

## COP 15 for Carnaby's



'COP 15' was the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the **UN Convention on Biological Diversity** held in Montreal Canada, December 7-19, 2022. It adopted the "*Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*" (GBF), including four overarching global goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030.

Also emphasised: the need for a "whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach" to implementing the GBF.

Australia is one of the 188 government's representatives on site that '*finalized and approved measures to arrest the ongoing loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity and set humanity in the direction of a sustainable relationship with nature, with clear indicators to measure progress.*'

**GOAL A and TARGET 4** are especially relevant and applicable to the need to immediately end harvesting of the last of the Gngara Pines in order to retain the now essential habitat of the *endangered* Carnaby's Cockatoo to prevent the loss of more than 50% of its population.

**GOAL A** includes the words:  
*'Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted and, by 2050, extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold, and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels;'*

Harvesting of the last ~5000 ha of the Gngara Pine Plantation will result in significant progress towards 'human induced extinction'. This continued pine harvesting with consequent loss of habitat for ~ 4500 Carnaby's is being done by humans. It can be and should be halted by humans. Also the 'whole-of-society' approach means that the pine harvesters have a duty of care to halt their harvesting, as does the State government require it to be halted. And as explained below, this is an urgent management action.

**TARGET 4 is**  
*'Ensure urgent management actions, to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species,*

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# Editorial

The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) agreed to at the COP 15 UN Convention on Biological Diversity has strong implications, opportunities and indeed obligations on our WA Government to greatly strengthen biodiversity conservation. See the UN press release 19 December 2022 with the details here: [Press Release: Nations Adopt Four Goals, 23 Targets for 2030 In Landmark UN Biodiversity Agreement - United Nations Sustainable Development](#).

The agreed four goals and 23 targets are comprehensive. The targets include effective conservation and management of at least 30% of our biodiverse bushlands and wetlands by 2030. As already less than 30% remains overall here in our south west biodiversity hotspot, all that remains needs to be retained and managed. This means no more clearing patch by patch.

The Bush Forever 'CAR' reserve system is to protect at least 10% of each of each of the 26 vegetation complexes on the Swan Coastal Plain portion of the Perth Metropolitan Region. Some of these do not even have 10% remaining. So the need to complete the implementation of Bush Forever with all sites protected and managed is strongly supported and should be a government priority for 2023 under the GBF.



## Chris Allbeury awarded Medal of the Order of Australia

Join UBC in congratulating Chris Allbeury (UBC Treasurer) on her award in this year's Australia Day Honours list of the Medal (OAM) of the Order of

Australia in the General Division.

Chris has been the Treasurer for the Urban Bushland Council since 2007 – a massive contribution to our organisation. At all times she has operated with great diligence and with an eye to ensuring that UBC operates to the highest standards of governance and financial accountability. Nothing ever escapes her gaze. As well as being our Treasurer, she has been our Membership Officer and one of our website admin. An enormous volunteer load for which we are truly grateful.

Chris is also very committed to Friends Groups. She has a long-standing membership of the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland, is a foundation member of the Friends of Inglewood Triangle and more recently of the Friends of Coolbinia Bushland. Chris generously shares her knowledge and loves nothing better than a weeding session removing yet more pesky Perennial Veldt.

Chris is stepping away from UBC Treasurer at our March AGM and this award is such a wonderful timely recognition of her impeccable service.

We wish Chris well in her retirement from UBC and thank her for her enormous contribution to our conservation efforts.

The DPLH gave a community briefing (10<sup>th</sup> February) on the Bush Forever Audit Report dated December 2021. There are still some Bush Forever sites to be acquired and secured for conservation. A significant gap is that a set of (~56) sites already acquired by the WAPC have still not been transferred to 'A' class reserve status and vested in DBCA for conservation management, because DBCA has not been funded for this on-ground work. Adequate means of implementation and funding is specified in GOAL D of the GBF.

A need for protection of all remaining habitat for the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoo is discussed in 'COP 15 for Carnaby's'. EPA assessments and Clearing Permits should **all** be refusing clearing of Carnaby's habitat. This change to enforce protection of habitat and prevent further loss of the population of Carnaby's is much needed. UBC member groups and supporters are encouraged to visit and advise your state government MPs that these conservation actions are essential and need greatly increased State budget funding for management. The same applies to all endangered species and to threatened ecological communities in the Perth and south west region.

Site issues for bushland under threat continue and examples are on pages 6 to 9.

## UBC Welcomes Conservation Council WA's Executive Director Joe Heffernan

Christine Richardson (Chair) and Colma Keating (Vice Chair) were delighted to meet with Joe Heffernan as he settles into his new role ([www.ccwa.org.au](http://www.ccwa.org.au)).

