



## HERITAGE FESTIVAL EVENT

As part of the WA Heritage Festival and marking 50 years since the closure of the rubbish tip at what is now Tompkins Park in Melville, SERAG's *Rivers, Rubbish & Restoration* celebration attracted an attentive audience of between 50 and 60 people.

The *Halo Boys* opened the proceedings with an Acknowledgement of Country and a rich performance of music and dance. Guest speaker, Dr Anne Brearley - author of *Ernest Hodgkin's Swanland* - then spoke of the impact of European settlement on the Swan River Estuary and other estuaries in the south-west, and some of the many challenges to their health today.

A short walk took participants to see how our group, supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program, is restoring the narrow margin along the water's edge, bordering the old rubbish-tip. By substituting weed species for indigenous sedges, shrubs and trees, we are creating habitat for bush and water birds, stabilizing eroding embankments and helping to filter nutrients and contaminants from surface and ground water entering the river system. The tour concluded with the planting of two beautiful *Melaleuca raphiophylla* and a *Eucalyptus rudis* to mark the anniversary.

Over morning tea, guests took the opportunity to peruse a comprehensive display of photographs, maps and other material outlining the social history of the Alfred Cove area and the story of the rubbish-tip.

Our sincere thanks is extended to City of Melville and the Melville Bowling and Recreation Club for their financial support. The assistance provided by the National Trust of Australia WA, the Walyalup Reconciliation Group, the Melville Historical Society, Oonagh Quigley (Museum Curator, City of Melville) and staff at the Melville Discovery Centre and the Department of Parks and Environment Library, was also greatly appreciated.



Photos courtesy: Margaret Matassa & Anthony Kane



## BAMBOO BLITZ

We have been trying to eradicate some large stands of *Arundo donax* (giant reed) from the Tompkins Park foreshore for a couple of years now, but frustratingly have seen the weed rapidly recover after each effort.

So we were extremely fortunate to have Frank (leader), Gabrielle, Shaun, Patrick, Mathew and Kevin provide two days of solid work, using mattocks to remove the problem rhizomes, and then replanting the sites with appropriate sedges and shrubs.

Each member of the team is completing a Certificate 2 course structured to build community capacity - particularly in conservation and land management. The course is part of a Chevron-funded Aboriginal Training Program focusing on the Swan and Canning Rivers and catchment area, and delivered by Conservation Volunteers Australia.

We look forward to working with them again in the future.



Photos courtesy:  
Lauren Gleeson &  
Jane Leahy-Kane



# WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

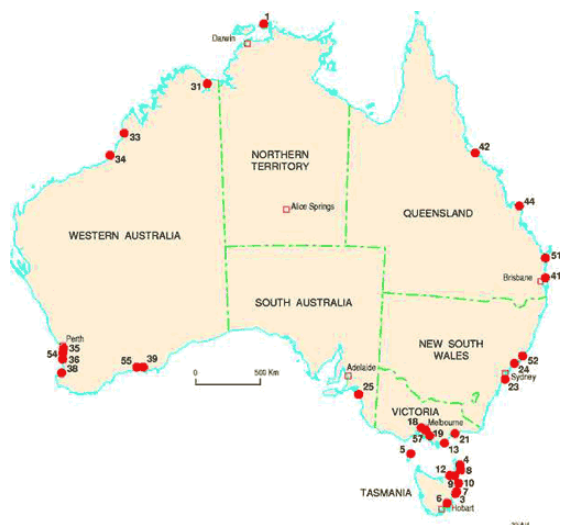
For millennia, a diversity of bird species have made arduous journeys across enormous distances. Among them are some of the world's greatest migrants, the waders (shorebirds), which travel between their breeding grounds in the high Arctic to feeding grounds in southern limits of Australasia.

Wetlands (including lakes, estuaries, sea-grass meadows, sedge-lands and swamps) throughout the world are under huge pressure. There has been a massive loss of feeding and resting habitat along the migratory route through Asia; and in Australia, shorebird habitat is threatened by such things as industrial, port, road and residential developments, recreational activities and weed infestations. As a result, wading bird numbers have crashed, resulting in an S.O.S. (Save Our Shorebirds) from *BirdLife Australia*.

As an example, *BirdLife Australia* data shows an 80% decline in the population of the Curlew Sandpiper since the 1980s - perhaps no surprise, given the many and various human activities impacting on their range. (Right: Photo of the Curlew Sandpiper (Source Wikipedia) and Indicative map of Curlew Sandpiper's range in Australia, based on best available knowledge (Source: Department of the Environment 2014).)



*BirdLife Australia* warns that at present Australia does not have a national wetland policy and that our current Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds is inadequate. The group is calling on the Federal Government to develop robust initiatives that take into account the cumulative impacts of multiple threats; for strong protection of a network of important shorebird habitat in Australia, and for better engagement with international partners - particularly throughout the East-Asian—Australasian Flyway. They ask for community support in signing their [petition](#) to federal Environment Minister, Greg Hunt.



## Australia's Coastal Ramsar Wetland Sites:

1. Coburg Peninsula; 3. Moulting Lagoon; 4. Logan Lagoon; 5. Lavinia; 6. Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon; 7. Apsley Marshes; 8. East Coast Cape Barren Island Lagoons; 9. Flood Plain Lower Ringarooma River; 10. Jocks Lagoon; 12. Little Waterhouse Lake; 13. Corner Inlet; 18. Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline); 19. Western Port; 21. Gippsland Lakes; 23. Towra Point Nature Reserve; 24. Koora-gang Nature Reserve; 25. Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert; 31. Ord River Floodplain; 33. Roebuck Bay; 34. Eighty-Mile Beach; 35. Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes; 36. Peel-Yalgorup System; 38. Vasse-Wonnerup System; 39. Lake Warden System; 41. Moreton Bay; 42. Bowling Green Bay; 44. Shoalwater and Corio Bays; 51. Great Sandy Strait; 52. Myall Lakes; 54. Becher Point Wetlands; 55. Lake Gore; and 57. Edithvale

Source: OzCoasts

With the Swan River Estuary providing some small but vital remaining resting and foraging areas for shorebirds in Western Australia, an enthusiastic group of people gathered at Pelican Point to acknowledge World Migratory Bird Day by participating in habitat restoration activities.

## FOR YOUR JUNE CALENDAR:

- **TREEmendous Tuesdays:** Alfred Cove 7.30am - 9.30am
- 03 June: (Tues) *Paperbarks & Pardalotes* Presentation at *Glyde-In* 9.00am - 12.00 noon
- 05 June: (Thurs) *World Environment Day Planting* - Pelican Point 9.00am - 11.00am
- 09 June: *Monthly Monday* at *Milyu* 9.00am - 11.00am
- 28 June: *Saturday Morning* at *Alfred Cove* 8.30am - 10.30am

Please refer to the calendar on our website for further information and register your interest with us if you would like to participate in any event.



Photos courtesy: Denisse Fierro



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