



WELCOME TO THE CHAPMAN ESTUARY TIMES

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Chapman Estuary Times Newsletter. This newsletter provides the community with an update on the status of the recommended actions identified in the Chapman River Estuary Reserve Action Plan 2022-25. The newsletter will be uploaded to the City's website every second month.

What's been happening in the Estuary?

A deliberately lit fire swept through the south-western corner of the Chapman Estuary along Crowtherston Street on 8th April. The perpetrator has since been caught by police. Thank you to DFES staff and local bushfire brigade volunteers for attending and promptly extinguishing the bushfire which minimised the damage to the area and surrounding private property.

TAFE students have recently returned to the Estuary to undertake follow-up weed mapping and vegetation surveys. We look forward to seeing their reports.

Two large rabbit warrens were identified on the grassed area north of river mouth. These warrens were fumigated with entrance/exits filled in with sand and hessian.

What's been happening at the Chapman River Regional Park?

A rabbit and kangaroo proof enclosure has been erected in the Park, adjacent to Ego Creek, in preparation for this seasons revegetation program. The area will accommodate up to 6000 native seedlings.

The six week long feral rabbit baiting program across the Park has finished. The City's licenced contractor reported a total control of 4410 rabbits. This is a great result for the environment and surrounding private properties.

We continue to advocate to the community that the responsibility for biosecurity is shared by everyone. The City encourages neighbours to work together to implement rabbit control measures across multiple properties which has greater effectiveness.

Unfortunately, there is no simple solution to this complex rabbit problem. We encourage landowners to commit to ongoing control activities using different management strategies. Check out our website [here](#) for more information.

The Rabbit Control workshop held on 23rd February was a great success. The City is investigating a potential collaborated Calicivirus release with private landholders and City managed contractors for the 2025 season. Please contact environmentalplanning@cgg.wa.gov.au or 08 9956 6600 for further information.

Fence and gate vandalism is an ongoing issue in the Park. The latest vandalism repair has been to a section of the fence line at Tappak St entrance.

Chapman River Friends (CRF) and TAFE are currently planning joint weed control activities across Chapman River Regional Park. Stay tuned for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- Join CRF, Spokes Cycle Club and Geraldton Mountain Bike Club for their annual Clean Up Day. Saturday 27 April, 9am to 11am. Meet at Spalding Park carpark. Morning tea provided. BYO coffee mug and gloves.
- The One Who Planted Trees –An inspirational puppet musical designed to show that even the smallest actions can have big gains. It is the uplifting story of one woman's quest to change the world around her, told by a quirky cast of puppet animals. 2nd May 2024, 6.30pm, at Queens Park Theatre. Tickets available [here](#)
- [National Reconciliation Week](#) 27 May to 3 June.
- Join AUSMAP for a free training session on the standardised field methodology for collecting, sorting and identifying microplastics. Tuesday 4 June, 8.45 to 3pm. Meet at Batavia Coast Maritime Institute. Register via the QR code
- [NAIDOC Week](#) 2 to 9 July.



BREAKING NEWS

The Community Nursery has recently welcomed new officer Nina to the team. The Community Nursery collects native provenance seed and propagates them alongside a team of volunteers for City revegetation projects. Check out the Community Nursery's website page including volunteer information [here](#)



Community Nursery seedlings. Photo CGG



Community Nursery seedlings. Photo CGG

A fire was deliberately lit at the Chapman River Estuary along Crowtherton Street.



Estuary fire. Photo CGG



Estuary fire. Photo CGG

PARK TRAIL BROCHURE

Chapman River Regional Park Trail Network brochure. Download the brochure [here](#). It is also available on the City's website.



DID YOU KNOW?