We touched on many aspects of shared activity including the importance of collaboration across NGOs; the biodiversity/nature campaign initiated by CCWA, and the 'Biodiversity 2022' work UBC has done with The Wetlands Conservation Society, The Wilderness Society, Wildflower Society and BirdlifeWA. We also acknowledged the great support we received from CCWA staff Paul Goonting and Wendy Low in 2022 on staffing and finance matters. We look forward to strong ongoing collaboration with CCWA.



From left: Colma Keating (UBC Vice Chair), Joe Heffernan (CCWA Executive Director), Maggie Wood (CCWA Programs Director) and Christine Richardson (UBC Chair)  
Photo by Rob Davies (CCWA PR Manager)



# Ashfield Flats Master Plan



Photo by S Conlan

Many of our bushcare groups are protecting areas for waterbirds in the urban area. One such area is Bush Forever Area 214, Ashfields Flats. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) is preparing the Ashfield Flats Master Plan to guide future management of this site and is seeking comments **by 28<sup>th</sup> February**.

The [Ashfield Flats Master Plan](#) covers the largest river-flat area remaining in Perth. It includes Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), listed under the State and Commonwealth legislation.

Comments can be provided via a simple on-line [survey](#) (see screenshot below), supporting the proposed actions such as the plans for moving paths away from the river, putting in protective fencing, stabilising the riverbank erosion or including further suggestions. If you are not familiar with Ashfield Flats, you could let DBCA know in the comments section that:

- Protection of habitat at Ashfield Flats will support waterbirds in the region, including those that use your area.
- There is a need to minimise detrimental lighting to wildlife in the recreational areas nearby.
- There is need to ensure there are adequate buffers around areas for wildlife to minimise disturbance from people and their dogs.



Screenshot of the webpage built to facilitate feedback on the Ashfield Flats Management Plan.



## *Lobelia anceps*: In praise of humble species returning to an urban bushland patch

by Penny Lee

In the Spring 2022 edition of this newsletter, Heidi Hardisty shared the joy Friends of Lake Claremont experience each year as Pink Fairy Orchids (*Caladendria latifolia*) gradually re-establish themselves in an area that previously suffered a long history of destructive post invasion uses. Decades of patient weed management have allowed the first shy returnee noticed in 2010 to establish a community of these little gems through natural regeneration. Other community environment groups like Friends of Inglewood Triangle have similarly enjoyed exciting discoveries of tiny plant species that re-emerge from soil seed banks following patient and persistent weed control over many years. A few groups have had the privilege and responsibility of working from the start with a rich mix of plant species and complex biodiversity not too different from the original character of the native bushland from which their remnant was retained. Although weeds may have encroached, it has happened without completely overwhelming persisting complexities of native species.

Unfortunately, well-intended efforts to control weeds can also unintentionally obliterate humble native plants. Volunteers may not have the experience to recognise smaller, less common species. Native grasses and annual and perennial herbs may seem to resemble familiar weeds.

Baigup Wetlands shares with many other sites the history of degradation resulting from settler land uses. Since the mid 1980s, infrastructure such as sewer, access tracks, gas pipeline, sealed walkway, culverts followed by culvert modifications have further impacted on remnant natural vegetation. Between the early 1990s and the mid 2000s, *Lobelia anceps* (Angled Lobelia, formerly known as *Lobelia alata*), a delightful little sprawling perennial herb, disappeared from the edges of creeks and drains. It was documented in vegetation assessments in 1991 and



Photo by P Lee

*Lobelia anceps* in experimental planting: new season plants (pink) and Trillion Trees donations (orange).

1994 but is missing from later management reports. Likely causes of its demise include extensive chemical treatment of wetland areas where weeds dominated, flooding related to infrastructure modifications, and possibly even hand weeding by eager amateurs.

Today we recognise that flora surveys by experts are essential elements of initial rehabilitation plans for remnant bushland or wetland. Preliminary checks of areas to be weeded or sprayed are also needed on a regular basis to identify re-emerging or sparsely represented native species. And new volunteers may need careful guidance on workdays.

The often-predictable assortment of shrubs, trees, sedges, rushes, and groundcovers that we see in rehabilitation sites can look very good. It is generally necessary to get some initial structure established in new plantings and the species usually chosen have proven ability to adapt to disturbed sites. Shading out weeds is also important at this stage. Inclusion of more cryptic species in the understory is trickier and is often set aside for the time being. Sometimes nurseries have not even discovered how to propagate species that once played important, if humble, roles in maintaining biodiversity. So we end up with an attractive revegetation complex that slowly begins to attract the birds, insects, and other animals it needs to mature into semi-natural bushland. But restoration of anything like the original biodiversity remains a distant goal because so many obscure little elements of the original ecological complex have been lost. Many important insects are also lost when biodiversity is reduced and this has flow-on effects to other wildlife, birds for instance.

