

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



We need to be their voice.
Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos
Underwood Avenue. Photo: Marg Owen

Your Voice Needed Now

UBC has a long history of advocating for the protection of urban bushland. We have created a [Your Voice Needed Now](#) page as a one-stop-shop for consultation processes that are currently on our radar. Here you will find information about current consultation processes and ways that we can assist you in writing your submission. Given we are all volunteers having to choose when we advocate, this new resource will save you time.

It is very important that the community contributes to the consultation processes in progress and raises their voice for the protection of our natural heritage. If not us, then who?

Past submissions can be found on the site. On page three of this UBT you can read about one of our recent, long-running submissions, on the next Forest Management Plan (FMP).

Your voice is also needed in the current local government elections. Postal votes must be returned by 21st October. Do you know your local ward councillor? Do they know about your local bushland? Are they willing to fight for resources for the environment? Will they give in to indiscriminate prescribed burning? How will they be a voice for the bush on your Council?

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Flourishing revegetation in Roe 8 corridor near Bibra lake

Editorial: 30 years of advocacy

Over UBC's long history of advocating for the protection and conservation of urban bushland one of the ways that we do this is through submissions on formal consultation processes about future land use &/or land management.

In the past four months we have participated in some important consultations affecting extraordinarily biodiverse parts of the Swan Coastal Plain and beyond. Of great concern is that whilst the WA Labor Government has taken much applauded actions to 'protect Roe 8' and 'end logging in forests by 2024' it is now coming in via the 'back door' to reduce and fragment the natural corridor of the Roe 8 remainder & Roe 9 with urban infill and in our forests proposing 'logging' via the euphemistic 'ecological thinning'.

The Greater Brixton Street Wetlands (GBSW Bush Forever Site 387) is another site under threat from development in adjacent landholdings, particularly through detrimental impacts to a disturbed hydrology. Yet an alternate view is the Beeliar Group's suggestion to create a [Yule Brook Regional Park](#) from Lesmurdie Falls to the Canning River. This is the most biodiverse area of native vegetation on the Swan Coastal Plain and its protection is dependent on the implementation of adequate buffers around the GBSW and Yule Brook.

The Roe 8 Remainder/ 9 Corridor could become the backbone of an ecological linkage from Wetlands to Waves as proposed by the [Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor](#). Imagine a vibrant and connected nature link from the Beeliar Wetlands to the Indian Ocean, restoring ecological function to the remnant and fragmented bushland and wetlands in that corridor. UBC applauds and supports the vision shown by Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor and other community groups in advocating for this green corridor.

The EPA Report on the Forest Management Plan (FMP) 2024 – 2033 is now in the hands of the Appeal Committee. See the next page for details of our Appeal. This 10 year plan is close to finalisation and 10 years is a long time in terms of anticipated impacts from climate change. UBC contends that the community needs a plan with more enforceable undertakings to protect our precious biodiversity.

Submissions can seem overwhelming at times. Proponents have often developed documents that are hundreds of pages long. Not every community member has the scientific knowledge and/or time to review and interpret these documents. We do however have some practical tips for submission writers and we are preparing submission guides for proposals with significant impact that can be found on UBC's new [Your Voice Needed Now](#) site. Be advised of new issues that need your input and read our submissions after closing dates

Take heart - we are confident that all our joint efforts are making a difference – with recent improvements in the assessment of clearing permits as well as the included recommendation by the EPA to have an independent review of prescribed burning. If our collective voices are not being heard, the risk of inaction is frightening. Special places will be at risk if we don't notice, don't participate. Why not join our Submissions Working Group as we all share knowledge and approaches to consultations/submissions? Find out how you can contribute.

