

ECA WA News

Autumn Edition 2016



Green Jewel Bug Lampromicra senator from the Broome Bird Observatory

In this edition

- 1 President's Message
- 3 Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 Million
- 5 Meet Professor Tom Hatton, EPA Chairman
- 6 Photo Story
- 7 EAG 17 briefing demonstrates importance to industry
- 7 Addressing the difference between absence and uncertainty in EIA
- 10 Update on new Flora and Vegetation Survey Technical Guide
- 11 From urban eyesore to asset
- 13 Successful Parthenium weed eradication
- 14 ECA events
- 16 ECA is on LinkedIn
- 17 Advertise with ECA News
- 17 Australian Govt Industry Skills Fund

President's Message

By Jamie Shaw

Welcome to our first edition of ECA News for 2016.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter in August 2015. We held our Annual General Meeting and Gala Dinner in August at Rydges Hotel and it was another big success. While we weren't able to hold our EIA training course, we have organised a number of industry briefings and workshops, which have been well attended.

Although numbers were slightly down from previous years, our annual Christmas Function and New Year Breakfast were well attended and, as always, it was nice for us to have an informal environment in which to mix with key stakeholders and regulators. YECA continues to work on behalf of our less experienced members (young and old) and is planning a number of events for 2016.

2016 is looking like another tough year for the environmental consulting industry. There aren't many of us who can remember more challenging

ECA WA Committee

President - Jamie Shaw

jamie.shaw@aecom.com

Vice President - Jason Hick

Jason.Hick@emergeassociates.com.au

Secretary - Mat Brook

m.brook@strategen.com.au

Kelli McCreery

kelli@onetreebotanical.com.au

David Kabay

dkabay@iinet.net.au

Phil Whittle

phil.whittle@hydrobiology.biz

Jordan Tindiglia

Jordan.Tindiglia@ghd.com

Stuart Halse

stuart.halse@bennelongia.com.au

Tim Mitchell

Tim.Mitchell@jacobs.com

Administration - Bec James

admin@eca.org.au

The ECA WA committee meets on the third Monday of the month. Please contact committee members or Bec James if there is anything you would like to raise for discussion.

Editorial contributions welcome

The editorial deadline for the next edition of ECA News will be advised in the ECA weekly email updates. Please email contributions to ECA News Editor, Jo Thierfelder at editorecanews@eca.org.au

ECA WA News is a periodical publication of the Environmental Consultants Association (WA) Inc. It aims to inform members on the activities of the ECA and its members, events and training, and developments in the environmental industry. The views and opinions expressed in ECA WA News are those of the article authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the ECA WA.

Front cover photo courtesy of Bernie Masters.

times, and as the economy tightens, we face increasing pressure on rates with fewer opportunities in the market to go around.

As the peak representative body of the environmental consulting industry in WA, the ECA has a responsibility to remind our members that it is now more important than ever to maintain our industry standards. Our industry needs to resist the urge to race to the bottom as this will only serve to devalue the services we provide to our clients and result in unsustainable expectations. Our key stakeholders, the regulators, issue guidance that they expect us to adhere to, or to deviate from with good, well-articulated reason. It is important that as professionals, we continue to apply best practice environmental science in support of Environmental Impact Assessment. While we have a duty to our clients to achieve positive outcomes for their projects, we need to continue to ensure we achieve the key objective of the State's *Environmental Protection Act*, which is to prevent environmental harm.

With the recent judgement regarding the validity of the approval for the Roe 8 project, there is an increased focus on application, adequacy of and adherence to environmental policy. It is likely that this will change the way we do EIA in WA, to some extent. Somewhat related to this is a growing concern among some practitioners as to the adequacy of the content and application of guidance issued by the EPA. We welcome all viewpoints, and as an organisation, are yet to take a position on it. However, with the decline in assessment workload, it has been suggested that perhaps now is the time to undertake a more sweeping review of technical guidance before the next 'boom' comes, in whatever form it may be.

