



## COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION

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### Summer newsletter 2008/2009

**Cottesloe Coastcare volunteers** have had another eventful and satisfying year. We have achieved lots: planted 2,500 local provenance seedlings, removed many dozens of bags of weeds, worked with hundreds of school and University students and been involved with numerous community functions. There are the inevitable frustrations with rabbits, weather and weeds but we have had lots of fun and made good progress too.



**CCA Volunteers have given six hundred and forty voluntary hours working along the Cottesloe foreshore so far this year!** This includes seed collecting, seed cleaning, weeding, planting seedlings, watering seedlings in their first summer, rubbish collecting... and more weeding! Funding bodies value our work at \$30 per hour so our contribution equates to \$19,200 worth of labour, donated to our town by Cottesloe Coastcare. We do not

even add up our hours spent on administration, chasing funding dollars, giving presentations at schools, setting up community displays and working on our website and blog!

### **The Best News of the Year!**

Amidst the gloom and doom we have encountered in the past few months, there has been some wonderful news for all of those Cottesloe residents and visitors who care for and are concerned about the natural environment: after months and months of preliminary and collaborative work by members of your committee, Cottesloe Council accepted the **Natural Areas Management Plan** it had commissioned Ecoscape to prepare at a cost of \$ 40,000.00. Two of our team especially, Sue and Rob Freeth, voluntarily invested an enormous amount of time and expertise into the plan which CCA hopes will be a magnificent tool to guide the management of Cottesloe's precious natural areas.



We now have a comprehensive, progressive document with practical recommendations for the management of Cottesloe's existing and potential natural areas. It offers opportunities to increase the area of land available for local native vegetation, consolidate and extend greenways rehabilitation and broadens the potential to naturalise

streetscapes and verges. It recognises that all natural areas offer benefits in terms of aesthetics, biodiversity and water conservation. CCA is keen to work with the Town to put the plan in to action. One recommendation from the NAMP which CCA strongly supports is the employment of a bushcare officer.

Connection with nature is important to us all and now more than ever before as the environment faces so many threats. It gives us hope when we see how much school children enjoy interacting with nature and learning about our local environment with CCA.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Max Beissel, a long time CCA supporter who so generously paid for the base of our trailer to be professionally rust treated and sealed.

### **Cottesloe Coast Delights Old & Young** (by Frauke Chambers)

Every time our 5-year old grandson Asher comes visiting, he can't wait to go strolling along the beach with me. We check out the plants at Grant Marine Park, decapitate the onion weeds he loves to spot, admire the beautiful blue flowers of the *Scaevola crassifolia* or the bright yellow *Conostylis candidans* and enjoy the view from the lime stone wall. He plays a while on the little playground, then we set off along the beach to the 'big playground' near the Cottesloe Groyne. On the way we pick up all kinds of interesting things and try to identify it afterwards with our CCA Website's 'Lots o'flotsam' article. Asher was most impressed when he saw the pictures on our computer screen of the lace corals, the sea urchins and the somewhat smelly globefish we'd picked up! One day, as we sat by the rocks with a couple of buckets of water to test which of the found objects would float and which would sink, we saw a large bobtail ascending the rock almost vertically - it was such an amazing sight! And so lovely to see that Coastcare's endeavours of revegetating the dunes and providing habitats for our coastal fauna do indeed attract local inhabitants. (photo below of Asher and Frauke at Grant Marine Pk)



**To celebrate our year of coastcaring everyone is invited to a barbecue/picnic at the Cottesloe Civic Centre Main Lawn, 5pm to 8pm on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November.** The Civic Centre is at 109 Broome Street, Cottesloe. We hope that members, friends and also prospective members will join us. There are two bbqs but you will need to BYO everything. You might bring a jacket as it can get breezy some evenings. You may also like to bring picnic chairs or a rug. CCA will

provide a few drinks and nibbles. We would love to have a big turn-out to celebrate our year on the dunes. The CCA committee and their families hope to see you then!

Thank you to all our members and friends and we look forward to your continued support for the natural areas of Cottesloe.