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



City of Wanneroo prescribed burn Koondoola Bushland



Alcoa clearfelling, Northern Jarrah Forest 2022

Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 Appeal

One significant, long running consultation process where UBC has been active is the development of the [Forest Management Plan \(FMP\) for 2024 – 2033](#) where we have also connected with the knowledge, understanding and generosity of fellow community conservation groups and individuals such as the WA Forest Alliance and the Fire & Biodiversity Forum. We have made submissions on your behalf at every stage:

- 18/12 Commented on the draft plan developed by the Conservation and Parks Commission through Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions ;
- 18/5 Called for a full Public Environmental Review by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) of that plan;
- 28/6 Met with the EPA as part of the resultant decision to ‘Assess – Referral Information’ that then led to preparation of EPA Report 1745;
- 22/9 Appealed against parts of that report seeking stronger undertakings for the protection of native vegetation
- 12/10 Met with the Appeals Committee to express our concerns in person.

Why is this important?

The FMP will undertake a ‘range of management activities, the most significant being conservation reserve creation, ecological thinning, and prescribed burning, to balance multiple use objectives, deliver conservation outcomes and enhance ecological and climate resilience’. It covers more than 2.5 million hectares of land and water in the south-west of Western Australia and it is a 10 year plan.

Much has changed over the past 10 years, and the rate of change is only expected to increase with climate change. UBC believes that the recommendations regarding ecological thinning and prescribed burning will be harmful to biodiversity.

We appealed:

- that ecological thinning is totally unacceptable, and the Minister should require that this form of logging under the guise of approved thinning be removed from the FMP. There should be no thinning of native forests vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission.

- against the EPA’s support for prescribe burning up to 200,000 ha/year and contended that this target should be abandoned. We also believed that this was inconsistent with an EPA recommendation for an Independent scientific review of Prescribed Burning.
- that such prescribed burning was inconsistent with the protection of flora and especially of fauna. UBC also contended that the FMP should require no prescribed burns permitted on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Amongst other things we also reminded the Appeals Convenor that the [WA State’s Native Vegetation Policy](#) is to increase the area of native vegetation. WA’s south west biodiversity hotspot is for conservation priority because it is under threat and the FMP should therefore require that there is no more clearing of the SW forest region. This is also consistent with the [COP 15 UN Biodiversity Agreement](#) which calls for at least 30% retention of high conservation value regions and for another 30% restoration. Thus, the FMP should especially include protection of the Northern Jarrah Forests with no more deforestation.

You can find [UBC’s FMP Appeal document](#) on our website (scroll to bottom).

Christine Richardson, UBC



Alcoa reveg vs jarrah forest



Planting Day at the 'Bush Block'

Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corp. 'Bush Block'

Most Western Australians have heard of Sister Kate's Home, but the story of this institution is not well understood despite its relatively recent history. Sister Kate was an Anglican nun who first set up an orphanage in Parkerville and, by 1934, cottage-style accommodation for Aboriginal children in Queens Park. Over the next 40 years Aboriginal children were separated from family and culture with impacts that continue today. Under racist policies, 'lighter-skinned' children were targeted for removal. Since 2011, The [Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation](#) (SKHKAC) has supported the recovery of former 'homies', their families and wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In 2022 SKHKAC formally acquired a 2.07 ha bush remnant (known as the 'bush block') across the road from the original Sister Kate's Home (now Sister Kate's Aged Care) and next to Queen's Park Primary School. The site is important to the Aboriginal people who stayed at Sister Kate's as children. It was a safe place for them to play and connect with the natural environment. At different stages of Sister Kate's as an institution, families were discouraged from visiting their children in the home, some of whom had been forcibly removed from their parents' care. Some families would secretly camp on the 'bush block' across the road and try to meet their children. So today this 'bush block' has layers of memories for former 'homies'. SKHKAC wants it to continue to be a place of support and healing for themselves and the wider community.