In light of these challenges, it's now more important than ever to maintain or to take up membership with the ECA. Membership gives you the vehicle to establish and broadcast your professional profile and take control of your career direction and opportunities. ECA membership helps you to:

- **Be recognised** – the ECA commenced the first professional environmental consultant register. This is currently being reviewed, strengthened and its profile increased through our new website, which is freely accessible to potential employers, government stakeholders and industry.
- **Be connected** – ECA events promote networking opportunities across the industry and with key stakeholders.
- **Be informed** – ECA provides relevant events, a new website, newsletter, weekly email, group forum, and LinkedIn Company Page.
- **Be influential** – the ECA through its membership actively provides guidance to government on policies and other key initiatives. We have an MOU with OEPA and we are routinely

asked by the OEPA for our view on new policies and initiatives. Our EIA training courses involve senior OEPA staff as presenters. As well, less experienced OEPA staff undertake the training.

- **Be involved** – through opportunities to sit on the ECA committee or for less experienced consultants, the YECA committee, and a range of external stakeholder working groups.
- **Be educated** – ECA training courses and programs available at significant member discounts.
- **Be part of the future** – through our Young ECA (or YECA) initiative, either as a less experienced ECA member or as experienced consultant mentor.
- **Be heard** – the ECA can and does highlight concerns raised by our members with relevant parties.
- **Be represented** – we are continuing discussions with various government agencies and other relevant parties to ensure that your membership is seen as a strong indication of your professional capabilities. We also actively promote our professional code of conduct.
- **Be the master of your own career destiny** – through all of the above, take control of where you want to be with your career.

I hope you all enjoy our Autumn edition of the *ECA News*, especially our new regular segment "Give me 5", a personal interview with the new EPA Chairman, Professor Tom Hatton. 2016 is shaping up to be a year of change and I look forward to the journey with you and all the challenges it presents.

Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 Million

In November last year, ECA hosted an information session to update members on the progress of the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions (SAPPR), being undertaken pursuant to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2000 (EPBC Act)* and coordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Professor Tom Hatton, incoming Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), spoke about the EPA's interim section 16 advice that is being used to consider the key state-based environmental factors as part of the assessment process. Simon Taylor, Project Director from DPC, briefed members on the general approach being taken and the impending release of the SAPPR documents. Warren McGrath from Eco Logical, an environmental consultant engaged to assist DPC progress the SAPPR, spoke on the impact assessment methodology adopted for the SAPPR, and in particular focussed on Carnaby's black cockatoo.

As indicated by Simon at the briefing, the State Government released the suite of documents



ECA News introduces “Give me 5”, a new regular segment that asks five slightly more personal questions of its interviewees.

arising from the SAPP for public comment on 14 December. The documentation set of more than 3,000 pages, now referred to as the draft Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 Million (Green Growth Plan), includes the following:

- Strategic Conservation Plan, including nine supporting actions plans (five relating to the classes of action and four conservation plans)
- State Impact Assessment Report
- Commonwealth Impact Assessment Report

ECA hosted a second information session on 4 February this year, at which Simon Taylor briefed members on the draft Green Growth Plan, the public consultation period, and the steps DPC envisage occurring in order for the plan to be ultimately effected pursuant to the EPBC Act.

Representatives from a number of State Government agencies who had involvement in the impact assessment process or preparation of the Green Growth Plan, including Office of the EPA, Department of Planning, and Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) attended the information session. The question session indicated a high degree of interest in the documentation, its contents and the process to finalise.

Our initial view on the Green Growth Plan is that it has been a significant effort to pull together a large complex impact assessment and resulting environmental management framework. That being said there appears to be considerable technical information supporting the assessment that has not been included in the documentation, which could be made available for review. This includes a Carnaby's black cockatoo population viability analysis undertaken by a scientific team led by DPaW.

We expect there to be a body of GIS data released imminently that details the proposed conservation reserves, the spatial extent of the classes of action assessed and areas relevant for future impact avoidance.

The ECA has been represented on the Stakeholder Reference Group for the SAPP for the past four years and is coordinating a submission on the Green Growth Plan. We welcome input and involvement from members, and should you be interested in contributing to the submission please contact Jason Hick at Jason.hick@emergeassociates.com.au



Delve behind the LinkedIn profile and get to know the movers and shakers in your industry. *ECA News* introduces “Give me 5”, a new regular segment that asks five slightly more personal questions of its interviewees.

