

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL WA Inc., 5 March 2014 at Citywest Lotteries House 2 Delhi St West Perth at 6.30pm**

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This report is for the calendar year January to December 2013 inclusive.

For 20 years we have been providing a 'voice for the bush'. Remembering that the Urban Bushland Council formed in the aftermath of the community campaign to save Hepburn Heights bushland, we are still campaigning to save significant areas of Perth's bushland, as well as supporting groups and land managers to care for areas. Bush Forever has been a great step forward, but as you will have read in our newsletters, there is still much to be done to secure and manage a comprehensive reserve network.

**Bush Forever:** After our Bush Forever Report Card conference in December 2012, the promised 2013 review and audit of Bush Forever was not done. But at least it has started in 2014. During the year we have again engaged with and met with officers of DEC now DPAW, WAPC, DOP, OEPA, and DPC about completing the implementation of Bush Forever, but still progress has stalled. We have made many written submissions and appeals on inappropriate development proposals which are contrary to the spirit and intent of the Bush Forever Plan. The EPA assessments have been flawed for high profile cases of flawed proposals such as Roe 8 Highway extension through Beeliar Wetlands; housing in Underwood Avenue; Mangles Bay-Pt Peron canal development; Kiara TAFE site. Now the Anstey-Keane Damplands are threatened by a flawed local road proposal (PER) which is yet to be assessed by the EPA. The only hope for these areas now lies with the federal government's assessment under the EPBC Act. Will they say 'no' even though they have the grounds to do so under their Act?

**TEC nomination:** Our accepted nomination for listing the Banksia Woodlands of the southern Swan Coastal Plain as a Threatened Ecological Community is to be assessed in 2014. In the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions, this nomination is being treated as if these areas were actually listed. This is a huge step forward for having our highly threatened Banksia woodlands treated seriously in long term planning.

**Engaging with Ministers:** Pre-election we asked 4 questions of the 4 main political parties. We have had just one meeting with the Environment Minister Hon Albert Jacob, and our request to meet the Minister for Planning Hon John Day was refused. We did meet with the Minister for Local Government, Hon Tony Simpson, in his electorate concerning the Anstey-Keane Damplands.

**Community support:** Thanks to our new website, we receive lots of enquiries from the community and endeavour to help where we can. We support local campaigns and we commend the amazing work done by some of these groups who are working against influential vested interests. In the chart below are some examples. Notably four local campaigns had success during the year: Nowergup Valley against a limestone quarry and batching plant; the Coastal boardwalk through fragile coastal limestone in Trigg dunes by 'Stop the Boardwalk'; 'Save the Trees in our Park' campaign against a community hall in Alexander Park; and stopping the filling of a wetland in the Cockburn West Structure Plan.

### **UBC Council meetings and events 2013**

- 5 March: Prof John Bailey: *Do they care enough? What a new Biodiversity Act could and should look like for WA and what it could do for WA.*
- 7 May: Prof Glenn Allbrecht: *Are we losing our endemic sense of place?'*
- 2 July: Prof Stephen Hopper: *'The loss, conservation, and restoration of Banksia woodlands and thicket in the SW Australian Floristic region - a review.'*
- 11 August: In conjunction with northern Suburbs branch of Wildflower Society, guided spring walk in Koondoola bushland
- 30 September: In conjunction with Perth branch of Wildflower Society, guided spring walk in Anstey-Keane Damplands, leaders Bronwen and Greg Keighery, and David James.
- December: Christmas-end of year windup at National Trust

**Executive Committee members:** A very sincere thank you to our Vice President Cath Cooper, Secretary Margaret Owen, Treasurer Chris Allbeury, and web manager and e-news producer Chris Richardson, and legal expert Rahima Bannerman for your wonderful contribution and dedicated team spirit. Also special thanks to Kim Sarti, our technical expert and proceedings designer and producer, and many others who have

helped in our common cause to provide a voice for the bush. I sincerely appreciate the support you have all given to me and to each other.

### Submissions, issues and campaigns

The table below is a summary of the issues and key events that involved our attention during 2013.

