking Committee and site managers (shown above) who are the backbone of FOY !! (photo: John Chester)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM – coming up in February 2010

Committee Meeting – Landsdale Farm School on Wednesday December 2, commencing at 7.30pm. All Welcome

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/ CoJ Conservation

Advisory C'tee– John Chester 9309-2434

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