

AUTUMN 2012

THE GREENER TIMES

OUR FORESTS

ARE IN

PERIL

Margaret River coal mine defeated

Gas fracking threatens WA groundwater

Mining in WA National Parks

WA Environmental Art Award winners



MARINE PARKS
marine sanctuaries now!



WALKING AWAY
from uranium mining

AUTUMN 2012

**WA'S ENVIRONMENTAL
NEWS MAGAZINE**

Published by the
Conservation Council of WA
online at www.ccwa.org.au

ISSN 1324-5740

This edition of the Greener Times focuses on the dangers our forests face and what we can do to stop the damage.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Western Australia's forests form an important part of our state's identity. The South West forests lie within an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot, one of only 34 in the world and the only one in Australia. They are home to our internationally renowned jarrah, karri, marri and tuart trees as well as many endangered local species.

In little more than a century since the arrival of Europeans, about half these forests have been logged or cleared for agriculture. Of the remaining forests, approximately fifteen per cent are in pre-European condition. The destruction of the Swan Coastal Plain and Wheatbelt forests represents land clearing at a rate and scale unequalled anywhere else on the planet.

Unfortunately, our remaining forests and their unique wildlife still face the combined threats of increased logging, fires and a rapidly drying climate.

In this edition of The Greener Times, experts, veteran activists and a new generation of conservationists are determined to preserve our native forests. Read on and find out what's already being done to protect WA's forest heritage and find out what you can do to preserve our forests, native animals and way of life.



Conservation Council of Western Australia

ccwa
Look forward

PUBLISHER

Conservation Council of WA
2 Delhi Street, West Perth WA 6005
Tel: 08 9420 7266 Fax: 08 9420 7273
Email: conswa@ccwa.org.au
www.ccwa.org.au
ABN 35 982 476 107

The views expressed in this news magazine are not necessarily those of CCWA

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If you would like to submit an article for the next edition of The Greener Times please send an email outlining your proposed article to editor@ccwa.org.au

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



IT'S BEEN A ROLLERCOASTER RIDE

It's been a while since the last edition of The Greener Times but for those who have visited CCWA's website, received our email updates or followed us via social media, you will know that the last few months have been a rollercoaster ride for WA's environment.

PIERS VERSTEGEN CCWA Director

Since our last edition, we have seen the creation of two new marine parks by the Barnett Government; the EPA has recommended approval for WA's first uranium mine; Environment Minister Bill Marmion has started approving gas fracking projects without EPA assessment; and the government revealed its plans to increase native forest logging in our iconic southwest forests.

CCWA has been working for many years to secure greater protection of our marine environment and it is great to see the State Government delivering in this important area with new marine parks in the South West (Ngari Capes) and in the Kimberley (Camden Sound). These new marine parks will help to bring the level of protection in our marine environment closer to what is required for our marine life, and closer to what we already have on land with WA's network of National Parks. The new marine parks have added momentum to the growing community campaign for a network of large marine sanctuaries in Commonwealth water, and we are hoping that leadership in this area by the Barnett Government will help show Commonwealth Environment Minister Tony Burke what is possible.

Unfortunately, on other fronts the State Government have been showing a remarkable disregard for the future of WA's unique environment. Most concerning was the release of a scoping document for the next 10-year Forest Management Plan. Not only does this propose to continue the current exemptions from environmental

laws enjoyed by the logging industry, but it actually anticipates an increase in logging in our iconic southwest forests to 10,000 hectares per year. Given the stress our native forests are already under due to climate change, prescribed burning and plant diseases such as dieback, another decade of forest logging would have a catastrophic impact on our forests and the threatened species that live there.

Thanks are due to the thousands of CCWA supporters who sent submissions to the EPA via CCWA's website, and helped get the message across that continued logging is unacceptable. CCWA will continue to strongly advocate for an end to logging of WA's unique forests and a Forest Protection Plan that helps our endangered wildlife recover and preserves the natural carbon stores in our forests.

“ CCWA will continue to strongly advocate for an end to logging... ”



NUMBATS SPOTTED NEAR WARRUP LOGGING AREA

The Warrup forest is one of the last extensive old-growth and high conservation value (HCV) forests in the South West that remains unprotected by a nature reserve or National Park. Nearly half of the area has been identified as old-growth forest.



Late last year we were advised by the Government's logging agency that logging in the Warrup forest would be brought forward to start immediately. Soon after logging started, a protester snapped this photo of a numbat just a few hundred metres from logging activity and only metres from a logging road.

With less than 1,000 numbats left in the wild it is hard to imagine how logging is allowed to take place in an area which is known to contain some of the last remaining specimens of our state mammal emblem.

Unfortunately, under WA's forestry management regime the logging industry is exempt from Commonwealth legislation that protects endangered wildlife. With no protection from the Commonwealth, the numbats have to rely on State Government laws; however logging guidelines under the current state Forest Management Plan are not enforceable, and Western Australia's antiquated Wildlife Conservation Act does not protect wildlife habitat.

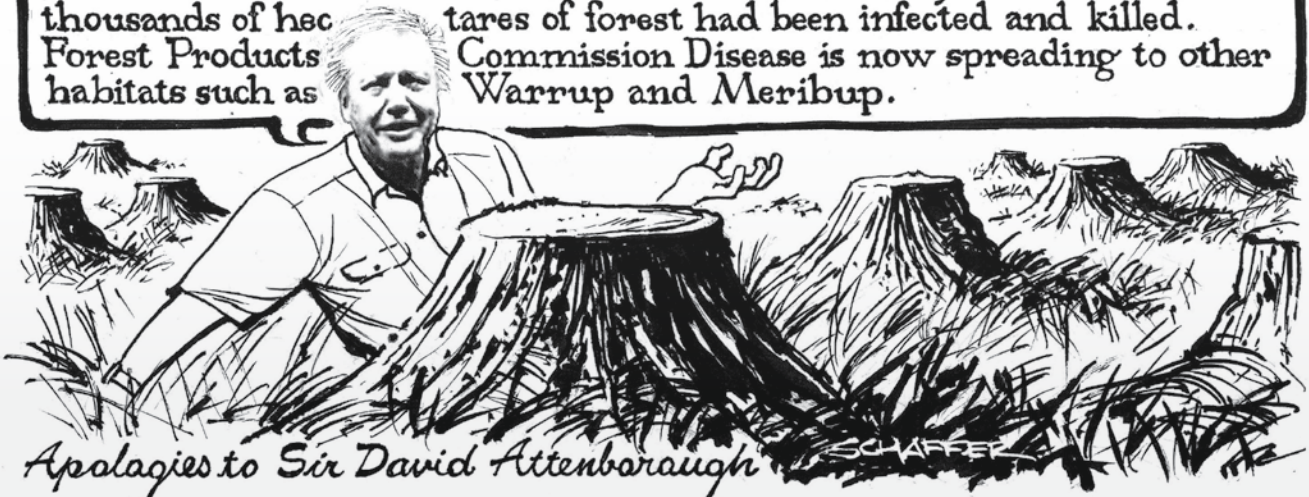
Right now, the State Government is developing a new 10-year Forest Management Plan, which is our chance to finally see an end to native forest logging in WA.

But instead of protecting our remaining Southwest forests, the 'scoping document' for the Forest Management Plan released for public comment reveals that the Government are actually planning to increase native forest logging in the Southwest.

Our threatened wildlife such as the black cockatoos and numbats cannot afford for these shocking plans to go ahead. **Please support the campaign by donating to our forest fighting fund online at www.ccwa.org.au or calling the CCWA office on 9420 7266.** Many thanks if you have already donated, but please also take a few minutes to contact **Premier Barnett's office** on **(08) 9222-9888** or via email at **wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au**

COLIN'S CAPERS

Serious current threats to natural vegetation of southwest Australia is the spread of Forest Products Commission Disease or Jarrah, Marri and Karri Logging caused by the root fungus Phytowaliberal Party. The disease was first noticed in the jarrah forests in 2000 but not identified until 2011, by that time thousands of hectares of forest had been infected and killed. Forest Products Commission Disease is now spreading to other habitats such as Warrup and Meribup.



Apologies to Sir David Attenborough

OUTBACK COUNTRY

ALAYA SPENCER-COTTON

For more than a century, competing users have battled for control over WA's vast interior rangelands. Now, in the 21st century, a fresh attempt is being made to rescue our iconic outback country before it's too late.

In a place where the land has historically been seen as country only good for grazing in, and a place where mining takes priority over all other land uses, it is no surprise that the land has become fragile and degraded.

Western Australia's vast rangelands are threatened by everything from bushfires and floods to goats and open pit mines bigger than you can imagine. The shrubs

and grasslands of the interior exist in delicate balance. Their ability to respond to changing climatic patterns is seriously affected by grazing pressure, feral weeds and animals, and of course the severe landscape changes that mining brings.

As we get more periods of drought and more heavy summer rains, our outback country will crack and wash away.