Meet Professor Tom Hatton, EPA Chairman



1. What’s your favourite childhood memory of the natural world?

My earliest memory of any kind was while camping with my folks in Yosemite. I must have been barely a toddler, and I remember standing on the gravel bed of a river, some distance away from my mother, and a black bear putting its nose in my face (park bears are like that with people). I can

still see it, and hear my mother’s screams. I suspect that if you go to Yosemite today, you can still hear her echoes.

2. Your long and distinguished career in science has taken you to the top of the food chain away from the hands-on, day-to-day coalface of field/lab work, research etc. Do you miss it? What do you miss the most?

I do not miss doing my own scientific research. Truth be told, at heart I was always less a passionate research scientist than just a boy who loved turning over rocks to see what might live underneath them. Lots of people that grow up in the country are what we nowadays would call “naturalists” – folks that just naturally develop an interest and an eye for how their country works. And growing up in a semi-arid place like I did, it is understandable that such interest ends up focussing on the places where there’s a bit of water, and so I was lucky to find a career that allowed me to pursue my true vocation.

So what I miss from my research career was a job that took me to so many places around Australia where I could “turn over rocks,” and learning from locals who know their country in that way.

3. In three words, how would your staff describe your management style?

Respectful, practical, inclusive (with a splash of humour).

4. If you had a few words of advice for environmental consultants just starting out in the industry today, what would they be?

Hang in there through the downturn, or if you can’t, stay ready to jump in when work picks up. We need you: environmental consultants play a crucial and irreplaceable role in our collective efforts to offer sound and wise advice to proponents and government. This extends not only to consultants’ scientific and technical capacity (which may or

The [EPA] Board has recommitted itself to providing sound, defensible and transparent advice, and to effectively communicate our advice and its basis to the community.

may not exist elsewhere) but just as importantly to their knowhow in delivering technical information to industry and regulators.

In terms of continual improvement, the best advice from consultants incorporates a consideration of how certain or uncertain the findings are, and some consideration of the existing scientific or technical consensus on the issue.

And like in any other business, don't try to sell your product to the client but rather sell the benefits.

5. What is the most important thing you hope to achieve in 2016 as EPA Chairman?

Building confidence in the EPA. The Board has recommitted itself to providing sound, defensible and transparent advice, and to effectively communicate our advice and its basis to the community. Nothing is more important in 2016.

Photo Story

Photo below (and cover photo) courtesy of Bernie Masters

This photo is from a recent trip I organised for 21 Busselton people along the Gibb River Road and elsewhere in the Kimberley. The lizard is the *Morethia ruficauda*, the lined fire-tailed skink, photographed on the approaches to Whip Snake Gorge in Purnululu National Park.



EAG 17 briefing demonstrates importance to industry

In August 2015, the EPA released its Environmental Assessment Guide (EAG) 17 for the Preparation of Management Plans under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act*.

The ECA was invited to work alongside the CME to assist Dr Angus Morris Saunders and Garry Middle to develop a training package to be delivered to regulators, industry and consultants. The briefings were extremely popular and required two sessions in order to meet demand, which highlights the importance the environmental industry places on this guide.

EAG 17 is designed to provide guidance on how the EPA expects Condition Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) to be developed. In essence, it is intended to ensure that Condition EMPs are focused, succinct and legally enforceable. Condition EMPs can be outcome or management-based. Outcome-based conditions require the achievement of certain criteria, whether it is trigger criteria or threshold criteria. Management-based conditions relate to the implementation of management actions and targets.

A copy of the presentation is available on the [EPA website](#).

Addressing the difference between absence and uncertainty in EIA

By Mike Bamford

In reviewing comments from a government agency on a recent PER, I came across a statement that I felt displayed a very poor understanding of the nature and purpose of fauna investigations in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The agency felt it couldn't comment on the predicted impacts on a significant species because we hadn't confirmed a resident population. This reminded me of comments that I still get from clients who



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want me to do surveys to confirm that a species is absent. That just ain't how it works.