In July 2022, City of Bayswater, in consultation with Baigup Wetland Interest Group (BWIG), undertook a modest experimental return of *Lobelia anceps* to Baigup. Matt Moore, Natural Area Management coordinator, identified two suitable shady spots beside a little creek running through a revegetation patch now dominated by 5 year old *Eucalyptus rudis* (Flooded Gum). Most of the Lobelia were healthy new season seedlings obtained through the City's normal channels. A few pots of dormant Lobelia from the previous season had also been donated by Trillion Trees (Thank you Jill Holland!). They had been on



Photo by P Lee

*Lobelia anceps*



their way to the bin. We were interested to see if they would resprout once settled into suitable soil. When I counted the *Lobelia* in mid January this year, I confirmed that the majority, new and old, had survived and were mostly flowering well. There were 36 new season survivors. Five of the dormant plants had not survived, but 7 were flowering where planted. And next to a drain where a few dead looking dormant plants had been discarded, there was a heart-warming surprise. An unexpected survivor was flowering as vigorously in the mud as the new seedlings by the creek.

I thought about a phone chat I had had with Nicole Siemon, co-author of the 1991 site report, in early 2018. Nearly 30 years after her Baigup study, she still mourned this dainty little perennial herb, probably lost around 2005. Then a few days ago, Rosemary Lynch, Baigup Wetland Interest Group's coordinator, noticed a small clump of naturally regenerated *Lobelia anceps*. What an absolute thrill! Perhaps one day it will be widespread in Baigup again, bringing delight to visitors who value humble ground-level plants and take the time to look for them?



Unexpected naturally regenerated *Lobelia anceps* at Baigup wetlands. Photo by P. Lee

## Influencing outcomes of a clearing approval

By Mitch Sideris

This small win by a member of Mullaloo Beach Community Group (MBCG) can bring significant outcomes for bushland in this State! Being vigilant and having members in your group freed up to challenge disturbances to your bushland is really important. Although in our case the clearing was small, following the appeal, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) amended the rehabilitation conditions and associated definition of the clearing permit.

There were 3 wins here:

- 1) a requirement of the total removal of temporary road base material used for the access track at the end of project and replacement by soil of similar coastal nature.
- 2) a requirement to engage a suitably qualified environmental specialist to strengthen the outcome of the rehabilitation and revegetation.
- 3) a requirement to ensure seed for rehabilitation is chosen within 50kms and has similarity in vegetation, soil types and landforms of the source material.

The Permit application was to clear up to 0.12 hectares (ha) of native vegetation within Hepburn Avenue Road Reserve. The purpose of the clearing was to create a temporary access track to support the construction of a school building within the school grounds.

The application area is a narrow strip of vegetation on the edge of a larger patch of degraded roadside vegetation and comprises scattered Eucalyptus trees with tall mixed shrubs over non-native grass and weeds. The clearing relates to only the small and medium largely non-native shrubs and weeds. The proponent advised that the design and position of the access road was selected to minimise clearing and avoid the removal of any large native trees. When the access track is no longer required the proponent agreed to rehabilitate and revegetate the disturbed area to minimise potential land degradation and mitigate the loss of remnant vegetation.

The objection against the Permit conditions was that the site was part of the East – West ecological linkage and the proposed conditions might not deliver adequate restoration of connectivity due to broad interpretations of conditions.

The objection argued that the permit should require the total removal of temporary road base material at the end of project and replacement by soil of similar coastal nature (not 'Gnangara yellow sand'). In response to the appeal, DWER advised that in this case, the permit did not require the stockpiling of topsoil for use in rehabilitation due to the presence of weeds in the clearing area. DWER advised that while it considered that the permit can ensure an appropriate rehabilitation outcome given the definitions of rehabilitation and revegetation on the permit, it considered on review that introduction of additional wording '*...the use of soil materials of the same types to the clearing area ...* for rehabilitation would further strengthen the outcome of the rehabilitation and revegetation requirements for this application.

The objection also challenged the somewhat broad interpretation of plant species for revegetation. The permit should specify that plant species used in revegetation should be of locally sourced seed materials, such as those listed by the City of Joondalup and Friends of Hepburn Heights. While Condition 8 of the clearing permit required the permit holder to revegetate cleared areas with 'local provenance' species. The permit defined 'local provenance' as:

... "native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 kilometres (km) and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared."

We argued that this could mean the use of seeds from plants growing 50 km away, which would be inappropriate for use in revegetation at this location. we consider

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that the definition within the permit should be amended to clearly state that seed and plant material used in revegetation and rehabilitation should be obtained as close as possible to the area of clearing.