The WA Government is undertaking a 'rangelands reform' process and this could present an opportunity to improve things for our outback country, or it could make things worse. So far, the reforms appear to be directed towards increasing the intensity of land use and allowing new activities in

our rangelands without the necessary checks and balances.

We need forward-looking reform of the way our rangelands are managed before it's too late. Before we lose too much topsoil, too many ecosystems and vulnerable species, and before we lose our entire landscape.

We need to ask tough questions about the future of our outback, pastoralism and the impacts of hooved animals on this precious land.

We need to ask what we want to leave our children.

This is our outback country and story, let's not forget about it.



EMPOWERING WEST AUSTRALIANS

Western Australia has a new voice for energy efficiency, clean industry and low-carbon living with the launch of CCWA's newest initiative *EmpowerWA*.



EmpowerWA is a collection of local community sector groups who believe West Australians can reduce their bills, create jobs and fight climate change by supporting a clean energy future for the state.

EmpowerWA involves West Australian churches, trade unions, conservationists, youth leaders and social service providers working together towards a clean energy future with support from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

At the launch of *EmpowerWA*, CCWA Director Piers Verstegen said, "*EmpowerWA* focuses on what a clean energy future could look like for Western Australia.

"With a price on carbon starting in July, there is no better time to have a conversation about the opportunity that this economic change can bring for all Western Australians."

"The project tells the stories of Western Australians already taking action to support a clean energy future in their own homes and workplaces, and shows how we can save money while at the same time reducing our carbon pollution."

"Many people might not realise it, but by taking small actions in their own homes and workplaces to save energy, we are all contributing to support the much bigger changes in our economy that we need to address climate change."

"By being proactive in our support and development of clean energy WA can create sustainable prosperity beyond the mining boom, and place Western Australia on the map as a leader in renewable energy and clean technology to help tackle climate change."

"Mining booms don't last forever, but if we develop WA's world class renewable energy potential now, we can create new industries and sustainable jobs for the future."

STUDY FINDS PRESCRIBED BURNING DOES NOT PROTECT HOMES

Calls are mounting for a redesign of Western Australia's prescribed burning policies following a study showing burning of the kind used in WA does little or nothing to protect homes.

A team of scientists from California and Australia made 12,000 measurements at 500 houses affected by the 2009 Victorian Black Saturday bushfires, eventually concluding that large-scale prescribed burning did little or nothing to save homes from being destroyed.

This has direct implications for WA, where escaped prescribed burns destroyed more than 50 properties in December last year.

CCWA spokesman John McCarten said, "Last year West Australian authorities undertook burning on 3.2 million hectares of bushland – that's an area bigger than Belgium. These fires are causing incredible damage to already over-stressed native plants and animals.

"This study found that prescribed burning conducted more than a few kilometers away from homes had almost no effect in terms of protecting houses on Black Saturday.

"In Victoria the average distance between a prescribed burn and houses was 8km, which was found to be too far away to have any real impact. When you consider that prescribed burns in WA are routinely lit in remote areas far away from any human settlement, this is a very significant finding.

"In 2011 the Department of Environment and Conservation used seven aircraft whose sole job was to go deep into the bush and firebomb huge areas of uninhabited bushland with incendiary devices. This is a huge cost to the taxpayer for apparently little benefit."

CCWA has called on the State Government to abandon their arbitrary 200,000ha southwest prescribed burning target and instead adopt a more targeted, environmentally sensitive prescribed burning policy.

ANCIENT ORGANISMS UNDER THREAT ON PERTH'S DOORSTEP

Community groups and local residents are calling on the Commonwealth Government to fulfill its environmental obligations and reject the proposed Mangles Bay Marina Project in Rockingham before it threatens some of the world's most ancient organisms.

DR NIC DUNLOP Environmental Policy Coordinator

Developers behind the project plan to build a canal development so close to Rockingham's Lake Richmond that it will threaten the unique ecosystem living within it.

CCWA Environmental Policy coordinator Dr Nic Dunlop said, "Thrombolites are one of the oldest known life forms on Earth, pre-dating plants and animals. It was colonies of microbial life very similar to those now living in Lake Richmond that billions of years ago generated the oxygen that allowed all other life to evolve.

"The proposed marina would effectively shift the ocean shoreline to within a few hundred metres of the lake. This could contaminate the freshwater lake with salt water and kill the thrombolites, particularly when combined with sea level rises.

"Our knowledge of the hydrology of Lake Richmond is limited and some of its unique characteristics still can't be explained. Yet the Mansels Bay Marina project would be a high-risk experiment by lowering and then raising the water table, allowing salt water to penetrate, exposing acid sulphate soils, mobilising contaminants and opening the coast and the lake to rising sea-levels. If the engineering gamble is lost, it will be the environment and the ancient thrombolites that will pay the price."

WUNGONG CATCHMENT THINNING TRIAL

ALISON XAMON MLC
Greens member for East Metro

The Wungong Catchment Thinning Trial was originally planned to be a \$20 million, 12-year project running from 2005-2017. Water Corporation were hoping to generate more surface flow of water to the Wungong Dam. The plan was to change forest management to more closely mimic the composition of the original, mature forest.

The stated intention was to increase water yields, with no loss of water quality or bio-diversity in the forest itself. An array of scientific studies, including comparisons with non-thinned catchments, are being carried out concurrently to assess the impacts of these changes.

The EPA released their mid-term audit of the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013 in September 2010. This report raised grave doubts about the viability of preserving bio-diversity in Wungong catchment while thinning the forest.

We are now halfway through the project and the Water Corporation has advised that they are reconsidering their commitment to the project. In answers to questions in Parliament, Water Corp has advised that the increase in water flow has been insufficient to meet the financial criteria of the business case.

The issues under consideration by WaterCorp are the intensity of the operation, areas affected and the approvals process – essentially, how to continue the project for less money. Not mentioned has been any response to the EPA's recommendation of aligning the trial objectives more strongly with biodiversity values, rather than considering water production as the primary goal.

Regardless of whether or not the trial continues from this point, the learnings from this change in management style of the forest will hopefully be fully considered and digested by the DEC and the Conservation Commission in their planning for the next Forest Management Plan.



THOUSANDS CALL FOR LOGGING HALT

Representatives from many of WA's environment and forest conservation groups marked World Forest Day recently by gathering on the steps of Parliament House and presenting the Barnett Government with over 5,000 letters calling for an end to native forest logging to protect WA's threatened species.

Addressing the gathered crowd, CCWA Director Piers Verstegen said, "On World Forest Day, people around the world are celebrating forests; however in Western Australia a loss-making logging industry is tearing down critical habitat for some of our most threatened species.

"The numbat is WA's mammal emblem and there are fewer than 1,000 left in the wild. Yet the Warrup Forest, home to one of the few remaining numbat populations, is right now being devastated by loggers.

"The WA community will not give up on our threatened species. We will not give up on our numbats, cockatoos and the native forests that provide food and homes for these unique animals."

Environment Minister Bill Marmion came out to accept the letters on behalf of the WA Government. Minister Marmion asked people to make submissions to the review of the Forest Management Plan (FMP) but failed to respond to concerns about what impact current logging activities were having on threatened species.

Also present were Shadow Minister for the Environment Hon. Sally Talbot, Independent 'Liberals for Forests' MLA for Alfred Cove Dr. Janet Woollard, Independent MLA for Fremantle Adele Carles and Greens MLC Hon. Giz Watson. All made strong statements supporting an end to logging in WA's native forests.

OUR FORESTS ARE IN PERIL

WA'S SOUTH-WEST FORESTS

WA's South-West forests are showing serious signs of stress as they come under pressure from reduced rainfall and increasing temperatures.

JESS BECKERLING Director of the WA Forest Alliance (WAFA)

Trees are dying in large numbers not just in WA, but all around the world. Meanwhile, ecologists are warning of severe climate change impacts on wildlife and biodiversity.

To most this is unavoidably apparent – we can even see the effects in the metropolitan area – but somehow the Barnett Government has managed to avoid that realisation. In fact, the Premier goes so far as to say that biodiversity concerns are ‘grossly exaggerated’ and that the endangered Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo, whose numbers declined by a massive 27% last year, are a ‘so called’ endangered species.

The first ‘scoping document’ for the next 10 years of forest management has just been released. Despite all the evidence that native forest logging is ecologically unsustainable and financially unviable, the Barnett Government’s plan is to increase the amount of forest logged each year to 10 000 hectares – that’s 25 times the size of King’s Park.

Last financial year only 15% of the total volume of karri logs and 12% of the total volume of jarrah logs ended up as sawn timber – timber that can be used for furniture, flooring and high value products. The vast majority was sold as woodchips, firewood and

charcoal. After tax the Government’s logging agency the Forest Products Commission posted a loss associated with native forest logging of \$200 000. Despite everything we lost – spectacular jarrah forests intensively logged, ancient karri forests clearfelled down to the red mud, the destruction of endangered species habitats, dieback spread – we gained nothing. We had to pay for what we lost, but it is our endangered species that are paying the ultimate price.