In general, confirmation of a resident population is not needed to predict the potential for impacts in fauna investigations EIA. It's nice to have, very nice to have, but not essential. The nature of fauna populations is that they may vary seasonally and annually, so it is quite possible for field investigations to conclude that a species may be present and resident at least some of the time even if it is not found. This is usually based on the presence of nearby records and of a suitable environment that provides habitat for the species.

It is also the nature of fauna populations that they don't need to be resident to be impacted. For example, a project area might provide 'landscape permeability' for dispersing animals of a species

“Watching adult turtles nest or hatchlings emerge from their nests is a truly special experience for which I am very grateful to be able to do as part of my work.”

- Abigail Ross

even when that area does not support a resident population. It is the ecological function of the site for that species that is being impacted.

The potential for a species to recolonise an area also needs to be considered in EIA. Species' distributions change, especially as a result of conservation actions, so protecting environments that provide them with habitat may be important even in their current absence.

Of course a great deal of effort can be and should be put into trying to confirm the presence, abundance and local pattern of distribution of significant species in a project area. However, concluding that a species is absent can be a very bold statement to make.

For the purpose of EIA, it is best to take the precautionary approach, assume a species is present (or that the project area may have some ecological function for the species) if there is a reasonable amount of evidence to suggest this is the case, and assess the likely impact based upon this assumption.

Impacts from a development project also need to be considered in the context of other threatening processes. For example, many threatened mammals in Western Australia are under pressure from landscape scale processes (fire, livestock grazing, feral predators). A development proposal may interact favourably or unfavourably with such processes or may be relatively insignificant but provide an opportunity to manage these. The challenge for consultants is to professionally assess the best information available to them and to clearly explain the nature and purpose of their work.

A Day in the Office

(where the office has no walls)

By Abigail Ross, Principal Environmental Scientist, AECOM

During December and January each year, the office walls I become accustomed to throughout the year disappear and I'm transported to a beach on the North West Shelf of WA. It's here, on this beach that a small team of turtle biologists and I undertake annual turtle monitoring.

It sounds glamorous and at times, it is truly amazing. But as any 'fieldie' who has worked in the Pilbara knows, it can be hot, sticky and the mosquitos and flies number in their thousands and it seems their sole purpose is to annoy you! That aside, there is something special about witnessing an adult female flatback turtle (*Natator Depressus*) coming out of the ocean to nest, and something even more amazing watching hatchlings appear from that nest approximately 45 days later.

Not only does my office lose its walls during December and January but, for the most part, it also loses its sunlight too. Turtle activity occurs primarily at night, so that means we work nights too.

This takes some adjustment, but there are benefits to the sleep



deprivation, including being able to see more turtles and witness some spectacular sunrises.

December is generally peak nesting season where we concentrate on studying what the adult female turtles are doing, where they are laying and why they might not be laying in certain places. 'Office' duties during this time involve walking the beach to record turtle activity: adult tracks and nesting habitat. Female Flatback turtles can be pretty particular about where they nest; they can dig a number of body pits before they find just the right spot to lay their eggs. I love witnessing turtles that are new to nesting. These females appear a little clueless about what they are doing, some just look like they are having fun making sand angels, but after a bit of effort they get there in the end.

January is when we concentrate on hatchlings. We look at what is affecting hatchlings once they leave the nest, it can be natural or anthropogenic influences, e.g predation or artificial light. 'Office'



duties during this time include recording nest emergences, identifying any external influences and excavating old emerged nests.

Nest excavations involve a lot of digging, which can result in a lot of frustration, as often when you

EPA and DPaW have recently released a new technical guide for undertaking flora and vegetation surveys for environmental impact assessment.

remove a bit of sand from the nest, a lot more falls back in and to top that off there are a million mosquitos trying to get a piece of you! Having excavated a lot of nests, I am always amazed when a turtle successfully digs a chamber and lays her eggs on a sandy dune face.

People often ask me what my favourite part of turtle monitoring is and not surprisingly, I have to say it's the hatchlings. Flatback hatchlings have the most amazing eyes of any hatchlings I've had the pleasure of working with. They have these metallic green / grey eyes that sparkle when the sun shines on them. I also love watching them wiggling their little bums as they race down to the ocean. If I see a photo of a hatchling it evokes memories of how soft and velvety they are especially in the area under their front flippers.

