



Urban Bushland Council WA Inc
VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 4th March 2008 held at Lotteries House 2 Delhi Street West Perth

This report is for the calendar year January to December 2007.

Despite the absence of a Community Conservation Grant for administration (and thus we had no Project Officer), the UBC has enjoyed another active year. We acknowledge the generous support of the Conservation Council in their grant to us and in the cheerful willingness of their staff to work with us and assist with practical help.

I wish to sincerely thank our Executive Committee members for their contribution to the UBC during the year: Christine Allbeury, Marg Owen, Kim Sarti, Kim Gates, Phylis Robertson, Rob Greenwood. Christine in her maiden year as treasurer is a wonderful asset to the UBC. Their friendliness, fun and professional approach to all our work is much appreciated and provides a productive atmosphere.

Activities

A special grant from the WAPC to conduct the City Bush Guides project was a major new focus in our activities. We also made lots of submissions as usual and these are listed at the end of this report. Notably the campaign against rezoning of part of Whiteman Park was the only remarkable 'win'. Special thanks to Giz Watsom MLC for moving the disallowance motion and to the local groups and activists for their successful campaign.

The PUBF project continued and so did our focus on Bush Forever implementation. We held a quiz nite to raise funds and have fun; Hans Lambers spoke to us on the Secret Life of Banksias and their allies; and we had some TV coverage about losing bushland on Channel 7's Today-Tonight, filmed at Burns Beach.

In the office we receive calls from members of the community reporting loss of bush or trees, and asking for information and support. We do our best to help and sometimes new groups form and join the UBC. Welcome to our new members and supporters.

Bush Forever

Bush Forever has been government policy for 7 years now. But Bush Forever has simply not been on the government's list of priorities for action. The major MRS Planning Amendment for Bush Forever has stalled and has not been presented to parliament. Funding is hopelessly inadequate yet the State's economy is booming. So during the year we met with the Environment Minister (The Hon David Templeman) and many officers from DPI and DEC to brief them of our concerns and calls for action to speed up the implementation process for Bush Forever. Whilst they all generally agreed with our suggestions, nothing new has happened.

Perth Urban Bushland Fungi project

The Fungi project continued at a reduced scale. Our partners the WA Naturalists' Club received funding from Lotterywest on the eve of the fungi season but this was happily accommodated. The Naturalists' had anticipated some support and had funded the preparation stage themselves. Again

we acknowledge the generous support from the WA Herbarium with use of the fungi lab and staff support from Neale Bougher Mycologist.

Roz Hart and Sarah deBeuger worked together to produce reports of all field work before the end of the year, a great effort. Members of the WA Naturalists' Club were very generous in their involvement during the year and have taken on the lead role of the project, a logical progression. Special thanks are due to all the volunteer leaders and workers, as well as those who came along.

City Bush Guides

A grant from the WAPC enabled us to employ a Co-ordinator Janina Pezzarini to organise a training program for people wishing to learn guiding skills in bushland. We had over 70 responses to advertisements in local papers and 37 City Bush Guides graduated from the enjoyable 7 week course. We hope they will continue on the journey of becoming excellent guides.

With the interest of the Friends of Bold Park Bushland, we were also able to facilitate a stakeholder workshop to consider a guiding program in Bold Park. . BGPA has accepted the outcomes of the workshop and is willing to establish a Guides program for Bold Park. A report on the workshop by Margo O'Byrne is available from our office.

Management of groundwater

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. With the help of the Friends of Ken Hurst Park, we lobbied the Department of Water and drew attention to the extent of vegetation deaths in Ken Hurst Park. The over-use of groundwater and lack of management remain a concern.

Round Table Forum on Land Clearing 26th November 2007

In conjunction with the Conservation Council and the Wildflower Society, we organised a forum on the hot topic of bushland clearing to look at the 'big picture'. We sent out a proforma call for "*Cases of Clearing of Community Concern*" and invited the Minister for the Environment to open the forum. Twenty three interesting cases came in from all parts of the south west, covering the breadth of issues and proponents. Just 5 varied cases were presented at the Forum together with data from State agencies involved in the regulation of clearing. We are shocked at the failure of government processes at every level to control clearing. Under the new regulations it appears clearing has *increased* and there is extensive illegal clearing. WA is failing dramatically in its commitment to '*reduce the national net rate of land clearance to zero*' under the national biodiversity strategy.

