

Community concerns for proposed mountain bike trails in Manning Park

By Sally Marsh



Photo courtesy to Friend of Manning Park

Vegetation mapping of the Manning Park Ridge bushland

Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor <http://www.cockburnwild.org/> (CCWC) is concerned that the City of Cockburn is considering a formalised mountain biking trail network in Manning Park Reserve. The reserve includes Bush Forever Site 247 and the Manning Park Reserve is an integral part of Beeliar Regional Park, which as a whole is identified as having regionally significant conservation, landscape and recreation values. Manning Park Reserve bushland is an important north-south coastal dune habitat linkage to the proposed Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor.

Following community backlash after the publication of a mountain bike trails concept plan in 2020, the city established a community working group which had four meetings in November /December 2021 to discuss the various ways in which the park is used and “to establish a common understanding and to work collaboratively to identify opportunities for a trail network for users of Manning Park”. CCWC had a representative on this group, as did Friends of Manning Park Ridge, <https://www.friendsofmanningparkridge.com/> along with representatives from a mountain biking group, trail runners, orienteering, Aboriginal Elders and other local community members.

CCWC recognise that the city is endeavouring to cater for the diverse needs of our community and that mountain biking has become a very popular recreational activity. However, already the Manning Park bushland has been damaged by the construction and use of a network of unsanctioned trails by mountain bikers. The city has made little effort to control this and have in the past argued that formalising the trails will stop these activities.

The major issue that concerns our group and many others is that we believe the impact of any mountain biking on this valuable and unique coastal ridge bushland will be environmentally disastrous. The vegetated limestone ridge itself (Manning Ridge) is one of the last

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The record number of very hot days with temperatures of 40 degrees and higher in the Perth region in December – January is a stark reminder we humans and our natural areas are suffering climate change, with these increased, extreme, weather events.

There have recently been a number of fire outbreaks in our local bushland. In late January, one third (~18 ha) of Warwick bushland was burnt, and this was yet another added to the ongoing history of arson events there. There were also recent suspicious fires in Hollywood Reserve, in Bold Park, and in Bullsbrook. Arson has been the cause of a number of fires, and as reported in mid-January, a teenage volunteer fire fighter from Wooroloo has been charged with lighting 7 fires. Arson watch and control needs to be greatly increased by our State Government.

There is strong scientific evidence that certain fire regimes, including increased frequency of fires are a threat to our biodiversity. Recently there has been a public consultation on the advice to the Federal Minister for the Environment by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee to list *'Fire regimes that cause biodiversity decline as a key threatening process'* (KTP) under the EPBC Act.

This listing is endorsed and strongly supported together with introduction of a 'Threat Abatement Plan' (TAP) especially for the Perth Peel region as well as for the whole south west region of WA. This is a mechanism to address inappropriate fire such as prescribed burns on the Swan Coastal Plain. Prevention of arson also needs to be part of such a much needed plan. The UBC's submission on the proposed KTP listing is on our [website](#). Many UBC members have advised that they have also sent submissions supporting this listing.

Another ongoing threat to the health of our important Swan Coastal Plain wetlands, Banksia Woodlands, and Tuart Woodlands is declining ground water levels. This is due to climate change with reduced rainfall, and groundwater abstraction for potable supply as well as for irrigated horticulture, and for parkland and garden irrigation. Now open for public comment until 28 February 2022 to the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is the **Draft Gnangara groundwater allocation plan**. See www.Gnangara.dwer.wa.gov.au. There are proposed changes for reduced groundwater allocations and for reduction of domestic garden bore use from 3 to 2 days per week. These and more reductions are much needed in the interests of saving our wetlands and bushland health and biodiversity. UBC members and supporters are encouraged to comment via <https://www.wa.gov.au/rebalancingyourgroundwater>.

We now welcome a new WA Minister for the Environment; Climate Action; the Hon Reece Whitby MLA. He has the above challenges and more to ensure lasting protection and management of our precious urban bushland by including greatly increased funding for management of *all Bush Forever sites* as 'A' class reserves for conservation of nature. We are advised that the Bush Forever Audit Report 2021 has been approved by the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) and will soon be publicly available. As requested, a presentation of the report to UBC members and supporters will likely be at DBCA's Kensington Office next month.

In addition, whilst there is still a way to go, we look forward to soon celebrating the efforts and achievements of all the groups and individuals who have cared and advocated for Bush Forever sites over the past 21 years.

Urban Bushland Council ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 6:30 pm
at City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth.

Elections will be held for all Committee positions for 2022. **Nominations must be received at least 14 days before the AGM** – by Tuesday 15th February. Nomination forms can be downloaded [here](#).

There is still much to do to help protect our bushland and wetland habitat and all its precious flora and fauna. Your valuable knowledge and expertise continues to help UBC in our collective efforts to save, promote and care for our threatened bushland. New people in various roles on the UBC Committee will be appreciated to boost our work. So please think about a contribution your group could make by nominating one of your members to be on the UBC Committee in 2022.

Please note also that Mary Grey will be 'retiring' from the position as Chairperson (formerly President) after so many years, but is keen to remain on the Committee.