No	Site or issue	Submission or action on	Outcome
1	<b>Bush Forever campaign from 2012 continues</b>	<p>*Editing and production of proceedings of our Report Card conference held 7 Dec2012.</p> <p>*4 questions sent to the 4 major parties pre-election: seeking commitment to finish BF implementation, statutory protection, use of MRIF, and funding to DEC to manage sites.</p> <p>*UBC requested meeting with Minister for Planning John Day to discuss conference outcomes and MRS text Amendment for BF.</p> <p>*Conference follow up meeting with 8 DPAW staff. Govt cut to all funding for on-ground works etc appalling, insult to community volunteers. Need for statutory protection under Environment portfolio, more funding for management of sites to be transferred to DPAW. Need to meet A/DG Jim Sharp re resources for 70 BF sites to go across to DPAW management. DPAW staff reluctant to push issues and demand the resources necessary.</p> <p>*UBC met with Jim Sharp A/DG</p>	<p>*Proceedings published. A copy sent to each LGA in Perth and Peel regions. Copies distributed to Ministers and key officers in agencies, and many to DEC (as a sponsor ) for distribution to their staff, libraries, offices etc</p> <p>*Video clips of conference talks prepared by Entity Media.</p> <p>*Request refused</p> <p>*Getting all BF sites transferred as A class nature reserves is top priority - through Strategic Assessment</p> <p>*Disturbing lack of leadership by DPAW</p>
2	MRS Amendment Murdoch Mixed use precinct	Submission on small area at SW corner Freeway and South St	
3	<b>MRS Minor Amendment for Bush Forever</b>	UBC submission on unacceptable proposed text Amendment which did not state purpose of BF Areas, did not give statutory protection to BF Areas, did not prohibit clearing, did not provide a management obligation. UBC advocated these matters be included for all BF Areas.	?
4	<b>Underwood Ave bushland, BF 119</b>	<p>Foxes eating Rainbow Bee-Eater nestlings in tunnels, no weed control. Friends letter to UWA requesting fox and weed control</p> <p>Fox problem in western suburbs.</p> <p>Noongar glass artefact found</p> <p>*Talk to 60 self funded retirees by M Owen on cockatoos, insects, reptiles</p> <p>*Lack of UWA management referred to DEC Director Nature Conservation.</p> <p>*FOUA group re-established with many new members</p> <p>* Demonstration outside UWA in June</p> <p>* FOUA request to address UWA Senate members.</p> <p>* FOUA letters sent to each Senator</p>	<p>UWA refused management until they have development approval. Experts consulted as to significance of find</p> <p>Followed up by Gordon Wyre to no avail</p> <p>*UWA Vice Chancellor replied to say a meeting with FOUA not necessary at this time</p> <p>*No replies from Senators</p>
5	<b>Bedbrook Place bushland linkage</b>	<p>*Proposal for clearing and development on Cancer Council site</p> <p>*Proposal in ODP by St Johns Ambulance to build on 0.4ha. They consulted FOUA and modified plan to save 3 big old Tuart. UBC submission to City of Nedlands.</p> <p>*City of Nedlands bowed to pressure of threats of being sued by developers and withdrew their consideration of ecological linkages as in their own</p>	<p>*Linkage between Underwood And Shenton bush being whittled away despite its recognition for protection in the W Suburbs Greening Plan.</p> <p>* This case illustrates the effect of absence of statutory protection under planning and environmental laws for</p>

