



KALGOORLIE-BOULDER LANDCARE NEWS



Better Environment
Better Lifestyle

Spring Newsletter - September 2003

Volume 9 Issue 35

This Newsletter is produced quarterly by the **Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG)**.
Contact the **Landcare Office** on **phone: 9091 6233**, **email: kbulg@emerge.net.au**, **web site:**
www.kalgoorlie.com/kbulg or **Lotteries House**, corner Wilson & MacDonald Streets, Kalgoorlie.

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AAH! SPRING IS IN THE AIR



The days are getting longer, the nights a little warmer. Yes we have made it through the long cold winter and now finally spring is upon us. Smell the air. Isn't it great?

Spring is the most ideal time for heading outdoors and appreciating our local bushland. With above average rainfall so far this year we should have a good wildflower season. So, where is the best place to see them ?

If you enjoy the blankets of Everlastings that beautify the countryside then you will have to head north past Menzies to see them at their best. If it's flowering shrubs that take your fancy however then Kalgoorlie has plenty on offer.

Eremophilas (Emu Bushes), *Sennas* (Cassias) and the red winged fruit of the fragrant Native Hopbush are just a few of the delights you should see in flower. Let's not forget the trees as some *Eucalypts* like the Salmon Gum and Goldfields Blackbutt will also have flowers bursting from their gumnuts.

Most of the flowering shrubs can be seen in and around Kalgoorlie and one of the best places is right on our doorstep. Karikurla Park is a great resource for viewing wildflowers and now with the Native Plant Guide (see page 3) available it makes your visit to the park that more interesting and enjoyable.

So do yourself a favour, grab a copy of the Native Plant Guide and head to Karikurla Park this spring. You'll be glad you did.

TREE PLANTING DAY A Great Success

The Gribble Creek floodplain was the site for this year's Community Tree Planting Day. Individuals and teams participated in what turned out to be an extremely successful day with over 2500 trees being planted.

Congratulations to Placer Dome Asia Pacific - Strategic Development and Support Services for winning the Corporate Challenge with 50 participants. Well done also to the Boulder Scouts for winning the Community Challenge with 37. The Department of Environment (pictured right) looked a treat in their homemade gumnut babies outfits and accordingly won the best costume prize.



Special thanks goes to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder for preparing the site and laying all the reticulation, a huge job over many weeks. Our appreciation goes out also to the early birds who helped out on Saturday morning setting the trees out and others like WMC Resources Community Participation Team for manning the Registration Desk.



The day would not be possible of course without our sponsors and a big thank you goes out to Western Power (Greening Challenge), the Minister for Environments Community Conservation grants, and last but not least the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder.

Thanks also to all of the other teams and individuals who came along and participated during the day. Your contribution ensured the community of Kalgoorlie Boulder a better environment and a better lifestyle.



KBULG - Better environment, better lifestyle communicate, educate, participate



Kalgoorlie Nickel Smelter



Committee Member Profile

KBULG profiles one committee member in each issue of Landcare News. This issue we profile our new KBULG Committee Chairperson Bill Mason.



1. What do you do?

Business Development Manager for Curtin University's Centre for the Management of Arid Environments. CMAE investigates rangeland and 'arid zone' issues such as grazing management, ecology, enterprise diversification and animal production.

2. What are your hobbies?

Being a dad to a five year old!! In May I was re-elected as a City Councillor for a second four-year term – so Council meetings, committees and briefings keep me busy - it's been a great opportunity to help create solutions to local issues.

3. How long have you been in Kalgoorlie-Boulder?

Since 1994 – I was Manager of the Goldfields Arts Centre for three years and then worked for the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission for the next five years (including a great year 'at home' looking after a new baby).

4. What do you enjoy about being involved with KBULG?

It's good to be part of an effective 'grass roots' group that unites community members and industry representatives 'making a real difference' to the quality of the local environment.

Introducing the New KBULG Committee



KBULG had its Annual General Meeting on Friday the 25th July and among other agenda items a new Executive Management Committee was elected. The new team consists of:

Chairperson

Bill Mason Councillor - City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Centre for Management of Arid Environments

Deputy Chairperson

Sequoia Eagles WMC Resources

Secretary

Hugh Gallagher Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Treasurer

Rod Botica Water Corporation

KBULG would like to welcome those mentioned and we look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

A big thank you to all the outgoing executives for their contribution over the last year. These include: Anthony Whiteaker - Chairman, Brad Gordon - Deputy Chairperson, and Edith Heiberg - Treasurer. Your assistance, as with the other committee members during 2002/2003, has been greatly appreciated.