Immediately following the AGM, there will be a presentation by a guest speaker:

Lee McIntosh, Deputy Chair of the Environmental Protection Authority **“the EPA's role in protecting biodiversity”**

All friends and visitors are most welcome. Doors open at 6:00 pm with light refreshments before the meeting starts. Note parking on Delhi Street is free from 6pm. If unable to attend in person, you can join in via zoom. To RSVP or request a zoom link, contact us at ubc@bushlandperth.org.au

CONSULTATION ON NATIVE VEGETATION POLICY – 1 NOVEMBER 2021

UBC encouraged its members and supporters to contribute to the consultation process that closed on 25 October. We ran a members' submission writing workshop on 7 October. We then used that collective wisdom to create a submissions guide to assist our community members to write their submissions. We created a dedicated campaign page on our website and then promoted the survey to our newsletter and Facebook audiences.

In our template we acknowledged that the Minister's Foreword (page iii) and the Purpose section (page 4) of the consultation draft contained encouraging statements for the protection and management of native vegetation. However, we also advised that it is hard to see how the remainder of the document delivered on that intent.

We recommended that our members and supporters urge the State Government to identify strategies with more ambition and urgency to protect and manage existing native vegetation and furthermore deliver a net gain in native vegetation. We noted that the southwest WA biodiversity hotspot has been globally identified for conservation priority because it is under threat and that clearing and cumulative impacts of clearing are major threats.

In our own submission we indicated our belief that:

- a robust Native Vegetation Policy is urgently required in WA and that this policy document as written would not "achieve a net gain in native vegetation extent" as stated in the Purpose.
- The timelines are insufficient for delivering the task at hand and they do not portray the sense of urgency. We believe the Stage 1 actions should be completed within 2 years; the Stage 2 actions completed in 2 - 4 years and the Stage 3 actions completed in 4 - 6 years.
- There is not enough **protection** for native vegetation, especially in the southwest biodiversity hotspot

(termed the Intensive Land Use Zone) in the draft Policy.

- It is critically important that **land clearing** be ended in the Intensive Land Use Zone. We are already at less than 30% native vegetation, with much at less than 10%, there is therefore sufficient cleared land for all infrastructure and other developments.
- There must be no Exemptions to Clearing in the Intensive Land Use Zone to achieve the purpose of a "net gain in native vegetation extent"
- On ground protection and management of native vegetation requires much more WA Government focus and **funding**.

Submissions by Members and Supporters: To date we are aware of the following submissions that made use of the UBC submission guides:

11 Friends of Groups
22 Personal submissions
UBC submission

What our Members Said:

Tracy: Firstly, I just want to thank you and everyone at UBC for the Fantastic support you all gave with helping me, and I'm sure everyone interested and passionate, to make a submission for the Friends of XX. It was a nightmare of pages, digits, words and references, and I never would have been able to complete the survey without all your guidelines and the workshop

Leah: Thank you – your submission guide was a fantastic help for us time-poor individuals – many thanks for putting that together. I made a submission on my own behalf.

Total Submissions: We understand that approximately 390 unique submissions (surveys and docs) and another 270 campaign emails were received by DWER.

STATE NRM grant to UBC – Building community capacity to care for urban bushland

Congratulations to all groups who were successful with the most recent round of State NRM grants. And commiserations to those who missed out! These grants require so much effort that it is quite devastating to not see your name on the list.

UBC's large grant application was partially successful!

We submitted a proposal for 3 years of funding to work with Friends groups to help strengthen new or existing groups and were granted part funding of \$90,424 for 12 – 18 months to develop up a pilot project including formulating a volunteer recruitment and retention plan.

The project will allow UBC to help Member Groups stay active, viable and influential, and thus better able to protect their bushland. In the project we plan to help with the formation of new Member Groups, assist established Member Groups with falling membership to address this

challenge and deliver targeted workshops available to all.

The project will start as soon as we have finalised the contracting stages with State NRM and will continue for just over 12 months. Our plan is then to apply for a multi-year grant to roll out more widely what we have learnt in the pilot. We hope that the contracting will be completed by the AGM!

This year we will be working with long-established Members - Friends of Lake Gwelup, Friends of Trigg Bushland, Friends of Star Swamp as a hub and separately with Friends of Wireless Hill and with new Group Friends of Erindale Road Bushland.

We will be recruiting for a part-time project officer (0.7 FTE) soon. If you would like more information about the project or the role, please contact Christine Richardson at Christine.richardson@iinet.net.au

Draft Gnangara groundwater allocation plan is open for public comment: 'Rebalancing our groundwater system – proposal to change water allocation for groundwater users in Perth and Mandurah'.

Public comment on the draft plan is **open until 28th February 2022**. To have your say and for further information visit <https://www.wa.gov.au/rebalancingourgroundwater>

Please do have your say on this very important matter so that your local bushland and wetlands can survive with much higher groundwater levels.

(Continued from page 1)

intact Tamala Limestone ridges in the Perth Metropolitan Region that has not been mined, developed or entirely cleared of vegetation. Moreover, Manning Ridge has retained its natural vegetation, mostly in very good condition.

