



COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION

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Autumn – winter newsletter 2009

A special thank you to all our financial members who continue to support the work of Cottesloe Coastcare. The funds we raise through annual membership fees are used for postage and the necessary insurances and fees we must pay to continue our work. The many hundreds of hours of labour each year from CCA supporters are totally voluntary.

With the **AGM coming up on May 5th** it is timely to send out a newsletter. You will have received this by post if we do not have your email address. Please let us know if you are on the internet.

We had some fun at the end of 2008. On November 30th about 40 CCA members and friends shared a sundowner barbecue picnic on the Main Lawn of the Cottesloe Civic Centre. We celebrated all we had achieved in 2008 and committed to lots more good work in 2009! Our primary goal for 2009 is to work even more closely with Town of Cottesloe on the Year One recommendations from the 5 year **Natural Areas Management Plan**.



Sunday 1st March was Clean Up Australia Day.

An enthusiastic team of adults and children donned gloves, and armed with recycling and rubbish bags we all set off to collect garbage from the beach, along fences and the hundreds of bottles and cans thrown among the vegetation. There were dozens of bottles and cans thrown into the teatrees and wattles of John Black Dune Park, to the west of the Cottesloe tennis courts.

We were upset to find so much broken glass and rubbish in this area. Many bottles had their necks broken off and were buried in the sand with the jagged glass sticking out, so we had to be very careful removing this danger. Sadly bottles broken and buried in this manner are not an uncommon find on the beach as well. Most empty and broken bottles found at John Black Dune Park were beer bottles or bottles of alcoholic drinks.

CCA is keen to have more help with our work on the Cottesloe foreshore. Many people are not able to dig and weed but there is a job for everyone! You might be interested to help with groups of school children or assist with the inevitable work load of administration. Perhaps you like taking photos which we always need for our website? Maybe you like to bake cakes and you might like to make morning tea one work day.



On Saturday, 7 March 2009 five Cottesloe Coastcarers joined about 15 other volunteers, contractors, students, and Coastcare Officers for a fascinating workshop on the Rehabilitation of Coastal Dunes at the Kwinana Recquatic Centre. The workshop was organised by the Metro Coastcare officers, Craig Wilson and Kate Sputore. It is good to get together to learn about the latest ideas for dune restoration. We also share successes and failures which encourages us and lifts our spirits when we are flagging.

Unfortunately not everyone sees the need to care for our natural places as we all do!

As houses get bigger and gardens get smaller, with fewer trees and bushes, pressure is put on some on birds and animals; particularly the smaller bird species and butterflies. As well as providing habitat for birds and other local fauna, **native vegetation** makes best use of local conditions so that less water and care is required in the long run. This means that water and labour resources can be targeted to well used areas such as parks, playgrounds and sporting areas. CCA believes that our local native vegetation provides a more attractive streetscape in summer than dead grass.

Now the cooler days are here CCA has **started planting for 2009**. Woodside sponsored a small team from Conservation Volunteers Australia to assist us for 4 days. We took the opportunity to get some of this year's 2,500 local provenance seedlings in the ground. This year we have about 300 special seedlings from "more difficult to grow" local species, to plant. **Town of Cottesloe** has paid for all the seedlings for 2009 which has been fantastic in that we have not needed to chase funding for our seedlings.

In collaboration with Town of Cottesloe a small section of unused but watered, fertilised and regularly mown grass at the back south-east corner of Grant Marine Park will be planted with local shrubs and ground covers. The reticulation has been turned off and the dead grass will be tilled ready for planting in a few weeks. CCA has collected seed and **1000 plants** are almost ready for planting. The weedy and uncared for verge along the side of the Grant Street car park beside Grant Marine Park is also being planted by Cottesloe Coastcare this year. Seedlings are also being planted at other CCA project sites, including Cottesloe Native Garden beside Seaview Golf Course and at Mudurup Rocks.



Now we are watching the skies daily for signs of rain. We will probably need to again hand water the seedlings already planted, before enough rain comes, but we are ever hopeful!

We hope to see many of our members at the AGM on May 5th
All are very welcome to attend.

Robyn Benken April 2009