



October 09
Urban Habitat
NightStalk at Dugalup
Brook

Western Ringtail
Possum Planting Day
at Provence Estate

GeoCatch Report to
Community

November
Biodiversity
Walks

Ribbons of
Blue Fish
Survey at
Yallingup
Lagoon

December
Night Stalk
Kookaburra CP

GeoCatch
Christmas
Lunch

Buyanyup
River Estuary
Macro Survey

January 10
Creation of Bay
OK Packages

Getting ready
for planting
2010

February
Wetland
Appreciation
Event at
Wonnerup
House

World Wetland
Day

March
Bay OK Photo
Competition

Great Gardens
'Great Food'
workshops

Bay Friendly
Business Survey

April
Launch of Bay OK

Urban Nutrients
Workshop

West St Wetland
Re-Shaping

Effluent System
Design Workshop

May
WRP Night stalk at
Provence Estate

GeoCatch finalist
in National
Landcare Awards

Earthworks for
Effluent:
Construction
Workshop

June
WRP Symposium

WRP Night Stalk
with GMAS

Planting at
Ambergate
Reserve with
Busselton
Naturalists Club

July
Staff planting day

West St wetland
planting

Dairy Effluent
Management
workshop

August
Whales of
Geographe Bay
Seminar

Great Gardens
'Nature Verge'
series

September
Urban Wetland
Gumboot Wander

River Restoration
Workshop

Bay OK Street
Banners

Launch of Bay
Friendly Schools

Freshwater mussel
workshop

Geographe Catchment Council – Report to Community 2010

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009-10

Rivercare (Vasse, Sabina, Ludlow, Carburnup, Capel and Buayanyup River)

Project Aim: To implement riparian (river) management and stock control.

Highlights:

- Over 20 000 plants have been planted along priority waterways in the Geographe Catchment during the winter 2010.
- Showcased the spectacular riparian vegetation in the Carburnup Reserve with 26 community members during the Spring wildflower walk.
- Engaged with 61 enthusiastic landholders across six catchments to work on river restoration activities on their properties.
- Achieved 37 kms of riparian waterway protection and stock control fencing, 48 ha of weed control in river areas and 32 ha of revegetation with local native riparian species.

Urban Drainage

Project Aim: To improve water quality discharging from the Busselton LIA and entering Geographe Bay and surrounding wetlands

Highlights:

- Implementation of the 'Bay Friendly Business' program – 20 businesses engaged.
- Partnership agreement developed with Shire of Busselton for construction and long-term management of on ground works projects within Busselton Light Industrial Area.

Bay OK

Project Aim: To increase awareness in the general community of the importance of managing water quality in the catchment to protect Geographe Bay.

Highlights:

- Created and coordinated the Bay OK photo competition in March 2010.
- Delivered the Bay OK presentation to a number of key community, shire and political groups including Busselton and Districts Residents Association, the SW Greens, L.A.M.P. Inc., Capel and Busselton Shires and FAWNA
- Produced 21 Bay OK media releases later published in local papers, newsletters and Department's website promoting the Bay OK message in 2010.
- Bay OK Launched by Hon. Barry House MLC

Biodiversity

Project Aim: To protect and enhance biodiversity values in the Geographe Catchment with particular focus on coastal habitats, wetlands and priority Shire reserves.

Highlights:

- Wetland gumboot wander through the New River urban wetland in September 2010.
- Created a further 1.7 ha of strategic linkages to improve habitat for the Threatened Western Ringtail Possum (WRP).
- Planted 5100 seedlings from locally collected seed in Ruabon-Tutunup, Yoongarillup and Ambergate Reserves.

Dairy Effluent Management

Project Aim: To improve effluent management at 10 dairy sheds in priority catchments to minimise nutrients entering local waterways.

Highlights:

- Nine local consultants were trained in effluent system design.
- Local earthwork contractors have been trained in Best Practice methods of constructing effluent ponds to ensure best practise management.
- 10 local dairy farmers have signed funding agreements to implement effluent system upgrades.

Peppies for Possums

Project Aim: To enhance the conservation of the Western Ringtail Possum (WRP) through community awareness & involvement, planting Peppies (*Agonis flexuosa*) and native understorey to provide food and habitat and working with industry and local government and community on initiatives to protect the WRP.

Highlights:

- WRP Symposium held in June 2010 with 60 participants.
- Undertook a number of school and community WRP monitoring night stalks engaging 80 participants in total.
- Held 2 x school WRP plantings with Georgiana Malloy Anglican School and Geographe Primary, 2 x community planting days successfully planting some 1460 trees and engaging over 200 participants.
- Created the electronic Western Ringtail Action Group newsletter (eWRAG).

Ribbons of Blue / Geographe Schools

Project Aim: To increase awareness and understanding of water quality issues in the Geographe Catchment, provide school and community educational opportunities, encourage and support collaborative local action projects and encouraging and supporting water quality monitoring.

Highlights:

- Launch of the Bay Friendly Schools program.
- Main Street Banners for Bay OK.
- Provided 38 incursion/excursion for over 800 students including planting over 1500 seedlings.

Community Engagement

Project Aim: To coordinate capacity building and training activities, liaising and networking between community groups, providing assistance with funding applications, attending and undertaking actions from community group meetings, providing a conduit between community groups and the Shire of Busselton

Highlights:

- Assisted the Geographe Community Landcare Nursery with their ongoing strategic business review and planning process and event organisation.
- Publication of the quarterly Geographe Network News newsletter. Distribution has grown from 70 individuals in 2000, 580 in 2009 and 680 in 2010
- Coordinating publication of the bi-monthly GeoCatch Up column in the local newspaper.

