



## GOODE NEWS brief

January 2019

### FBA Team wins grant

Congratulations to Dr Harriet Paterson of UWA and the FBA Environmental Monitoring subcommittee—Chris Hopper, Clare Mitchell, Jenni Leonard, Maggie Myers, Phil Roberts and Sue Roberts—for winning a grant of over \$8,500 from the WA Government Community Stewardship Grant Scheme. Their project is described below. I'm sure they'll be calling for lots of volunteers to help with the data collection, so be prepared!

### Community assessment of plastic on Goode Beach and its wildlife.

Plastic in the marine environment harms wildlife and degrades the amenity of the coastline. Initial concentrations along the south coast of Western Australia have recorded as high as 53 pieces per 0.25 m<sup>2</sup>. Seabirds ingest plastics, with between 25 and 33% of Flesh-footed Shearwaters from the south coast containing plastic fragments. Detailed information is required to understand annual cycles of plastics to improve management activities. Community-based monitoring has been used to monitor the distribution of microplastics on beaches. These groups are not only invested in their respective beaches but they are able to survey large areas producing valuable datasets.

This community Citizen Science project is a partnership between the Frenchman Bay Association (FBA) and the Albany Campus of the University of Western Australia. It will monitor annual changes in the abundance of plastics on Goode Beach and compare the size and colour characteristics of the beach plastics with plastics found in sea birds that periodically wash up on the beach. The knowledge gained will enable the FBA to increase their stewardship of the beach, through targeted strategic management activities and contribute to a broader understanding of plastics in southern Western Australia.

**Sundowner on 27 January 2019—5.30 PM TO 8PM—WHALERS GALLEY**

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Please identify your payment with your name

Enquiries to Jenni Leonard 0417 949 617