There are extensive stands of *Melaleuca huegelii* – *Melaleuca systena* shrubland on the limestone ridge. This is a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) and classed as Endangered under Western Australia’s Biodiversity Conservation Act, and despite illegal clearing for trails, much of it is in very good condition. The tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) in the reserve woodland is another TEC (federally listed), and Manning Park is also very important for the threatened Carnaby’s cockatoo, which forage on the parrot bush (*Banksia sessilis*) and Aleppo pines on the ridge.

Our working group representative reports that the City of Cockburn will be going back to fill in all the gaps in

knowledge that were identified by the now completed working group process, including Aboriginal heritage significance and a better vegetation survey. However as far as actual “on the ground” outcomes we’ll need to wait to see the final report that comes from the City on the findings of the working group.

CCWC strongly believe Manning Park is the wrong site for mountain biking. Clearing of unique Swan Coastal Plain remnant vegetation in a regional park for active sports is not appropriate, and damage to bushland from unsanctioned trail building should be repaired and revegetated as a priority. Any proposed mountain bike trail project in Manning Park should be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority and the Federal Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for assessment under the respective Acts if impacts to TECs or clearing of native vegetation are proposed. In this case, an early referral will reassure the community that proper legal processes are in place.

Save the Helena River Wetlands - Rethink the LLOYD Street Bridge

By Francesca Flynn

What is the oldest historical site you've been to? I visited the Pantheon in Rome which is almost 2,000 years old. Stonehenge in England is said to be about 5,000 years old. The oldest surviving building is arguably Göbekli Tepe in Turkey at around 12,000 years old. All of these sites are protected, cherished and celebrated, as they should be. They are a link to our past and our future.

But what about closer to home?

I recently found out that the Helena River contains the second oldest archaeological finds on record in South-west WA - estimated to date back 29,000 years.

Scattered artefacts and tools dated circa 29,000 years ago, made mostly of quartz, chert and mylonite, have been found in the Helena River floodplain in the vicinity of the proposed bridge. The artefacts are scattered, as would be expected after surviving 29,000 years in an active floodplain. The archaeologists also found charcoal from fires (or “karla” in Noongar language) dating back to the same era.

There is only one other site in South-west WA with artefacts older than the Helena River - at the Upper Swan on the banks of the Derbal Yerrigan, with artefacts dating back around 38,000 years.

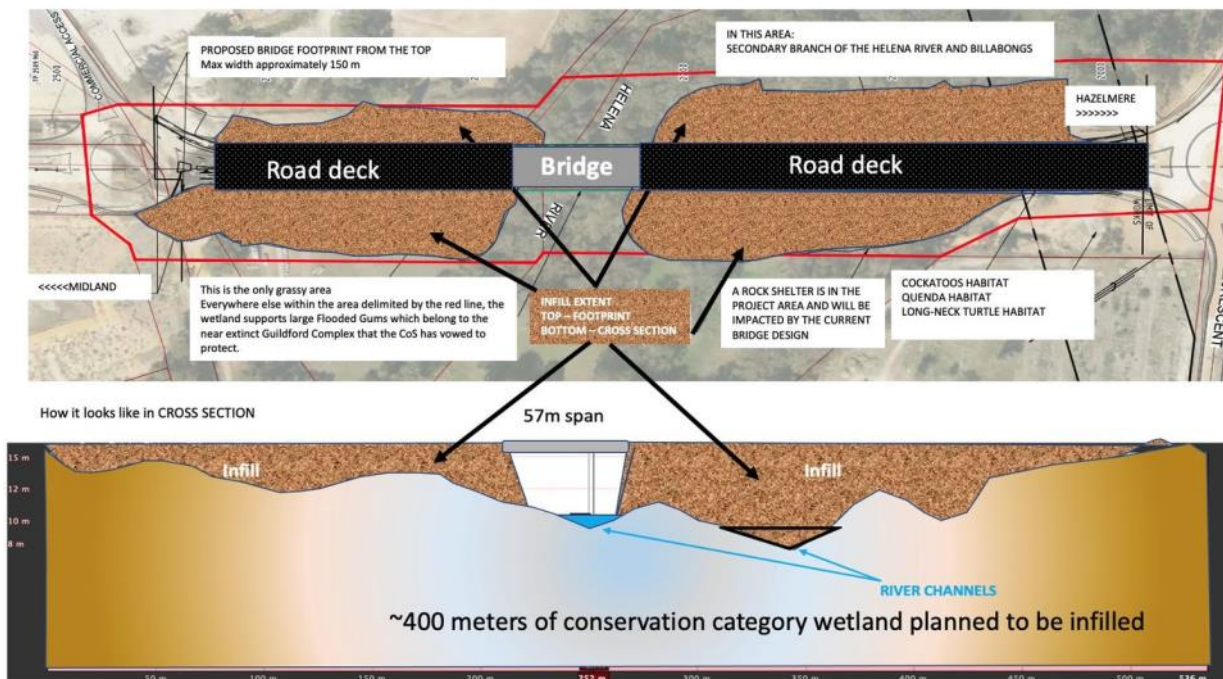
These archaeological finds provide irrefutable evidence that the Whadjuk people used the Helena River wetlands extensively for tens of thousands of years before the settlers arrived less than 200 years ago.