Another objection identified that the permit should require that a qualified and highly experienced bushland rehabilitation specialist known and approved by the City of Joondalup undertake the rehabilitation and revegetation of the cleared site to maximise plant seedling survival and result in minimal weed reintroduction. DWER agreed that the inclusion of a requirement to engage a suitably qualified environmental specialist would strengthen the outcome of the rehabilitation and revegetation.

The Decision by the Minister agreed with these minor, yet significant changes to the Permit and made the following changes to the clearing permit conditions:

- *require mulch to be used as part of rehabilitation, and for that mulch to be locally sourced*
- *require soil used to replace the removal of any road base associated with the temporary works to be of the same or similar soil type to the soil before clearing commenced*
- *require the permit holder to engage an environmental specialist to determine the species composition, structure*

*and density of the area revegetated and rehabilitated after the revegetation and rehabilitation occurs, including a sufficient time after completion to ensure adequate survival (the criteria of which is to be determined by the Department in giving effect to this decision).*

In addition, consistent with the Appeals Convenor's advice, I have requested the definitions in the clearing permit be amended to:

- *include a definition of 'environmental specialist' that ensures the person(s) is sufficiently experienced in revegetation/restoration of vegetation on the Swan Coastal Plain*
- *add a note to the definition of 'local provenance' to the effect that seed and propagation material used in revegetation and rehabilitation should be obtained as close as possible to the area of clearing.*

The appeal against the Clearing permit conditions for this small patch of native bush, located on the roadside verge area, an area almost always considered to be insignificant, has resulted in more rigorous definitions of how rehabilitation is to occur.

It was simple and focused objection to a clearing permit of 0.12 hectares (1200 square metre) that has forced changes to the conditions on clearing of any native vegetation.

## When Class A and Bush Forever protection is still not enough

By Robyn Murphy

Just when we thought it was safe to draw breath and enjoy the 13.36 ha of vegetated Quindalup dunes between Scarborough and Trigg Beach, another threat emerges from within the local government that manages this land on behalf of the public of Western Australia.

The South Trigg Beach A Class Reserve No 46248 Bush Forever Area 308 coastal dune system was reclassified from a C Class Reserve to an A Class Reserve in 1998, after successful lobbying of the WA Government by the Friends of Trigg Bushland. It is part of the Trigg Bushland Reserve and is included in the City of Stirling Trigg Bushland Management Plan.

Some history....Although this is the only coastal reserve in the City of Stirling that has Class A protection, local

Councillors have not been deterred from proposing various incursions into this important dune system. In 2005 and again in 2011-13 new paths and boardwalks designed to run parallel with the coast and the existing dual path alongside West Coast Highway, were proposed in the dunes between Scarborough and Trigg beaches. Both proposals were eventually abandoned, but only after strong public campaigns, the most recent being spear-headed by a coalition of local conservation groups under the banner of Stop the Boardwalk Action Group.

In the meantime, in 2017 a Threatened Ecological Community of *Callitris preissii* (Rottnest Island Pine) was identified in the coastal reserve. This community of native trees was nominated by Bronwen Keighery and Nina McLaren and has been registered under the Common-



Looking north of South Trigg Beach A Class Reserve. Photo by Nina McLaren



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wealth *EPBC Act*. These trees are aged from 5 – 100 years and include a dead mature tree indicating that there has been no fire for many years in these dunes, enabling ageing and regeneration to occur naturally. The TEC is surrounded by dense vegetation and is located on very steep dunes with no evidence of uncontrolled pedestrian access.

Nina McLaren in a media statement, said that the dune formations within which the TEC is located, are worth preserving as a small living museum for future generations to show not only what kinds of dune structures originally existed, but also to show the kinds of plants that grew on them.

Now to today....In February 2022, the City of Stirling Council carried a motion moved by Coastal Ward Cr Farrelly to “investigate an environmentally friendly coastal boardwalk” between Scarborough and Trigg Beach to run “alongside the adjacent path to the west”. We await the outcome of a report under preparation by the City officers with recommendations to Council.

Our position is non-negotiable. No incursion into the 13.36 ha coastal reserve is environmentally acceptable. Fragmentation of this Quindalup dune system would cause irreparable damage including erosion, fire, weeds, litter, light, uncontrolled access, dogs etc. Construction and maintenance of pathways and boardwalks would also cause on-going damage.

## Underwood not under bricks

*By Margaret Owen*

The Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland, like Bob Dylan’s Mr Jones, know that something is happening but we don’t know what it is.

A developer, Hesperia, has joined into a State Government Market-Led Proposal over the ‘Shenton Precinct’, but we do not know what area the Shenton Precinct covers. We do know Graylands Hospital is included so we are concerned that a development is proposed there on part of the site.

