



Parkwater News



WELCOME to the third Parkwater newsletter. Parkwater continues to be an opportunity for you and The National Trust to work together to conserve remnant bushland. Please read on for more information about how The National Trust continues to work to ensure that Parkwater remains a place to be appreciated by you, your neighbours, and visitors alike.

Walking trails for Parkwater Estate are well under development; with a grant from Lotterywest the Trust has engaged Mulloway Studios to design this feature for the Estate. Known as the Cowaramup Trails, the plan will enable the Trust to develop an interpretive system of trails around the estate, allowing residents to move around the neighbourhood while also appreciating the bushland that surrounds them. It is envisioned that the Cowaramup Trails will also benefit other potential users, including residents of Cowaramup, visitors to the Estate, and also those who may arrive specifically to walk the Trails. For more information about the development of this plan, please contact staff in the Natural Heritage area of the National Trust.



Making leafmould is a cost effective and sustainable way to improve the soils of your block. Leafmould can be made by gathering leaves from around your property (this can help with fire management too).



Leaves must be placed into a bag or container through which air can circulate. Industrial strength rubbish bags with holes poked in

them work well. Once you have a large enough quantity of leaves, they must be moistened and mixed up.

The bag or container can then be left for one to two years for the leaves to decompose. Leafmould that is between one and two years old makes a great soil improver or mulch. If you leave your leafmould for over two years, the well rotted mix can be used to sow seeds. If you want to sow seeds, add some sand and mulch to the well rotted leafmould. Making leafmould will improve your soils, save you money and help with managing excess leaf litter.

Simple fire prevention actions have the potential to protect your self, family and property from great harm; these actions are straight forward and do reduce the risk or impact of fires. These measures include actions such as clearing and maintaining fire breaks, cleaning out gutters regularly, ensuring that no trees directly overhang your house, keeping your property free of obstructions and combustibles, and learning how to use your fire extinguisher before there is an emergency. In the 2007-08 financial year FESA attended 6670 landscape / vegetation fires. Following the advice of both FESA and your local shire could help to reduce this number in 2009-10. For more information on fire prevention please see: <http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au/>



The Parkwater Fire Management Plan is now complete. With the support of the local brigade, this Fire Incident Preparedness and Response plan covers all the prevention, detection and suppression measures that can be taken to manage fire risk on the Estate. The objectives of the plan are twofold: to protect

the community and environmental values on lands owned by the Trust from damage or destruction from bushfires, and to use fire as a management tool where appropriate to achieve land management objectives. The plan will be updated annually by the manager of Natural Heritage at the Trust. The area covered encompasses all National Trust owned land, but takes into account the close proximity of the 500 private lots; the distribution of Karri & Jarrah forest within the Estate; the need to prevent the spread of Dieback within the bushland, and locals & other visitors to the bushland and private lands adjacent to the estate.



Did you know? ⇨⇨ A bird requires more food in proportion to its size than a human baby or cat ⇨⇨ Twenty aluminium cans may be made out of recycled material with the same amount of energy it takes to make one new one ⇨⇨ A Holstein cow's spots are like a fingerprint or snowflake. No two cows have exactly the same pattern of spots ⇨⇨ Every tonne of paper recycled can save 17 trees from being chopped down and pulped. 🌳

The Trust property in the spotlight in this *Parkwater News* is the nearby Ellensbrook homestead. This historic property is located in the Leeuwin



Naturaliste National Park. Built in 1857 by pioneer settlers Alfred and Ellen Bussell, Ellensbrook was home to their family of 12 children. Initially the dwelling was of simple construction but with more prosperity more rooms were added. A ticket-of-leave man and local Nyoongar people were responsible for

building much of the early stages of the property; it was donated to the National Trust in 1979 and since then major restoration works have taken place.

Today the site is significant for its association with the pioneering development of dairy farming and sheep and cattle pastoralism in the Augusta-Margaret River area during the colonial period. The Trust opens Ellensbrook to the public from 9.45am to 4.15pm each weekend. Photo: National Trust

The money that each owner at Parkwater is required to contribute annually is used to fund the initiatives this newsletter has discussed. The Levy enables the Trust to care for the Parkwater bushland in perpetuity for the benefit of the natural environment, residents and visitors. This Financial Year the Trust is pleased to be able to seek contributions from a record 251 owners.



Thank you for your contribution and support of the bushland. Logo: Parkwaterestate.com.au

If you have any questions on any of the information provided or would like further information, please contact the Natural Heritage staff at the National Trust.

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