

NATURAL HERITAGE

The National Trust welcomed the opportunity to promote its conservation covenant program as part of its successful partnership with the WWF 'Healthy Ecosystems' team at this year's Dowerin Field Days.

The numbers of people visiting the National Resource Management exhibition tent at this year's event was encouraging with many landholders stopping to chat about the benefits of placing a conservation covenant on private land where remnant native vegetation exists. As custodians of land outside of the state reserve systems most farmers and rural landholders alike are well aware of the environmental challenges in Western Australia today.

The National Trust understands the benefit of listening to such landholders and working with them to manage their properties with successful conservation outcomes in mind.

Since the first event in 1965, James and Betty Stokes have made the journey to Dowerin from their home in Cunderdin with regularity over the years. Betty explained when by chance we met at this year's Dowerin event 'the pleasure of meeting friends each year is wonderful. Watching the advancements in the agricultural sector continues to amaze.'

Louise Leigh, National Trust of Australia (WA) Conservation Covenant Coordinator chatting with Betty Stokes.

James and Betty Stokes are landholders who celebrate the fact that they have a registered National Trust conservation covenant on their wheat belt property.

As a member of the Australian Bird Study Association, Betty looks forward to spotting those which she believes would not visit the area if it was not for the fact that their bushland is protected under conservation covenant. James and Betty are well known within the community for their conservation efforts. Betty explained that every effort to protect bush in the wheat belt is critical and 'if our conservation covenant experiences help to promote further conservation covenants in Western Australia, then James and I will be very happy. Our own bushland areas are small but every bit counts and I would stress to all WA News and Events readers, every bit of bush counts. With the help of the National Trust, if you value it, you can protect it forever.'

The National Trust looks forward to participating at many more Dowerin Field Days and further opportunities to promote conservation covenants in Western Australia.

If you would like more information on conservation covenants please contact Louise Leigh at the National Trust of Australia (WA) on 9321 6088 or trust@ntwa.com.au

Thanks to James and Betty Stokes, Cunderdin, The Shire of Dowerin and WWF Healthy Ecosystems' Chris Curnew for inviting the National Trust to participate in this year's Dowerin Field Day.



Betty Stokes and Louise Leigh. National Trust.



At the field day. Louise Leigh/National Trust.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Laura Colman, Natural Heritage

Local community members came out in force to assist with revegetation work at Kylie Railway Dam Reserve in the Shire of West Arthur. The community planting days were held on 13, 14, 15, 18 and 19 July 2007 and were well attended by representatives from National Trust of Australia (WA), Forest Products Commission, Shire of West Arthur and community groups.

The reserve has recently been vested in the National Trust of Australia (WA), and the Trust is coordinating a rehabilitation project to conserve the built and natural values of the site. Through a unique partnership with the Forest Products Commission, the National Trust is working to revegetate degraded areas of bushland with native sandalwood. This is an important part of the rehabilitation project, as it will improve the condition of the reserve and benefit salinity containment across the catchment.

The West Arthur community has been actively involved with the rehabilitation project and has made a significant contribution to planning and on-ground works. Neil Manuel, who owns land adjacent to the reserve and is president of the Arthur River Country Club, has been instrumental in coordinating the community planting days. His hard work paid off as representatives from local clubs, service groups, schools, and the wider community joined National Trust, Shire of West Arthur and Forest Products Commission staff members in planting more than 30,000 seedlings over five days. In accordance with the community-centred ethos of the project, the planting program at Kylie Dam Reserve will also provide funds for resurfacing the tennis courts at the Arthur River Country Club.

Thanks to strong support from the local community and funding from Groundworks and Lotterywest, the Kylie Dam Reserve rehabilitation project is now well underway. A tax-deductible appeal has also been established to provide funds for ongoing management and conservation works. If you would like to find out more or contribute to the conservation of this important heritage site, please contact the National Trust on (08) 9321 6088 or visit www.naturalheritage.org.au.

Katie Robinson, Natural Resource Management Officer (NRMO), Shire of West Arthur:

Hi, I am the new NRMO for the Shire of West Arthur. I grew up in Kojonup, WA, and now live with my partner in Darkan.

Restoring the Kylie Reserve is an important community project that is encouraging the West Arthur community, the National Trust and also the Forest Products Commission to work together to achieve the valuable goal of restoring and protecting both natural and historical heritage found at the site. My role is to assist and promote the community's involvement with the National Trust, which in the near future, involves seed collection from the reserve, seed propagation by local nursery and then, finally, further revegetation of the degraded areas of the reserve. I am looking forward to seeing what the partnership between the West Arthur community and the National Trust can create.



Above: Arthur & Suzanne Hindle with Laura Colman. A Briggs/ Natural Trust.



Left: Adam Hodgson helps out with planting.

L Colman/ National Trust.

Right: Katie Robinson, NRMO, Shire of West Arthur. K Robinson.



Steve Harry, Acton Realty in front of Parkwater site office

not seen the National Trust logo on a bus before! If you would like find out more about Parkwater visit www.parkwaterestate.com.au

PARKWATER ESTATE

Shelley Withers

When visiting the south west recently I was pleased to see that Acton Realty, the agent for Parkwater is keenly promoting the benefits of land conservation through covenants with the National Trust. Though I have to admit I had