Hesperia, citing itself as the expert, sees the odour buffer zone around the Subiaco Waste Water Treatment Plant as being the elephant in the room that can be either substantially reduced or dispensed with altogether. But this is a public safety matter and the odour buffer zone must be fully maintained to prevent potential exposure of toxic odours and particulates to residents and people.

As reported in the Spring 2022 edition of the Urban Bush Telegraph, the University of Western Australia’s previous 200 unit housing development proposal has been withdrawn from the EPA. The bush is now being regarded as an asset. However, there is a caveat. Some of the bushland on the west side would have to be cleared in their proposal. Do we know how much or where? No. The University is aware that the Friends cannot support any loss of bushland.

Can we believe that the odour buffer around the Subiaco Waste Water Treatment Plant, that has prevented housing being built within the buffer, has been abandoned? This is what we have heard, but the Water Corporation says that

There is a dual path alongside West Coast Highway that could be widened and of course there is access between the beaches along the sandy foreshore. There are also paths leading through the dunes from West Coast Highway and a lookout from the dual path that is wheelchair accessible.

A recently released Draft Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning report by the City of Stirling produces further evidence supporting the protection of the South Trigg Beach A Class Reserve. It cites predicted “extreme risk of coastal erosion and inundation”, along the City’s 6.5km coastline from climate changed induced sea level rises. It is ironic that on the one hand, an invasive boardwalk is being considered between Scarborough and Trigg and on the other, concerns are being raised for the potential loss of expensive infrastructure (pool, amphitheatre) much further back than a dune path or boardwalk.

Comments on the City of Stirling Draft Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning report are due by 23 March 2023. Please send a message that South Trigg Beach A Class Reserve must be protected and remain intact and free from any further incursion including paths and boardwalks.

<https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/your-city/shaping-our-city/search-all-projects/coastal-hazard-risk-management-and-adaptation-plan>



the buffer remains. As it should.

With the removal of the odour buffer, it is possible that housing is being planned going west from the bushland right down to the west and including the site occupied by CSIRO. A thousand houses?

The area of bushland that we have been told will have to be cleared, could be for a fire hazard buffer between the bushland and the proposed development. Any such fire risk buffers should be on already cleared developable land and not bushland (Bush Forever).

In any event, the possible housing development would impact on significant black cockatoo habitat including roosting, drinking, feeding and probably breeding areas. Any clearing is unacceptable also because it is endangered Banksia Woodland of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community.

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Underwood Avenue Bushland continues to have visits from significant birds. The following bird species are but three examples.



Photo by M Owen

*Purple-backed Wren (Malurus assimilis)*

## Purple-backed Wren

It's always a thrill to see wrens in the bushland and on a day near the end of January there was a family of wrens in Underwood Bushland. The wrens like dense cover, so I was fortunate that this female Purple-backed Wren posed briefly, hiding only her beak behind an acacia branch. On leaving the bush I was very surprised to see another larger family of Purple-backed Wrens just outside the fence in the adjacent Cancer Council Bushland.

These wrens are part of the Variegated Wren group. Johnstone and Storr's 'Handbook of Western Australian Birds' advises that the wrens in the southern part of their range are 'not ordinarily more than 7 km from the sea' and 'to the Swan River (Pelican Point, Shenton Park, Maylands, Belmont)'. Purple-backed Wrens are 'locally significant' in terms of conservation status i.e., on decline and locally extinct in many bushlands on the Swan Coastal Plain in the Perth Metro Region (BirdLife). Only 6 – 11 grams.....remarkable.



Photo by M Owen

*Striated Pardalote (Pardalotus striatus)*

## Striated Pardalote

Johnstone and Storr's 'Handbook of Western Australian Birds' advised of the Striated Pardalote: 'Eggs laid from August to January...with occasional attempts in Autumn'. This could explain why a tiny Striated Pardalote hovered right in front of my nose three times under the Tuart trees in Underwood Bushland.

Graham Pizzey in 'A Field Guide to Birds of Australia' notes that 'In Western Australia, under natural circumstances, [Striated Pardalote] typically nests only in tree hollows'. This is interesting because in other states they may excavate a tunnel in a creekbank, or road cutting. Graham Pizzey is high in my estimation because of his excellent descriptions throughout the Field Guide. For example he describes pardalotes' flight thus: '...their short tails make them look like flying beetles' and 'Hard to see as they move like mice in foliage...'



Photo by M Owen

*Brown-headed honeyeater (Melithreptus brevirostris)*

## Brown-headed Honeyeater

In October last year I spotted a honeyeater I didn't know. It perched in a Jarrah in Underwood Bushland briefly and I was able to take three photographs only, before it disappeared. Ron Johnstone identified the bird for me and noted 'A useful record for the Swan Coastal Plain.'

