

## Anstey-Keane Damplands - rare but vulnerable as the damage continues

By Marg Owen

The Anstey-Keane Damplands had survived the threat a few years ago from the local government to construct a road right through the wetlands.

Recently however, approval was given after formal environmental impact assessment by the EPA for construction of the Water Corporation's 450mm diameter raw sewage pipeline through the site - to be installed 'in one piece' by underground tunnelling. The pipe was to be with a minimum depth of 900mm within a four-metre wide corridor. So this corridor has suffered degradation.



Photo by M Owen

Observing Thynnid wasps mating on the grass tree spike.

The Water Corporation's contractor, 'Cape', notes on its website:

*'To minimise the need for clearing and disturbance of potential Acid Sulfate Soils, Cape's Ecoplough was chosen as the most environmentally friendly option to install the pipeline underground. Through the constant diligence of all involved, the Cape team accomplished the complicated project through a highly important sensitive ecosystem with no environmental impact. To our knowledge this is also the first time pipe of this size (DN 450) has been ploughed in to grade for sewer/waste water applications within Australia'.*

But there *has* been an environmental impact and this is clearly visible at the entrance on Anstey Road (see photos). Alternative routes for the pipeline which *completely avoided* incursions into Anstey-Keane were available but were ignored by the EPA. 'Minimising' clearing is still clearing. What irreversible damage occurs when joins in the pipe leak raw sewage into the Damplands?

When the UBC and Friends of Forrestdale met for their guided walk through the Damplands on October 20<sup>th</sup>, they were greeted by big ugly limestone boulders placed across the entrance at the corner of Anstey and Keane Roads. As can be seen in the photographs (page 4), the boulders had

(Continued on page 4)

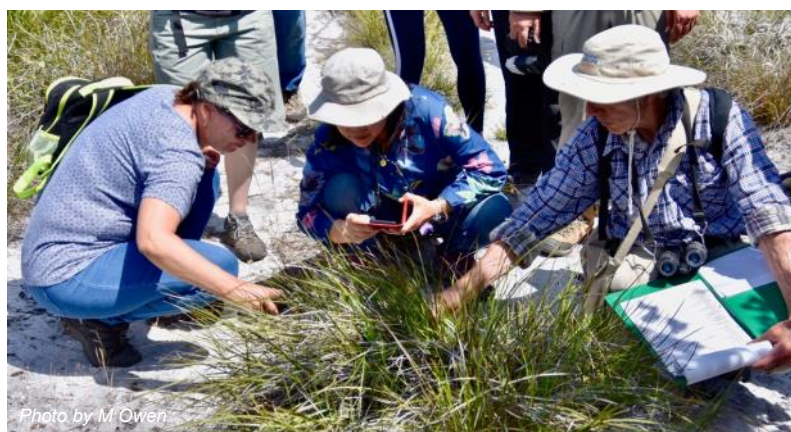


Photo by M Owen

Close inspection of a plant on the track.

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# Editorial - RECIPE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOLADES

## Step 1

Find a spiffing bit of natural bush - the healthier the better. Preferably surrounded by urban and/or industrial development, thus increasing its environmental value even more. If you can get one, Threatened Ecological Communities are better. For added flexibility ensure the land falls into Commonwealth jurisdiction. In summary, Threatened Ecological Communities on Commonwealth land are the best.

## Step 3

Enlist civil engineers and road workers to construct expansive carpark with parking fee stations. Enlist engineers and scientists to construct 50m high domes and painstakingly recreate local biodiversity inside these laboratories. Note: Don't expect to actually recreate the true complexity of WA's natural world, particularly the complex fungal relationships.

## Step 2

Clear all the vegetation. Kill or scatter the native insects, birds, reptiles and marsupials. Flatten any topographical features. Ensure mounds or rises are removed and wetlands and damplands are filled. Tip: A win:win is to use the soil from the rises to bury the wetlands thus reducing need to move soil (now spoil) off-site.



## Step 4

Apply for environmental awards and accolades for your good works.

What a shocker to read The West Australian on 15th October. "Ready to take off - airport home for new biome project". If it wasn't so sad and appalling one could laugh. In fact it would make a perfect skit for the ABC television's "Utopia" spoof on development applications, politicians and the public service. Clearing highly valued native flora, fauna and intricate habitat and replacing it with a carpark and a scientific laboratory that purports to replicate some natural elements.

One does however have to applaud the honesty of Adam Barnard, Biome project spokesperson quoted in The Western Australian (15/10/2019 page 14) "So building it on this site which is technically crown land, we are significantly reducing potential barriers that may have come from using State land."

What a clear explanation for steering developers to Commonwealth lands.

