



**Urban Bushland Council WA Inc**  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday 6th March 2007 held at Lotteries House 2 Delhi Street West Perth**

---

This report is for the calendar year January to December 2006.

2006 was a busy and productive year. We were able to maintain our office at 2 Delhi Street as a focal point for conservation activities, staffed by our Project Officer Renata Zelinova for two days per week during school terms. Renata co-ordinated major UBC activities and ably supported the work of Executive members. Her work included production of the quarterly newsletter, design and production of the Banksia poster and 2 postcards, support for community groups in their campaigns, response to an increasing number of public enquiries, submissions, and research into issues calling for our voice. She also provided support to the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi (PUBF) project from time to time and compiled the phase 2 final report for Lotterywest.

Instead of monthly Council meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month, we made a change to 3 major weekend activities held in various bushland sites:

*Post fire management.* Held at Lightning Swamp, Koondoola Regional Bushland

*Banksia Woodlands free bus tour* from Kensington bushland. Launch Banksia Woodlands poster

*Talk & Guided walk in Mt Henry Peninsula bushland,* Aquinas College. Launch postcards.

All were very well attended and provided an educational focus. We had many very appreciative reports from attendees.

Members of the Executive Committee did a lot of work during the year, much of it perhaps invisible to member groups. We continued to liaise with Government officers; lobby Ministers and MPs; lobby about big picture issues such as Bush Forever, Acid Sulphate Soils, and always bushland management issues. Sites of interest included Perth and Jandakot Airports, the A-K Reserve, Kingsway bushland. A list is attached.

### **BUSH FOREVER**

Implementation continues but is half-hearted. We continued to lobby for introduction of the Major MRS Amendment for Bush Forever which was open for public comment back in 2004, but has stalled. The WAPC has surprisingly recommended removal of the "Bush Forever Protection Areas" (Special Control Areas) which were proposed for all Bush Forever sites. We have called for their re-instatement and immediate passing of the Amendment.

We continued to advocate allocation of big budget dollars for management of sites. In response, we commend the Government for the new 'Biodiversity Conservation Initiative' with a Bush Crew employed by DEC to do on-ground works and local promotion. We presented DEC with a table of priorities, with thanks to Renata. Basic measures such as fencing of sites, signage, keeping out trail bikes and 4WDs, weed control, fire prevention were listed.

### **PERTH URBAN BUSHLAND FUNGI PROJECT**

Our collaborative project with the WA Naturalists' Club and the WA Herbarium was again generously funded by Lotterywest for the calendar year 2006. Community involvement in phase 2 remained high despite the extraordinarily dry winter, with little rain in June and few fungi as a result.

We wish to acknowledge generous support by the WA Herbarium in providing the lab base and staff support for project employees Roz Hart and Sarah deBeuger, as well as ongoing guidance by Neale Bougher (who is now employed by CALM/DEC). Members of the WA Naturalists' Club were also very generous in their

involvement during the year, as were all the volunteer leaders and workers.

A report for the year is available from the UBC office and Neale will tell us about project findings.

## **CLEARING**

The UBC remains concerned at the vast areas being cleared and the failure of the clearing regulations to reign in clearing and to protect biodiversity. Concerned members of the public

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPACT ON BUSHLAND**

The UBC is concerned about falling groundwater levels on the Swan Coastal Plain and the reluctance of Government to look at the impacts on bushland, and to control groundwater abstraction. Acidification of soils and groundwater is another consequence and we engaged with DEC and the City of Stirling and encouraged them to hold a Forum on the Lake Gwelup catchment. There are severe acidity problems in this catchment which threaten Lake Gwelup and other wetlands.

## **PEOPLE POWER**

The Executive Committee is indebted to Renata's outstanding contribution to the UBC and to conservation. It is always a pleasure working with her and she is very thorough and professional. At the end of the year she advised us that she wished to move on into other work but may be able to continue producing the newsletter and/or work one day per week. We wish her all the best and say a big 'thank you Renata' from us all.

Our Treasurer for many years, Sjaan Ketting will not be seeking re-election as Treasurer. Her contribution to the smooth running of UBC finances is outstanding. She has the professional understanding and know how that others of us do not have and we would not have had the confidence to manage the Fungi project without her expertise. Sjaan we will miss you - and your sense of humour.

I wish to warmly thank all Executive Committee members for their support to me, their dedicated work, their good humour and friendship, and wise guidance all year. This is the third and final year in my term as President and I will be very happy to support the next President.

