

KALGOORLIE-BOULDER LANDCARE NEWS

Spring Newsletter - September 2004

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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WATERWISE GARDEN COMPETITION

IT'S ON AGAIN!!!

\$1400 in Waldecks Kalgoorlie vouchers to be won!

A trailer load of mulch for every winner!

*New categories for GEHA
& Homeswest housing!*



Enter NOW!!!

Entries close September 13.

Clean up your front garden and road verge, put on the mulch, fill in the nomination form on page 2 and get it to the KBULG ASAP before entries close, to be in the running for all the cool prizes.

You don't have to be a garden guru to enter!

The competition will favour gardens with waterwise plants, weed free verges and mulch; including coarse garden clippings, compost, gravel and paved areas. Gardens will also be judged on other things like; overall appearance, colour, layout and tidiness.

We are looking for gardens which are suitable to our semi-arid climatic conditions but are also attractive, well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing.

2004 COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAY A Huge Success

A large area along both sides of Gribble Creek bordered by Johnston, Kingsmill & Wittenoom Streets was the site for this years Community Tree Planting Day.

Individuals and teams participated in what turned out to be the most successful day with over 5500 trees planted.



Congratulations to Placer Dome Asia Pacific for winning the Corporate Challenge and the 1st Boulder Scout Group for winning the Community Challenge and the best Treeplanting song. The Department of Environment looked a treat in their homemade insect 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), donating trees and helping setup and pack away on the day. 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, the Minister for Environment's Community Conservation grants, Regent Cinema Kalgoorlie, and last but definitely 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 fantastic efforts help create a better environment and a better lifestyle for the community of Kalgoorlie Boulder.

Thank you & Congratulations Everyone!



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



**PLACER DOME
ASIA PACIFIC**



**WATER
CORPORATION**



Spring has Sprung!

Have you smelt the air lately? 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.

There is something very special about Spring. It is the most ideal time for heading outdoors and appreciating our local bushland.

Most of the flowering shrubs can be seen in and around Kalgoorlie, but one of the best places is right on our doorstep. If you have never visited Karlkurla Park, do so now, it is awesome! Karlkurla Bushland Park is a great resource for viewing wildflowers. View the spectacular patchwork of wildflower colour as you wander along the self guided and well labelled meandering walk trail.

Currently the park is alive with colour as the many and diverse species of shrubs, annuals and trees in this semi arid area look their best. The flowering display is most spectacular with many species currently flowering, including a huge variety of gorgeous *Eromophila* species (Emu Bushes), *Senna's* (Cassia), *Dodonea* (Native Hopbush), Goldfield daisies, and everlastings.

The Native Plant Guide, specific to Karlkurla Bushland Park and the Goldfields, is available from the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group and the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Visitor Centre. This book contains photographs and descriptions of over 60 species of plants, many flowering now in Karlkurla Park and the surrounding Goldfields.

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

Waterwise Gardening Action Plan

Spring is the best time to get your garden ready for the hot summer ahead.

- Protect your precious garden against the harsh sun by applying mulch to garden beds and straw to vegetable gardens. Mulch over your garden beds to a minimum depth of 50mm.
- Apply a soil wetting agent and fertiliser to the lawn. Use a slow release fertiliser because they promote steady, long term growth.
- You should lower the blades on the lawn mower so that the first cut of Spring is the hardest of all. The blades should then be progressively lifted through the growing season to Autumn.
- Add water saving crystals to baskets and pots.
- Check all the sprinklers, drippers, sprayers etc on your irrigation system. Ensure there are no blockages or water wasted by spraying on paths. Make sure your watering program is correct for the time of the year.

Are you sick of the work and \$\$\$ looking after your lawn entails? You might well consider its reduction or even its demise. But what would you replace it with? There are lots of alternatives.

Paving or mulch is easy, however for those of you who wish to keep green and would like to see birds, beasties and butterflies in your garden, there are many low plants that can be put in now. Contact KBULG for some suggestions.

Last Chance to enter the 2004 WATERWISE GARDEN COMPETITION

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

PHONE:.....

COMPETITION CATEGORY (please tick one):

Residential - Owner maintained Tenant maintained
Professionally landscaped

Department of Housing & Works - Homeswest GEHA

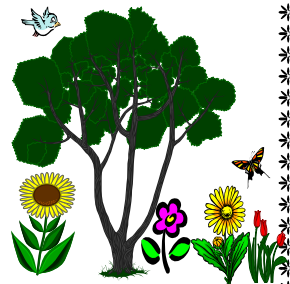
Commercial/Industrial - Owner maintained &/or Professionally landscaped

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 ?