SKHKAC has plans for the development of a Place of Healing on one corner of the 'bush block' and restoration of the surrounding remnant bushland. It will provide activities like trauma healing programs for Stolen Generations people, mens' and womens' cultural healing bush camps, Elders' yarning circles and opportunities for two-way learning while caring for country. The 'bush block' and the Place of Healing will also provide opportunities for SKHKAC to build capacity and expand their programs. The divestment of the 'bush block' to SKHKAC was the last step in a long process to acquire the land and environmental restoration commenced in 2019 with support from the State NRM 'Swan Canning River Recovery Program' and Perth NRM.

The 'bush block' is well-fenced and has an impressive die-back control station. It is not open to walk in, but through an invitation from Perth NRM, UBC members were able to visit the 'bush block' in June, be welcomed by CEO, Tjalaminu Mia, and Projects Manager, Roma Winmar, and participate in an informal flora survey. Some of us returned in August for their annual Rake, Break & Planting day. Bronwen and Greg Keighery participated and provided advice on endemic species found on block. Weeds are prolific on the 'bush block' and some of us felt that targeted hand-weeding around remnant patches would be a good strategy. The block has a fine tree canopy of old banksia (three different species) and treasures amongst the weeds. Carnabys and Red-tailed cockatoos are visitors to the site along with other bird species.

The goals of SKHKAC for the 'bush block' align well with those of many Friends groups in seeking to preserve and enhance remnant bush, knowing that this work has benefits for people that extend beyond restoring the environment we live in. Assisting SKHKAC to conserve the 'bush block' could be a practical reconciliation action for urban landcarers to undertake. Anyone who is interested in supporting the work of SKHKAC on the 'bush block' please let me know to be notified of future events (dbrady@iinet.net.au).

Danielle Brady, Friends of Inglewood Triangle.



SKHKAC Smoking Ceremony

New Group: Friends of The Vines Bushlands

The Friends of the Vines Bushlands was formed as part of The Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association (VRRRA) campaign to stop housing development on The Vines Golf Course. The proposed development would see the destruction of mature trees and tracts of native vegetation on and surrounding the course. Protection of the environment has always been a priority for the VRRRA, and a survey commissioned in February 2023 highlighted the significant conservation values in the suburb and the local Bush Forever (BF) sites. The Friends group was subsequently formed to concentrate on environmental and conservation activities.

The Vines suburb is in the Upper Swan Valley and sits within the City of Swan Local Government Area. The Vines is part of regionally significant bushland and wetlands linkages with Walyunga National Park, Ellenbrook Nature Reserve and Bells Rapids located nearby. The area has many small lakes and waterways including Ellen Brook a tributary of the Swan River. The Vines is also adjacent to two BF sites: Maralla Road Reserve (BF site 300) and Bordeaux Lane Reserve (BF site 23) and these reserves will be the initial priority of The Friends of the Vines Bushlands group. As the area has developed rapidly with housing, the reserves have gone under-utilised and under-valued by residents.

Maralla Road BF site is a large reserve of over 300 hectares that surrounds several suburbs and is bisected by the Tonkin Highway. It features a wildlife overpass across the highway and limestone paths that provide walking access for residents. The Bordeaux Lane BF site, located in The Vines is a much smaller reserve at 27 hectares. Both reserves feature mixed shrub and woodland vegetation and are rich in flora including species of banksia, acacia, melaleuca, and eucalyptus.

The threatened flora species *Grevillea curviloba* is found in Maralla Road Reserve. The area also plays a vital role as a corridor for native wildlife and birds. It is not unusual to see kangaroos, quendas, and reptiles when walking. The abundant trees and shrubs provide roosting and feeding habitat for many native birds including the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.

These two BF reserves are managed by the Parks and Wildlife division of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The Friends group will develop an activity schedule to support the work being done by DBCA. Initial work will include surveying, site rehabilitation, rubbish clearing and weed eradication.

