

*How did you come to be involved in NRM?*

I've been volunteering on wetland and waterbird surveys since the early 1970s. I've also been involved with land management through the mineral exploration industry over many years before retiring to the South Coast. It was a natural progression to become involved with NRM through local community groups where there was a need for on-ground volunteering. This began with our local coastal reserve where revegetation was needed to repair vehicle-damaged dunal systems. Encouragement and support was given enthusiastically by the City of Albany NRM staff and by SCRIPT representatives and later by South Coast Management Group to which I became a community member. At the risk of sounding altruistic, I believe our planet's welfare needs a healthy contribution from all of us and there are many and varied ways for our individual input. There lies my enthusiasm for NRM.

*What are your biggest achievements in NRM?*

It's been quite unremarkable. With NRM it seems the noticeable results on the ground often come very slowly over time as projects progress. Beginnings are often easier to identify than conclusions.

Our community's revegetation work in our local coastal reserve has been successful for what has been tackled, but much still needs to be done to offset continuing damage by vehicles.

A passion for wetlands and estuaries, particularly my home patch Wilson Inlet, has led to gathering long term data from surveys of waterbirds and migratory shorebirds for the Birds Australia national database and is an ongoing project along with involvement in various land management issues there.

*Who or what inspires you?*

Living in such an awesomely beautiful environment with its unique biodiversity and landscapes on the South Coast provides all the inspiration one needs to address increasing development and inappropriate recreational activities. Inspiration is only one part of effective outcomes on the ground. It also needs organizations and enthusiastic individuals such as South Coast NRM, SCMG, local government, Albany Community Environment Centre, Denmark Environment Centre and Greenskills, to name a few.

*What do you hope to achieve in the next five years?*

NRM has to be ongoing. Momentum is vital. Losing that means people and opportunities may be lost to the cause and having to recover those assets affects outcomes, time frames and subsequent programs. For me this means continuing with current efforts while hoping my energy and capacity is sustainable! Fostering more young volunteers to be enthusiastically involved with NRM is critical.

*What are the biggest challenges facing the South Coast environment and how can these be met?*

The South Coast has continuing challenges to maintain the integrity of its natural assets. The community needs to decide how much we value those assets. If they are strongly valued we need to convey to government and planners that we don't want them compromised - they are the very reason we are all living here. The threats from the constant push for growth continue to erode the value of our natural systems. The landscapes and ecosystems that support our much valued biodiversity have rightly become a cornerstone of our tourism industry and our local economy. It seems ironic that it is this biodiversity which is being compromised by the many sources of disturbance we permit.