



PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 1st March 2011 at Lotteries House 2 Delhi Street West Perth, 7.00pm

This report is for the calendar year January to December 2010 inclusive.

We have enjoyed another very busy year with funding enabling us to run two major projects each with part time Project Officers. We continued to lobby and engage decision makers by meeting with Ministers and agency officers as well as presenting submissions and appeals for planning amendments, clearing permits and environmental assessments. Many thanks are due to all the members of groups who do this work for the UBC on top of their submissions and work for their local groups.

A very special acknowledgement is due to each member of our hard working Executive Committee who play significant roles, contribute many hours with care and dedication, and all of whom work together in a very co-operative and friendly manner. As President I value this support dearly and could not act on behalf of the UBC without it.

City Bush Guides 2010

The second training course funded by a NRM grant from 2009 was held at Kensington in April - May, capably run by our Project Officer Lesley Shaw. The trainee guides were very enthusiastic and their first guided walks were of a good standard reflecting their personal passion for the bushland and their new knowledge. Ben Wyatt MLA Victoria Park presented the Certificates to those who completed the course.

Celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity

We developed a major project to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity and we are pleased to acknowledge the generous funding of the project by Lotterywest. It has three components: two public symposia, new and updated publicity and promotional material for the UBC, and development of a modern website with capacity for a page for and/or links to each UBC Member group, information on key issues, conference proceedings, an interactive facility for lobbying and more. Funding allowed us to employ Amrit Kendrick as Project officer who capably organised the first symposium in 2010. The second is to be held in March 2011.

The Black Cockatoo Symposium on 29th November was held at Murdoch University which generously donated the use of the Kim Beazley lecture theatre for the day. Printed proceedings of the day are being compiled and will be sent to all attendees. This day was a great success with attendees from all sectors - local and state government, consultants, Friends groups, students, and members of the public. Having two Black Cockatoos Harmony and Chasey present for the day (generously chaperoned by carers of Kaarakin Recovery Centre) was a real highlight and everyone gained a closer appreciation of their lives and threats to their decreasing habitat. Understanding of population movements, habitat requirements, the ongoing clearing of habitat and failure of environmental laws and planning processes to protect habitat were notable outcomes of the day.

Bush Forever

The big news for 2010 was the tabling in Parliament by the Minister for Planning Hon John Day MLA (and by the Minister for the Environment in the Upper House) and approval of the MRS Amendment for Bush Forever and related lands. This gives statutory effect to all Bush Forever sites which now appear on the MRS map as 'Bush Forever Areas'. Unfortunately their proposed designation as 'Special Control Areas' under the Town Planning & Development Act was removed from the Amendment some years ago.

The Statement of Planning Policy 2.8 for Bush Forever and related lands was also gazetted.

This is a positive step and now the focus is on continuing to implement sites not yet finalised as there are 106 sites where at least part of the land has no management agency assigned and is not being managed. There

remains a need for greatly increased resources for management of Bush Forever sites, awareness raising and raised priority at all levels.

UBC events/Council meetings

- Excursion to Paganoni Swamp (14 June) where Kate Brown (Urban Nature DEC) described their weed control trials and with Friends of Paganoni gave us a guided tour of this wonderful forest and wetland area where a chuditch was recently seen.
- Bush Forever Forum (11 July) at National Trust with Bronwen Keighery DEC
- Jointly with other peak groups (28 Sept) - Launch by Glen Dewhurst of the Cockatoo Coalition's interactive website
- Excursion to Becher Wetlands Pt Kennedy (10 Oct) with Vic Semeniuk, Margaret Brocx, Joy Unno. Unique dune sequences and associated vegetation explained
- Council meeting and social event (15 Oct) for presentation by Liz Behjat MLC to UBC of Lotterywest cheque for project celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity. Tim Hillyard was guest speaker on the joys of acquiring sites for Bush Forever

The table below is a summary of the issues that involved our attention during 2010.