Ingrid Page, Friends of The Vines Bushlands



Maralla Road Bush Forever Site

Brown goshawks mating at Hollywood Reserve



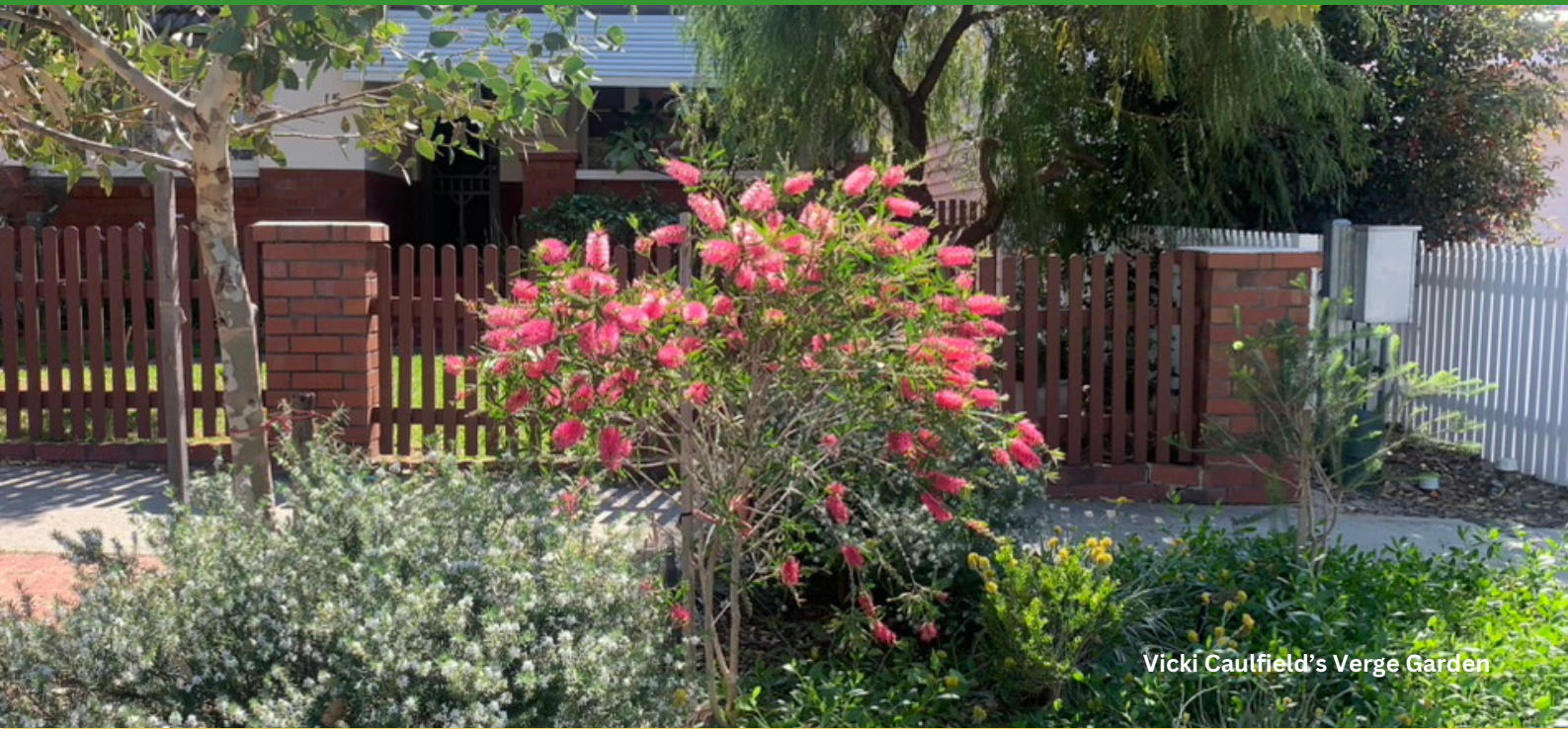
Sometimes a person is lucky enough to be in a place at the right time.

