



Baldyvis Children's Forest

Friends of the Forest Newsletter

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

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

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

ABN: 89 465 657 145

Conservation through Education

Compiled by Jo

BHP Billiton Nickel West Kwinana continues partnership



BHP Billiton Nickel West has been the major sponsor of the Baldyvis Children's Forest project since 2006. A successful application in November has resulted in an extension to our partnership for the next 3 years. BHP's support is essential to the continuation of the Forest project.

Schools activity days

The popular schools activity days subsidised by BHP Billiton will continue in 2012 in terms 2 and early term 3. Plants are being propagated as you read and the new learning activities will be posted February 2012. Places will be limited. Bookings Mary mary.rayner@det.wa.edu.au

"Thank you all so much. You all do an amazing job with the forest and inspiring our children. It is amazing how calm and happy the kids are when they are just wandering and exploring in the bush. We all had such a special day. My dream would be to bring the class out to the forest once a term."

Helen McLernon, Secret Harbour Primary School

Volunteer program

The volunteer program for secondary school students and groups (e.g. scouts, bush rangers etc) has been a terrific help this year. Volunteers have ensured the success of the restoration program by planting, weeding, irrigation and fencing installation. Bookings Jo jo.tregonning@det.wa.edu.au

Community events

More than 930 participants enjoyed 14 family orientated events at the Forest this year. Next years program will be posted in February 2012. Bookings with Michelle Thompson at bookings@baldyvischildrensforest.com.au

Kids Teaching Kids International River Conference

As part of the National Australia Bank Schools First partnership between the Forest and Baldyvis Primary School, 24 year 6/7 students travelled to Adelaide to present at the 2011 Kids Teaching Kids International River Conference in Adelaide.

The Forest team presented a wonderful theatrical tale of how the Forest was created and what happens there. *"I enjoyed teaching people about what we do to help our environment in our area so they could take the ideas back to their school."* Skye Makking-Robinson, Forest Ambassador



The school team told the story of water quality monitoring of Baldyvis wetlands. *"It was the best thing I've done in my life so far!"*

Dylan Thomas, Baldyvis Primary School

Both presentations were very well received. Students attended other student presentations on environmental work around Australia, New Zealand and Germany. They also participated in activities at the Adelaide botanical gardens and spent time at the zoo, Torrens River, beach and markets.

Many thanks to our major sponsors National Australia Bank, Apache Energy, BHP Billiton NiW, Veolia Transport, Australia Post and the City of Rockingham.

Christmas break

Our office closes on Wednesday

14 December 2011.

We reopen Wednesday 1 February 2012.

Office Hours—term 1

Mary Rayner (Wed)

Jo Tregonning (Tues—Wed morning)

Michelle Thompson (Fri morning)

SunDrum – Community Drum Circle at the Forest Sundays 10am – 12.30pm

African style drumming and percussion workshops are held at the Forest each month from October 2011 to April 2012. Adults and children welcome. Drums are available or bring your own musical instrument. BBQ available. BYO food and drinks. Entry is by gold coin donation – all proceeds towards management of the Forest bushland. For more information call Trey on 0449 285 409.



SUNDRUM DATES:

8 January 2012, 5 February, 4 March and 1 April. *In conjunction with Rhythm Spirit Drum Circles and The Rocky Drumming Club.*



A **Fungi Foray** at the Forest in July led by the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Program showed participants the surprisingly beautiful world of fungi. The morning's discoveries included 49 different species of fungi. A copy of the report is available at www.baldivis-childrens-forest.com.au
A fun winter activity!

A guided **bird walk** in November led by Birds Australia was enjoyed by 28 participants of all ages. A total of 27 different bird species were sighted—just some of more than 60 species that are found at the Forest. A report listing all species sighted at the Forest is available www.baldivis-childrens-forest.com.au
Take your binoculars next time you go to the Forest.



A visit to the Forest by wetland ecologist Jacquie Giles in November raised many questions about the health of Outridge Swamp and its **long-necked turtle** population.

Why had so many turtles died this year? There was no standing water in Outridge Swamp this year despite average 2011 rainfall. The 2010 drought left groundwater levels extremely low and all 2011 rainfall soaked into the ground to recharge the groundwater. Turtles also had to deal with fox and white-bellied sea eagle predators.

What are the pit marks on the skins of all the turtles? Did it contribute to turtle deaths?

We hope to do some research in 2012 to answer these and other questions.



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



Kids Teaching Kids Conference 'Inspiring Future Environmental Leaders' Wednesday 29 August 2012 at Baldivis Children's Forest Put in your diary now!



A big thank you to **Bunnings Rockingham** who carried out on-site work at the Forest in September to install solar lights to the compound donga, install mural screens to beautify the compound opposite the classroom, and to create signage for a rubbish recycling station. Bunnings also donated some much-need equipment to the Forest project!

Forest Ambassadors honoured



Baldivis Community Association honoured Forest Ambassadors at a ceremony in November. Plaques were unveiled at the Forest classroom to acknowledge student's environmental work at the Forest and beyond.



The City of Rockingham Dog Amendment Local Law 2011 formally recognises that no dogs are allowed in the Baldivis Children's Forest. The Forest is managed for conservation and is a small island refuge for our native plants and animals. Please be respectful and leave your pets at home.

Extended rains have resulted in unprecedented weeds at the Forest. Thankyou to student volunteers, a Caring for Country Community Action Grant and a City of Rockingham sponsored Conservation Volunteers Australia team who have worked hard to



hand pull weeds from the planting areas during August-November. Great job!