| No | Site or issue | Submission or action on | Outcome |
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| 1 | Approvals & Related Reforms Bill 2009 | CCWA held a meeting with groups to review proposals. UBC attended | CCWA and Greens pursued issues which diluted public scrutiny |
| 2 | International Year of Biodiversity IYB | No DEC events or initiatives. WA Museum held public lectures around WA. UBC attended launch UBC devised project to celebrate IYB | State Government promotion of IYB remarkably absent except for Museum lectures. UBC project funded by Lotterywest includes 2 public symposia |
| 3 | Underwood Ave bushland | -public protests, rallies at UWA attended by UBC and lots of others -public protest outside Julie Bishop's office attended by UBC and FOUA and others - strong community attendance & participation at various City of Nedlands Council meetings - At end 2009 City of Nedlands agreed to <i>'not approve the proposed development by UWA'</i> - proposal goes to SAT - proponent obliged to refer proposal to Cth under EPBC Act because of listed threatened species and communities – Carnaby's Black Cockatoo very important. | 10 of the 12 appeal grounds against UWA proposal dismissed. UWA proposal allowed 14 July 2010 by Environment Minister, with 'offsets' as conditions. - City of Nedlands reversed its decision 27 April 2010 -WAPC approved subdivision -Margaret Owen refused standing at SAT - UWA did not refer proposal to Cth in 2010. Notably draft decision by DEWHA on earlier proposal was refusal to approve. UWA withdrew proposal from Cth overnight. |
| 4 | Lot 7 Buffalo Rd Parkfield | UBC appealed against EPA decision to 'not assess' proposed sand mine. Area is subject to EPA Bulletin No 4 which says proposals in this area are subject to formal EIA or are to be declared environmentally unacceptable. | Appeal upheld. Minister remitted proposal to EPA for formal assessment. |
| 5. | Ranford Precinct Structure Plan, City of Armadale | MRS minor Amendment 1177/57 by WAPC to rezone from rural to urban deferred. UBC submission at end 2009 opposing | UBC submission ignored |

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| | | rezoning of significant bushland and attendance at hearing 2010 | |
| 6. | Garvey Park, Belmont | WAPC MRS Amendment to allow tall building in flood zone, Submission by Friends of Garvey Park | ? |
| 7. | Inquiry into Recreation Activities within Public Drinking Water Source Areas, by Legislative Council Standing Committee on Public Administration | Written submission by UBC late 2009. UBC appeared before Standing Committee 24th March 2010 just 2 days after the dramatic March 22nd hail storm hit Perth (but not hills catchments). | Excellent Report released, government had 3 months to respond. Recommends key hills catchments be completely closed to all recreation. UBC comment about 'aquatic freeway' for contaminants after storm events quoted in page 1 of summary |
| 8. | Lots 47, 56 Tomah Rd Parkfield | CPS 3376/1 Merilla P/L application to clear 2.2 ha wetlands. UBC appeal, proposal at variance with 5 clearing principles | Permit granted, used same offset area which had been used for another permit. |
| 9. | Lots 1000, 2240,2275, & 3045 Preston Beach Rd/L Clifton Rd | PER for rural subdivision by Cape Bouvard. UBC submission opposing, threat to L Clifton, Tuarts, fauna, linkage to Yalgorup National Park. | ? |
| 10. | Bush Forever site 385 Reid H'way Mirrabooka | Black gloved wallabies killed crossing Northwood Ave. Lack of fencing. Public interest rose, meeting to form group, liaison with WAPC, DEC, City of Stirling John Septimus Roe School still seeking to construct another oval in the bushland. WAPC working on an agreement for Atlas Tip site (is P&R). | UBC facilitated establishment of Friends of Mirrabooka Bushland; guided walks started; area fenced by WAPC, DEC flora survey Minister for Planning John Day confirmed to UBC that an oval would not be approved on the BF site. |
| 11. | Pt Lot 97 Hazelmere, City of Swan | CPS 3237/1 Bronzewing Investments. UBC appeal DRF <i>Conospermum undulatum</i> so that most of population could be saved; presumption against clearing eastern side of SCP (as in Bush Forever policy) | Ignored and UBC change suggested to save DRF excluded from Appeals Convenor report |
| 12. | Industrial Land Strategy 2009 Perth & Peel | UBC submission opposing rezoning of most of sites where: on P1 catchment intake areas of Gnangara Mound; Bush Forever sites; Conservation Category Wetlands; Ramsar Wetland catchment (for L Forrestdale); TEC; palusplain wetlands; rare & priority flora; Ellen Brook Nature reserve subcatchment (habitat for critically endangered Western Swamp Tortoise) | New community group CREW formed to oppose industrial development in east Wanneroo (P1 area). CREW held rally 6 March 2010. Opposition from local groups in other areas. |
| 13. | Population of Carnaby's Cockatoo | Great Cocky count held in Perth region 7 April 2010. Wide community participation | Population estimated to be ? birds, many new records of roosting sites. |
| 14. | Lot 21 Webster rd Forrestfield | Still no Ministerial decision on development proposal despite DEC and EPA advice for retention & protection and appeals. Suggested as offset for purchase by PTA | PTA refused as too expensive. Successive Ministers have left in too hard basket, no decision. |

