

Moore Catchment Council

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Turquoise Bus tour focuses on coastal rehabilitation projects

What started as a far flung idea discussed at a Ledge Point Coastcare event, soon became reality on Friday 18th May when the Explore the Turquoise Coast bus tour took to the Indian Ocean Road to look at coastal rehabilitation projects at Cervantes and Green Head, and to network likeminded coastal volunteers. Organised by the Moore Catchment Council (MCC) with help from the West Midlands Group (WGM) and funding from Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) through their federally funded Caring For Our Country (CFOC) program, the 45 seater bus didn't take long to fill up with interested coastal community members from Perth, Guilderton, Seabird, Ledge Point, Lancelin, Wedge, Cervantes and Jurien Bay.

Rachel Walmsley, Natural Resource Management Officer with MCC said 'We were overwhelmed with the level of interest for this bus trip with community travelling up from below Perth to come and look at what is happening on the coast up here. We were also fortunate to have Kingsley Dixon from Kings Park Herbarium and Cambridge Coastcare group come along and share his views of coastal ecology and conservation.'

The tour started with the bus picking up community from Guilderton, Ledge Point and was supposed to pick up at Wedge, but due to a slight error (missing road sign and Rachel talking !) the bus missed the turning and couldn't find a big enough turning space to U turn a bus. Luckily Penny Keenan from WGM was on-hand to run the passengers up to Cervantes where we all stopped for morning tea at the Seashell shack.

First stop after jumping back on the bus, was to a sand blow-out in the progress of being rehabilitated. Penny Keenan (WGM), Ashley Robb (NACC), Paul Robb (Cervantes Coastcare group) and Kingsley Dixon all commented on what had been tried already to help stabilise the sand which included jute matting, revegetation and hessian wind breaks. We then stopped at a Pyp grass control trial site which is trialling control methods for the rampant weed Pyp grass which a prevalent in this area. Dave Bright (Regen4 Environmental Services) was on hand to explain his dealings in controlling this weed.



Blow out at Cervantes



Penny pointing out revegetation



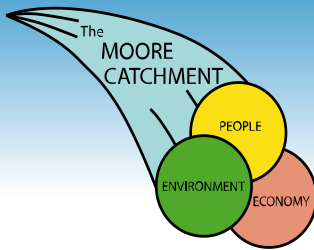
Kingsley talks ecology



The Moore Catchment Council is an important sub-regional contributor to the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council.

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The bus then made its way to Green Head where the group was met by the Green Head Coastcare group who won the prestigious 2011 State Landcare award for top Coastcare Group. The group's volunteers and Penny then took everyone on a tour of some of the rehabilitation works that had been carried out and also explained future projects including upgrading the footpaths for improved access. A fabulous lunch spread was on offer back at the rotunda and everyone filled their plate with salads, sandwiches and savoury bites plus delicious desserts, and then listened to Nic Dunlop from Conservation Council WA talk about the Citizen Science Project followed by Charlie Shaw of the Yued Aboriginal Group who gave insight to the Indigenous heritage of Green Head.



Green Head rotunda



Penny introduces the Green Head group



Beautiful Dynamite Bay

Everyone then reboarded the bus for the return trip which included a stop off at Grigson's Lookout between Green Head and Jurien. This scenic lookout offers fantastic 360 degree views across the dunes and inland lakes. Kingsley talked about the evolution and uniqueness of the Turquoise coast vegetation and Charlie Shaw shared some of the dreamtime stories passed down relating to the formation of the land by the mystical animals.



Charlie Shaw and Nic Dunlop are lunchtime speakers



Kingsley talking at Grigson's lookout

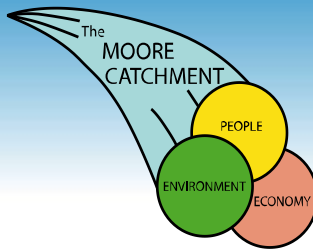


A second lookout stop took the group to Molar Hill between Cervantes and Jurien. Paul Robb was keen to share the panoramic views with everyone and explained what views could be seen. The tour then officially finished back in Cervantes but for the remaining passengers destined for further south, an additional stop at Wedge Island allowed Penny Keenan and Charlie Shaw to talk about the issues affecting the shack community and future developments. The bus then dropped the final weary passengers off and feedback for the varied and interesting day was overwhelmingly positive.

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29th
May
2012



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Paul shows us Molar Hill lookout



Penny talks Wedge issues

Rachel said 'What a great day ! The tour has been a huge success and brought so many different people together. Many thanks to everyone - both community, speakers and helpers who came along on the tour especially Kingsley Dixon who made time for us in his busy diary. Special thanks to Penny Keenan, Green Head Coastcare group, Ashley Robb, Charlie Shaw and Paul Robb who helped organise the tour stops, and to the caterers in Cervantes and Green Head who fed us well. Finally thank you to NACC who funded the day through their CFCO Coastal Engagement program and to all the NACC staff who helped out. Please visit the Moore Catchment Council Facebook page for more photos and information, and watch out for the video that was filmed on the day.'



Turquoise Bus tour participants



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FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



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