Walking back to the car after the wonderful annual Hollywood Reserve guided spring walk, I heard the yip yip yip of a goshawk.

From the road, I could see her high up in a Tuart. I went closer and saw another bird fly in, then as he branch-hopped to the side of the large female, I saw that he was a male goshawk. Females are larger than males. The female put her head down which later I thought was her signal to the male that she was ready to mate. Without ado, he jumped onto her back, calling, and with his fine talons holding on to her shoulders, he rapidly moved his tail and cloaca under his partner's tail, to mate.

You don't see that every day.

Margaret Owen, UBC



Vicki Caulfield's Verge Garden

Urban Forest Strategy

We know that keeping nature and functioning ecosystems is paramount for our health and wellbeing and yet protecting urban biodiversity has never been more challenging. Along with the drying effects of climate change, urban infill and shrinking block size means that large trees and gardens are disappearing, and urban heat islands are expanding. How can we address these problems?

For many years the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) has been a leader in urban forest policy and many local governments are following their lead. The goal is to have a minimum tree canopy target of 30% across all our suburbs by 2040.

UBC held an expert panel discussion 5 September with John Murray, (Streetscape Manager, City of South Perth), Emeritus Professor Hans Lambers (UWA), and Dr Jane Chambers NatureLink Perth (Murdoch University). The discussion was wide-ranging and informative. Here are some of the key points.

Greatest challenge for streetscaping?

The City of South Perth started seriously planting in public spaces over 20 years ago and the benefits are seen across the suburb. Nevertheless, community opposition remains the City's greatest hurdle and it receives many objections to the street planting program from residents.

Trees on private land

Just improving streetscapes won't fix the problem. Government policies and strategies for tree retention on private property should be a priority too. This is an issue even in the 'leafy' suburbs, where smaller blocks have caused the removal of scores of mature trees. For example, in the City of Nedlands 14ha of tree cover has been lost in the past 5 years alone! In contrast, many other countries view trees on private land as a public good and have strong protections in place.

Tree health

The panel provided plenty of useful tips on growing trees, including: using Tree Cells in compacted soils, adding microbes to potting mix, trim any curved roots when planting tube stock, and sprinkle iron sulphate around affected trees to cure chlorosis caused by alkaline bore water. Finally, all speakers agreed that understory shrubs are a tree's best friends and improve biodiversity. During the Question and Answer session, a UBC member shared that his formula for successful planting is to dig a big hole, straighten roots, plant in winter, and water with half a bucket and wetting agent over the first summer.

With local government elections on 21st October, UBC members are encouraged to quiz their local candidates on these issues. How is YOUR Council tackling tree canopy loss and protecting urban biodiversity? Now is the time to ask!

Vicki Caulfield, UBC

Do you pass on the Urban Bush Telegraph to your members?

If you are your group contact, consider forwarding the UBT email on to your member list so they can read the latest too.

Checkout the Volunteer Toolkit & Guide

Finding (and keeping) bushcare volunteers

UBC members frequently express their worry about recruiting new members and retaining old ones. Fostering the next generation of bushcarers is a key responsibility for Friends groups. These concerns led to the year-long project – *Building Community Capacity to Care for Urban Bushland*- funded by the WA Government's State NRM Program and facilitated by Johanna Riddell. The key outputs were:

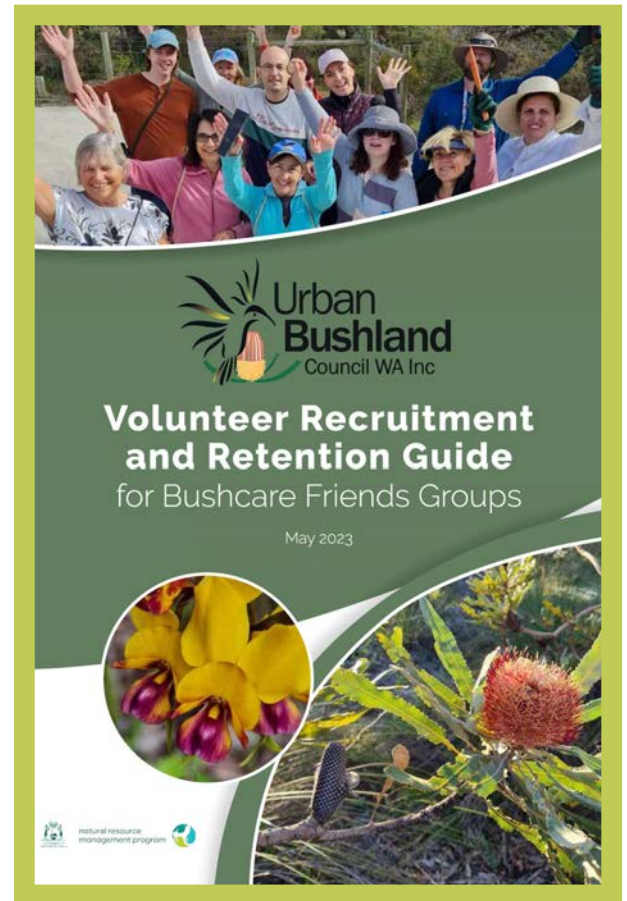
[Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Guide for Bushcare Friends Groups](#)

The guide is designed for old and new groups and introduces a 6-step cycle essential for success: reflection; planning; recruitment planning; promotion and recruitment; welcome/training/mentoring; and recognition. The guide can be downloaded and printed, or limited copies are available through UBC.

[A toolkit of resources](#)

Based around the guide, the downloadable resources include presentations and tips on how to promote your group, use Facebook better and create a succession plan for your committee. There is a reflection guide and cheat sheets for Mailchimp and Eventbrite.

Got something that would be useful for our toolkit? Let us know at ubc@bushlandperth.org.au



Weeds! White weeping broom

White weeping broom (*Retama raetam*) was introduced as an ornamental plant and is now an aggressive invader in southern and Western Australia. Each plant produces hundreds of seed pods and on the larger plants, thousands of seeds. The hard-coated seeds can persist for 20 years. The leaves, flowers and fruits are toxic and the plant can cause respiratory failure (Flora Base).

The infestation at Manning Park, Hamilton Hill, Bush Forever area 247, started in a small abandoned quarry and is now a dense thicket. Recently, uncontrolled, it has started spreading rapidly into the good to excellent condition bush, including the Honey myrtle TEC and the Tuart T.E.C. adjacent to the quarry.

The weed is being physically tackled in Manning Park by friends in a desperate attempt to remove flowers, seeds, seedlings and ultimately the whole plants.

(Information from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Flora Base and Friends group.)

For more weed information see:

<https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds-page/>



Attacking White Weeping Broom
Photo: Marg Owen



Friends of Erindale Road Bushland

It's amazing to see how well the bushland springs back to life after a fire. On a recent walk along the fence, I was surprised to see so many orchids in the area.

I had assumed it was going to be a biodiversity hotspot, similar to Warwick bushland, but I didn't realise how many different species there are at Erindale Road Bushland too.

It would be devastating if we lost this special environment in Hamersley as it is home to many diverse and rare forms of flora and fauna.

Marty Shipton, Friends of Erindale Road Bushland





FIRE & AIR FORUM

**Biodiversity, Environmental
Sustainability and Human Health**

Expert presentations now available online:
<https://vimeo.com/channels/fireandairforum>

The *Fire and Air Forum* presentations and associated documentaries are now available online on the video-sharing platform Vimeo.

Our expert speakers, Convenor Dr Carole Peters, hosts - the WA Forest Alliance and the Royal Society of Western Australia - sponsors and supporters all worked voluntarily for this not-for-profit event. The full day forum attracted outstanding reviews and an almost capacity audience at the University Club of Western Australia, located on the UWA campus overlooking Matilda Bay on traditional Whadjuk Noongar land.

