



SHARING THE RIVERS

Recently, members of the SERAG Inc. Committee attended a briefing session organized by the Swan River Trust as part of a community consultation process for the development of a strategy to manage the ever increasing demands and activity on the Swan River.

Following that session, we have contributed a submission outlining our concerns and recommendations for the River's future management.

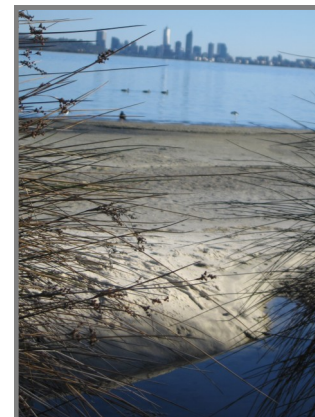
Of principal importance to

our Group is the wellbeing of the three small A-Class Reserves in the Swan River Estuary and the fauna they support.

We believe SERAG Inc. reflects the concern and values of a wider-community that has set aside these natural areas as sanctuaries for the benefit of the many local and migratory birds and other fauna that rely on them for habitat. As urbanization increases, so too does the importance of these Reserves.

Hence we have suggested strategies that will minimize human disturbance. For example, we have recommended that recreational activities other than passive ones be excluded from the Reserves; that improved signage inform the community of the special importance of these areas, and that positive steps are taken to preserve other places where native vegetation remains intact to support river health.

A Draft Strategy will soon be released for further public comment.



A natural spring and sandy beach provide habitat in Alfred Cove A-Class Reserve.

SERAG INC. JOINS BIRDS AUSTRALIA

Because of a shared interest in caring for our natural environment, SERAG Inc. has become a member of the highly-respected Birds Australia, and its subsidiary Birds Australia WA (BAWA).

Membership will allow us to keep abreast of issues relating to the birds of the Swan River Estuary, and to participate in activities aimed at promoting an understanding of their needs.

Under the supervision of Mike Bamford, some of our members are participating in Bird Population Surveys which will be compared with historic data. Unfortunately, early results have already shown that, while numbers of some species (such as pelicans and swans) have increased, the numbers of other species are declining significantly.

ASIAN DOWITCHER VISITS ALFRED COVE

At the recent Birds Australia WA Annual General Meeting, members were thrilled to hear that the Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*) - a rare medium-large wading bird - had been spotted recently at Alfred Cove. It is listed as "Near Threatened" on the 2010 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

Adults have dark legs and a long straight dark bill. Its body is brown on top and reddish underneath in breeding plumage. The tail has a black and white barred pattern. The winter plumage is largely grey.

Their breeding habitat is grassy wetlands in inland northern Asia. They migrate to southeast Asia as far south as Australia, although both the breeding and wintering areas are poorly known. These birds forage by probing in shallow water or on wet mud and can be found on coastal areas during migration and wintering.

One of the benefits of membership of SERAG Inc. is that you now automatically receive emailed copies of the "Birds Australia" and "Birds Australia WA" Newsletters.

Please let us know if you do not wish to receive these.



KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL CLEAN-UP DAY

On Sunday 6 March SERAG Inc. joined with other governmental and community organizations for the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean-Up Australia Day activities.

At Milyu, Margaret Matassa worked with a group of young people known as the Millennium Kids to identify birds and plant species as they collected bags of litter. SERAG Inc. Awards were presented to the best work-

ers to conclude the morning.

At Pelican Point, Cathie O'Neill and Robert and Dorothy Harvey joined with more than twenty volunteers of all ages for the event. The Minister for the Environment, the Hon Bill Marmion assisted too.

There was a lot of litter to collect, with empty cool-drink cans, beer bottles and chocolate bar wrappers being

the most commonly found. Thirty bags were filled.

It was a very enjoyable morning's work. Indeed, the weather was perfect and it was delightful strolling along the waters edge and through the bush in the cool of the day. We met new and interesting people and were rewarded with a wonderful morning tea at the end.

How better to spend time?



The Minister for the Environment with representatives from Keep Australia Beautiful, SERAG Inc. and DEC.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Thanks to the efforts of Committee member, Margaret Matassa, we secured a Grant of \$910.80 from the City of Melville to support the launch of SERAG Inc.. The Grant has been used for the publication of our information brochure and has allowed us to purchase a wonderful banner, to be displayed at working events.

To facilitate our hands-on work, SERAG Inc. has been very busy making other applications for funding from various bodies. So far we have made applications for:

1. \$ 31,732.00 from the State Natural Resource Management Program to commence a restoration project at Pelican Point.
2. \$ 1,400.00 from LotteryWest to provide office equipment and software for our Treasurer.
3. \$ 30,000.00 from DEC Environmental Communities Grants for weed-management and re-vegetation at Alfred Cove.
4. \$ 3,785.96 from PEET Ltd Community Sponsorship Program for the purchase of tools and equipment for volunteers to use on re-vegetation projects.
5. \$ 960.00 from WestNet to host our website for six years.

In addition, applications are currently being developed for funding from the Swan River Trust's Riverbanks Funding for erosion-prevention work at Milyu (a joint effort with DEC and the City of South Perth); from The Swan River Trust Alcoa Landcare Program for foreshore re-vegetation at Alfred Cove, and from CoastWest for the construction of a viewing platform at Alfred Cove.

Thank you to all involved in these applications. We hope to hear some positive news shortly!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Saturday 26.03.2011: Woody weed removal at Alfred Cove Day 1
- Saturday 30.04.2011: Woody weed removal at Alfred Cove Day 2
- Monday 09.05.2011 to Friday 20.05.2011: Planting at Alfred Cove
- Monday 20.06.2011 to Friday 24.06.2011: Planting at Milyu
- Monday 04.07.2011 to Friday 15.07.2011: Planting at Pelican Point

Please contact us for details if you would like to participate.

*Deputy Chairperson
Robert Harvey has been
working with students from
Murdoch University to
develop a website for
SERAG Inc..*

*If you have photographs of
the river and its fauna and
would like to offer them for
use either on our website or
in our newsletters, please
contact us.*



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