

UBC acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Noongar people, as the spiritual and cultural custodians of this land.
Together we care for country.



Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor Nature Link
(Image: NatureLink Perth)

Help Design the Perth & Peel Urban Greening Strategy

Diminishing tree canopy, heat island effects, further land development for housing, a drying climate and a long hot summer that doesn't want to end are all reasons why we should all contribute to the development of the Perth & Peel Urban Greening Strategy.

The WA State government is committed to developing and implementing an urban greening strategy by the end of this year. They currently have a community survey out for comment, with a closing date of 7 June.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-planning-lands-and-heritage/perth-and-peel-urban-greening-strategy>

Whilst UBC is pleased to see the WA Government focussing on 'Urban Greening' we are most concerned about specific aspects of the current plan and problematic omissions. The ecological and wellbeing benefits of 'tree canopy' and 'ecological linkages' cannot be created in isolation of our natural areas.

Natural areas make up a significant percent of the Perth and Peel canopy. We need to protect and manage those areas for conservation or we will lose canopy. We also need to redouble efforts to restore ecological communities within original ranges by active abatement of threats, revegetation, and other conservation initiatives. And we need to increase the understanding in the community of the value and function of our natural areas and the important role they play in the urban canopy debate.

UBC is working with other environmental NGOs to find ways of including the importance of protecting biodiversity in our survey responses. A net increase in urban tree canopy cannot be delivered with continual loss of native trees in bushland settings.

The UBC Guide to answering the survey is on the website here:

<https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/campaigns/your-voice-needed-now-on-key-issues>

You will be guided, as well as able to copy and paste from our document into your survey response if you so wish.

You will also find on that page, links to Zoom recordings from our information sessions with the State government and then with environmental groups including WA Tree Canopy Advocates, Wildflower Society of WA, NatureLink Perth, Peel Harvey Catchment Council and the Wetlands Conservation Society.

The UBC guide will help you complete the survey efficiently and quickly. It is vital that the government is reminded of the importance of retaining and managing well our natural areas as they look to expand tree canopy across our suburbs.





Galaxy Note20 5G
14 February 2024 11:40 am

Save Our EPA Rally February (Photo: Colma Keating)

Editorial

It’s a busy time in the world of conservation as we endure the never-ending summer in the southwest of Western Australia, worry about the signs of bushland collapse all around us from Shark Bay to Albany and wonder when we will be able to stop watering our revegetation sites. At the same time as we watch the impact of climate change all around us, we recognise that we need to step up our community efforts for bushland protection.

Elsewhere in this edition, you can see that UBC is working with other like-minded groups to advocate for better linkages and protection for our natural areas as part of the development of the Perth & Peel Urban Greening Strategy. Use our guide when you fill in the survey.

UBC is also a core participant in the Conservation Council WA (CCWA) led campaign to ‘Save our EPA – Protect WA Nature’. It is critically important that the independence of the EPA is not diminished and that the community has opportunity to comment on development proposals. Look out for emails and social media posts with campaign updates and be involved in campaign actions.

As individuals we can feel powerless in being effective advocates for the environment, but as a member of a Friends group, our on-ground works gives us both the social capital and the collective voice to take a position for better environmental protection than we have now. Keep in touch as we navigate the next few months and continue our campaigning.

The first quarter is always a busy time at UBC given our Annual General Meeting is held in March. Dr Richard Yin, President of CCWA, spoke eloquently about our current environmental challenges (Save our EPA). You can find a recording of his presentation here.

<https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/resources/presentations-videos-and-references>

We celebrate a full committee for the first time in several years – thank you to incoming committee members and to those who have stepped away from committee responsibilities. Thank you also to all who volunteer with UBC to help us be stronger and more effective.

Mid-March saw the delivery of the UBC-led symposium on “Limestone Karst Ecosystems and Honey Myrtle Shrublands” with more than 80 people attending. Our audience very much appreciated the presentations by our experts and left with a greater understanding that they might have this Threatened Ecological Community on their patch (see page 4).

More recently we have celebrated a win for the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands. Thank you to all who made a submission (see page 5).

Watch out for our upcoming Talks, Walks and Workshops– they will be promoted on our website, by email and via Facebook. Our 2024 theme is advocacy, recognising the pressures and challenges around all of us to be a Voice for the Bush (see page 13).