The Geographe Catchment – At a Glance

- Approx. 250km from Perth, bound by the Whicher Scarp, Darling Range and Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge.
- Catchment area of approx. 2000km² extending from Gelorup in the north, to Kirup, and across to Cape Naturaliste in the west, with 70km of picturesque coastline.
- 7 major rivers - Capel, Sabina, Abba, Ludlow, Vasse, Carburnup, Buayanyup. A series of watercourses drain into the Geographe Bay via Toby Inlet. Other natural and artificial waterways dissect the landscape.
- Approximately 37% remnant vegetation cover (26% on public land); two vegetation communities have less than 10% of their original extent remaining and 13 have less than 30% of their original extent remaining.
- Extensive coastal wetlands including the Vasse-Wonnerup Ramsar-listed wetlands.
- Population of approximately 28,000. Population growth rate amongst highest in country.
- Area included in an international and a national biodiversity hotspot.
- Includes Busselton & Capel Shires and a portion of the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River & Donnybrook-Balingup.
- Approx. 63% of the land is classed as rural. The main agricultural-related industries include: dairy farming; grazing; timber production; viticulture; horticulture and tourism.
- Approximately 21 Declared Rare Flora and 21 fauna species endangered or priority listed.
- Seagrass meadows are the 2nd most extensive in Western Australia.

Members 2009-2010

Mr Robin Flowers	Chairperson
Mr David Kemp	Vice Chairperson
Mr Gilbert Stokman	Community Representative
Mr Barry Oates	Community Representative
Ms Rachel Kemp	Community Representative
Ms Christine Willmott	Community Representative
Mr Geoffery Oddy	Community Representative
Mr Les Mutton	Community Representative
Ms Sandra Manly	Shire of Capel
Mr David Reid	Shire of Busselton
Ms Bev Thurlow	Department of Water
Mr Leon Van Wyk	Department of Agriculture and Food
Mr John Carter	Department of Environment and Conservation

Resigned

Bernie Masters	Community Representative
Mr Dale Putland	Department of Planning

How to get involved

Different avenues to become involved in Geocatch include;

- Becoming a member
- Volunteering at a Geocatch planting day or other upcoming opportunities
- Join our network news mail out list to find out about regular activities and ongoing projects.
- Come on a western ringtail possum community monitoring evening

Log onto our website at: www.geocatch.asn.au or join the Network News mail out list to find out about upcoming opportunities at GeoCatch.

We also have a range of resources available for a loan from our office including;

- Books, reports, brochures and other technical information to assist landholders manage their properties.

GeoCatch Network Centre

72 Duchess St BUSSELTON WA 6280

Tel: (08) 9781 0111 Fax: (08) 9754 4335 Web-site: www.geocatch.asn.au Email: geocatch@water.wa.gov.au
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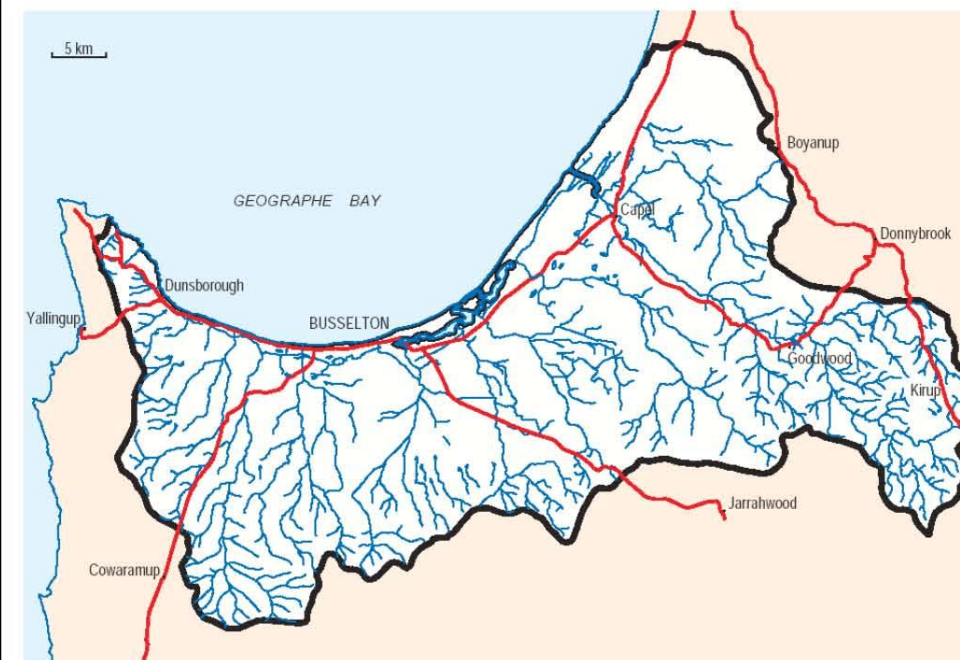


Government of Western Australia
Department of Water



GeoCatch

GeoCatch Report to the Community 2009-2010



This report provides a timeline and overview of GeoCatch's key projects and achievements during 2009 – 2010.

Projects

Ribbons of Blue
Riparian Management
(Vasse, Sabina, Ludlow
Buayanyup, Capel,
Carburnup)

Coastal Wetlands and
Habitats

Bay OK

Urban Drainage

Community Engagement

Peppies for Possums

Dairy Effluent
Management

GeoCatch's charter is:

"To work with the community and management agencies to manage the catchment of Geographe Bay and its marine environment so that natural systems, people and their activities co-exist in a healthy, productive and sustainable way."

GeoCatch aims to:

- Provide a voice to the community,
- Build a shared vision,
- Develop understanding of catchment processes,
- Actively participate in caring for the catchment,
- Contribute towards a visible improvement in the health of the catchment.