



Trail to help keep watch on climate

EARTHWATCH and Conservation Volunteers Australia are working with the City of Mandurah to launch a ClimateWatch trail at Marlee Reserve.

ClimateWatch program manager Richard Weatherill said the trail would help educate volunteers and families in understanding the value of native plants and animals and contribute data to a national program monitoring the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

He said the trail had been developed with the City of Mandurah.

"Plants and animals that are easy to identify and can be found across Perth metropolitan region and south western Australia are being monitored," he said.

ClimateWatch was developed by Earthwatch with the Bureau of Meteorology and the University of Melbourne to understand how climate change is affecting the behaviour of Australia's plants and animals.

Senior researcher Lynda Chambers said changes in rainfall and temperature were already triggering changes in the established flowering times, breeding cycles, migrations and distributions of the country's flora and fauna, both native and introduced.

"Citizen scientists play a very important role as we do not have enough dedicated scientists to monitor different areas," Dr Chambers said.

Mandurah Secondary College has taken part in the Earth Assist program for several years.



Rich Weatherill from Earth Watch and Amber Kennedy from Earth Assist with Mandurah Secondary College students. Picture: Jon Hewson

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