



## COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 32  
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### Newsletter April 2007

#### Great News!

SEE all about it on our new Website:

[www.cottesloecoastcare.org](http://www.cottesloecoastcare.org)

Some of you will know this already, but if you don't, have a look – it is the most **fascinating, spectacular and amazing** visual experience you can wish for in any attempt to know more about with what, where and how your association is involved in Cottesloe.

You can see beautiful photos and descriptions of the **66 local plant species** you can choose from to plant; maps, pictures and information about **our projects** and lots more! If you don't have internet access at home or if you are not sure how to find our website, the friendly staff in all public libraries will be glad to help you and the use of their computers costs you nothing! We thank Mike, Sue and Rob Freeth for this mesmerising masterwork.



We were thrilled when the Hon **Julie Bishop** MP, Federal Member for Curtin came to our local public library on 2 April 2007 to launch the new website. The Mayor of Cottesloe, **Kevin Morgan** and the Town of Cottesloe's CEO **Stephen Tindale** were also there, as was our new Coastcare Officer, Kate Sputore and some 40 members, friends and supporters. It was a great night with everyone feeling good to be involved in such a friendly, active and effective group.

At the same time our **new project**, for which we received funds from **Envirofund/ Natural Heritage** was launched – it will be a milestone in our endeavours to restore our foreshore as we'll tackle an almost totally degraded, highly visible **section of our dunes opposite Bryan Way**. Revegetation will basically start from the beginning – a specially licensed contractor has already begun the weed eradication process so that approximately **2000 local species** can be planted into the broken down dead weeds.

You will be able to follow our progress by reading the regular reports you can find on our blog – just click on [www.cottesloecoastcare.blogspot.com](http://www.cottesloecoastcare.blogspot.com) You'll also see lots of entertaining and informative **articles and photos** of our activities there – the stunning inner life of **seeds**, the surprises of rubbish collecting, the fight against **weeds** and the pleasures of pretty **flowers in bloom**, of watching **butterflies**,

**bobtails** and **heavenly bodies**, of making waves and saving threatened plant species. You'll love it! And you'll encounter a clever quote about you: ***Volunteers don't get paid for what they do, not because they're worthless but because they're priceless!***

**Welcome, Kate!**

Another exciting bit of news is the appointment of our new **North Metropolitan Coastcare Officer Kate Sputore** who has already enthusiastically participated in our activities. Kate holds a UWA **BSc** (Marine Biology and Zoology) degree and a Grad Cert of Science Communication.



**Kate with Cottesloe Primary students**

As **Senior Education Officer** at the **Rottneet Island Authority** she was involved in Natural Resource Management and the delivery of environmental education programs – great for CCA's work with schools and community groups! As volunteer **Fisheries Liaison Officer**, Kate has been promoting fishing conservation ethics and in her volunteer work for the **Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation** she has not only presented at seminars for day-sails, she's also been an eco-guide onboard ship with the **Leeuwin's 12-day Kimberley voyage** – what a fantastic experience that must have been!

Kate's office is at the **Cottesloe Civic Centre**. We feel extremely fortunate that we have such a wonderful successor to Christine Lamont who has contributed so much to our work. We welcome Kate and wish her a long, enjoyable and satisfying time with us.

### **Why do we do what we do?**

Have you ever come across questions like: “Why do you rip out these pretty Gazanias? What’s wrong with those hardy Mediterranean Daisy Bushes? Surely Tetragonia and Pelargonium have been here long enough to be considered naturalised – shouldn’t they have a right to be here? Can’t you be more tolerant??”

So, why do we do it? Why do we think it worthwhile spending so much time and effort in trying to nurture local species even if sometimes they don’t immediately seem as pretty as some introduced plants? Why should it be important?

In order to find some answers, we organized two ‘**value-workshops**’ with members of CCA and other local community groups. We discussed Natural Resources Values and agreed that we considered **biodiversity as our highest value** and used as its definition: *Variety of all life forms, the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they form a part. [... biodiversity is greater than a sum of its parts and is underpinned by the concepts of evolution and ecosystems functionality.]*

At the end of the workshops we formulated our Mission Statement:

***To preserve and enhance the natural biodiversity of Cottesloe by protecting and conserving, rehabilitating and ultimately restoring areas of natural vegetation, and revegetate areas which become available through land use change, using local indigenous species.***

Do you think that’s a good answer to the above questions? Let us know at our **AGM** on 9 May at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall at the Cottesloe Civic Centre. We hope to see you then!



**Bryan Way 2006 - a challenge ahead.**