



The Urban Bush Telegraph

Newsletter of the Urban Bushland Council WA Inc

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WHY ARE BUSH FOREVER SITES BEING CONSIDERED FOR REZONING FROM PARKS AND RECREATION TO URBAN ?

Plans to Rezone Part of Paganoni Swamp Reserve

By Leonie Stubbs

The Southern Metropolitan and Peel Sub-Regional Structure Plan was published by the Department of Planning and the WA Planning Commission in June 2009 and is open for public comment until 23 September 2009. Figure 7 of the Structure Plan includes the following notation: "proposed change in zoning from parks and recreation to urban to support Keralup precinct development". Such rezoning would result in the destruction of 48 hectares of tuart woodland at Paganoni Swamp Reserve (Paganoni Swamp) on its north western corner.

Paganoni Swamp is one of the most significant conservation reserves in the metropolitan region south of the Swan River. It is managed by Community and Regional Parks (a division of the Department of Environment and Conservation) on behalf of the WA Planning Commission which purchased the reserve in 1991 amid community concerns over a previous plan to rezone the area. Eighteen years later, despite irrefutable proof of the value of bushland, the community is once again having to fight government institutions over plans to rezone and develop part of this precious bushland; bushland of such significant conservation and heritage value that it is listed as a Bush Forever site and placed on the Register of the National Estate.

Apart from the fact that there are better options available to the planners which will not result in the destruction of intact tuart woodland, it is inconceivable in this day and age that a planning officer would even contemplate destruction of such regionally significant bushland. Proposals such as this show a complete lack of recognition of the services they provide in terms of climate regulation, water purification, cultural values and the provision of resources. In addition, many of these services are currently threatened as a direct result of the adoption of such ill-considered planning proposals over the past fifty years.

For more information please contact Leonie Stubbs of Friends of Paganoni Swamp on 0439 921 298 or email Friends_Paganoni_Swamp@westnet.com.au

Coastal Development Proposal Will Fragment Important North-South Linkage

By the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group

Despite community concerns, the Western Australian Planning Commission has approved rezoning of coastal land at Lot 10 Jindalee, north of Quinns Rocks. This would see the coastal reserve reduced and urban development closer to the beachfront on a Bush Forever site, setting a poor precedent for habitat designated as having regional conservation value.

Under the Metropolitan Region Scheme amendment for the area, 8.1ha of the coastal reserve adjacent Lot 10 Jindalee would be changed from 'parks and recreation' to 'urban'. In return 6.1ha would be added to Eglinton Hill reserve and 2ha set aside for car parking near the beach.

Conservation groups including the Urban Bushland Council and QREG oppose the amendment because it would encroach on a Bush Forever site, impact on the ecological link along the coast and set a poor planning precedent. The risk of erosion and storm damage from climate change is another concern. Sustainability measures proposed for development could be implemented without the loss of coastal reserve.

Giz Watson, Member of the Legislative Council for the North Metropolitan Region for the Greens, is challenging the amendment. She has given notice of a motion to disallow the Jindalee rezoning which will be debated in September.

For a list of bushland areas under threat from clearing go to page 10.

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Editorial

In presenting the 2009 George Seddon lecture, Professor Steve Hopper emphasised that greater Perth is one of the world's most flora species rich cities, along with Cape Town and Rio de Janeiro. Further he said the Perth region is as species rich or richer than the Leseuer area and the Fitzgerald River National Park.

Bushland friends all know this, but why has the value of this extraordinary heritage not reached the priority it deserves amongst planners and politicians?

It is now 10 years on since Bushplan was released by a Liberal Government which soon endorsed it as Bush Forever not long before Labor was elected. Then with a pre-election to implement Bush Forever, Labor's commitment over eight years was remarkably lacklustre with the Major MRS Amendment languishing for four years during a development boom, and the general public blissfully unaware of Bush Forever.

The new Liberal Government before Christmas assured us that the Amendment 'was ready to go' but nothing positive has happened in the ensuing eight months.

Indeed encroachment into Bush Forever sites has continued. Colin Barnett precipitously announced that the Roe 8 Highway extension would go ahead despite his promise of 'good governance'. Doesn't he realise that Main Roads WA is subject to the laws of the land - both the Environmental Protection Act and the Commonwealth EPBC Act?

