

# EMRC Newsletter

ISSUE 126– December 2018

## In this issue:

1. Acting CEO's message
2. EMRC thanks Peter Schneider as he resigns as EMRC's CEO
3. EMRC 2018 Community Grants Awarded
4. Friends of Queens Park mulch delivery
5. Long Service Recognition for Red Hill Staff
6. EMRC Participates in Ride 2 Work
7. BS4Y in Bugle Tree Gully
8. Citizen Scientists Investigate Biodiversity of Farm Dams
9. Exploring Nature with BS4Y
10. Eastern Region Catchment Management Program - 2018 End of Year Volunteer Appreciation Event
11. EMRC Christmas and New Year closures, Council and committee meeting dates

## 1. Acting CEO's message



I would like to start off my first message as Acting CEO by saying how excited I am about being given the opportunity to lead the EMRC over the coming months, and to share this journey with our wonderful staff.

During the next few months as the Council's CEO Recruitment Committee completes the process for identifying and recruiting a new CEO, I look forward to working with all staff to continue our great work.

One of my first priorities is to hold a series of consultations with the Management Team to fully share our thoughts on the future of the EMRC.

Following this, I intend to hold a series of information-sharing meetings with staff to hear ideas and suggestions first-hand.

As we come closer to the end of another successful year at the EMRC I take immense pride in looking back at everything we have achieved. EMRC staff have been incredibly busy with a number of projects and I would like to thank them for all their efforts in 2018.

The EMRC's Chairman, Councillors and staff look forward to continuing our work together in 2019 and we wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable festive season.



**WENDY HARRIS**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

## 2. EMRC Thanks Peter Schneider as he resigns as EMRC's CEO

EMRC's CEO, Peter Schneider, announced his resignation on Friday, 2 November 2018. Over the last nine years, Peter has led the EMRC in our ongoing mission to make Perth's Eastern Region a great place to live, work, play and do business in.

Mr Schneider's leadership coincided with a period of growth in the EMRC's core waste management services, which it manages on behalf of its six member Councils. During this time, the EMRC conducted a successful tender for the Resource Recovery Facility. Also under Mr Schneider, EMRC's role as advocate for Perth's Eastern Region also expanded with the development of several regional initiatives designed to promote sustainable economic growth and quality of life for Perth's Eastern Region.

The EMRC would like to pay tribute to Peter's many achievements as CEO, thank him for his outstanding service and wish him and his family our very best wishes for a successful future.

## 3. EMRC 2018 Community Grants Awarded

Vital mobile phone signal-booster equipment for East Gidgegannup Fire Fighters was among the projects supported by the 2018/2019 EMRC Community Grants Program.

On Friday, 19 October representatives of the four successful community groups attended a Cheque Presentation Ceremony at EMRC's Red Hill Waste Management Facility.

EMRC is an active member of the Red Hill community and surrounds, supporting groups in the area by providing grants of up to \$1,500 for projects that demonstrate benefit for the Gidgegannup, Hovea, Parkerville and/or Stoneville communities.

This year's successful community groups were:

- East Gidgegannup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
- X Speed Australia Cycle Club
- Gidgegannup Community Website Incorporated
- Gidgegannup Scout Group

The EMRC is proud to provide ongoing support to local community groups to enhance and develop the area for residents of Gidgegannup, Hovea, Parkerville and Stoneville. The EMRC is also pleased to acknowledge the dedication of all groups who work in the interests of their local communities.

For more information on EMRC's Community Grants Programme please visit [www.emrc.org.au](http://www.emrc.org.au).

EMRC's CEO, Peter Schneider, accompanied by recipients of the EMRC 2018 Community Grants Program



#### 4. Friends of Queens Park Bushland Mulch Delivery

During the September 2018 Waste and Recycling Conference hosted at Crown Towers, a raffle was held at the EMRC display. Attendees were encouraged to enter, placing their business cards into a bowl. Five tonnes of mulch to an organisation or charity of the winner's choice was on offer as the prize.