If you ever have the opportunity to watch adult turtles nest or hatchlings emerge from their nests, I would strongly recommend it. It is a truly special experience for which I am very grateful to be able to do as part of my work.

Update on new Flora and Vegetation Survey Technical Guide

By Flora de Wit, AECOM Senior Botanist

EPA and DPaW have recently released a new technical guide for undertaking flora and vegetation surveys for environmental impact assessment. The document should be applied to any project likely to require referral under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act). The technical guide is guidance on- and presents current best practice to be used in conjunction with existing EPA policies and Guidance Statement 51 (GS51).

There are a number of new requirements in the new technical guide that will affect who does the surveys and how surveys are conducted going forwards. These are briefly outlined below.

Personnel leading field surveys are to have five years' experience in the region where the survey is being conducted, and should ideally lead the survey from beginning to end.

Level 1 and targeted surveys are consistent with GS51. In the event that conservation significant species or communities are recorded, further survey work will be required to adequately define and quantify these.

Level 2 surveys are described with some variation to GS51. In summary:

- Surveys may require multiple sampling events. This supports the current method of single-season Level 2 surveys already commonly implemented.
- A minimum of three quadrats should be sampled in each

vegetation unit. This varies from the previous stipulation of two quadrats in GS51. Furthermore, increased survey effort should be implemented in unique vegetation types including outcrops, salt lakes, riparian vegetation, claypans and other unusual geologies by using transects or allowing more time for opportunistic collections.

- Linear corridors subject to a Level 2 survey will require a 500 m to 1000 m buffer with particular emphasis on identifying potential habitat for conservation significant species and communities. The objective is to provide further context for impact assessment.

Condition mapping, relevant to both Level 1 and 2 surveys, is only required where it “varies broadly across a site”. This reduces GIS time and avoids unnecessary mapping that does not provide much additional value to the impact assessment. Instead, minor variations in condition can be discussed in text.

Many of the other items stipulated in the technical document are already applied during

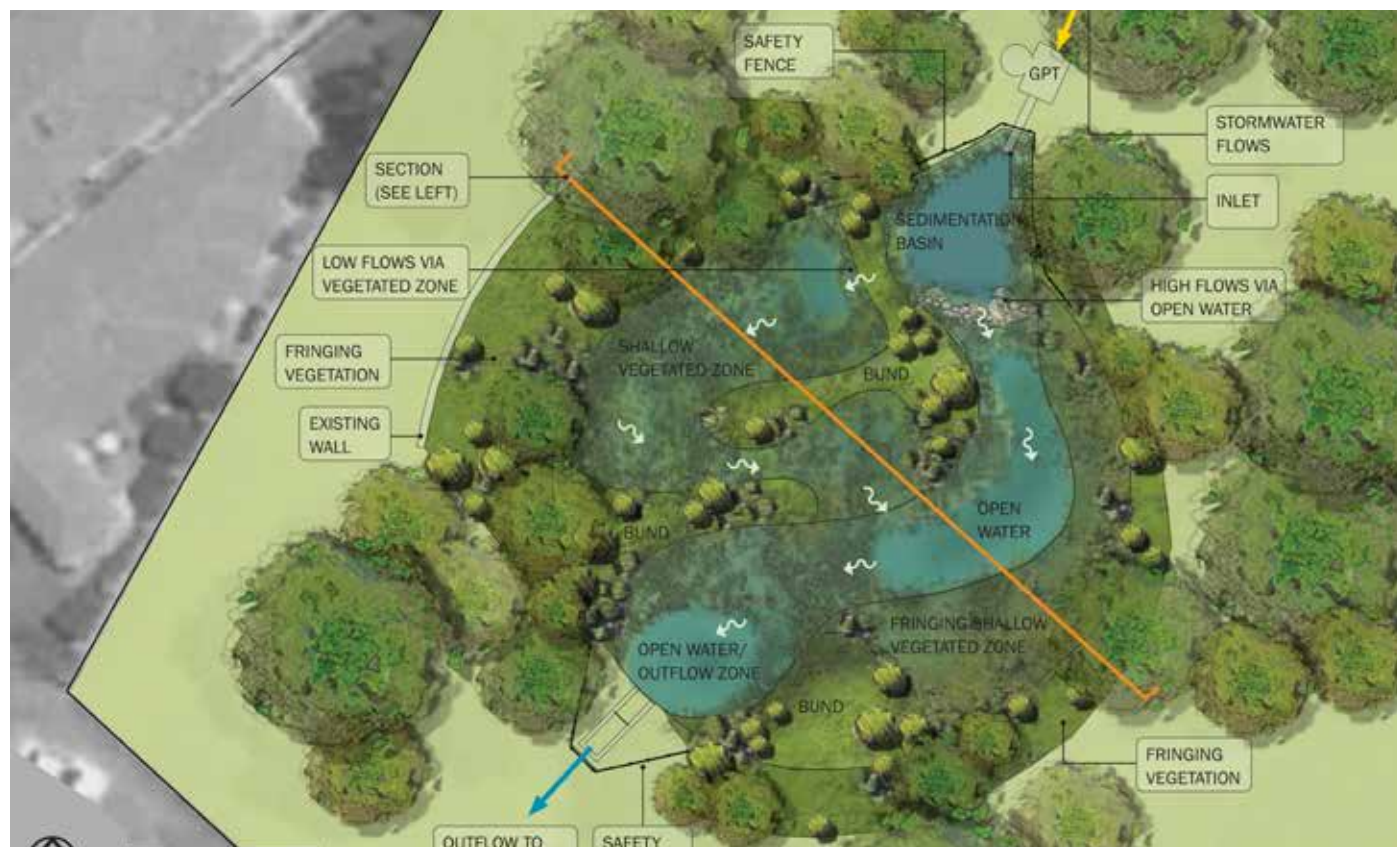
flora and vegetation surveys, including reporting requirements, discussion of local and regional context for each survey, and data analysis required for supporting vegetation community delineation. Timing of surveys and sample size also remain consistent, however, the technical guide provides provisions for the supplementary survey timing.