Paganoni is also under threat with a proposal for 'transit oriented development' on 48 ha of Tuart Woodland adjacent to a relocated railway station. Both proposals fly in the face of good governance as both sites are currently being managed for conservation and local conservation groups are understandably outraged. Sites under threat are listed in this newsletter.

The Auditor General's recent report on conservation of rare and threatened species slammed the Government for failing to look after our wildlife. The report refers to the wholly inadequate funding of DEC and the fact that the Wildlife Conservation Act is 50 years out of date. Successful governments have failed to introduce a modern Biodiversity Conservation Act despite numerous promises. There is no statutory process for recovery of rare and threatened species and ecological communities, the latter are not even protected. We have the most complex and diverse ecosystems yet they suffer the most outdated and weakest protection and support.

The UBC urges all members to contact your local MPs, show them around your wonderful local bushland, let them know your views on these matters and what you expect. We all depend on our natural ecosystems and we all have a responsibility as custodians of nature, the incumbent government included.



UBC visits Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare workers

A few weeks ago UBC visitors were shown around the lengthy area of coast and coastal vegetation within the City of Stirling.

The visit really was an eye-opener. The amount of work done over the last five years is remarkable. We saw that it is not necessary to plant plants too close together as they grow well and spread. Also it is important to have some open areas for reptiles to sun themselves. Plastic surrounds to each plant protect them from rabbits but Rae and her group have found that by keeping the plastic fairly low around the plants, the plants are hardened up and also they keep a low growing form. The wind and blown sand does prune the plants but as the plants establish they are able to survive the attacks and to keep growing.

One of the rewards of the efforts of the group is that regeneration is happening naturally.

It was interesting to see the results of earlier and unsuccessful efforts by man to prevent beach and limestone cliff erosion. One example was the building of a limestone wall within an eroded section of the cliff. This directly faced the ocean so it was ineffective. Worse, the limestone blocks after breaking free pummelled the coastline.

The discharge of wastewater through pipes into the ocean is also causing erosion which eats back into the dunes and vegetation.

We could see the benefits of avoiding lumps of concrete on, in or under the beach. These hard lumps just end up as unsightly and useless debris. A concrete path and steps had been undermined by beach shift and there was over a metre drop in the middle of the path. It is far better to use wood for structures such as walkways, and these to be sited above the dune vegetation.

There is an area of West Coast Drive which is only about 5 metres from the cliff above the beach, so this section of road is already threatened. Coastal management is an urgent matter, costly but nothing compared to the damage caused by delaying action.

After our tour we had tea and coffee sitting next to the well-used public footpath. A football team jogged along the path and after none of the runners took a flier about the SNEC, Rae ran after the last runner. She looked like she would not be able to catch him, but an effort of super human dimensions saw her up at his side and she handed him a flyer. He may turn out to be a new volunteer. Great effort Rae.

Marg Owen

NO PROTECTION FOR GREENWAYS

Bedbrook Place is a small dead end road and the vegetation on one side of Bedbrook Place links Underwood Avenue bushland with Shenton Bushland. This is part of a larger linkage, Greenway No 19 which connects Bold Park to Kings Park.

Greenway No 19 has already been severely encroached upon with the building of the athletics stadium and new basketball facility to the west in Underwood Avenue, opposite Perry Lakes.

Alan Tingay and Associates produced the report "A Strategic Plan for Perth's Greenways" in 1998. It was commissioned by the Ministry for Planning and was funded by the Commonwealth Government. The study identified potential and existing corridors along rivers, drainage lines, land use zonings and transportation links within the Perth Metropolitan Region. The Strategic Plan notes that "The concept of green linkages was first incorporated into the Perth Metropolitan Region Scheme in 1963. The Conservation Through Reserves System 6 Report (1983) discussed the concept of 'green belts', a concept also articulated in Metroplan (1990). The Urban Bushland Strategy (1995) outlined the Government policy on bushland in the Perth Metropolitan Region".

And of course the Greenways are included in Bush Forever where it is stated that "Greenways link bushland remnants and are usually associated with bushland and wildlife corridors, actual or potential".

But having identified the concept forty-six years ago and having identified and mapped the Greenways eleven years ago, the Greenways are still not protected and many have been fragmented or are threatened.