But how insulting that our WA Government is content to be dismissed by developers who see Commonwealth land as an easy target, where well considered State guidelines and policies such as Bush Forever do not need to be adhered to.

In the Perth Airport media release (<https://www.perthairport.com.au/Home/corporate/articles/2019/10/15/03/05/australianbiomeproject>) Mr Barnard speaks of "showcasing the rich biodiversity of WA" through the biomes, oblivious to the contradiction that their actions will obliterate "rich living biodiversity" that has developed and responded to WA conditions over eons.

It would be interesting to review the benefits to WA's Swan Coastal Plain biodiversity of investing the reported \$510 million into biomes or into good environmental management of remaining Bushland on the Perth airport estate.

Eight days later (23/10/2019 page 68) The West Australian heralds "Airport scene takes off" with the new Costco retail warehouse to require more clearing of Banksia Woodland. Surely there is cleared land for such commercial ventures?

Development of the Perth Airport is not so simple. There is the:

- \* 1997 ownership and management of the Commonwealth land transferred to Westralia Airports with land to be protected if not required for aviation purposes. With the Commonwealth relinquishing hands-on management of this rich natural habitat
- \* 1999 Perth Airport Master Plan, with good reflection of Commonwealth and community expectations
- \* 2009 development of the Airport Environmental Strategy (AES) 2009-2014, again with good reflection of Commonwealth, community and even State expectations
- \* 2014 Perth Airport Master Plan turnabout including removal of Conservation Precincts and AES being subsumed into Masterplan
- \* 2020 Perth Airport Preliminary Master Plan with a focus on land being used for commercial return to Westralia Airports Corporation.

It is the individuals and organisations (NGO, private and public) who have given their time, knowledge and energy to highlighting the values of the Perth Airport bushland, how to protect and promote them that deserve an applaud.

Sadly, is it reasonable to assume the management, staff and consultants who have developed and ticked off the Perth Airport "Master Plan 2020" along with those involved in the Biome Project will be content to explain to their children how they planned and executed the slashing and removal of great sections of WA's biodiversity hotspot for limited corporate gain?

And then there is the wider community. How do we enable them to appreciate what amazing neighbourhood nature we have and understand that we all need to use our voices to let decision makers know what is right and what is expected?



# Burning urban areas will increase fire risk to residents

By Kingsley Dixon

The biggest single issue in urban reserves are invasive weeds. We see that so clearly with the iconic bushlands and Kings Park and Bold Park. Both parks suffered urban burning practices that, in the absence of funded, long-term weed programs converted into bushland with poor biodiversity values, high weed cover and, as a result great flammability.

Fire in urban reserves will exacerbate the flammability and hence Local Governments who undertake burning without care for the biological and ecological impacts are ultimately responsible for increasing, not decreasing the risk to nearby land holders.

As occurred in Kings Park and Bold Park bushlands, strategic weed control coupled with woody weed removal has greatly reduced the fire risk and indeed the incidence of fire. As urban wildfires are usually the result of arson a

key strategy is rapid detection and immediate control. These are the key strategies in place with Bold Park and Kings Park and these have been highly effective in arresting the spread of the 5 or more ignitions that occur in these parks each year.

In addition, slashing of margins as supplement to weed control generally can provide additional benefits in extending the low flammable margins on bushland. However care is required to avoid important biological elements such as key species, fauna and high quality vegetation of conservation value.

Kingsley Dixon, our contributor, was the foundation Director of Science at Kings Park and spearheaded the selective control of veld grass that today is a cornerstone of bushland management in Kings Park and Bold Park.



*Kings Park bushland after intensive weed control and restoration provides a fire-risk reduced and biodiverse opportunity for visitors.*

## Fire prevention need now

The summer fire risk season is now here for us in the south west of WA and especially in the Perth region. With recent reports of shocking fires in koala habitat in normally unburnt south east Queensland forests, as well as ferocious wildfires in California USA, we need to be aware of risks to our urban bushland and check that prevention measures are in place. Our urban bushland on the Swan Coastal Plain must not be burnt.

The UBC together with the Friends of Forrestdale held a guided walk on 20<sup>th</sup> October at the Anstey-Keane Damp-lands. The presence of tall dry grassy weeds along the Anstey and Keane Road verges and inside the entry was evident. The City of Armadale is responsible for the road verge and should have cut this by now. Regional Parks staff will be hand weeding the grassy weeds beside the fence within the reserve. These prevention works are now overdue. It is vitally important that grassy weeds on all road verges adjacent to bushland reserves are now cut to help prevent fire ignition risk. Indeed this maintenance by slashing or mowing should already have been carried out by the responsible LGA or, if a main road, by Main Roads WA.