.....
.....
.....



CLOSING DATE: 13th September 2004

Entries to be sent to: Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group, PO Box 10381 Kalgoorlie WA 6430 or delivered to the Landcare Office, Lotteries House, corner Wilson & MacDonald Streets, Kalgoorlie or faxed to 9091 6211 or emailed to: kbulg@emerge.net.au

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 \$1400.00 worth of Waldecks-Kalgoorlie gardening vouchers to be won!

COMING EVENTS!

- **Nightstalks - September 14 & 15**
- **Water Wise Garden Competition - September**
- **Open Garden Days**
3 Waterwise Gardens Open 9/10 October
- **Junior Landcare, Teachers' Professional Development Course - November**

NATIVE PLANTS CLEARANCE SALE!

KBULG has a variety of native plants suitable for growing in a Goldfields garden, for sale. These include native flowering shrubs and groundcovers. All must be sold. Bargains to be had! Phone the Landcare Office on 9091 6233.

KBULG HAPPENINGS

Members BBQ June 12



The wind tried to blow us away, and the clouds threatened to open up & drown us all.

But nothing could stop us gathering for food & drinks at Karlkurla Park. We tied everything up, setup around the back of the shelter, out of the wind and got down to the serious business of BBQing. After eating, the kids played some 'green' games, whilst the adults chatted & socialized. Everyone appeared to have had an altogether pleasant afternoon, in spite of the weather.

Native Plant Group - Nursery Visit

On July 18th the Native Plant Group visited Jim's Seeds, Weeds & Trees.

Jan Broadbent, treated the group to a demonstration of growing techniques, including many useful hints on growing our local native plants from seed.



This was followed by a tour of the facilities with both Jim Williams & Jan. We were shown the huge collection of native plant seed available. WOW! They have seed from over 300 plant species, including wildflowers, grasses, trees and shrubs. They also grow and sell local native plants at their nursery weekday mornings.

Everyone present had a good afternoon and learnt something new. Feeling all enthused, many people left with a couple of new plants or some packets of seed.

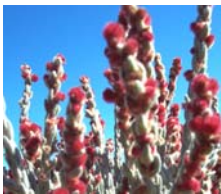
KBULG AGM - July 29

On Thursday afternoon July 29th KBULG had its Annual General Meeting at the Hannans Club.

The meeting was well attended and included a brief summary of the years events and activities, including how people can be more involved in all of our activities, acknowledgement of our fantastic & essential sponsors, and then got down to the main business of voting in our new 2004/2005 committee.

We are pleased to welcome several new faces and members to the KBULG committee. We invite people to come along to our meetings and to drop in to visit the KBULG office, although phoning ahead sometimes pays off as the office is not always open.

Wildflower Excursion



On the 22nd of August, members of both the Native Plant Group & KBULG went bush to the Sand Plains north of Mt Burgess.

The trip was lead by local plant enthusiast and member of the Goldfields Naturalist Club, Bill Powlesland.

Many of us had no idea what heaps of the plants where, all we knew was that we were enjoying looking at them. We were lucky that we had a few knowledgeable individuals in the group, who answered endless questions, from the rest of us.

Whilst supposedly looking at flowers, Jo Gray was constantly finding colourful bugs to show everyone, especially the many kids in attendance.

Thirty three plant species were identified, including several unique and unusual plants including the *Hemiphora elderii* which has soft grey, felt like foliage and red woolly flowers, commonly known as Red Velvet. A list of plants and photos from our excursion is available from the KBULG office.

Committee Member Profile

This issue we profile our new KBULG Chairperson, Natalie White, who's looking forward to meeting current & future members.



1. WHAT DO YOU DO? Education officer with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA Inc. I promote the Resources Sector through an education program, liaise with member companies, arrange site tours for teachers and students, coordinate the Kalgoorlie speakers bureau and co-ordinate the Kalgoorlie Youth Driver Development Program (YDDP).

2. WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES? Participating in work experience as an Exploration Field Assistant for my Geo friends who are drilling out of Norseman at the moment, participating in site tours, traveling anywhere - getting out and about.

3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN KALGOORLIE? Since the beginning of March 2004

4. WHY DO YOU ENJOY BEING INVOLVED IN KBULG? It is always great to work with (and surround yourself with) people who are motivated and passionate about what they do/what they believe in/what they would like to 'make happen'. KBULG is made up of such people.

I discovered an expression in a book I recently read, the expression was "pot-planter". It refers to people who come into a town and don't put down roots (they work, they do their time and they leave). It is not my intention to be a "pot-planter". By becoming a part of KBULG and assisting with the fantastic work they do in the community, I will ensure that this does not happen.