Several years ago, concern was expressed to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) that Greenway No 19 could be threatened. and the response was "We are very well aware of the need to keep that connecting strip between Underwood Avenue Bushland and Shenton Bushland."

The WAPC may have been 'well aware', but nothing was done to protect the linkage and nothing is planned to be done. Last year, a big 'For Sale' sign was erected announcing the sale of two lots on Bedbrook Place owned by the Alzheimers Association. The lots are zoned 'Public purpose, medical', and the Alzheimers Association attempted to have the zoning changed to "Light industrial". However the City of Nedlands councillors unanimously rejected the proposal.

Last month, lots to the north directly adjacent to Underwood Avenue Bushland and over the road from the former Hospice, have been surveyed for a car park for the Cancer Council. This bushland is already a carpark for cockatoos, snakes and other inhabitants.

The UBC has written to the Cancer Council requesting that some trees that include tuart, jarrah and banksia trees and some understorey be retained and requesting a meeting with the architects. We await a reply.

The UBC is seeking discussion with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Planning about a suitable legal instrument which could be used to identify and protect Perth's Greenways. Legal advice from the Environmental Defenders Office is also forthcoming.

UBC Voice on Groundwater Replenishment Trial

The Water Corporation is conducting a three year trial in recycling treated wastewater via groundwater replenishment. UBC President Mary Gray has been appointed to the Community Advisory Panel for the trial and is seeking your views.

The trial is based on California's Groundwater Replenishment System at Orange County where it supplies potable water to parts of Southern California and also prevents seawater intrusion.

To undertake the trial here an advanced water treatment plant is being constructed adjacent to the Beenyup Wastewater Treatment Plant at Craigie. Treated wastewater will undergo a combination of ultra filtration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet disinfection before being injected to a depth of 120 - 200 metres into a confined aquifer. The trial site will be at a low risk area which is remote from public drinking water bores.

Injection of the treated water is planned to start in January 2010 and continue for three years. Research and monitor-

ing results from the trial will be made publicly available.

The Departments of Health, Water, and Environment and Conservation are overseeing the trial; while CSIRO, UWA, Curtin University and other international experts are involved in the research.

Members of the Community Advisory Panel are asked to seek and provide feedback on community questions, concerns and information needs about the trial.

Groundwater recharge has the potential to help maintain groundwater levels on the Gnangara Mound and thus help maintain at least some groundwater dependent ecosystems as well as lessen the rate of acidification of groundwater and soils. But what are the risks or perceived risks?

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the concept of groundwater replenishment is welcome to contact Mary via the UBC office on ubc@iinet.net.au or leave a message on 9420 7207.

Minim Cove Bush Regeneration Project

By Leah Knapp, Town of Mosman Park

Far from its salubrious image of today, Mosman Park has a long history as an industrial suburb. Up until the late 70s the area along the Swan River bounded by Fairbairn Street was the site of the Mosman Park town tip and was subject to the disturbances expected of such a land use in an industrial zone. Before that, it was an important corroboree and fishing camp for Whadjug Aboriginal people and received frequent use up until the early 1900s. A DIA-registered middens site has been recorded within the Minim Cove Park boundary near the river.

Despite the generally poor condition of the site, it has been designated as Bush Forever Site 335 due to the presence of one of the only remaining metropolitan populations of *Boronia alata* or winged boronia. It is also used by the ground-nesting and migratory Rainbow Bee Eater, increasingly rare in suburban areas. Additionally, the Reserve is listed with the National Trust of WA thanks to the extensive presence of fossilised marine shell beds which clearly demonstrate changes in sea level and climatic conditions since the Pleistocene era.

In 2008, responding to pressure from the local community, the Town of Mosman Park commissioned a Management Plan for the precious remnant of bushland adjacent to the old tip site, which is now known as Minim Cove Park.



Recommendations in the Management Plan included fencing off the two-hectare remnant bushland section of the Park which had been badly affected by an arson fire in February 2008. Restricting access by dogs, cyclists and pedestrians was recognised as important to limiting damage to the soil profile. This area has become colloquially known as 'the bush block'. The Town of Mosman Park has facilitated the work of the new Friends of Mosman Park Bushland group and since November 2008 the Friends have put in more than 400 hours in weeding, flora surveys, seed collection and ongoing planning in this area.

