



## *Happy holidays from the Cape to Cape Catchments Group*

Hi there members and friends of the Cape to Cape Catchments Group. For our last, rushed newsletter before the close of 2011 we thought we'd give you a quick run down on some of the achievements of this year and our plans for 2012.

2011 ends with our friends in Ellensbrook, Kilcarnup, Prevelly, Wilderness, Boodjidup and Redgate looking out at a scarred and blackened landscape. Our hearts go out to those who lost their homes and also those whose hard work over the years has seen our coastal strip lovingly cared for. Volunteers in our community have spent years cleaning up our beaches, removing environmental weeds and protecting our dunes from erosion. When we and visitors to this region visit our glorious beaches, we usually forget to notice the well made path that directs us from the car park to the beach, we don't see the intricate web of brushing that stop our dunes blowing away once the breeze comes in and take for granted that new plants have often been nurtured from seed collection through to re-planting. The CCG has been inundated with offers of volunteer help in the last few weeks which has been wonderful to see. The best thing you can do for our burned coastal areas is make sure you stay off burned areas to allow them to regenerate and make sure your kids, pets and visitors do the same. Leave your car (even your 4WD) in the car park and use the established tracks down to the beach. By this time in 2012 our dunes will be green again and perhaps our other scars will be healed as well.

### ***New Projects in 2012***

The CCG has received funding through the Australian Governments Caring for our Country Program for a number of new projects in 2012:

**Landholders in the agricultural areas of the Margaret River Catchment** will have access to support to help protect biodiversity values on their properties. The CCG hopes to work with landholders to develop a biodiversity management plans for individual properties and then provide funding to implement actions identified in the plan. Generous support for fencing of creeklines and bush areas, weed and feral animal control are available through this project. Officers will be contacting landholders early in the new year, but feel free to contact the office for more information.

Another bonus for landholders will come from the implementation of the new Augusta Margaret River Conservation Action Plan. Focusing on **properties adjacent to the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park**, our most established and intact vegetation corridor, this project will be working with landholders to support the ecology of this incredible natural asset. Biodiversity management plans and support for implementation will be the key features of this project.

The **Capes Volunteer team have received a Community Action Grant** to help support their work in 2012. The volunteer team will be funded to work on public reserves and national parks areas, making sure our hard working volunteers are safe, supervised and well fed!

The State Government NRM Office has also just announced another round of grants with the CCG receiving support for onground Rivercare actions in 2012.

**Landholders on the Cowaramup, Ellen, and Boodjidup Brooks and tributaries of the Margaret River** will be eligible for support to fence creekline vegetation from stock, control environmental weeds (particularly post fire weed control) and revegetate areas to help bolster the health of our streams. A new Rivercare officer will be funded by the CCG to work with landholders to protect our streams.

### Highlights from 2011

The Augusta Margaret River **Conservation Action Plan (CAP)** is nearing completion. Two years of work by the CCG and GondwanaLink with input from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, Department of Environment and Conservation, local community groups, and universities has resulted in a comprehensive plan to protect the biodiversity of the Augusta Margaret River Shire. The CAP identifies a series of targets to be protected and threats to be addressed on the assumption that by working to protect key species and communities, a broad suite of biodiversity values will benefit. The CAP is due to be launched in the new year, to grab a copy, contact the CCG office.

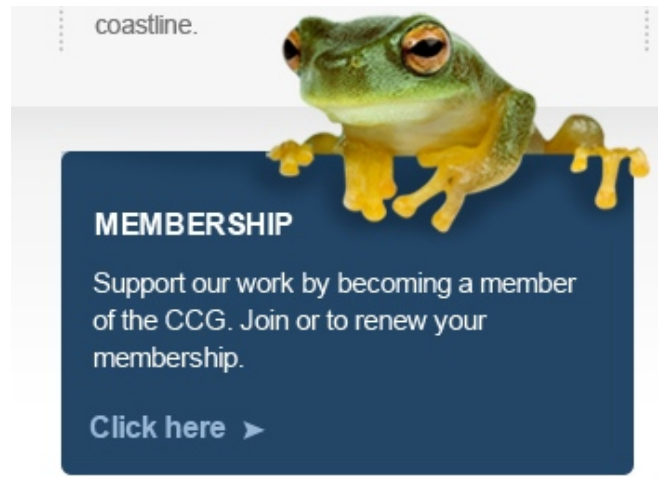
The **Bramley Brook Action Plan** has been printed and launched to landholders in that catchment. The action plan includes detailed mapping information on the condition of the Bramley Brook, its fish and crayfish species and the work that needs to be done to protect it.

**Stormwater in Margaret River** all ends up in the river. AMRSC have been proactive in recent years, installing stormwater detention basins and gross pollutant traps to capture rubbish and nutrients from the town site before it hits the river. Sediment remains a real risk to the river and this year AMRSC funded a small project to work with local builders to stop sediment from building sites impacting on our waterways. You'll see from the photo on the right what many of our building sites look like during the rainy months. Better regulation by the shire and a bigger effort from our local builders will be needed to stop sediment filling up our river pools and washing out to our beaches.

The **CCG have a new website!** Funded by the Caring for our Country program through the South West Catchments Council, the CCG website will have lots of local information, tips for assessing your stream condition and our membership form can be filled in on line. There are a couple of pages yet to be completed but you can check it out from next week at the same web address as always: [www.capetocape.org.au](http://www.capetocape.org.au)



**Support the CCG by making a donation or becoming a member.** Memberships and donations continue to be a very important part of the CCG's operating capacity. Generous government funding supports projects in areas like waterways and protecting biodiversity but these funds do not cover the overheads of the group. In order to have a strong local group that can respond to local concerns, we need a strong local support base. CCG membership is affordable and good value for money. A membership form is attached or you can join through our website from next week. Alternatively, you could make a tax-deductable donation to the CCG public fund. Every bit counts towards a better managed environment in the Capes Region.



### Marri decline Project

In February 2011, the Capes Community raised over \$125,000 in pledges for research into the causes of Marri decline. This incredible response from our members and friends has allowed the Centre of Excellence for Climate Change, Woodland and Forest Health to apply for an Australian Research Council grant using the CCG as a contributing partner. The grant application was submitted in November 2011. We should have news of the outcome before the middle of 2012.

Thank you very much to the artists of "Searching for Shade" an exhibition of 6 artists at Wilyabrup Dreaming Gallery who donated the proceeds of their raffle to the CCG. Pictured right are Steve Pease, Helen Foster, Bill Meiklejohn, Hayley Rolfe (CCG) and Simon James at the presentation of the donation. The other two artists, Peter Scott and Trish Durham are not pictured.



Finally, and only because any newsletter from the CCG is incomplete without a note about weeds - **Its time to get on top of your Blackberry!** Summer is when Blackberry has new growth susceptible to herbicide control. Please call the CCG office if you need help controlling this Weed of National Significance. If you are a landholder on the Cowaramup, Ellen, or Boodjidup Brooks or anywhere on the Margaret River the CCG can subsidise contractor control. If you are outside this area the CCG can provide appropriate herbicide, equipment and advice.

The CCG thanks our generous funders without whom our work wouldn't be possible:

