

## A fresh face at 57 Murray Street CAROLINE STOKES CONSERVATION ARCHITECT



**ABOVE:** The conserved facade of 57 Murray Street is revealed as the scaffolding comes down. Western Projects



**ABOVE:** David Wallace from Chris Savage Plaster Design runs a new cornice to conserve and restore the original cornices at 57 Murray Street. C Stokes NTWA

A refreshed 57 Murray Street is re-emerging from its scaffolding in the city of Perth revealing a spectacular north facing facade.

The Donnybrook stone has received the most recent attention by specialist masons who have carefully cleaned, repointed and applied a new mortar mix to highlight the various hues of the stratified stone. Classed as a free stone, the eye catching feature can be laid on its natural bed or vertically and the facade shows evidence of repointing in some low ground levels, while pointing at upper levels appears to be original. The 2013 stoneworks is the first complete masonry conservation program since the building was constructed in 1911.

Hillson Beasley, Chief Architect in Western Australia's public works department from 1905 – 1917

worked from a palette of local materials including contrasting Donnybrook stone and red brick when designing the former Medical and Health Offices at 57 Murray St. His interest in classical architecture is not only evident in the building, it was also a focus of many public lectures he presented.

An extensive and decorative ventilation system revealed during conservation work on 57 Murray St was considered an essential priority within the State's first public health building at the time of construction. Many original cornices were found in a repairable condition and small sections requiring replacement were run by plasterers onsite using three

templates. A mould was cast and used for longer sections which were then installed.

The refurbishment of 57 Murray St is a major \$4.7 million commitment from the National Trust during 2013. Additional internal works include installation of a new lift and internal painting based on paint scrapes dating to 1911. An interpretation strategy for the place has also been developed in recent months including a special open day and tours in early November. When works are completed later this year, 57 Murray Street will be made available as office space.

### Inside this issue





## Foundations of best practice heritage policy

TOM PERRIGO CEO, NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (WA)

When the Barnett Government was elected in September 2008, the first thing the National Trust did was encourage the new Minister to commit to the development of a state cultural heritage policy. The initiative was taken up and for the first time the Minister requested the National Trust, the Heritage Council and Lotterywest meet and develop a draft policy.

Lotterywest was chosen as they are one of the biggest investors in community heritage and have extensive experience working with the community. The Minister was also familiar with senior officers in Lotterywest.

These three parties met on many occasions with the initial objective to produce a comprehensive holistic cultural heritage policy encompassing the historic/built environment, the natural environment and Aboriginal heritage to mirror the holistic approach taken by the Commonwealth and to bring consistency and certainty with the identification, conservation and interpretation of cultural heritage. This policy can be seen on the Trust's website [www.nationaltrust.org.au/western-australia](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/western-australia)

The three parties agreed there were wide ranging advantages if all tiers of government had the same standards, however recognising that change is difficult.

The Minister decided the heritage policy would only be associated with historic/built heritage and the holistic policy would not be pursued at that point in time. It was suggested the challenge for Cabinet Ministers to agree to a comprehensive holistic policy which 'cut across their portfolios' would be too great and it was best to develop change over time.

As a consequence, the twin goals of consistency and certainty remain somewhat aloof and the State is faced with the ongoing consequences associated with the loss of cultural heritage across all three environments; historic, natural and Aboriginal which are, in effect, managed by different agencies with varying standards and processes.

The National Trust believes it is time the State developed a comprehensive heritage strategy that embraces the concept of a holistic cultural heritage policy before any new heritage legislation is developed or implemented. It is time for key agencies and major stakeholders to work through the challenges of duplication and overlap of services and at best encourage more efficient use of government and other resources which in itself is a key commitment of this State Government.

The foundations of good holistic cultural heritage policies and a comprehensive state wide strategic plan ensure good legislation. New legislation should be developed around policy and strategy not the other way around. The irreversible loss of heritage values is something Western Australia can ill afford.

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## Heritage Watch

### LYNWOOD HOMESTEAD DEMOLISHED IN MIDDLE SWAN

Lynwood Homestead, at No. 18 Great Northern Highway, Middle Swan, was State Heritage Listed in July 1999, and Classified by the Trust in August 1999. The homestead was developed from a simple brick and iron cottage (c. 1894-5), which then became a wing of a much larger house designed in the Federation Queen Anne style.

The place became one of the largest residences constructed in Midland and Middle Swan in the early twentieth century. Unoccupied since c. 1991, the place deteriorated and the Office of State Heritage agreed for it to be removed from its Permanent Register. The present owner then lodged an application to demolish with the City. The City, in July 2011, rejected this and urged the owner to consider measures to conserve the neglected place. They did not, and a demolition order was approved, and the place demolished in June 2013. This sad case demonstrates that demolition by [owner] neglect and processes that allow or tolerate that neglect, remain a significant heritage issue.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATION

With the prospect of local government amalgamations in the metropolitan area, many local authorities will consider how to manage information and processes in the future. The Trust hopes that all places on Municipal Inventories remain protected, regardless of local government size or change of authority. Municipal Inventories provide meaningful protection for many of our heritage places and the Trust hopes that any changes strengthen the cooperation and collaboration between government, heritage and planning agencies, especially between local governments. Sustainable heritage conservation can really take root at this level and any amalgamated authorities should continue this practice or aim to improve on current outcomes.

### DISAGREEMENT OVER REUSE IN THE CBD'S FASHION PRECINCT

To the Trust, King Street is an important precinct of intact, imposing buildings in Perth's CBD. To others, it is the heart of Perth's designer shopping area. Mui Mui, a subsidiary of Prada, wants to remove a significant staircase at 44 King Street. Planners at the City of Perth have asked that the staircase be retained as an integral part of the building's fabric. It's an interesting dilemma; adaptive reuse ensures that heritage places remain valued and vibrant, but where should the compromises for that use be made? An online poll indicated that a small majority of the public (52%) favoured removing the staircase; the Trust would advocate retaining it.

### SAMSON HOUSE ROSES PHILIP PALMER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

The National Trust held the annual rose pruning day at Samson House in Fremantle in July.

The WA Museum was instrumental in replacing many of the original rose bushes that were planted by Sir Frederick Samson in the 1940s prior to the National Trust taking over management of the property in 2010. The root stock was sourced from South Australian nursery that specialises in heritage roses. Over the past three years volunteers have assisted the National Trust in pruning more than 100 rose bushes on site.

This year's Rose Pruning Day at Samson House attracted 16 participants. Those attending were treated to a tour of the house and then a practical demonstration of rose pruning techniques.

Following the demonstration, experts and amateurs alike made short work of pruning the roses before enjoying a well-deserved afternoon tea.

This has become an annual event and fosters education and understanding of heritage, as well as providing an opportunity for acquiring specialist gardening skills.



RIGHT: Volunteer with Phil Palmer at the pruning demonstration. A Brake NTWA



## New exhibition at Old Farm ANNE BRAKE, MANAGER INTERPRETATION

An exhibition in the Muniments Room, changes in the reception area and an updated reworking of the dressed rooms forms the core of the new interpretation work to be opened in early November at Old Farm, Strawberry Hill.



**ABOVE:** Curator Dr Brian Shepherd and Archaeologist Leanne Brass consider a range of archaeological artefacts for inclusion in the new exhibition at Old Farm Strawberry Hill. G Pickering

The reception area will include panels to orient people to the site and its history as well as encouraging visitors to look more closely at the building and the grounds to find evidence of the people and activities that make up the story of the site. Working with National Trust education and learning and archaeology staff, Curator Brian Shepherd uses an exhibition in the Muniments Room to focus on material connected, or provenanced, to the site. This includes objects associated with the Bird and Spencer families which have been donated over time as well as from the three archaeological digs held here in 2006, 2008 and 2012. Recent conservation work revealed evidence of the fire of 1870 which destroyed the two single storey buildings in front of the current house and although this has now been covered by the new roof, visitors will be encouraged to look at the evidence in the fabric of the external walls to see where doors once connected to the other buildings and possibly a small Juliet Balcony now lost.

The other rooms in the house will once again be presented as dressed or furnished, but the use of quotes and other text, strategically placed at the entry to the rooms, will encourage visitors to think more deeply about the spaces they are in and the people who used them. For example, the idea of contemplation will be drawn in the main bedroom. In this very private room in the house, visitors will be encouraged to think of Lady Spencer in



**ABOVE:** The grounds of Old Farm, Strawberry Hill showing evidence of 2012 archeological dig. NTWA

A range of artefacts and photographs from the 2012 archeological program undertaken by the University of Western Australia. G Pickering

this space and the feelings of loss and isolation she must have felt being so far from friends and family and the life she led as a gentlewoman in England.

The 2012 Interpretation Plan, completed as part of the Master Plan for Old Farm Strawberry Hill, has guided the development of interim interpretation for the site. National Trust staff recognised the opportunity to reconsider the presentation of Old Farm with the return of objects which had been removed during the recent reroofing and conservation works.

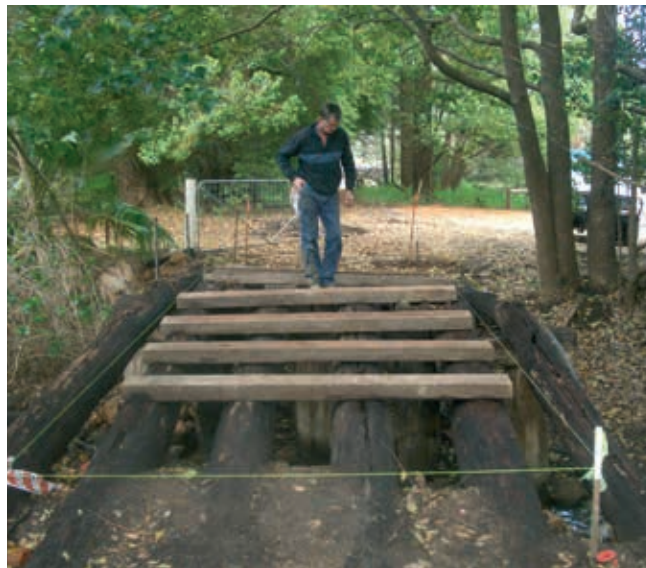
## A fresh approach at Hamel Eco Park

PHILIP PALMER, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Works are well underway on the site of the former State Nursery at Hamel, preparing the place for public access once more.



ABOVE: New compacted gravel pathways take shape at Hamel. P Palmer



ABOVE: The bridge over Samson Brook at Hamel is reconstructed to ensure community access to the new Eco Park. P Palmer

Derelict buildings and hazardous structures have been removed by specialist contractor Civilcon, improving the appearance and safety of the site. The removed buildings were assessed as being of low significance and were a target for vandalism and misuse. Demolition was put on hold after the discovery of a number of nocturnal inhabitants – possums and bats. These residents were carefully relocated to safer homes on the site by well-known fauna relocater Alison Dixon.

Access roads, carpark, picnic areas and pathways are being installed by local Waroona contractor Geoff Plant and the site has been secured by rural style fencing. The gravel pathways provide access through the beautiful and fascinating landscape of Hamel Eco Park, winding carefully among the many trees and shrubs that are a feature of the site. Geoff is working closely with the National Trust to ensure that paths and picnic areas are integrated sensitively and with minimal disturbance to the surrounding environment.

A Fire Management Plan including firebreaks, emergency access tracks and reduction of flammable matter in key locations is also on track. A bridge dating from the 1920s is being carefully reconstructed to provide Pedestrian access over Samson Brook. Structural engineer Peter Baxendale assessed the main supporting structure as being

basically sound for pedestrian traffic but no longer strong enough for vehicles. The deck and handrails were rotten and beyond salvage and have been removed. These elements will be reconstructed to a new design by Peter and Phil and include a narrower walkway. This bridge is an important access feature of Hamel Eco Park and the new design reveals the gnarled old supporting log posts and beams. A more recent crossing further to the south can be used by vehicles.

Directional and interpretive signage is being developed by the Trust and graphic designer Lauren Wilhelm. The project is funded by a Royalties for Regions grant through the Peel Development Commission and completion is anticipated at the end of October, when Hamel Eco Park will once more be a place that welcomes the community to visit and enjoy its history, charming landscape and amazing collection of plants.



LEFT: Concept design by National Trust Landscape Architect Phil Palmer.



## A sign of things to come

SARAH MURPHY DIRECTOR CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

In 2011 the National Trust completed its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The purpose of the RAP is to identify actions we will undertake to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage values in Western Australia are incorporated into the Trust's programs, projects and places. The RAP also promotes the development of partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in programs for a wide range of purposes such as conservation and interpretation.



ABOVE: New signage welcomes all in Noongar language. G Pickering NTWA



ABOVE: The Old Observatory, National Trust of Australia (WA) Headquarters. NTWA

Appreciation of and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage values and relationships to Country are central to the Trust's vision for reconciliation. A key part of this incorporates showing acknowledgment of and respect towards Aboriginal peoples.

Noongar language specialist Lois Spehn-Jackson was recently engaged to assist in providing a suitable translation of the greeting "Welcome to the Old Observatory" for incorporation into new management signage at the property.

It is with a great sense of pride and as a visible demonstration of our commitment to reconciliation we now welcome visitors to the Old Observatory in Noongar language "Yoowarl koorl Windang Worl-ap Djinanginy" (Come here [into] to the old place of sky watching).

## All washed up!

New teatowels featuring elegant black and white historic images of iconic National Trust properties in Western Australia are now available.

These 100% cotton teatowels are \$12 each. To order, visit the shop at [www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa) or phone 08 9321 6088. Wholesale orders are welcome.



## The Freycinet Collection: Multi-Arts Interpretation

ANNE CHAPPLE PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

The State Library of Western Australia will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2014. As part of this exceptional milestone, the State Library of Western Australia Foundation is focussing on one of the library's most significant acquisitions, the Freycinet Collection, as part of its program of events.



**ABOVE:** Dr Paul Gibbard, Assistant Professor of French at the University of WA and Elizabeth Gralton, PhD student in French history examining the Gaimard journal with Dr Kate Gregory, Battye Historian at the State Library of Western Australia. SLWA



**ABOVE:** The Gaimard Journal, written by Paul Gaimard, surgeon on board L'Uranie, captained by Louis de Freycinet. The journal is part of the State Library of WA's Collection. The earliest known detailed map of the Swan River, part of the Freycinet Collection can be seen in the background. SLWA

This collection of 18 sketches and maps gives a fascinating insight into the voyage of the French ship "Uranie", captained by Louis de Freycinet, which circumnavigated the globe in 1818-1820 and included a prolonged stay on the Western Australian coast at Shark Bay.

Unlike other European voyages of exploration, the early French voyages were more concerned with the acquisition of scientific knowledge and many of the drawings in the Collection depict the interesting flora and fauna encountered on this expedition. The Collection also includes the earliest known map of the Swan River.

The Foundation is developing a virtual exhibition based on the Freycinet Collection which will be complemented by the writings of Paul Gaimard, who was a surgeon on board the "Uranie". Gaimard's

journal, which is also part of the Library's Collection, documents the voyage and features some beautifully executed drawings of landmarks, creatures and people encountered throughout the journey.

Other activities planned to highlight this important Collection include an artist in residency project in which Perth Baroque, a musical group specialising in early music, has been commissioned to use the Freycinet Collection as inspiration to compose a piece of music reminiscent of the era in which the voyage was undertaken. The musicians will work with a diverse group of people to form the basis of the composition. This will culminate in a public performance of this original composition later in 2014 which will be part of the 125th anniversary celebrations.

It is anticipated that there will also be a series of public talks which will feature some of the intriguing aspects associated with this collection, including the romantic story of Rose de Freycinet, Louis' wife who, in defiance of Navy rules, stowed away on the "Uranie" as it left France and thus became one of the first women to circumnavigate the globe, the first woman to document her adventures in her diary and arguably the first European woman to set foot on Western Australian soil.

For more information contact the State Library of WA Foundation on 9427 3105 or email [info@statelibraryfoundation.org.au](mailto:info@statelibraryfoundation.org.au)

**RIGHT:** Detail of the Gaimard Journal. SLWA



## THE TRANBY HOUSE RAP

By Senne and Lauren of Quintillian School

### Verse 1:

Tranby house is the house to be,  
Look at the house look at the tree.

Inside cool, outside hot,  
This is a famous historical spot.

Open each day from 10 to 4,  
People lived here long, long before,  
Buses, jets and cars galore.  
Lots of information, more and more!

### Chorus 1:

Tranby house is a house to be,  
we can visit it now, you and me.

Josef Hardey from a big family,  
was sent to the Aussies, over the sea.

Before he went, he had a plan,  
He soon became a wealth man.

### Verse 2:

It was a Hardey family, that lived here,  
They came on a boat with lots and lots of gear.

One lonely boy, this was his home,  
His 5 older sisters were with him all along.

Upstairs in their bedroom,  
they laughed and laughed (heheheheheheheha)

### Chorus 1

### Verse 3:

Now a hundred and seventy years later,  
This is a museum of old.

You can visit it and learn,  
But the objects you can't hold.

Listen to a story,  
Sketch the house,  
playing games too,

You can do all these things, and more,  
Like going on the fabulous tour.

### Chorus final:

Tranby house is a house to be,  
we can visit it now, you and me.

Josef Hardey from a big family,  
was sent to the Aussies, over the sea.

Before he went, he married Anne,  
He soon became a wealthy man.

They had 6 children,  
They loved them all.

Then Josef Hardey,  
He built a wall,

He built a house,  
then a barn,

Here we are now at Peninsula Farm.

## Doin' the Tranby Rap

KIM HAWKES EDUCATION OFFICER

When Quintillian School students spent the day investigating what life was like for the Hardeys, who came to live in the Swan River Colony in 1830, Trust Education Officers never expected the day would end with art and a new rap song.



The day began with a tour through the historic house, weighing the food rations for the indentured servants and drawing the house as it might have looked when it was a farm.

Lauren used her imagination to create the sketch entitled 'A Real Hardey House' and included a horse, wheat and even a sailing ship on the Swan River. Soon Lauren and friend Senne, well known to their classmates for creating catchy rap songs, were repeating:

*'Tranby house is the house to be, Look at the house look at the tree.'*

Over the day lyrics expanded to three verses and a chorus.

The students enjoyed their visit to Peninsula Farm (Tranby) so much, they also visited the National Trust's East Perth Cemeteries.

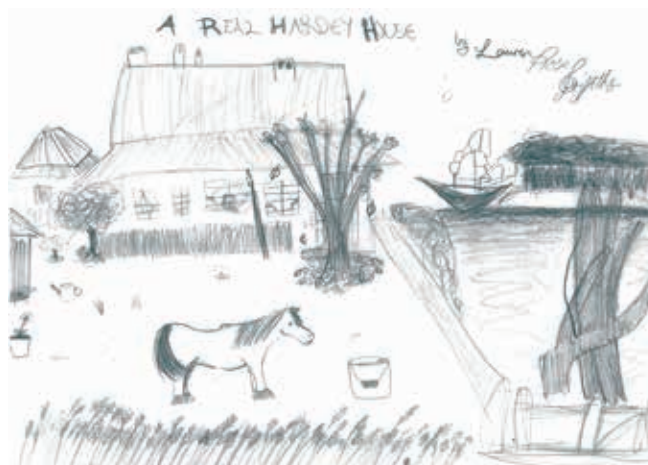
In 2012 Samson House, Fremantle ignited a song from Orana Catholic Primary School students – *'The Samson Family'* was sung to the tune of the well known 70s TV hit *'The Addams Family'* including timely finger clicks that went something like...

*Their house is a museum, when people come to see 'em*

*They really are a scre-am, the Samson Family...*

Surely an East Perth Cemeteries Rap is a 'dead cert'.

All three National Trust properties are destinations for hundreds of schoolchildren each year as part of curriculum and broader education outcomes.





## Spirit of the Walk GINA PICKERING

Five years ago *Trust News Australia* and *Compass* (ABCTV) reported on the inaugural Camino Salvado, Western Australia's own pilgrimage trail from Subiaco to New Norcia. Inspired by the journey of Spanish Benedictine monk Dom Rosendo Salvado, the trail covers a journey of approximately 160km through the city, along the banks of the Swan River and through spectacular countryside including Walyunga National Park to Australia's only monastic Town - New Norcia. Two walks are held in early Spring each year and both have been booked out since the event began.



**ABOVE L-R:** Dr Sue Graham Taylor, Alison Price, Kerry Ovens, with Lloyd and Joanne Emuang on the trail to New Norcia. G Pickering



**ABOVE:** The Rt Rev John Herbert, Abbot of New Norcia washes the feet of pilgrim Joanne Emuang at New Norcia. G Pickering

Twenty four pilgrims including historian Dr Sue Graham Taylor and yours truly set off from St Joseph's Church in Subiaco inspired by the chance to walk alongside the Swan River from the City through Bassendean, Guildford and out to the Swan Valley. We are both contributing to the development of the Interpretation Plan for the Swan and Canning Rivers and the walk provided a practical connection and one framed by spirituality too.

Dom Salvado set off from the Swan Colony on the 1st of March 1846 to establish a mission for training Aborigines. It was to become New Norcia. The 2013 version of the event begins in a cooler climate, and makes its way through the city of Perth. The walk is organised by volunteers and pilgrims stay in modest and comfortable accommodation during the journey.

Inspired by the Way of St James – the renowned world heritage pilgrim route between France and Spain - the local version delivers time for connection, reflection and renewal. There is something special about walking with friendly strangers over seven days, through mud, rain, blisters and beautiful country. While the spiritual wellbeing of the walk is never far away, it can take a few days to integrate the physical renewal offered by this trek which includes a walk of between 20-30km per day. In lives dominated by email and computers, the Camino Salvado offers a special chance to walk upon the land. Salvado Camino was recognised as the Winner of the 2012 Lund Award for Ecumenical Endeavour.

This year pilgrims from around the country took the step for a range of

reasons. Health, wellbeing, birthday celebrations and as a remedy for grief. The walk and the land were healers that softened strong and difficult emotions step by step.

The arrival at New Norcia was memorable. The pilgrim group was welcomed by the Benedictine Monks and Abbot, Rt. Rev. John Herbert washed the weary and bandaged feet of two walkers representing all the pilgrims in a moving ritual adjacent to the tomb of Salvado.

There is a long and complex history associated with New Norcia and Western Australia's Aboriginal community. This unique journey brings with it a potential for the Salvado Camino to reconcile some of this hurt too.

For more information  
[www.caminosalvado.com](http://www.caminosalvado.com)

## Ellensbrook fire recovery PHIL PALMER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

In 2012 the National Trust of Australia WA received \$30,000 funding through the Commonwealth Government Caring for your Community-Recovering Natural Disasters Grant Scheme to help restore the landscape damaged at Ellensbrook in the aftermath of the fierce 2011 Margaret River bushfires.



**ABOVE:** The landscape recovers at Ellensbrook, new plantings include Peppermint Trees. P Palmer

The bushfires reached perilously close to the buildings and destroyed the dense growth of Victorian tea trees that enclosed the pathway between the carpark and the heritage building which dates to 1857.

In conjunction with Department of Environment and Conservation (now Department of Parks and Wildlife) the Victorian tea tree, which is identified as an invasive weed within the Leeuwin

Naturaliste National Park, has been removed and replaced with new planting of Peppermint Tree and native coastal shrubs.

These plantings have been carefully designed to provide a degree of enclosure to the pathway, while at the same time framing the newly created views of the Ellensbrook property and its surrounds.

Landscape architect Phil Palmer recently inspected the progress of

the newly planted trees with on site wardens Skye and Paul Lange.

The tree and scrub planting is thriving and the repair to grassed area close to the main buildings will see the project brought to a successful conclusion. The grant has also financed the purchase of and installation of pumps and hoses to ensure fire fighting capacity on site is at an optimum at the National Trust property.



### GRAEME TARGETS PHOTO ARCHIVES

Graeme Gerrans has been a National Trust volunteer since 1998. He has been an active participant at East Perth Cemeteries opening the property to visitors and assisting with queries and tours.

Graeme retired from his paid employment late last year and has generously decided to take up unpaid employment at the old Observatory. Since May, Graeme has been volunteering three full days per week and is firmly entrenched as a member of the team.

**LEFT:** Graeme Gerrans volunteer at the National Trust. G Pickering



# Avondale Farm Aquaculture Potential

DINA BARRETT LENNARD COMMUNITY LIAISON, ENGAGEMENT OFFICER AVONDALE DISCOVERY FARM

Avondale's aquaculture ponds have been treated to a recent audit to establish requirements for recommissioning.



**ABOVE L-R:** Prof Phil Vercoe with Dr Craig Lawrence at Avondale. **ABOVE:** Former aquaculture ponds at Avondale. NTWA UWA

During the 1990s Dr Craig Lawrence, a researcher with the Department of Fisheries, designed and built the pond facility at Avondale to replicate farm dams throughout the Western Australian Wheatbelt.

Trials were carried out including optimum feeding regimes, water quality management, and general livestock husbandry. However, a change in industry focus has led to the aquaculture ponds remaining idle for a decade.

The potential uses of yabbie ponds, for education, research, tourism and recreation were identified in the Avondale Masterplan 2011.

It was with great enthusiasm that the National Trust accepted Dr Lawrence's generous offer to provide his specialist and volunteer services at Avondale to analyse the state of the ponds, water supply and supporting infrastructure.

As a result the Trust has been provided with a comprehensive report including a range of possibilities for future development of the project. The value of volunteers such as Dr Lawrence is beyond measure for the Trust's commitment to conservation and interpretation of WA's heritage.

His first task was to plough through the library of conservation plans (one for each National Trust property) to extract key data for entry into the electronic filing system. Graeme was finished in record time despite the size of the job. More recently he has been busily scanning hard copy photographic prints to provide more readily retrieved digital versions. There are literally hundreds of

prints, negatives and slides taken at National Trust properties over the past 40-50 years so Graeme has a mammoth job ahead of him but it is one he is tackling with enthusiasm.

If you'd like to explore a volunteer role at the National Trust call 9321 6088.



## PLACES

### On a Wing and a Prayer PETER MURPHY CONSERVATION OFFICER

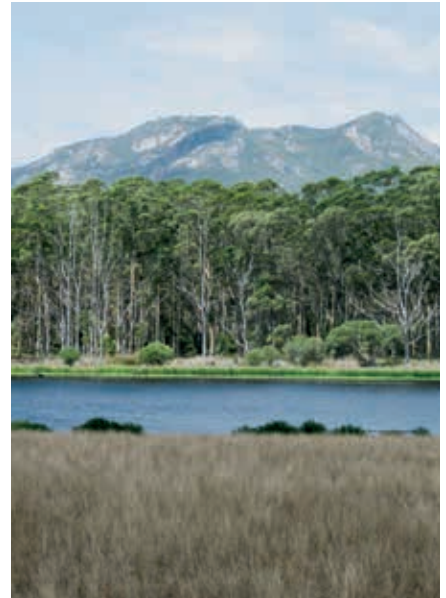
*"We must look after the earth for ourselves and for future generations...because there's nowhere else to go..."* Doug Russell



**ABOVE:** Doug Russell at Bundilla. P Murphy



**ABOVE:** Part of the Karri forest. P Murphy



**ABOVE:** Wetland and karri patch with Mt Many peaks a spectacular backdrop. P Murphy

Wise words from a man who has witnessed land clearing, salinity, loss of biodiversity and declining rainfall in one of only 34 terrestrial biodiversity hotspots in the world.

The athletic octogenarian was recently demonstrating his latest land-rehabilitation project during a stewardship visit to 485ha property *Bundilla* which is part of the National Trust's Covenant Program, near Mount Manypeaks in the picturesque South Coast region of Western Australia.

Doug is returning a degraded riparian zone into a vibrant eco-corridor, which will allow a diversity of native birds and mammals to move safely between *Bundilla* and nearby Whychinicup National Park. The property also includes a natural

wetland (24ha). There's a small outbreak of exotic bulrush (*Typha orientalis*).

"I could do with a grant to help get rid of that bulrush before it spreads throughout the wetland!" he commented while keeping his eye out for Tiger snakes.

Later, beneath the canopy of the most eastern stand (47ha) of karri forest (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) in WA, Doug explained he wanted to give something back after spending half his working life dealing in real estate and livestock. The answer was to place a third of *Bundilla* under a covenant with the National Trust.

Since covenanting their bushland with the Trust in 1996, Doug and his wife Eva's property has become a

natural laboratory for biologists, ecologists and botanists keen to discover why this isolated patch of karri forest still functions as habitat for many of the bird, mammal and plant species normally endemic to the greater karri-forest-belt over 100kms to the west of *Bundilla*.

Aerial photographs reveal *Bundilla* as one of the best maintained properties in the Manypeaks region.

Regretably Doug and Eva have *Bundilla* up for sale as time catches up with them. Should you be keen to become custodian for this unique place please contact Doug on 08 98 461 213 or on 08 98 429 107. You can also zoom-in (Google Earth) on *Bundilla* by using these coordinates: 34°51'22.3" S - 118°12'58.2" E

With assistance from the Trust, Doug and Eva were successful in acquiring a grant to eradicate the bulrush from the wetland.

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## PLACES

### Jarrahdale Cleanup DR SHEILA TWINE

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A community team 38 strong and including ten regulars has tackled the overgrown wattle at Jarrahdale during recent cleanup works under the direction of National Trust Landscape Architect Phil Palmer.

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**ABOVE L-R:** Volunteers on the job at Jarrahdale include Simon Watling, Charles Kerfoot, Ken Potter and Vicky Kerfoot. S Twine.

It's been a great bonding exercise for the community, involving groups including fire brigade volunteers, Jarrahdale Community Association, Jarrahdale Heritage Society and businesses such as Darling Range Tree Services who have assisted with mulching and many individuals who have just 'come along to help'. An echidna was discovered in a hollow during the work, but managed to sleep through the roar of two chain saws.

The Jarrahdale Historical Society donated \$500 to cover chain saw fuel and repair and the Trust tipped in an additional \$500 for support of the project. Jarrahdale villagers kept warm over winter from the generous supply of fire wood that resulted from the work.

Jarrahdale Heritage Society members are now ready for a new challenge. Their most recent grant application with SJ Landcare and the National Trust is seeking funding for 'Gooralong Brook Restoration'.



**ABOVE:** Crowded wattle growth at Jarrahdale. S Twine



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## OUT 'N' ABOUT

### Our welcome visitors DR SUE GRAHAM TAYLOR

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In early September the little Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) arrived at Pelican Point on the Swan River after a journey of about 25,000 kilometres from Siberia and Western Alaska. It breeds in the northern summer and feeds in the southern summer when the north is frozen. It will stay until early March or April when it returns to Siberia to breed.

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**ABOVE:** Red-necked Stints (*Calidris ruficollis*) arriving at Pelican Point on the Swan River. S Graham-Taylor

The little bird is a small migratory wader measuring an average 14 centimetres and weighing around 25 grams. It forages in wet grasslands and intertidal mudflats, eating insects and small invertebrates both en route and while it is here.

There are now few areas in the Swan Estuary where there is sufficient habitat, remnant salt marsh, sedge banks and fringing forest, for birds to safely rest, nest and feed. In recognition of the general loss of riverine vegetation, three A-class reserves on the River have been established to protect flora and fauna. Pelican Point, Milyu (South Perth) and Alfred Cove sandbanks, mud flats and beaches are three special places.

Here there is enough remnant vegetation to provide havens for local bush and water birds as well as trans-equatorial migratory wading birds protected under agreements Australia has with Japan and China. In 1990 the three areas were also declared part of the Swan Estuary Marine Park to enable management for recreation as well as for conservation and education.

The numbers of these migrants both on the Swan River and elsewhere in Australia is declining.

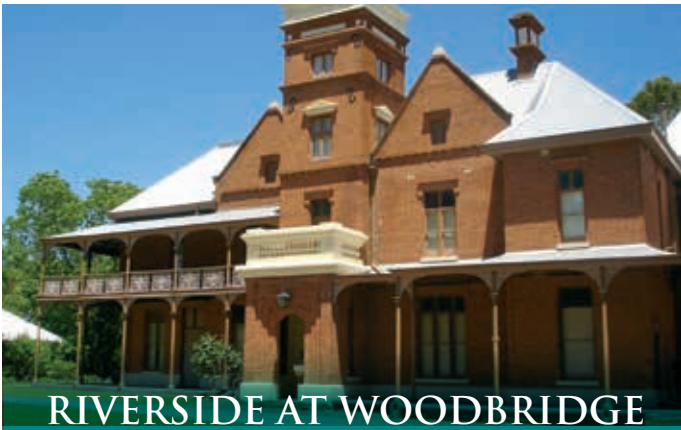
At Pelican Point for instance, 6000 Red-necked stints were recorded during their visit in the 1970s. This number declined to just over 1000 in 1992-3, almost 400 in 2002-3 and only nine birds were recorded during visits in 2007-8.<sup>1</sup>

The reasons for this decline are much discussed. There are many reports of habitat degradation at stop-over sites along the east Asia flyways and in Australia our waterways have been walled, reclaimed, developed and polluted. The climate since 1971 has been drier increasing salinity of the river waters. Then there are the ever increasing human pressures. The impacts of wind and kite surfing, increased boating, canoeing as well as the presence of humans and their dogs – are all impacting on those few precious sites where birds are not disturbed.

