

Hello to all our Friends of Moore River Estuary

As 2021 marches on we hope you have all had some good summertime up at the estuary. It's been busy, as this photo taken on Australia Day shows. It was even busier up at the desert!



Moore River South remains for sale and we remain vigilant!

Below is my report to the AGM we held last December. (See page 2 of this newsletter).

Updates are:

- We also conducted water testing in November and are due to do it again soon. Join us if you like. Last time, Tracey, the Shire gardener, came with us. She and the Rangers have been much more proactive about attending to attempted 'sandbar dig throughs' since then. I'm pleased to say that the bar has been intact since November 20th. With the summer ocean actions, the bar builds up over summer and it is currently quite strong.
- The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council Working (SWALSC) party has told us **'The Yued Working Party of 4th November 2020 resolves to give in principle support to the concept of the Wilbinga Regional Park. The Yued Working Party do not extend this support for the time being to any land within the proposed park area which may be the subject of transfer to any Trust established for the purposes of the South West Settlement.'**
- We have also seen in the Shire Minutes that the land of 35 lots, to the north of Harris St towards the lighthouse, has been approved for transfer to the SWALSC Trust.
- Clean Up Australia Day will be held on Sunday 28th February from 8am to 12 noon ending up at the Country Club for a sausage sizzle and drink. You are welcome to join in.
- FOMRE AGM 2021 is planned for Saturday 24th April (the Anzac Day weekend).
- Our financial year is the calendar year so our \$10 subs are due, a membership form is attached.
- The Wetlands Conference is on this week, celebrating 50 years since RAMSAR came into being. I am going to the celebration in Mandurah to champion Moore River Estuary, as always!

All the best, Linda

Chair's Report to Friends of Moore River Estuary AGM 26th September 2020

Since our last AGM, in April last year, a lot has happened.

Premier McGowan announced the Plan for our Parks and we decided to make a submission for a Regional Park to protect the area between the city and the estuary. In June 2019, Pauline Pannell wrote a splendid paper which we also spread far and wide to Ministers, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and our environmental partners. In June this year we were told that we were not successful in having the area put on the register but that note has been taken and we have certainly raised the profile of this area.

Then the fires came through in December and were a great concern for all. The estuary was not affected but the folly of building a suburb in the cul-de-sac between the estuary and ocean became even clearer.

2020 has certainly been a most unusual year, where so much normal activity has been suspended as the world's people look for ways to protect themselves from Covid-19.

And so we have seen little progress or change in our areas of concern re local development. Moore River South remains for sale as it has been for the last 5 years.

In March, the Guilderton Community Association(GCA) conducted the annual Clean Up Australia rubbish collection and took a lot of rubbish off the riverbanks. Pauline is concerned that rubbish is increasing despite the voluntary collections that river users do. The installation of 'fishing line bins' show the need for more bins along the estuary, a matter I will take up with the Shire. Perhaps better signage would help too?

Recently I was asked about some local home schoolers who are taking their Duke of Edinburgh awards and want local service and environmental projects. I have recommended litter collection and photo audits of the coast and estuary plastic. I look forward to progress with that soon.

GCA also conducted further dune planting in July, thanks to Rachel at Moore Catchment Council (MCC) who arranges it all. Nearly 40 volunteers did a great job, including our State member Shane Love and Yued man, Fred Mogridge from Moora. I spoke to both of them further about 'Wilbinga Regional Park' and have had further email contact with SWALSC about our proposal, so was disappointed with the recent email saying they refuse support at present. Native title has now been settled in the Yued claim area however their intentions are unclear.

After the fires, I visited Owen Donovan at DBCA Wanneroo about our proposal and the effect of the fires. Wilbinga Shacks Crew were also badly affected by the fires and are very concerned at poor 4WD behaviour in Wilbinga, so the push for greater action is coming from several sources. All that is needed is official acknowledgement and funding!!! Our efforts will continue but we are sorry not to have the support of Gingin Shire or the SWALSC at this stage!

Water testing was last conducted in June, just after the first sandbar break, and we are pleased to report that the estuary remains well. Water levels have been very high at times this year and Silver Creek carpark has been flooded for long periods. Canoe launching is still possible though. Ryan Kam, from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulations will continue with the monitoring with us, and has permission to go back to 4 times a year. Many thanks to Phill Cook and Bob for their support each time. Others are welcome so let me know if you are keen.

FOMRE's membership of the Conservation Council of WA, Urban Bushland Council and MCC continue to allow me to attend meetings which I find interesting and keep me in touch as time passes and issues evolve. Likewise, my involvements with GCA, Guilderton Visitor Centre, Gingin Water Group and Birdlife.

The Northern Agricultural Catchment Council has again obtained funds for Coastcare so we are in talks with them. Meanwhile Tending the Tracks Alliance are not yet fully up and running again yet.

Thank you to our committee for the last 18 months. We meet rarely but stay in email touch. The work Pauline put into the Plan for our Parks was invaluable, as is Gillian's work as treasurer, webmaster and membership keeper. Thanks also to Diana as secretary, Olivia for ideas and Michael for our much improved social media presence via Facebook. All avenues of promoting our cause are welcome as we head into another year of protecting Moore River Estuary.

Linda Johnson, Chair FOMRE