The culmination of all this preparation was the community planting weekend and BBQ which was held on the weekend of 23-24 May 2009. The Town of Mosman Park and the Friends were excited to witness the incredible level of support from the community for the work that's being carried out in Minim Cove Park. In addition to the approximately 1500 endemic-species seedlings getting planted in the 'bush block', the BBQ was attended by approximately 400 people who came to hear speakers (including the UBC's Margaret Owen) and entertainment by local school groups as well as getting their hands dirty while planting their 'adopted' tree. The goodwill generated from this weekend event was truly remarkable, and has resulted in a notable increase in participation at the Friends' weekly and monthly busy bees. No longer is bush regeneration such a lonely task in Mosman Park!

The ongoing vision for the area includes continuing to prepare zones outside the fenced area for revegetation. The Town of Mosman Park has applied for Lottery West funding to develop interpretation and education programmes for the Park which explore its exceptional geoheritage values and promote the ecological importance of urban bushland.

For more information on the Friends of Mosman Park Bushland or other regeneration projects about to take off in Mosman Park, please contact the Town's Sustainability Officer, Leah Knapp on 9384 1633 or susto@mosmanpark.wa.gov.au

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION EFFORTS REWARDED

Biodiversity Milestone Awards were presented to eight local governments at WALGA's Local Government Convention on 7 August. The awards recognise local governments undertaking a local biodiversity planning process in partnership with the Perth and South West Biodiversity Projects.

The City of Armadale received an award for scoping and identification of resources to prepare a Local Biodiversity Strategy. The City has released its draft Local Biodiversity Strategy in half time of an anticipated timeframe, demonstrating that with clear directions and close cooperation within an organisation significant strategic plan can be produced.

Seven local governments received a Milestone Award for preparing and endorsing a Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy

for public consultation: City of Armadale, Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Shire of Chittering, Shire of Mundaring and the City of Wanneroo.

The Shire of Mundaring received another Milestone Award for preparing and adopting an Incentives Strategy for Private Land Conservation. The Shire's efforts in biodiversity conservation are commendable as within the past two years it not only adopted a strategy to support private land conservation, released for public comment a draft Local Biodiversity Strategy, it has also completed ecological assessments for 141 of its reserves.

The Shire of Kalamunda was the first local government to receive an award for preparing and endorsing a final Local Biodiversity Strategy including an Action Plan.

The Story of Hepburn Heights Launched

By Ralph Henderson

Friend of Hepburn Heights and Pinnaroo Bushland

A major milestone was reached on Sunday 9th August with the launch of a new book "Saving Hepburn Heights Bushland". The book launch was held at the Connolly Community Hall where around 100 invited guests enjoyed afternoon tea catered for by the Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society. Many of the guests were involved in the original fight to save the bushland and it was as much a reunion as a book launch.

The official launch was made by Mayor Troy Pickard, representing the City of Joondalup, which sponsored the publication of the book, followed by speeches from the co-authors, Alan Lloyd of Friends of Hepburn & Pinnaroo Bushland and Bill Marwick of Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society.

The book contains personal accounts of the birth of the urban bushland movement in Perth and should be essential reading for anyone passionate about preserving natural bushland. I am sure you will not be disappointed.

To read more about the book go to page 9.



Alan Lloyd (right) and Bill Marwick (left) with their new book.

Photo by Miguel Castillo

Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare (SNEC)

For the last five years the group has worked on City of Stirling approved projects between Watermans Bay and North Beach Headland. In the same period we have been involved in and in certain cases, initiated and carried out natural vegetation and weed species surveys along the six and a half kilometres of Stirling's coastal foreshore. We targeted several weed species along the whole coast to contain and prevent further incursion. 4,800 plants went in this year. This 2009 planting is the tip of the iceberg of what our volunteers have achieved since we formed.



Photo by R Kolb

The photograph shows one of our three corporate events from August, 2009. The company involved was Woodside assisted by Conservation Volunteers Australia, SNEC and Perth Region NRM. We are pictured working south of the Fisheries building (Watermans Bay Marine Centre). Woodside volunteers also contributed to the lengthy preparation process prior to the 2010 planting season taking place in this section of the dune linkage.

