Saturday January 30th. 8.30 am. This morning, a dedicated group of sixteen people gathered together to clean up the area around the Jurien Bay Marina. This followed a meeting last November in which a Coast Care Group was formed to help look after the beach and adjoining areas each side of town. Penny Keenan from the West Midlands Group, associated with NACC, had visited Jurien Bay and enlisted the support of the Progress and Tourism Association to set up the Coast Care Group.

Once again, Penny was on hand with equipment, advice and encouragement to help with the clean up, while Laurie Bailey kindly donated the use of a skip bin to help things along. Work started along the east side of the Marina, near the boat launching ramp with some people balancing across the rock wall, with others picking their way over the top section. Half the group went around to the west side, near the car park and began gathering rubbish from there. Penny had brought a great pile of large rubbish bags which were either stockpiled or emptied into the bin and reused as the amount of rubbish collected built up.

By the time the job was completed, about 11.00am, something like three cubic metres of rubbish had been collected, of which an estimated 75% had come from fishing boats. Plastic wrapping from bait boxes, hundreds of metres of ropes made up the main lot of rubbish, along with drink cans and bottles, plastic containers, both food and beverage types. Among the more disgusting finds were disposable nappies, apparently thrown overboard and washed ashore.

As is customary in these official cleanups, an inventory of rubbish collected was made, with appointed recorders filling in sheets which Penny later collected and collated.

Afterwards, Mike & Jean Sheppard, Chairman and Secretary of the Progress and Tourism group, welcomed everyone to their home for refreshments and a meeting of the Coastal Care Group. Penny brought us all up to date with developments since the inaugural meeting. A grant application has been successful and funds are available to supply some matting and fencing to protect dune areas. Fifteen hundred plants were being supplied, probably about next June, to help stabilize susceptible areas and to beautify others. Some funds will be available to spend at Sandy Cape, where construction of the new decking pathway has begun.

Next April, a workshop will be conducted at Ledge Point to do with dune restoration. Penny will keep us informed about this, time, place etc.

The next cleanup will take place at Dobbyn Park on Saturday 27th March, just before Easter. This will be advertised more fully at a later date.

Any interested people are welcome to attend.

Beryl Johnson, Jean Harris, Christine & John Cullen, Peter & Deree Jaschinsky, Tams & Wayne Harston, Mike & Jean Sheppard, Ray Walton, Ross Howlett, Ron Snook, Penny Keenan, Sophie & Alan Thompson, all took part in the cleanup.