



If you have any questions on any of the information provided or would like further information, please contact sherry.thomas@ntwa.com.au

Hi

The rains have begun and like magic, all is looking green again. How beautiful this place we live in is. Do you know what Cowaramup means? The Nyungar meaning is *Laughing on the way to the district of the clear plains*. The website Boodjar Nyungar Placenames in the Southwest of Western Australia was launched recently. You may find it of interest. <http://www.boodjar.org.au>

Revegetation projects. Our latest reveg heroes are Rob and Rebecca in Honeysuckle Glen. They made a start a few weeks ago by planting some seedlings on the National Trust strip between their lot and the neighbouring one, which is a right of way through to the oval. We will watch progress with interest!



Parkwater Community Group. Talking of revegetation, we are planning to hold a workshop on this, as well as at a future time, weed eradication and seed collection. While we try to get some funding for these latter 2, the NT will host the first revegetation workshop in May (date tba), so I need an indication of what numbers we are likely to expect. If you are interested in this, please send me an email (also let me know if kids are attending).

Sadly, there was a poor turnout at the meeting on 18th March, but hopefully the next will be better otherwise we just can't get projects off the ground. This is also a great way to meet other people who live near you and to build community spirit. Minutes of the last meeting will be emailed separately to this newsletter. If you would like to participate in the management of the National Trust bushland, as well as any other matters pertaining to Parkwater, then please come along to the next meeting at Duggan Pavilion, on **Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30pm.**

Easter Bunny Orchid (right) This little orchid is unusual in coming up in autumn. Some only have 3 or 4 flowers but some have numerous like the photo (up to 25). Each flower is only about 15 to 20mm long, but the bright whiteness does make them stand out (if you have your wildflower eyes on!) especially when the sunlight strikes them. Have you seen any at Parkwater? Please let me know.



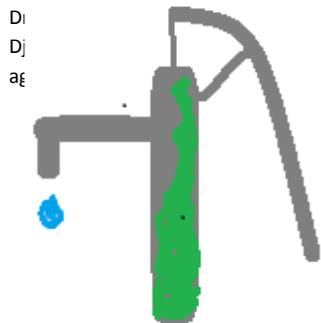
Men's Shed: If you have had some trees fallen on your property that you don't wish to keep for your own use, please let the Men's Shed know as they can either use it for milling up to make 'stuff' (perhaps some seating for Parkwater trails) or otherwise chop up for firewood (a major fundraiser). Contact details are: Kevan Gray, Secretary, cowaramupbullshed@gmail.com

Water pressure: An issue raised at a Parkwater Community Group meeting is low or fluctuating water pressure. An extract of the response by Water Corp is as follows.

This estate is serviced by a 100mm water main which feeds into larger pipes, however the 100mm main restricts the amount of water that can flow through at any one time.

The good news is the Water Corporation is currently planning a project to upgrade this water main to a 200mm service which will essentially double the water flow entering the estate. With this upgrade, residents will not notice an increase in pressure, but a reduction in the pressure fluctuations during those peak periods.

If residents are concerned about their water pressure at any time, please encourage them to contact us on 13 13 75 (24 hours) so the pressure can be investigated.



Ellensbrook: Have you been to Ellensbrook? It's a beautiful and fascinating place just down the road from Parkwater. So often we forget to visit the special places in our own backyard. We reckon we will get there 'one day' or we think of as 'tourist stops', but those places usually have a good reason for being so. Ellensbrook, named after Ellen Bussell, tells the story of life as an early WA settler. Ellen died aged 43, no doubt worn out after such a tough life and so many kids (some died) – but what a woman. Really worth checking out – with or without your visitors! For info on opening times, etc see <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa/ellensbrook>



Transplanting Balgas/grass trees/Xanthorrhoea: If one of your neighbours is about to clear their block to build a house and there is a balga there, how about having a chat to them and have a go at transplanting it to your place. Slow growing at about 2cm per year, they may grow a little faster in a garden environment. They are truly wonderful trees and surprisingly will often move well. In my own experience I have had about 1 in 4 survive – and I really didn't have a clue what I was doing! Follow these steps from the experts at REPLANT.com and your chance

of success is no doubt much higher. What have you got to lose?

Grass-trees are protected by law, and can only be removed from private property if complying with clearing laws and with the landowner's permission.

Begin by trimming off the leaves of the grass-tree, leaving a good handful only on top, taped together. Dig around the base of the plant severing the old roots. Dig quite a few centimetres away from the trunk to avoid damaging it, and dig as deep as you can (at least 30cm), keeping as much soil around the rootball as possible.

To plant a 1m trunk grass tree you will need the following: shovel, hose, 1 bag native soil mix, seaweed solution.

1. Select a sunny location with well draining soil and no overhead water spray from sprinklers. Organise the reticulation method you plan to use; flooders or drippers around the base of the tree are ideal.
2. Dig hole approx. 1m in diameter and 50cm deep.
3. Place grass tree in hole so existing soil line on the tree is level with garden bed.
4. Place rootball soil into hole and backfill until roots are covered.
5. Begin watering. First remove hose fittings from the end of the hose then turn on at high pressure. Work end of hose around root ball to remove air pockets. Slowly add more soil and continue thoroughly probing around root ball with hose. Gently rocking the tree will help dislodge air pockets. Expect to spend a good 30 minutes on this step.
6. Continue adding soil and now add native soil mix until level with existing soil line on the tree.
7. Build a moat around the base of the tree 80cm in diameter and approx. 15cm - 20cm high. Flood the moat with water then lower the hose pressure and leave for half an hour.
8. Dilute 40ml of seasol in a watering can and lightly apply to green foliage then pour the rest into the moat.

- You must water your grass tree for the next 3 weeks with 50 litres per day.
- Water for the next two summers 2 days per week @50 litres and 1 day per week @ 50 litres during cooler months.
- Remove flower spikes when they are 30cm long for the first two years.
- Expect that some foliage will brown during the first months.
- Apply seasol every 4 to 6 weeks.



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