		Greening Plan and as advised by Syrinx. City of Nedlands would not present their Syrinx recommendations to councillors.	regionally significant ecological linkages.
6	<b>Call for new Biodiversity Conservation Act</b>	UBC met Director Nature Conservation DEC, Gordon Wyre. DEC supports need for new Act, also supported the Bill by Greens to amend the old Wildlife Conservation Act but Minister Marmion did not take this advice.	Greens Bill lapsed when parliament prorogued before election. No new draft Biodiversity Act by end of year
7	Sub-division and development of south Guilderton - Plunkett land	Site visit with Wildflower Society to Friends of Moore River Estuary (FOMRE) Linda Johnson. ODP to Shire, major issues with water supply, access, degradation of fragile limestone foreshore and vegetation communities	EPA conditions for foreshore management reserve. Final outcome = ?
8	Gnangara Aquifer overdrawn	Article in West Aust with photo of wetland, UBC President quoted and in photo. Gnangara Mound overdrawn beyond limits set under Ministerial conditions.	On-going issue, not being seriously addressed by government.
9	Primary School education: St Emilie's School Canning Vale; Also Boyare PS. Iona PS, Mt Lawley PS	UBC invited by science teacher. Two visits to work with year 6 students in small bush area adjacent to school. Cath Cooper and M Owen visiting schools and leading bush educational activities	Good UBC nature education with primary school students.
10	North Fremantle Primary School	Request for advice in new landscaping. Advice given in using local plants and appropriate source from APACE	(Have not checked the new landscaping)
11	Maddington Kenwick Strategic Employment Area Concept Plan (MKSEA)	Planted Marris in precinct 1 not mapped so are under threat, Cockatoo habitat. General threat to Brixton St wetlands if surrounding vegetation and scattered trees etc cleared. City of Gosnells responsibility, lack State government support	?lack of City of Gosnells commitment to protect vegetation. Is there a Local Biodiversity Strategy? ?Result
12	Kingsley bushland, Lot 971 Creaney Drive	UBC asked for help to retain the bushland and protect the area: includes 126 mature trees, 200 grass trees Land donated to City of Waneroo, is now in C of Joondalup which now wants to sell it and rezone. UBC met Raine Repke, recommended that they ask Wildflower Society advice to do survey. Also Dave Blackburn asking if could be offset for Ocean Reef Marina BF site losses.	? not known
13	<b>Endangered black cockatoos and Cockatoo Coalition</b>	*UBC attended Carnaby's Cockatoo Symposium at DEC 19 Feb. Good papers. Offsets questioned as clearing is always net loss for cockatoos. *UBC support of Cockatoo Coalition. WWF briefing on Strategic Assessment process (see item 14)	
14	<b>Strategic Assessment Perth-Peel Regions under EPBC Act</b>	*UBC rep attended one meeting of Stakeholder Reference Group in place of WWF. Distributed copies of UBC 'Call for Action on BF' * Public Consultation meeting poor as questions cut short due to venue booking error. *UBC met with Simon Taylor and Peter Gianatti of DPC concerning need for <b>all BF areas</b> to be included and set aside as A class nature reserves, with new statutory protection. Also protection for ecological linkages and locally significant bushland and mandatory LBS. Protection of Carnaby's habitat - includes all Banksia-Euc woodlands	*Public submissions encouraged *UBT front page article encouraging submissions *UBC to prepare detailed written submission to include all the issues we want included
15	Nowergup Valley	*UBC attended community rally 17 Feb.	*Successful campaign:

	threat of limestone quarry	Labor committed to 'no quarry' in the valley and would establish a Regional Park there. *strong Campaign and wide local public support has been running for 4 years. Outstanding leadership by Sabine Winton	*Minister Jacob dismissed appeal by WA Limestone to mine limestone. 7ha prime bushland adjacent to Lake Nowergup protected.
16	Offsets seminar 23 Feb by Wildflower Society	UBC attended. Biodiversity cannot be offset. Clearing always results in a net loss of biodiversity. Eg of bad offset: For Alkimos - not like for like, and topsoil held too long and put in wetland area.	Alkimos offset unsuccessful. What penalty??
17	Shenton College bushland	School proposal to extend into the bushland remnant rather than into cleared area on other side of school. UBC met school principal and staff and architects, also landscapers.	Little or no notice taken of our advice which they had invited. Corner cleared - real mess. Also buildings very close to high voltage power lines.
18	Doubleview Primary School	UBC requested to help them establish a bushcare group at the school. Information package by Felicity Bradshaw sent.	No response from school - outcome?
19	Elizabeth Quay and Whiteman Park clearing permit	CPS 5492/1 for clearing 35 ha scattered trees etc at Whiteman Park for disposal of soil from Elizabeth Quay. Soil is ASS + heavy metals, asbestos etc.	? EQ soils disposed elsewhere
20	Wilkins Rd- Welshpool Rd East, Shire of Kalamunda	Proposed clearing for aged care facility, black cockatoo habitat, possible roost site. Photos by Mary Syme, contacted NRPNG to follow up.	Shire will need to refer to federal govt under EPBC Act for black cockatoo habitat.
21	Coastal Boardwalk proposal through Trigg Dunes BF	*Proposal between South Trigg and Scarborough through A class reserve and BF 308. *UBC submission done *Major campaign by 'Stop the Boardwalk'	Campaign successful and City of Stirling rejected the proposal with only 1? vote in favour. UBC support acknowledged by Stop the Boardwalk Group.
22	<b>Mangles Bay Marina and canal development Pt Peron PER</b>	*EPA report on PER recommended to Minister to approve subject to conditions *UBC submitted exhaustive appeal against the proposal: hydrology inadequate and flawed, threat to critically endangered thrombolites and holocene sedge communities; clearing and removal of Bush Forever Area, social recreational and educational values and history, alternative marina at Rockingham suitable, Rockingham Lakes regional Park. *Conservation Commission advice ignored and suspiciously withdrawn *UBC met with Appeals Convenor	
23	Lot 5483 Park Lane, Ian Robbins Park Alexander Heights	' <b>Save the Trees in Our Park</b> ' campaign: UBC assisted with advice and support Finally, Vietnamese community <b>withdrew their application</b> for a community hall in Alexander Park	<b>Successful campaign</b> celebrated by Kevin Lehane's group at bar-b-q Dr Paul Barber and UBC acknowledged as only ones who assisted the group
24	Extension of Mitchell Freeway through Neerabup National Park	*Proposal by Main Roads. *Quinns Rocks Environmental Group (QREG) held a workshop. UBC represented. meeting proposed that the east-west linkage be retained by eliminating Neerabup Rd. Will be a challenge!	
25	<b>Roe 8 highway extension (ongoing)</b>	*meeting of key groups to plan meeting with EPA * 2 reps each for Save Beeliar Wetlands, Wildflower Society and UBC gave presentation to Chairman EPA and OEPA staff. Joe Branco outstanding. *Public meeting well attended after EPA advice to stimulate appeals * UBC Appeal submitted	*EPA assessment and report to Minister recommends approval with conditions. Flawed report.  Premier Barnett said publicly <i>before</i> Appeals decided by Minister Jacob - that Roe 8 would go ahead eventually but

