



Friday 4 December 2009

Coastcare Week 7-13 December: Helping communities look after our South Coast

With Coastcare Week upon us, it's time to celebrate the contributions of volunteers in protecting and rehabilitating our spectacular southern coastline.

Community groups and land managers across the South Coast NRM region form part of a large network of Coastcare volunteers that care for their "patch" and collectively help maintain the entire Australian coastline.

On-ground actions to repair erosion, revegetate and rehabilitate coastal areas, and provide sustainable access to beaches have been undertaken at sites across the region this year.

South Coast NRM has facilitated several coastal projects through Caring for our Country transitional year funding including Lions Lookout, Black Hole and Parry Beach within the Shire of Denmark; Betty's Beach within the City of Albany; and Bremer Point Flat Rocks in the Shire of Jerramungup.

Further east, the not-for-profit group has facilitated on-ground works at West Beach and Flathead Point in the Shire of Ravensthorpe and Castletown Quays in the Shire of Esperance.

Other successful projects include the Bycatch Reduction South Coast Estuarine Fishery, in partnership with OceanWatch and the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council; as well as the Cape Le Grand Track Rehabilitation and Sustainable Walk Trail Establishment project, delivered by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Local community groups have also been successful in undertaking coastal projects around Wilson Inlet, Lowlands, Elleker, Oyster Harbour and Bremer Bay this year.

South Coast NRM chief executive Rob Edkins had high praise for all the community groups and land managers who put enormous effort into protecting our coastline.

"Local grassroots action involving communities and land managers is key to ensuring that our coast is restored and protected. People can help when they're out recreating this summer by sticking to existing tracks and ensuring their vehicles are clean on entry to prevent the spread of *Phytophthora* dieback," he said.

Mr Edkins added that it was particularly important in coastal areas to reduce tyre pressure to maintain the integrity of coastal tracks.

South Coast NRM is looking for volunteers to carry out coastal work, specifically native seed collection in the Torbay area. Interested people should contact Sheryn Prior at South Coast NRM on (08) 9845 8508 or mobile 0429 928 487.

ENDS

For more information about South Coast NRM coastal projects and Coastcare week activities, please contact Sheryn Prior, South Coast NRM, Coastal & Marine Implementation Officer, on (08) 9845 8508 or mobile 0429 928 487.

Photo Caption: Torbay community members and South Coast NRM work teams collecting native seeds at Mutton Bird beach.

Coastcare Week Activities

Saturday 5 December, 10.30 am – 2.30 pm

Dieback Workshop – Cosy Corner Case Study

Evan Brown from Glevan Consulting will give a brief introduction to dieback, explain the new dieback signage system, how to prevent dieback spread and testing for Phytophthora, as well as information on the Dieback Protection Area methodology applied in recent studies within the Torbay catchment.

Participant numbers strictly limited, RSVP to Lesley Hart 9841 0119

Media contact Paul Donovan, South Coast NRM 9845 8526; 0427 928 450

Monday 7 December, 3.30 – 4.30 pm

Albany Senior High School – Marine Science Seminars

Students will present results from studies into the distribution and abundance of marine life in Oyster and Princess Royal Harbors, including Australian Salmon, King George Whiting, Yellow-eye and Sea Mullet, Cockles, Stingrays and Stingarees, and Black Bream.

Venue: Performing Arts Theatre, Albany Senior High School.

All welcome

Tuesday 8 December

Shire of Denmark coastal photo-monitoring

Contact Helen Heydenrych, Shire of Denmark 9848 0800

Wednesday 9 December

Albany Senior High School – Marine Science in-water monitoring session

Media welcome by arrangement

Contact Sheryn Prior, South Coast NRM 9845 8508; 0429 928 487

Wednesday 9 December 7.30pm

Presentation to the Community: Environmental Water Requirements of Marbellup Brook and Torbay Inlet

Venue: Elleker Hall (Torbay Catchment Group hosting Dr Paul Close)

All welcome

Contact Dr Paul Close 9842 0833

Wednesday 9 December, 6.00 – 8.30 pm

Shire of Denmark Information Forum “Loving Local Reserves”

The forum topics to be covered include Shire of Denmark Local Laws and Friends of Reserves Strategy, Ecology of Reserves and the Environment Protection Act 1986. Ratepayers and residents whose properties border Denmark Shire Council reserves or who enjoy utilising reserves are encouraged to attend.

Contact Melinda Lyons, Shire of Denmark 9848 0300

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South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. is the leading regional group for natural resource management on the South Coast of Western Australia. As an independent non-profit organisation, we work with the community to improve the environment by preserving and protecting unique plants and animals, managing land and waterways, and sharing knowledge and skills in natural resource management.