But most important of all, it is all the community groups who are doing the real work on the ground and with local authorities. Congratulations on your achievements and keep up your wonderful work. We are all here for the long haul to provide a voice for the bush and to help look after it for future generations.

Mary Gray  
6 March 2007

---

## **ATTACHMENT: SITES AND ISSUES 2006**

The following is a list of the bushland sites and issues which received UBC attention during the 2006 year.

**Bush Forever:**

- Major MRS Amendment for Bush Forever and related lands
- Bush Forever Implementation Workshop (by WAPC, DPI)
- neglected and degrading sites; eg BF site 342 Anstey Rd Forrestdale (LandCorp)
- Biodiversity Conservation Initiative (by DEC)

**Bush Forever site 88 Bullsbrook** - Bullsbrook Senior High School land, ignorance of values. Local support group.

**Bush Forever site 413 Balannup Lake & adjacent bushland:** Southern River/Forrestdale. Lot 1629 illegally cleared.

**West Thompsons Lake:** - Objected to rezoning. Proposed significant addition to adjacent Thompson's Lake BF site

**Jandakot Airport:** - BF site 388. Airport Master Plan approved. Objections to clearing ignored.

**FESA land Forrestfield:** - objected to clearing priority taxa

- Perth Airport:** - 'Environmental Consultative Group' meetings held by WAC  
 - On ramp proposal rejected by EPA but allowed on appeal: UBC recommendation for bridge refused as 'cost not justified'  
 - large areas of clearing and dewatering, new deep drains, no consultation, DEH failed to protect. State impotent  
 - BGC brickworks proposal approved despite wide community and State Government condemnation  
 - whole page article '*Developers take off*' in Weekend Australian Newspaper (11-12 Feb 06) by Paddy Manning on airport problems - as result of UBC pressure. Our photos used.
- Alkimos - Eglinton housing proposal:** - Major MRS rezoning Amendment. Huge area significant bushland (over 1000 ha) to be cleared. Amendment preceded EPA formal assessment for Wastewater treatment plant.  
 - New 'Site B' for Waste Water treatment plant introduced to suit developers but more severe environmental impacts
- A - K Reserve (Floreat):** - BF site 119. Athletics and sports precinct controversial. Critical bushland link from Underwood etc to Bold Park threatened  
 - legislation to 'retain link vegetation as much as possible' by WA Greens  
 - community consultation workshops on design
- Kewdale Freight Terminal** - UBC appeals finally resulted in site assessment by DEC for significance and TECs. WATSCU advice undermined by Minister for Environment's Appeals Office
- Lake Karrynup Country Club** - MRS Amendment approved after 'Disallowance Motion' by Greens MLC Hon Giz Watson failed to get Liberals' support.
- Djandoo Link:** Regional Conservation Park proposal by Friends of Shenton bushland
- Kingsway bushland:** - Greenways corridor no 10, ?TEC 20a
- Town of Kwinana:** - District Structure Plan, implications for destruction of Bush Forever sites  
 - Local Planning Strategy & 'Eastern Residential Intensification' concept
- Bushland near Osborne Park hospital**
- Dampier - Bunbury Gas Pipeline:** duplication and impacts on eastern Swan Coastal Plain
- Acidity problems for Lake Gwelup & catchment:** Wishart St, Spoonbill Lake, Brushfield Way drain  
**ASS** - Framework for managing ASS not funded, thus not implemented  
 - Many s 48 planning referrals to EPA not assessed, managed under DOE processes & EPA advice.
- Malaga Conservation Category Wetland:** EPA assessed industrial development as unacceptable
- Yarragadee proposal:** - by Water Corporation to abstract 45 GL/year
- St Mary's School:** - planning student activities in bushland for 2007, eg mapping Tuart
- Tree clearing in urban landscape:** -public concern, various cases
- Inglewood Triangle:** mapped area burnt in Nov 05, report prepared
- Applications for clearing permits:** - research and submissions to nvp branch of DOE/DEC

#### **IMPORTANT FORUMS etc**

- Dialogue with Dianella - local Bush Forever sites  
 Bush Forever Implementation Forum - 5 years on. 9 July  
 Launch of State of the Environment Report for WA - by EPA  
 Forum on Lake Gwelup catchment:, groundwater management and acidity by City of Stirling/DEC  
 Tuart Symposium 12 & 18th Nov