Over a two day period 111 and a half hours were contributed, Pelargonium, Dune Onion Weed and Tetragona were removed from 4000 square metres, Buffalo Grass, Bridal Creeper, Tetragona and some annual weeds were removed from 400 square metres, we filled 39 large bags of weeds and made 10 large weed heaps.

Our long-term intention is to create green corridors which link natural areas to improve the coastal biodiversity of the region. The ongoing section of linkage will continue under the Federal Government's Caring for Country Coastal Community Funding in 2010.

SNEC is committed to utilizing action plans contained in Stage 1 'Coastal Foreshore Action Plan Trigg Point to Watermans Bay, May 2006' as adopted by the City of Stirling in 2007; as a basis for its on ground works. SNEC is committed to assisting the City of Stirling in applying the priorities and actions contained in this report and thus lifting the level of management along its shoreline. The City's Coastal Report of October 1984 and subsequent Reviews contain a wealth of strategies and recommendations. These have now been revisited and upgraded to suit 21st century conditions and the priorities of Stage 1 of the Action Plan need addressing now and not left in the too hard basket. The Stage 2 Draft Action Plan also commissioned by the City is almost ready for community comment. Dynamic conditions need to be planned for and solutions put in place prior to when the next dramatic and /or expensive impacts occur along our volatile coast.

The general community comment has been that they are delighted with the results of the work.

Rae Kolb

The Bungendore Park Management Committee held their annual community tree planting day on Sunday July 26, to coincide with Planet Ark's National Tree Day.

As with previous years' efforts, the planting focussed on revegetating former gravel pits and dieback affected areas.



People of all ages got involved in rehabilitation efforts at Bungendore Park this year.

Photo by Miriam Lyons-Stanborough

18 volunteers from the Bungendore Park Management Committee, Armadale Wildflower Society and local community planted 500 seedlings in Pit 10, and a further 400 in Pit 6. Armadale Christian College students followed up with a further 100 seedlings being planted in a dieback affected area adjacent to their school later in the week. All seedlings were grown from seed collected within the park.

Many thanks to Bill Ladyman from the Bungendore Park Management Committee for co-ordinating this event in Kim Sarti's absence.

Miriam Lyons-Stanborough

Friends of Lightning Swamp

Students from the South Fremantle High School assisted with planting of seedlings at Lightning Swamp Bushland in Noranda on Friday 24th July.

The Year 10/11 students are doing Social & Environmental studies as part of their curriculum and a group of 28 students accompanied by teachers had made the long journey from Fremantle to assist with our replanting program and to have an opportunity to understand the important work the community undertakes at the reserve. Since 2000 the Friends of Lightning Swamp Bushland is committed to the preservation of this environmentally rich bushland, which like other remnant metropolitan bushlands are under ever increasing pressure from urban development, bushland stress and changing climate. Subsequently, the Friends group support any opportunity to assist schools involved in reducing our carbon foot print and the students had remarkably planted/bagged over 900 seedlings on the day.

The head teacher of Social & Environmental studies has asked if this could be a on-going arrangement for their school to participate in some of our programs and it provides an opportunity for students to gain valuable knowledge outside the classroom together with working with the community in rehabilitation of bushland. As well, the High School have a appointed part time Carbon Neutral Officer and this is a astounding achievement by the school in developing student awareness of their responsibility to the environment.

John Williams

2009 Bush to Beach Walk

will be held on Saturday **5 September** and will start at 9.30 am in Kings Park. This year participants will follow a trail through Kings Park, around Jualbup Lake, through Underwood and Shenton Bushland to Perry Lakes, where they can enjoy a picnic lunch. After lunch they will have an option to follow a longer or a shorter trail through Bold Park, finishing on Oceanic Drive in Floreat at Bus No. 88 bus stop.

This annual event is a "Bush to Beach Trails" initiative supported by several groups, including the Friends of Shenton Bushland, Friends of Underwood Avenue, Friends of Lake Claremont, Friends of Allen Park, Cottesloe Coastcare Association, Friends of Banksia Farm, Friends of Point Resolution and Friends of Hollywood Bushland.

To register contact Dani via email bojel@inet.net.au or text: 0420334601 or call 9381 3470. Leave your contact details - email, so that information about the walk can be sent to you, and a phone number so that you can be contacted if necessary.