So surely, in these outrageous circumstances, the plan would now be to complete the restructure of the timber industry out of native forests.



Plantations and farm forestry are undoubtedly the way of the future and once properly supported by Government will provide resilient employment and sustainably produced timber for the full range of uses.

Instead, the Barnett Government's approach is to deny that logging is impacting any threatened species and look for new markets for timber that is of increasingly poor quality. Western Australia can do better than that.

With an election set for March next year and the new Forest Management Plan due to come into effect in December,

great opportunities are coming up to secure a more sustainable future for our forests. We have a real chance to step in at a critical moment and ensure the survival of our black cockatoos, numbats and all the other threatened species that are dependent on the forests. The consequences if we don't are too horrible to accept.

Jess Beckerling is the director of the WA Forest Alliance (WAFA), which gives a voice to our threatened South-West forests. For more information on WAFA, or to speak to Jess, call 0488 777 592.



‘Save the cockatoos and we will save all the little birds and the flora, fauna and fungi. But to start, we need to end the clearing of Banksia woodlands.’

MARGARET OWEN

Perspective is a wonderful thing. It works a bit like a compass, offering you a sense of direction while buttressing you against making all sorts of regrettable decisions.

MATTHEW SYKES

Margaret Owen, grandmother, conservationist extraordinaire and winner of the 2011 Bessie Rischbieth Conservation Award, makes it her business to administer regular doses of perspective.

Her now legendary letters and photographs feature regularly in *The Post*, a weekly newspaper servicing Perth's Western suburbs, reminding residents who, with their busy lives, might otherwise forget the beauty and diversity of Western Australia's native bushland.

For the past decade, Margaret's contributions to *The Post* have helped keep contemporary conservation issues in the public eye. She says that conservation has been an issue of importance to her "since about the time I was born."

After moving from her childhood home of Mandurah to Wembley 30 years ago, Margaret's love for nature gave her a unique appreciation for the Underwood Avenue Bushlands, Floreat. It was here that she became interested in the black cockatoo populations concentrated in the area.

With their habitats threatened by the increased clearing of land for both housing and commercial purposes, Margaret has persisted in educating people on how important the western suburbs' remaining bushland is for the survival of these critically endangered birds. She has achieved some successes, amongst them the saving of "tree 58", a large Banksia popular with cockies, located on the corner Underwood and Brockway road.

The significance of such efforts is underlined in a recent report from Dr Rob Davis, researcher at the University of Western Australia, which keen bird counter

Margaret contributed to with her collated cockatoo observation data.

"Dr Davis' report shows that, if we keep going at our current rate [of clearing], 80% of bird species in WA could go extinct," Margaret says, "It's all in our hands, yet we keep on destroying."

As well as her contributions to *The Post*, bird counting commitments, letter writing to local representatives and regular attending of protest sites, Margaret serves as secretary for the Urban Bushland Council.

Of this she says, "Independently and together we are trying to save those precious places and living things so that they can survive into the future. The clearing of Banksia woodland, whether in large scale areas or by the cumulative effect of clearing many smaller areas, should be a thing of the past."

When asked for her thoughts on the future, Margaret first directs our attention to the past. Recalling a story about her award's namesake, Bessie Rischbeith, who in 1922 travelled 2000 miles from WA to Federal Parliament House to score a coup for women's rights in Federal politics, Margaret says she would like similarly to tackle the issue of conservation head on:

"I have asked the Minister for the Environment to come with me to the bush. So far he has said no. Were he to come to the bush and after seeing the bush, he might well say, 'we can't have cockatoos going extinct on our watch'. Save the cockatoos and we will save all the little birds and the flora, fauna and fungi. But to start, we need to end the clearing of Banksia woodlands," she says.

COMMUNITY STRENGTH DEFEATS COAL MINE

“Strong communities make a strong nation.”

PETER LANE

Eighteen months ago, Vasse Coal Pty Ltd. put up a proposal to mine coal near Margaret River. Coal mining would have a hugely detrimental effect on the South-West's tourist, wine and agriculture based economy. It would dramatically devalue properties, while inhibiting investment in other significant enterprises. In sum, it would change the culture of our South-West. These are important issues. These are things that make communities strong.

From the beginning, the Margaret River community objected to the mine. And yet, under our current laws, neither the community nor those directly impacted by the venture had any legislated right to have their grievances tabled.

Environment Minister Bill Marmion, on strong advice from WA's Environmental Protection Authority, eventually decided on environmental grounds that the mine would not proceed. However, had there not been environmental issues, the outcome would most likely have been very different.

The Mining Act is very strong. A dedicated Communities Act to protect, though, is still a dream. Communities, including local governments, have the right to march in the street, but have no right to have a say in what really happens. Miners, in short, have far greater rights than West Australian communities.

A similar situation is now being played out in our South Eastern Jarrah Forest, with the logging of the Warrup Forest. The community considers it an important recreational, tourist and environmental asset, yet, as the bulldozers rolled in, it was clear that again their opinion had been ignored.

The community has no legal standing against the state's logging agency, the Forest Products Commission. It can “have a say” by

electing a different government, but for those whose lives are really being affected this provides little comfort or certainty. After all, even if you elect another government, the forest doesn't just come back.

Recently, during some of the hottest and windiest days I have experienced in WA's south, prescribed burning was undertaken in at least six different localities. Locals had protested and warned against it, and were even told that it was too dangerous to burn. Yet their pleas were ignored. Four of the burns got away and many homes, businesses and properties were destroyed. The extraordinarily hot burns caused severe environmental damage over thousands of hectares and, looking back, it's hard to believe that there were no deaths.

“ Strong communities make a strong nation. ”

Despite their local knowledge, and what they had at risk, communities had no right to stop the fires being lit or even the right to be heard.

Communities may be united in their fights for or against projects, or on how they should or should not be undertaken, but they have no rights. To create some sense of balance, to achieve better outcomes, a strong *Communities Act* has been proposed.

Peter Lane is an environmentalist and retired geologist. He has been involved in various campaigns aimed at protecting WA's native forests and wetlands.

*Peter published the first edition of *The Geology of Western Australia's National Parks: Geology for Everyone* in 2004 and remains active in WA's environmental community. He lives with his wife and extended family on a farm in Margaret River.*

REMEMBERING FUKUSHIMA

COMMEMORATING THE
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR DISASTER.

MIA PEPPER Nuclear Free Campaigner



Earlier this year, the Perth Cultural Centre came alive as ordinary West commemorated the first anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

A colourful fusion of Australian and Japanese cultures, the event was Perth's contribution to the global Remembering Fukushima commemorations. Speakers included Fukushima residents, anti-nuclear activists and State Shadow Minister for Mines Jon Ford, who reasserted WA Labor's opposition to all forms of uranium mining in WA.

Conservation Council of WA Nuclear Free Campaigner Mia Pepper said, "Since the disaster, the Commonwealth Government has acknowledged that Australian uranium was present in each of the Fukushima reactors.

"In light of this we express our deep regret that uranium from Australia is contaminating the Japanese people's sea, water, food chain and community.

"Thanks to our state's previous ban on uranium mining, West Australians can be proud that we did not contribute to this catastrophe. However, if we allow the proposed Wiluna uranium mine – or

any of the other uranium projects – to go ahead, we won't have that assurance in the future.

"On a good day uranium from Australia becomes radioactive waste. On a bad day it becomes nuclear fallout. How long will we have to wait until the next Fukushima, Chernobyl or Three Mile Island? Do West Australians want that burden of responsibility?"

Among the origami workshops, judo demonstrations, live music, speakers and art installations, Perth mum Akiko Stockton took the chance to tell her own inspiring story. Akiko, who was born and raised in Fukushima, has spent the last year working hard to raise more than \$10,000 for the forgotten victims of the Fukushima disaster.

Mrs Stockton said, "The town I grew up in, surrounded by its beautiful green mountains, is now contaminated with radiation. My birthplace has been transformed into somewhere people are scared to be in. My family, relatives and friends still live in Fukushima and are facing the fear of radiation."

After the meltdown, all residents living within 20km of the Fukushima nuclear power plant – 386,000 people – were forced to abandon their homes. While this was temporary at first, it is now clear that most people will never be able to return.

Mrs Stockton said, "Because of the radiation, the amount of time children

can play outside is restricted. Also, the breakup of families and divorce rates has soared. Husbands are staying in Fukushima to work despite the fear of radiation, while their wives are leaving the area with their children causing the families to be separated.

"If Fukushima had never even had a nuclear power plant I imagine that the residents would still be living their everyday lives, and children would be playing lively outside until the sun goes down. When I think of this, I can't help but feel a deep sense of sadness and anger."





WALK AWAY FROM URANIUM MINING

On the 20th August 2011 over 100 people including traditional custodians, Federal and state politicians, journalists, lawyers, families with young children and people from throughout Australia and all over the world gathered just outside Wiluna to begin a ten-week walk to Perth.

