



**SOUTHCOAST**  
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC.

**SOUTH COAST  
MANAGEMENT  
GROUP**



## Media Release

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Wednesday 7 September 2011

### Coastal forum takes off

Passionate 'coasties' from Walpole to Esperance gathered in Denmark last week to share their experiences of protecting and restoring the southern coastline.

The forum was facilitated by South Coast Management Group (SCMG) and South Coast NRM with funding through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program and Coastwest.

The festivities began with site visits to the Torbay Dunes and Dunskey Track (West Cape Howe) on Wednesday to view recent 4WD access projects, with an evening sundowner at Lions Lookout in Denmark.

Early Thursday morning, 20 people were bussed to Peaceful Bay to meet members of the Peaceful Bay Progress Association to discuss Coastcare initiatives and issues such as population growth and changing visitor demographics. The visit highlighted the successful partnership between the Shire of Denmark, local volunteer groups and community members.

After lunch, more than 40 guests settled in to the Shire of Denmark conference room for an afternoon of inspiring presentations, covering Denmark High School and Albany High School marine science programs, Quaranup cultural mapping, Department of Fisheries' fish skeleton initiative, Warriup 'Wait a While' beach signage project, Greens Pool interpretive signage, and conserving local shorebirds.

Later at the Centre for Sustainable Living, a further 30 guests listened to updates on South Coast NRM's Southern Shores projects, Wilson Inlet benthic invertebrate monitoring, WA Seabird Rescue, Salty Summer coastal education, recreational vehicle management, Southern Prospects Regional Strategy, Esperance shorebirds and the Wellstead Estuary.

South Coast NRM coastal officer Sheryn Prior thanked all those who attended and presented, and said feedback from the forum had been extremely positive.

"The forum really highlighted the energy of organisations and individuals involved in projects, which are largely assisted through grant programs such as Southern Incentives: Southern Shores and Coastwest," she said.

"The collective effort by the South Coast community to undertake local projects results in real outcomes which protect our environment and continue to make our coastline such a great place to enjoy," she said

SCMG chair Bill Auburn said he felt a real sense of fulfilment seeing so many people come together to share their ideas and passion for the coast.

"People are proud of their patch and are genuinely interested in looking after things. It was inspiring to hear from several young people doing great stuff and contributing to science in a meaningful way," Mr Auburn said.

South Coast NRM and the South Coast Management Group (SCMG) are seeking applications for the next round of grant funding under Southern Incentives: Southern Shores Round 2 by Thursday 6 October.

Applications up to \$20,000 are welcome. Contact Sheryn Prior 9848 8508; 0429 928 487;  
[sherynp@southcoastnrm.com.au](mailto:sherynp@southcoastnrm.com.au)

## **ENDS**

Peaceful Bay Pic: features Tony Duckett, Diane Harwood, Dawn Pedro, Shannon Armstrong, Mr Gairdner, Kathryn Little, Mike Nueneubel, Jan Field, Christopher Lukes, Anne Gadsby, Dylan Gleave, Rhonda Williams, watched by Don Lansdown and Bill Auburn (taken by Sheryn Prior)

Trackpad Pic: Ranger Geoff Harnett explains the structure of the TrackPad to Nadine Laphorne, Carl Dusenberg, Sue Dawes, Dawn Pedro, Christopher Lukes, Tony Harrison, Neil Blake, Alexandra Tucker, Mark Ford, Ted Rastrick, Sheryn Prior, Rhonda Williams, Brad Kneebone, Mark Roddy, surrounding Geoff Harnett (taken by Adrienne Beattie)

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