

WELCOME TO THE CHAPMAN ESTUARY TIMES

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Chapman Estuary Times Newsletter. This newsletter provides the community with an update on the status of the recommended actions identified in the Chapman River Estuary Reserve Action Plan 2022-25. The newsletter will be uploaded to the City's website every second month.

What's been happening in the Estuary?

From planting events to workshops to guided walks it has been a busy couple of months for the City's Environment and Sustainability team and the community.

On June 22nd Chapman River Friends (CRF) held a community planting event along Swan Drive. 30 community members successfully planted 300 local provenance species grown by volunteers at the Community Nursery. Thank you, CRF and participants!



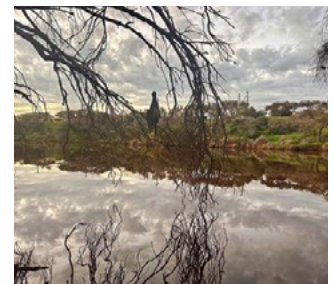
CRF Planting Day. Photo CGG

Chapman River Friends (CRF) hosted a special guided walk for National Science Week at Spalding Park on Sunday 11th August. The walk saw 11 organisations, including the City, speak about different environmental and sustainability practices and projects being undertaken in our Local Government area. The walk along the Chapman River attracted over 60 people. Well done to CRF for organising this wonderful event!

After all the rainfall recently, the City has been responding to reports of erosion along the top section along the river bank along Swan Drive. The City will be temporarily remediating these erosion channels over the next few weeks until long term solutions are put in place. If you notice newly eroded areas at the Estuary or in the Chapman River Regional Park please report it to council@cgg.wa.gov.au or on the [Snap, Send, Solve app](#).



Reel-It-In Fishing Bin.
Photo CGG



Entangled Darter in fishing line. Photo CRF

Very sadly, Chapman River Friends (CRF) came across a deceased Australasian Darter at the Estuary after it had become entangled in fishing line off a tree branch, back in July. This is an important reminder to the community to use designated fishing locations, keep outside of fenced areas, and dispose of fishing tackle responsibly in the yellow Reel-It-In bins around the Estuary. By following these simple steps we can help keep our wildlife safe. Find more information below in Management Actions Update.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- Join Chapman River Friends (CRF) for free educational bushwalks in Chapman River Regional Park across August and September. Check out their [Facebook page](#) or email crfriends2014@gmail.com for upcoming dates and information.
- [National Threatened Species Day](#) Saturday 7 September
- [Geraldton Greenough Sunshine Festival](#) at Stow Gardens - Sunday 29 September

What's been happening at the Chapman River Regional Park?

On June 23rd the Scouts Cub group assisted the Environment and Sustainability team plant 500 local provenance species into the Chapman River Regional Park. The seedlings were grown by volunteers at the Community Nursery. Thank you, Scouts Cub group!



Scouts Cub group planting day. Photo CGG

The City held a Boxthorn Blitz workshop at Spalding Park on 21st July which was co-hosted by Chapman River Friends (CRF). This workshop was one of five total workshops that were held in different natural areas across Geraldton. Thank you, CRF and all that participated. If you would like to be kept updated on Boxthorn Blitz workshops or would like more information, please email environmentalplanning@cgg.wa.gov.au.

City contractors planted over 10,000 seedlings across Tappak, Wren Island and Wattle Walk sites in the Chapman River Regional Park. Majority of seedlings were grown by volunteers at the Community Nursery, with the remainder being grown at an external nursery. All species were grown from seed that was locally collected with appropriate licences.



Vandals have been back at it, cutting a section of fence line near the Tappak Street entrance to drive in with their motorbikes. If you notice any vandalism within the park, please report it to council@cgg.wa.gov.au or on the [Snap, Send, Solve app](#). If you notice motorbike activity in the park, please call Ranger Services on 08 9956 6600.

BREAKING

NEWS



Barn Owl.
Photo Janelle Ende

The City of Geraldton is now an 'Owl Friendly' City! The City will continue to use First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (FGARs) in its pest control practices while also supporting Janelle Ende from [Just Raptors](#) by encouraging the community and local businesses to avoid the use of Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs). Well done to Janelle on all her hard work to encourage Council to vote for an Owl Friendly City. Check out the [Media Release](#) and find out more information on rodenticides on our website [here](#).

What else has been happening in the wider community?

The Environment and Sustainability team, with the assistance of Batavia Coastcare Network (BCN) volunteers, braved the rain over two occasions in June and July and direct seeded *Spinifex longifolius* seed in between the brushing along the dunes at Bosley Street, Sunset Beach. This activity was a part of the City's Coastwest funding in effort to stabilise the eroding dune system. Thank you for the assistance, BCN!

In addition to the direct seeding, the Environment and Sustainability team along with Sunset Beach Community Group (SBCG) members, planted 200 local provenance coastal seedlings in between the brushing along the same dune system on Saturday 13th July. Thank you, Sunset Beach Community Group!

On Wednesday 17th July, the Environment and Sustainability team and Cummins South Pacific staff planted 500 local provenance coastal seedlings in the brushing around the new Explosives track carpark and dunes at Point Moore. Thank you, Cummins South Pacific!