Johnston and Storr's book lists its extensive distribution and in the southernmost part, notes: 'one record Bold Park 1995 and one from Bunbury 1961'.



**Sunday 2nd April 2023**  
Between 5.30-7.00pm

To register go to

<https://birdlife.org.au/events/great-cocky-count/>  
**Registrations close March 12**

Help BirdLife WA count Black-Cockatoos across southwest WA as they fly into their evening roosts. This annual citizen science survey provides essential data to estimate population trends for our threatened cockies and to help protect critical habitat, such as the Erindale Road Bushland. No experience is required.

The Great Cocky Count report for 2021 and 2022 will also be released very soon. When this happens, BirdLife WA will advertise this on their Facebook page, via their eNews and provide links to it on their website.

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**Alcoa Foundation**



# Group News Group News Group News

## Help Us Save Erindale Road Bushland!

By Sonya Elek

Every 'Friends of' bushland group works together to protect and conserve their patch. Most groups do this by weeding, planting, and watering their bushland, but a few – including the Friends of Erindale Road Bushland – don't undertake any of these activities - yet. Instead, our efforts are focused on doing everything we can to stop this remnant Banksia and Tuart woodland from being cleared for housing – and we need your help.

Whilst our group has quite a large Facebook following (around 700 people), our active committee is very small: just four dedicated people, ably led by our hardworking Convenor, Marie Giorgi. To date, we have been successful in delaying the sale and development of this bushland: we have raised awareness of the threat to the bushland among Hamersley residents and the wider population, via our Facebook group and a petition to the Legislative Assembly. Last May, the City of Stirling recommended against rezoning the bushland for housing development – an important win for us!

Each small win leads to another, more intense battle. Recently, we found ourselves unexpectedly depending on the support of a new force: firefighters. On the evening of 1st January 2023, fire burnt 13ha of this remnant Banksia and Tuart woodland and threatened nearby homes in Hamersley. Police are investigating the cause of the fire, which they say is 'suspicious'. In the meantime, the birds that call the bushland home are still there - more visible now, as they perch in the charred branches of the leafless trees. The bush is already regenerating with green sprouts emerging from the many grass trees and tree trunks proving that it will take more than fire to destroy this important remnant bushland.



Photo by S Elek

Events such as this serve as a reminder of the many threats facing our precious bushland and its inhabitants, from clearing the bush for development and farming, to environmental threats such as fire, disease, and the effects of climate change. We must fight harder than ever to preserve our remaining pockets of native bushland, with its diverse and unique plants and animals.

Our group is currently preparing for the EPA's imminent call for public submissions, and we need help to inform

and motivate more people to act. The Urban Bushland Council recently provided valuable support by facilitating two strategy-planning workshops with Shona Anne Hunter. Shona has a lot of experience in environmental campaigning and worked closely with the WA Forest Alliance in their recent successful campaign to end native forest logging in our state. She helped clarify our group's goals and determine the strategies we will use to achieve those goals.

Our main goal is to increase public support for our campaign, and to do that, we need a bigger committee. Our group doesn't require you to attend regular meetings, or even to be involved for the long term – any assistance you can provide at this stage will be gratefully accepted and will help us to protect and conserve this valuable patch. Here are some of the roles you (or someone you know) might be able to help us with:

- Mailing list – expanding our current mailing list and managing our Mailchimp account
- Fundraising – so we can print flyers, signs, banners
- Social Media – creating and maintaining Instagram/Twitter/YouTube accounts
- Flyer distributors – help spread the word by dropping our flyers into mailboxes in Hamersley
- Event and project coordinators – help organise events and projects to engage the community

If you're looking for a more immediate way to help, here are 5 things you can do this week:

- Visit our [website](#) and sign up to become a member. Membership is free and open to all.
- Contact your local political representative and tell them why you want them to help conserve the bushland. (See our website for the contact details of MPs, Councillors and Ministers and "form letters").
- Like and follow our Facebook page: Friends of Erindale Road Bushland (Save the Hamersley Broadcast Tower Bushland) and share our posts with your friends.
- Deliver our flyers in your area. Please email us to arrange this.
- Display one of our signs in your front yard. Please email us to arrange this.

You can help determine how this story ends. Together, we can eliminate one of the major threats to this valuable bushland.

## WE ARE WINNERS!

By Klaus Backheuer

The Friends of Jirdarup Bushland (FoJB) were recently delighted to receive the Vaughan Glare Award 2022 for services to the Victoria Park community, presented by the Hon. Hannah Beazley, MLA for Victoria Park, at her end-of-year Sundowner.





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The Award was established by Dr Geoff Gallop (when he was the local Member) to honour Vaughan Glare, who worked with homeless youth and was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident.