The Technical Guide is intended as a guide only. It is acknowledged that there are particular circumstances where a deviation from the guide is warranted. However, in such circumstances it is important that the reasons for any deviation are outlined and justified in the flora and vegetation report.

From urban eyesore to asset

By Laura Thwaites, Landscape Architect and Sergio Domingos, Environmental Scientist, Syrinx Environmental

Doneraile Court Reserve Wetland Water Sensitive Urban Design: An ecological approach to the conversion of an existing drainage basin into a WSUD initiative and a neighbourhood asset.



The Doneraile Court Reserve Wetland site is an excellent example of the possibilities of retrofitting wetlands in aging stormwater basins and creating multi-function open spaces at a suburban scale.

Suburban neighbourhoods are often home to unacknowledged opportunities for new, multi-functional open spaces. The Doneraile Court Reserve Wetland Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiative by the City of South Perth is an example of a project that successfully delivers an innovative solution to such an area. The aim of the project was to provide stormwater treatment prior to discharge into the Canning River, while addressing habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement and ensuring a flexible and safer public open space for local residents.

Located in Waterford, the wetland is approximately 1,000m² and receives stormwater runoff and shallow groundwater from subsoil drainage from an 11.7 ha priority catchment, as identified in the South Perth Integrated Catchment Management Plan. The catchment previously exported significant amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus to the Canning River via the basin, which had limited capacity to remove pollutants. Furthermore, the basin suffered from weed infestation, low aesthetic values and unsafe edges to deep zones.



In order to retrofit a multifunctional wetland in an aging detention basin and to provide water quality improvement, habitat for native flora and fauna, and a safe and pleasing landscape, City of South Perth engaged Syrinx's multidisciplinary team to develop innovative, site-specific solutions to Doneraile Reserve. Key components of the treatment drain design include an underground gross pollutant trap (GPT) as pre treatment, rock lined sedimentation basin, deep and shallow vegetated areas for low flows and open water zones for high flows. Treated flows are slowly discharged to the Canning River via the existing pipe network.

Complementary work included the use of an appropriate vegetation palette, safer regraded and densely vegetated batters, localised fencing, strategic view and access points, and installation of interpretive signage, which has created both an educational and aesthetic feature of the suburban neighbourhood. Construction activities were carefully managed to prevent damage to well-established native vegetation and to comply with the site's acid sulfate soils and dewatering management plans.