Inside this issue	
Honey Myrtle Symposium.....	4
Your voice needed	5
Bush forever update	6
Group News	8
Events.....	12



Voting at the 2024 AGM (Photo: Colma Keating)

Introducing the 2024 UBC Committee

2024 UBC Committee

UBC welcomes new committee members Lydia Fenu, Heidi Hardisty and James Mumme. We are also pleased to have finally filled the role of Treasurer. We welcome Philip Thomas to the role of Treasurer and Sue Waddell as Assistant Treasurer. Colma Keating steps down from the committee but stays on in the vital role of Membership Officer.

We farewell Mary Gray OAM from the committee but know that she will continue on the Submissions Working Group and is only a phone call away for advice.

Chairperson	Christine Richardson
Deputy Chairperson	Sue Conlan
Secretary	Marg Owen OAM
Treasurer	Philip Thomas
Assistant Treasurer	Sue Waddell
Committee	Elizabeth Eaton Lydia Fenu Heidi Hardisty James Mumme OAM Mitch Polain
Membership Officer	Colma Keating

Honorary Life Memberships

At the AGM, UBC announced Honorary Life Memberships to Renata Zelinova and Marg Owen OAM.

Renata Zelinova

For more than 20 years, Renata Zelinova has actively contributed to the operations of the Urban Bushland Council and even longer to her local Quinns Rocks Environmental Group. She made a significant and longstanding contribution in her 20 years as Editor of the Urban Bush Telegraph. Her mapping skills and geographic knowledge have also been an enormous help in UBC's advocacy.

Marg Owen OAM

Whilst Marg Owen has been Secretary of the Urban Bushland Council since 2004, her contribution to the UBC and conservation management go way beyond the critical role of secretary. She has drafted many of UBC submissions on development proposals affecting bushland in the environmental impact assessment processes, based on her often exhaustive research into sources of relevant information. She has celebratory status for her fabulous photos from local bushland, especially of our iconic Carnaby's Cockatoos, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, wildflowers, insects and reptiles.

Call for volunteers

Urban Bushland Council is wholly volunteer led and depends on volunteers with a wide variety of specialist skills to deliver our vision of preserving our native bushlands and associated wetlands in urban areas of Western Australia. If you have a passion for writing, we are looking for an editor for the Urban Bush Telegraph or our email newsletters. And if social media is your thing, then we are looking for another Facebook Admin or someone to jumpstart UBC Instagram presence.



Manning Park Ridge (Photo, Sue Conlan)

Perth's Coastal Karst Limestone Ecosystems and Honeymyrtle Shrubland Symposium

Honeymyrtle Shrubland on Limestone Ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain Bioregion

This new Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) was listed as critically endangered in November 2023, both state and federally. As little as 200 ha of Honeymyrtle Shrubland (HMS) remains. A symposium held on the 17th March this year was of interest to bushcare groups and landcare managers.

In Noongar culture, the coastal limestone was created by the Waugal who broke out of the earth and travelled west creating the waterways and wetlands, leaving the coastal limestone ridges as a separation of the fresh water and the ocean. Although degraded, these hills and ridges remain of significance to Noongar people. Some hills are now quarry holes and have a story to tell!

Geologist, Dr Ken McNamara explained how plants helped create the world unique geoheritage of karst limestone. In turn the karst limestone shaped the evolution of HMS. A common feature of flora of the Swan Coastal Plain HMS on karst limestone includes banksias, melaleuca, wattle, sedges, grevilleas and eucalyptus. Each area can hold unique flora or variants of the same species, which are evolutionarily different. Bronwen and Greg Keighery OAMs impressed the importance of locating variants from within the local area that are useful for revegetation purposes.

Professor Hans Lambers explained that some plants of karst limestone have become clever at retrieving micronutrients and phosphorus from the old infertile soils. This is shown by *Banksia sessilis* (parrot bush) where the development of cluster roots and release of carboxylate allows the retrieval of the little phosphorus available. This strategy enables them to grow over a wider range of areas. On the downside, it has come at the expense of shallow root systems and is a problem with reduced rainfall and hot summers from climate change.

Professor Will Stock reminded us that *Banksia sessilis* grows in thickets and though the seeds are small there are lots of them. These seeds are the forgotten reliable food for black cockatoos. Black cockatoos require nutrients from a variety of seeds, not just the pine seeds, that have become a staple food source as bushland is cleared. Too much HMS has been repeatedly burnt and only re-sprouters return. This is a major threat to this little remaining complex. Half the plant diversity in Bold Park and Kings Park is associated with limestone-based ecosystems.