After the conference EMRC's CEO, Peter Schneider, drew the winner of the raffle. Neil Foley's business card was drawn and announced the winner. Mr Foley in turn nominated Friends of Queens Park Bushland to be awarded the generous prize. Mr Foley narrated how during the Depression in the 1930s, his father and grandfather lived in a make-shift shack. This shack was situated on the land which is now part of the Queens Park Regional Open Space.

On 25 October 2018, the EMRC's five tonnes of mulch was delivered to the Friends of Queens Park Bushland. Mr Schneider and EMRC's Coordinator Sales & Marketing Development, Elena Soultanpour, were present to award the mulch to the Friends of Queens Park Bushland. The mulch will be used to fertilise newly-planted gardens.

The EMRC would like to congratulate Friends of Queens Park Bushland and thank Mr Foley for giving the EMRC the opportunity to contribute to such a worthy cause.

EMRC's CEO, Peter Schneider, accompanied by Elena Soultanpour and the Friends of Queens Park Bushland



#### 5. Long Service Recognition for Red Hill Staff

A total of 30 years' dedication and service to the EMRC by three staff members were acknowledged with Certificates of Appreciation at a Staff Service Recognition presentation at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility.

EMRC Chairman Cr David McDonnell and CEO Peter Schneider paid tribute to Ray Perry, Neil Hartnell and Theo Keeris, who each achieved their 10 year milestones with the EMRC in September 2018.

Ray Perry joined the EMRC as a Plant Operator at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility on 3 September 2008 and was promoted to the role of Landfill Operations Team Leader in October 2017.

His citation described Ray as a highly respected and well liked member of the team with very good relationships with both colleagues and supervisors. His calming personality and good nature help to promote positive staff morale on site.

His citation continued: 'Ray is a hardworking, reliable and conscientious employee who is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure site operations run smoothly. No matter what task Ray is doing he will do it to the best of his ability and always takes pride in everything that he does. His excellent machine operating and customer service skills are second to none.'

Neil Hartnell joined the EMRC as a Plant Operator at the Mathieson Road Transfer Station in Chidlow, on 4 September 2008. His official role is Team Leader Transfer Station.

His citation included: 'Neil is a very friendly customer focused Team Leader. He demonstrates an ongoing commitment and dedication to ensure that the site always runs efficiently, safely and to the highest standard of compliance. Neil is extremely reliable and always carries out his role to the best of his ability.'

'Neil has been nominated a number of times under the Reward and Recognition Program, qualifying him to be Employee of the Month for providing extensive support to the workplace beyond the requirements of his role.'

Theo Keeris commenced employment with the EMRC as a Plant Operator at the Coppin Road Transfer Station in Mundaring, on 6 September 2008. His official role is Team Leader Transfer Station.

EMRC CEO Peter Schneider said: 'Theo is always willing to do that bit extra to ensure that the Coppin Road Transfer Station runs efficiently, safely and to the highest standard of compliance.'

'Theo is always willing to cover extra shifts often with very little notice which is greatly appreciated.'

Within the Reward and Recognition Program Theo has been nominated a number of times and has received the Monthly Employee award for providing exceptional performance in a one-time situation and for demonstrating the EMRC's safety ethos.

The aim of EMRC's Staff Service Recognition Program is to show appreciation to long serving staff for their years of dedicated employment and to recognise their loyalty and commitment to EMRC by providing Certificates of Appreciation.



EMRC Chairman David McDonnell (left) and CEO Peter Schneider (right) accompanied by (l to r) Neil Hartnell, Ray Perry and Theo Keeris.



## 6. EMRC participates in Ride 2 Work Day

It was a case of 'four wheels good, two wheels better' as EMRC staff pedalled their way to and from work on 18 October for National Ride 2 Work Day.

Participants were rewarded with perfect weather and a breakfast at Ascot Place, followed by a chance to win some goodies in the Ride 2 Work raffle.

First prize of a \$50 voucher to spend at The Bike Entrepreneur plus a hand bike pump went to Annette Rakich, while Karen Warner and Pooja Sriram both picked up Your Move backpacks.

Event coordinator Tarnika Brewer said: 'Thanks to all who joined in – what a success! We're looking forward to holding another event soon.'



Left to right: Ride 2 Work coordinator Tarnika Brewer with prizewinners Karen, Pooja and Annette.