In the eight months since the project was completed the site has been well utilised by local residents with excellent vegetation establishment, which has successfully encouraged the return of native fauna species. The Doneraile Court Reserve Wetland site is an excellent example of the possibilities of retrofitting wetlands in aging stormwater basins and creating multi-function open spaces at a suburban scale.

Successful Parthenium weed eradication

By Bernard McLean, Rehabilitation Manager, Astron Environmental Services

The declared pest Parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) has been successfully eradicated from a known site in Karratha following an eradication program led by Astron Environmental Services, Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) and Quadrant Energy Australia Limited.



The final inspection at Devil Creek Gas Plant facility with (L-R) Nic Sillem (Astron Environmental Services) and Kay Bailey (Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia).

The weed was initially detected by environmental technicians while conducting routine weed control at the Devil Creek Gas Plant facility in 2011. The pest species was immediately reported and treated and the site was demarcated to prevent potential spread of reproductive material and treated with a pre-emergent herbicide.

A four-year monitoring and inspection program was then implemented in accordance with the Parthenium weed management plan, which has resulted in its eradication from this location, which is a significant environmental outcome.

Parthenium weed is a Weed of National Significance and a declared plant under WA legislation, requiring active management to prevent environmental, social or economic impacts. It can cause serious human health problems and is a major weed of rangelands and cropping areas of Queensland. The treatment of the plants found and continued surveillance has been given high priority to ensure these impacts do not become present in WA.

[Professor Peter Klinken] highlighted how a place like WA had the potential to convert our mining boom into a regional hub for scientific innovation, focusing on mining, biodiversity, medical research and agriculture.

ECA events

Seeking ECA member interest in Offsets workshop

The ECA is considering a workshop on the use, benefits and challenges of Offsets in WA as a tool for environmental management. A short survey will soon be distributed seeking members' interest in such a workshop. The survey will ask members to identify specific topics of interest concerning Offsets and will seek volunteers to contribute a paper or present at the workshop.

We are currently planning to hold the workshop in the late third quarter of this year. The ECA Committee asks that members complete the survey in order to provide your input.

ECA AGM and Dinner 2015

Our 2015 AGM was once again held at the Rydges hotel in Perth. We were privileged to have the Chief Scientist of Western Australia, Professor Peter Klinken, as our guest speaker. Peter spoke of his love of surfing and related the importance of recognising the contribution that traditional cultural practice can make to science. He highlighted how a place like WA had the potential to convert our mining boom into a regional hub for scientific innovation, focusing on mining, biodiversity, medical research and agriculture. In particular, he highlighted the opportunities provided to the WA science community surrounding the Square Kilometre Array project. Everyone I spoke to found Peter to be extremely engaging and entertaining.

In addition, we had Dr Paul Vogel speak candidly to us about his time as Chairman of the EPA. Paul has been a long-time supporter of the ECA, giving us a position on the Stakeholder Reference Group and ensuring we are consulted on the development of the EPA's policies and guidelines during his eight years at the helm. The ECA wishes him well in his future roles and looks forward to welcoming him as a member of our organisation.

We continued the tradition of asking attendees to judge photo competition entries. Yet again, there was a variety of fantastic entries to choose from and judging was tight. Sandy Gorham eventually won by just a few votes.

I'd like to thank everyone who attended the evening for making it yet another successful AGM. In particular, I'd like to thank our invited guests for sharing their time and making themselves available to attend the evening.

ECA Christmas Function 2015

Rain threatened to dampen the 2015 ECA Christmas Function as it had the year before. Fortunately, the rain stayed away and instead,

more than 80 attendees enjoyed a balmy night in the wonderful setting of Kings Park.

Members, non-members and invited guests enjoyed an evening of networking, drinks and, as always, fantastic food to round out a very busy year for the Association and its members.

Thanks to everyone who found the time to attend at what is always an extremely busy time of year.

ECA New Year Breakfast

This year's ECA Breakfast marked the start of one of Perth's hottest runs on record and what better way to kick it off than to start the day taking in the view from Burswood on the Swan.

