

Balddivis Children's Forest

Friends of the Forest Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

6 July 2011

Contents

- BHP schools activity days
- Kids Teaching Kids Conference
- 2010 Churchill Fellow blog
- Dieback treatment
- Seedling survival
- Community Events
- Trees are warning us

For bookings and information; WA school terms only:

Mary Rayner
BCF Administration Manager
Mary.Rayner@det.wa.edu.au
Ph: 9524 1150
Fax: 9524 1143

Jo Tregonning
BCF Project Manager
Jo.Tregonning@det.wa.edu.au
Mob: 0410 341 087

Postal:
Balddivis Children's Forest Inc.
c/o Balddivis Primary School
214 Fifty Road
Balddivis 6171

Location:
Balddivis Children's Forest
1399 Mandurah Road
Balddivis 6171

Website:
www.balddivis-childrens-forest.com.au

ABN: 89 465 657 145

Conservation through Education

Compiled by Jo



Schools Activity Days

bhpbilliton *"I loved coming to the Forest. I wish I could come resourcing the future every term for the rest of my life — it was fun!"*

With lovely sentiments such as these in thank you letters to the Balddivis Children's Forest staff and presenters, it is not surprising that we have really enjoyed running the BHP sponsored schools activity days at the Forest this term. We have held 31 activity days involving more than 1400 students, 100 teachers and 125 parent volunteers. We have another month of activity days when school resumes in term 3 before turning our attentions to conference preparations. Visit our website for information on programs and register early to secure your place in 2012.



Cubby building (left) and forest detectives (right) have been enjoyed by students at the Forest this term.



Kids Teaching Kids Conference

Wednesday 31 August 2011

Balddivis Children's Forest, 9.15am–2.30pm
Open to students in years 5–11

We still have some places available for teams to attend the Kids Teaching Kids (KTK) Conference at the Forest.

The acclaimed KTK Program connects students with local environmental and sustainability issues. Students have the opportunity to present to their peers (optional) and be inspired by the stories and hands-on activities presented by other students. Day also includes an expert panel quiz and 'make a difference' activity at the Forest.

Registrations to date include student presentations on dieback, recycling, kitchen gardens and coastcare work.

Cost \$10 per person, fully catered. For more information email jo.tregonning@det.wa.edu.au

'Inspiring Future Environmental Leaders'



(Left) Participants at the 2010 KTK Conference at the Forest.

Sponsors:



International Year of Forests 2011



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS - 2011

To celebrate, we are running a variety of fun community events suitable for all ages. Join us in celebrating our beautiful natural environment. (see page 2)

Planting at Tramway Reserve, Balddivis Sunday July 31, 10am

If you would like to help the Friends of Heritage Park plant trees on National Tree Day and enjoy a free BBQ afterwards, please telephone 97546151 or email wanda.comrie@smr1.com.au or debra.bambrook@smr1.com.au.

BCF Education Sub-committee meeting Thursday 18 August

3.15pm work & afternoon tea
4.00pm meeting
Forest classroom

Come join with students and teachers from Balddivis, Comet Bay, Tranby, Settlers, Star of the Sea, Charthouse and Makybe schools. All welcome. RSVP Jo.

Office Hours

Our office closes on Friday 8 July. We reopen Tuesday 26 July.

Term 3 Office Hours:
Mary Rayner (Wed)
Jo Tregonning (Tues-Thurs)

Sharing the Knowledge: A study of Intergenerational, Cross-cultural Participation in Global Child Centred Environmental Projects

Join 2010 Churchill Fellow Judith Hill as she embarks on her world trip on 10 July. Judith, with husband Geoff, is traveling around the world for three months to visit 'children's forests' and child-centred environmental projects.

"The project will undertake the study of similar child-centred environmental programs that offer practical learning in sustainable environmental management. It will particularly centre upon the inclusivity of local communities and retirees to share their skills with young people, so past practices in sustainable living are preserved in our society. The project will examine the utilisation of cultural and environmental practices of local indigenous cultural groups in each program. The empowering of young people to take leadership roles in developing future directions in environmental management will be the underlying focus of the project. Finally a network of similar child-centred environmental projects will begin to be linked, using internet technology, for children to access."