BEWARE! SNAKES ARE OUT

As the weather warms up, out come the snakes and reptiles. There are about 27 types of snakes in the Goldfields. 19 of these belong to the front-fanged family of venomous snakes; however, only 6 species are considered dangerous to humans.

The most common dangerous snake in the Goldfields is the Gwardar or Western Brown snake. The Gwardar (*pictured*) is a dangerously venomous snake that can be hard to identify due to its variation in colour. Its favourite food is the common house mouse and therefore is often encountered in residential areas.



Other Goldfields snakes include the Mulga Snake or King Brown, Spotted Mulga Snake, Yellow Faced Whip Snake, and the Desert Death Adder. These snakes are more commonly seen in the bush as they largely feed on mammals and other reptiles. The Dugite is closely related to the Gwardar (both are Brown snakes) however it is not as common as the Gwardar in the Goldfields.

SNAKE SENSE

The most effective method of maintaining a snake free yard is to have a spring clean up. Remove all rubbish and debris, especially stacked timber, tin and long grass. Ensure you are not attracting mice, as you will also attract snakes - as mentioned mice are the favourite food of the Gwardar.

When walking in the bush make sure you are wearing trousers, long sleeve shirt and boots and look where you are walking and putting your hands. If you do see a snake, do not panic! Just keep clear and allow it to move away. Call one of the registered 'Snake Busters' below and they will assist in the removal of the snake from your property. Do not attempt to kill the snake as they can move and strike very quickly.

Volunteer Snake Busters:

Bruce Budrey Kambalda Tel: 9027 1909, 0403 733 871
Joe Jarvis Kalgoorlie Tel: 9091 2220, 0407 418 388

A great resource on snakes is available at:

www.members.iinet.net.au/~bush/ This is Brian Bush's web page. Brian is an expert in this field and his site is full of information on snakes and other reptiles. Entertaining read.

Resources: Information provided by Department of Conservation & Land Management. and Snakes Harmful and Harmless (see web page above). Written by Joe Jarvis.

Read the Newsletter on the WEB

Did you know that the newsletter is available on the KBULG web site? Go to www.kalgoorlie.com/kbulg and view the latest newsletter plus all the previous editions.

We can also email the newsletter to you if you wish. Just email us at kbulg@emerge.net.au and we will put you on the emailing list.

JUNIOR LANDCARE

For the last few months KBULG has been very busy with the Junior Landcare program. As winter is the ideal time for establishing native gardens, tree planting has been one of the busiest activities, particularly in June during World Environment Day and Arbor Day. Most of the planting has occurred along Maxwell Street on the Gribble Creek floodplain so we expect this area to be beautifully rejuvenated with Eucalypts, Casuarinas, Sennas and Melaleucas.

Karlkurla Park bushland walks have once again been popular and are an integral part of the Junior Landcare program. Hundreds of local school children have participated in these walks with ages ranging from 4 to 15 years. Younger children are encouraged to explore the bushland with their senses – see, touch, smell and listen to the different plants. Middle Primary students are given a worksheet which links in with the signage in the park and older students are encouraged to think about bushland management issues and how we can improve and manage the park. Most students enjoy lunch on the lookout before walking back.

Recycling and composting are proving to be very popular amongst the schools. These are two Landcare activities that are really gaining momentum and one that the kids and teachers are extremely enthusiastic about. This is really refreshing as recycling plays such an important part in cleaning up our environment. Well done to all those involved and keep up the good work.



KBULG expresses its sincere congratulations to all schools participating in this year's Junior Landcare program. Everyone is putting in a real effort and its great to see.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?



KBULG is on the look out for members. Following the AGM on 25 July it was agreed that interested people should have the opportunity to become members of the Kalgoorlie Boulder Urban Landcare Group.

Apart from the opportunity to 'have your say' members will receive discounts on plants and KBULG merchandise. You will be kept up to date on Landcare activities and how you can be involved.

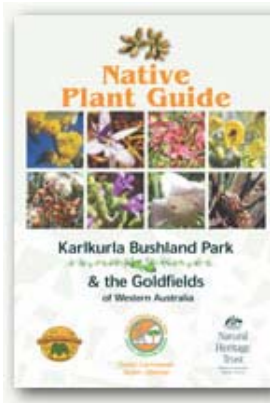
So, if you want to be involved in this award winning community group and have an interest in the environment give us a call on 9091 6233 to discuss your KBULG membership.

NATIVE PLANT GUIDE Selling Well

If you want a copy of the Native Plant Guide you had better get in quick. Sales have exceeded all expectations and the current stock level is dwindling.