MIA PEPPER Nuclear Free Campaigner

The walk aimed to raise awareness of Toro Energy's proposed uranium mine in the Wiluna area and to walk in solidarity with the traditional custodians whose land and communities will be affected by such mines.

Over the ten weeks, covering a distance of more than 1,000 kilometres, we discovered the beauty and magic of the desert as we camped out each night. We were joined along the way by traditional custodians who walked us through their land and shared stories about their culture, history and the sorrow caused by the threat of uranium mining. For most of us it was the first time on this land with traditional custodians, which was such an honour and privilege.

We received local media coverage in most of the towns we passed through, some even hosting us with places to stay, food and public meetings. We spoke to hundreds of people along the route and distributed masses of information. The walk strengthened the national and international anti-nuclear movement by sending two international walkers to the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance meeting in the Northern Territory and was the subject of a speech made by Senator Scott Ludlam in Federal Parliament.

The connection to communities, to the land and to people all around the world has brought a new commitment to stop uranium mining in Western Australia before it begins. We heard not only of the stories from traditional custodians but from the diverse group of people from all around the world fighting to stop the nuclear industry on their land. We have learnt a deeper understanding of the ever-increasing

health risks to workers, communities and the environment through the exposure to radiation and the contamination of water supplies.

We discovered a common bond between all West Australians affected by future uranium mining – from the traditional custodians who want to keep this toxic mineral in the ground, to the people living in Kalgoorlie and other towns along the likely export route who don't want tonnes of radioactive ore trucked daily by their front yards and the thousands of ordinary West Australians who don't want the shame of knowing that when the next Fukushima-level disaster happens, it could be West Australian uranium poisoning the water and polluting the air.

As West Australians, we have an opportunity right now to keep WA nuclear free, to stand beside the traditional custodians of the land and to protect the future for our children and their children.

If you missed the first walk, you can still join a planned walk from Yeelirrie to Leonora due to begin this August. 'Walkatjurra Walkabout - Walking for Country' is a celebration of Wangkatja country, a testament to the strength of the community that has fought to stop uranium mining at Yeelirrie for over forty years, and a chance to come together to share our commitment to a sustainable, nuclear-free future.

For more information go to www.walkingforcountry.com or call Laura 0421 816 846

Gas fracking has already been blanket banned in France, Bulgaria and some states in the US.

WHAT THE FRACK?

The gas fracking frenzy that has engulfed the eastern states has arrived in WA. However, with the industry doing its best to make sure landholders are kept in the dark, you could be forgiven for not noticing.

DANE GRIFFEN Anti-Fracking Campaigner



Fracking deals with 'unconventional gas', methane gas deposits trapped within deep geological formations such as shale rock, coal deposits or tight sandstone. Extracting these gas deposits requires expensive, technical drilling operations and hydraulic fracture stimulation or 'fracking'. Fracking is a process in which millions of litres of water are mixed with tons of chemicals, then forced into the ground at up to 15,000psi to fracture rock.

Developing an unconventional gas field takes hundreds, if not thousands, of gas wells. Each gas well requires around 30 million litres of water, turning wilderness landscapes and prime farmland into toxic industrial wastelands.

Rather than the coal seam gas that dominates on the east coast, fracking in WA usually involves shale and tight gas. Whatever the source, the fracking process inevitably risks the chemical contamination of groundwater. In WA we are almost entirely dependent on natural groundwater supplies, which cannot be replaced if polluted by gas fracking chemicals.

The unconventional gas industry is actively exploring in WA, with a number of wells already fracked. Much of the activity is in the Kimberley's Canning Basin and the Perth Basin – which includes much of our farmland, iconic 'wildflower country' and the Margaret River capes region.

Fracking also creates huge greenhouse gas emissions. A US study has found that the greenhouse gas footprint of shale and tight gas is on par with coal and oil. Shale gas is another dirty fuel, blocking the road to renewable energy.

One would expect that an industry process with the potential to carve up the last of our states wilderness and destroy our most precious resource – water – would at least come under strict regulation and a public review process. Unfortunately this is not the case.

The WA Environmental Protection Authority has refused to regulate the environmental impacts of gas fracking, instead passing the buck to the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP). Yet the DMP is also failing to regulate industry. Despite a number of appeals launched by CCWA, Environment Minister Bill Marmion has consistently opted to let the industry off the hook by avoiding environmental assessment of fracking projects.

Gas fracking has already been blanket banned in France, Bulgaria and some states in the US. Moratoriums exist for unconventional gas activities in NSW, South Africa and across Europe and the US.

These gains have been achieved by communities standing up for what they believe in.

To add your name and comments to the call for a moratorium on fracking in WA please go to ccwa.org.au/stop-fracking-WA

CITIZEN SCIENCE AND THE BUSH HERITAGE CONNECTION

Bush Heritage Australia (BHA) is a national, not-for-profit conservation organisation on a mission to protect Australia's biodiversity through the management of lands strategically purchased for conservation, and partnerships with other land-owners.

DR NIC DUNLOP Citizen Science Coordinator

In Western Australia BHA, which recently celebrated its 20th year of operation, manages two ex-pastoral stations in the mid-west region and a string of six properties (Kojonup, Yarrabee, Monjebup, Chereninup Creek & Peniup Creek) in the Gondwana Link between the South-West forests and the Fitzgerald National Park. In the Gondwana Link BHA also provides management assistance to other land-owners who have signed up to the grand design of an unbroken swathe of native vegetation connecting the South West Forests to the Great Western Woodlands.

CCWA not only embraces the vision of both BHA and Gondwana Link but now contributes on the ground through its Citizen Science for ecological monitoring program.

On Charles Darwin Reserve, in the Mid West, CCWA has established a climate change observatory that is systematically monitoring the responses of 10 carefully selected faunal indicators to changes in temperature and rainfall patterns. Since the reserve straddles the mulga-eucalypt line – a major biogeographic boundary – populations of south-western and arid zone plants and animals exist in close proximity, an ideal context for

investigating the biological consequences of climate change.

Eurardy Station lies on the boundary between the floristically rich kwongan vegetation and the arid shrublands, with their spectacular displays of everlastings. The Reserve is renown for its wildflowers but until recently BHA had little working knowledge of the small vertebrate ground fauna they were charged with managing. However a survey conducted by CCWA citizen-scientists through 2011 has identified a rich collection of reptiles and small mammals and established some knowledge as to what lives where in the mosaic woodland, shrubland and mallee-heath habitats.

The earliest direct-seeded native re-vegetation in the Gondwana Link is now six to seven years old. Key questions for the managers now relate to the functionality of these reconstructed ecosystems both internally and in linking significant areas of remnant bushland. CCWA citizen scientists are investigating how these reconstructed habitats are being used by invertebrates (mainly ants) and bush birds and what these patterns might tell us about the development of important processes such as nutrient cycling, soil development, food-web structure, pollination and seed dispersal.





PHOTO: Turban Corals Cape Naturaliste - Glen Cowans

A CHANCE TO SAVE OUR TROPICAL SEAS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

TIM NICOL Save our Marine Life

Conservation Council of WA supporters have again made a major contribution to marine conservation, submitting thousands of comments on the Federal Government's draft plan for the North West region.

With the future of waters offshore from undersea icons like the Ningaloo and Shark Bay world heritage areas and the Kimberley humpback whale nursery in the balance, CCWA supporters have thrown their support behind the Save Our Tropical Sea Life alliance.

The draft North West plan was similar to the existing South West plan, with the majority of protected areas proposed for the deep ocean. There was some good news with a large sanctuary area proposed offshore from the Kimberley. Submissions called for more protection on the continental shelf around iconic marine life areas and for a contiguous Kimberley marine park with large sanctuaries.

The success follows on from the record breaking response to the South West consultation period, where over 39,000 submissions called for a network of large marine sanctuaries.

MARINE LIFE ICONS AT RISK

The release by government of acreage lots to potential drillers is threatening marine life in the North West.

In November, three areas offshore from Ningaloo (each released in 2010) were taken up by industry, ensuring further seismic testing and more risky deep sea oil wells. The risks are severe; the devastating 2009 Timor Sea spill, where oil flowed into the ocean for 90 days, occurred during exploration drilling.

The 2011 acreage release, if all areas are procured, will mean that every major coral reef system in the North West region has an oil

lease nearby. Ningaloo, Scott Reef, the Rowley Shoals and waters offshore from Eighty Mile Beach will all be affected.

Sanctuaries and marine parks can help buffer some of these critical marine areas from the massive expansion of oil and gas development in our Northern waters.

MAKING THE SUPPORT REAL

Ironically, the large numbers of submissions generated through CCWA and our partners in Save Our Marine Life and Save Our Tropical Sea Life have resulted in speculation from Government about how real our online supporters are.

