



## **AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2005**

**Hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather!**

Summer saw a dedicated group of volunteers helping out with regular watering of recent plantings at Grant Marine Park. By the end of summer they really needed it. Those plants fortunate enough to catch overspray from sprinklers on the adjacent lawn area have really taken off.

The Sea Dragon Festival was a great success too. Robyn's idea to use our trailer adorned with buckets, spades and a selection of local plants sparked interest and hopefully a few new members to CCA. The theme for our display this year was to encourage the use of local plants on verges in Cottesloe. Using local plants helps to create a habitat which provides food and shelter for local birds, insects and lizards - like the gecko featured on our recent mailer.

This is a group of enthusiastic CCA volunteers photographed at the Sea Dragon Festival. Below they share their experiences of being a part of Coastcare.



*From left; Emiko, Sally Anne, Yuki, Laurel and Mike*

**Laurel Bant** and her grandchildren are regulars at working bees. Little Jesse sometimes comes along and nine year old Callum is an 'old hand' now. Laurel writes, 'I am a retired teacher and I joined Coastcare right at the beginning, nearly ten years ago when we formed South Cottesloe Coastcare. I realise that I'm the only member from those early years still actively working with the group. I like to keep fit and joining the regular activities is a positive way to do this. I love the enthusiasm of the school children and their knowledge and environmental awareness is inspiring. There has been lots of progress over the years, the good ramps Coastcare has built and all our plants growing between South Cottesloe and Grant Marine are wonderful to see'.

**Yuki Carter** writes, 'A few years ago as I walked alongside the sand dunes in South Cottesloe, I noticed a group of people planting seedlings. I enquired what they were doing and received an enthusiastic reply. I had been thinking for some time about ways in which I could give something back to our

precious environment. So began my involvement with Cottesloe Coastcare. Being involved in Cottesloe Coastcare is both positive for our community as well as ourselves. I hope that my small contribution will make a difference so we can continue to enjoy the pleasure that our beautiful coast brings us. It also reminds you how fortunate we are to be living in a wonderful location such as ours'.

Yuki's daughter **Emiko** also writes about lending a hand to the local environment, 'I have just started year 8 at PLC. One pupil free day my friend (**Emma**) and I went with Mum to help with watering of the plants. We spent about an hour carrying buckets filled with special water to the plants. It was hard work, but I absolutely love swimming and the beach so I would like to see it survive'.

**Sally-Ann Jones** writes 'Planting, watering, collecting seeds and removing rubbish, specially bottles and cans which are death-traps for lizards, spiders and insects, is rewarding work. You feel as if you're doing your little bit to help the environment and at the same time you meet a group of friendly people you look forward to seeing again and again. It's hard to better the experience of gathering under a sheoak half-way through a morning's work for a drink, one of Robyn's legendary and delicious rock cakes and a chat. The ocean gleams at the bottom of the dune and all around you is the growing evidence of the group's efforts over the years.

One morning, though, the pleasure was magnified when a mini-bus pulled up in the Grant Street car-park and disgorged a group of young people. They were armed with hats, boots, gloves and water bottles and they marched up the path to where we had just started filling buckets with Wetta Soil and water. They were there to help, they told us -- a gang of back-packers from all over the world doing community service with Conservation Volunteers Australia, in return for some free board. They were enthusiastic, willing and funny. There was a Jewish woman from New York who had just experienced her very first Christmas, a hot one somewhere in rural Australia while her Christian friends back home were throwing snowballs. There were two Korean women taking a break from studying ceramics to see the world. There was a Yorkshire lass about to start work on a cruise ship and two gap year London lads with Jamie Oliver accents and piercings in their lips and eyebrows. As they all helped us water they regaled us with stories of the parties they'd been to on New Year's Eve, the places they'd seen, the plans they had. They made me remember that Cottesloe is only one little piece of the planet benefiting from a world-wide commitment for environmental change.

**Cottesloe Coastcare's committee is chaired by Associate Professor Michael Ewing.**

**Mike writes:**

### **Pottering with Plants**

'Pottering with plants is my idea of fun and so Cottesloe Coastcare gives me the chance to indulge my passion. At the same time I get to know an interesting cross section of local people and get to do something positive about our local surroundings.

Cottesloe Coastcare is a quite special community group. On the one hand it has clear and specific goals which it manages to deliver on with energy and dedication. At the same time its culture is inclusive and flexible. It allows individuals to participate at the level that suits their particular circumstances. I started my involvement by taking part in occasional planting operations that take place on Sundays during winter. I have subsequently become more involved with both the organization and on-ground work. However, work commitments make my involvement somewhat erratic. The team approach of the group has allowed me to stay involved and play a part despite my time constraints.

As with most volunteer groups, the dedication and commitment of a few individuals is a critical success factor and Cottesloe Coastcare is no exception. Their commitment makes it possible for me to participate and play an enjoyable part in the rehabilitation of our local environment.'

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