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*Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community Landcare*

**COMMUNITY LANDCARE OFFICER REPORT –11th February to 9th March 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).
	+ Assisted Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire landholders and residents with-
		- general landcare queries,
		- native plant identification and weed control information,
		- property visits,
		- insect identification,
		- water monitoring of dams and creeks,
		- supply of native grass seed to residents.

**Water monitoring-**

* + Monitored Somme Creek, Geegeelup Brook, the Shire Dam and the Blackwood River on 8/03/2021. 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 7.9; EC 2600µs/cm; water temp 18.9°C
			* Somme Creek - pH 7.4; EC 1900µs/cm; water temp 20.9°C
			* Blackwood River- pH 8.2; EC 5300µs/cm; water temp 22.6°C
			* Shire Dam- pH 8.2; EC 3200µs/cm; water temp 22.5°C

**Helping Hands Bushcare volunteers-**

* **Greenbushes Pool-**
	+ Cut back vegetation beside the walk trail and boardwalk, removed a lot of dead branches and other vegetation beside the boardwalk. Hand pulled and cut woody weeds around the area, Talison Environment Dept staff assisted with chainsaw work to remove mature weed wattles.
* **Somme Creek Parklands** behind the Bridgetown Library **-**
	+ Continued along the northern side of the creek- hand-weeded along and beside the creekline. Cut and removed all fallen branches and dead shrubs to minimise the fire risk in the area. Piled all of the vegetation and pruning’s for Shire to remove

**Blackwood Biosecurity-**

* Attended a meeting of all committee members, DPIRD and LBG for an update on the current restructure of the group, and the process and timeline going forward.

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

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

* + Met with Lyndon Pearce, Hugh Wheatley and Chris Sousa to further discuss the Fire Management Plans required to include in the Reserve Management Plans.
	+ Held a ‘Great Cocky Count’ workshop in partnership with Birdlife WA on Sat 20th February attended by 25 people. The field visit section of the workshop was held along Tweed Rd where 206 x Carnaby’s Black Cockatoos were counted returning to their night roost at dusk This was the first of eight workshops and field days to promote our Shire Bushland Reserves to the general community.

**Pollinator Project-**

* + Helped with the Seedling Survival Survey at a property in Winnejup to monitor the success of last winter’s revegetation plantings, resulting in a successful seedling survival rate of over 90%.
	+ Completed the quarterly photo-point monitoring at the three project sites in preparation of the 2020-21 Q3 project reporting.

**Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire-**

* Met with Gilbert Arlandoo and Pete Mead to clarify the process for any interactions between myself and the Shire Parks and Gardens staff and Works Dept staff. Anything major or operational then Gilbert should be the point of contact, smaller works support such as with Helping Hands Pete Mead is the contact person.
* I offered to purchase low growing native plants to be planted in the garden bed beside Hampton St outside the Visitors Centre rather than the annuals currently planted there to showcase pollinator friendly and water wise species. Gilbert agreed and suggested that it could include the garden bed on the western side of Hampton St and that the Shire would cover the cost of the plants. He has also agreed that I can work with Aaron Hide (Parks and Gardens) to progress this. Planting will occur in winter.

**Others-**

* + Sent grant information to a group of landholders to initiate a joint project, will follow up with technical support and assistance with writing the grant in early April.
	+ Gave a talk on Environmental Sustainability at Transition Towns Vote Compass gathering, facilitated groups after talk. Continuing biodiversity loss was the most important issue raised.
	+ Botanical paintings- Shire has offered to have the three damaged paintings repaired and will continue to look for the three missing paintings.
	+ Collected cutting material from native plants for landcare nursery to propagate, plants will be used in various Landcare projects.
	+ Attended a Land for Wildlife GRID GIS training session in Bunbury.
* The Community Landcare Office will be unattended for two weeks from 15th March while I am on annual leave and will reopen on Monday 29th March.

With warm regards,

**Cheryl Hamence**

Community Landcare Officer

9/03/2021