Protecting what is left.

Manning Park Ridge is an important site for HMS. This large (117 ha) site holds numerous pockets of remnant Threatened Ecological Community, not just HMS. The Ridge and surrounds continue to be degraded with weed invasion and ingress by mountain bikers, runners and park visitors. Widened paths are increasing erosion and reducing infiltration. The effect of low rainfall on Manning Park Ridge was recently showcased by Dr Joe Fontaine (Murdoch University) with [his paper](#) on the collapse of SW WA forests.

This listing of HMS as critically endangered under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act should give the unique urban bushland at Manning Park Ridge the right to be protected. The Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor "Wetlands to Waves" proposal for the former Roe 8, Roe 9 road reserves - will help link ecologically Manning Park Ridge. From the Coogee coast to Bibra Lake, with links north through to Clontarf Hill and due south to Manning Park Ridge, it would give the natural and ancient cultural landscape the best chance of survival. Our future, our inheritance, a legacy for the next generation. An outdoor classroom and health retreat!

Sue Conlan, *Friends of Mosman Park Bushland*

Your Voice Needed Now on Key Issues – Autumn update

Greater Brixton Street Wetlands

Where are we up to?

Let's celebrate a win! The EPA has assessed Amendments 166 & 169 of the City of Gosnells Town Planning Scheme ([Greater Brixton Street Wetlands](#)) and recommended that they should not be implemented. What a fantastic win! It's not often we see such a strongly worded assessment. Read the full report here:

<https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Schemes/City%20of%20Gosnells%20Town%20Planning%20Scheme%20EPA%20Assessment%20Report.pdf>

[The Conservation Council WA supports the recommendation.](#)

The EPA report also advises that if the relevant Ministers are of the view that the amendments should be implemented then the conditions provided in Appendices A and B should be imposed. UBC has lodged an appeal indicating that the conditions outlined need to be far stronger and more onerous to afford proper protection. We have also made this case directly to the Minister for Environment in our recent meeting.

How can you help?

Watch out for updates following the appeal period and join us whatever the outcome. We all hope it will be in solid celebration for the protection of the most biodiverse region on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Perth Surf Park

Where are we up to?

UBC, Save the Black Cockatoos coalition and other environmental groups continue to lobby politicians demanding that an appropriate cleared site be chosen for the Perth Surf Park. An Open Letter co-signed by many environmental groups, was delivered to the Premier's office at Dumas House on 12 April. This protest action outside Dumas House was reported in the press (and on TV). The [Change.org](#) petition remains open.

How can you help?

(1) Complete the [Change.org](#) petition, (2) contact your MLA via the online letter campaign to persuade the Labor State Government to move the surf park; <http://bit.ly/move-surf-park> and/or (3) write to the Premier - wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au directly. Watch for updates on our Facebook page.

Save our EPA – Protect WA Nature

Where are we up to?

The Rally outside Parliament House on the 13 February to present an Open Letter to the Premier attracted a large crowd of people passionate about our environment. UBC was one of the speakers along with Environs Kimberley, The Beeliar Group, Lock the Gate, and the Conservation Council of WA (CCWA). Since then, CCWA and UBC have been involved in briefing sessions from the Department of Water & Environmental Regulation (DWER) and the Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPC) regarding the recommendations in the Vogel-McFerran Report for changes to the Environmental Protection Act. UBC will be involved in the subsequent consultation process being planned. These changes to the EP Act could reduce the EPA's independence and the public's right to be involved in environmental assessment. CCWA is leading this campaign and will be holding a [member update on 7 May](#) via Zoom. UBC is a CCWA member so you are invited.

How can you help?

Register for the upcoming CCWA campaign [member update on 7 May](#). Keep up to date through emails or Facebook posts from UBC and CCWA. Come along to the next UBC General Meeting to receive the latest information and advice.

Gnangara Pines

Where are we up to?

Harvesting of the Gnangara and Pinjar Pine Plantations ceased in December 2023 following a decision by the state government to conserve the remaining pines as a critical food source for black cockatoos. It was a welcome move by many campaigning for better outcomes for the birds.

Birdlife WA, Save the Black Cockatoos, UBC and Dr Hugh Finn (Curtin University) intend to work together on a shared vision that will support the management of the pines by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). There are about 4500 hectares of pines remaining, over half of which are mature stands.