			not in this term of govt. Barnett's 'decision' out of line with legal process.
26	NRM Biodiversity Focus group	UBC participated in Workshop. Limited scope of workshop to rare species and communities broadened to consider biodiversity generally and ecological processes.	
27	A-K reserve Perry Lakes redevelopment	Application to clear 0.17ha for car-park in the agreed ecological linkage. ie contrary to agreement. UBC submission	Another example of linkages being nibbled away
28	28ha bushland Gibbs Rd Nowergup	Private bushland. Seeking help to retain as bushland by government acquisition as is good quality bushland.	
29	Feral bird species: Corellas, Rainbow Lorikeets	DEC funding for control cull has been cut. DEC trying to get LGAs to fund culling in their areas. * Corella numbers increasing and affecting Carnaby's ability to drink at Perry Lakes *FOUA letter to Minister Jacob	*Corellas increasing and threatening local species *Should be a state govt responsibility - in interests of protecting other endangered bird species. Proper resources now will be much cheaper than later.
30	International Biodiversity conference	*Hosted by City of Joondalup. UBC sponsored 2 attendees. WA State govt remarkable by absence of a paper about SW biodiversity and Perth's biodiversity. WALGA and PBP (Renata) presented a workshop session.	Attendees appreciated exposure to issues in other countries and networking.
31	Cockburn West Structure Plan	*UBC submission opposed filling in a wetland. *Wildflower Society presentation to Councillors	City of Cockburn rejected proposal and modified Structure Plan to retain the wetland.
32	<b>Anstey-Keane Damplands: -Keane Rd extension EPBC Act 1999 – Ref 2009/5035 -Lots 67, 69</b>	*Proposal by City of Armadale for a local road traversing CCW with TEC, PEC, and will fragment these special damplands *Substantial UBC submission opposing the local road to City of Armadale  *WAPC reluctance to acquire Lot 67 and Lot 69 Skeet Rd- the last two for this BFA. *Shocking rubbish dumping and disturbance in unfenced Lot 67. * Site visit with UBC, Tony Simpson MLA, Hamish Hastie of Examiner, Chris Tallentire MLA, F of Forrestdale. Photo and front page article in Examiner.	To be assessed under EPBC Act and by EPA.  Tony Simpson commitment to push for acquisition, gate, fence, signs, cameras on Skeet Rd. ORV trail bikes is major social problem. City of Armadale cleaned up road once, problem continues, no fence, signs, cameras etc
33	MRS Amendment Lot 911 Midland Rd Hazelmere - 'Bushmead'	UBC submission made.	
34	Southern Aviation Precinct and Taxiway Charlie extension, Perth Airport	UBC submission made	
35	Kwongan Colloquium	UBC speaker Cath Cooper: <i>'From Bagging weeds to the boardroom'</i>	
36	<b>Stratton bushland-ongoing</b>	Ongoing damage by off road vehicles, vandalism, tree cutting. Dept of Housing proposal for development. Referred to federal govt as has TECs and Black Cockatoo habitat. Old growth Jarrah, adjoins talbot Rd reserve	Controlled action under EPBC Act Field visit by DEC - Val English re TECs and damage
37	Pickle Swamp,	*Proposed excision from A class Leda nature	?

	Leda reserve near Kwinana-	reserve for upgrade of Gilmore Ave to dual carriageway. *Greens moved to disallow the excision. History goes back to 1998	
38	Wellard MRS Amendment	UBC letter of support to Wildflower Society submission. Concerns about hydrology, ASS, linkages and more.	?
39	Cottesloe Golf Club	Proposal to remove 83 or 91 trees + small patch bushland to realign 3 holes. City of Nedlands applied for clearing permit * Submission to nvp on permit application	Clearing approved
40	Jandakot Airport Holdings	Proposals for Precinct 6 and 6A: submission to federal Environment Dept under EPBC Act	
41	Hartfield Park - Bush Forever	Sporting field extension, Shire of Kalamunda. This is another example of conflicting land use in areas of Parks and Recreation- between nature conservation and active sporting facilities	?
42	<b>MRS Amendment 99 for LPS: Bushfire prone areas City of Swan</b>	*Proposed mapping and declaration of Bushfire prone areas, new buildings to conform with national standards. * UBC submission and request to meet DOP in consideration of the amendment. *DFES guidelines for fuel reduction sent to landholders by Shire, open to varying interpretation, confusion, and community concerns especially for areas such as The Vines where there are 60:40% covenants on retaining native vegetation.	No decision yet on MRS Amendment
43	<b>Kiara TAFE site Bottlebrush Drive -ongoing</b>	Proposal for housing and school with playing field. Submissions by UBC and by Save Kiara Bushland Group to federal Environment Dept under EPBC Act. Carnaby's habitat, Marri woodland.	Federal assessment not yet completed
44	Lot 6 Banksia Rd Wellard, Lots 300, 301 Boomerang Rd Oldbury	Proposed sandmining of Banksia woodland by Rocla to 18m deep. In Shire Serpentine-Jarrahdale, residential all around. 2 sp black cockatoo use it. 80m from a Tumulus Spring community on Lot 7- SCP critically endangered TEC. Referred to federal govt under EPBC Act, EPA not assessed.	EPA not assessed
45	Water Corporation Craigie	Cleared understorey in buffer Zone adjacent to housing and WW Treatment plant without permission or clearing permit. Residents objected and sought UBC advice. UBC site visit.	WC required to restore buffer zone, Tranen employed for work and consulted residents