



NEW VIEWING PLATFORM AT ALFRED COVE

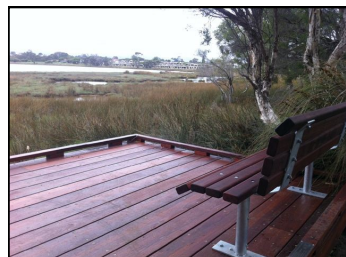
There was much celebration when the new viewing platform at Alfred Cove A Class Reserve was unveiled recently.

The platform was constructed with funding SERAG Inc. received through a partnership between the Australian Government *Caring for Our Country* Program, and *Coastwest* (a State Government initiative aimed at providing opportunities for West Australians to learn about, conserve and protect our coastal areas and estuaries).

Charles Bellamy, landscape architect with the Department of Environment and Conservation, designed the platform, which has both Indigenous and Swan River Trust approval.

It nestles quietly on the foreshore, allowing community members to enjoy views of the Reserve safely, while minimizing disturbance to wildlife (including water-birds) and protecting vegetation. It has a comfortable bench seat and allows for wheel-chair access.

Opened by Christopher Lukes from the Department of Planning, the platform will help to protect and enhance the ecological values of Alfred Cove for future generations.



From left:
Brad Gardner (builder), Charles Bellamy & Alison Sampey (DEC)
Cathie O'Neill (SERAG Inc.) & Chris Lukes (Coastwest).

Photos courtesy: Steve Turner & Charles Bellamy

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

SERAG Inc. is taking the opportunity to increase community interest in and understanding of Pelican Point A-Class Nature Reserve through the celebration of the visit to the Reserve by HRH Prince Philip in 1963. Planned for 27th March, the event will include a display of natural and historic material, a tour of the Reserve and surrounding area and refreshments.

At Prince Philip's request, Dame Anne Griffiths, DCVO, the archivist at Buckingham Palace, has very kindly sent some photographs taken by the Prince during that visit, to include in the display.

Pelican Point, together with Milyu and Alfred Cove, provides vital habitat for a large range of water- and land-birds, some of which are migratory and protected under treaties Australia has with Japan, Korea and China, and a number endangered. The remnant vegetation of Pelican Point is itself of special importance, as it is from the Vasse Vegetation Complex, of which there is very little left.

Given severe urban pressures, there is a need to actively manage the site to preserve local biodiversity.

Complementing the Weed-Management and Bush-Regeneration Plans funded through grants from the State NRM, a plan is to be developed and steadily implemented to better manage human movement, directing people away from sensitive areas such as the beach and lagoon where birds forage, rest and even nest, to places where views of the birdlife and other natural values can be accessed and enjoyed without compromising habitat. The celebration will mark the commencement of the development and implementation of this plan.

We will also launch a brochure about the Reserves' birdlife, jointly produced by SERAG Inc. and Birdlife Australia WA, again using State NRM funding.

Thus we hope to address Prince Philip's vision that Pelican Point and other places around the city of Perth would be preserved as permanent bird sanctuaries.



THE THREATENED SPECIES LIST

In November last year the updated list of Western Australia's *Threatened Fauna* was released.

If you open the document below, you will notice that included on the list are some of the birds which rely on our three A-Class Nature Reserves as habitat—among them the Fairy tern (*Sterna neris*), a small (21-25cm) white and grey tern with an average weight of 70g. These birds have a black crown, an orange-yellow bill and dull yellow legs. It, like a number of other species, nests in shallow scrapings on the beach at Pelican Point and Milyu, making it extremely vulnerable to beach users.



Fairy tern

Surely it is up to people to provide a secure environment for these species! Doing so may on occasions be a little inconvenient or slightly restrictive on our movements - but extremely worthwhile.

 [Current List of Threatened Fauna \(Specially Protected Fauna Notice 2012\(2\) - 6 November 2012\) \(53.07 kB\)](#)

CLEAN-UP AUSTRALIA DAY—3 MARCH

SERAG Inc. and the City of Subiaco have partnered to host a Clean Up Australia Day event on Sunday 3 March 2013 at Pelican Point and JH Abrahams Reserve.

The Meeting Place will be the limestone car park on Australia II Drive, Crawley (opposite the DEC offices), and we will work from 8.30am to 10.00am, with morning tea to follow.

Volunteers are requested to wear protective clothing (enclosed shoes, loose fitting pants and long sleeve shirts, a hat) and use an insect repellent. Rubbish collection bags, gloves and other equipment will be provided.

You can register your interest on <http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/get-involved> or contact us. We hope you will be able to spare an hour or two to help!



CALTROP—A PROBLEM WEED

SERAG has begun steadily removing *Caltrop* from the margins of our Nature Reserves.

Caltrop (*Tribulus terrestris*) is a southern European plant that has become naturalized in Australia, and which threatens the amenity values of recreational areas, especially impacting on cyclists, children playing with bare feet and animals. It is aptly called "puncture vine" in the United States.

In the SW of Western Australia, it is a summer growing annual plant with drought tolerance. It typically starts to germinate in mid December and there can be repeated germinations right through to the end of March. Soon after germination, Caltrop plants grow rapidly, flowering and producing large numbers of spiny woody burrs that split up into very sharp woody thorns. Wiry stems radiate out on the ground to a metre or more from a central tap root, with each stem holding the numerous woody burrs. The thorns are slow to break down in the soil and can remain dormant for at least 5 years.



Caltrop

The name "caltrop" is derived from a medieval weapon originally used by knights in battle and thrown into the path of oncoming horses to cripple them.



FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Weeding Wednesdays: Alfred Cove 7.00am - 9.00am
- 03 March: Clean Up Australia Day - Pelican Point 8.30am - 10.00am
- 08 March: Weeding - Pelican Point 9.00am—2.30pm
- 09 March: Saturday at the Cove - Alfred Cove 9.00am - 11.00am
- 27 March: 50th Anniversary Celebration - Pelican Point 4.00pm

Please refer to the calendar on our website for further information and contact us for details if you would like to participate in any event.



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