



# Tortoise Tales

No 16, 2012

## Newsletter of the Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise

### New funding for Friends

The Friends group offers its congratulations to the Department of Environment and Conservation, which received state government funding of \$500 000 over three years for Western Swamp Tortoise programs.

Of this, **\$25 000 will go to the Friends group's work**, with \$10 000 allocated for the first and second years and \$5 000 for the final year. The minimum delivery requirements for our group are not onerous—they would generally be part of our yearly activities. Specifically, the grant requires us to:

- ◆ Hold five planting days over the three years.
- ◆ Have two community release days.
- ◆ Widen the distribution of Tortoise Tales, possibly including glossy copies for distribution at Margaret River Chocolate Company outlets and Edgecombe Bothers Winery.
- ◆ Erect three display signs—one at the Margaret River Chocolate Company in the Swan Valley, one at the Gingin Gravity Centre, plus one at a location still to be determined. Members are invited to send any suggestions about location (or content) to the committee for consideration.
- ◆ Present material at 10 school visits over the three years.
- ◆ Prepare three media articles over the three years.
- ◆ If possible, the Recovery Team

would like the Friends group to update its education package, with a focus on the new Australian Curriculum.



*Under the new funding we'll have more planting days like this one at the western edge of Ellenbrook Nature Reserve.*



*Recovery Team scientist Gerald Kuchling with tortoise and international film crew at a community release at Twin Swamps Nature Reserve.*

## Fundraising and spending



*Good company at Edgecombe's.  
Interpretive panels visible in background on RHS.*

Nineteen Friends and 'friends of Friends' enjoyed a wonderful **vineyard luncheon** at **Edgecombe Brothers winery** on Sunday, September 16. We raised general awareness of the tortoise within our networks and also over \$100 that won't go astray! Thanks to Alf Edgecombe and his staff, as usual, for a lovely afternoon.

We are in the process of **applying for charitable donation status** and we thank our Treasurer Bob Height for compiling the application. Now, we wait!

## Publicity

The Community Involvement Unit at DEC recently published a short item in its November newsletter, about our release of captive-bred tortoises at Twin Swamps reserve. The newsletter is distributed to thousands of DEC volunteers and it's hoped it will promote greater awareness of

the WST and possibly even generate some new Friends!

An article about habitat loss and the WST has been written for inclusion in the newsletter of the Urban Bushland Council. It should appear in the next issue.

## Next meeting

Our **AGM** will be at **Perth Zoo on Saturday, December 1 at 10.30 am**. A **short meeting**, including election of committee members, will be followed by a **look around 'behind the scenes'** at the captive breeding facility—always fascinating! Then we will provide a **casual barbeque** on the zoo's main lawn including sausages, drinks, salads and fruit. (Vegetarians catered for.)

Any member who would like to **nominate for the committee**, please send us an email. Be assured, duties are not onerous and meetings are held every two months. It looks like 2013 will be an exciting year, so we'd really value your input!



*Take a fascinating look behind the scenes at Perth zoo, at our AGM on December 1. Then enjoy a picnic/BBQ afterwards!*

For further information on any of the group's activities, contact Jan on 9344 2872 or 0408024800  
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Or check out the website  
**www.westernswamptortoise.com**