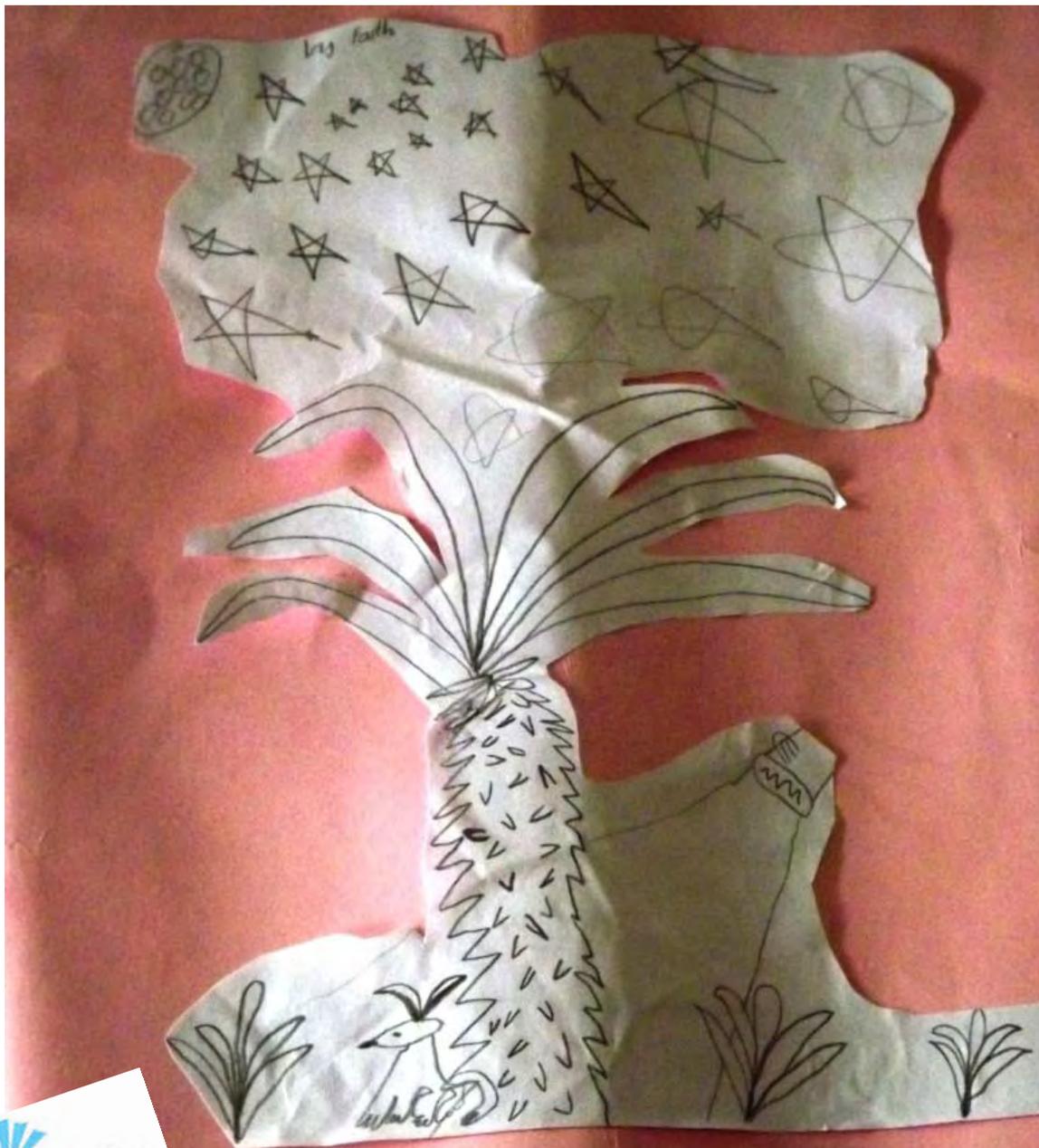




# Toodyay Naturalists' Club Inc. THE TNC NEWSLETTER

Number 6 - December 2011



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Report	Page 2
Junior Members' drawings	Page 3
Mini Beasts	Page 4
Naming the Dawn Atwell Reserve	Page 5
Sightings from new members	Page 6
Life of a wildlife rehabilitator	Page 7
Origin of the name 'Julimar'	Page 8