Tall dry grassy weeds still remaining inside bushland conservation reserves should be carefully physically removed by hand weeding. It is too late to spray with herbicides as the dry matter remains

Community Friends groups are reminded to check whether this road verge maintenance has been done adjacent to their bushland areas, and if not, to contact the relevant authority for their immediate attention.

In summary, it is the dry grassy weed control and removal that is essential to reduce fire risk while protecting the diversity of flora and fauna. Burning only destroys these flora and fauna populations. Another way to remove grassy weeds is to re-introduce and maintain kangaroos or wallabies which will eat these weeds and prevent their growth and spread. Also quenda help turnover leaf litter and reduce fire fuel load. Indeed it is the long unburnt bushland with these fauna present which have the lowest fuel load and lowest fire risk. Moreover they are the healthiest in species richness and population numbers.



(Continued from page 1)

not deterred vehicles from entering and cutting up tracks. Drivers had even driven over vegetation bush bashing to get around boulders and onto tracks.

As the group walked along, rubbish dumping was evident (drums of oil), and where vehicles had been bogged, fencing had been pulled down to provide traction for the bogged cars to get out of the mire. It was noted that the water in the drain that runs parallel to Anstey Road would be better used if it were to be available for the Damplands rather than being channelled away in a drain.

The UBC and the Friends of Forrestdale have been informing Ministers and land managers of the desperate need to have this fantastic conservation jewel properly protected and managed with adequate fencing, signs, cameras and other means. The State government is acquiring the last two privately held lots on Skeet Road via compulsory acquisition and this will be completed by the end of the year. But this does not excuse failure to properly set up and manage conservation of the other side of the Damplands - indeed being the main entrance.

The walk guide, David James of the Friends of Forrestdale, showed the group of visitors the flowering Woolly Dragons *Hemiphora uncinata*. They flower from July to November and the population in Anstey-Keane is the southern-most of the species. The group was urged to keep up a reasonable pace but there were so many beautiful things of interest, it was hard to not linger. The types of plants found in damplands depend on groundwater close to the surface of the land. In flower were such gorgeous and unique plants as Green Kangaroo Paws *Anigozanthos viridis*, Swamp Fox Banksia *Banksia telmattiaea*, One-sided Bottle Brush *Calothamnus hirsutus* and Sand Bottlebrush *Beaufortia squarrosa* as well as all the tiny Drosera and trigger plants.

As Professor Stephen Hopper has stated '**Damplands such as Anstey-Keane and Brixton Street are truly unsung biological jewels of international significance**'. (Kwongan Matters 11 August 2014)



Photo by B. Fremlin

Evidence of on-going vandalism at Anstey-Keane bushland, Bush Forever Area 342 in Forrestdale. The limestone boulders aimed to prevent unauthorised access have not been effective.



Photo by B. Fremlin

Water Corporation works at Anstey-Keane bushland entrance still unfinished after several months.



Photo by M. Owen



Photo by M. Owen



Photo by M. Owen

Discovering nature's wonders such as Woolly Dragon flowers, photographed by many walk participants (left) or *Calothamnus* (photo above) vs the unwelcomed discovery of dumped drums of oil, encountered during the guided walk on 20 October. (right)



# Montario Quarter: NOT a Model Development

By Heidi Hardisty and Lyn Jennings

It is disconcerting that Montario Quarter has recently been heralded for sustainable building practices and innovative techniques used for the establishment of vegetation.

While there is some merit in these accolades, it should be noted that Montario Quarter, a new housing development on the old Shenton Park rehabilitation hospital site, is far from a model sustainable infill development.

LandCorp unnecessarily destroyed over 3 hectares of greenspace on the site, including valuable bushland and many mature trees. The bushland was Banksia Woodland, recognised as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). It was also a regionally significant ecological corridor between two Bush Forever Sites and according to key state planning policies, including Perth's State Bushland Policy 2.8, none of it should have been cleared. LandCorp could have preserved the bushland in its entirety, but chose not to simply so that the developers could make more profit.

Infill development should be about increasing housing density and protecting the remaining green space and native vegetation. But LandCorp insisted on including 29 single residential lots in the development (to maximize developers' profits) and then stated it was necessary to develop the bushland to meet [arbitrary] infill housing targets. Apartments could have replaced the single lots making infill targets easy to reach. But either way, the bushland could have been preserved in its entirety just with better planning: putting higher density building on the already cleared areas of the old hospital site.