As one of the oldest archaeological sites in South-West WA and one of the last freshwater systems in Perth Metro, the Helena River is one of the most important and vulnerable sites in South-West WA both historically and environmentally. It should be protected and celebrated – not buried under fill, culverted and destroyed, as proposed for the Lloyd Street bridge.

The Helena River Alliance do not accept that a site of such significance should be desecrated and disrespected in this way and we will continue to stand strong with local Nyungar Elders and Senior Custodians to fight for a better outcome.

Please help us raise awareness of this important issue so it can be resolved before it is too late and the second oldest site in South-West WA is destroyed forever.

Image below: Current concept design for the Lloyd Street bridge - high impact



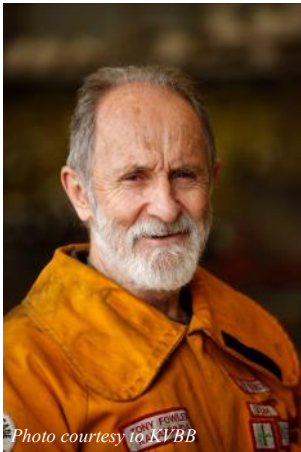


Photo courtesy to KVBB

Anthony Fowler Order of Australia 2022 Award

UBC member The Nature Reserves Preservation Group of Kalamunda (NRPG), is pleased to share that **Anthony (Tony) Fowler has received an Order of Australia 2022 award “for service to conservation and the environment”**. Congratulations and thanks to Tony!

He has been dedicated to conserving our local environment for three decades, including co-founding the NRPG in 1989 and Chairing and guiding the Executive Committee much of the time since. His steadfast commitment to the NRPG has been the single biggest reason for its survival over 30 years, with an active group of bushcarers who volunteer in Kalamunda’s reserves each year. In many detailed submissions on environmental matters, he has eloquently made the case for retaining natural bushland, as well as in presentations at local government and state government level, and in local and state media.

Tony has also been a longstanding member of the Darling Range Regional Park Community Advisory Committee; East Metropolitan Regional Council Waste Management Committee; and the Perth Airport Environmental Consultative Committee. In serving his local community, he is a Life Member of the Kalamunda Volunteer Bushfire Brigade (KVBB) after more than 20 years of service, and has fought fires on the perimeter of local houses.

It takes a certain kind of stoicism and moral investment to persist in a cause or campaign; it requires selflessness and a huge donation of time to remain engaged in small, community-based organisations through good times and bad.

UPDATE AND LESSONS FROM CAPE PERON

By James Mumme

Friends of Point Peron is very much alive and flourishing. We continue to meet at least twice a week. Last year's 2000 seedlings loved the rain and some of our plantings from 3 years ago are well over my height. Thanks to generous ad hoc funding from DBCA last spring we have had a major impact on buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*) and Victorian teatree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) in our 18 ha patch of the Cape. We are still awaiting parliamentary/legal ratification of Class A status for 2/3 of Cape Peron and to find out exactly how much will be excised. The Garden Island Highway is still on the books and could well slice through the largest area of best quality. At last count the reserve looked like being divided into twelve pieces!

Over the past two years we have been attempting to follow up on the implementation of the offset required from the Water Corporation (WC) in return for the destruction of over 3ha of native bush including cockatoo habit trees.

Main learning is that licences and offsets involving weed control and revegetation need to be vigorously pursued to ensure they are timely and efficient on the ground. Friends who know the bush and the conditions need to be better respected by those in authority who do not know the local environment.

LACK OF URGENCY DUE TO IGNORANCE OF CONDITIONS

The Water Corporation has been required to fund woody weed control for five years over 36ha of Cape Peron (see rectangle in bottom right corner of map). The area is marginally infested with highly invasive Brazilian pepper, buckthorn and tambuki grass. Friends of Point Peron (FPP) know buckthorn well: it grows to four metres, flowers in the winter and its millions of berries ripen by end of October.

It is easy to identify the females after flowering in order to prioritise them. Males can be dealt with later. Without consulting FPP it was decided that the first event of the offset would be a survey, not actual removal. This happened before the buckthorns were in flower. We assumed that the next step would be prompt removal of the female buckthorns. But no. Up until December nothing else has happened and millions of seeds will have been carried further into the reserve and across the road into Lake Richmond. Seeds are known to be viable in the soil for seven years. After removing some plants along Safety Bay Road I was told not to remove more because this would interfere with the study!

SECTIONS WITHIN THE SAME DEPARTMENT DO NOT TALK TO TEACH OTHER.

The Water Corporation were also required by DWER to fund the return of much of the reserve to bush. Instead of properly funding either direct seeding or replanting or both, a decision was made to allow it to regenerate naturally.