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| 15. | Roe 8 extension through Bibra/North Lake area Beeliar Regional Park | <p>-Proposal politically motivated by Liberals in context of EPA warning that difficult to make environmentally acceptable. Community view that Roe 8 not justifiable. Labor & Greens opposed.</p> <p>-Rallies held - organised by very active Save Beeliar Wetlands group.</p> <p>-Extensive site surveys carried out by govt (hydrogeology, flora, fauna etc).</p> <p>-Costly sham community consultation process by South Metro Connect. UBC attended 1 workshop, poor facilitation process filtered community input, no feedback, survey data not made available. UBC suggested moving road if it must be built south to railway reserve.</p> <p>- festival of the Lakes attracted thousands of people, attended by UBC</p> | Hydrogeological and wetland studies showed that proposal in road reserve will have irreversible destructive impacts on this complex ecosystem. Formal EIA required by EPA. |
| 16. | Kiara TAFE site: Lots 843 Bottlebrush Drive & lot 14122 Morley Drive Kiara | <p>MRS minor Amendment to rezone to urban.</p> <p>-UBC and Save Kiara Bushland (SKB) group submissions against rezoning and attended hearing.</p> <p>-Hearing committee upheld community advice & recommended addition of most of site to Bush Forever.</p> <p>SKB very active locally and achieved extensive local press coverage.</p> <p>- UBC recommended to Cth, JAH and Ministry Housing that site be acquired for conservation by JAH as offset for Jandakot Airport clearing</p> <p>- UBC referred to Cth DEWHA under EPBC Act as Carnaby's habitat.</p> <p>-UBC met Martin Whitely MLA seeking his support for conservation of site.</p> <p>-Save Kiara Bushland and UBC proposed a land swap with Lockridge SHS P&R land to Minister for Planning. WAPC Property Services investigated.</p> | <p>WAPC and Minister for Planning approved rezoning contrary to Appeals Committee advice and recommendations (including DEC support for addition to Bush Forever).</p> <p>Offset proposal not taken up.</p> <p>Martin Whitely now supports retention of the bushland</p> <p>Minister for Planning supports land swap. Ministry for Housing ceases planning work on subdivision proposal. Negotiations continuing.</p> |
| 17. | Water Corporation: Groundwater Replenishment Trial | Mary Gray on advisory panel. | |
| 18. | Endangered Black Cockatoos | ' Cockatoo Coalition ' (of ~10 peak groups and others) formed in response to widespread community concern about declining populations and continuing loss of black cockatoo habitat mainly from clearing. UBC is part of coalition. Attended Earth Carer's event 13 November. | Interactive website launched 28 Sept by Glen Dewhurst with online petition to Premier Barnett and federal Environment Minister Burke www.cockatoosneedyou.org.au |
| 19. | Dieback Information Group (DIG)- annual conference | 220 attended at Kim Beazley Lecture Theatre Murdoch Uni 16 July. UBC attended. Dieback is huge issue in south west, now ~140 sp recognised, hybridises easily. Threat to Fitzgerald River Nat Park | |
| 20. | Autism Association building, Selby St Shenton Park | Part of Greenways 19 - regionally significant ecological linkage Kings Park-Bold Park. FOUA referral to EPA and appeal against decision to 'not assess'. FOUA addressed City of Nedlands for tree retention at least. | <p>'Not assessed' by EPA.</p> <p>Proposal approved by City of Nedlands.</p> |