The 'Bush not Bricks' campaign to save the remnant bushland on the western part of the development ran for over 5 years. But LandCorp was determined to clear most of the bushland from the start. LandCorp's initial plans would have cleared over 80% of the bushland. Their final plan, thanks to our persistence, resulted in 'only' 60-70% of the bushland being cleared but effectively destroying its value as a TEC and wildlife corridor. We fought to have most of the bushland saved. In fact, the State Statutory Planning Committee (SPC), the expert planning body of the WA Planning Commission (WAPC), agreed with us and at one point directed LandCorp to retain at least 75% of the bushland. But LandCorp would not accept this judgment and appealed to the WAPC. Unfortunately, the WAPC overturned their own expert committee's decision and it is likely that less than 30% of the bushland will be 'saved'. The public has no right to appeal this decision.



*Mature jarrah cut down in December 2017, Montarion Quarter development site, Shenton Park.*



*Clearing of the understorey within the remaining bushland at the Montarion Quarter development site, Shenton Park in February 2019.*

If LandCorp had not cleared so many mature indigenous trees and much of the bushland, the whole project would have been a lot more waterwise and avoided the large cost of re-establishing new young trees and the extra water needed to do that with the real prospect that most may not survive to maturity. Studies on the subject from other cities show that a significant percentage of new tree plantings in public areas do not reach maturity.

Moreover, LandCorp indicated to us it would consider using locally indigenous tree species in the main redeveloped area (outside the bushland section). That has not occurred and as far as we can tell, all exotics or non-local indigenous species have been used.

This development has drastically decreased the amount of greenspace and habitat and connectivity for our local wildlife and hence there will be fewer insects, birds and reptiles. And the future health and well-being of the people that live in this and the surrounding communities have forever been diminished.



# Group News Group News Group News

## Recognition for Cottesloe Coastcare

By Robyn Benken

Cottesloe Coastcare (CCA) volunteers were surprised and pleased to hear that we were finalists in one of the categories of Western Australian Coastal Award for Excellence. Unbeknown to us Adeline Morrissey, Town of Cottesloe's Coordinator of Environmental Projects, had submitted a nomination for CCA. Our Chairman, Mike Ewing was invited to the awards and was delighted when we won the Community Group Award. The award recognizes 'significant contribution to the improvement and enhancement of Western Australia's coastal environment'.

Adeline had written this brief summary of our work:

*Cottesloe Coastcare Association (CCA) started in 1995 and have been dedicated to the resto-*

*ration of coastal habitats along Cottesloe's highly degraded coastline. The high profile stretch of coastal dunes along Cottesloe's main beach was once dominated by invasive weed species including couch grass, sea spinach, onion weeds and rose pelargonium. Through countless CCA volunteer hours over 23 years these areas have been transformed into ecologically biodiverse and sustainable habitats which have been important in demonstrating what can be achieved through a strategic weed control program, staged infill planting and early intervention for erosion control. Some project sites have become self-sustaining and support bird species such as the White-winged Fairy-wrens previously not observed this far south along the coast. The value of CCA's support averages around \$30,000 per year, therefore over 24 years they have contributed over \$720,000 to the restoration of the Cottesloe dunes. CCA have also been influential in obtaining local government and Council support for ongoing restoration programs and new project sites.*

None of us carry out our environmental work for thanks or awards but it is nice when a group is acknowledged and it was a privilege to be among the other awardees and wonderful finalists.



Cottesloe Coastcare committee, with the award, at one of the Group's project sites.

## Recent Activities at Paganoni Swamp Reserve

By Leonie Stubbs

Friends of Paganoni Swamp has been fortunate in obtaining Swan Alcoa Landcare (SALP) grants over the past few years primarily for weed control and planting. Weed control has concentrated on Dune Onion Weed, *Fumaria*, Cape Tulip and unfortunately after many years of never seeing the weed, Perennial veldgrass. We have been fortunate in securing the services of a very proficient herbicide contractor who has worked with us over a number of years to reduce the density of these insidious weed species.

However to counter the negative aspects of weed control we have included a planting component over the past few years as well. It was initially to counter the impact of *Fumaria* in an area close to Paganoni Road we call the Upper Swamp. The Upper Swamp is part of the central wetland running through the Reserve from north to south but due to road construction and other degrading processes that have occurred in the past the area was quite barren and susceptible to weeds. In the first year we collected seeds and cuttings such as *Acacia pulchella*, *Macrozamia*, a variety of *Hakea* species, *Gahnia* and *Rhagodia baccata* from the Reserve and had then grown up by a local nursery, Nuts about Natives. All the seedlings were fenced with the fenced area expanded the following year. Since then we have contin-



2016—pre-planting.



2018 - post planting and weeding.



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ued to plant primarily *Gahnia* in the large fenced area but also included patches southward of the original plantings. The response has been amazing. Natural regeneration has been extraordinary with dense seedling patches of *Melaleuca raphiophylla* (not seen since we have been working in the Reserve from 2004) as well as *Solanum symonii*, *Apium*, *Rhagodia*, *Senecio* and Tuarts. We accept that there has been an improvement in rainfall over the past few years but planting out the buffer between the road and what should have been the wetter area appears to have restored some function.