KBULG Membership

NAME:.....
 ADDRESS:.....
POSTCODE:.....
 PHONE:..... FAX:.....
 EMAIL:.....

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (please tick one):

Gold Membership includes KBULG Shirt & Cap

- \$10 - Basic Individual
- \$40 - Gold
- \$5 - Basic Child (under 16)
- \$30 - Gold
- \$25 - Basic Family
- \$100 - Gold
- \$100 Corporate/Business

(Above prices include GST)
 (Membership 1st July—30th June & renewed annually)

Projects you are interested in being involved with:

- Community Tree Planting Days
- Junior Landcare
- Regeneration Zones
- Recycling
- Busy bees on weekends
- Displays and promotions
- Gardening with native plants
- Bushwalks
- Other (please specify)
- Please contact me. I'm interested in volunteering.

PLEASE FILL IN & SEND CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER TO:
 KALGOORLIE-BOULDER URBAN LANDCARE GROUP. PO Box 10381, Kalgoorlie WA 6430

THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN MARSUPIAL NIGHTSTALK

Do you want to know what animals are lurking around Kalgoorlie at night? Then join us on a night stalk!

The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk is a nationwide spotlight survey of marsupials and feral animals. The surveys are designed to collect information about animal numbers and their distribution in your local area. By participating you'll not only have fun and learn more about your local wildlife, you'll also collect valuable information about Australian wildlife species and feral pests for scientists and conservation agencies.

Night stalks will be held from 6:30pm until approximately 8:00pm on September 14 & 15, leaving from the Karlkurla Bushland Park carpark.

Everyone is welcome but remember, each stalk will consist of walking in the bush and noise will need to be kept to a minimum, so we recommend that children should be 8 years of age or older and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

You will need sturdy footwear and your own torch and bring along a pair of binoculars if you can. Chances are it will be a cold night so rug up too!

Bookings Essential!

Numbers are limited to 12 people per night so get in quick! Phone or email KBULG for further information or to make a booking.

KIDS COMPETITION

Can you see the animal hidden in this picture?



Send KBULG by either email or post: Your name, age, address, phone number and the type of animal hidden in the picture. The first correct entries received will win a prize!

Last months winner: Alex Cornish, Age 6. Alex measured two *Eucalyptus* trees in his garden at over 3.5m circumference and a Pepper tree at 4.3m.

Think you have a tree fatter than Alex's? Get the last newsletter off the KBULG website for the competition details and send in your entry.

LOCAL FLORA PROFILE



Flowering Now!

Visit Karlkurla Park.

Common names: Native Hopbush, Bead Hopbush, Sticky Hopbush

Scientific Name: *Dodonaea lobulata*

Size and Form: Multi-branched, upright shrub to 2m high, generally 1 - 1.5m tall.

Flowers: Inconspicuous, however the striking red fruits are often thought to be flowers.

Fruits: Lobed or winged fruits which look like butterflies and are generally red but vary in colour from green to peach and red to almost black. The fruits house small, black seeds.

Leaves: Narrow leaves with small, well rounded lobes along the edge. Leaves are often sticky.

Habitat: A common plant throughout the Goldfields; grows in shallow red soils and sandy loams, on rocky slopes, ridges and hillsides.

Uses:

- For aromatic oils and potpourri.
- Lovely, medium-sized garden shrub due to its striking red fruits and low water use.

Interesting Facts:

- Is so named because of the similarity of its winged fruit to those of true hops used in brewing.
- Has a lovely aroma, smelling a bit like cinnamon or mixed spice.
- The bush feels sticky when touched as if it has been sprayed with something, hence it is also known as Sticky Hopbush.

(The information above is reproduced from KBULG produced materials.)

The Goldfields Waterwise Plants Poster & the Native Plant Guide are available from the KBULG office, along with a variety of other informative pamphlets.

JUNIOR LANDCARE

It's been a busy three months for KBULG's Junior Landcare classes.

There has been many activities running. Classes have been busy treeplanting, bushwalking and making seedballs.

Making seedballs involves mixing clay, compost, native seed and water, then getting really muddy and dirty! (Sorry mums and dads doing the clothes washing)

Once rolled and dried the seedballs are then thrown around areas to be revegetated or stored for future use. The clay protects the seed until we get enough rain for the clay to soften and 'melt', allowing the seeds to germinate.



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 (Corner Wilson and MacDonald Streets, Kalgoorlie).

Phone: 9091 6233 or 0418 935 498 Web: www.kalgoorlie.com/kbulg Email: kbulg@emerge.net.au