

1 YEAR OF FOR NATURE

It has been a great first year of For Nature! More than 400 participants took part in the program gaining valuable inspiration, knowledge and incentives to look after biodiversity on their patch.

We had a great response to our workshops and the open nature gardens event was a huge success, inspiring residents from the southwest in all the amazing ways you can incorporate native plants into your gardens.

Behind the scene there has been a lot of on-ground conservation work going on too. A few examples include a coordinated woody weed program in Burnside involving 17 residence controlling problem weeds such as the high priority Sydney golden wattle and sweet pittosporum.

A number of landholders have also undertaken revegetation projects aimed at enhancing riparian areas on their property. And some big projects in Karridale and Deep Dene have also been undertaken to strategically control localised dolichos pea and vinca infestations in high priority karri forest and along the Turner Brook.

Additionally many landholders have received biodiversity plans for their properties which allows them to identify their environmental values and prioritise management actions.

We are looking forward to a much BIGGER year in 2022! We have landholder grants available again and if you would like to know more get in touch with Peta Lierich the For Nature officer peta.lierich@natureconservation.org.au Check out a snapshot of our achievements on the next page.

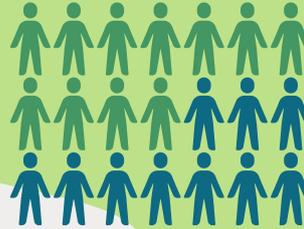
Djeran - April to May

The Noongar seasonal calendar includes six different seasons in a yearly cycle. Djeran (ant season) brings cooler nights and dew in the early mornings. Banksia flowers start to blossom, providing nectar for mammals, birds and insects.



426 Registrations

A total of 426 people joined the For Nature program to get involved in conservation action in 2021



Landholder Types

For Nature aims to engage rural and urban landholders and our level of engagement in the first year has exceeded our expectation

Rural landholders 42%

Rural residential 32%

Urban 26%

What has

For Nature

Achieved

37
landholders supported for conservation work

6
Biodiversity Assessments

3020
Revegetation Plants

63
Hectares of Weed control

28
Native Plant Vouchers Given

35.61
Hectares of Dieback Assessed

66
Landholder visits

509
People attended landholder events





FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR CONSERVATION WORK

Grants totalling \$60,000 are available for landowners to carry out conservation work on their property this year.

The work can include weed control, fencing of remnant bushland and waterways to exclude stock, revegetation to restore biodiversity, and dieback management. To apply, click [here](#) to download the expression of interest form.

The initiative, which is available through the For Nature Landowner Stewardship Program, is designed to inspire, educate and assist local residents to boost the conservation value of their property and surrounding bushland. Landowners can apply for grants on a 50 per cent cost-share basis, matching the grant money dollar for dollar with cash or their own labour.

Now in its second year, the grants program began in 2021 when NCMRR shared out \$30,000 among 37 land holders, achieving some fantastic results. Read on for a case study on how the For Nature program supported Treeton landholders Elaine and Kevin Bancroft in Riparian restoration.



Photo by Keith Lightbody

These kind of incentives are important as 70% of land in the Margaret River region is privately owned, and local residents are vital to help protect biodiversity. Land stewardship is about upholding our responsibility to care for the land around us in a way that preserves all its values, whether they are environmental, economic, or cultural. When it comes to private land, we often focus only on economic value, with environmental values coming second. Fortunately, we don't need to make large sacrifices to bring better balance to how we manage the land and the property we own.

The For Nature Landowner Stewardship Program supports private landowners who want to maintain the unique environmental values of their property, like wildlife habitat, sensitive natural areas, or rare species. Participants benefit from the trained expertise of NCMRR staff, who provide support, financial assistance, and guidance to help them toward this goal.

As part of the program, cost-sharing arrangements are also available to carry out biodiversity assessments. The plans are designed to help landowners understand the values, threats and conservation management activities needed on their properties.

Case Study: Riparian Revegetation & Weed Control

With about 70% of land in the Margaret River region privately owned, local residents are vital to help protect biodiversity. Kevin & Ellaine Bancroft are a great example of landholders doing their part.

Kevin & Ellaine bought their property 'Koolbardi Creek' in Treeton 2 years ago. The Bancrofts had a desire to return to the south west as they have a deep love of the environment and had met in the south west 20 years ago. The property has 6.3 hectares of remnant bushland and a tributary of the Carburnup river dissecting their property. The waterway way was mostly in good condition with healthy riparian vegetation however, the Bancroft's noted kikuyu and Juncus microcephalus had starting to encroach and some areas lacked vegetation completely. Kevin & Ellaine were motivated to maintain a healthy biodiverse habitat.