All are anticipating management funds to be allocated in the May budget announcement.

How can you help?

Support the plan to thin the pines to an optimum density that will maximise the amount of pine nuts for Carnaby's Black-cockatoos.



City of Albany clearing permit for construction of a network of bike trails in the Albany Heritage Park

Where are we up to?

UBC has lodged an appeal and met with the Appeals Committee to protest at this proposal that is at variance with 5 of the Clearing Principles. UBC's position is that bike trails in this bushland site is an incompatible and destructive land use which must not be permitted.

How can you help?

Support the local bushland groups in any future advocacy actions.

What's in the pipeline?

Public Environmental Reviews (PER) have been announced for the Upgrade of Anketell Road and the Outer Harbour development at Kwinana (Westport). Watch out for the assessment process and your opportunity to comment via information on our Your Voice page and our email newsletters. We are also awaiting the assessment for Lot 123 Mortimer Road, Casuarina in the City of Kwinana, and Erindale Road bushland, Hamersley in the City of Stirling. They are both high quality bushland sites, both of which should be fully protected and added to the conservation estate as 'A' class reserves for the purpose of conservation and passive recreation only. You can learn more about the Friends of Erindale Road Bushland's campaign to protect their patch at our next General Meeting on 5 June 2024.

<https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/subdivision-lot-123-mortimer-road-casuarina>

<https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/lots-802-and-part-803-erindale-road-hamersley>



DIG conference August 20-21
2024 Murdoch University
Register [here](#)

Bush Forever Round Table

In March, members of the conservation movement from UBC, Wildflower Society of WA and Perth NRM met with staff from several government departments involved in the implementation of the Bush Forever strategy for an update on progress on the acquisition, transfer to end land manager and ongoing management of Bush Forever sites.

Although it is now more than 20 years since Bush Forever was adopted and 2 years since the Bush Forever Audit, its full implementation remains of the highest priority for UBC. Climate change is putting great pressure on our comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) conservation system making improved management even more important.

Staff from Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage (DPLH) and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (DBCA) reported on good progress with acquisitions of some of the remaining Bush Forever sites still in private ownership. They are also working productively with various Local Governments to negotiate the handover of Bush Forever sites for management by the LGA.

Other topics included in the briefing were:

- The development of the State Planning Policy (SPP) 2.9 – Planning for Water and Planning for Water Guidelines, but the release date is unknown.
- Urban greening strategy – to be finalised by end of 2024.
- Local biodiversity plans and how WA Local Government Authority (WALGA) was encouraging LGAs to develop them and their importance as part of their local planning framework.
- The mapping of offsets.

We were delighted with the sense of collaboration and information sharing during the session and will seek a further update in 2025. We will also seek a briefing from Department of Water & Environmental Regulation (DWER) on topics such as Native Vegetation Policy, groundwater and clearing permits.

Following the meeting, UBC wrote to the Premier requesting support for a DBCA budget that allows for finalization of 'end manager' requirements for the remaining Bush Forever sites for which DBCA will be that manager. We also requested support to LGAs for feral animal and weed control in such reserves.



Banksia Woodland in good condition (Photo: D. Brady)

Being a Voice for the Bush at LGA Meetings

Bush advocates can use their local knowledge and passion, working together to influence local government decisions on remnant bushland.

In February 2024 the City of Swan was presented with a proposal from a developer to clear 70ha of bushland including 34ha of Banksia Woodland. This was to be added to a vehicle-dependent housing estate in North Ellenbrook west, 5kms from a train station. With at 15 dwellings per hectare there would be insufficient room for large verge trees, garden trees and little public open space. This is contrary to [Perth and Peel @3.5million](#) which has a focus on liveable neighbourhoods, 30% canopy cover especially for those suburbs away from sea breezes and supporting crucial green corridors to bushland to assist wildlife protection.

Along with the Urban Bushland Council and Trillion Trees, bushcare groups including Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group, Friends of the Vines Bushlands, the Ellenbrook Brockman Catchment Council, Bushmead Conservation Cobbers and Lower Helena Association gave deputations or statements so councillors could understand the implications of the urban development proposal. All groups gave strong arguments for nature.

To the right is the statement given by **Marilena Stimpfl (Lower Helena Association)**. It is a great example of how local bushcare groups can advocate for conservation more broadly. In her statement Marilena provides scientific detail but also captures the importance of nature to people.

