

## Upcoming FERN events:

**Magik Beanstalk Soupie:** Every Tuesday (March 6, 13, 20 and 27). Dinner served at 7:00pm. First Tuesday of the month...

**Monthly Feast and Film Night:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007, screening 'The Next Industrial Revolution'.

**FERN Committee Meeting:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm at FERN

## COOKING up a cross-cultural Feast

FERN held its inaugural Cross-Cultural Cook-Up on Saturday February 17th, where members and guests enjoyed an evening of stories, food and music with the aim of creating an environment of cross-cultural harmony.

The Cook-Up was attended by an array of ages and cultures. Food and stories of various ethnicities were shared, with a particular focus on Fremantle's Nyoongar and Italian communities.

The colourful banquet ranged from marinated kangaroo, called 'Yonga' in Nyoongar language, to the traditional Italian 'Carnival Fritelle'.

The event was hosted by Giri Mazzella, from Commedia Academy. Giri serenaded diners with his accordion while singing traditional Italian and improvised songs that included Nyoongar words representing the evening's tucker.

Local, professional story-tellers, Jesse Williamson and Jenny Hill, kicked off the evening with tales of food and culture, which enthralled the gatherers.



Roo on the BBQ at the Cook-up



Gladys Yarran and Giri Mazzella

FERN's Stephanie Riley spoke of the Wagyl, the Dreamtime Serpent who created the Darling Ranges, the Melville Waters and then came to rest, forming the sandbar in Fremantle.

Another FERNie, Gladys Yarran, shared her intimate knowledge of local indigenous plants, which she shared on the night.

"FERN is committed to opening its doors to the widest cross-section of the Fremantle community. We aim to create opportunities for people to get to know one another and share their knowledge across traditional boundaries, while also encouraging them to learn about sustainability principles" says event organiser, Paul Pulé. "FERN has a wide range of exciting workshops and events in the coming months. It's a great time to get involved." [www.fern.org.au](http://www.fern.org.au)

### Management team revitalised

As a young organisation, FERN is growing at an amazing rate. We have recognised that we need to adapt our management structure to move with the times, and fill positions that have become vacant over time to maintain energy and enthusiasm in our management team.

To mirror the diversity of our community, FERN has recently welcomed three new board members to our fold. Kate Rogulskyj has been our events coordinator for many months and has been doing a fantastic job. Welcoming her to the board is well deserved recognition of her tireless efforts.

From our local Nyoongar community comes 2 members - Stephanie Riley is a youth worker at local high schools and is passionate about creating exciting opportunities for the youth of Fremantle and building cross-cultural understanding.

Gladys Yarran also joins our board, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge on indigenous plants and medicines that she would like to share with the wider community.

We also welcome Marie Thorne, local indigenous elder and tireless community advisor, to FERN's Advisory Committee.

We also thank the huge contribution made by our departing Board members. Alaya Spencer-Cotton, our strategist, has moved to England, Cat Miller, our secretary, has secured her dream job and Tom Wilson, entertainment champion of Soupie events, has graciously stepped aside to make room for the above appointments. Tom will continue to be actively involved in the Soupies.

### The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill

Screening Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at FERN's Film and Feast night:

A "rare documentary that has romance, comedy and a surprise ending that makes you feel like you could fly out of the theater..."-San Jose Mercury News

This remarkable movie is the true story of a Bohemian St. Francis and his remarkable relationship with a flock of wild red-and-green parrots. Mark Bittner, a dharma bum and former street musician in San Francisco, falls in with the flock as he searches for meaning in his life, unaware that the wild parrots will bring him everything he needs. It explores the meaning of altruism towards other living beings.

Run time: 80 minutes

### Sunset Soupie

Due to popular demand we will be serving dinner at 7pm sharp for the next month as we move out of Summer and into Autumn. Once we

hit April we will shift forward to 6:30pm in further efforts to stave off those rumbling stomachs! So come down a little earlier to share good food and good times. And don't forget, if you want to have some fun in the kitchen, we cook up from 3pm and help is gladly appreciated! See you soon at the soupie!

### *Busy Bee Changes..*

Unfortunately the March and April busy bees have been cancelled. In place of the March Busy Bee, though, FERN will be doing some work with an arborist on site. See the next article for more information. We are also seeking a busy bee coordinator to participate in our site development team and coordinate busy bee activities. If this sounds like something you could sink your teeth into and you would like to find out more, please contact Lisa on 0438 915 103.

### *Distressed Trees*

A King's Park arborist, Craig McSharer, surveyed the site last weekend and made several recommendations about pruning some of our aging and distressed trees and removing some of the noxious weeds. The FERN Committee gave their full support to these recommendations and a small team, led by Craig, will be doing all the work accessible from the ground. This will be happening on the first weekend of March. If you're interested in helping out, give Alex a call on 0403 273 297.