With the Northwest submissions flooding in, Save Our Marine Life heard that the commercial fishing industry had hired a firm of corporate lawyers to try and undermine the overwhelmingly positive response to the South West public submission period.

In response, Save Our Marine Life and CCWA supporters began a 'phone your local MP' campaign to Save Our South West sanctuaries.

The response has been amazing. After a few days one key politician's advisor commented that, "there is definitely a groundswell of support for marine sanctuaries in Western Australia." I think we made the point!

Thanks to everyone who called. If you didn't, and still want to, please go to www.saveourmarinelife.org.au/talk-to-your-mp, enter your postcode, and we'll let you know the best MP to call.

Every call helps ensure that the voice in favour of marine sanctuaries is the loudest out there. With a decision expected in the coming months, it's never been more important that lobbyists don't have politicians' ears all to themselves.

PHOTO: Coast near Walpole



HORIZONTAL FALLS UNDER THREAT

JOHN CAREY PEW Research Council

Described by acclaimed naturalist Sir David Attenborough as ‘one of the greatest natural wonders of the world’, the Kimberley’s Horizontal Falls is a stunning phenomenon created by massive 10-metre tides hurtling through two narrow coastal gorges.

Yet despite its beauty, the region is now under serious threat from industrialisation and pollution. The WA Government has approved exploratory drilling just a few kilometres from the gorges. This is all part of a plan to build a copper mine in the falls area.

Such a mine would ruin the extremely high tourism values of the Falls by destroying the wilderness experience, and pollute the beautiful marine and coastal environments.

Instead of mining, tourism can be a lasting economic asset to the region,

including for traditional owners. There is a real opportunity for traditional owners to receive a fair share of tourism profits through a levy imposed on tourists to the region and funding assistance to local indigenous tourism projects.

Located in the Buccaneer Archipelago, the Falls are part of one of the most spectacular coastlines in the world. The Archipelago includes more than 900 rocky islands with coral reefs, algal reef flats and shallow sandy banks — an important refuge for many wildlife species.

Yet strangely the total region has been omitted from Premier Colin Barnett’s Kimberley conservation and marine parks plans.

How you can help?

You can help, by putting direct pressure on our politicians.

Please sign the letter directly to the Premier at **ccwa.org.au/takeaction**

You can also contact your local MP, write a letter to the media and make your friends and family aware.

Also keep up to date on the campaign at **facebook.com/pages/Protect-the-Kimberley**



BIRDS AUSTRALIA

Having flown the coup and returned with a new friend under their wing, Birds Australia looks a little bit different in 2012.

MATTHEW SYKES

Merging with Bird Observation and the Conservation Association to become BirdLife Australia, the combined group now has more authority than ever when it comes to Australia's unique birdlife.

Here in WA they're doing work of critical importance, protecting birds as diverse as the Australasian Bittern, the Western Ground Parrot and the West Australian Hooded Plover. In addition, they're also coordinating the essential Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Recovery project.

Entering its 12th year, the Black Cockatoo Recovery project (BCRP) focuses on eliminating threats to WA's iconic – and critically endangered – Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Foremost among these is the continuing destruction of their habitat. As more land is cleared for urban and agricultural use, competition for food and available nesting hollows becomes fierce.

The project has recently been bolstered by a \$400,000 State Government

grant, which it will put towards recovery actions in the south eastern Wheatbelt areas surrounding Newdegate and Ravensthorpe.

BCRP Manager Raana Scott says that the funding will go towards, "Engaging community volunteers, landholders and partner organisations to conserve and increase native habitat."

"Staff can't be everywhere at once and we can't devote 100% of our time to recording the species," says Raana, "So volunteers play an integral role in terms of citizen science and providing us with information regarding the birds' whereabouts."

The BCRP's Great Cocky Count is one instance where volunteers play a central part, providing the information that allows the project to prioritise certain areas for conservation activity. Last year more than 200 volunteers helped out, collecting survey data that is proving invaluable for black cockatoo conservation.

Raana also appreciates the role the community plays in promoting wide-ranging patterns of change. "In the Wheatbelt, private landholders are the custodians of significant habitat for the species and their knowledge is extremely valuable. Working with landholders we have protected over 2,000 hectares of critical Carnaby's nesting and foraging habitat over the last five years. Without landholders' support and passion for these beautiful cockatoos, we'd never have been able to achieve so much for the species," she said.

If you're interested in helping Raana and the Black Cockatoo Recovery Project, jump online at birdsaustralia.ala.gov.au.

If you'd like to know more about the Great Cocky Count email Raana at greatcockcount@birdlife.org.au.



If you'd like
to put more
of your
super here,
put it here.

Our super fund invests in companies that harness wind power and other renewable energy sources. We support investments that are positive for society and the environment, and actively avoid any that do harm. For more information, visit www.australianethical.com.au

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BOYCOTT *Coke* UNTIL THEY SUPPORT RECYCLING

Coca Cola Amatil must support a 10 cent Recycling Refund Scheme.

MIKA LEANDRO CCWA Community Campaigner

Coca-Cola goes to a great extent to present itself as an environmentally responsible company by sponsoring green wash campaigns like *Keep Australia Beautiful* and *Do The Right Thing*.

But it's all just marketing spin. When you scratch below the surface you can rapidly see that CoCa-Cola has been responsible for preventing recycling all over Australia with active deceptive campaigns against 10 cents recycling refund schemes on drink containers.

“ Right now Coke is claiming West Australians don't want a recycling refund ”

A recycling refund scheme is a highly efficient system used in many countries where consumers or charity groups return beverage containers at convenient sites to collect a 10 cent refund on the container. This system has been around since the 70s in South Australia and is being introduced right now in the Northern Territory.

Recently, Coke has pulled out all the stops in trying to prevent the Northern Territory's recycling refund scheme from coming into force. They have published misleading information and even tried to take the NT Government to court.

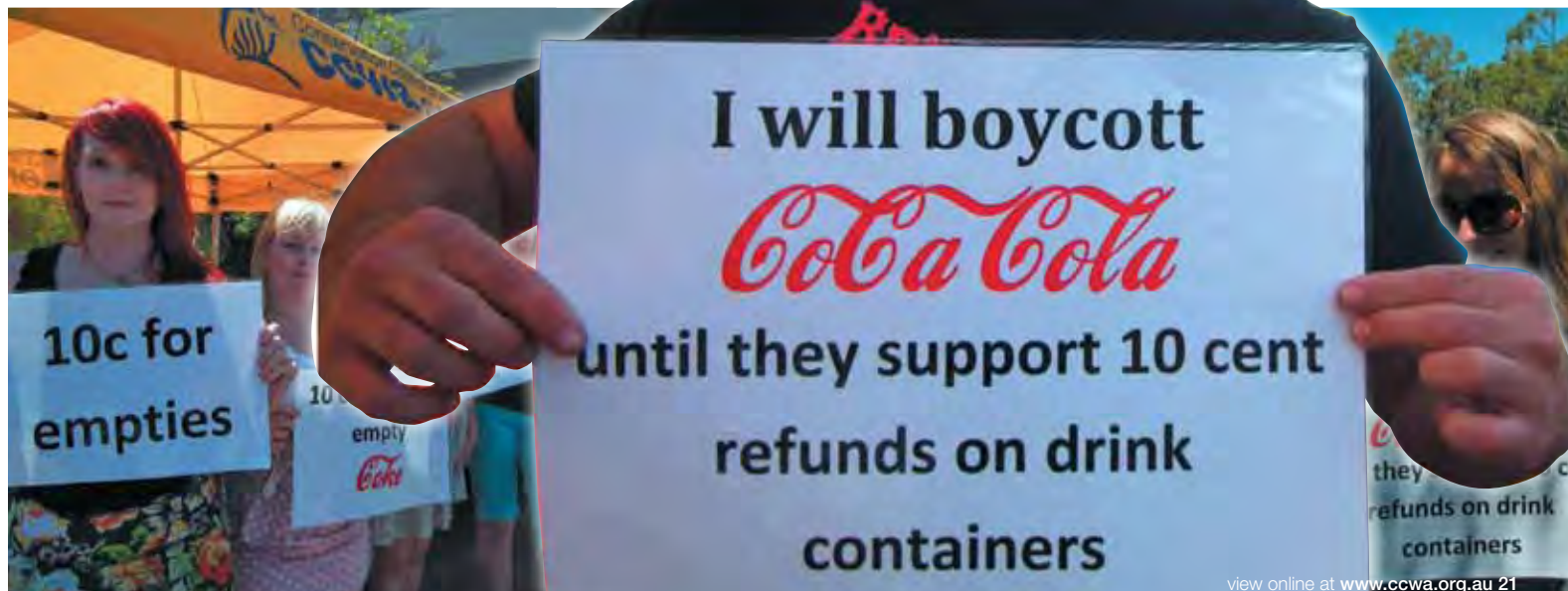


While public support for a rebate has triumphed in the NT, Coke is now lobbying behind the scenes to stop a national recycling refund scheme from going ahead and is trying to prevent WA from joining SA and the NT in its own scheme. In WA we currently only recycle 20% of our drink containers – South Australians recycle more than 80%. We need to let Coke know we want them to act positively and support the scheme that could quadruple the drink container recycling rate and almost eliminate drink container litter.