Following the meeting, some councillors were moved to drive out to this bushland site and inspect it themselves. The council finally recommended to WA Planning Commission (WAPC) to retain the Banksia woodland. This is the first hurdle! So often approvals occur with the stroke of a pen, with decision makers not even visiting a site they are condemning to be cleared.

Two things inspired me to give this statement today:

- *The fact that last week the vast majority of the AEM motions were about preserving and improving biodiversity within the CoS; and,*
- *The imperative to protect any remaining coastal sandplain bushland, especially when and where intact*

As you know, the coastal sandplains brim with biodiversity, but unfortunately, they are now included among the world's top (top 34 as of 2004) threatened biodiversity hotspots. These hotspots are defined as places where "exceptional concentration of endemic species can be found, and where species are undergoing exceptional loss of habitat. Our coastal sandplains have been cleared on a large scale, to make place for agriculture, mining, housing" (Plant life on the sandplains in South West Australia, a global biodiversity hotspot, Hans Lambers, Editor, 2014, University of Western Australia) One of the most threatened species, whose decline is associated with the annihilation of coastal sandplain and associated banksia woodland, is the black tailed cockatoo.

Did you know that the evolutionary lineage of these birds goes back 66 million years, yet, it has taken us less than 200 years to get to the point where we went from "flocks so big as to darken the sky" to a situation where there are fewer than 10-40 thousand (depending on the species and who you ask) of them still alive, with these numbers decreasing rapidly. Their crisis is real: their roosting, feeding and nesting sites are disappearing fast. As of 2016 over 60% of banksia woodland have been obliterated by our ever-expanding city. In 2024 that number is even greater.

I don't know about you but when I hear the call of cockatoos I always stop and look up. I would hate to live in a world where these birds no longer fill the sky with their voices. Sometimes, in this council we are offered a chance to help protect these hotspots from further destruction and give a chance to the animals and plants that depend on them for their survival. Take those opportunities, please, don't waste them.



Wattles and 70 year old tuart at Point Peron
(Photo: James Mumme)

Friends of Point Peron

Cape Peron has certainly been saved from the Mangles Bay Marina, though not for environmental reasons. As the Minister for Planning announced in March 2019, the development had been refused for five planning considerations. She also mentioned the level of community concern so the efforts of Hands Off Point Peron, Friends of Point Peron (FPP) and Preserve Point Peron and everyone else made a difference. Thank you everyone.

Since then there has been a long wait for planning processes to be completed and the bad news is - we are still waiting. The Ministers for Planning and Environment have both made media splashes about large parts to be declared Class A but there is the small print. Minister Whitby has said he "believed at least some of that land would receive 'Class A' status in future."

First, we still do not know exactly which parts of the Cape will be Class A. Excisions on the map released by the Minister show a realignment of Point Peron Road and the proposed Garden Island Highway where the Navy reportedly wanted a four lane highway. Already since the original announcement chunks of bush have been removed for a wider road opposite the gatehouse to Stirling Naval Base and for sewerage works. The cleared sites along the water managed by DevelopmentWA, who have spent big on bollards, rock barriers and elaborate gates, have become woody weed nurseries and illegal camping sites. FPP know of at least ten other sites with campers. How many more of the thousand cuts are coming?

Second, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) produced its Draft Recreation Management Plan recently. It shows a 50 metre wide realignment of Point Peron Road for over 1.7 km in total with over 8.5 ha to be excised from valuable bush. Certainly there is great need for a proper cycle path on the busy road but on that strip there are presently more than 100 tuarts.

Traffic has been very congested at rush hours and with the massive development going on at Stirling and arrival of 700 US personnel this is going to get worse. Traffic studies have been going on but no one seems to be thinking outside of their asphalt lined boxes. No one except myself has suggested making Memorial Road a one-way IN road and Point Peron Road a one-way OUT road. A Defence engineer told me recently they will just have "to knock over a few trees."

Third, if it is to be Class A, when will it get adequate funding to protect those "high conservation values?" The funds for managing Rockingham Lakes Regional Park are stretched. Friends of Point Peron know the hardworking staff are stretched thin and recently we had to wait for over a month for a gate to be fixed, and in two places there have been wide open breaches of bollards allowing cars in for over three weeks. Signage on the flat at the entrances to the Park are minimal and not attractive.

