



We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar People as the Traditional Owners of the Derbal Yerrigan and surrounding country in which we are privileged to work. We pay our respects to their Elders who have handed down and continue to hand down their deep connection to country to future generations.

## What We Achieve!

SERAG aims to enhance the long-term ecological health of the Swan River Estuary A-class Reserves. Our weekly work involves re-vegetation projects, landcare and maintenance.



*Restoration of the Tompkins Park foreshore – high tide at the Typha site in late May 2024.*

*What an amazing result and we haven't finished yet!*

We volunteers know what we do and what we achieve but our value (to the river community, the City of Melville and DBCA) is highlighted in the Progress Report 2023-24 for DBCA (*Rivers & Estuaries, Community Rivercare Program*), from whom we have received funding for a 4-year project, running from 2022 to 2026.

Over the last year, funding has been spent largely on the purchase of plants and contracting for chemical weed control. Chemical weed control has been applied to help manage/remove - *Carex divisa* along the Attadale foreshore; broadleaf weeds, bulbs and running grasses on the Attadale and Alfred Cove foreshores; *Typha orientalis* at Tompkins Park.



*Volunteers have also undertaken manual weed control across the Project site, with weeds removed including lupins, wild radish, onion weed, veldt grass, fleabane and woody starwort.*

*The 660 volunteer hours are valued at three times the money spent on contractors!*

In 450 hours of planting, we have planted near to 4,000 wet and dry land species, from the Attadale foreshore right around to Tompkins Park.

Over the long, hot summer, dedicated volunteers have given countless extra hours over weekends, when the City of Melville allowed us to use their water trailer, to hand water plants. We are also extremely grateful for the assistance of City of Melville, who engaged a watering contractor to water plants at the Typha site – this was needed as there is no room to park the water trailer on the river side of the dual use pathway, and so would have created danger for both SERAG volunteers and cyclists. This watering work has allowed an excellent survival rate for our new plants.



## Tompkins Park

The removal of *Typha orientalis* at Tompkins Park allowed us to revegetate with over 1,000 plants, including wet and damp land planting of *Juncus kraussii* and *Gahnia trifida*, and dry land planting of *Acacia cyclops*, *Atriplex cinerea*, *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, *Conostylis candidans*, *Ficinia nodosa*, *Hakea prostrata*, *Lepidosperma gladiatum*, *Melaleuca cuticularis*, *Melaleuca huegelii*, *Melaleuca raphiophylla*, *Melaleuca systema*, *Olearia axillaris*, *Rhagodia baccata* and *Scaveola crassifolia*. (For those wanting to match all those names to plants, we are in the process of developing a SERAG Plant Guide with pictures and descriptions, and will include a short article on one plant in each of our future newsletters).

### Wet and Damp land plantings



February 2023 - after initial spraying of *Typha orientalis*.



March 2024 - more planting of 5 litre pots of *Juncus kraussii* - see the difference in size between those planted in Summer 2022-23, January 2024 and the last planting in March 2024.



Weed removal allows desired plant life, including new plantings, to flourish. The reappearance of large swathes of Samphire has been heartening.



*Typha* wet land area in July 2024. There is still more planting required between the recently planted sedges and the dry land area.

### Dry land plantings



First plantings in Winter 2023



July 2024 - the site is looking lush after receiving rain in June. Weeds are now mainly concentrated in the area immediately adjacent to the path or in small areas where complete coverage is still being achieved.



## Attadale Foreshore

The *Carex divisa* sites have been revegetated with *Juncus kraussii*, *Ficinia nodosa* and *Cyperus gymnocaulos*.



*Juncus kraussii* in a former *Carex divisa* site.

The survival rate of the planted tubes has been mixed which we attribute in large part to last summer's heat.

Those *Juncus* that have survived summer 2023-24 appear to be growing well. Infill planting has occurred in May 2024. The deeply planted *Melaleuca cuticularis* in the same area have all survived and put on significant growth.

A similar plant palette to that at Tompkins Park has been used to add to the revegetation of the Attadale foreshore close to the Djidimya site.





## Attadale Foreshore



*East of the Ormond Rd bike path at the start of the grant in May 2022 with planting from 2021.*



*Further planting occurred in July 2023. The photo above shows the same area in July 2024.*

The above 'before' and 'after' photos show what a difference our efforts make to the regeneration of a healthy river's edge.

### ***But work never stops!***

*This is an area adjacent to the Typha site where Erythrina trees were removed in autumn 2024 due to the presence of polyphagous shothole borer.*



Other work undertaken by SERAG volunteers has included many hours put in to organising us, looking after our equipment needs, collecting what is needed for our working days, completing funding applications and reporting, advocacy, bird counts and community education.

Hearty congratulations to everyone for such amazing contributions to protecting our beautiful world!