### *FERN gets out there*

On April 1st, FERN has decided to participate in UWA's Sun Fair and the Samson Children's Fiesta (both on the same day!). If you would like to participate, help out and meet more sustainability minded people, at

either of these events, please contact the FERN Event Coordinator, Kate on 0421 975 254.



### *High Street realignment*

A portion of the FERN site is at risk with plans for the expansion of High Street to a six-lane highway. To enable an increase of speed whilst turning into Stirling Highway to 60 km/hr from the current 40 km/hr, the options are to either cut into the FERN site or bulldoze a large number of houses on the opposite side of the road, both options necessitating the removal of many mature trees. FERN generally opposes the expansion of road networks to cater for the proliferation of container trucks, commuters and general traffic. We would rather support more socially and environmentally sustainable transport options. Therefore the widening of High Street and increasing the turning speed to greater than 40km/hr, is something that FERN does not support. We would like to hear your comments on the road widening and encourage any alternative solutions you may have to the realignment of High St. Visit our website forum under FERN Futures to comment (<http://www.fern.org.au/node/50>).

### *Booyeembara Park*

FERN has been asked to be involved in a project team looking at a shared community facility at the lovely Booyeembara Park. FERN remains committed to maintaining a strong presence at the existing site on the corner of High St and Montreal St and is keen to investigate options for

a second principle site at 'Boo' Park. Convenor, Lisa Barnes, has been busy working with the Boo Park Taskforce, other interested community groups and City of Fremantle staff and councilors to explore and develop possibilities. For more information you can contact Lisa on 0438 915 103.



Image source:  
[www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/news/html/booyeembara\\_awards.cfm](http://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/news/html/booyeembara_awards.cfm)

### Terminating Termites

The termite infestation at FERN has reemerged as a serious issue. They're eating through some of our best trees and decimating the newly installed kitchen benches with speed. Based on the recommendation of nearly everyone FERN boardies have spoken to, we've asked David Piggott to help us out. He's the Perth guru on solving pest problems with minimal chemical intervention and has been working in the business for decades.

David tells us the termites at FERN are the most aggressive type found in Perth and have some pretty awesome qualities. For example, the queen can live for many decades and direct the workers to previous food sources that have been unavailable for years. Anyway, as impressive as they are, we've had to get rid of them so that the building can remain intact. David is using a target-specific baiting treatment which

prevents the termites synthesising any chitin.

Chitin is the stuff that makes up their exoskeleton. There is no evidence of it causing any harm in people, domestic animals or any vertebrate animals, which minimises its impact on the environment.

However, it is not without regret that we feel we need to use this process against the little blighters.

We should expect to see a drastic reduction in the termite activity within a week or two and they should disappear completely in approximately one or two months.

David will come back several times over the coming year just to check that they don't come back. If you want any more information, we can highly recommend David for all your answers (0423 442 538 or [systemswa@iinet.net.au](mailto:systemswa@iinet.net.au)).

### Car Share Enthusiasts

This is the first briefing on WA's first car sharing network, Nexus Car Share. Nexus has the very cool Toyota Prius as part of its fleet.



### The Somerville Trial

At the moment Nexus is running a trial at Chidlow, with a pioneering group of future Somerville Ecovillage staff. The Car Share Pioneers are getting a feel for how the system works and learning how car sharing can benefit them. A new car is due in Somerville soon and will be accepting full members from the Chidlow community shortly after.

### **The Pinakarri Trial**

A recent talk about car sharing at the Pinakarri Community in Hamilton Hill was well received and there may be another car being stationed with Pinakarri residents shortly - stay tuned for more details.

If you know of a group that may be interested in finding out more about car sharing, let us know. Nexus is more than happy to discuss it with them.

### **The Official Fremantle launch**

While the Pinakarri and Somerville trials are getting going, the other big focus is on the Nexus official launch in July. The plan is to have 4-5 vehicles stationed around Fremantle. Most of the cars will small, efficient vehicles, but there will also be one ute for anyone who needs a work horse.

Nexus Car Share is talking to City of Fremantle Council about using Council Parking bays for our cars. This provides a great opportunity for Fremantle Council to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability and hopefully this is the start of a strong relationship between the Fremantle Council and Nexus Car Share.

Until the launch, there will be early bird membership discounts to reward Nexus' first users. Some of the cars will also be available for use before July, so there's no reason not to join straight away.

If you're interested in becoming a Nexus founding member, get in touch with Alex H on 0403 273 297.