



COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION

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Autumn Newsletter 2012

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 CCA applies 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.

In collaboration with Town of Cottesloe, CCA applied for funding to '**Coastwest**' for a

new foreshore project at the north end of Cottesloe main beach for 2011/12. The fore dune is badly degraded, the natural vegetation has been lost and weeds have invaded the site. \$34,565 has been received by Town of Cottesloe for the project. 60% of the funds has paid for two ramp upgrades and the remaining 40% will be spent on fencing, weed control and purchase of 4000 local provenance plants. Cottesloe Coastcare volunteers have committed \$15,000 of



volunteer labour to the 18 month project. Our labour includes seed collection and seed cleaning, weeding, planting, then follow up maintenance and hand watering if required. Above is an aerial view of the site and the photo at the right shows the new ramp on the north side of the site and the weed infested area at present. Victorian tea tree, an invasive woody weed has now been removed from the site to make way for 12 species of local plants - including spinifex, sedges, coastal daisy, fan flowers, saltbushes, pig face and small wattles.



In May CCA will be starting the **planting season for 2012**. This year we have 4000 seedlings to plant at the new site. We need 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.

Cottesloe Coastcare volunteers continue to work at our various other project sites around the suburb. The photos on the next page are just a few of the wonderful **local wildflowers that grow in Cottesloe**. We are delighted to see variegated fairy wrens in our suburb again. Sightings like this reinforce our belief that by restoring our local vegetation we

can have a healthier insect, bird and animal life. CCA volunteers help stabilise the sand dunes as well as providing attractive natural vegetation for locals and visitors to enjoy.



In case you have not heard, we had wonderful news 8 months ago when the WA Fisheries Minister, Norman Moore announced the **weedy seadragon** would be granted **protected species status**. A group of us had worked hard for almost 18 months to achieve this outcome. The weedy seadragon is endemic to southern Australian waters and was protected in the other states. We are pleased there will be no more recreational take of these wonderful fish. Some lucky people have seen them when snorkelling in the **Fish Habitat Area over Cottesloe reef**. The photo below shows us all celebrating the announcement! Giz Watson, MLC, Member for the North Metropolitan Region, (pictured in the front row) is holding our parliamentary petition which contained 4000 signatures of Western Australians asking the Fisheries Minister to grant protected status to the weedy seadragon. As Sir David Attenborough wrote in a letter to us, weedy seadragons are "among the most astounding, beautiful and beguiling creatures on earth". Sir David is "delighted" now!



If you wish find out more about the work of CCA volunteers - the various project sites and progress; plus you can read many interesting articles under 'publications' at: www.cottesloecoastcare.org The website also includes regular diary 'blog' updates.

Details of working bees are always available on the website. Perhaps you might be able to join us one day at a '**First Sunday of the month**' working bee, from 9am – 11am.

Thank you to Town of Cottesloe for their partnership in our endeavours; to the North Metropolitan Coastcare Officer, Kate Sputore, for her fantastic support. Thanks also to Hale School, UWA Students, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Woodside for their hands on support. But the most important contributions of all come from our members for their work, financial membership and supportive good cheer – in rain or sunshine.