All participants were invited to write to WA Environment Minister Reece Whitby to request an independent expert inquiry into prescribed burning policies and practices, particularly in southwest WA.

In August the Environmental Protection Authority of WA announced its recommendation for an independent scientific review, intended to give full consideration to contemporary science and knowledge on the impacts of prescribed burning on a range of environmental issues, particularly in the context of our changing climate. EPA Chair Professor Matthew Tonts said, “An independent review under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 would call on the expertise of independent scientists to consider prescribed burning approaches and implementation”.

Community concern regarding the impacts of broad scale prescribed burning on our South West Biodiversity Hotspot is high. Pervasive smoke pollution heightens concern about the frequency, scale and intensity of planned burns, risks to public health and safety, risks to biodiversity, and the escalating risks of climate change. Our highly qualified and experienced speakers expanded the conversation on how best to protect our natural landscapes and our people for a sustainable and healthy future.

To see the video coverage of the *Fire and Air Forum: Biodiversity, Environmental Sustainability and Human Health*, go to:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/fireandairforum>



Jirdarup Bushland and the Friends who care for it

by Lesley van Schoubroeck

This delightful 84-page book contains over 75 photographs of the flora and fauna of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct in inner-city Perth in Western Australia. It pays tribute to the traditional owners and tells the story of development since 1901 as well as more recent progress toward conservation and restoration. It includes maps and historical records that illustrate the changing times and attitudes of the community and local authorities to the bushland.

“The stories and photographs are a wonderful resource for families.”

– Hannah Beazley MLA, Member for Victoria Park

“Jirdarup is the most pristine and highest quality Banksia woodland remaining in inner Perth. To know we have such a remarkable relic of the past in such extraordinary condition is a compliment to all who have been involved.”

– Distinguished Professor Kingsley Dixon AO,
Curtin University and Chair International
Society for Ecological Restoration

“This book not only covers the history of this special place called Jirdarup but reminds us of the contribution of so many unsung heroes.”

– Kim Sarti OAM

Available from 18 September 2023



To get your copy

- Read or purchase your copy from the Friends of Jirdarup Bushland website: www.friendsofjirdarupbushland.org.au
- Ask your local library
- Email admin@friendsofjirdarupbushland.org.au



Published by the Friends of Jirdarup Bushland. Designed and printed with the support of the Town of Victoria Park and a personal donation from Mayor Karen Vernon.



SAVE THE DATE: Community Building for Friends Groups

Sunday 26th November, 11am-4pm
City West Lotteries House

Facilitator Peter Kenyon will lead this workshop about BUILDING a volunteer community to benefit your local patch.

Be ENERGISED and EMPOWERED! Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Cost: \$20 (includes a light lunch)



Position Wanted: Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Are you passionate about urban bush conservation and have a knack with documents? UBC is looking for someone to help take their communications forward by compiling the quarterly Urban Bush Telegraph. Through distribution to its member groups and individual members the Urban Bush Telegraph is available to more than 2000 people. The newsletter editor is an important role for bushland advocacy. The UBC committee is involved in planning and producing the UBT in a collaborative team with the editor. Skill using Publisher, Canva or Adobe would be welcome but not essential. Interested? Have an obligation free chat to Christine Richardson (ubc@bushlandperth.org.au).



Marg Owen & Christine Richardson, SKHKAC 'Bush Block'



Keep Carnabys Flying stickers now available from UBC office

Contact UBC



City West Lotteries House,
2 Delhi Street West Perth 6005



www.bushlandperth.org.au



9420 7207



[UrbanBushlandCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/UrbanBushlandCouncil)



ubc@bushlandperth.org.au



[@UrbanBushlandWA](https://twitter.com/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

Please wait for your 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 1000 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 Summer issue – 14th December 2023