The annual Community Nursery sale was held on Saturday 27th July and sold around 2000 plants to the community. All plants were grown by Community Nursery volunteers and seed was collected locally.

On Friday 16th August the Environment & Sustainability team planted 300 local provenance coastal seedlings with students from Geraldton Flexible Learning Centre. The students planted the seedlings in between the brushing along the dune system at Point Moore. Thank you to all the students and staff that helped.

PARK TRAIL BROCHURE

Chapman River Regional Park Trail Network brochure. Download the brochure [here](#). It is also available on the City's website.



BREAKING NEWS

WILDFLOWER APP UPDATE

Chapman River Friends (CRF) has released a new version of their free CRF Wildflowers+ app to easily identify wildflowers in the Chapman River Regional Park and Midwest region. This new version features many more wildflower species with the addition of Fungi and Weed species. You can download for free on the App Store or Google Play.



IT'S A WILD WORLD



Brown Falcon
Photo Heather Beswick



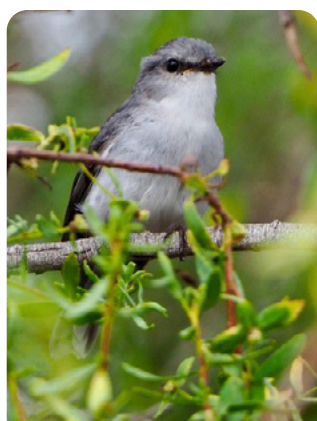
Bearded Dragon
Photo CRF



Sowerbaea laxiflora - Photo CRF



Barn Owl
Photo Steve Pidgeon



White Breasted Robin
Photo CRF



Bossiaea spinescens - Photo CRF

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UPDATE

E2 Weed Control

Recommended Action: Weed Control

Action to Date: A Boxthorn Blitz workshop was held for the community at Spalding Park on July 21st. Prickly Pear around the Estuary will be removed by contractors over the next couple of months.

E3 Investigate Stormwater Infrastructure

Recommended Action: Investigation into stormwater discharge solutions

Action to Date: City Officers commenced research and are waiting on grant funding opportunities. This is on-going.

E5 Monitoring of Threatened Ecological Community

Recommended Action: Continue long term monitoring by stakeholders

Action to Date: TAFE Environmental Monitoring students commenced a new round of ecological site assessments at the Estuary in April and concluded in June. Results from vegetation mapping, soil sampling and quadrant surveys concluded that the Estuary is in good ecological health overall, however recommended that the City undertake protective measures from stormwater pipe runoff.

E7 Opportunities for revegetation

Recommended Action: Opportunities for revegetation

Action to Date: Chapman River Friends (CRF) held a community planting day along Swan Drive to infill existing vegetation. 300 local provenance seedlings were planted.

S2 Trail Renewal & Closure

Recommended Action: Closure of southern trail between Charles Street and Chapman Road

Action to Date: Fencing has been installed to permanently close the section of trail from Charles Street. City Officers have contacted Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to identify what additional works can be undertaken to protect the site over and above the trail.

S3 Signage – Review signage and install/remove signage as required

Recommended Action: Develop a signage plan consistent with messaging, education and compliance.

Action to Date: The Environmental team is currently working on a collaborative signage project with Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation (YSRC) that highlights the Estuary's cultural history and importance

to local Aboriginal people. This project is in the initial planning stages.

New trail header signage has been installed to reflect the permanent trail closure between Charles Street and Chapman Road.

P1 Investigate Reserve Status/creation of 'Regional Park'

Recommended Action: Apply for the Vacant Crown Land parcel (VCL) management to be vested with the City.

Action to Date: The City has initiated the application process for the vesting over the Vacant Crown Land parcel that runs south of the river near Chapman Road bridge to the river mouth. This should make it easier to undertake works in this land parcel if it is vested to the City.

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DID YOU KNOW?

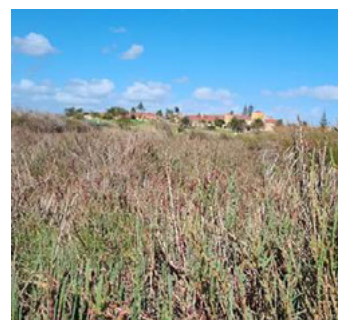
The Chapman River Estuary is home to two species of Samphire? *Tecticornia indica* subsp. *bidens* and *Salicornia quinqueflora*. Both native succulents are indicator species for our subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh Threatened Ecological Community. *Salicornia* is a low-lying shrub that forms a mat-like groundcover, whereas *Tecticornia* forms an upright shrub, up to 1m high. Both play an important role in riverbank stabilisation, water filtration, and providing habitat for the many birds that inhabit the saltmarsh.

The common name Samphire is believed to be a corruption of Saint Pierre (Saint Peter), the patron saint of fishermen, due to its prevalence in salty coastal areas. Other common names include sea asparagus, after the taste and texture, and glasswort, for its historical use in glass production.

High in Vitamins A and a source of calcium and iron Samphire has long been a source of bush tucker and can be pickled, blanched or eaten raw. It is illegal to pick in the wild however both plants are sometimes available at some major nurseries, or dried and powdered from some online stores.



Tecticornia indica subsp. *Bidens*. - Photo CGG



Salicornia quinqueflora. Photo CGG