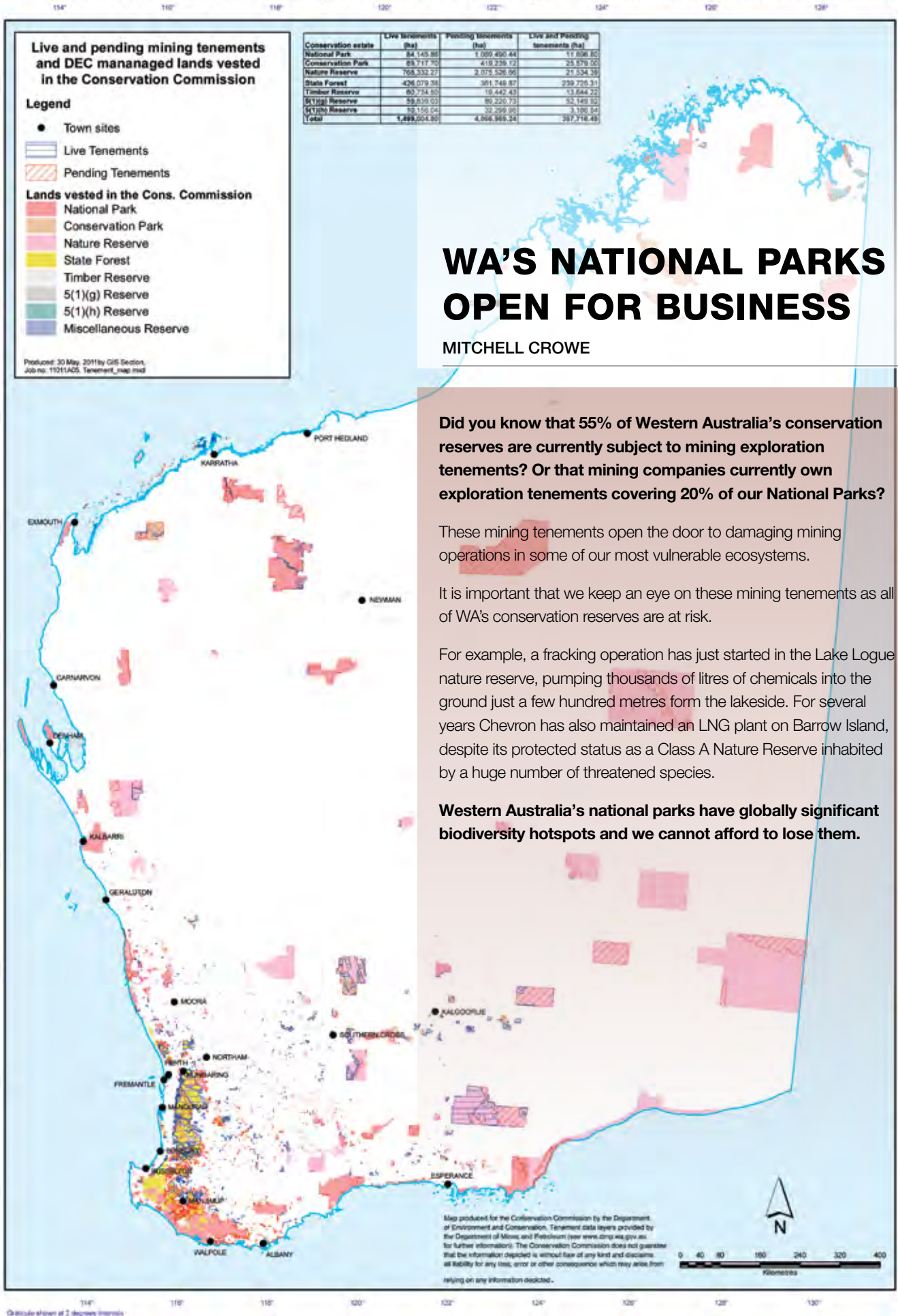
You can show Coke you mean business going online www.ccwa.org.au/takeaction and give your support to our campaign. You can also go to our waste campaign and print the PDF poster you can see in these pictures, take a picture of yourself with the poster and then upload it to the Boycott Coke Facebook page.

Right now Coke is claiming West Australians don't want a recycling refund. If we get enough people sending them photos, we can prove them wrong.





LIVE AND PENDING MINING TENEMENTS AND DEC MANAGED LANDS VESTED IN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



WA'S NATIONAL PARKS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

MITCHELL CROWE

Did you know that 55% of Western Australia's conservation reserves are currently subject to mining exploration tenements? Or that mining companies currently own exploration tenements covering 20% of our National Parks?

These mining tenements open the door to damaging mining operations in some of our most vulnerable ecosystems.

It is important that we keep an eye on these mining tenements as all of WA's conservation reserves are at risk.

For example, a fracking operation has just started in the Lake Logue nature reserve, pumping thousands of litres of chemicals into the ground just a few hundred metres from the lakeside. For several years Chevron has also maintained an LNG plant on Barrow Island, despite its protected status as a Class A Nature Reserve inhabited by a huge number of threatened species.

Western Australia's national parks have globally significant biodiversity hotspots and we cannot afford to lose them.

MINING REGULATION IN WA – DO WE HAVE THE BALANCE RIGHT?

PIERS VERSTEGEN Director, CCWA

Reform is urgently required to restore community confidence in WA's mining regulations which have almost as many holes as the WA landscape.

Mining now occupies a very significant and growing role in the WA economy. For good or for bad, the impacts of the mining boom influence the lives of nearly every Western Australian. However, as with other extractive industries, the environmental outcomes of mining are only as good as the regulations and controls that are applied by government.

Important issues to be considered include clearing of native vegetation for mineral exploration, mine pits and associated infrastructure, leaching of toxic substances into the environment, use of large volumes of water, alteration of groundwater regimes, and of course the legacy left at a mine site after mining is completed.

Political decisions about what sort of mining is acceptable and what standards of environmental protection should be applied reflect a balance between the demands of the powerful industry, and the values placed on human health and environmental protection by the community.

In order to strike the right balance, it is critical that the WA community and our elected representatives have access to information about the overall impacts of the mining industry including how successful our past and current regulations have been at managing those impacts and the ultimate cost to the WA taxpayer.

Around two years ago, CCWA began a serious attempt to answer these questions. After initial investigation it quickly became obvious that the information necessary to draw meaningful conclusions either did not exist, or government regulators were unwilling to release it to members of the public.

From the little information we could obtain, it was obvious that there were serious problems with our existing mining regulations in WA. Largely as a result of CCWA's efforts, there have been three major inquiries into mining regulations in the last 12 months, including a report by the Auditor General, and two independent inquiries examining gas fracking and uranium mining regulations.

The problems that these inquiries have uncovered could fill a whole edition of The Greener Times, but here are some of the main problems with the primary regulator for mining, the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP):

- The DMP's mining regulations fall well short of world's best practice;
- The agency operates in almost complete secrecy. The DMP do not release any information on what conditions are applied to mining projects, whether the conditions have been met, the results of environmental monitoring, what chemicals or discharges have been released into the environment (for example in gas fracking) or any other information.
- The DMP lack the legal powers or regulatory tools to require mining companies to comply with their environmental conditions, or to prosecute them for breaches to those conditions.
- A high proportion of mining operators are failing to provide compliance reports to the DPM, and a high proportion of reports that are provided are not even read by the DMP.

These troubling findings reveal that while the government has poured millions of dollars into subsidising and fast tracking resource projects, very little has been done to improve the regulation of the industry.

The situation is made even more concerning as the Environmental Protection Authority are increasingly choosing not to assess environmentally significant projects on the assumption that their impacts can be managed by the DMP.

The combination of a lack of transparency and a lack of enforcement powers means that mining regulation in WA amounts to little more than a secret agreement between miners and government, for which compliance is voluntary.

In the latest development, the DMP have announced a process to review and reform their regulations, however with an advisory panel for this process stacked by representatives of the mining and petroleum industry we are not confident that the serious flaws in the system will be fixed any time soon.

PHOTO: Representing nearly a billion dollars in renewable energy investment, the Colgar Wind Farm shows just how much unearthed potential there is for green power and manufacturing in WA.

Green technology and manufacturing is WA's ticket to economic security.

GREEN JOBS FOR WA

JOHN MCCARTEN



Mining booms don't last forever. Acknowledged or not, this one terrifying sentence rests in the minds of a lot of West Australians. But what can we do about it? Are our jobs really at the mercy of Chinese commodity prices and US consumer spending habits? Is there a way to build a stronger, secure and more resilient economic future for WA that goes beyond the boom?