Friends of Point Peron with support from Perth NRM, DBCA, SERCUL and Coastwest are doing our best to restore the native vegetation and remove invasive woody weeds. We meet most Sunday mornings and Thursday afternoons and any other time we can get helpers.

James Mumme, *Friends of Point Peron* (0427 449166)



Self-seeded Hardenbergia



Tomato Lake in 2024 (photo Andrew Shaw)

The WA Naturalists' Club 100th Anniversary

The Western Australian Naturalists' Club, one of the oldest conservation groups in Australia, launched its Centenary recently with an extremely well-attended morning of displays, talks and walks at Tomato Lake, Kewdale on Sunday 7 April.

The Club has been a member and supporter of UBC for many years, not least because the Club's Mission Statement "Encouraging the study and protection of the natural environment" parallels UBC's "Promoting the recognition and conservation of urban bushland and its biodiversity".

Naturalists' Club excursions, and flora and fauna surveys conducted throughout the State have contributed significantly to the scientific knowledge of our bushland and its unique biodiversity, and to the discovery of several new species of plants and animals. These discoveries, along with many other observations were often, and still are, published for the first time in the Club's own scientific, peer-reviewed journal, The Western Australian Naturalist, produced since 1947.

Of note to UBC members is Ivan Carnaby's paper "Variations in the White-tailed Black Cockatoo", in the December 1948 volume which led to the elevation of the sub-species into a full species, named after the author.

In addition to the journal, the Club produces guidebooks and reference books, most recently publishing revised editions of two popular books, Robert Powell's Leaf and Branch: Trees and tall shrubs of Perth and Growing Locals: Gardening with Local Plants in Perth by Robert Powell and Jane Emberson.

The Club will hold several more special events throughout 2024 including the Centenary Lunch on Saturday 13 July at The University Club and a re-enactment of its first excursion of 100 years ago at Leighton Beach this August. Details of events will be available on the Club's website:

<https://www.wanaturalists.org.au>

All past and current members of the Club and UBC are invited to attend.

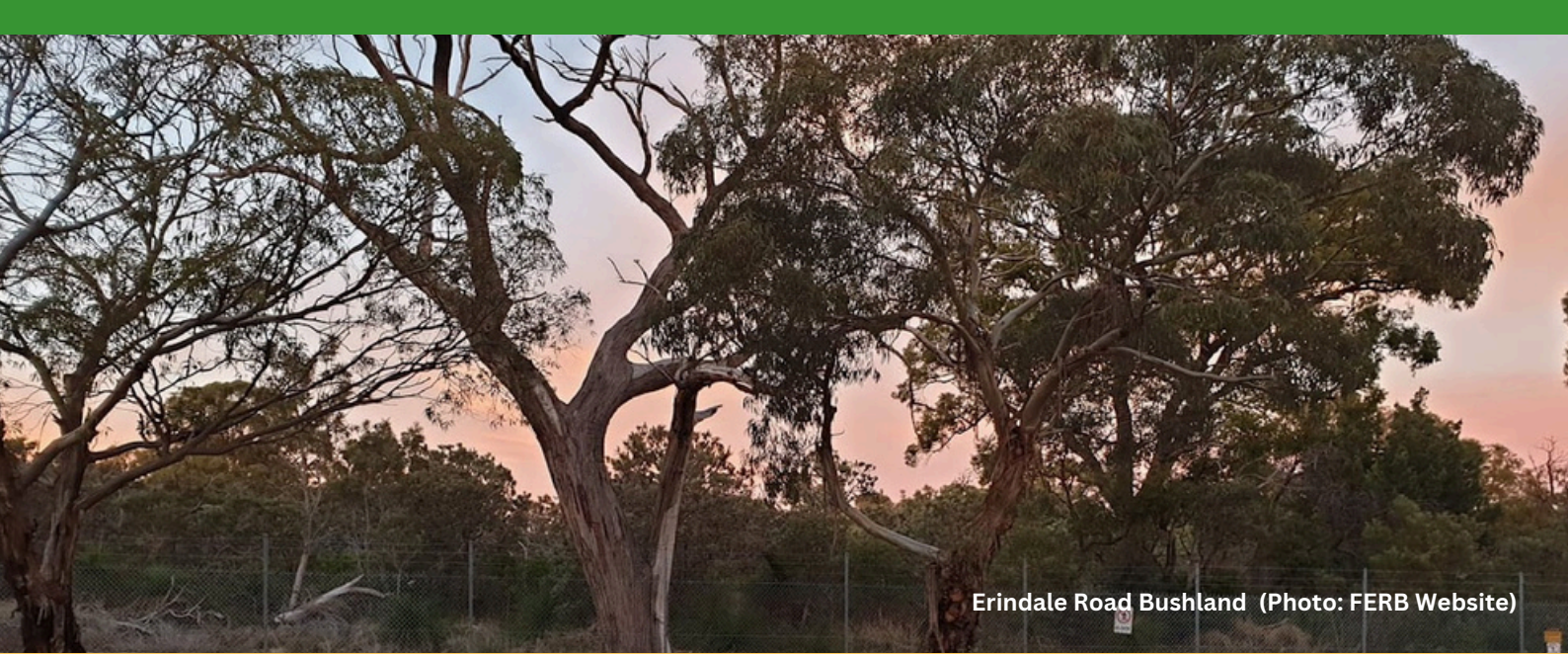
Why Tomato Lake?