Whilst we continue to work in the Upper Swamp we now have a fenced patch in the south west corner of the Reserve which has also undergone degrading processes. It will be so interesting to see if the results are anything like that which has occurred in our northern site.

We are so grateful to SALP as well as other funding bodies that have enabled this work to be carried out, never forgetting our amazing volunteers who turn up weekly to weed and participate in other activities throughout the Reserve.

## Spring Walk with Baigup Wetlands Interest Group

By Sue Conlan

The Baigup Wetland Interest Group volunteers guided a spring walk for a crowd of UBC members (see photo right) who were keen to learn how to successfully return a very degraded saltmarsh for valuable wildlife habitat.

Baigup Wetland Interest Group and the City of Bayswater are handing back the Baigup Wetland on the Swan River, a restored 16.4ha Bush Forever Site with wildlife. It's been hard work dealing with the worst weeds possible, Arum lily, Pampas grass, blackberry.

It's not over yet! It will be on-going. Foxes are still taking the oblong turtles and not everyone knows the rules of walking through bushland or the effect their speeding boat makes to the river bank.

Natural areas nearby to visit before or after work gives us so much joy especially with beautiful waterbirds such as pink eared ducks as there are at Baigup. A natural healer for so many ills.



Photo by S Conlan

I'm sure the volunteers will not rest until they can provide safe habitat for quendas and rakali, our intelligent water rodent which is also in decline in Western Australia.

The guided walk was a great opportunity to hear the Baigup Wetland story and talk to others dealing with restoring bushland.



## Recipient of the UNAA WA Division's

### Environmental Action Award

Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare Inc (SNEC) became the United Nations Association of Australia WA Division's Environmental Action Award recipient as part of the Celebration of Community Advancement of the Values and Work of our United Nations Sustainable Development goals. The 17 goals are as under:

1 No poverty; 2 Zero Hunger; 3 Good Health and Well-being; 4 Quality education; 5 Gender equality; 6 Clean Water and sanitation; 7 Affordable and clean energy; 8 Decent work and economic growth; 9 Industry innovation and infrastructure; 10 Reduced inequalities; 11 Sustainable cities and communities; 12 Responsible consumption and production; 13 Climate action; 14 Life below water; 15 Life on land; 16 Peace, Justice and strong institutions; 17 Partnerships for the goals.

'The Environmental Action Award recognises individuals or organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to the protection, restoration of the environment and/or contribution to the awareness of environmental issues to further the UN Sustainable Development goals.

SNEC is described as a group of community volunteers with a passion to conserve, protect and promote natural resource management within the City of Stirling's 6.8 km strip of coastal reserves, established an innovative baseline methodology to measure the ecological, economic and social effectiveness of the protection and restoration of the nat-



Photo courtesy SNEC

Rae Kolb with the UNAA WA Division's 2019 Environmental Action Award presented to the Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare.

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ural environment along the coastline, which has provided exemplary leadership in mentoring others who are now adopting this approach. So much so that it is now promoted to the wider local to national to international communities as a case study of best practice for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Ecosystems and Invasive Species Thematic group, Theme Ecosystems and Invasive Species. SNEC has worked with Dr Judy Fisher to both develop the baseline approach and provide advice during its ongoing implementation in association with the City of Stirling. The practical implementation of the process has enabled management expenditure to be targeted in a more efficient way with measurable outcomes that can be reviewed against baseline and further reviews. SNEC's meticulous record keeping has been a vital complement to the City's management processes.



*SNEC volunteers removing weeds from the City of Stirling foreshore.*

Over the last more than 10 years SNEC has worked in collaborative partnership with City of Stirling, our coastal land manager, and has continued to benefit from support from the Perth Natural Resource Management organisation. It has gratefully appreciated on-ground support from Conservation Volunteers Australia and many other volunteer groups that work through them and with other independent community and educational volunteer groups. Over recent years most large project grants have been funded through the State's Department of Planning, Coastwest initiatives. The secret to success is to use the process, carry out project goals and follow-up with monitoring and maintenance.

For further information contact Rae Kolb, Convenor, Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare Inc via [stirlingnaturalenvironmentcoastcare@hotmail.com](mailto:stirlingnaturalenvironmentcoastcare@hotmail.com).

## Friends of Craigie Bush

*By Kevin McLeod*

The City of Joondalup organized a bushwalk around Craigie Bushland, followed by a bus trip for fifty participants to Yellagonga Regional Park for a guided tour of bush foods and aboriginal lore by *Bindi Bindi Dreaming*.