Green technology and manufacturing could be WA's ticket to economic security. We can use the skills we already have to build a stronger economic foundation for our state. For example, thanks to the mining boom, Western Australians are now some of the most expert drillers in the world. Those same techniques can be turned around to tap WA's huge, untapped potential for geothermal energy generation. Using the skills we learn today we can create the demand for the jobs of the future.

These aren't all lab-coats-and-microscope careers either. Building renewable energy infrastructure takes electricians, engineers, truck drivers, boiler makers, riggers, surveyors, accountants and a thousand other jobs. These are the careers we're training for now, the only difference is that a sustainable green economy – where West Australians manufacture, transport install and use renewable energy

technology – offers job security beyond the resource boom.

We shouldn't underestimate the ingenuity of West Australian industry either. The rooftop solar hot-water system is probably one of the most common renewable energy devices in the world. Despite being found on just about every Australian street, few people would know that it was invented right here in WA.

The best part is that we're already halfway there. Right now one of the largest solar power plants in the country is operating right outside Geraldton, while the Colgar windfarm – the largest in the southern hemisphere – provides electricity for more than 120,000 homes. This is a real industry with serious backers – Colgar alone attracted three quarters of a billion dollars in funding from one of the world's largest investment banks.

If we set our minds to it we can build a secure economic future for WA and ensure our kids never have to worry about where their next temporary contract renewal will come from.

For more information on how WA can benefit from a low-carbon economy, visit empowerwa.org.au

I'M A LIVING SMARTIE!

PREPARE TO BE INSPIRED!

Living Smart is a WA-based group that run multi-week courses to help participants reduce their impact on the environment in the home and enjoy happier, healthier, more responsible and positive lifestyles. This is the story of how an ordinary West Australian used the skills she learnt in a Living Smart course to change her life.

KELLY MOSS Living Smart Coordinator



I enrolled in a Living Smart course with a mixture of emotions. I was excited about the information I was hoping to learn and optimistic about the positive changes I could make to my lifestyle. However I was also fearful about whether these changes would make my life harder or make me feel guilty about the impact I was having on the environment.

On the first night of my seven-week course my fears were allayed. I was certainly going to learn some hard hitting truths about the impact we are all having on the planet and the consequences if we continue on our current path of excessive consumption. I was also going to learn about very simple changes that I could make that would create a huge difference, not only to my own health and wellbeing, but the health and wellbeing of the environment we live in.

The Living Smart program was developed in response to an expressed need within the community for an environmental education program that helps people to live more sustainable lifestyles. Courses cover a broad range of topics, such as living simply, waste reduction, energy efficiency, water use, gardening for productivity, healthy homes, travel options and health and well-being. The power of the Living Smart program lies in the use of goal setting as a way to stay focused and motivated. It is amazing how much harder you try to achieve your weekly goal when you know you have to report back on your progress the following week!

There were around 30 people in my course and I was instantly struck by the diversity of the group and their willingness to share and contribute ideas. I was inspired each week when people would report in on changes they had been motivated to make that week. These ranged from simple things like switching off stand-by power and turning off the tap while brushing your teeth to some impressive changes like selling the car and going car-free and setting up a new veggie garden and compost system.

My favourite part of the course was the hands-on gardening day. One lucky person in our group had the whole class to their house on a Saturday morning to help build a raised veggie bed from recycled materials. We then filled the veggie bed with materials that would compost down over a few weeks and be ready to plant seedlings in. We also learnt how to construct a drip irrigation system that uses 60% less water than spray systems. It was a fantastic morning and I was amazed at how easy it was to set up a garden that can produce lots of healthy food for your family. It is also incredible how much better things taste when you have grown them yourself!

I have two weeks left in my course and my head is spinning with ideas about all the changes I can make in my own home to improve my quality of life and reduce my environmental impact. I highly recommend getting involved in a Living Smart Course in your community – prepare to be inspired!

Information on Living Smart and upcoming courses can be found at:

www.livingsmart.org.au



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ART AWARDS

In 2011 CCWA initiated the Western Australian Environmental Art Awards. Seeking to engage the artistic community of WA in a project celebrating our unique environment, the awards provided an alternate means of environmental expression and advocacy.

SUSIE WALLER Curator, WA Environmental Art awards

A total of 187 entries were received from professional and amateur artists of all ages and form across the state. Entries ranged from sculptures, prints, photographs to glassworks, collages and jewellery. The diversity and caliber of art works was amazing, each reflecting upon a different aspect of our environment.

Subjects included our unique flora, fauna and ecosystems and expressed the artists' feelings on a number of sustainability issues of current significance. It was great to see so many artists giving serious consideration to the use of sustainable materials in the creation of their works.

Our three judges – well-known West Australian artists' Nalda Searles and Perdita Phillips, and Conservation Council President Nicole Hodgson – had the unenviable task of selecting winners for each of the award categories. Drawing upon their professional artistic and environmental experience, the judges selected winning artworks according to four assessment criteria: environmental theme, artistic rigour, creativity and innovation, and use of sustainable materials.

More than 200 people attended the award night event, which included the official launch of the public exhibition by City of Perth Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi. The subsequent exhibition, which ran from October 22 to November 5, hosted more than 1,000 visitors. A great deal of support was expressed for the continuation of the awards in the future, with visitors particularly enjoying the all-inclusive ethos of the experience.

Many thanks to all those who helped make this event both possible and such a success: CCWA staff members Sue Liddicoat, Sarah Lewin and Michaela Eaton; judges Nalda Searles, Perdita Phillips and Nicole Hodgson; Julie Broad at Perth City Farm; and the many volunteers who helped set up and staff the exhibition!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS:



AWARD WINNERS AND HIGH COMMENDED RECIPIENTS

Professional Award

• Winner:

- Helen Seiver, Birdland – Goldilocks Region – Scarlet Robin

• Highly Commended:

- Stephen Genovese, The Glory of Our Sciences and Militant Alliances Reveal Their Basic Worth Along the Mounds of Dead Appliances
- Hanne Ibach, Collage of Beachfound Fishinglines #1 and #2
 - Dean Moyes, Realm of Survival

Amateur Award

• Winner:

- Gwenael Velge, Logs in the Vines

• Highly Commended:

- Jane Holtfreter, Gecko Gorge
- Artemis Kitsios, Function Less Fragility
- Patricia Neil-Smith, Western Swamp Tortoise

Youth Award

• Winner:

- Evelyn Vivier, Mother Nature's Scream for Help

• Highly Commended:

- Eve Callander, Freedom
- Elizabeth Ellis, The Bush Fairy

Children's Award

• Winner:

- Robbie Lee, Forest Guardians

• Highly Commended:

- Georgia Street, Jennifer Kjellgren and Ellie Greenwood, The Aboriginal Days

United Nations International Year of Forests Award

• Winner:

- Susan Hauri-Downing, A Wardian Case Experiment

• Highly Commended:

- Eileen Lee, Margaret River Forest

People's Choice Award:

• Winner:

- Gwenael Velge, Open Cut



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ART AWARDS



Winners with Perth Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi.



2011 Environmental Arts Award Professional Artist Prize winner Helen Seiver.



Conservation Council of WA Amateur Artist Award winner Gwenael Velge.



Eartheart Youth Award winner Evelyn Vivier and her winning work, Mother Nature Screams for Help.



A BETTER TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY

PROTECT AND DEFEND OUR PLANET

September 30th saw the arrival of Power Shift: Western Australia's first youth summit on climate change. Organised by the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, the summit put the focus on the next generation of decision-makers.

“ We want [the government] to invest in 21st century energy, not energy from the 1800s. ”

Begun in Washington D.C in 2005, Power Shift has since spread across the globe to include summits in Canada, the UK and Australia. Using action today to instigate change tomorrow, Power Shift events, are creating a generation-wide movement to solve the climate crisis before it is too late.



Nick Taylor, Power Shift 2011 coordinator, attributes the international success of the format to its insistence on vitality and inclusivity.

“The Power Shift summits have been held around the world, kick-starting the youth climate movement wherever they happen. Those who have attended past Power Shift summits say that it was an absolutely transformational experience, because for the first time the international youth climate movement felt physically real,” says Mr Taylor.

Through a series of keynote speeches, workshops and panel discussions, Power Shift looks to educate and energise young climate activists. Sighting political, policy and cultural change as key objectives, the event faithfully reflects the AYCC's ambition to deliver both short-term political impact and long-term cultural change.

Taking their cue from recent successes in Australian policy change, Nick Taylor observes, “A carbon price is a foundation on which we can build. But our generation knows we can aim higher – we can transform Australia into a nation powered by 100% safe, just and renewable energy resources.

“We want to be investing in 21st century energy, not energy from the 1800s.”

Speakers at the Perth Power Shift included then-leader of the opposition Eric Ripper, Greens Senator Scott Ludlam and Associate Professor in the Department of Social Sciences at Curtin University Alan Pilgrim. Kumi Naidoo, International Head of Greenpeace, also addressed the conference via videolink. All the speakers gave their unique view of the issue, with political concerns sitting comfortably alongside action oriented workshops focusing on campaign and organisation strategies.