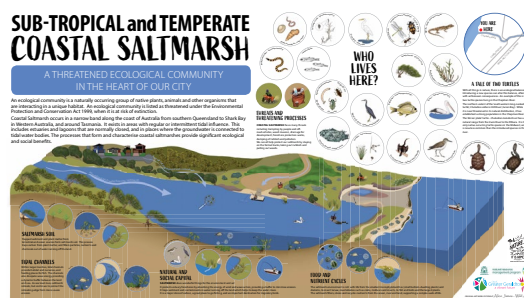
The Chapman River Estuary contains a subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh. This important Threatened Ecological Community provides a breeding and nursery habitat for fish, birds, and crustaceans. Other important values include erosion control, nutrient filtering, and carbon storage.

A major threat to the coastal saltmarsh at the Chapman River Estuary is foot and bike traffic. If visiting the estuary, please stick to paths and trails.



This area contains a
**THREATENED
ECOLOGICAL
COMMUNITY**

Please stay on designated trail



MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UPDATE

E1 Rabbit Control

Recommended Action: Rabbit control.

Action to Date: The 6 week long feral rabbit baiting program across the Park has finished. The City's licenced contractor reported a total number of 4410 rabbits controlled within this timeframe. The treated rabbit number is calculated by total pindone bait laid and consumed over the 6 week period. Any excess bait leftover was removed or neutralised and buried. Two large rabbit warrens were located at the Estuary. One had 9 entrance/exits and the other had 7. These warrens were fumigated with entrance/exits filled in with sand and hessian.

E2 Weed Control

Recommended Action: Weed Control

Action to Date: Upcoming Boxthorn Blitz workshops are currently being organised. Keep an eye out on City socials and the next newsletter for dates and locations.

E5 Monitoring of Threatened Ecological Community

Recommended Action: Continue long-term monitoring by stakeholders

Action to Date: In March 2024 Environmental Monitoring and Technology students from Central Regional TAFE were back out at the Estuary to conduct weed mapping and vegetation surveys. We look forward to seeing their reports.

CRF continue to be an "eyes on the ground" at the Estuary and promptly report any issues to the City.

E7 Opportunities for revegetation

Recommended Action: Opportunities for revegetation

Action to Date: Organisation of CRF's community planting day is currently underway with the City. This will be held along Swan Drive at the Chapman Estuary. Keep an eye out on City socials and the next newsletter for a date and time. Morning tea will be provided and everyone is welcome so please come along and join in.

S3 Signage – Review signage and install/remove signage as required

Recommended Action: Develop a signage plan consistent with messaging, education and compliance.

Action to Date: The Environmental team is currently working on a collaborative signage project with Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation that highlights the Estuary's cultural history and importance to local Aboriginal people. This project is in the initial planning stages.

S5 Install/ Renew Seating

Recommended Action: Install and renew bench seating.

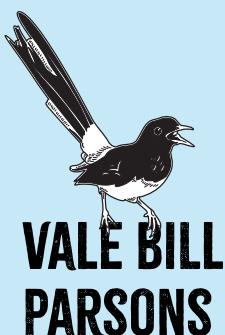
Action to Date: The Environmental team is waiting on a Regulation 10 approval through the revised ACH Act 1972 to replace the recreational seat by Nazareth House.



Photo credit: CRF – *Verticordia chrysantha*



Photo credit: CRF – *White-faced heron in samphire at Chapman River Estuary*



The Environmental team are deeply saddened to share the news of the recent passing of Bill Parsons. Bill was the owner, and manager, of local Geraldton business Parscape. Bill, with his dedicated team, worked alongside City staff over many years implementing rehabilitation and revegetation projects in the City's Natural Areas and recreational parks. His dedication and specialist expertise will leave a lasting impact on the environment and the people he worked beside. Losing someone like Bill is not only a loss for those who knew him personally but for the broader community. Some of Parscape's larger City projects include AMC Park, the rehabilitation of Beresford Foreshore, and multiple coastal and Chapman River Regional Park rehabilitation projects. This is where Bill's legacy of environmental stewardship lives on. Thank you Bill, you will be missed.