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A new logo was designed and agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting in August. It encompassed both the endangered plant, *Grevillea flexuosa*, found in a small pocket within our Shire, and the Chuditch, an endangered creature released within the Julimar Conservation Forest in 1993. An 'A' frame sign was developed to advertise the Club on outings, litter collection and shows, etc.

The spring 'Rapid Bush Assessment' was completed in the Mavis Jeffery 'A Class' Nature Reserve and it is noted that the area is regenerating well with ground coverage of a range of flowering plants together with weed varieties. Unfortunately, the absence of birds within the Reserve is obvious but the bushland outside the burnt area held Blue Wrens, Red-capped and Scarlet Robins, Silveryeyes, White-browed Babblers, Red Wattlebirds, Golden Bronze Cuckoo, Carnaby Cockatoo, Galah and others.

Toodyay Naturalists' Club members were invited to attend the Yilgarn Shire Agricultural Show in early September. A marquee with Cliffs Mining, which works in the area of Koolyanobbing, Mt Jackson and Windarling Peak for the extraction of iron ore, was shared. The Club has representation on the Community Reference Group (CRG) as the Group is mindful of conserving, among other rare species, the fragile, rare and endangered plant, *Tetratheca paynterae*, discovered by one of the four Toodyay Naturalists' Club founding members, Mrs Ray Paynter. The CRG has representation from the Yilgarn Shire Office and community, Cliffs Mining, Western Australian Wildflower Society, Toodyay Naturalists Club, a pastoralist, Department of Environment and Conservation, Malleefowl Preservation Group, Yilgarn Land Conservation District Committee, Indigenous representation and the Yilgarn Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. We spoke many interested folk including farmers, mine workers and some young ones who told us about their 'bobtails'.

September 15th saw Wayne, Greg and I return to Southern Cross to attend the CRG meeting and to visit Koolyanobbing then Windarling and Mt Jackson Mines.

On Saturday September 17th the 'naming' of Shire Reserve 5273 to 'The Dawn Atwell Reserve' took place. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) funded management actions which gained recognition by the Shire of Toodyay to change the vesting to 'conservation status'. Club members, neighbours surrounding the reserve and a representative of WWF enjoyed a wildflower walk around the flora-rich area.

The 158th Toodyay Agricultural Show had wonderful environmental representation in the 'ENVIRONMENT MATTERS' marquee; the marquee was provided by the Society from its Toodyay 175th Anniversary funding. The groups housed in the large marquee were Kanyana, Toodyay Friends of the River, Malleefowl Preservation Group, Naturalists' Club, Avon Gorge Invasive Species Group, Toodyay Seed Orchard, Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (NRM) and an excellent display of reptiles by a young couple from Northam, Hayley and John of 'MissHiss'. The live display was never without admirers! ...cont Page 3

Wheatbelt NRM held its Annual General Meeting, Northam October 27th. The dynamic Chairperson, Glenys Batchelor, stepped down from her role following her three year term over which time there have been a number of changes with the Wheatbelt NRM progressing from strength to strength. Our Naturalist Club member, Greg (Warburton), has begun with the Wheatbelt NRM. Congratulations, Greg!

Following the business section of the meeting Canadian conservationist, Heidi Hardisty, who moved to the Mt Claremont area five years ago, spoke of her work to interest people of the area to appreciate the beautiful wetland; she has organised incredible rehabilitation.