## 7. BS4Y in Bugle Tree Gully

On a blustery September morning families came from all over Perth's Eastern Region to explore a hidden gully in the middle of suburbia. With environmentalist Una Bell as their guide they crossed the main creek and ventured into the scrub. Bringing up the rear the EMRC's project officer Cathy Levett could catch glimpses of them as they disappeared up the gully; following Una up the creek. To the sounds of abundant bird song and frog calls they discovered a hidden bush playground within a stone's throw of the neighbouring houses. They ventured onto a board walk that took them over a swampland and up to the road. Upon reaching this place where bush met the suburban street they had the choice to go back through the bush or down the road. They chose the bush and with their newly aware bush eyes found eggs, flowers, spiders and lizards that they had missed on the way up.

Following morning tea, Una led participants on a wander through the neighbouring Bugle Tree Reserve, the site of her decades of revegetation work, focusing on comparing native and introduced grasses and identifying invasive weeds. With much enthusiasm the children set about the removing all the freesia plants. This adventure was finished off by plating hat bands from Watsonia and Freesias.

## 8. Citizen Scientists Investigate Biodiversity of Farm Dams

Two Citizen Science workshops and numerous individual training sessions were held for the project titled *Farm dams as refuges for freshwater plants and animals in a drying climate*, signalling the start of the interesting study into the biodiversity of dams in Perth's Eastern Region. During the workshops and training sessions, Citizen Scientists developed the skills to collect data on frogs and waterbirds, as well as learning about the ecological importance of this type of freshwater habitat.

The project, a collaboration between the EMRC and Murdoch University and funded by Lotterywest, began with the identification of suitable perennial dams within the City of Kalamunda, Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan. With the drying climate and changing water regime in south-west WA, these dams may provide perennial water in a landscape where water is otherwise scarce. Farm dams may be used as a refuge by native freshwater species including waterbirds, frogs, tadpoles and invertebrates. Identifying what species are found in farm dams and what characteristics are associated with a high number of native species is the first step and the aim of this project.

Citizen scientists will record data on the species of frogs and waterbirds which use their dams throughout Spring 2018 and Autumn 2019 using the Australian Museum's new FrogID app and Birdlife Australia's Birddata app. FrogID records frog calls which Citizen Scientists can identify using the extensive collection of calls and information stored on the app. After being submitted through the app, recordings are validated by experts at the Australian Museum. Birddata provides a user-friendly format to record and submit bird sightings. It also has sections to record their behaviour type (including breeding, nesting, feeding or resting) as, not only the presence of birds but how they are using the dam, is important. Murdoch researchers will also visit each dam to collect data on invertebrates, tadpoles, plants and abiotic characteristics. At the conclusion of the study, participants will receive a comprehensive list of the species discovered in their dam, as well as the results and outcomes of the study.

This project would not be possible without the efforts of Citizen Scientists collecting data on private property and council land (control sites).

Volunteers are still being sought to collect data for the following dams and control sites for autumn 2019. The EMRC will provide all the necessary training required, including site inductions, and we will support volunteers who choose to take on this surveying role. If you are interested in expanding your frog and waterbird identification skills and contributing to the knowledge regarding freshwater species, please contact the EMRC via [environment@emrc.org.au](mailto:environment@emrc.org.au) or (08) 9424 2242.

## 9. Exploring Nature with BS4Y

EMRC's Bush Skills 4 Youth program encourages young people to explore bushland and experience nature up close. Regular participants have enjoyed discovering new areas as workshops have been delivered throughout Perth's Eastern Region. Through a variety of conservation activities young people aged two to 22 have discovered wonders, from tiny to huge, in their local bushland, school ground or park.

BS4Y has brought a new awareness to school grounds as children discover a diversity of animals in their playgrounds. Activities that focus on insects and birds have students listening and looking very closely at the soil, trees and other plants in their school yard to discover animals that otherwise go unnoticed when the children are at play.

To connect with children who weren't in the outdoors BS4Y developed the 'Bush in a Box' program taking nature into libraries, playgroups and schools throughout Perth's Eastern Region. Covering a variety of topics including Curious Critters in soil and water, Amazing Mammals, Tremendous Trees, Endangered Animals, and the Six Season calendar BS4Y brought nature indoors.