I was asked to give a brief talk on the beginnings of Craigie Bush and what things the Friends do to help preserve the 56 hectares of high quality bushland, part of Bush Forever Area 303.

Marilyn Zakrevsky, one of the inaugural members also attended so I was able to talk about the early days of massive weeding and bun fights at the local council between those that wanted another golf course and those that wanted the Tuart forest and Banksia woodland preserved. So far the Tuart forest has won the day and on top of that the City voted to install a fox and cat proof fence around 42 hectares of bushland.



*Brushtail possum carrying its young as captured recently by one of the motion cameras in Craigie Bushland.*

A management plan was written as the original idea was to foster the release of those species that would have been present prior to settlement. Brush wallabies, quenda, phascogales, quokkas to name a few. So far only quendas have been reintroduced and have done extremely well, reaching a maximum balanced population in short order (first quenda translocation happened in 2013). The difficulties in getting permission to introduce rare animals resulted in the first management plan being rewritten with the emphasis taken off the reintroduction model. Unfortunately without small grazing marsupials the City has to constantly spray weed outbreaks.

Craigie Bush is the only area along the coastal strip with protection from cats and foxes.

Dr. Leoni Valentine spoke about her ongoing research program that will be winding up soon. She hopes the Friends Group can carry on part of the experiments comparing areas of quenda absence with quenda presence outside the wire test enclosures. She was sorry to have to wind up her quenda "poo" testing which was showing promise. The samples could show changes in weed seed concentrations and varieties as the quenda population grew over time.

Dr. Valentine's other program involved measuring the amount of soil the animals dug up over time. Each quenda can shift up to 4 tonne a year which demonstrates the importance of having protected quenda to aerate and fertilize the bush.

You can get more information and pictures from our blogspot at: <https://craigiebushland.blogspot.com/>



# Group News Group News Group News

## The Gasp Factor

By Marg Owen

*Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland*

You never know what you'll find in Underwood Bushland. This article gives a snapshot of some of the life that has made me gasp.

When the campaign to protect the bushland from destruction for housing began around twenty years ago, one of the main points was that the Little Eagle nested there. These days Little Eagles are only seen occasionally.

Brown Goshawks now nest in Underwood Bushland most years, however last year a pair nested in the army barracks just to the south. When the female goshawk is swooping at nesting time, the anguished pleas to the goshawk to cease and desist are really nothing like a gasp.

On a daily basis when the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos are on the coastal plain, the red-tails are in Underwood first thing in the morning. They have only to fly across Brockway Road to be in the bushland eating jarrah seeds and going into hollows. All suitable hollows have chewed edges.

Carnaby's Cockatoos also are sometime morning visitors and a large flock moving east or south-east, going deep into the bush and calling excitedly, is a spectacular sight. They too are interested in working the hollows.

In earlier editions of the Telegraph, readers might recall the finding of parts of a dead Masked Owl. The talon was massive. We were told by the WA Museum: *'We have few records of this species for the Perth area. Judging from our specimens and observations in the SW there is probably some autumn-winter wandering northwards and to north-east'*.

The bird was likely to have been a juvenile.

A not-recognised small bird was photographed on 28 January 2019 and was identified by the WA Museum. *'This is a juvenile Scarlet Robin - a plumage stage not well shown in field guides'*.

When a stunning male Red-capped Robin appeared on a banksia branch, I just had time to stop to the side so a branch wasn't in the way, and get two photographs. Then the little bird was gone.

A goshawk seen on 16 July 2019, had a band on its leg. This was a surprise as it was hard to imagine a goshawk being convivial enough to receive a band. Bird expert Dr Rob Davis said *'Excellent'. It could have been banded at Mt Claremont, or at Shenton Bushland or from anywhere. The number on the band is needed'*.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018, there was one brilliant flowering plant – *Verticordia nitens* (photo right). Greg Keighery commented: *'A very interesting record, perhaps an indication of very good quality bush.'*

These are but some of the wonders of nature in the bush.



*Hollow in Underwood.*



*Carnaby's black cockatoos on the fence surrounding the bushland.*



*Masked owl's talon found in Underwood bushland.*



*A juvenile Scarlet robin (left) and Red-capped robin (right) in Underwood bushland.*



*Photo by M Owen*





Things have not been looking good for the fate of the Kiara bushland, the 12 ha Banksia woodland zoned Residential development in Kiara, City of Swan. Department of Communities is reviewing the existing plan for the area which shows 4.67ha allocated to high school, 4.1ha to Parks and Recreation and the remainder to Residential development (R30, R40 and R60). Civil works for Stage 1 of the development started in February 2019. It is expected that a new plan will be submitted for the portion currently allocated to high school.