Photo by J Mumme

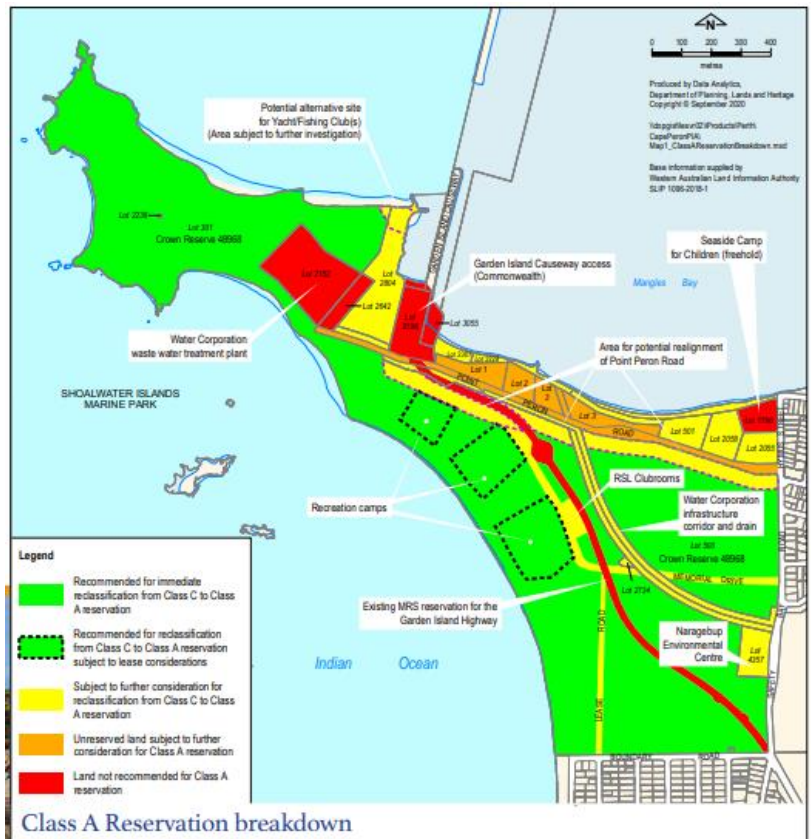
Buckthorn berries

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Pre-emergent spraying was conducted before winter which controlled a lot of weeds (and some natives). Then the winter rains came and a lot more natives began to emerge - *Acacias* and *Olearia axillaris* to name several that we saw. It was looking good. Suddenly one day we noticed that about 6ha had been ploughed (photo right). Every plant had been turned over. Apparently the Bushfire Risk Management section of WC was not aware of the intentions of the Environment section, or else they were aware and felt they had a prior imperative. So the first year of regeneration was lost. A request to the WC to extend the time of financial support to compensate for this was refused.

CLEARING PERMITS MAY NOT BE OBSERVED BY CONTRACTORS

Three years ago the WC began work. Their Clearing Permits required hygiene measures including fencing of the area, washing down of any vehicles coming onto the site, and adequate and signed wash-down areas. Not long after clearing began, I was having the usual sticky beak when my hat blew off over the fence. There were no wash-down signs and no gravel wash-down area. One earth mover was parked nearby. I could see red dirt around its hubs and mudguards - there is no red dirt anywhere near



Source: [Cape Peron \(including Mangles Bay\) Planning Investigation Area \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)



Photo by J Mumme

Red dirt observed on equipment and on a path at Point Peron where red dirt does not occur naturally.



Photo by J Mumme

Incomplete fencing allows uncontrolled access to the areas to be conserved.

Cape Peron. Retrieving my hat I noticed another earth mover 100 metres along the cleared track and long trails of red dirt from its tracks. The photos I took were vital. Complaints to DWER and WC eventually produced a visit by an inspector and senior management who met with me. Gravel was imported and the wash-down area was signposted. Even then monitoring was difficult because, when I noticed that other vehicles were driving onto the site, I was assured that there was another washdown area at the depot nearby. Later in communications with WC I was told that they didn't want me to talk to the scientist on the ground!

QUICK THINKING NEEDED TO AVOID DELAYS

The Director-General awarded each CAC \$15,000. For Rockingham Lakes RPCAC this good news was announced at the August meeting when the buckthorns were flowering. I did not think quickly enough and assumed that the members could work it out between ourselves by phone and email, say \$5,000 each Friends group, and that FPP would spend it all on urgent control of the flowering buckthorns. To my disappointment we were required to wait until the next meeting in November by which time many of the dreaded buckthorns would have spilled their seeds. If I had acted at the first meeting to get at least some in principle agreement, it would have been a much more effective use of the money. In the end we were glad that DBCA offered to fund an early weeding program and FPP still received \$9,500 of the grant for more, albeit late, weeding.

THE JOB MAY NOT BE FINISHED PROPERLY.

Having demolished the fence protecting the reserve, the WC has still not replaced about 8 metres with the result that 4WD drivers are bush bashing freely.

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FRIENDS OF YELLAGONGA ARE SEEKING A VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSON

Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park Incorporated (FOY) are seeking a volunteer chairperson. Preferably with an understanding of environmental rehabilitation, who would like to work with a vibrant, enthusiastic Committee to further the conservation aims and revegetation work done by our organization. Some previous experience in a similar position would be ideal but is not essential.

