

WATERSHED Torbay

N E W S

No 1

News of Torbay Catchment Group & its special project: Watershed Torbay

May 2002

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It is with great delight that we see the launch of this, the first Newsletter of the Torbay Catchment Group and our special Project Watershed Torbay.

The newsletter will be a wonderful way of communicating with everyone within the catchment informing us all of developments and issues affecting our community. This is *our* catchment community Newsletter and so it is hoped that many people will contribute to future editions in whatever way they like.

It is most encouraging to see how much has been achieved with in the

three years since the first public meeting of the Torbay Catchment Group was held in March 1999. We owe much to the vision, leadership and encouragement of the staff of Waters and Rivers Albany, and of course to the enthusiasm, dedication and countless hours given by the many volunteers.

The efforts of us *all*, however great or small, will undoubtedly improve and secure the future quality of this wonderful area in which we are fortunate enough to live.

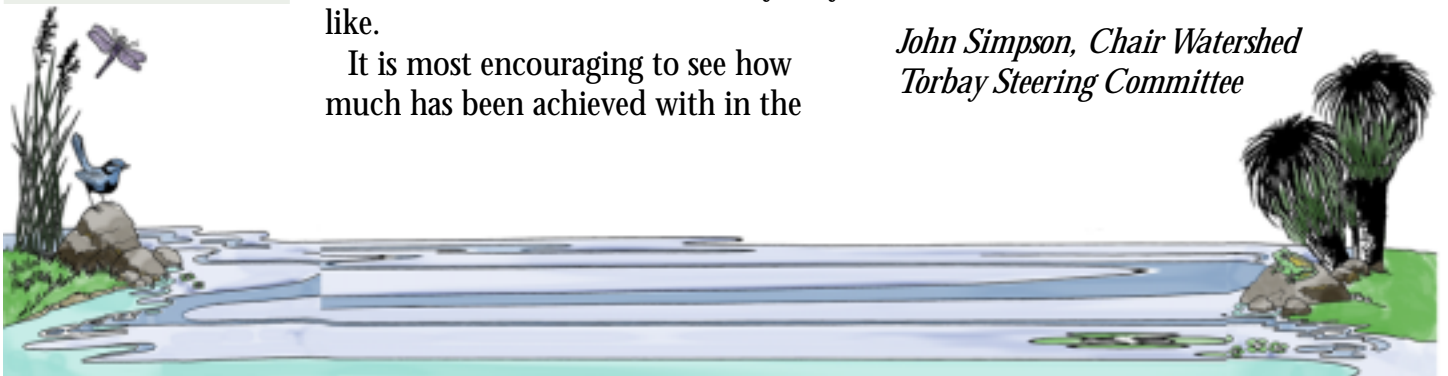
Andrew Marshall

Torbay Watershed Special Project

It's an exciting time for the Torbay Catchment region and that means important progress for ourselves as residents and as interested neighbours.

To implement the projects and processes flagged in the four year Watershed Torbay initiative will engage all of us into the future. Restoration of such a valuable region is challenging but good results will follow our joint efforts.

John Simpson, Chair Watershed Torbay Steering Committee





My name is Jessica Evers. This is my favourite place because it is pretty and so comfortable. I love the sound of the birds in the tree. I live at Lot 30 Bindaree Road.

Water splashing

and trickling down the hillside
 Small ripples overlapping the
 edges of the riverbank
 Reeds swaying in the breeze.
 Swallows flying above the lake
 Frogs croaking, jumping from
 lily-pad to reed
 Eagles gliding and hunting.

*Alex M.
 Woodbury Boston School*

Torbay Catchment Group - 3rd Year Achievements

Thanks to all our project partners including: WRC, Water Corporation, Department of Agriculture, Green Corp, Great Southern TAFE, and the City of Albany Bushcarers.

Nov 2000 Earthworks, construction at CCS sites – Grasmere Drain, Marshall's wetland and Martin's stream restoration site.

Jan 2001 TCG fencing of Marshall's, Martin's demonstration sites.

Jan-Apr 2001 Weed control at Marshall's and Martin's CCS sites.

June 2001 Planting at Grasmere Drain CCS site – TAFE students.

July 2001 Torbay Catchment chosen for National Rivers Consortium whole of catchment river restoration. Community Steering and Technical Committees set up • Planting at CCS Marshall's and Martin's stream restoration sites – native wetland fringing species.

Sept 2001 WRC macroinvertebrate monitoring training for TCG • Water Corporation drainage reserve watsonia control.

Oct 2001 TCG roadside watsonia control with Bushcarers support. • WRC sedge and rush workshop for Torbay community.

Nov 2001 Porongurup Green Corp Team sedge and rush planting at Marshall's and Martin's CCS sites.

Dec 2001 Publication of CSIRO Lake Powell report • Thank you BBQ for Torbay Catchment Group volunteers.

Feb 2002 Porongurup Green Corp Team completed sedge and rush planting at CCS wetland.

1999-2001 Over \$8,000 of fencing funds allocated to Torbay Catchment landowners for stream fencing and waterways protection.

2001 Marbelup foreshore condition survey and mapping completed.

Dec 2001 Torbay Catchment Group Incorporation.

Torbay Catchment Group - New Committee at 1st AGM!

Welcome to the Torbay Catchment Group Inc committee elected at the well attended inaugural AGM on 27 March 2002!

Chairperson: *Andrew Marshall*

Deputy Chair: *Maurice McCormick*

Secretary: *Pat Walker (Terri Harwood to assist)*

Treasurer: *Des Wolfe*

Committee Members: *Monty Walker, Terri Harwood, Dale Holley, Phillip Marshall.*

We would especially like to acknowledge the efforts of John Blaney-Murphy who, over many years, endeavored to make the community aware of the problems associated with Lake Powell.

