



## *Media Statement*

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**4 April 2008**

### **RiverRats learn more on management and restoration of our rivers**

Restoration and protection of streams and rivers will be under the spotlight at a workshop run by the Department of Water in Denmark next Monday, April 7.

The department's Waterways program manager, Verity Klemm, said the workshop was intended to meet the demand for information on what can be done on a local level to contribute to restoring and protecting waterway health.

"Thirty two RiverRats will gather at Centre for Sustainable Living in Denmark for the fifteenth River Restoration Workshop," Ms Klemm said.

"The workshop is aimed at providing participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand how streams and rivers work, and how to design and implement restoration works.

"They will learn about river hydrology and ecology, how to survey and analyse a river, how to control erosion and enhance a river habitat, as well as develop a restoration design and foreshore vegetation plan.

"The RiverRats will be getting their hands dirty and feet wet conducting surveys of reaches in the Wilson Inlet catchment, and the information they collect will be used to recommend restoration works for those reaches.

"Our participants will be coming from areas between Esperance and Kununurra, and will include representatives from catchment and landcare groups, catchment coordinators, private consultants, and State and Local Government departments."

RiverRats stands for River Restoration Action Team, and is a term first coined in 1996 to describe people who are dedicated towards restoring and managing the State's rivers.

For information on the workshops and other river restoration activities, contact Verity Klemm on (08) 6364 6622, or if you wish to speak to Verity during the workshop please phone 0417 956 095

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