If you are interested in buying a copy of this fantastic book they are available from the KBULG office or from most tourist outlets. The price:

Native Plant Guide	\$15.50
With CD	\$22.00



**Last Chance to enter the 2003
 WATERWISE GARDEN COMPETITION**

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

PHONE:.....

COMPETITION CATEGORY (please tick one):

Residential - Owner maintained - Tenant maintained
 - Professionally landscaped

Commercial/Industrial - Owner maintained
 - Professionally landscaped

Community Schools, Childcare Centres, Retirement homes

Does the nominee object to publicity if chosen as a finalist? Yes / No

Is there any aspect of your garden of which the judges should be aware ?

NOMINATED BY: **PHONE:**.....

CLOSING DATE: Friday 5 September 2003

Entries to be sent to: Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group, PO Box 10381 Kalgoorlie or delivered to the Landcare Office, Lotteries House, corner Wilson & MacDonald Streets, Kalgoorlie or fax to 9091 6211.

Gardens will be judged within 2 weeks of the closing date. Only front gardens as seen from the verge will be judged. Entrants do not need to be home for the judging.

The winners of each category will win a trailer load of mulch donated by the Water Corporation and there are \$1000 worth of Waldecks - Kalgoorlie gardening vouchers to be won!

FAUNA CORNER



Common Name: Shingle Back, Bob-Tail

Scientific Name: *Tiliqua rugosa*
(formally *Trachydosaurus rugosus*)

Description: Bobtails are subject to considerable geographic variation in colour and pattern. Western populations are dull reddish dark brown or blackish above with cream or yellow spots. These markings tend to be formed in irregular cross-bands. The Bobtail has large rough scales on its tail and upper body, like a pine cone in appearance. It grows to approximately 300mm.

Distribution: Southern WA, SA and Qld. Most of NSW and Victoria except for the coast and ranges.

Habit: Found in a variety of habitats but in the Goldfields mainly shrublands, Acacia and Eucalypt woodlands. It shelters under fallen timber and leaf litter. The Bobtail is active during the day and feeds on insects, spiders, snails, flowers and fruit.

Note: Watch out for the Bobtail on the roads in spring and summer. They are slow moving and are often run over when crossing roads.

References:

Cogger, H.G. (2000) Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia (Sixth Edition). Reed New Holland, Australia

VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATED

KBULG would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers who help out with a variety of tasks including Karlkurla Park bushland walks for school children, tree planting days, and editing newsletters and other publications. A number of people also provide ideas and feedback for our projects. Your input is greatly appreciated.



If you'd like to help out on weekdays with KBULG projects and find out more about the local bushland and environmental issues, call Kylie at the Landcare Office on 9091 6233. No experience is necessary, just an interest in the environment.

REGENERATION ZONES - KEEPING YOU POSTED

The repairs to fencing in the Regeneration Zones is well under way and should be completed by September.

This has been a relatively long process but it's wonderful to see it all coming together. John McAllan of KBC Fencing has done a great job and we thank him for his patience and commitment.



It doesn't stop there though and we ask all Goldfields people to take care of this precious resource and to use it wisely. Take a walk through them and discover the wide range of flora and fauna species in the Goldfields. You'll be amazed.

Karlkurla Sub-Division Have your Say

Development of the Karlkurla Grove subdivision, adjacent to Karlkurla Park is now in progress. Although a contentious issue for some, there have been some great ideas put forward as to how the project can be better enhanced from an environmental perspective.

An example of this was a suggestion made that significant trees and shrubs within the block boundaries be identified so that consideration can be given to keeping them when building the house. This of course would conserve as much of the remaining bushland as possible.

If anyone has any ideas similar to the above that would either promote or directly conserve the bushland at this new subdivision please contact us at KBULG on 9091 6233. We cannot guarantee your ideas will eventuate, but we can put them forward to have them heard. Give us a call.

Fauna—Interesting Facts

Did you know that the male and female Magpie-Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) can each be identified by the stripe through their eye? The male has a black horizontal stripe where the female has a black vertical stripe. Check them out in your garden.



References:

Goldfields Naturalist Club. (1995) Common Birds of Kalgoorlie Boulder. Reynolds Graphics, Kalgoorlie Australia. (S. Sadler Photo)

For more details on any of the articles in this newsletter or to find out more about the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group call or visit the Landcare Office located in Lotteries House (Cnr Wilson & MacDonald Streets, Kalgoorlie). Phone: 9091 6233 or 0418 935 498 or email: kbulg@emerge.net.au, web: www.kalgoorlie.com/kbulg