Tomato Lake is the site of just one of the Club's many achievements over the last 100 years. In 1974 the Club instigated a massive cleanup of Tomato Lake for its 50th anniversary conservation project. The lake had become infested with a thick mat of the introduced aquatic fern *Salvinia molesta* which covered the entire lake. The weed was preventing waterbirds from using the lake and the long-necked turtles from coming to the surface to breathe. Club members, the local community and the Belmont Shire Council (now City of Belmont) joined together and by manually removing the weed, the lake returned to being a haven for wildlife. Tomato Lake is now a refuge for the turtles and numerous bird species as well as its surrounds being a very popular spot for recreation.

Don Poynton, *WA Naturalists Club*



1974 at Tomato 'Swamp' (Photo: Penny Hussey)



Erindale Road Bushland (Photo: FERB Website)

The Friends of Erindale Road Bushland Success

Petitioning to Protect

The Friends of Erindale Road Bushland is fighting to prevent the clearing of this remnant Banksia, Jarrah and Tuart woodland in Hamersley, and have used petitions as a campaign tool.

We thought that petitions were used to directly influence decisions by political leaders. However, being part of the petitioning process has taught us that their purpose is much more subtle and far-reaching. You can use petitions to:

- raise awareness of the issue outside of your immediate support network (even with people who declined to sign)
- demonstrate to political leaders the level of community support
- engage with political leaders
- give your supporters a simple, practical action that helps them to contribute without taking them too far out of their comfort zone
- get media attention for your campaign.

There are numerous platforms for online petitions, for example, change.org and [iPetitions.com](https://ipetitions.com). We chose the Legislative Council's ePetition platform so that it would be tabled in the Legislative Council, recorded in Hansard, and then referred to the relevant Committee for consideration. For ePetitions, a Member of Parliament must agree to facilitate the petition before you can start collecting signatures.

You can find out more about creating a Legislative Council ePetition [here](#).

To see the wording of our petition to the Legislative Council, please visit our [website](#).

Learn more about the campaign at the next UBC general meeting, see page 13 for details.

Our ePetition officially went 'live' at the end of August, 2023. However, after three months, we only had around 400 signatures. While there is no minimum number of signatures required, we felt that we needed at least two thousand to demonstrate community support for protecting the bushland. So, we tried some new strategies, which resulted in 3,437 signatures after another three months.

Here's how we did it:

- Firstly, we used Mail Chimp to email our supporters, with a clear goal (1,000 signatures) and a specific deadline (January 1). We reached that goal.
- We included a QR code for the ePetition on printed flyers that we took to events so that supporters could immediately scan and sign the petition.
- We reached out to other like-minded groups and asked them to share our ePetition.
- In a final push, we emailed reminders to our supporters to share the petition and congratulate them on their efforts, which had already helped us to reach just over 2,000 signatures. Even in this final ten days of the petition, we got a further 900 signatures!

Special mention to local supporter Marty Shipton, who did a fantastic job of sharing the petition across his social networks especially the online community Reddit. 'Commenting' and 'liking' Facebook posts related to the petition helped make the posts more visible.

We now await the outcome of the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs assessment of, and enquiry into, the merit or issues arising from our petition.

Sonya Elek, Robyn Murphy and Marie Giorgi,
Friends of Erindale Road Bushland

Pests!