The Chair will need to preside at all meetings, act as our spokesman, promote the organization and represent the group when required – possibly extending to liaising with members of like-minded groups, Local and State Government officials etc.

As per our Constitution, the Chairperson has the following duties:

- It is the duty of the chairperson to consult with the secretary regarding the business to be conducted at each committee meeting and general meeting
- The chairperson has the powers and duties relating to convening and presiding at committee meetings and presiding at general meetings.

N.B. Our Constitution was recently amended to note that a member may only occupy a particular office position for a continuous period of five years – but does not preclude that member from being eligible for election to another committee position.

About Friends of Yellagonga RP Inc:

FOY volunteers have been working in Yellagonga Regional Park for almost 30 years.

We are involved in many aspects of the management and monitoring of the Regional Park. As well as managing revegetation sites we monitor feral pests, native animals such as quenda, turtles, and black cockatoos and hold the occasional insect survey. We are involved in Community Education activities – School group visits and information days. With over 400 members our group is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Yellagonga Regional Park.

Meetings are held at 7pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Landsdale Farm, Darch.

If interested, please email friendsofyellagonga@bigpond.com or call Heather 0423 347 003

Friends of Hollywood Reserve

On January 19, fire swept through the bushland reserve adjoining the Karrakatta Cemetery. The Friend's tool shed was in the middle of the affected areas and all tools, hoses, bags and their wheelbarrow were destroyed and will need to be replaced.

Insectivorous birds have been observed back in the reserve but the resident Frogmouths have not been seen yet. The Group will re-start restoration activities as soon as possible.



Photo by T Henson



Endangered.

Join Landcare SJ and special guests Merryn Pryor, Emma Rayner and Corrine Duncan for a powerful presentation on Black Cockatoos, creating wildlife corridors and protecting Banksia Woodlands.

Sunday, February 13, 2022

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Coolup Hall

Murray Street, Coolup

This event is proudly sponsored by



This project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Landcare SJ



Endangered.

Join Landcare SJ and special guests Leticia Povh, Merryn Pryor and Simon Cherriman for a powerful presentation on Mainland Quokkas, Black Cockatoos and Wedge-tailed Eagles.

Sunday, February 20, 2022

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Bruno Gianatti Hall
Munro Street, Jarrahdale

This event is proudly sponsored by:

This project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, through funding from the Australian Government's Environmental Restoration Fund and Landcare SJ

Erindale Road Bushland – Banksia Woodland TEC Under Threat

By Friends of Erindale Road Bushland

In April 2020, BAI Communications referred to the Environmental Protection Authority a proposal to develop 13.55ha of Lot 802 and part Lot 803 of native vegetation at 179 Erindale Road in Hamersley. This Banksia Woodland was until 1999, Crown land owned by the Commonwealth as part of the National Transmission Network. It was privatised and after three changes in ownership is now owned by BAI Communications, a global company with its head office in Toronto Canada, which is seeking to sell 13.55ha of the 42ha bushland for residential housing.

Any day now the EPA, which is currently assessing the referral, will seek public comment during a two-week public review. As disappointed as we are at the low level of assessment, given the bushland is a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), it is critical to its protection that informed comment is made by as many groups and individuals as possible. Use this [link](#) to check the status of the assessment.

To assist you in making your comment when the time comes, we have set out below some points that we will be making in our submission. Please look at our website for a full set of comments for your reference: <https://www.friendsoferindaleroadbushland.com/>. Below is a sample to assist you in commenting on the EPA's imminent Assessment:

Environmental Values

- The bushland contains Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain and is protected as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under *both* the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* and the WA *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)* (*Banksia attenuata* woodland).
- Biodiversity is integral to Australia's national identity and culture and is vital to a variety of industries, including tourism and agriculture. Since the arrival of Europeans in Australia just over 200 years ago, there has been a sharp decline in biodiversity. This includes the loss of nearly 90% of temperate woodlands and the extinction of 30 native mammal species. Remnant urban bushland is more biodiverse than other types of green spaces such as parks; we must retain these areas to reduce the alarming decline in biodiversity.
- Banksia Woodlands support many plant and animal species including the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, the numbers of which have declined by over 50% in recent years, due to loss of habitat. This bird species requires mature trees with suitable nesting hollows, which can take over 100 years to form in Tuart and Jarrah trees both of which occur in the Erindale Road bushland. The proponent's flora and fauna survey has identified that the Erindale Road site consists of at least 17 potential breeding trees

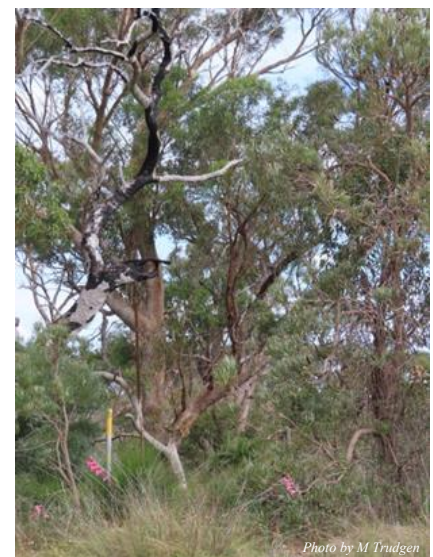


Photo by M Trudgen
Eucalyptus gomphocephala (Tuart) at Erindale Road Bushland

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for the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, as well as more than 8 hectares of 'moderate to good quality' foraging habitat. 87% of potential Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat has been cleared in the Wheatbelt since European settlement causing the birds to spend more time in the Perth region for survival

