

Contact: SNEC for where to HELP

SEE YOU ON THE BEACH

Aims and Objects (straight from SNEC Constitution)

- ◆ Promote the protection of the natural biodiversity, landform plant communities, animals and animal habitats in the coastal zone within the municipality of the City of Stirling and adjoining areas.
- ◆ Promote an awareness of the need to conserve environmentally sensitive areas in the coastal zone within the municipality of the City of Stirling and adjoining areas.
- ◆ Contribute to the development of policies that promote ecologically sustainable land use within the coastal zone within the City of Stirling and adjoining areas.
- ◆ Undertake community- based coastal restoration and rehabilitation projects within the municipality of the City of Stirling and adjoining areas.
- ◆ Develop action plans in consultation with the City of Stirling and other stakeholders for the care and management of the coastal zone within the municipality of the City of Stirling.
- ◆ Obtain financial or in-kind support for activities that facilitate education, conservation and sustainable land use within the coastal zone within the municipality of the City of Stirling and adjoining areas.
- ◆ Communicate and co-operate with other organizations interested in the sustainable land use of the coastal zone within the municipality of the City of Stirling.



**Summer Recess:
16 Dec 2010 to 18 Jan 2011**

**2011
MIDWEEK activities resume
Tuesday 18 Jan
and continue through out the year on
Tues and Thurs morning (7—9 am
while it is still hot, until further notice.
Volunteers come one or both days)
Main sites
Watermans Bay, North Beach,
Hamersley Linkage
(NB Sometimes we are elsewhere, phone or
email to find out where.)**

Enqs M 0488190651 / M 0419191710

**SNEC Volunteers are valued, so your safety is
important.
Please wear a hat, enclosed footwear, long
sleeves, long pants. .**

**For more info: Email:
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OR
stirlingnaturalenvironmentcoastcare@hotmail.com
PO Box 396, North Beach 6920**

**“I used to sayWhy doesn't somebody do something?
Until I realized I was somebody” JFK**



**‘Show pieces’ of the Launch were
the local plants,** (shown above) with some of
those present . Launch of the Brochure completes all
work involved with that particular grant funding.

Great News just received.

SNEC has been successful in securing funding for:
*‘Extension of coastal rehabilitation works—North Beach to
Hamersley Beach, Western Australia’* from the 2010-11
Caring for our Country Community Action Grants.
Preparatory work will commence in the New Year
with planting to take place in 2012. Preparation for
2011 planting is already in hand and advanced.

A BUTTERFLY STORY WITH CHRISTMAS CHEER.

(Contributed by Georgina and Shel)

Many coastal plants are the natural food source for caterpillars (larvae) and adults of Australian native butterflies. During 2009 SNEC came to learn that a once locally common native nettle, called Pellitory or *Parietaria debilis*, is the food source for the larva of the Yellow Admiral Butterfly, *Vanessa itea*. We decided to trial this project. The City of Stirling gave the necessary permission to sow Pellitory seed along the coastal strip. Robert Powell, who has many years experience growing Pellitory for the Yellow Admiral, provided the seed from his bush garden and was willing to provide advice and guidance throughout the year.

These are 4-leafed seedlings.



Eight sites were selected, between Scarborough and Watermans Bay but germination was slow because of the late rains. Only two sites yielded Pellitory plants. Yes, the Yellow Admirals did visit about mid-August. On September 15th, 20 larvae were counted.

On Sept 25th seven remained, and on the 28th, overnight they were gone, possibly predated.

Shel's garden – a large Pellitory plant took up residence.



On Sept 17th and 19th "Yellow Admirals" visited this large plant "Leaf Curl" (an umbrella shaped leaf shelter) is a sure sign that eggs were laid and the Larvae have hatched.

A larva curled up in the safety of its leaf shelter and supported by silk threads.



This photo shows two (of the twelve) very hungry larvae. Note the ravaged plant but it was not enough food. Thirty more Pellitory plants were transplanted to support their voracious appetites.

31st October 2010:

Time-lapse photos

taken over 45 minutes (10.43am - 12.38pm), give a snap shot of the final stage whilst the butterfly emerges from its pupal case and flies away.



10.43am: the pupa became darker with distinctive orange patches minutes before emergence.

11.38am: The butterfly clung vertically, almost motionless, from its pupal case, whilst the wings straightened and hardened.



The wings pulsed gently every now and again.

The reflection off the glass fence shows the Yellow Admiral's under-belly. It is highly tuned to sudden movement and noise and the feelers are up. The butterfly stayed for 30 minutes in this position before its victory departure at 12.38pm. (nb photo tilted for easier viewing)



For another emergence witnessed on October 29th, the pupa split lengthwise and the butterfly emerged, head first and in haste. It also clung vertically on its pupal case.

In conclusion we have learned that the coastal dune environment is a hazardous place for a delicate plant-butterfly relationship such as this one. Lack of rain, predators and parasites were the principal factors that led to the demise of the larvae on the dunes. Also chances of life cycle completion are slim, even in a garden environment. Nevertheless twelve larvae did survive to pupal stage and then emerged as twelve magnificent butterflies. We are delighted.

SNEC plans to continue with this project in 2011.