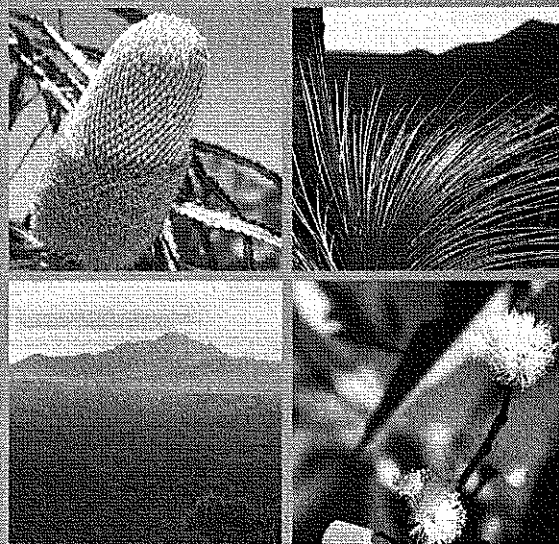


DIG CONFERENCE 2008



Announcing that the registration period for the annual
'DIG' Dieback Information Group Conference 2008
is now officially open.

WHAT'S ON AT DIG 08?

This year we are focusing on
**Phytophthora Dieback in
OUR BACKYARD!**

BE INSPIRED!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Environmental Scientists and Researchers
- Students and Teachers of Environment Studies
- Land Managers
- Local & State Government Officers
- Volunteers
- Employees working within NRM Organisations
- General Community Members

And anyone who has an interest in Phytophthora Dieback and it's devastating impact on our environment

CONFERENCE PROGRAM TOPICS

(Urban/peri-urban focus)

- New species.
- Innovative education.
- Latest mapping.
- Feral wildlife as vectors for spread.
- Disease management in garden centres
- Phosphite research.
- Eradication at last?

REGISTERING FOR DIG 08?

Date : Friday 4th July 2008.

Venue : Banquet Hall -
University Club, UWA.

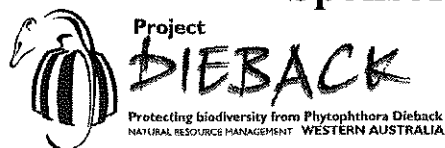
Cost : \$40 registration.

Registration Close : 27th June 2008.

Registration Contact :

steve.mccabe@water.wa.gov.au
or fax - (08) 9374 0685

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Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



Managing Phytophthora dieback in the Fitzgerald River National Park on the south coast of Western Australia

Chris Dunne

Fitzgerald River National Park on the south coast of WA is one of the most diverse botanical regions in the world, reflected in its designation as a World Biosphere Reserve. Around 2000 species and subspecies of native flowering plants are found in the park, representing nearly 20 per cent of the total number of plant species in WA. Included in this are over 62 endemic plant species with a further 48 plant species more or less confined to the park. This diverse flora supports a number of threatened animals including the critically endangered western ground parrot and the endangered dibbler.

Although the introduced plant disease Phytophthora dieback is widespread across the south coast of WA, the Fitzgerald River National Park is largely free the disease. Unfortunately, the park is also home to a 185-hectare Phytophthora dieback infestation.

Faced with the challenge of containing the infestation within its current micro-catchment, and with no known cure for the disease, the Department of Environment & Conservation in collaboration with the South Coast Natural Resource Management group is implementing a \$1.4 million Phytophthora dieback management plan. Funded by the WA State Government through an initiative titled *Saving our Species*, the project aims to prevent the infestation spreading further into the park.

The project is utilising a wide range of innovative management techniques including: a comprehensive hygiene plan; controlled access; a fire management plan; perimeter fence to prevent animal vectoring; root impermeable membranes; fungicide (phosphite) treatment; revegetation of the infested area; and engineering works to alter the sites hydrology. The details of the project and successes to date will be discussed.

To assist with the management of Phytophthora dieback on the south coast of WA, a number of epidemiological based field experiments have been established. This presentation will cover some of the major findings of these experiments and the resulting management recommendations.