"The desire to leave a legacy for all living things including our family, motivates us as caretakers of this spectacular landscape. Restoration of the creekline and other areas at Koolbardi Creek are of particular importance. This responsibility is great, as the little creek supports wildlife on our property and surrounding areas" Mrs Bancroft said. The property and surrounding areas is home to western quoll or 'chuditch' which is our largest native carnivore. Pictured right, it was accidentally caught when trapping for foxes.



Through NCMRR and For Nature funding the Bancroft's received assistance to do weed control on 3 hectares of the riparian zone. Weed control was undertaken twice over a 8 week period to successfully suppress the kikuyu and Juncus. Subsequent riparian planting including a variety of species that are well adapted to a very wet site will be planted in June and October this year.

If you want advice, get involved, or start a project on your property apply [hear](#) or get in contact with Peta Lierich the For Nature Landholder Stewardship officer peta.lierich@natureconservation.org.au



Take our Landholder Survey!

The For Nature Landholder Stewardship Program has completed its first year. It was a great year and we learnt a lot along the way. To make sure we are being the best we possibly can for our participants please fill out this short survey. The survey also gives us valuable information to support the program into the future with funding bodies.

For Nature Landholder Stewardship Program

Project evaluation survey



Win a Tube Nursery Voucher!

We have a number of Cowaramup Tube Nursery plant vouchers to give out. Please fill out the survey to the best of your ability and you will surely win a voucher!

[TAKE THE SURVEY NOW](#)

Planning Revegetation

There are many benefits to be gained from re-establishing native vegetation in our rural and urban areas.

Whether providing shelter for livestock, pastures and crops, creating habitat for native wildlife, improving our water quality, or improving our quality of life and natural heritage, protecting and re-establishing native vegetation is an important part of the process for achieving sustainable land management.

But there is more to it than picking out a seedling, digging a hole and putting it in the ground. Successful revegetation relies on proper planning and preparation to produce the best results, first time round, ensuring that in each location or situation the right plant goes in the right place, using the right site preparation and revegetation technique at the right time!

Often, the cheapest form of revegetation will be encouraging natural regeneration (germination of self-sown seedlings from existing or nearby vegetation) and should be considered as the first option for re-establishing native vegetation. Direct seeding is a cost-effective and highly efficient technique, particularly for large-scale projects. Carried out by machine or by hand, direct seeding has many applications and advantages for plant establishment. Planting of seedlings is another option. Today seedlings can be grown in a variety of containers, to suit the scale and purposes of works. For more information see our ['revegetating with local native'](#) resource



Photo by Sean Blocksidge

Retaining the existing native vegetation is of critical importance to restoring degraded landscapes. If lost, it is an expensive, lengthy process to replace many of the components of our native ecosystems. Revegetation builds on, supplements and connects these existing areas. The selection of species for revegetation should aim to maximise opportunities to provide environmental, economic and social benefits. Local native (indigenous) species, grown from local seeds or plant material are generally the preferred choice for revegetation. They provide the greatest range of long-term benefits because they:

- are best suited to the local conditions and can still fulfil the functional roles required of farm trees and shrubs;
- maximise biodiversity in the local area;
- provide the best habitat for local wildlife;
- benefit the health of existing remnants
- are well suited to regenerating without assistance;
- benefit farm productivity;
- will maintain the natural character of the local landscape

Planning Revegetation

.....continued

Plant your seedlings immediately following the first few rains (for wetlands and waterlogged areas, planting may best be done when soils are no longer inundated).

Site Preparation

Weeds compete strongly with newly planted or emerging seedlings for both moisture and light. A weed free area prior to planting will allow more soil moisture to be stored for the seedling and can assist with site preparation. All weeds present at the time of planting will be using moisture and may even smother the seedlings (common occurrence with Cape Weed). Control of late germinating weeds will be necessary to prevent competition with the seedling in a crucial stage of its development. Find more information on weed control [here](#).

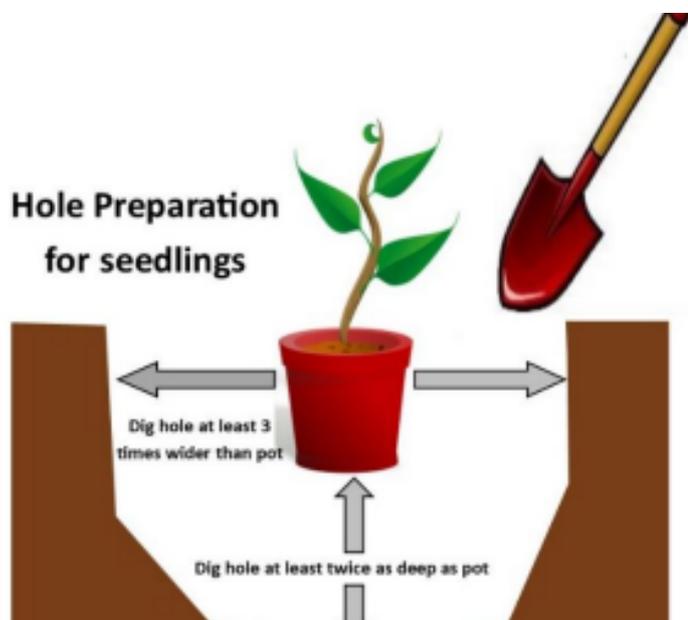
Deep ripping the soil prior to planting or applying direct seed helps relieve soil compaction and allows for better water infiltration, root penetration and establishment. Ripping is undertaken with a machine and a ripping tine. This method is used for large planting sites in cleared areas.