The Friends are honoured by this Award, which acknowledges the contribution of the many who have supported our precious Jirdarup Bushland over the years in whatever capacity. Special thanks must go to the FoJB Committee members (past and present) for their unstinting dedication; to our conservation partners (SERCUL, Urban Bushland Council and PerthNRM); and to Hannah Beazley and her marvellous office staff for the honour.

*Photo right: Zaneta Mascaranhaes (MHR for Swan, second from the left), Hannah Beazley (MLA, third from the left) with FoJB Management Committee members (from left) Clare Caldeira, Lesley van Schoubroeck, Julie Bain, David Blakeway.*



Photo by K Backheuer

## Driving Down Mozies and Erosion

By M Matassa

Re-printed with permission from the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group (SERAG) Newsletter, Birak-Bunuru 2023

Can people be convinced to change years of habit tracking across sedges and samphire down to the river's edge to launch a kayak or to go fishing?

SERAG is hoping that the answer to that is YES, and is encouraged by hearing the speaker at our AGM, Dr Rose Weerasinghe, talk of changing people's minds by educating them about the true consequences of their actions.

Whilst the great majority of people accept the need to take their kayak to the nearest public launching site, just a few and even one person who does not, can cause a lot of damage to foreshore vegetation as the photos below show. Furthermore, imprints of shoes can cause small pools of water to be retained in the undergrowth after the tide goes out, and these are a haven for breeding mosquitos. Fishers compete with the ospreys, terns, cormorants and pelicans for the fish in the Marine Park and have at times lost or discarded their tackle, which then has been found to further negatively impact the birdlife.

These breaches in the line of sedges that grow along the very edge of the Alfred Cove foreshore have ongoing consequences as, each winter, the high tides and storm surges wash away the soil in these bare areas, thereby



Photo by M Matassa

increasing erosion and causing further damage to the sedges alongside. Furthermore, the pathway down to the edge that is created by trampling becomes a conduit for weed species and these can engulf the foreshore plants, on which birds and reptiles are reliant for roosting and nesting.

SERAG trusts that once fishers, kayakers, kite-surfers and others involved in active water sports realise that trampling through vegetation to the water's edge is driving up the number of mozzies and opening the way for serious erosion, then they will think twice and launch and fish at the dedicated sites outside of the Alfred Cove Marine Park. By talking with friends and neighbours about this we can hopefully start the education process



Photos by M Matassa



Photos by M Matassa

*A local canoeist persists in trampling an opening through new plantings and sedges at Tompkins Park. Pathway trampled through pristine saltmarsh leaving behind water pools attracting breeding mosquitos.*



Photo by M Matassa

*SERAG's Saturday Morning at the Cove gained new regulars with the welcomed assistance from the City of Melville Volunteer Hub in directing to SERAG people interested in helping in the environment.*



*to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.'*

'Ex situ' conservation of Carnaby's Cockatoo occurs in the Gngangara Pine Plantation. While this may not have been planned when the pines were planted many years ago, the reality now is that more than half of the remaining Carnaby's population depends on the remaining Pine Plantation area, thus providing critical habitat for their conservation.

Therefore, under GOAL A and TARGET 4 of this COP 15 Agreement, there should be **urgent** management actions by the WA State Government to halt the loss of the remaining Gngangara Pines in order to prevent loss of the threatened

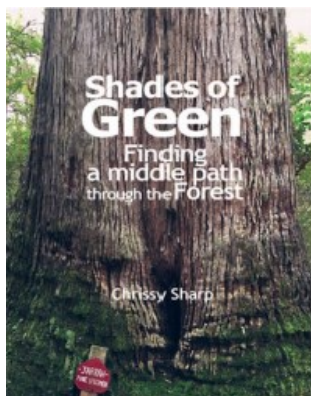
'endangered' Carnaby's Cockatoo and thus reduce its extinction risk, and help maintain its genetic diversity and its population.

A suggested avenue to achieve this urgent management action is under section 71 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (as at 09 December 2020) as follows.

#### **71. Environmental protection directions, issue and effect of**

Under this section, the CEO (of DWER) with the approval of the Minister can direct that the further harvesting of the Gngangara Pine Plantation be prohibited (*ie* stopped) for a specified time period during which replacement habitat is planted and matures to provide say triple habitat equivalent for the population of the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoo that is now dependent on the remaining Gngangara Pine Plantation.

Furthermore, the continued harvesting and loss of the remaining Gngangara Pines is contrary to the approved Recovery Plan for Carnaby's Cockatoo.



### **Book Review:**

#### **Chrissie Sharp: Shades of Green: Finding a middle path through the Forest (2022)**

*By Penny Lee*

This is an intriguing, informative, and thought-provoking book. Not only have I learned a lot about Jarrah forests, I also value Chrissy's honest and careful consideration of the tricky ethical, political, and strategic challenges we environmentalists often face.

