



COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 32
Cottesloe, WA 6911

Newsletter Summer 2005 – 2006

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas from the Cottesloe Coastcare Committee. Sincere thanks to everyone who has assisted Coastcare's work throughout another busy and successful year.

At the 2005 Seadragon Festival we had a display of commercially available local native plants suitable for planting in local verges and gardens. We received lots of interest in this subject. Local plants are adapted to local conditions, they have 'a home side advantage' and they don't require fertilizer or artificial watering once they are established. Town of Cottesloe also encourages the use of local plants in gardens and verges to save water, to stop fertiliser entering the ground water and to provide food and refuges for birds, butterflies, lizards and insects.

Jan's prize winning verge – Cottesloe Garden Competition – Second prize

Jan, who lives on Broome Street, started hand weeding a patch of her wide grassed verge three years ago and she expanded her verge garden as the plants became es-



tablished. The hybrid grevilleas flower all year. Jan has set up a bird bath and the birds queue up in the late afternoon to take a bath. The prostrate Banksia repens is not local to this area but grows well here, the new fronds are almost as beautiful as the magnificent flowers and woody fruits. A layer of mulch helps suppress weeds and keeps the roots cooler.

(photo inset is Grevillea crithmifolia)

Robyn's verge

I planted my verge in Lyons Street in 2000 but I have since removed some plants as they grew too high. Plants need to be low for the safety of pedestrians. Some species which are low growing on the dunes, for example Scaevola crassifolia (thick leaved fan flower), grew too tall in the protected street scape. Jan and I both have Grevillea



crithmifolia growing, the prostrate form. It is covered in pink tinged white flowers in Spring. It is a very hardy and a beautiful species of local Grevillea. The low growing wattle on both our verges is Acacia lasiocarpa (dune moses), it is compact and does have small spines. Local

sedges that we both grow are *Lepidosperma gladiatum* (sword sedge) and *Ficinia nodosa* (knotted club rush). Some other plants pictured are *Conostylis candicans* (grey cottonhead) with its yellow bell shaped flowers and *Carpobrotus virescens* (pig-face) a succulent perennial with purple pink flowers.

(*Acacia lasiocarpa* pictured in inset)

If anyone is interested in a verge of local plants to replace lawn, the grass would ideally be hand weeded (or sprayed with appropriate herbicide when it was growing strongly), then a good thick layer of mulch applied. Planting of tube stock seedlings is best done in autumn or early winter. The seedlings will require some hand watering during the first summer. Cottesloe Coastcare has a Facts Sheet on suggested plant species for local verges with extra information including the names of local plant Nurseries. You will find this Facts Sheet at: www.cottesloe.wa.gov.au/?p=425

Or phone Robyn on 93847668 and I can post you a copy. If you wish to be on our email list for regular information please contact: robynbenken@iinet.net.au

Thank you

Thanks to our financial members whose contribution allows us to send out this newsletter and pay our small administration costs. And thanks to friends and members who assist with paper work or hand weeding, seed collecting, planting seedlings or in many other roles.

We are also grateful to Town of Cottesloe for their assistance and support for our projects and to Brett Dal Pozzo the North Metropolitan Coast-care Officer who has assisted us so

ably and willingly during the last two years.

We are indebted to Coastwest (WA) and Envirofund (Commonwealth) for funding our three dune restoration projects at Mudurup Rocks, Vlamingh and Grant Marine Park during 2005.

More details about our projects, working bees and other information can be found on our website: www.cottesloe.wa.gov.au/?p=300

Good wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2006 and we look forward to your continued support next year.