



# Environmental crusader keeps the fight going

Racing snails and creating a private zoo started Bob Goodale, founder of Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, on his conservationist journey, reports

## GABRIELLE JEFFERY

BOB Goodale's passion for the natural began in the early years of his life.

At five he was "apparently doing strange things like racing snails across the floor" and within a few years, he had expanded to his own private zoo.

It was a fitting start for the man who is the original founder of Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre in Shoalwater and who continues to work to preserve the region's fragile ecosystem.

Bob's passion for the environment drove the Naragebup concept forward.

Lots of people got on board as they could see it was a distinct possibility.

"It started with very small ideas," he said. "And quickly grew to that enormous thing which is down the road."

It was not always been easy and there were times when he felt like he was banging his head against the wall.

But he does not consider himself a pessimist and attributes his optimism to not worrying about things.

Bob worked for 20 years before

the recognition came. He has received several prestigious awards such as the Centenary Medal for Services to the Environment in 2001, of which only two thousand were issued in Australia.

However, his best achievements did not come through accolades and awards.

It has been the people he has inspired along the way to a better place in life, merely through their involvement with Bob and his love of nature.

Many people over the years have enjoyed the wildlife shows including thousands of school children and have carried those inspirations on in life.

Most notable have been those who were wayward and lost.

Bob has a friend who was from a broken home.

Floundering at the age of 12, he used to follow Bob around.

He got really interested in the environment, went on to become a science teacher and travelled the world. Bob sees these things as his true inspiration.

These days Bob is working on the campaign to preserve Point Peron, which he says is under threat from a

proposal for a marina put forward to be developed there.

Seagrass in the area is an important habitat for commercially and recreationally valued fish, mollusc and crustacean species and the adjacent bushland areas of Lake Richmond and Point Peron serve as Rockingham's Kings Park for the people.

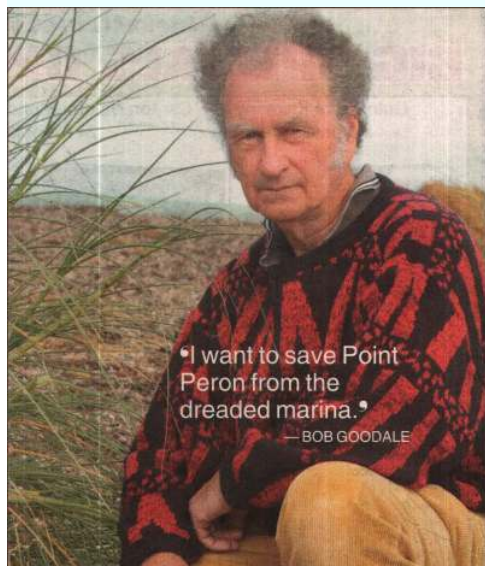
Point Peron is presently protected under draft management as a Regional Park with a Bush Forever area.

Bob, with others helping on the "Preserve Point Peron" campaign, is pushing for a marina to be sited at Wanliss Street, Rockingham, because the area has deep water and is sterile of any seagrass.

"I want to save Point Peron from the dreaded marina," Bob said.

"It was a fraud — turns out it was a canal development with a little marina attached to it."

Bob Goodale is a man to be admired — no matter what side of the environmental fence one sits on, it can't be denied that this man has worked tirelessly and freely for the good of Rockingham's environment



Bob Goodale reflects on the need to protect Rockingham and Kwinana's fragile ecosystem. Picture: Gabrielle Jeffery