



WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

World Migratory Bird Day is a global and annual commemorative event held in May to highlight and celebrate migratory birds and the phenomenon of bird migration.

In his message marking the Day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasised the need for greater international action in protecting migratory birds by conserving the fragile network of natural habitats on which their survival depends.

Each summer, trans-equatorial migratory birds from as far away as Siberia visit the mudflats and shallows of the Swan River Estuary to rest and restore their energy levels before returning home to breed. Protected by international agreements, they include the Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint.



Gabriela Azevedo Reis, Michael Paterson &
Jane Leahy-Kane

Photo courtesy: Margaret Matassa

SERAG Inc. celebrated the Day with bird-watching and habitat-restoration activities at Alfred Cove.

BANKWEST PROMOTION

SERAG Inc. was recently selected by *BankWest* to take part in an internet-based community group promotion.

Thank you to all who voted for us. Through your help we will have secured a \$200 donation to further our efforts on the Estuary.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

SERAG Inc. is very grateful for not only the practical support of members and friends who regularly participate in bush regeneration activities on the foreshore, but also for the help provided by organizations from the wider community.

First among these is *Conservation Volunteers* which has very generously allocated some of its hard-earned corporate funding to supply us with teams of volunteers for planting and weeding tasks in and around the Reserves.

Earlier this year, *Oracle* also allocated a team of its employees to assist us for a day at Alfred Cove, and is committing another one later in the year. And just recently the *Department of Minerals and Petroleum* sent a terrific group of people to help us with restoration efforts at Pelican Point.

Thanks to Denisse Fierro, a student whom we met during our Clean Up Australia Day event, we are also developing a positive relationship with the University of Western Australia community through the Guild Volunteering Hub.

This much-needed support enables a concentrated effort on priority tasks and the achievement of major goals in a timely manner; it provides us with the opportunity to introduce people who may be unfamiliar with our A-Class Nature Reserves and the flora and fauna they support, to the beauty and importance of these places; and it actions the desire of the wider community to preserve these significant natural areas for future generations.

With good company, usually perfect weather, a diversity of birdlife on show and occasional visits by river dolphin providing memorable highlights, everyone enjoys and gains great satisfaction from the experience.



At Pelican Point

Photo courtesy:
Margaret Matassa

BACK ON THE RAILS

The Buff-banded Rail (*Gallirallus philippensis*) is a distinctively coloured, medium-sized and mainly terrestrial bird of the family *Rallidae*. Its nest is usually situated in dense grassy or reedy vegetation close to water, with a clutch size of three or four eggs.

The *Swan Estuary Marine Park and Adjacent Nature Reserves Management Plan 1999 – 2009* expresses concern that “the Buff-banded Rail is now absent altogether in all of the estuary reserves.”

SERAG Inc. began restoration work at Alfred Cove a few years ago, and recently members have started to sight this shy bird – an encouraging sign that our efforts to secure its (and other species’) future, by strengthening and extending their habitat, may be working.



Buff-banded Rail
Photo courtesy: Margaret Matassa

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SERAG Inc. has been engaged in a number of community education initiatives over the past few months.

Around sixty people attended the special celebration we organized to mark the 50th anniversary of the visit to Pelican Point by HRH Prince Philip. The event focused upon the Reserve’s continuing ecological importance, its social history, and plans for its future well-being; and included displays, a tour of the site, and addresses by Sue Mather from *BirdLife WA* and local historian Dr Sue Graham-Taylor.



In April we were asked to spend an afternoon at Pelican Point with post-graduate students in environmental management from UWA. The main objectives of the class were to ensure that students gained a critical understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing community environmental groups, and had a chance of seeing first-hand the kind of work that community volunteers do.



We also mounted a display at Piney Lakes in Melville as part of a WA Heritage Festival. As is always the case, photographs of the Reserves and the fauna they support proved of great interest to those who attended; and many young children were thoroughly entertained colouring-in outlines of some of the Estuary’s remarkable birdlife.



Chenoa displays her artwork



Photos courtesy: Tim Graham-Taylor, Robert Harvey & Anthony Kane



FOR YOUR JUNE CALENDAR:

- Weeding Wednesdays: Alfred Cove 7.30am - 9.30am
- 05 World Environment Day Planting - Alfred Cove 9.00am - 2.30pm
- 08 Saturday Morning at the Cove - Alfred Cove 9.00am - 11.00am
- 14 Friday Morning at Pelican Point 9.00am - 11.00am
- 25 UWA Volunteers Morning - Pelican Point 9.00am - 11.00am
- 29 Planting JH Abrahams Reserve - Pelican Point 9.00am - 11.00am

Please refer to the calendar on our website for further information and contact us for details if you would like to participate in any event.

We would love your
help at any of these
events!



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