# Counting....it all adds up

Many special moments await SERAG members and friends as they set out in the early morning to observe and count the birds of Alfred Cove each month. The Great Egret is one that always delights, shimmering white amidst the samphire.

For 8 years, a group of SERAG members have been counting and registering the count with both Birdlife Australia and eBird each month.

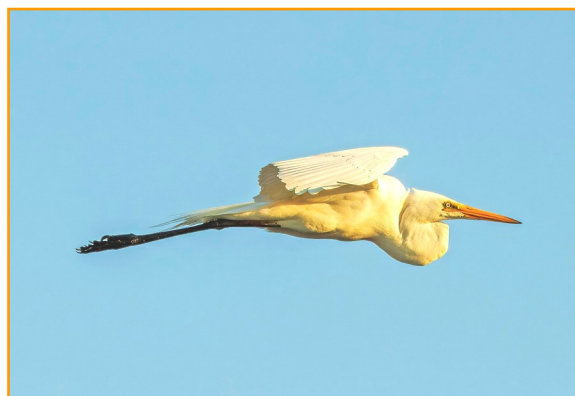
As an international organisation, eBird is turned to by millions around the world to learn about birds, and their data is used to inform science and aid conservation of biodiversity, as also Birdlife Australia.

SERAG was delighted to learn that the 65 species they observed throughout last year together with the time spent counting, meant our SERAG Bird Count group was among the *top third of eBird observers in the world for 2024*.

We congratulate those who've supported the count for the past seven years, whilst we also appreciate those joining more recently, bringing younger eyes and expertise to our group.

If you would like to take part in what is both global and Australian research, check the Calendar on the last page of the newsletter for the next bird count event.

*Got it - mealtime sorted!*



*A favourite local of the Swan Estuary Marine Park is the graceful Eastern Great Egret (Ardea alba)*

Article - M Matassa

Photographs - T Graham-Taylor



# Pelican Point Marine Park Gains SALP Funding

The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program or SALP, recently awarded funding of \$10,010 to SERAG to continue the restoration of the Saltmarsh on the Point and to rehabilitate Bush Forever Site 402 on Lot 4 for the ongoing protection of Marine Life and Birdlife. Jeff Peters (3rd from left) gratefully accepted the cheque on SERAG's behalf at the funding ceremony. Margaret Matassa was invited by the organisers, the State Natural Resource Management (State NRM) to give a five minute PowerPoint presentation on the work that SALP funding has enabled over the years at Pelican Point, which was well received by those present.



Article - M Matassa

Photograph - Photo courtesy State NRM

## Increase In Volunteer Numbers Appreciated!

SERAG welcomes an increase in volunteers willing to join early morning sessions of planting, weeding, watering and litter collecting on the Alfred Cove, Pelican Point and Milyu Marine Park foreshores, despite the heat of the summer months and the holiday season. This augurs well for achieving the goals of SERAG's grant programs in 2025.

Anyone wishing to join in can contact us at [admin@swanestuaryreserves.org](mailto:admin@swanestuaryreserves.org)



Article - M Matassa

Photographs - SERAG

## Second Summer - Season of Adolescence

The Noongar Season 'Bunuru' marks a hot, dry time, with little rain and an abundance of fish.

### SERAG Calendar of Events



World  
Wetlands Day  
2 February 2025



### February 2025

- Thurs 06 - Fri 07 - WA Wetlands Conference - The Wetlands Centre Cockburn
- Mon 10 - Monthly Monday at Milyu - Rubbish pick-up (6:30am - 8:30am)
- Tues 11 - TREEmendous Tuesday, Alfred Cove - Weeding (6:30am—8:30am)
- Sat 15 - Monthly Bird Count, Alfred Cove (7:00am - 9:00am)
- Tues 18 - TREEmendous Tuesday, Alfred Cove (6:30am—8:30am)
- Fri 21- Mon 24 - Watering at Attadale foreshore & Reserves
- Tues 25 - TREEmendous Tuesday, Alfred Cove - Weeding (6:30am—8:30am)

Watering at Pelican Point (6:30am - 8:30am) every 2-3 weeks, depending on the weather



Please contact SERAG to register your interest in any event.

Email: [admin@swanestuaryreserves.org](mailto:admin@swanestuaryreserves.org)

We encourage you to take a look at our *Facebook* page as well as our *LinkedIn* page -

<https://www.facebook.com/swanestuaryreservesactiongroupserag/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/swanestuaryreservesactiongroupserag/> and follow them if you are active on either platform. You may need an account to view *LinkedIn*.

Swan Estuary Reserves Action  
Group Inc.

Mail: PO Box 258 MELVILLE WA 6956

Email: [admin@swanestuaryreserves.org](mailto:admin@swanestuaryreserves.org)

Website: <https://swanestuaryreserves.org>