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*Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community Landcare*

**COMMUNITY LANDCARE OFFICER REPORT – 13th January to 10th February 2021**

Work completed or in progress:

**CLO Admin-**

* + Updated the Community Landcare and Bridgetown Community Facebook pages with current and planned activities. The Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community Landcare page can be found at: [*www.facebook.com/BridgetownGreenbushesCommunityLandcare*](http://www.facebook.com/BridgetownGreenbushesCommunityLandcare).
	+ Sent out the February 2021 Landcare Update via email and snail mail to 187 recipients.
	+ Worked from home during the Covid lockdown last week.
	+ Assisted Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire landholders and residents with-
		- general landcare queries,
		- native plant identification and weed control information,
		- property visits,
		- insect identification,
		- water monitoring,
		- supply of native grass seed to include in landholders pasture mix.

**Water monitoring-**

* + Monitored Somme Creek, Geegeelup Brook, the Shire Dam and the Blackwood River on 10/02/2021. The water samples are taken from the same place at each site and approximately 30cm below the water surface where possible. Sent Shire Dam results to Aaron Hide at the Shires Parks and Gardens section.
		- Results are-
			* Geegeelup Brook - pH 7.3; EC 2800µs/cm; water temp 16.9°C
			* Somme Creek - pH 7.3; EC 1500µs/cm; water temp 19.2°C
			* Blackwood River- pH 8.1; EC 5300µs/cm; water temp 21.1°C
			* Shire Dam- pH 8.9; EC 3200µs/cm; water temp 21.2°C

**Helping Hands Bushcare volunteers-**

* **Somme Creek Parklands** behind the Bridgetown Library **-**
	+ Northern side of the creek- hand-weeded along and beside the creekline. Pruned and raked paths to allow public access to the artworks. Cut and removed all fallen branches and dead shrubs to minimise the fire risk in the area. Piled all of the vegetation and contacted the Shire to help remove it.
* Covid19 lockdown last week caused the cancellation of the second February Helping Hands activity.

**Workshops-**

* Prepared and promoted a **‘Great Cocky Count’ workshop** in partnership with Birdlife WA to be held on 20th February. This is the first of eight workshops and field days to promote our natural assets to the general community, funded through our successful State NRM Community Stewardship Grant.

**‘What Lives in My Backyard?’ motion sensor camera loan project-**

* Five cameras currently out on loan. One has been returned damaged. Cats and rabbits still most commonly seen creatures.

**State NRM Office Community Stewardship Grant- Application**

***‘Managing Shire Bushland Reserves for Highest Environmental and Social Returns’***

* + Continued to liaise with State NRM Office to complete the steps in the contracting process. Final documents signed and sent yesterday. The project will run until 30th June 2022.
	+ Met with Steve Ward from DFES to discuss the Fire Management Plans required to include in the Reserve Management Plans. Will continue discussions with Lyndon Pearce tomorrow.

**Pollinator Project-**

* + Helped with the Seedling Survival Survey at one property to monitor success of last winters revegetation plantings.
	+ Reviewed the supply of all 2021 winter seedling orders, followed up supplementary ordering where required.

**Others-**

* + Monitored dam and creek water samples for local residents.
	+ Picked up the botanical paintings from the Bridgetown Library that were loaned to the Shire. Of the 13 paintings loaned, three have been damaged and another three are missing. To be followed up with the Shire.
	+ Looked at potential habitat nodes along the Rectory Walk Trial. Put on hold until the methods of weed control are clarified and confirmed with the traditional owners, and pre- and post-planting maintenance issues are resolved.
	+ Completed making the Cocky-cam (directional camera attached to a 12m extension pole) with help from the Shire Works mechanic and Mitre 10 staff. Ready to use to check the artificial nesting hollows installed in Shire Reserves next breeding season.
	+ Met with Elizabeth Denniss regarding Shire interactions and more plus discuss our reasons for withdrawing from Northern Information Bay project.
	+ Investigated Workplace Health and Safety training courses. Will attend a 2-day course in April.
	+ Seed collect native grasses- Tweed Rd Flora Reserve.
	+ Extract native seed collected from Shire Refuse Site prior to land disturbance there.
	+ BES registered for ‘Containers for Change’ program, funds raised will go towards tools and equipment for the Helping Hands Bushcarers program.

With warm regards,

**Cheryl Hamence**

Community Landcare Officer

10/02/2021