To ensure that as much as possible of bushland is retained on the site, "Save Kiara Bushland" organised a petition. Please help to achieve their target of at least 1000 signatures in 30 days.

Please sign our petition via the following link: [bit.ly/SaveKiaraBushland](https://bit.ly/SaveKiaraBushland)

What else can we do?

JOIN the Facebook page "**Save Kiara Bushland**"

EMAIL [savekiarabushland@gmail.com](mailto:savekiarabushland@gmail.com) to find out how you can help

CONTACT these representatives:

Dave Kelly: [Minister.Kelly@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Kelly@dpc.wa.gov.au), ph.6552 6100

Stephen Dawson: [Minister.Dawson@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Dawson@dpc.wa.gov.au), ph. 6552 5800

City of Swan Mayor Kevin Bailey: [kevin.bailey@swan.wa.gov.au](mailto:kevin.bailey@swan.wa.gov.au), ph. 9571 2726 mob. 0407 147 351

## Friends of Trigg Beach

By Robyn Murphy

I have today written to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) regarding the clearing and dumping of sand by Norup+Wilson on the Class A Reserve Bush Forever 308 Area to the west of its property at North Scarborough/South Trigg.

We have been monitoring native vegetation clearing permit applications made to DWER and have not seen an application for this clearing made by either the City of Stirling (the land manager) or Norup+Wilson.

This will set a precedent for any new apartments built in this area, and is of concern for its impact on the stability of the sand dunes, its vegetation and animal habitat and potential access for vehicles.

Some of the key dates of more than 20 years of community action to protect this bushland have been summarised by Donna Chapman from "Save Kiara Bushland":

1996 - Concerned citizens formed 'Kiara Progress Association' in order to change the classification to 'managed bushland'.

April 1996 - 600 people signed a petition to stop the development and retain the bushland.

1998 - 900 signatures on a petition to retain bushland classification and submitted to State Parliament. Appeared successful but since been ignored.

2010 - Facebook group created "Save Kiara Bushland". September 2016 - Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain is listed as Endangered and becomes a nationally protected ecological community under the EPBC Act.

December 2016 - City of Swan accept the design and the plan is released in October 2017.

April 2019 - Independent environmental report obtained confirming it is a highly viable community. Department of Communities disagree but say they will obtain another report.

August 2019 - Campaign featured on Today Tonight.



"Before" and "after". We think this is just the beginning as the plan shows incursion of 11 metres from the boundary of N+W's property.



## CONSULTATION

UBC members and supporters are encouraged to contribute to the consultation on documents released by the Department of Water and Environment Regulation

### [Climate Change in Western Australia - Discussion Paper](#)

Submissions due on **29 November 2019**. Information: <https://consult.dwer.wa.gov.au/climatechange/issues-paper/>

### [Environmental Protection Act 1986 Amendments](#)

Released documents include [Modernising the EP Act Discussion Paper](#) and [Environmental Protection Amendment Bill 2019 \(Exposure Draft\)](#)

Submissions due on **28 January 2020**.

## FREE TRAINING HOSTED BY PERTH NRM

### Terrestrial Invertebrate Survey

**DATE: Saturday 23 November: 9:00AM to Sunday 24 November: 2:00PM**  
**VENUE: WA Ecology Centre at Bold Park, Perry Lakes Dr, City Beach WA 6015**

Learn new skills to conduct a terrestrial invertebrate study under the guidance of David and Fleur Knowles from Spineless Wonders. Learn sampling techniques, macrophotography, reporting and identification with our smallest and most diverse creatures.

For full program go to <https://www.perthnrm.com/event/terrestrial-invertebrate-survey-training-2>  
 To book your place go to <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=569023&>



## Tackling Climate Change in Western Australia: Ideas for a State Climate Policy

**11 November 2019 - 8.00am start at the University of WA University Club.**  
**Register here: <https://ccs19.com.au/>**

The purpose of the symposium is to inform better discussion of and submissions to the State's Climate Policy process. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation published a "[Climate Change issues paper](#)" in early September to launch a period of consultation, which closes on 29 November. The date of the symposium enables those interested in making a submission to be better informed on the issues and to discuss them before completing submissions to the Government.

Open the link to view the program <https://ccs19.com.au/program/>

Registrations close 8 November.

### A JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF A GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Hans Lambers, Editor



Artwork by Philippa Nihilindry

**A Jewel in the Crown of a Global Biodiversity Hotspot**  
 \$89.95  
 Edited by Hans Lambers

South-western Australia is a region of exquisite landscapes and unique plants, animals and fungi. It is one of the World's 'Biodiversity Hotspots', based on its highly diverse, endemic and threatened flora. Greater Perth is particularly well-known for its species richness and endemism, home to numerous Declared Rare Flora and Priority species as well as Threatened Ecological Communities.

