



COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION

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Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2011

It is that time of year again when we ask everyone to renew their **financial membership**. We need our members support even if you are not able to join us at working bees. Each year when we apply for funding - to pay for plants for example, we are always asked if we have good community support for our work. Your membership donation helps us answer that question plus pay for insurance and other fees. We recently spent some of our funds on very smart long sleeved cotton CCA shirts. These new shirts will be available for sale at the AGM, for the subsidised price of \$10.00!

The CCA Annual General Meeting is due on Thursday May 19th. This year the venue is the lovely new community room at the Grove Library, Leake Street, Cottesloe. The AGM

will commence at 6.30pm and at 7pm

Professor Kingsley Dixon (Science Director at Kings Park) will talk on the topic: **'Plants beside the seaside, those that belong and those that do not'**. Dr Dixon has just released his new book 'Coastal Plants', which has great photos and information about 100 local plants, including tips on how best to grow them. We welcome everyone to our meeting and to join us afterwards for a drink and light supper. Kingsley's book will be for sale at the event.

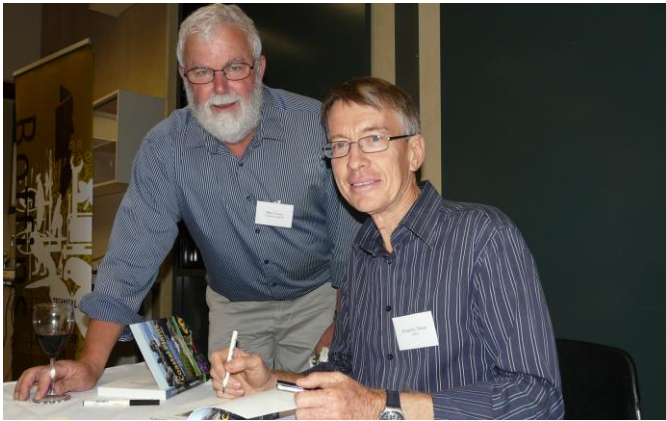


Photo of CCA Chair Mike Ewing (left) and Kingsley Dixon at the official book launch.

In collaboration with town of Cottesloe, CCA has applied to **Coastwest** for funding for a new central foreshore restoration project. If our application is successful, we will be notified in June. CCA is offering some assistance to **North Cottesloe Primary School** in a revegetation project at the school; also we will assist, where we can, with planting on the dunes in front of the **North Cottesloe Surf Lifesaving Club** as part of their re-development project.

During the past 12 months we have kept very busy with three projects. The first project was funded by a Federal Government **'Caring for our Country'** grant. Near Vlamingh Memorial, a patch of invasive Victorian teatree was removed and 3000 seedlings were planted - grown from seed we collected along the foreshore. We hope the new local tea trees and approximately 17 other local plant species will provide food and habitat for insects, birds, skinks and bobtails. Already honey eaters are enjoying autumn berries from the berry saltbush and ruby saltbush at the site.

In May we will be starting the **planting season for 2011**. This year we have 3000 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 9384 7668 and we will do our best to keep you informed.

The other project was funded by **Synergy/Landcare**. This involved lots of weeding, building a wall to stop erosion and a fence to deter people from walking across the site and the planting of 3,500 local provenance seedlings at **Mudurup Rocks**. As you can see

below, despite the very dry year we have had some good results – at both sites. Each seedling was watered at planting time, then received a half bucket of water at each of four more volunteer working bees during spring and late summer. It is stunning to see how well the plants have done - on so little water and after such a long hot, dry summer!

Two photos – before and after photo at Mudurup Rocks:



Another project that has received support from CCA volunteers and friends is the effort to have the endemic **weedy seadragon** granted protected status in Western Australia. Weedy seadragons live only in southern Australian waters. The 'Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act' 1999 lists weedies and their relatives as 'nationally



threatened species'. Weedy seadragons are now protected in all the other states where they live. Western Australia is the only state where they can be caught. They are under threat from the aquaria trade and from habitat loss. They do not survive in domestic aquaria and we believe that they should be protected. As a Year 3 child from Palymra Primary School wrote in his letter to the W.A. Premier "If I was in charge I would ban hunting sea dragonce because they could come exstink!!!".

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I agree! We have a weedy seadragon facebook page and a parliamentary petition but individual letters to Fisheries Minister Norman Moore could well be the most important tool. Please assist in this cause if you are interested.

www.facebook.com/weedyseadragons

Many thanks to the Fremantle Herald for this photo and a great article about weedies! Photo of Kerry Fletcher, Mahla & Ruby in front of a weedy seadragon mural in Fremantle.

'Thank you' to all our members and friends. We look forward to your continued support for Cottesloe's natural environment.