Hole preparation

The key to survival is to dig a hole several times deeper than the seedling container (pot) depth. The deeper the hole and the looser the soil, the easier it will be for the young seedling roots to find their way down and seek out moisture that will sustain the plant during the hot summer months.

Use a shovel or trowel to dig a hole 3 to 4 times as wide as the container. Place the seedling in the middle of the hole, taking care to ensure the root collar sits just below ground level. If the soil is dry, soak the hole with water. If the roots are coiled and only if the plant is pot bound, gently tease out the roots (but do not tease dry roots this can damage them). Place seedling in the centre of the hole and back fill with soil, loosening any compacted soil as you go. Once backfilled, gently press the soil down around the root ball to get rid of any air spaces in the soil. To optimise water retention, create small well

Hole Preparation for seedlings



Hole Preparation



Ensure your plants are well watered in immediately following planting. This will remove any air pockets and give them a good head start.

Tree guarding also provides some protection and a microclimate for plant survival. Remember to monitor your plantings, do follow up weed control and water in the following summer! Find more in depth information [here](#).

Get in touch with the For Nature officer if you would like advice on your revegetation project
peta.Lierich@natureconservation.org.au



Fabulous Fungi

With the Autumn rains expect to start seeing our amazing and varied fungi species of the south west

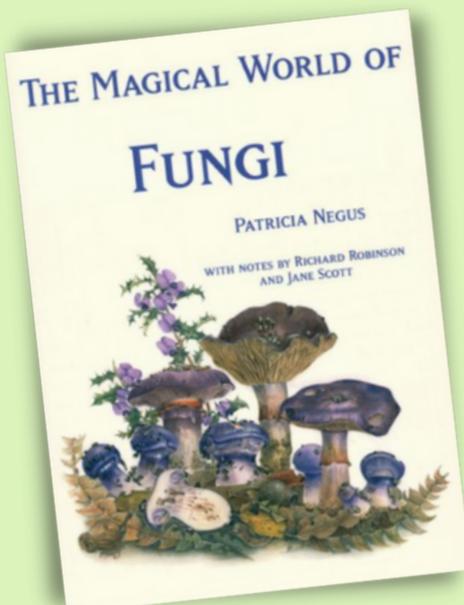
Look out for

The ghost fungus

The ghost fungus (*Omphalotus nidiformis*) starts to fruit after the first autumn rains and it is a common wood-rotting fungus of the south west. Look for it on living tree trunks or dead logs. It's a big fungus ranging from 10–30cm across the cap. It's known as a gilled-bracket fungus because it grows shelf-like out of trees and wood but also has gills like many soil-borne fungi. It is not edible. There are very few fungi worldwide that are bio-luminescent. To best see the ghost fungus glow in the dark you need to first spot them by day and return on a dark night with very little light pollution and wait for your eyes to adapt. Find out more [here](#)



Photo by Phillip Dubbin



For info on the importance and ecology of Fungi click [here](#)

For more fun fungus info check out [the Magical World of Fungi](#) by Patricia Negus

Watch [Fantastic Fungi](#) which takes us on an immersive journey through time and scale into the magical earth beneath our feet, to an underground network that can heal and save our planet



Plant of the season



Swamp Bottlebrush *Beaufortia sparsa*

The swamp bottle brush is the Margaret River floral emblem and endemic to the South West.

The species belongs to the Myrtaceae family. It is a small to medium shrub 2-3 meters in height.

Flowers Jan-April with a striking orange-red inflorescence. The colourful bottlebrush shaped flower clusters are attractive to birds.

A great striking option for a native garden or well suited in a wet area revegetation project. More info [here](#)

Weed of the season



Flinders Ranges wattle *Acacia Iteaphylla*

A popular garden plant grown for its silvery blue/grey leaves and yellow flowers. The shrub grows to about 5 m in height.