A Jewel in the Crown of a Global Biodiversity Hotspot has been assembled using current research and understanding about the geology, hydrology, soils, flora, fauna, fungi, archaeology, history and other aspects.

The book has been published jointly by the Kwongan Foundation and the Western Australian Naturalists' Club Inc, Perth.  
 It is available in bookshops.

**PUBLICATION DATE:** 2019  
**FORMAT:** Paperback  
**EXTENT:** 444 pages  
**SIZE:** 297 x 210 mm  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9806417-4-5

Greens WA event

### Shaping Our Climate Future Forum with Q & A

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November**  
**6.00pm – 8.00pm**

at State Library Theatre, Perth  
*Speakers*

*Dr Jennie Grey, WA Council of Social Service*  
*Dr George Crisp, Doctors for the Environment*  
*Tim Macknay, Environmental Defender's Office*  
*Chantal Caruso, Clean State*

Please send any questions you may have to Tim Clifford: [tim@wa.greens.org.au](mailto:tim@wa.greens.org.au) and they will be answered on the night.

Register at [bit.ly/ClimateForumRSVP](http://bit.ly/ClimateForumRSVP)





## **FIRE ECOLOGY OF BANKSIA WOODLANDS**

**Tuesday 26 November from 6.00 to 8.00pm**

**at the City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth**

**Russell Miller is a PhD candidate, Murdoch University, Kings Park Science and will discuss his research on the fire ecology of Banksia woodlands.**

Banksia woodlands have a long association with fire. Over tens of thousands of years, our local plant species have developed strategies not only to tolerate but sometimes benefit from recurrent fire. A fundamental concept in fire ecology is that plants are adapted to certain fire regimes (i.e. frequency, seasonality, and intensity) but if populations experience fire outside of this, they are likely to decline.

For his PhD research, he investigated how native plant populations change with time since fire and under varying fire seasonality to identify species' tolerance of varying fire regimes.

Field surveys revealed post-fire juvenile periods of 1 – 5 years, indicating that populations recover reproductive maturity quickly after fire and even some obligate seeding species may have the capacity to cope with relatively short fire intervals. Surveys also showed that seedling recruitment occurs during the inter-fire period, a phenomenon uncommon in fire-prone ecosystems but not unexpected given our knowledge that canopy seed bank species are weakly serotinous in [Banksia woodlands](#).

Inter-fire recruitment may help buffer populations from decline with the long absence of fire. Russell also conducted a field trial emulating the effects of season of fire and showed that unseasonal fire can substantially reduce seedling recruitment. Poor recruitment from emulated unseasonal fire was the result of low seedling emergence, shortened seedling establishment times, and reduced seed persistence.

**Overall, his research extends our understanding of the unique fire ecology of Banksia woodlands and reveals the potential consequences of altered fire regimes.**

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### **2020 UBC membership fees**

The UBC has been very concerned about its financial position for some years. Great efforts have been made to increase membership and to save costs. Our viability relies on the significant donations we receive, and these large donations come from only a few donors. To rely on these donations is a risky strategy.

The UBC discussed the situation and agreed to recommend that membership fees for Member Groups be increased by \$15 to \$60 per annum, effective from 1 January 2020.

The UBC also recommended that membership fees for Associate Members, (referred to as supporters), be increased by \$15 to \$50 per annum effective from 1 January 2020.

At the General Meeting to vote on the resolution, it was carried unanimously.



### **SUPPORT THE URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL - JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Groups:**

Membership with voting rights is available to groups committed to the protection of urban bushland for \$45 a year (GST included). A growing membership strengthens the cause and groups benefit from the network.

#### **Individuals:**

Supporter membership is only \$35 per year (GST included). Supporters can attend meetings and receive copies of the "Urban Bush Telegraph"

The annual membership fees include an electronic copy of the *Urban Bush Telegraph* (currently published quarterly). Printed copies can be ordered at a cost of \$15.00 per annum for four editions.

Join or renew on-line (<https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/membership/>) or send your name, address and cheque to:

Treasurer, Urban Bushland Council WA Inc, PO Box 326, West Perth WA 6872

#### **Office:**

**URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL WA Inc**

**Lotteries House 2 Delhi Street West Perth WA 6008**

**Postal address: PO Box 326 West Perth WA 6872**

**Ph 9420 7207 E-mail: [ubc@bushlandperth.org.au](mailto:ubc@bushlandperth.org.au)**



**Urban Bushland Council WA Inc**



**<http://twitter.com/#!/UrbanBushlandWA>**

#### **NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

[ubc@bushlandperth.org.au](mailto:ubc@bushlandperth.org.au)

**Copy deadline - 10 January 2020**

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