Keynote Speaker Heidi's husband, Professor Paul Hardisty, gave a thought provoking presentation on the significant value (monitory!!!) of remnant vegetation. Paul is Adjunct Professor, University of Western Australia, School of Business and Professor of Sustainability and Climate Change Studies.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT ...cont from Page 2

Paul decried the ongoing clearing of remnant vegetation and listed many of the benefits, in both city and country, of leaving intact what remains which includes: climate modification and regulator, absorption of noise, cleaning of the air, corridors for wildlife, acts as a carbon sink, a habitat for creatures, aesthetics and tourism value, nutrient recycling and soil health, hydrological and saline control, biodiversity store, improvement of agricultural value, generation of rainfall and climate (has a known cooling effect of 5% to 10%). Paul stated 'when remnant vegetation is needed to be removed for building - look for an alternative!'

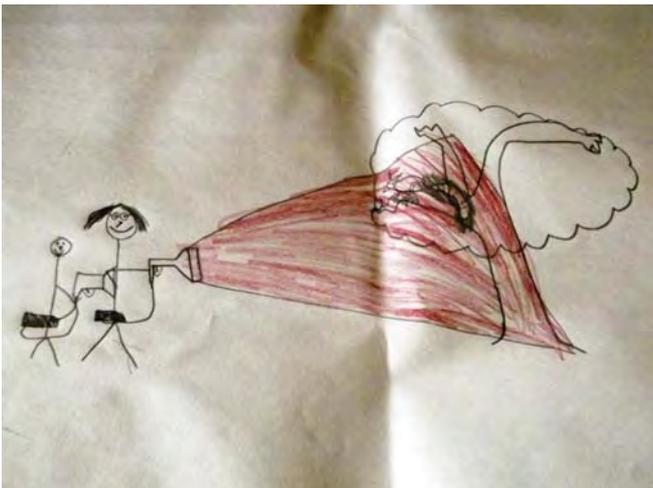
Twenty two members and friends enjoyed the end-of-year evening at Lake Leschenaultia followed by a 'Night Walk' at Karakamia. Write-ups of the excursion, complete with drawings, have been submitted by the three youngest members of the Club and are included in this publication.

*Desraé Clarke*



Left: Club members, including some of our juniors, enjoying the end-of-year outing to Lake Leschenaultia.

Photo Beth Frayne



Our end-of-year outing to Karakamia was quite exciting for our younger members, who have provided some sketches for the Newsletter. The front cover features Faith's memory of spotlighting, with a woylie caught in the beam under a Zamia. Above: left, Sam's infra-red spotlight is highlighting a possum up in the trees, while right, Gabby's sketch illustrates the group with their torches. The front torch is shining on a tree with a spider in a web at bottom of the tree, a possum in the middle, and a golden orb spider in a web at the top of the tree.

# 'MINI BEASTS'

*Eric McCrum's intimate insights into creepy-crawlies*

Robyn Taylor

The horrified squeals of delight from the younger members of the audience was a sure sign that Eric, the *naturalist extraordinaire*, was a big hit. The adults were thoroughly enjoying themselves too. Billing Eric as the main attraction before the Toodyay Naturalists Club's AGM in August, was a bit like the technique used by the many insects and plants he talked about that use devious means to attract a mate, or ensure pollination. Eric's reputation always precedes him, a rock star of the world of nature, and not to be missed.

Eric revealed the magic world of the 'mini-beasts'. A vast assortment of insects and other creatures, belonging to the 'primitive' egg-producing variety, and those whose young are born live. There were wonderful images of beetles, butterflies, scorpions, spiders, wasps, ticks, bugs and a lot more.

A former primary school teacher, he knew how to relate to the youngsters and was especially good at demonstrating the cringe-making eating habits of some of his subjects. Such as the spider that paralyses and makes a delicious soup from some poor creature before sucking out its innards. Eric mimes the action of noisily drinking through a straw. Or a mud wasp that stings a spider and takes it to her nest for her babies to feed on when they hatch. They feed carefully to make sure their meal stays fresh to the very end. Fascinating stuff.