Environmental Offsets

- Environmental offsets as proposed by the proponent BAI Communications are not acceptable. As a matter of principle, it is not possible to offset Threatened Ecological Communities, as the outcome would be a net reduction of TEC on the Swan Coastal Plain.
- WA Environmental Offset Policies and Guidelines state that environmental offsets are a last resort. BAI Communications is using offset proposals as a first, not a last resort in its efforts to gain approval for clearing 13.55ha of native bushland. It has made no effort to avoid areas of high environmental value as required by the Policy and Guidelines.

Social, Cultural and Health Values

- There are social, cultural and health values to the local residents and wider community that are obtained by the presence of remnant bushland in suburban areas of Perth, such as the Erindale Road bushland. These bushlands contribute to the health and well-being of local residents by, for example, cooling temperatures in the surrounding area, and providing amenity, recreation and nature-based education and experiences. In addition, residents

enjoy and value their interactions with the local flora and fauna of the Erindale Road bushland.

- The bushland provides vital shade which decreases the Urban Heat Island Effect, lowering local temperatures by up to 8 degrees Celsius on hot, sunny days. This means less air conditioner use and electricity demand. Clearing it would result in the loss of 2.57ha of tree canopy cover (a 350% increase on the average annual loss in the suburb of Hamersley) and would result in the tree canopy cover in Hamersley dropping to 13.9% (Cr L Thornton, City of Stirling).

First Nations People

- The Mooro Nyoongar First Nations people lived and walked along the lakes and wetlands running parallel to the coast between Perth and Yanchep. Hamersley is part of a larger area of land that was occupied by the Mooro Nyoongar people before and during European settlement on the Swan Coastal Plain from 1829.
- Mooro Nyoongar people lived in extended family groups, caring for country through cultural ceremonies such as song, dance and use of fire. It is imperative that a thorough assessment is undertaken of the importance of the whole of the 42ha site to the cultural heritage and connection to land of the First Nations people.

Please contact the Friends of Erindale Road Bushland on friendsoferindaleroadbushland@gmail.com or via our Facebook page for more information or to join our campaign.

Dealing with impacts of sheoaks on rehabilitation

For some years many groups, local councils, plant growers, researchers and rehabilitation consultants have been frustrated with the detrimental impact of some sheoaks (*Casuarina* and *Allocasuarina*) on their rehabilitation areas. Often involving both local native and introduced species including:

Casuarina obesa (Swamp Sheoak)

Allocasuarina fraseriana (Western Sheoak)

**Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Sheoak/River Oak) – introduced from QLD, NSW

**Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River Oak / River Sheoak) – introduced from NT, QLD, NSW.

Concerning aspects include:

- Hybridization – including across local native and introduced sheoaks eg *Casuarina obesa* x **glauca*
- Vigour and growth of dense stands – that out-compete other plants, by often reducing light to understorey or developing such a fibrous root mass
- Allelopathic properties – where biochemicals produced by sheoaks inhibit the germination, growth, survival and reproduction of other plants
- Thinning or 'pruning up' of sheoaks – that produces increased vigour and 'suckers' that each shoot new plants.



Canning River foreshore restoration site in August 1995.



Canning River foreshore restoration site - the same site as pictured above in November 2018.

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We are aware that a number of groups, councils and agencies are examining the best approaches and we would love to hear of your experiences / recommendations / projects &/or research.

Please either send to the UBC e-mail address ubc@bushlandperth.org.au or contact Colma Keating, UBC Committee Member on 0407 180 660.

The shared experience and knowledge will be summarised and made available.



Canning River foreshore restoration site with *Casuarina obesa* and the introduced *Casuarina glauca*, January 2022.

Bringing back the bush and bush creatures in Minim Cove Park

By Sue Conlan

Burnt to a cinder in 2008, 3 years later a fauna survey found a 50cm Burton's legless lizard, *Lialis burtonis*. Was it the last remaining one along the Swan River in Mosman Park? The Friends of Mosman Park Bushland with Town of Mosman Park are now the custodians.

Little remains of bushland in Mosman Park so it is a miracle we have such special wildlife. What we believe to be a baby Burton's legless lizard was discovered with much joy when turning over a hand sized rock in 2021. See it's blunt nose ! When they are bigger and darker, they are more difficult to distinguish from a snake.



Volunteers remove dry seed heads of broom, rye grass and hare's tail weeds.



You will not see this shy reptile walking through the bushland however visiting cats will.

Luckily this bushland does have limestone rocks to protect small creatures. The regeneration of thick prickly ground cover vegetation helps.

Some local governments are banning cats from selected bushland reserves. Cat runs in backyards are a booming business as many cat owners take cat ownership responsibly.

