

# The Leaf'let

Environment & Sustainability Newsletter

JULY 2025

## Welcome to the first edition of the Leaf'let the quarterly City Environment and Sustainability newsletter.

The intent of this newsletter is to inform the community of the projects the City's Environment and Sustainability (E&S) team are undertaking in the City of Greater Geraldton. The E&S team are responsible for the restoration, enhancement, and protection of City managed remnant bushland areas. We provide a variety of biodiversity, natural areas, climate change and sustainability programs while undertaking a range of coastal protection projects.

With the help of dedicated volunteers our team is also responsible for the management of the City's Community Nursery growing local provenance seedling, and tree saplings, for the City's revegetation projects in our Natural Areas, Parks and Gardens.

## Community Boxthorn Blitz clean up events

The City has recently completed five community Boxthorn Blitz workshops. There was a successful turnout to all workshops held at Spalding Park, Sunset Beach, Cape Burney, Beachlands and in Drummond Cove. The workshops aim was to teach community members on the safe removal methods for small African Boxthorn plants. At the end of the workshop each participant was given a Boxthorn Blitz bag with safety equipment, secateurs and herbicide so they can carry on blitzing boxthorn in the wider community. Thank you for all community members for participating in those workshops and sharing their stories and morning tea with us.

Thank you to Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC) for running the workshops and demonstrating the proper removal method of the African boxthorn. A big thankyou to the community groups hosting the Boxthorn Blitz workshops with NACC - Chapman River Friends, Birdlife Midwest and Geraldton, Beachlands Community Garden and Sunset Beach

## Upcoming EVENTS



**6th – 13th July**

[NAIDOC Week](#)

**6th July**

**Community Planting Day**

with Chapman River Friends, Swan Drive, 9am - 12pm

**26th July**

**Community Planting Day**

with Birdlife Midwest-Geraldton, Cape Burney Beach, 9am-11am

**27th July**

**National Tree Day**

<https://treeday.planetark.org/>

Community Group for hosting these workshops in June.

Interested in next year's Boxthorn Blitz workshops? Keep an eye on City socials for more information or register for updates by sending an email to [environmentalplanning@cgg.wa.gov.au](mailto:environmentalplanning@cgg.wa.gov.au)

Further information on Boxthorn control can be found [here](#).



Photo courtesy Chapman River Friends

# Community Nursery

The City's Community Nursery Officer, alongside a group of dedicated volunteers, propagated around 25,000 local provenance plants for City rehabilitation projects and for the City's recreational parks and gardens.

Planting nursery-raised tubestock, or seedlings, is one of the most commonly used revegetation methods. City contractors are currently undertaking site preparation in the Chapman River Park and in our soft coast projects.

Throughout our wetter months, June to August, City contractors will be undertaking planting on larger rehabilitation projects. Community groups will assist with the planting of smaller projects.

Successful revegetation initiatives help maintain ecosystem balance and improve soil structure. Replanting native vegetation helps keep the area's natural biodiversity intact, helps reduce soil erosion, and prevents weed infestation.

It provides habitat for wildlife, increases water retention, provides shelter to other vegetation, and increases oxygen production.

The annual community planting event will be hosted by CRF on the 6th of July along Swan Drive in **Sunset Beach**, anyone who is interested is welcome to attend the event.

No gardening experience required, and refreshments will be provided. Please wear suitable clothes and footwear. Bring your own gloves and a water bottle.

The Community Nursery now has a new feature garden and seed orchard! The garden was designed to generate supplementary seed for our volunteers to access for future propagation endeavours. Now we wait until it grows.

If you would like to become a Community Nursery volunteers, please find the details [here](#).



Community Nursery Volunteers & City Officer



Plants Grown at the Community Nursery



Eremophila glabra Emu Bush



Rehabilitation Planting with the CRF 2024



## Career Expo

Our Environment and Sustainability team attended the Nagle Futures Day Career Expo to inspire our future managers about the possibilities in the local government sector. Different council departments had the opportunity to showcase what they do for the City, to provide insight and answer questions about career opportunities within sector. The Environment and Sustainability team were well received showcasing native plants grown at the City's Community Nursery and a family of migratory endangered Fairy Terns that breed at the Greenough River mouth.