Over the past four years, the ranks of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition have swelled to include over 70,000 members, making it the largest youth run organisation in Australia. Power Shift's arrival in WA represents an exciting expansion of the AYCC's cause, bumping climate concern to the front of youth consciousness at a time when environmental issues are of critical importance.



2011's event culminated in a very public display of unity, as Perth Cultural Centre's Urban Orchard was rocked by a flashmob of 250 dancing Power Shifters. With each move carefully choreographed, the message was as simple as the gathering crowds of spectators were surprised: Western Australia's youth are not about to tolerate a future of irresponsible energy use. The change for a better tomorrow begins today.

Volunteers take part in a beach clean-up in Fremantle as part of the Two Hands project.



A writer takes inspiration from nature at the Writing in the Wild retreat in Denmark.

CONSERVATION WEEK 2011

YOU IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Organised every year by the CCWA, Conservation Week showcases diverse environmental groups from all over the state and gives thousands of Western Australians an opportunity to experience local community-based environmental action for a day.

Initiated in 2005 in response to a lack of community focused environment events in Perth, Conservation Week is now the largest event of its kind in WA.

Every year the event organisers work to highlight issues facing the environment in our state and celebrate the work of conservation organisations, community groups and individuals all across WA. By getting

together and meeting other people interested in the environment we can celebrate our unique natural heritage and promote action towards building a sustainable future.

Conservation Week 2011 featured more than 30 community events including nature walks, beach clean-ups, classroom activities, bush retreats and the inaugural Western Australian Environmental Art Awards and exhibition.



An environment-themed mural at St Mary's Primary School in Broome.

The theme for 2011 was You in the Environment, reminding West Australians that we are an integral part of life on earth, but uniquely we have the power to protect or destroy it.

In WA we're so lucky to have some of the most unique and un-spoilt natural areas in the world – it's easy to forget that in a normal suburban reserve there are dozens of species of plants and animals that are found nowhere else in the world.

We live in one of the oldest, most visually stunning and biologically richest places on the planet. Conservation Week is a chance for all West Australians to get out of the house, experience our rich natural heritage and find out what they can do to make sure everything we love about our state is preserved for future generations

Conservation Week 2011 was supported by the generous contributions of Australian Ethical, the Department of Environment and Conservation, Lotterywest, Curtin University, Swan Energy and Polytechnic West.



CCWA Patron Josh Byrne, Bessie Rischbieth Award Winner Margaret Owen and Environment Minister Bill Marmion at the launch of Conservation Week 2011.



BARNABY AND HIS FAMILY HAVE NO CHOICE...

Merging with Bird Observation and the In February this year, we received news that Barnaby's house was demolished, the little ones found dead among the debris, their mother missing, and a similar fate for many of the families in his community.

It wasn't a Tsunami, an earthquake or some major natural disaster. We're talking about a man-made disaster.

Can you imagine the pain Barnaby is going through? Barnaby has no voice... no choice..... and it's up to us to save him and his community.

Barnaby is a Carnaby's Black Cockatoo and one among the few survivors to be found in WA's South West and Wheatbelt regions. Carnaby's make their homes in the hollows of old-growth trees that are being destroyed by logging and land clearing.

No amount of money can replace our forests and the cockatoos that live there, but the loss-making logging industry does not make any money at all.

Every year, the logging industry clear-fells forests and destroys thousands of trees that WA's endangered cockatoos rely on for food and nesting. The vast majority of the timber is either wasted on the forest floor or sold for low-value uses like woodchips and firewood.

Black cockatoos are not just beautiful birds. They are unique to WA and threatened with extinction.

These endangered birds live up to 50 years and display strong bonds toward their partners during their adult life. Males feed their partners during the nesting season, flying up to 14 km a day in search of food. Like us, they too belong to a family and a community. Like us, they can show love ..., care..., and feel pain.

However, unlike us they have no voice and the logging industry gives them no choice.

Will you stand up and be a voice for our cockatoos and other endangered wildlife? It's up to us to restore their right to live and survive

without seeing their homes, families and food destroyed.

It's not just the cockatoos that are under threat. Our partners in the field recently photographed a numbat in a forest that was being logged. Just so you know, despite being WA's state mammal emblem and CCWA's mascot for more than 40 years, less than a 1,000 numbats can still be found in the wild.

Our last remaining endangered animals need your urgent help to save their communities from being wiped out.

Your action and support today will help us continue to fight and strengthen our case in preserving our beautiful land, its flora and fauna for future generations.

We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

EVENTS 2012

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

**The indigenous culture and heritage of WA's South West forests:
How do we protect it?**

CCWA will be conducting a seminar exploring how indigenous culture heritage values will be affected under the new 10-year Forest Management Plan.

WHEN: Wednesday, 27th June from 6.30pm

WHERE: Citywest Lotteries House, 2 Delhi St, West Perth 6005

Recent changes to legislation now require the West Australian government to protect indigenous cultural heritage within national parks, conservation reserves and state forests.

By attending the seminar you will have an opportunity to hear from Aboriginal spokespeople, traditional landowners and the Department of Environment and Conservation about what is planned for the next Forest Management Plan and how it will affect the heritage values, and native flora and fauna.

RSVP to conswa@ccwa.org.au or call (08) 9420 7266

EMPOWERWA

Train the trainer sessions

Do you want to find out how you can conserve energy at home to save money, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change at the same time? Over the coming months, the EmpowerWA campaign is running training sessions all over WA. For more information, and to find a session near you, visit empowerwa.org.au/empower-events

CONSERVATION WEEK

Conservation Week 2012: WA's threatened wildlife

Conservation Week is the largest community focused environmental event in WA, when communities come together to celebrate our unique environment and promote action towards building a sustainable future.

WHEN: October 5th to 12th

The aim of Conservation Week is to highlight issues facing the environment in our State and to celebrate the work of conservation organisations, community groups and individuals all across WA.

It's a great opportunity to showcase your group or organisation and the fantastic work local communities are doing to protect the environment and communicate the importance of environmental protection.

For more information, or to get your group involved, visit ccwa.org.au or call 9420 7200

View more upcoming events on our website at www.ccwa.org.au/event



ISSUE 15 AUTUMN 2012

Editing Team - John McCarten, Mitchell Crowe-Hardy, Mika Leandro, Alaya Spencer-Cotton
paul.benjamin@conservationwa.asn.au

Sub Editors - Matthew Sykes

Advertising Sales enquiries -

Paul Benjamin (08) 9420 7266
paul.benjamin@ccwa.org.au

Design & Production - Jdesign

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Alaya Spencer - Cotton	Matthew Sykes
Alison Xamon	Mitchell Crowe-Hardy
Dane Griffin	Mia Pepper
Dr Nic Dunlop	Mika Leandro
Jess Beckerling	Peter Lane
John Carey	Piers Verstegen
Kevin Schaffer	Susie Waller
Kylie Turner	Tim Nicol

SUBSCRIPTION & MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

(08) 9420 7266 conswa@ccwa.org.au

PRINTING NOTES

The Greener Times is printed quarterly by a GreenStamp accredited printer using vegetable inks on Greenhouse Friendly™ certified ENVI Carbon Neutral Australian made paper. Every effort has been made to minimise waste, transport and energy use in its production.

YOU CAN READ ME ONLINE TOO

The Greener Times is now available as an online publication. Why not make your reading experience more sustainable and subscribe to download future issues of the GT directly from the Council's website.

Contact CCWA on 9420 7266 or conswa@ccwa.org.au to find out how.



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a voice for the environment for over 40 years

Director

Piers Verstegen
piers.verstegen@ccwa.org.au

Manager Operations

Sue Liddicoat
susan.liddicoat@ccwa.org.au

Fundraiser & Marketing

Coordinator
Paul Benjamin
Paul.benjamin@ccwa.org.au

Media and Public Relations

Coordinator
John McCarten
John.mccarten@ccwa.org.au

Executive & Member

Support Administrator
Jason Fernie
conswa@ccwa.org.au

Environmental Science and

Policy Coordinator
Dr Nic Dunlop
nic.dunlop@ccwa.org.au

Marine Project Officer

Adrian Meder
meder@ccwa.org.au

Environment & Sustainability Officer

Alaya Spencer-Cotton
alaya@ccwa.org.au

Marine Coordinator

Tim Nicol
tim.nicol@ccwa.org.au

Program Manager Marine

David Mackenzie
d.mackenzie@ccwa.org.au

Marine Community

Campaigner
Tara Jones
cmc@ccwa.org.au

Community Campaigner

Mika Leandro
mika.leandro@ccwa.org.au

Nuclear Free Campaigner

Mia Pepper
mia.pepper@ccwa.org.au

Executive Committee

President
Ms Nicole Hodgson
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Honorary Treasurer
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