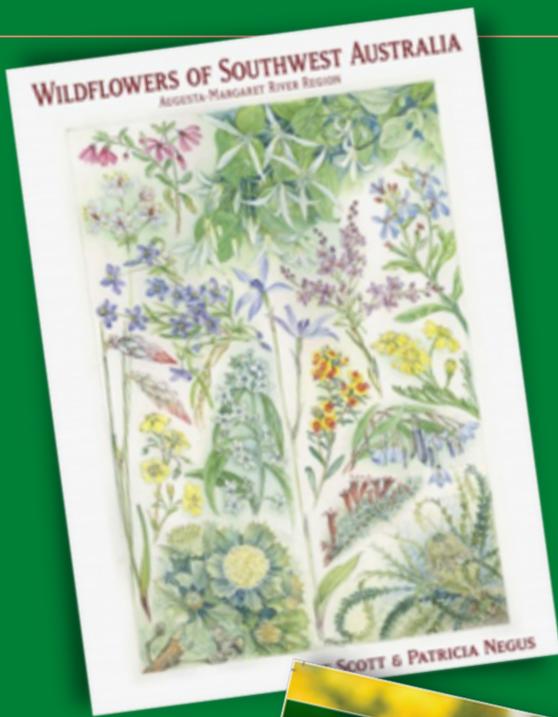
The seeds are carried by ants, small mammals and humans and are very long lived in the soil. They have a high rate of germination especially after a bush fire or soil disturbance.

Find more information [here](#)

Currently Flinders Range Wattle is in full flower and is easy to spot. This makes now a perfect time to identify it and implement control measures.

If you need help identifying this woody weed or other weedy species on your property get in touch with the For Nature officer Peta Lierich to organise a site visit
peta.lierich@natureconservation.org.au

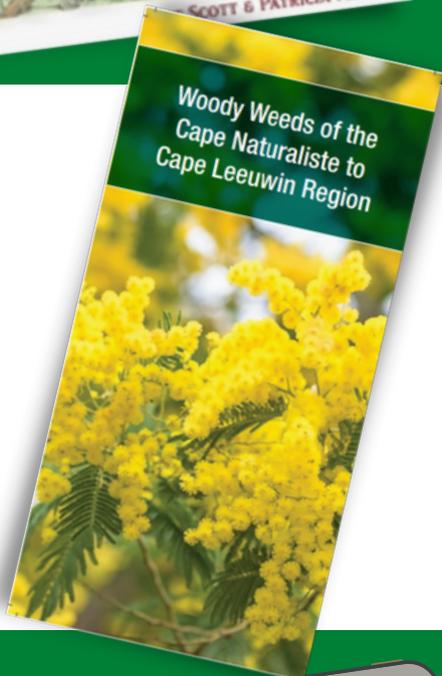
resources



Wildflowers of Southwest Australia

A great plant ID resource to have on your book shelf or whenever you are out and about. Plant descriptions by Jane Scott and botanical illustrations by Patricia Negus

[Buy Here](#)



Woody Weeds of the Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin Region

Detailed information on 31 of the worst woody weeds in the region with control methods and suggestions of some non-weedy alternatives. Pick up a copy from our office at the community centre or download a copy [here](#)



Climate Clever APP

The free ClimateClever Homes App can help you save money AND reduce your impact on the planet!

- Easily track your household electricity, gas and water consumption
- Calculate your household carbon footprint
- Find clever ways to reduce household use with free and low cost actions from the ClimateClever community
- Suggest energy saving renovations and retrofits

[download the free app](#)

Landcare Calendar - Tips for Djeran



- If you planted native seedlings last winter, check them regularly as they may need a drink until the rains settle in
- Start thinking about revegetation for the coming wet season and whether your site might need weed control
- If you have a revegetation site look out for perennial weeds such as kikuyu, couch grass and cape weed. Undertake control once or even twice before you start revegetating.



- Flinders ranges wattle is currently flowering, it is a good time to do some woody weed control before it goes to seed. Click [here](#) for more information
- If you are thinking about feral animal control for your property now is a good time to start as food sources are low and rainfall is low. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information

What's On



- **Revegetate your property** With Drew McKenzie & Ann Ward. Back by popular demand! if you missed out on last years great revegetation workshop we will be running it again in May this year. Follow our Facebook page for event dates.
- **NCMRR Ringtail tally** starts on the 9th of April running for 4 weeks. Get out in your backyard or local area and spot ringtail possums! sign up [here](#)
- **Lower Blackwood Carbon farming unpacked webinar - A** straightforward, step by step explanation of what it is & how it could work for you. Find out more [here](#)
- **Undertake our For Nature landholder survey** so we can best meet your needs and win a plant voucher from the Cowaramup tube nursery. Find the survey [here](#)

WANTED



Do you have a great project happening at your place? a native garden? revegetation project? feral animal control success? we would love to here from you. Send in some details and a picture and we would love to share your great story. peta.lierich@natureconservation.org.au



SUPPORTED BY:



natural resource management program



WATER CORPORATION