Another new initiative, for families with children aged 2 – 5, has proved to be very popular with parents as captivated as their children when they look at nature through a magnifying glass or iscope (iPad microscope). A short walk outside with a magnifying glass in hand quickly becomes a journey of discovery when the diversity of nature is revealed step by step. A tray of 'dirt' reveals that there are more animals than just earthworms living in the soil and leaves hold clues about a diversity of fascinating creatures.

The EMRC BS4Y Program activities are delivered free to participants through funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.

## 10. Eastern Region Catchment Management Program - 2018 End of Year Volunteer Appreciation Event

The 2018 End of Year Volunteer Appreciation Event was held on Friday, 30 November 2018, to acknowledge and celebrate the dedicated volunteers who spend many hours helping to repair, maintain and protect bushland and the water quality in the Eastern Region Catchment.

Over 120 guests attended the event at Hartfield Country Club in Forrestfield, including councillors and staff from member Councils, Members of Parliament including Jessica Shaw MLA, Stephen Price MLA representing the Hon Mick Murray MLA, Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation and Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC, dignitaries from industry partners as well as many volunteer members from our Catchment Groups and Friends of Groups.

This year, attendees were privileged to witness a traditional Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country by local Noongar Elder Neville Collard, made possible by grant funding from the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP), as part of the 20 year anniversary of the program.

Celebrating the 20 year anniversary of the SALP, Catchment Group representatives highlighted key SALP projects achieved over the years by their groups. The Annual Photo Competition theme for 2018 was "New Beginnings". Winners were awarded with a Zanthorrea Nursery gift voucher. To view the photos of the 2018 End of Year Volunteer Appreciation Event, please visit the Perth's Eastern Region website at <https://www.perthseasternregion.com.au/sustainability-and-environment/end-of-year-volunteer-celebration-2018.aspx>.

The EMRC looks forward to continuing its successful collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and member Councils in the Eastern Region Catchment Management Program, and appreciates the continuous efforts passionate volunteers provide to protect our natural environment and our unique and wondrous flora and fauna.



"Spring Mating Time" by Mary Woodward of Black Cockatoo Reserve, winner of the 2018 People's Choice "New Beginnings" photo competition.  
Photo: Marv Woodward

## 11. EMRC Christmas and New Year closures, Council and committee meeting dates

EMRC's Ascot Place Administration Office will be closed from 5:00pm Friday, 21 December 2018 and on each day thereafter until it re-opens on Wednesday, 2 January 2019.

The Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park will be closed from 3:00pm Friday, 21 December 2018 and each day thereafter until it re-opens on Wednesday, 2 January 2019. The Red Hill Waste Management Facility will be closed on Christmas Day (Tuesday, 25 December 2018) and New Year's Day (Tuesday, 1 January 2019). The Coppin Road and Mathieson Road Transfer Stations (Shire of Mundaring) will be closed on Christmas Day (Tuesday, 25 December 2018) and New Year's Day (Tuesday, 1 January 2019).

EMRC Council and committee meeting dates for 2019 are as follows:

### EMRC COUNCIL MEETING

Commencing at 6.00pm

Thursday	21 February	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	21 March	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	18 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	23 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	20 June	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	18 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	22 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	19 September	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 December	EMRC Administration Office

### AUDIT COMMITTEE (AC) MEETING

Commencing at 6.30pm

Thursday	7 February (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	7 March (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 June	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	8 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 September	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	21 November (if required)	EMRC Administration Office

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CEOAC) MEETING

Commencing at 12.30pm

Tuesday	7 February	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	5 March (informal)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	2 April	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	7 May (informal)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	4 June	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	2 July (informal)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	6 August	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	3 September (informal)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	8 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	19 November	EMRC Administration Office



## RESOURCE RECOVERY COMMITTEE (RRC) MEETING

Commencing at 5.00pm

Thursday	7 February (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	7 March (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 June (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	8 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 September (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	21 November (if required)	EMRC Administration Office

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING

Commencing at 4.00pm

Thursday	7 February (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	7 March (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 June (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	8 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 September (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	21 November (if required)	Red Hill Waste Management Facility