Shot-hole borer fungus growing 'galleries' (Photo: DPIRD)

I'm a bushcarer - Why should I care about shot-hole borer?

The polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) tunnels into trees and has a symbiotic relationship with a *Fusarium* fungus that restricts water and sap movement, leading to tree death within a couple of years. The tiny beetle can feed on many different trees and flies around 400m to new trees.


While Australian native trees do not appear to be a preferred host to complete their lifecycle, in every country that the borer has spread to, new kinds of trees have been infected. Eleven WA natives have been recorded so far. Old paperbarks at Lake Claremont have been infected, possibly from more preferred introduced trees in proximity. Traps can only get flying beetles during a short period of the total lifecycle. In addition to the unknown impacts on native trees, loss of mature introduced trees across the metropolitan area (eg. Morten Bay Figs) will reduce the urban canopy with many negative flow-on effects.

There are already more than 1000 infection sites in Perth. Please use the [MyPestGuide Reporter App](#) or visit this site to see the quarantine area and to report any sightings.

<https://www.outbreak.gov.au/current-outbreaks/polyphagous-shot-hole-borer>

Use the MyPestGuide Reporter App on your phone to report pests or noxious weeds to DPIRD



MyPestGuide Reporter 
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Designed for iPad
★★★★☆ 3.0 + 17 Ratings
Free

- Help eliminate the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) by using this simple App when you are out and about by taking a photo of what you see and uploading onto the App.
- Tell tale signs of PSHB are highly susceptible trees with dead branches on top of their canopy.
- You should also report rogue Castor Oil plants that you can not remove yourself. Castor Oil plants are highly susceptible to PSHB. Reporting them on this App is a win all round.

Sue Conlan, *Friends of Mosman Park Bushland.*

Upcoming Events



Wednesday 5th June 6.30 to 7.30pm 2 Delhi St West Perth
Register on the UBC website!

Saving your nearby 42ha of Bushland in Hamersley when it is privately owned!
Learn what Friends of Erindale Rd Bushland, have done and continue to do.



Watch out for booking details for these events on [UBC Facebook](#) and the [UBC website](#)



Lightning Swamp Bushland is a 71-hectare A-class reserve located 12Kms North-East of Perth in the suburb of Noranda. It is bound by Reid Highway, Malaga Drive and Matthews Close in Noranda.

Walk with Friends of Lightning Swamp Bushland as the Winter Wakes up the Wetlands
Saturday 1st June, 1 to 2.30pm
Meet at Della Rd Carpark
Register UBC Website

Events



Urban Bushland Council presents...

ADVOCACY SKILLS WORKSHOP **to protect urban bushland**

Sunday 23 June | 11am - 4pm

City West Lotteries House, West Perth



Learn essential advocacy skills in this interactive workshop facilitated by green activist **Lynn MacLaren**. For bushland groups and supporters.

Top tips for success! Be INSPIRED to act!



\$20 entry fee | Light lunch supplied

Bookings: www.bushlandperth.org.au/events

For more information, please contact us at:

E | execofficer@bushlandperth.org.au

P | 0416 049 550

*Get
Active!!*

Thanks to our workshop sponsor:



Photos by Marg Owen and Friends of Erindale Bushland

**SAVE OUR
BUSHLAND**

Contact UBC



City West Lotteries House,
2 Delhi Street West Perth 6005



www.bushlandperth.org.au



9420 7207



UrbanBushlandCouncil



ubc@bushlandperth.org.au



@UrbanBushlandWA

Join Up or Renew Membership

Groups

Membership with voting rights is available to groups committed to the protection of urban bushland for \$60 a year (GST included). A growing membership strengthens the cause and groups benefit from the network.

Individuals

Supporter membership is only \$50 per year (GST included). Supporters can attend meetings and receive electronic copies of the “Urban Bush Telegraph”.

To join as a new member please visit our **website members area**.

Alternatively send your name, address and cheque to: Treasurer, Urban Bushland Council WA Inc, City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi West Perth WA 6005

Renewals

You should have received a New Year’s Day email with details of how to renew your membership.

Contribute to this Newsletter

We need your new content for the Urban Bush Telegraph. Send us your feature article of less than 600 words or Group News item of interest to the broader UBC audience (around 400 words) along with your original photos to:

ubc@bushlandperth.org.au

Copy deadline for the Winter issue – **17th July 2024**