In conclusion I wish to acknowledge all the community groups who are doing the real work on the ground, in your local community 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
Vice President
4th March 2008

UBC SUBMISSIONS 2007

No	Site	Submission on	Outcome
1	Southern R /Forrestdale, Lake Balanup	SE Districts Omnibus Amendment No 7 Proposal 11	
2	Perth metro area	Proposal for City Bush Guides project to WAPC. As part of Bush Forever education & awareness and community capacity building for Bush Forever Festival	Win! City Bush Guides project funded by WAPC. No progress by govt in holding Bush Forever Festival
3	3 Regional Parks	Funding application for PUBF to conduct fungi surveys	Not funded
4	East Leighton	MRS Amendment 1138/41 opposing housing on beach front	Development going ahead, some revegetat'n
5	(Incorporated groups)	Associations Incorporation Green Bill 2006	Some modifications
6	Pt Peron BF site	Housing & marina proposal by Landcorp. UBC warning of environmental impacts to Cabinet Ministers	Not yet decided
7	WA	State Water Plan	?
8	Whiteman Park	Disallowance motion for Urbanisation of 211 ha proposed in MRS Amendment 1027/33	Win! Passed by Upper House thus rezoning rejected
9	Guildford cemetery	S38 referral to EPA for formal assessment as PUEA	Not assessed
10	Guildford cemetery	Appeal against level of assessment set as 'not assessed'	Not yet decided
11	Swan Coastal Plain, Darling Scarp & Range	Letter detailing concern about vegetation deaths and lack of groundwater management, and recommendations for actions by government. Press release also.	Some restrictions on domestic private bores
12	Lot 204 Aubin Grove BF site 492	Housing proposal by Landcorp. CCW , high value veg. Only 4% Bassendean Central & Sth veg in BF	Failure of EPA process. Site mostly cleared
13	Kiara TAFE site Lots 843 Bottle Brush Dve & 14122 Morley Dve Kiara	Minor MRS Amendment 1133/57 for rezoning to urban & housing development by Ministry for Housing	Not yet decided
14	Kiara TAFE site Lots 843 Bottle Brush	Further letter requesting halt until current data available on extent of Bassendean Central &	Updating of mapping of veget'n

	Dve & 14122 Morley Dve Kiara	Sth vegetation type remaining and in BF	complexes not yet available
15	Lot 4 Underwood Ave Shenton Park BF 119	Env Review Report by ATA Environmental for housing development. A modification of 2001 proposal	EPA process confusing to community.
16	Lot 4 Underwood Ave Shenton Park BF 119	Comment on EPBC Act referral 2007/3386	Controlled action. Not yet decided by DEWHA
17	Lot 4 Underwood Ave Shenton Park BF 119	Appeal against EPA Bulletin 1272 recommending approval of housing development	EPA ignored submissions and officer advice Minister has not made decision yet on appeals
18	Lot 4 Underwood Ave Shenton Park BF 119	Carnaby's Cockatoos EPBCAct 2007/3386 Response to further information by Coffey Environmental, & report no 2005067 Carnaby's Assessment on SCP by ATA Environmental Feb 07	Not yet decided
19	Jandakot Airport	JAH Preliminary draft Major Development Plan (MDP)	Draft MDP released for comment
20	Jandakot Airport	JAH Draft MDP for airport roadworks and 4th runway And JAH response to request by DEWHA for additional information EPBCAct ref 2007/3599 20 Sept 07	Not yet decided
21	Lot 13079 plan 22063 Madeley City of Wanneroo Sporting Complex	Proposal to clear for extension of sporting facilities	City of Wanneroo failed to protect big trees and remnant veg which was readily achievable. Clearing permit granted
22	Parks & Protected Areas Forum 23-26 Sept 07	Comment on draft agenda for action for protected areas	? no response from the Forum or from WA Conservation Commission
23	(Commonwealth Govt)	Funding application to GVEHO: (Grants to Voluntary Environmental and Heritage organisations) for \$10,000 for UBC operations	Not funded