Visit www.baldivis-childrens-forest.com.au to read Judith's travel blogs.

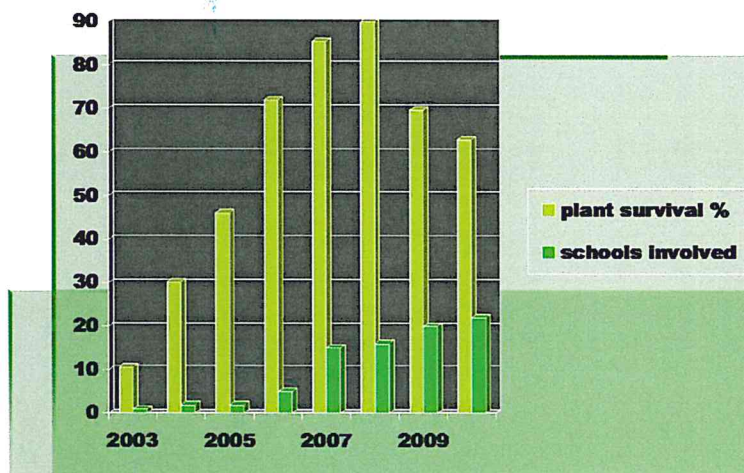
Dieback treatment at Karnup Nature Reserve



In May, trees in Karnup Nature Reserve were injected with phosphite in a bid to protect them from the effects of *Phytophthora* dieback. Sixty year 7 Baldivis Primary School students joined Nari Williams (Murdoch University), staff from Naragebup and the Forest and the Friends of Paganoni to treat trees in the reserve. This work aims to halt any further spread of dieback in the reserve.

Baldivis Children's Forest – rehabilitation program

30,021 seedlings planted since 2000



In 2010 students and volunteers planted 4408 local native seedlings. The seedling survival rate after one year is 62.9%. Given that 2010 was one of the driest and hottest years on record with the longest average day lengths (sunshine) this survival rate is to be celebrated. Thank you to all volunteers!

The trees are warning us

As climate change has brought drought, many of our plant communities are beginning to die. Significant deaths of jarrah, marri, banksia and sheoak has occurred along the Darling Scarp. Here in Rockingham and Kwinana, groups of peppermint, jarrah, banksia and tuart trees have died along our roadways and bushland areas. In the Baldivis Children's Forest, groups of trees have died and the deaths of tuarts at Lake Coo loongup (cnr Dixon Road) is heart-breaking. If we do not have substantial rains this winter and/or south west WA is going to become hotter and drier as predicted by climate modellers, many more trees will become drought affected and die. Do we leave the bush as is and let it sort itself out? Do we thin trees to densities similar to pre-European settlement to reduce plant competition and assist with water flow into streams? Should we consider using more drought tolerant plant species in our bushland restoration projects?

Full story: *Bushland News* Issue 78 Winter 2011. Visit www.dec.wa.gov.au/programs/urban-nature/index.html

What's on: Community Events

July 2011

Saturday 9 NAIDOC Week: Sharing with Nyoongar Elders — culture, stories, tools, craft. 3pm-6pm. Sorry — Fully Booked.



3-10 JULY 2011 **Change:**
the next step is ours

Sunday 31 Fungi Foray. Discover the hidden and unlikely world of our fascinating and colourful fungi. Find, photograph, and try to identify. 10.00am-1pm

August 2011

Sunday 21 Bush Critters Story telling with wildlife author Karen Treanor; an interactive "Talon Talk" with birds of prey, children's craft and damper morning tea. 10am-12.15pm

September 2011

Concert in the Forest amphitheatre. Weekend of 10th-11th Date TBC.

Bookings for all events:

Mary Rayner
mary.rayner@det.wa.edu.au
9524 1150 during school terms.

Sponsors:



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

