

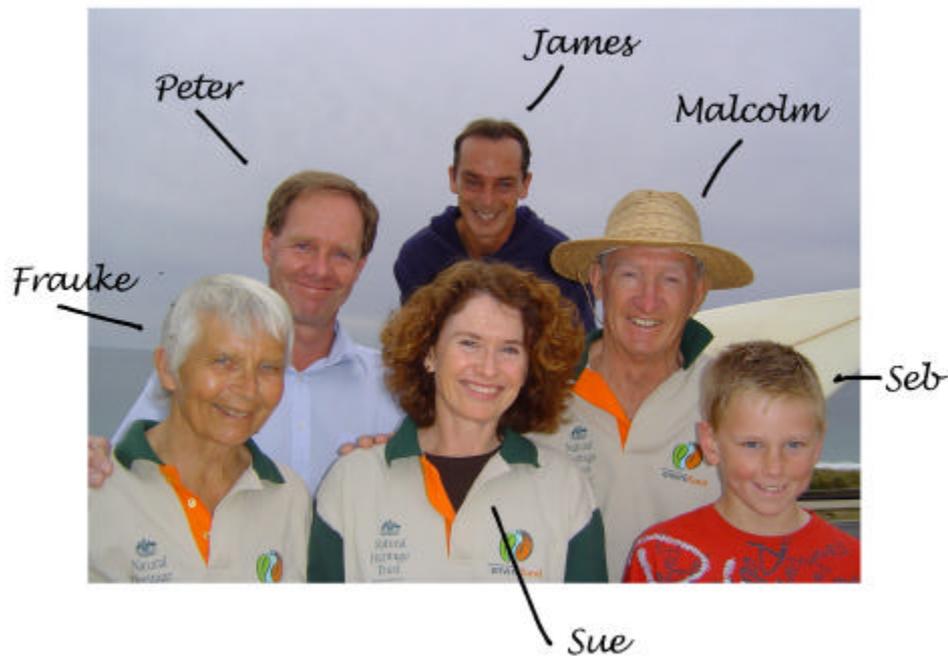


SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2004/2005

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2005 to Cottesloe Coastcarers

It has been another good year for us, with lots of achievements to celebrate. We received great support from Brett Dal Pozzo, the Northern Metro Coastcare Officer and from the Town of Cottesloe. Thanks to all our financial members who provide the approximately \$500 a year which allows us to post our newsletters and covers our annual administration costs. Coastwest and Envirofund have sponsored our present four projects. Details of the projects are available on our website www.cottesloe.wa.gov.au/?p=300. We hope that many people will use the website to look up working bee dates and to share the information generously provided by local experts. Topics cover sustainable fishing, local geography, the aboriginal connection to Cottesloe and the plants and animals of our reef.

Cottesloe Coastcare could not continue its work on the ground without its many wonderful volunteers. Some of our committed workers are pictured below and were prepared to talk about their involvement with Cottesloe Coastcare.



Malcolm Hay is a Cottesloe resident, a retired surgeon and a very busy man. Among his passions are the Leeuwin Foundation and a vision for an art centre and sculpture gardens at the Sunset Hospital site in Nedlands. Malcolm says "I assist with on-ground work when I can. I have two pet projects, however, and the first one is that I'm keen for Cottesloe to consider a raised platform on a pole for an Osprey nesting

site. The other idea is a Bird leaflet with the support of Birds WA; this will help us to learn about our local birds. We all care about our local biodiversity - including plants, animals and birds - and it feels good to give a few hours to help a great cause with a terrific bunch of people. The morning teas are not bad either!"

Peter and Jan Coffey moved to Cottesloe from Kojonup in 2003 and soon joined Cottesloe Coastcare. Their previous life of running a mixed farming property with a passion for agroforestry, earned them a WA Landcare award. They bring many skills and experience to the group. Peter says, "We have teenagers at home and I have enjoyed being involved with some school groups and seeing the enthusiasm of the kids. This gives me hope for the future that our young people really care for the health of our planet".

James McGhee is a keen surfer but when the surf is down, he is happy to help with planting or seed collecting. "I walk through Grant Marine Park all the time" James says "We planted lots of seedlings, which were grown from seed we collected on the site, and it feels good seeing them grow. Now I just hope the lots of them survive the summer".

Sebastian Ewing is just completing Year 6 at Cottesloe Primary and with his class he has

been involved with Cottesloe Coastcare for three years. Seb says "it's tough when some of the seedlings die but some years we do not get enough rain or sometimes rabbits eat the seedlings. Some little wattles which we planted and watered in Year 5 were covered in balls of yellow flowers when we helped with planting again last year. My friends and I always try to plant in spots we will recognise next visit so we can watch the plants grow."

Sue Medalia has brought her horticultural abilities and those of her advertising husband, Lindsay to the group. His company, 303 Advertising, has generously provided some fantastic artwork for two leaflets for Cottesloe Coastcare, including the gorgeous gecko featured in the latest one. Sue says, "sometimes we get soaked to the skin planting in the winter, other days we are nearly blown away in the wind but seeing the natural areas gradually returning to health is great".

Frauke Chambers, a former TAFE lecturer, now combines voluntary guiding at the Art Gallery of WA with Cottesloe Coastcare, time with her grandson, bush walking and other interests. Frauke writes:

Set 'em Free! -- The Pleasures of Liberating Prickle Lilies

"I have found a new passion in life that has proved unexpectedly satisfying. My growing awareness of the unbelievably robust power of introduced plants over our fragile coastal flora has resulted in a dedicated determination to help the floral battlers in our dunes.

It is a most gratifying feeling to remove the suffocating sea spinach *Tetragonia decumbens* [which is an alien from South Africa] from the struggling, delicately grey and pointy prickle lilies, *Acanthocarpus preissii*. You can almost hear them breathe a collective sigh of relief for being freed from these murderous mats! Similarly it gives me a real sense of achievement to remove heaps of another South African import, rose pelargonium, *Pelargonium capitatum* which makes life so hard for our lovely dark green, thick-leaved fan flower, *Scaevola crassifolia*— you can see how much easier it will be for it to spread out and grow stronger and healthier without the asphyxiating grip of the invaders.

Of course, there are more weeds than you can point a stick at in our dunes and a large part of what we need to do to restore at least some of our indigenous biodiversity is this liberating activity generally known as 'weeding'. I like to think of it as creating spaces for our local coastal species, to liberate them and enable them to develop. We all like planting new seedlings and collecting seeds and cuttings for propagation - but it is just as important to create and maintain the conditions for them to grow. And in our weed-infested country, this may well be the most important aspect of our endeavours.

At a recent Australian Weeds Conference a 'War on Weeds' was declared because the 'Green Death', i.e. the wholesale landscape destruction caused by weeds is considered our gravest environmental threat, the 'Agent Orange of ecosystem obliteration'. Let's do our little bit to help our local battlers – and derive pleasure and satisfaction from doing it!"

Happy Holidays to everyone!
Thanks to all for your contributions to Cottesloe Coastcare.