He enthralled us while imparting his extensive knowledge. He opened up the wonders of nature - the intimate relationships of survival that have evolved over millennia. The extraordinary fact of mimicry, where an insect or caterpillar mimics its surroundings to avoid being seen and eaten. We learnt how to tell whether a grasshopper was nocturnal or diurnal - look at the length of its feelers, if they are long its nocturnal. The difference between the wings of a moth and a butterfly, useful if you want to tell one from the other.

Eric brought out the child in all of us - especially those of us who remember spending hours in our backyards, bushlands and seashores peering at the miniature worlds of the 'mini-beasts'. They are essential for the planet's survival, and as Eric says, 'we have a lot to be thankful for'.



Above: Eric entertaining members and guests of all ages with his insight into our 'Mini Beasts'

# NAMING of the DAWN ATWELL RESERVE

Former Shire of Toodyay Reserve 5273 - Julimar Road, Toodyay

by Bethan Lloyd

It was great to see Naturalist's Club members and neighbours turn out for the naming of Shire Reserve 5273 as the Dawn Atwell Reserve on 17th September 2011. Thanks to everyone who had input into the signs which are placed at each end of the reserve. Members Greg Warburton and Sara Dudley especially need to be thanked for putting up the signs in time for the naming ceremony. Greg is also organising some wooden signs which will say 'Nature Reserve' and be placed along the road edge of the reserve. Thanks to members of the Wood Turners Group for assisting with this.

Apart from the signs, other work funded by WWF in the reserve was the removal of rubbish, spraying of weeds at the west end and down the central path, and the setting up of photo points. Work still to be undertaken is burning of the tamarisk waste, further spraying of weeds that germinate next autumn and revegetation of the west end, where much of the rubbish was dumped. Unfortunately, on a recent visit I noticed someone had dumped a sheep carcass since the clean-up. Such a shame!!!

Toodyay Seed Group will be growing the seedlings for revegetation in the reserve (along with Malkup Brook Reserve) in the community shade house. Two planting dates will be organised for 2012 so if you want to be involved let me know.

## Other reserve news

Another two reserves within the Shire of Toodyay will receive attention under WWF's 'South West Eco-Region' initiative. One of these is Malkup Brook Reserve which has had an invertebrate study done by David Knowles of 'Spineless Wonders,' and also a large area has been sprayed here ready for revegetation next year.

The other Reserve, 19904 on Coondle West Road, is vested with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and is a very interesting reserve, varying from wandoo, sheoak and jam woodland on Horseshoe Road with magnificent Powderbark Wandoo and Marri dominating on the Coondle West Road verges. Management actions funded in this reserve will be some interpretive signage and a brochure in collaboration with DEC.



Above left: Frank Turnbull (right) speaking about the hard work behind the saving and naming of the Reserve.

Above right: The colourful sign in the Reserve, outlining its history.

# SIGHTINGS FROM NEW MEMBERS and FRIENDS



1. Anton Beet's Spider – 'This lovely lady has taken up residence in our scullery'. It is a Huntsman as identified by our Patron, John Dell. 2. Peter Schneider photographed this Western Bearded Dragon tentatively making its way out of its home. 3, Steve Bannister's 'A pair of Common Bronzewing Pigeons have nested on the ground beneath a tree outside my office window; this is the male keeping watch as it rains.' 4. Julie Payne of Morangup had a visit on her patio from this little skink, a Broad-banded Sandswimmer. 5. The busy Echidna was found on Lorraine and Peter Schneider's Coondle property and posed beautifully. 6. Viv Street photographed this Guenther's Toadlet, one of several observed, after recent rains. 7. Sandy McKay found this delightful blue flower while working at Bolgart. On contacting Sandy Lloyd, Department of Agriculture, Kensington, Sandy's comment was "That dear little blue 'wildflower' is from South Africa; it is the Cape bluebell, *Wahlenbergia capensis*. There's a fair bit around this year - I've seen it in the Kensington bushland and even found a couple in my own backyard. We also have native *Wahlenbergia*".