CGG Environment, Sustainability and Waste team members

## Pest proofing

Site Preparation for the City's Annual Planting Program is underway. City Contractors have installed roughly 700m of Pest Proof Fencing across two revegetation sites within Chapman River Regional Park. The fencing will keep out grazing animals, such as rabbits and kangaroos, giving the seedlings the best chance of survival in a predation free habitat.



Fairy Tern Family

## Pest management - Rabbit Control Program

The eight weeks of the Integrated Rabbit Control Program across City of Greater Geraldton has now concluded. The aim of the control program was to reduce the impact of rabbits on private property and in the City's natural environment. The two-month long program was rolled out in two stages. The first stage was the release of the RHDV1 K5 calicivirus in areas of the highest rabbit population in Glenfield, Moresby, Waggrakine and parts of Strathalbyn.

Stage one ran for four weeks followed by stage two which included rabbit baiting and warren fumigation and destruction on City managed land.

The City's licensed contractors reported a large drop in pindone bait uptake, in comparison to previous years, which is a good indication of

the effectiveness of the RHDV1 K5 calicivirus virus release. Nighttime spotlighting revealed a significant reduction in rabbit population size.

European rabbits are among the most common and widespread animal pests in Australia. They compete with livestock and native animals for pasture and food, damage crops and native vegetation, and cause erosion. Rabbits pose a serious threat to both agriculture and native biodiversity.

Thank you to all the community members who participated in the virus release and to our City contractor working relentlessly day and night to complete this year's rabbit control program. If you would like more information regarding the City's Integrated Rabbit Control Program please see [here](#).



## Not all bunnies are bad

Thanks to the CRF and Bill Belson for capturing the beautiful tiny Bunny Orchid, *Eriochilus dilatatus*, flowering in the Chapman River Regional Park. The Bunny Orchid is one of the earliest flowering orchids and can be identified by its drooping ears.



## Soft coastal works

The City's Soft Coastal Rehabilitation Program has commenced. City contractors have started laying brushing from Explosives Track working towards Page's Beach at Point Moore.

Brushing, with locally sourced branches, are laid to temporarily stabilise, and cover the sand, until more permanent vegetation becomes established. For suitable brushing projects the City plants locally grown seedling amongst the brushing to speed up the vegetation establishment.

Sand trap fencing will soon be installed in Greenough in preparation for the revegetation during the wetter months. Sand trap fences are a nature-based solution to initiate dune growth along sandy shorelines for coastal protection. Moving sand collides with the fences and the particles drop, temporarily accumulating around the base of the fences.

The Environment and Sustainability team will be working with various community groups for rehabilitation projects along our coastlines.



# Shout out to the Chapman River Friends

At the start of May, the CRF organised their Annual Family Clean Up at Spalding Park with a great turn out!

More than 22 volunteers enjoyed their Saturday morning with a rewarding community morning tea after being hard at work removing rubbish from our river system and park. The CRF volunteers cleaned the park and even kayaked along the riverbanks picking up rubbish ranging from fishing line and plastic to heavy materials such as metal sheets and bikes in the river.

The event was supported by the City of Greater Geraldton and Keep Australia Beautiful.

Chapman River Friend's, NACC and all the community members who attended the first Boxthorn Blitz workshop held at Spalding Park. The volunteers were keen to learn the methods on how to control boxthorn.

Their newly honed skills will be put to the test on smaller boxthorn plants located in City Reserves, adjoining reserves and private property. Everyone was happy to share a cuppa, cake and a chat at the end of the workshop.

Interested? Register for updates by sending an email to [environmentalplanning@cgg.wa.gov.au](mailto:environmentalplanning@cgg.wa.gov.au)



Family Clean Up Day. Photo courtesy Nicky Martin



Boxthorn Blitz Workshop



## Ospreys are back

Our Osprey have returned to the Point Moore nest and are displaying courting. The pair are often observed perching on their nest and surroundings.

Once the osprey, and fledglings, leave the nest the City are planning to undertake maintenance, by adding additional structural support, to their perching/nesting pole this summer to prepare for their hopeful return next year. Another pair was spotted starting to build a nest at our Bluff Point site.