Photo left: Burton's legless lizard found in Mosman Park bushland. Size approx. 20 cm.

Jewel bugs

By Marg Owen

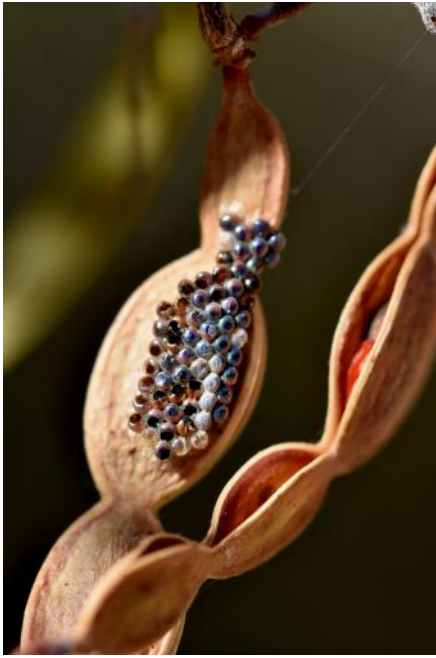
Whilst the demise of insects and spiders in Underwood Avenue Bushland in Shenton Park is obvious, nevertheless, this summer has been a good season for jewel bugs – *Coleotichis costatus*.

Nearly every *Acacia cyclops* in the bush has teams of jewel bug nymphs (picture right). The red ring on their abdomen approximates the red aril on the seeds of the *Acacia cyclops*.

The nymphs, clustered along the stems, are highly sensi-



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From left: *Coleotichis costatus* egg cluster, a nymph emerging, nymphs and two adults. Photo below: Juvenile Silvereye. Photos by M Owen.

tive to possible intruders and as soon as they sense a change – a possible threat, they start dispersing along the stems.

A very stealthy approach is needed to come within a metre of them.

As a nymph emerges from its too-tight skin, it is flesh coloured until gaining its brilliant but well camouflaged colours.

By early January, some of the nymphs had shed their nymphal skin and turned into the dull fawn-coloured adults. The adults now look like the acacia seed pods.

Small insect eating birds such as Silvereyes (pictured right) are having a great harvest.

These bugs are not jewel beetles. Bugs suck and beetles bite.



Photo by M Owen

Good News for Campaigners

Parliamentary e-petitions addressed to the Legislative Council are now permitted in Western Australia. This should make it easier to collect large number of signatures and reach more people about important issues.

Petitions are a way for residents to make their concerns known to Parliament. A Member of the Legislative Council must present, or 'table', the petition to Parliament on your behalf. The petition is then sent to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs for enquiry. The Committee will invite you to make a submission about your petition, explaining why you support or oppose the policy or decision. The tabling Member will also be invited to provide a submission.

Lodging an e-petition is equivalent to a paper petition. The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs will deal with both types of petitions in the same way.

There are specific rules that must be followed to ensure a parliamentary petition is valid. The principal petitioner must reside in WA. Currently only residents of Western Australia can sign an e-petition. A resident does not necessarily mean that they are registered to vote in WA. Anybody (regardless of where they reside) can sign a paper petition.

It should be noted that e-petitions are not yet allowed to the Legislative Assembly. However, tabled petitions to the lower house are not referred to any Committee, and usually no action is taken in regard to them. As the Legislative Council is the House of Review, it is recommended petitions be tabled in that House.

For more information, please see the Parliament of Western Australia website: <https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/lcepetitions.nsf/ePetitionRequest?OpenForm>



**RALLY
TO
SAVE
THE BLACK
COCKATOOS**

22.2.22
Petition handover

Tuesday, 22 February 2022
Parliament House, 12 noon

Protect and connect their
forests and woodlands.

For more information / event link:
bit.ly/BlackCockatooRally

 < Event link

SAVE  **THE BLACK COCKATOOS**

UBC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 6.30pm

For details see [page 2](#).

Come & See What We All Helped to Save at Pt Peron

You are invited to see what we saved from the bulldozers and what Friends of Point Peron have been doing to help restore the bush. 2/3rds may be made a Class A Reserve but there are some drawbacks. Meet our favourite weeds - buckthorn, tambuki grass - and talk planting, weed and fire risk strategies. Also look at Lake Richmond's TECs and Naragebup Environment Centre for morning tea. Afterwards visit the local [penguins](#), pelicans, sea lions and dolphins.



Guided Walk at Point Peron

With Friends of Pt Peron

Sunday 3rd April 9.30 -11.00 am

Meet at Point Peron Road, first firebreak 100 m from corner with Hymnus St/Safety Bay Road, Rockingham ([Open location link](#)) Park along either side of Point Peron Road and look for the Friend of Pt Peron sign.

If you are coming by **train**, we will meet the 8.34 Perth train at Rockingham Station at 9.12am: please notify us 24 hours beforehand.

Wear long pants, shoes, hat and bring your own water. Only partly wheelchair accessible. Contact James 0427 449 166



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 \$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 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
Web site: www.bushlandperth.org.au



Urban Bushland Council WA Inc



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

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:
ubc@bushlandperth.org.au
Copy deadline - 15 April 2022