



COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 32 Cottesloe, WA 6911

www.cottesloecoastcare.org Tel: 9285 5099

Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2010

It is that time of year again we ask everyone to renew their **financial membership**. We have kept the fees unchanged although insurance and other fees continue to rise! We hope that everyone will continue their membership again this year. We need your support and we are working hard for it, as this Newsletter will show.

Because of the long hot and dry summer we have **lost some of the seedlings** planted last year. We have, unfortunately, lost more to rabbits, despite the best efforts of Town of Cottesloe and a feral animal contractor. We are hopeful that the rabbits can be better controlled before we start planting again this year. The other big challenge is weed invasion, then there are the vandals! One problem that we are always aware of is the possibility of fire. During the last few months there have been several bonfires on the beach. Brush material for the fires has been dragged off the dunes, damaging vegetation in the process. Sometimes the fires are still burning in the morning and there is always a fear that the fragile dune vegetation will be destroyed. If you see fires on the beach please ring the Town of Cottesloe Ranger on 9285 5070. An after hours service operates from the same number.



Early morning hand **watering sessions and seed collecting** have been our regular summer jobs. Another day a group of us worked at Apace Nursery in Fremantle, potting up cuttings from material we had collected earlier that morning. Some species of local plants have so few specimens remaining that we are not able to collect seed, so growing plants from cuttings is the way to go. For some other species the seed has been non-viable or very difficult to germinate. However, we continue to use local provenance seed for most of the plants grown for CCA. In the photo you can see Frauke and Peta surveying the results of our labour.

In May we will be starting the **planting season for 2010**. This year we have more than 7000 seedlings to plant!! We need many extra helpers so please join us one day if you can, even if you have only half an hour. If anyone is keen to help but is unable to access the internet to check on our working bees, please ring me on 9384 7668 and we will do our best to keep you informed.

The councils of Mosman Park and Cottesloe have appointed Diane Aynsley as a **Bush-care Officer**. Diane is hosted by Mosman Park but has one day a week in Cottesloe. CCA welcomes Diane warmly and she has already been busily involved in CCA's two projects for 2010. Diane's help will lead to more protection and restoration of our natural areas, guided by Cottesloe's Natural Areas Management Plan 2008. Diane works closely with Kate Sputore the North Metro Coastcare Officer.

The **Fish Habitat Protection Area** (FHPA) over

Cottesloe Reef was proclaimed in 2000 much to the delight of Ken Macintyre, Barbara Dobson and their hard working team from the Cottesloe Marine Protection Group. One aim of the group, however, was



not achieved and that was the **protection of the weedy sea dragon** (Photo by Mark Binns). The 'weedy' was the beautiful icon of the CMPG. The group amalgamated with CCA in 2004. Now, 10 years after Cottesloe's FHPA came into being we are trying, again, to have the weedy protected. Weedy sea dragons and leafy sea dragons are only found in Australia and only in southern temperate waters. Their habitat is vulnerable to pollution from sewage and storm water run-off plus they are under threat from the aquarium and medicine trade. Leafies are protected under Federal legislation in all states. Weedies are protected under state legislation in all states except for WA.

Fisheries WA controls the Marine Aquarium Fisheries Licenses which they say are sustainably managed. But they do not have population figures nor do they carry out any monitoring. Up to 2000 weedy seadragons, pipefish and seahorses can be collected commercially in WA waters this year, for sale to aquaria in Sydney and overseas. There is an irony here that NSW protects its own weedy sea dragons yet we sell ours to them! It is an undisputed fact that many if not most weedies in captivity die unless they are kept in very deep, public aquaria that are very well funded and are managed under absolutely perfect conditions.

If you wish to know more about these fragile and mystical creatures you can read an article I have written on CCA's website. There is a link to a video taken by Mark Binns off Cottesloe, with music composed by Kerry Fletcher. We are very keen to have WA's precious weedy sea dragons (and their relatives) fully protected.



Most of our members will know that CCA and Friends of the Library are delighted that Sue Freeth is **Cottesloe's Citizen of the Year 2010**. Sue is a dedicated volunteer in both organisations. The Australia Day awards were presented on the Peppermint Grove foreshore this year. Many "new Australians" proudly received their citizenship certificates under the Peppermint trees. The photo shows Sue's mum Eileen Bibby, Rob Freeth (R) and Cottesloe Mayor, Kevin Morgan (L) congratulating Sue on her well deserved award. Sue's beloved Dad, Dell Bibby, who was not well enough to attend the ceremony, is a previous Cottesloe Citizen of the Year.

'Thank you' to all our members and friends and we look forward to your continued support for the natural areas of Cottesloe.