

# Honour for Griselda

## **Environmentalist earns honour for dedication (item taken from newspaper)**

Environmental protection champion, Griselda Hitchcock was awarded the Conservation Council of WA Honours List Award at the council's 40th anniversary dinner last week

Ms Hitchcock has been involved with the environment since arriving in Australia with her family from the U. K. in the 1970s. Through the late conservationist, Len Howard, she became involved with local environmental issues. In the mid-1980s, she was appointed to the Peel Inlet Management Authority whose main function was removing piles of weed from the estuary shore. Ms Hitchcock joined a group to try to delay construction of the Dawesville Cut in favour of a less intrusive method of weed control in the Peel-Harvey Estuary, and her contract with PIMA was not renewed.

Under Len Howard's apprenticeship she began political lobbying to protect the natural environment, writing countless submissions, attending meetings and workshops, applying for grants, the lobbying decision makers, attending rallies and encouraging others. A major project was the Samphire Marshes of the Peel Harvey Estuary study. Ms Hitchcock and others raised \$35,000 to have new research done on the Peel Inlet samphire marshes which was published in 1995. An offshoot of the study was a 12 page booklet by Jane Latchford with input from Ms Hitchcock and Beryl Francis, which is still distributed in schools and used to educate the public. In the mid-19 80s Ms Hitchcock took over the presidency of Peel Preservation Group and was involved in most of the campaigns against unrestrained development in the Peel region. By 1985, she had written submissions or letters on the System 6 Review, the Peel Deviation, Centennial Park (Lakelands), Town Planning Scheme 3, Dawesville Cut, Point Grey and the gallium plant at Pinjarra.

She challenged the destruction of estuarine vegetation in Cox's Bay and tried to halt the destruction of quandongs at Florida. Submissions on the Inner Peel Region Structure Plan, the Peel Region Scheme, the Peel Regional Park and the Peel Deviation led to protection of bushland around Goegrup Lakes. Ms Hitchcock was involved in the study *The Waterbirds of Goegrup and Black Lakes in the Peel Region* in 2002, and a booklet on the Lake McLarty Nature Reserve in 2006. She recently launched her book *Trekking the West: Trekking with Horses in Western Australia 1988 -2006*.