

Monday 7th September 2009

Celebrate with South Coast NRM during Landcare Week

Landcare Week is upon us and South Coast Natural Resource Management will be celebrating its achievements with the Ravensthorpe, Esperance and Bremer Bay communities this week.

Interested members of the public are welcome to attend the Ravensthorpe Sporting Complex from 6.30pm this evening; the Esperance Bay Yacht Club from 6.30pm on Tuesday 8th; and the Bremer Bay Sports Club on Friday 11th from 5.30pm to hear speakers from South Coast NRM and community groups outline achievements from projects delivered over the past five years, and reveal plans for the future.

South Coast NRM is an independent, non-profit group that works with local communities 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.

The three events are the first of eight on a South Coast NRM regional tour of the South Coast and Great Southern regions across September, which aims to acknowledge South Coast NRM's hard work and achievements with community and government partners.

South Coast NRM chief executive Rob Edkins said the group had channelled over \$47.5 million from state and federal governments into local grass-roots projects over the past five years addressing land, water, coastal and marine, culture and biodiversity challenges.

"We've spent a large amount of money in a short period of time and achieved some great outcomes. These include protecting threatened species, restoring degraded waterways and land, fostering a greater understanding of biodiversity and cultural issues, and increasing awareness of water management issues in our region," he said.

"The level of effort from our partners is nothing short of amazing and something we should be proud of."

The South Coast NRM regional tour celebrations will continue on to Cranbrook and Albany next week, followed by Mount Barker, Denmark and Borden.

Mr Edkins explained that while future funding sources were still unclear, the last five years of effort had proven that South Coast NRM could deliver on its targets and this should put it in a strong position to attract funding into the future.

A pending review of the regional strategy will determine what the region's priorities are into the future, he said.

“We care about what our communities need and try our best to deliver on these needs. South Coast NRM is exploring ways to diversify its income so that we can continue to deliver on our regional priorities with our community partners.”

South Coast NRM managed the largest Natural Heritage Trust project in Australia (Marine Futures) and was a contributor to the largest National Action Plan Project in Australia (Strategic Tree Farming).

For more information or to RSVP your attendance, please phone Jenelle Carter at South Coast NRM on 0428 928 536 or visit www.southcoastnrm.com.au. Finger food and refreshments will be served at all events.

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