

Programs

Water

There is one true river system (the Margaret River) and 14 creek systems in the Cape to Cape region. These invaluable natural resources provide water for agriculture and the town water supply. They have immense natural values as they are home to a diverse range of flora and fauna.

Focus of the program

- Increase understanding of our waterways through assessment and surveys
- Undertake priority actions such as weed control and fencing to protect and restore waterways and associated land.
- Raise awareness and provide skills and resources to the community with workshops and events.

Biodiversity

The Cape to Cape region is located in the only international biodiversity hotspot in Australia which is 1 of 15 national hotspots. Our region is a biodiversity hotspot because it is home to an extraordinary number of unique endemic species (found no where else in the world) some of which are at risk of extinction.

How to get involved in the group

- Become a member of the CCG
- Volunteer with the Capes Volunteer Team
- Join our streamlines email list to find out about our regular activities
- Help us monitor our natural environment

We also have a range of resources available for loan from our office including:

- Water quality testing equipment
- Dieback treatment kits
- Weed control and tree planting equipment
- Books, manuals, reports, brochures and other technical information

The Cape to Cape Catchments Group has a team of part time staff and a volunteer management committee:

Chair/Treasurer: Genevieve Hanran-Smith (replaces Margaret Moir)

Vice Chair: Stuart Hicks (replaces Nick Dornan)

Secretary: Cass Jury (replaces Rod Whittle)

Members: Wayne Prangnell, Mike Hulme, Marg Moir

The CCG thanks the following outgoing committee members in 2010/11:

Nick Dornan, Rod Whittle and Vicky Stroud

Focus of program

- Link areas of remnant vegetation, creating functioning ecological linkages to build resilience of local species to changing land use and climate change.
- Enhance and protect remnant bushland through fencing, weed and feral animal control and encouraging natural regeneration.
- Provide skills and resources to the community, enabling landholders to better manage the biodiversity assets on their land.

Working with our community

Our region has a diverse community across a number of small towns with a range of industries.

Focus of the program

- Environmental education for schools and the broader community.
- Supporting local community groups and Shires.
- Encouraging participation in natural resource management through volunteering.

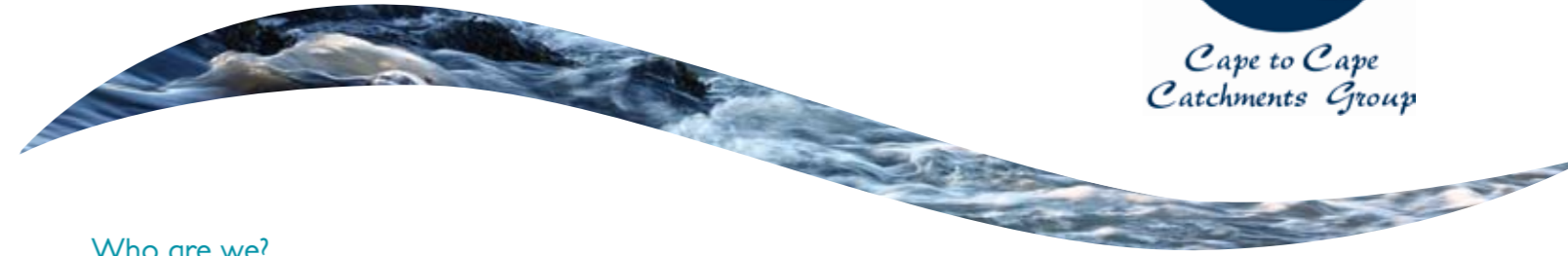


CCG Guide to Flora and Fauna of the Cape to Cape Region

Cape to Cape Catchments Group

ANNUAL REPORT

August 2011



Who are we?

The Cape to Cape Catchments Group (CCG) is a community group that works with community and government agencies to understand, protect and improve our local environment. We have an open membership and welcome new members and volunteers.

The CCG works in the area between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin extending inland to include the catchments of waterways flowing to the coast. Our region contains many natural assets including the Margaret River and fourteen stream systems, the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge, high species diversity and a spectacular coastline.

Our supporters

The CCG receives funding and support to work on projects that protect our natural environment including funds from the WA State Government and it's agencies, the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program, Lotterywest, the Shires of Augusta Margaret River and Busselton and South West Catchments Council. Our community and local businesses are key supporters of the CCG, donating money, time and services for events and projects.

2010/2011

2010/11 was a period of consolidation for the CCG. The group continued to provide services to land holders, our community, schools, local government and state government agencies focusing on the protection of waterways and biodiversity. Development of a comprehensive Conservation Action Plan for our region to direct attention to our key environmental assets and investment in their protection continues to be a priority for the group.

In 2010/11 the CCG completed a number of private contracts, generating a modest income for the group. As environment and natural resource management specialists, the CCG offers professional services and advice in the areas of biodiversity and waterway planning and management with a focus on the local species and conditions of the Cape to Cape region. Income received from fee for service work is contributed back into the group to fund community projects.