Christine Sharp (1947-2021) was a well-known anti-logging activist in the 1970s. In 1989, she was the first woman appointed to the Environmental Protection Authority where she remained

until 1995. Elected to the Legislative Council in 1997 for The Greens, she served in state parliament until 2005, often in a balance of power situation where her ability to negotiate amendments to proposed legislation meant she had to work respectfully with people who had different values and political objectives. She had to clarify her own principles to be sure about what constituted personal integrity for her when pragmatic compromises were necessary. If her fundamental principles could be sustained on an issue, her next question was: "Will this be an improvement on what exists?" She discovered that there is a great difference between activism and being an elected decision-maker in a democratic government.

Respectful relationships between people with different jobs to do, different expertise, and different values fundamentally underpin successful problem solving in governance as much as daily life. As I read and re-read this book I often reflected on how working successfully for the environment depends on these same principles right down to the smallest community group in the least environmentally focused local government area. Patience, courtesy, and respect for other world views and for different kinds of expertise are fundamental as we work for a sustainably healthy global future.

This posthumous book interweaves three components of Chrissy's story: personal memoir, scientific understanding of Jarrah forests, and political philosophy. Older native forest campaigners will be taken back to the decades when they were young, when government concessions, obstructions, and double-dealing stratagems brought highs, lows, and devastating disappointments during half a century of exhausting efforts to slow down or stop wanton over-cutting of native timbers. Younger readers may be astonished to learn how profits from forest products went directly to the mega-department of Conservation and Land Management, maximising its interest in over-exploitation and minimising attention to long term forest industry sustainability, habitat preservation, ecological integrity, and biodiversity.

Chrissy loved Jarrah. The principles behind her suggestions about how to preserve our Jarrah forests are far reaching. They apply not only to our environmental work at every level, but also in every aspect of our lives. She understood that when we say we need to preserve nature for our mental and physical health, or for wildlife, or for the sake of the trees themselves, we unconsciously set ourselves apart from nature: People and Nature, two separate things. But this is a mistake that will not ensure the future we want for our grandchildren. Human beings are an integral, though exceptionally powerful, part of the natural world. People have always actively managed their environments to ensure continuity of food, materials for shelter and warmth, cultural integrity, and creative engagement with other living things. When Europeans first came here, Noongar managed their natural world in a sustainable manner. In less than 200 years of focus on product and profit, we have destroyed much of the structure and detail of that natural human world. But locking up conservation reserves until nature heals the damage we have done is misguided, especially in an era of climate change. And using the by-products of informed management to offset the costs of engaging proactively with the welfare of the world we're part of makes sense. Chrissy sometimes experienced criticism for 'not being Green enough'. She had to live with that while remaining true to her principles. I enjoyed learning from her experience. Further details at: [Books: Non-Fiction | Vivid Publishing - Book Publishers Australia](#)



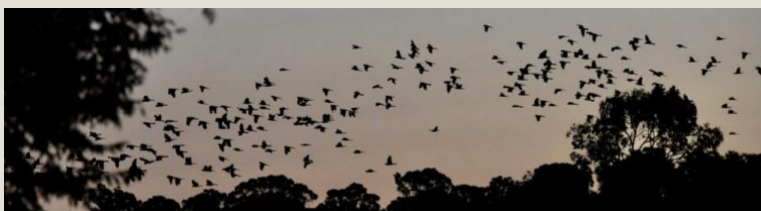
### Urban Bushland Council ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

**Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 6:30 pm**  
at City West Lotterywest House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth.

**Elections** will be held for all Committee positions for 2023, with nominations open till 21 February. There is still much to do to help protect our urban 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.

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

#### Prof Kris Warren: Keep Carnaby's Flying - Ngoolarks Forever



Go to the [UBC website](https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/) for more information about the presentation and the presenter.

All friends and visitors are 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](mailto:ubc@bushlandperth.org.au)

#### Guided walk

with **Lower Helena Valley Association**

**When: Sunday 23 April 9.30-11.00am**

**Where: Guildford (TBC)**

Lower Helena Valley Association are hosting UBC members and will share their experiences of caring for Helena River, the importance of the Helena River hydrology, vegetation, cultural significance, history. See what they have done since 2011 and hear about what they plan on doing.

#### UBC Talk

**Prof Giles Hardy: Diversity of soil microbes through diversity of plants makes resilient bushland**

**When: Thursday 25 May 6.00pm**

**Where: City West Lotterywest House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth**

Visit <https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/events/> for more info and to RSVP



#### 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

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#### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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

Copy deadline - 10 April 2023

THE URBAN BUSH TELEGRAPH

ISSN 2208-4770