# LIFE OF A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR

by BRIAN and ROBYN FOLEY

We have been caring for all forms of wildlife for over 20 years, we now mainly look after orphaned kangaroo joeys but we are excited in having our first baby chuditch in our care. Our other animals have included phascogales, woylies, emus, possums, rufous hare wallabys, black-gloved wallabies, tammars, bats, quokkas and a lot of native birds.

Our background has given us a broad knowledge of how we go about giving first aid and long term care for our wildlife. Our experience has been both medical and animal behavioural. We have learnt how to manage burns in macropods, broken wings on birds and other injuries; we are able to give first aid but always obtain veterinary treatment.

We have found that in bushfires very little survive, but the kangaroos that do survive will hop into hot ash area and receive horrific burns. We have nursed many such roos, and with intensive care such as daily changes of bandages, constant pain relief and various drugs such as antibiotics, their burns do heal and they can be released. Pain is the main thing you have to treat; pain free these animals will put their energies into survival.

We think we raise our joey babies really well, but let me tell you, mother nature knows best. We have a released female who has remained friendly. This year she had twins, which is rare. We let her carry both babies until it was getting difficult, then we took the larger of the two joeys. Now two months on the joey we left is twice the size of the one we are raising.

The first aid advice we give out is:

- take care of yourself first, don't put yourself in danger;
- ring the Wildcare Helpline (24 hours per day) 9474 9055 to obtain rescue information and the location of the nearest carer;
- the best way to rescue an animal is to use a towel or cloth and cover the animal completely, wrap it up and place it in a box, and keep it in a quiet area and deliver to carer or veterinary practise.

For injured kangaroos they normally can only be euthanised and this can be organised through the Wildcare Helpline.

Wildlife carers do not normally come out and rescue animals, they rely on the public to rescue the animal and deliver it to them. They are just too busy to travel and rescue animals.

Caring for our wildlife is something that a lot of people want to do, but don't know how to start. Unless they come into direct contact with injured wildlife they stay outside the wildlife family. It is most rewarding when you see one of your charges being released and knowing that your next release is waiting for you in your lounge room. If you are interested in becoming a wildlife carer please ring Brian or Robyn on 9574 5448.

*Below: Chuditch baby*



*Below: Kennedy (the joey) in the everlastings.*



# JULIMAR - ORIGIN OF THE NAME

by June Gronow  
Geospatial Information Officer, Geographic Names

The following are the origins that are recorded in Landgate's Geonoma database.

The locality of Julimar was approved in 1997 and takes its name from Julimar Spring.

## JULIMAR SPRING

C. Evans (14.3.1861) field book 1 p.8 - Julimia Spring.

Starting point of survey for Avon Loc 319 for J. Everett.

G.H. Roe (Jan 1868) field book 1 p.22 refers to Loc 319 as "Jurimar".

## JULIMAR BROOK

J. Forrest (8.1.1878) - Field Book 17 p.59. A tributary of the Avon River.

Survey of Avon Loc 371 by G.N. Roe (December 1867) Field Book 1 page 21 shows it as Jullimurring Brook.

Original Plan Avon 52 drawn from above surveys shows as Julimar Brook.

Survey of Avon Location 319 by C. Evans on 14.3.1861 in field book 1 p.8 as Julimia Brook - Original Plan Avon 10.

G.H. Roe (Jan 1868) refers to Location 319 as "Jurimar".

No action to be taken to amending to original spelling, as the Forest's Dept. have adopted Julimar for one of their forest areas.

## JULIMAR HOMESTEAD

Situated within Avon Location 21183



*Above: The new sign for Club projects, like the Toodyay Agricultural Show. Funded by the Shire of Toodyay's 175th Committee.*



*Above: Beth Frayne captured this photograph of Carnaby's Cockatoos feeding in the paddock next to Bob and Beth's home in Drummond Street, Toodyay.*

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Format by Wayne Clarke