

## *Blackwood Valley Landcare Zone, 12 years of Achievements*

Blackwood Valley Landcare has closed its doors after twelve years of natural resource management in the local region. The Blackwood Basin Group would like to mark the occasion by offering many thanks for the years of dedication and hard work by members and employees of Blackwood Valley Landcare and to acknowledge the many achievements by this group.

Among the many achievements are the Waterwatch program which aims to educate children about all aspects of creeks and rivers, and teach them practical monitoring skills; the Boyup billabong project which rehabilitated the weed-laden and degraded site with native revegetation; coordinating regular volunteer events to manage issues in various reserves in the Bridgetown and Boyup Brook region, holding many informative and inspiring workshops and field days and providing a welcoming area for locals to come for resources, water testing or to check out the herbarium.

"With the help of many volunteers and the contributions of several dedicated staff members over the years Blackwood Valley Landcare has been able to make significant and positive contributions in natural resource management throughout the shires of Bridgetown and Boyup Brook" says Blackwood Basin Group Project Coordinator Kathe Purvis. "This organisation will be sorely missed in our region."

The closure is due to a lack in funding contributed to by a change in Government focus from grassroots Landcare to a regional delivery system, which is guided by targets set by the Federal Government. Presently the Blackwood Valley region does not meet any of the set targets, making it impossible for the organisation to carry on its aim to maintain and improve natural assets in the area.

The Blackwood Environment Society has taken on the railway office in Bridgetown and certain roles formerly filled by Blackwood Valley Landcare, including the Waterwatch program. The Blackwood Basin Group welcomes the Blackwood Environment Society and look forward to working together towards a better future for the Blackwood catchment.



Photo caption: Kim Posavec, Blackwood Valley Landcare, and Felicity Willett, Blackwood Basin Group, conducting water testing at a recent workshop