It was great to see the usual faces, and particularly nice to see one ex-EPA Chairman enjoying his new found freedom to arrive in a pair of shorts (to the envy of many of us there.)

Once again, these events are made all the more valuable by the attendance of our special guests and I'd like to extend warm thanks to those who were able to find the time to attend. As has become custom, we awarded the prize for the best photo submitted during 2015, this year to Sandy

Gorham for his amazing photo staring down the wide mouth of a Whale Shark.

We love to receive your photos and publish them in the quarterly ECA News and every photo submitted will be entered into the judging at the AGM later this year.

YECA is looking forward in 2016

By Stacey Dorman, YECA Committee member

YECA will roll out a four-part information series for its members in 2016 covering aspects of the environmental industry including contaminated sites/hazardous material, water resources, biological services and approvals, with the latter the first cab off the rank.

The Approvals event involves high-level professionals from CDM Smith, MWH Global and Jacobs presenting their career experiences, insights and challenges. The event is being held on 2 March at 5:30pm at the Jacobs Building, Level 11, 263 Adelaide Terrace.

Creativity at work at the YECA 2015 Quiz Night.



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If you are interested in attending the next event, please register through the ECA website or for more information contact the YECA Committee on yeca@eca.org.au

Great networking and learning opportunities in 2015

Looking back over the year, YECA held four successful events including a quiz night, a sundowner, a report writing workshop and a communications workshop. The YECA committee hopes to see many of the same faces and lots of new faces at our events in 2016.

Would you like to be on the YECA Committee?

YECA is looking for enthusiastic young consultants to sit on the YECA Committee and help drive the future of YECA. We operate on a voluntary basis and there are no specific requirements for being on the Committee. However, you will ideally have between 1-5 years of consulting experience and be able to attend most monthly meetings (one hour on the second Tuesday of the month) and events, which we collectively organise.

Being on the YECA Committee is a great way to get more involved with the ECA as a young consultant in this industry. If you are interested send us an email at yeca@eca.org.au

Keep in Touch

YECA now has a Facebook Group where you can keep track of all our news and upcoming events, and communicate with other YECA members and the YECA Committee. To find us, search 'YECA' on Facebook or click on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/YECA1/>

You might already be aware of our LinkedIn page. To find us search 'YECA' on LinkedIn Groups. You can also contact us via email at yeca@eca.org.au or we are always happy to have a chat over a drink at one of our events.


If you have any queries, comments or feedback we would love to hear from you.

ECA is on LinkedIn

ECA has two great ways of being engaged in the latest news, events and issues via LinkedIn:

1. the general ECA page for keeping up to date with events and industry relevant information, and
2. the ECA LinkedIn Group for discussing issues or asking advice from your peers.

We encourage all members to join the Group as it is an exclusive forum for putting questions to the wide range of experienced and



skilled practitioners at the ECA. We're sure all our YECA members in particular will benefit... start a discussion today!

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ECA is now offering its members an opportunity to talk directly to their fellow colleagues and the wider stakeholder group through affordable advertising rates. This is an excellent platform through which to promote your industry event, advertise your services and share your views on hot topics. If you would like to know more, please contact the ECA on admin@eca.org.au

Australian Government Industry Skills Fund

The Industry Skill Fund (ISF) targets enterprises that plan to up-skill their workforces to meet identified growth opportunities. Eligible skills development services just need to link to the company's growth objectives and can include:

- nationally accredited Qualifications (e.g. Cert IV in Frontline Management; Cert III in Marketing; Cert IV in Competitive Systems; Diploma in Management);
- accredited Skill Sets or a group of Units of Competence;
- non-accredited courses (eg business planning, project management, governance courses, executive leadership);
- new technology training, skills coaching;
- workplace communication and language, literacy and numeracy training.

The Fund provides:

- help to businesses to assess what skills they need to acquire to meet their growth objectives;
- funding towards the costs of acquiring those skills.

A small or medium individual business that could benefit from support to determine the training solutions that will help their business grow may be referred to Skills Advice.

To seek assistance through the Industry Skills Fund call the single business service on 13 28 46 or complete the simple online enquiry form: <http://www.business.gov.au/grants-and-assistance/Industry-Skills-Fund/>