Thank you to Des Wolfe who has been Chairman of the Catchment Group for our first three years and particularly for his work in getting the Group incorporated. A big thank you must go to Pat Walker who has been a brilliantly efficient and supportive secretary over those years. Also of course, we would like to acknowledge the invaluable input of the Founding Members of the Group.

*Andrew Marshall, Chairperson
 Phone 9845 1081*

Constructed Wetland - *world class!*

Torbay Catchment Group members met with one of the leading world experts on constructed wetlands, Dr Tony Wong.

Tony provided peer review for the initial wetland design by consultant engineer Michelle Hale of Wood and Grieve. Tony visited Albany recently to view the completed wetland. He congratulated Michelle on her design, and was impressed with the strong community support for the project which has included fencing, weed control, planting and advice on ele-

ments of the wetland design. City of Mandurah planning staff drove down to take part in discussion.

A comprehensive monitoring system has now been installed by WRC staff member Andrew Maughan. This will measure changes in water quality over a 5 year period, as a result of the wetland's function. Dr Wong commented that Marshall's wetland will be only one of twenty constructed wetlands throughout the world from which useful, high quality data is collected.

This data will be used to determine the effectiveness of the constructed wetland design in improving water quality from agricultural catchment runoff.



Photo: l-r: City of Mandurah planning staff, Andrew Maughan, Phillip Marshall, Andrew Marshall, Dr Tony Wong, Michelle Hale, Maurice McCormick, Kevin Hopkinson

Watershed Torbay Special Project

Watershed Torbay is a four year project initiated jointly by the Torbay Catchment Group, Water & Rivers Commission, Water Corporation, Department of Agriculture, and Land and Water Australia.

It is being managed by a committee with wide community representation and members of project partners. The main aims of the project are to:

- Identify a future vision for the catchment.
- Better understand the state of the catchment, the sources of nutrients, and how to manage the wetlands receiving water from the catchment.
- Develop a plan to improve drainage management.
- Prepare a whole of catchment river restoration plan.
- Implement river restoration activities throughout the catchment.
- Monitor and evaluate progress of work undertaken.

Special funding has been obtained to do this work in Torbay as a national demonstration project through the National Rivers Consortium. The results, successes and experience will be communicated across Australia.

The Watershed Torbay Steering Committee will report back to the Torbay Catchment Group. Steering Committee members are:

John Simpson, Chair, farmer 9841 8912

Chris Westcott, farmer 9841 5474

Phil Mellon, Elleker Progress Association 9844 6371

Diane Evers, resident & City of Albany Councillor 9844 6317

Melissa Vernon, resident 9844 6115

Terri Harwood, resident 9844 6225

Des Wolfe, farmer & City of Albany Councillor 9845 1059

Mark Taylor, upper catchment farmer 9845 3121

Bill North, commercial fisherman 9844 6211

Naomi Arrowsmith, Regional Manager WRC 9841 0107

David Weaver, Department of Agriculture 9892 8429

Paul Bendotti, Water Corporation 9842 4206

Sandy, muddy water

running down the stream,
Fish jumping in circles.
People splashing water at each other,
Leaves and twigs falling down the waterfall.
Waves banging against rocks,
Lakes still and silent.
Cattle droppings in the water,
Birds swooping across the sea.

*Amy
Woodbury Boston School*



Some trees are so big you need lots of people to reach around them

Woodbury Boston School Students

Dams, houses, tanks, rocks,

Hills, rain, salt and sand.
Flour mills, gates with locks.

That is how the river is.

Thunder, lightening, swirling,
crashing,
Flying rapids, sprinkling,
swooshing,
Washing, playful, gushing,
smashing.

That is how the river was.

Jessica

Woodbury Boston School

Kids Comment on the Catchment

All of us at Woodbury Boston Primary School are excited that we will be participating in this important endeavour - The Watershed Torbay Special Project. We will be involved with photos, essays, poems, interviews, monitoring, sampling, and planting. We will also be developing and updating a website to share our project work.

Through this newsletter you will notice some great poems and comments from individual students. Watch this space for updates on the activities being undertaken by Woodbury Boston School!

*Tony Evers, Deputy Principal
Woodbury Boston*

Take Part in the Action!

- Join the Torbay Catchment Group so you know what's going on!
- Come along to the Watershed Torbay Community Forums - say what you think are the challenges facing the catchment, your vision for the future, and priority actions that need to be taken.
- Get involved in local monitoring and research work – local knowledge counts!
- Visit the Torbay Watershed Website www.torbay.scric.org
- Contact the Torbay Catchment Group or Watershed Torbay steering committee to offer your services!
- Waterways fencing and revegetation funding available ring Julie Pech 9841 0108 or email torbay@wrc.wa.gov.au

If you do not want to receive this newsletter ring Louise Duxbury, newsletter editor on 9848 1019. Articles, poems, photos, and other contributions welcomed - mail to: Green Skills PO Box 577 Denmark WA 6333 • louiseduxbury@greenskills.green.net.au

WATERSHED Torbay

Enter the Photographic Competition

Categories:

1. Best historical photo
2. Best of the Worst photo 'Catchment hot spots!'
3. Best photo 'My favourite place in the catchment'
4. Community in Action - landcare & community project photos
5. Best abstract photo

(Children section in all categories included)

You don't have to be a professional to enter this competition!

Pick up your registration from Elleker or Redmond stores; or online at www.torbay.scric.org; or ring Louise Duxbury Green Skills on 9848 1019.

Closing Date: Friday 21 June 2002.