Capes Volunteer Team working on the coast in 2011

Where the money comes from:

Project Funding	\$285,000	Operating costs	\$75,000	Community education	\$8000
State government	61.5%	Local government	13%	Donations	100%
Federal government	30%	Memberships	3%		
Local government	8.5%	Donations	40%		
		Project overheads	44%		



PO Box 1749
Margaret River WA 6285
33 Tunbridge St

Phone: 9757 2202
Fax: 9757 3740

Email: ccg@westnet.com.au
Website: capetocape.org.au



July 10

Arum lily control on private and public land begins and continues to October 2010

August

Margaret River Primary School and Margaret River Montessori School revegetate a section of Boodjidup Brook at Leeuwin Estate

September

Rounds 2 and 3 of Biodiversity Management Plans completed for the Entwine Environmental Certification Scheme

October

Cape to Cape Clean Up with Tangaroa Blue, schools and community

Heronbrook Open Garden hosted by Mike and Mary McCall at Ellen Brook

November

Feral animal control workshop in Witchcliffe

December

Round 1 hairy marron fishdown in the upper reaches of the Margaret River.

Students at Cowaramup Primary School fish feral goldfish from a dam on the Wilyabrup

January 11

Blackberry control on every river reserve on the Margaret River, all known infestations of Ellensbrook, infestations at Devils Pool and Bramley National Park protecting 173 ha of bushland.

February

Marri decline fundraiser with Murdoch University raises funds for tree decline research.

Capes Volunteer Team kicks off for 2011 to focus on coastal protection

Round 2 hairy marron fishdown in the Margaret River.

March

AMRSC Environmental Management Plan developed for Barrett Street Reserve

Capes Volunteers monitor Western Ringtail Possums with Dunsborough Coast and Landcare Group

April

Eradication of goldfish in a Wilyabrup dam in Cowaramup

'Get that feral cat' trapping workshop in Margaret River

May

Year 3 students visit the Margaret River as part of the Rotary environmental education project

Stormwater Education for Builders partnership project with AMRSC looks at sediment leaving building sites in Margaret River.

June

Planting season 2011 begins with Capes Volunteers planting 3000 plants at Devils Pool on one day.

Bushland Management and Woody Weed control workshops

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010 - 11

PROTECTING OUR THREATENED ANIMAL SPECIES

- Supported the only wild hairy marron population by co-ordinating and implementing week-long intensive fish downs to reduce the impact of the introduced smooth marron and gain valuable data on the status and threats to the species.
- Coordinated feral animal control training for land holders across the region helping to protect our unique small mammals at risk in the region.

RESPONDING TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- Working with the Centre of Excellence for Climate Change, Woodland and Forest Health to raise money for research on marri tree decline.
- Concerns about degrading processes at Quininup Falls lead to a river action planning project in Quininup catchment.
- Local reports of feral aquatic species in Wilyabrup Brook lead to fishout activities removing 3000 goldfish from a single dam.
- Concerns about sediment pollution entering the Margaret River leads to a partnership between the CCG and Shire of Augusta Margaret River to work with builders to address sediment washing out of building sites in Margaret River town.

PROTECTING WATERWAYS AND THEIR FRINGING ENVIRONMENT

- Provided incentives to land holders to protect water quality and biodiversity of our waterways including 8km of fencing to restrict stock access, 100ha of weed control, 1000ha of feral animal control and 5ha of revegetation.
- Worked with local and state government agencies to ensure coordinated protection of stream reserves.
- Focus on Ellenbrook catchment to control every known blackberry infestation, fenced 1.5km of brook and 2ha of revegetation work.

ACTION TO PROTECT PRIORITY RESERVES AND SITES

- Focused on Margaret River estuary with co-ordination of significant weed control works, access control and signage in consultation with local aboriginal elders, community groups and Shire of Augusta-Margaret River.
- Protected priority reserves with widespread woody weed control including trialling alternative methods suitable to our local conditions.
- Three years of blackberry and fig control on the lower Boodjidup Brook culminated with planting 7000 local native species in controlled areas.

REDUCING THE WEED THREAT

- Co-ordinated blackberry control throughout the region including the entire Margaret River stream reserve including co-ordination with adjoining landholders.
- A push on blackberry on the Ellen Brook controlled every known infestation.
- Coordinated arum lily control across the region on public and private land.

FOCUS ON ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY

- Collaboration with Gondwana Link to develop a comprehensive Conservation Action Plan for ecological linkages in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River.
- Working with land holders in key linkage areas to protect remnant vegetation and restore habitats.

WORKING WITH THE WINE INDUSTRY TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

- 17 vineyards and wineries supported to achieve Entwine Australia certification.
- The WineWatch partnership secures funding to support local wine producers to demonstrate environmental best practice through achieving Entwine Australia membership.

PROTECTING OUR FRAGILE COASTLINE

- Focused on the Margaret River estuary and surrounding dunes with weed control, fencing and dune stabilisation.
- Capes Volunteers work to protect priority coastal reserves including Moses Rock, Gracetown, Ellensbrook and Boranup.

ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- The Capes Volunteer Team undertake 1000 hours of onground environment work across 30 sites in the Cape to Cape region.
- 30 volunteers help run the Heronsbrook Open Garden to raise funds for the CCG and promote biodiversity in gardens.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Margaret River Rotary Club sponsors an environmental education project for year three students at Margaret River Primary School. Students learn about the history of the town, indigenous heritage and their own links to the river.

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Community workshops focused on protecting biodiversity: feral animal control, feral cat control, woody weed control, bushland management, and dieback protection.
- CCG supports the work of nine local volunteer groups with advice, networking opportunities, information sharing, and volunteer support.

THE YEAR AHEAD

- Quininup Brook Action Plan gets under way in July 2011. The plan will focus on water quality issues in the catchment and degrading environmental and heritage assets in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.
- Implementation of the Conservation Action Plan will be a key focus for the CCG in 2011-12

