

Greetings!

As we see the last of our seedlings go out the door, we would like to remind you that it is time to start thinking about your requirements for the 2010 planting season! See details below.

We would also like to keep you informed about what we are doing to not only grow better plants, but to assure a long term future for the work we all believe in - ensuring that a wide variety of local native plants are available for revegetation projects, farms and gardens.

Best wishes

Carolyn Switzer, Chairperson, LCN

Sep 2009



### Two of our valuable vollies

Volunteers make it possible for the Leschenault Community Nursery to achieve what it does and Julie and Barry Clarke are a good example. They have been volunteers with LCN for the last three years and can be seen there at least once a week.

When looking for something interesting to do in their retirement a fellow member of the Bunbury Naturalists' Club suggested they might like to do something with native plants.

Julie said "Being here and learning about how to propagate from cuttings has enhanced my passion for native flora. It's a lovely place to be too - the people are so friendly."

Barry said they have always had an interest in native bush and have been bushwalking together from the time they first met over 45 years ago.

He said "Since coming here I have learned about growing plants from seed, so now I do that at home to grow vegetables - something I had never attempted before."

On the weekends, you might see Julie and Barry out collecting seed or taking part in activities with Friends of Manea Park or the Group TENG (To Encourage Native Gardens) at Dalyellup.

There are many activities to choose from at the nursery and new volunteers are always welcome to come along and have a go.

### Order now

***It's time to think about what you will be planting next winter!***

- Deadline **30 November 2009**
- Order form, species list & prices attached
- See website for more information
- Priority goes to those who order first

If you would like advice about what to grow at your site, please talk it over with the nursery staff. We have a lot of expertise available and are committed to helping you.

**Please note new mail address.**

### LCN contacts

Website: [www.leschenaultcommunitynursery.com.au](http://www.leschenaultcommunitynursery.com.au)

Email via the website.

Johnston Road site: ph/fax 9791 4670

Project Manager: Mark Kennedy 0417 181 131

Mail: PO Box 4086, East Bunbury WA 6231

Board Chairperson: Carolyn Switzer ph 9721 2531

## Establishing our future

There are exciting times ahead for the Leschenault Community Nursery. The Board has initiated some planning activities to ensure LCN achieves its strategic intention "*To be an effective partner in the restoration, conservation and maintenance of healthy natural ecosystems in the South West, particularly in the Leschenault Catchment.*"

Activities are:

- Customer Satisfaction Survey
- Risk Management Plan
- Quality Assurance Plan
- Operational Plan

Leigh Shinde of Inspire Environmental carried out a **Customer Satisfaction Survey** on our behalf. We are grateful to those who took part because the survey has provided us with insights as to where we need to improve to meet customer expectations. We will be paying significantly more attention to plant quality in the coming season.

A key risk identified by staff, volunteers and Board at a **Risk Management Workshop** lead by Greg Allard of GnL Enterprises was the lack of an assured site in future years. The Johnston Road site, on Bunbury Port Authority land, is subject to the planned port expansion. The Board want to address the uncertainty this causes over the next 12 – 18 months.

We are grateful for the support provided by the Department of Water and the Bunbury Port Authority over the last 10 years in providing this site, but feel it is time to make a definitive change that will relieve uncertainty and allow us to invest wisely in infrastructure that will help us achieve Nursery Association accreditation.

The current **Quality Assurance** process that uses the Customer Satisfaction Survey and the Risk Management Plan as a starting point will be the key to improved quality down the track. We are happy to have Jacqueline Stenhouse of Dinnie Enterprises working alongside us at the nursery for the next few months to ensure that good practices are not just recorded, but also implemented.

An **operational plan** including budget scenarios is being prepared by a sub-committee of the Board with input from the staff and will inform critical decisions over the next year.

## Native Orchids

The newest thing at the nursery this spring is the construction of a place to propagate rare native orchids with a view to reintroducing them to their former habitat.

This project is the brainchild of Jeff Hardwick, a lecturer in Conservation and Land Management at the SW Regional College of TAFE and has been

funded in part by the State Government's 2009 Community Environmental Grants.

LCN is pleased to be able to provide support to Jeff in the collaboration he has established between the College, the Department of Environment and Conservation and Kings Park Botanic Gardens.

TAFE students will be involved in all aspects of the work.

For more information about this project please call Jeff Hardwick SWRC of TAFE, Bunbury phone 9780 7290.

## Native plants for nutrient stripping

Four native plant species are being trialled by UWA and the Department of Water for their ability to clean up water in drains and thus prevent excess nutrients contaminating downstream waterbodies. The four species are *Melaleuca laterita*, *Baumea rubiginosa*, *Baumea juncea* and *Juncus subsecundus*.

The research effort which will be completed in another 2 years will result in guidelines for vegetation choice and filter media that can be used by those undertaking Water Sensitive Urban Design practices involving biofiltration of drainage water.

James Cowden of the Department of Water in Busselton spoke about the project at a recent seminar organised by the Leschenault Catchment Council. In addition to the research, "rain gardens" have been installed on road verges in the Busselton light industrial area (Strelly Street and Barlee Street) to act as biofiltration systems and these retrofits are being monitored.

More information: James Cowden phone 9781 0188

## Seed to Tree

The nursery has been providing support for an educational DVD to show high school students how to grow native plants from seed. Richard Swan, a former teacher, a 'Hot Rock' said they identified a gap in sustainability education so this project will introduce actions that young people can take towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

Scenes have been shot in the nursery and in the field to show how seed is collected and sown, and then how the seedling is planted. LCN project manager, Mark Kennedy, has become a star!

The DVD is at the editing stage now and will be available soon. For more information, contact Richard Swan – richard@thehotrock.org.au