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| 21. | Jandakot Airport-clearing of Bush Forever site | Lessee Ascot Capital (via JAH) refusing to co-operate with local group Friends of Ken Hurst Park and Murdoch branch Wildflower Society who wished to retrieve plants before clearing. Eddy Wajon threatened. Rally organised, organisers threatened by lessee. | Local federal MP Melissa Park intervened to assist. Brought parties together. UBC attended. |
| 22. | External Review of Fire management Guidelines for BGPA | UBC submission and presentation to Review Committee. Chairman from California USA. UBC supports BGPA policy of no prescribed burning. Emphasised need for grassy weed control especially in Bold Park; a major focus on arson as a social problem; and advocated 24/7 firewatch for summer period at Kings Park and Bold Park. | Report by Review not released by end of 2010. |
| 23. | Lot 211 Wandoo St, Mt Nasura | Block owned by City Of Armadale for sale. Community wanted it retained as a local reserve, has 15 mature Wandoo trees. UBC offered support, wrote to C of Armadale and contacted Wandoo Recovery Group | C of Armadale said it is for sale and will sell |
| 24. | Seminar 25 August on matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) | Organised by Dept of Planning. Part was facilitated workshop on Case study: Carnaby's. What areas are habitat & 'no go' for development? DEC not protecting habitat through clearing regulations as exemptions apply for most areas in MRS. Planning controls not present or not effective. | No direct feedback of matters discussed by groups to participants. Discussion paper by DOP Dec 2010 |
| 25. | Bollard Bullrush Swamp | Minor MRS Amendment to rezone land adjacent to EPP wetland. Wetlands Conservation Group and UBC recommended that area be added to Bush Forever and acquired by WAPC, owners in liquidation. Other half being formally assessed by EPA as PER or at least all in PER. | ? advice ignored |
| 26. | Rural land adjacent to Perth Airport | Minor MRS Amendment to rezone to urban. Part wetland, part under airport noise corridor, unsuitable for urban housing | ? advice ignored |
| 27. | Christmas trees on road verge at City of Canning | UBC was contacted by a local resident. Proposal to remove Nuytsia for car park. Referred to CRREPA for follow up, UBC contacted C of Canning | ? |
| 28. | Lot 3 Ioppolo Rd sand mine Shires Chittering, Gingin | Clearing permit required. High conservation value area with wetlands, Chandala Swamp. Strong local opposition | DEC granted clearing permit with condition for ' <i>progressive rehabilitation</i> ' & ' <i>avoid clearing mature trees during Carnaby's Cockatoo breeding season</i> ' |

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| 29. | Nowergup limestone quarry and batching plant, Wanneroo Rd in Lake Nowergup valley | Proposed quarry adjacent to Nowergup Nature Reserve, 500m from L Nowergup, part BF. City of Wanneroo rejected the proposal. Then taken to SAT, mediation. John Day Planning Minister asked by community to give presentation to SAT. Active local group formed and attended Council meetings; large public rally at Lake View Tavern where all local MPs supported 'no quarry' for the valley. | Minister refused to intervene or give presentation to SAT (despite a precedent for this) John Quigley MLA gave grievance speeches in Parliament |
| 30. | 'Directions 2031' by WAPC/DOP | | Finalised August 2010 |
| 31. | Review of Bold Park Management Plan by BGPA | Community consultation workshop held. UBC recommended much more weed control and research especially for Veld Grass, improve entry and roadside walk up Reabold Hill, 24/7 firewatch in summer, no prescribed burning, promotion of the park and more support for FOBPB & guides. | Workshop feedback of group work sent to participants. Revised management plan not yet completed |
| 32. | Pt Kennedy and Becher wetlands | UBC excursion 10 Oct lead by Vic Semeniuk, with Margaret Brocx, Joy Unno. Landcorp area adjacent with unique TEC should be added to BF and Pt Kennedy Conservation Park. DEC management not adequate - proposed Becher Pt Education and Visitor Centre being promoted by Wetlands Research Association. Funds set aside by Mirvac | |
| 33 | Wungong Catchment Trial | Annual research seminar 18 November attended by UBC. Detailed survey data for Red-tailed Black Cockatoo roosting and nesting sites presented by Ron Johnstone WA Museum. | |
| 34. | Natural Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) - 'Roadshow' | Biodiversity component of NCCARF - attended by UBC. Scientists recommended reduction of greenhouse gases by 60% immediately as biodiversity of south west severely threatened and massive expected. Fire and groundwater drawdown are big issues. | |
| 35. | Channel 7 bushland Dianella | Redevelopment proposal by Satterley Property Group. Friends of Dianella Bushland met developers, issues on edge of Cottonwood Crescent Bushland site, and maintaining kangaroo habitat. | |
| 36. | Bedbrook Place, Shenton Park, part of Greenways 19 | George O'Neill's lot is site proposed for pathology lab. Eco Report for City of Nedlands recommended a 25m wide connecting strip on either west or east side along all blocks in Bedbrook Place. | No planning protection mechanism for regionally significant ecological linkages as in Bush Forever |

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| 37. | Water Corporation's Water Supply & Demand Panel | First meeting 23 November, M. Gray for UBC on panel. Ground Water Replenishment Trial - plant adjacent to Beenyup WW Treatment Plant officially 'commissioned' 30th November. | Treated wastewater to drinking water standards pumped back into aquifer |
| 38. | Media reporting of fires in bushland | 'scrub burning', TV reports sensationalised, show lots of flames which incite arsonists. UBC concern registered with Ralph Smith FESA. Fire risk very high after very dry year in Perth region & south west | FESA dispatches extra fire fighting units to organic soil sites - ASS, PASS - have been mapped by FESA. |