That is why we must welcome our visitors to Pelican Point but leave them and their few remaining habitats alone.

<sup>1</sup> Creed, Kate E and Bailey Max, 'Continuing Decline in Wader Populations at Pelican Point, Western Australia, since 1971', *Stilt*, 56 (2009): 10-14





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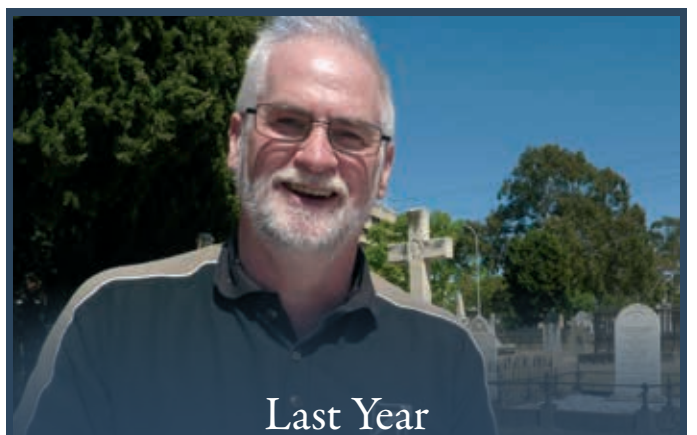
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## PERTH

**East Perth Cemeteries:** Bronte Street, East Perth. Tel: 08 9221 4022. Open Sunday 2 to 4pm for guided tours or by appointment.

**Kept Track:** Starts at Mundaring Weir Hall, Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring to Northam. Multi use trail open every day. Tel: 08 9321 6088

**No 1 Pump Station:** Closed until further notice. Open for group bookings by appointment only. Tel: 08 9321 6088

**O'Connor Trail:** Starts at Mundaring Weir Hall, Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring. 5.3km (2.5 hr walk approximately). Open every day. Tel: 08 9321 6088.

**The Old Observatory:** 4 Havelock Street, West Perth. Tel: 08 9321 6088. Tour by appointment only. Open week days.

**Tranby:** Johnson Road, Maylands. Tel: 08 9272 2630. Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm.

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**Weir Walk:** Starts at No 1 Pump Station, Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring. 1.9km (1 hr walk approximately). Open every day. Tel: 08 9321 6088.

**Woodbridge:** Ford Street, Woodbridge. Tel: 08 9274 2432. Open Thursday to Sunday 1pm to 4pm. Café open 9am to 5pm daily.

## WITHIN 90 MINUTES DRIVE OF PERTH

**Jarrahdale Heritage Park:** Jarrahdale Road, Jarrahdale. Tel: 08 9525 5255. Open every day. Please contact Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale for details.

**Old Blythewood:** 6161 South Western Highway, Pinjarra. Tel: 08 9531 1485. Open Saturday 10.30am to 3.30pm, Sunday 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

**York Courthouse Complex:** 132 Avon Terrace, York. Tel: 08 9641 2072. Open Thursday to Monday 10am to 4pm.

## WITHIN 3 HOURS DRIVE OF PERTH

**Bridgedale:** Hampton Street, Bridgetown. Tel: 08 9321 6088. Open Saturday and Sunday only, 10am to 2.30pm.

**Ellensbrook:** Ellensbrook Road, Margaret River. Tel: 08 9755 5173. Now open.

**Wonnerup:** Layman Road, Busselton. Tel: 08 9752 2039. Open 10am to 4pm on Thursday to Monday.

## OVERNIGHT

**Central Greenough (Historic Settlement):** Brand Highway, Greenough WA Tel: 08 9926 1084. Open Monday to Sunday 9am to 4pm. Café open during nominated opening hours. Closed Christmas Day only.

**No 8 Pump Station:** 80km west of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, at Dedari. Open by appointment. Tel: 08 9024 2540

**The Old Farm, Strawberry Hill:** 174 Middleton Road, Albany. Tel: 08 9841 3735. Open 7 days per week 10am to 4pm.

**Warden Finnerty's Residence:** 2 McKenzie Street, Coolgardie. Tel: 9026 6028. Open everyday except Wednesday. Phone for opening times. Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday.

**Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail:** Extends across 650km from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie. Tel: 08 9321 6088. For more information go to [www.goldenpipeline.com.au](http://www.goldenpipeline.com.au)

**Mangowine Homestead:** Karomin North Road, Nungarin. Tel: 08 9046 5149. Open Thursday to Tuesday 1pm to 4pm.



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