Friends of Sandover Reserve

Adjacent to the western edge of Karrinyup Country Club is a mix of beautiful remnant bushland and open parkland. Community member Leisha Jack, with the assistance of the City of Stirling coordinated the planting of approx 200 locally native plants ranging from *Banksia grandis* (Bull Banksia), Jacksonia, Wattles (*Acacia saligna*) and Native Wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptonia*). About 40 people attended the well organized event. Liesha told the group that she intend forming a friends group to help with further rehabilitation projects over the coming months.

Following the planting, a nature walk and lecture was conducted by awarded expert naturalist, Phylis Robertson and accompanied also by Wayne Eddy. The interested group included members of the City of Stirling's Natural Areas and Daniel Rajah, (Senior Environmental/Conservation Officer) and were introduced to a variety of native plants, fungi, birdlife and told of the importance of maintaining suburban bush areas. To contact Leisha, please email: leishaj2@bigpond.com

Reprinted from the Friends of Lake Gwelup Newsletter Winter 2009 with kind permission.

Friends of Wireless Hill

The City of Melville erected new fencing around the Wireless Hill Reserve to better control access. The City is also providing new signage and display shelter as requested by the Friends Group.

In June, The Friends held a successful planting day with help from the Sathya Sai community group. We planted 320 plants provided by the Council. Most are off to a great start after the good rain.

As a follow up to the huge dieback treatment day we held in April with the Roleystone Dieback Working Group, Glen Byleveld from SERCUL has planted 42 die-back resistant jarrah seedlings in the affected area.

The Wireless Hill Museum is 30! Celebration event on will be held on Saturday **October 17**, 1-4 pm. For further information call Kaylene Poon on 9364 0158.

The Friends of Wireless Hill are holding a *Grab a Gladi Day* on Sunday **October 25**. Meet at 8.30 am at the main car park off Telefunken Drive.

Wear long sleeves, pants and a hat. Bring gloves, water and enthusiasm to rid our bushland of this invasive weed. Further information: Margaret Matthews 9315 9075, s3mmatthews@hotmail.com

Quinns Rocks Environmental Group

We have been active in several local bushland reserves over recent months. In May we removed African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) and Potato creeper (*Senecio angulatus*) from Mindarie Park. In June we collected litter and weeds from Gumblossom Park, focusing on the Banksia woodland near the community centre. In July we planted a mix of tube stock grown from local seed at the rehabilitation site in Quinns Beach Bushland, off Quinns Road near MacPharlin Avenue. Finally, members joined in a City of Wanneroo activity to plant Spinifex (*Spinifex longifolius*) on the dunes near Claytons Beach, Mindarie.

Covering over 1,000ha, Neerabup National Park is an important conservation area. It includes a range of habitats, from limestone heathlands to Jarrah, Marri and Tuart woodlands over Banksia and supports a range of wildlife. The park land proposed for addition to it and the important connection to the coast via Tamala Park and Burns Beach bushland was the focus of the QREG meeting on June 18. Issues affecting the area were discussed with Jacqui Maguire of the Department of Environment and Conservation's Swan Coastal District office. A draft management plan for the park is to be released for public comment soon.

You can enjoy a spring walk through part of the park along the newly upgraded Yaberoo Badjara heritage trail on Sunday **September 13**. To register or for more information phone Renata on 9305 9382.

David Wake

Friends of Dianella Bushland

On Sunday 12 July, some members joined Phylis Robertson for a fungi walk in Cottonwood Crescent Bushland. We took the opportunity to look at the far western end of the bushland, near the car park, which is currently not part of the Reserve, but belongs to Channel 7. We saw quite a few different species, including a white coral fungus. I was pleasantly surprised to see only a couple of degraded areas, and some nice bush. Since it was used for many years as a dumping ground for the TV station's lawn clippings, I had expected a weedy wasteland.

One of the reasons for our interest is that the developers of the Channel 7 site, Satterley, have offered to include this section into the Reserve as part of the package. They are also investigating barrier fencing to keep the kangaroos safe, but still free to travel between the Mirvac land (Channel 9) and Channel 7 as they currently do. They are also willing to maintain the reticulated verges for kangaroo grazing. All of the development of the site will be on cleared land currently occupied by the existing buildings and lawned areas. I understand they will be presenting their plans to the City later this year.

Next walks are an Orchid Walk on Sunday **13 September**, a wildflower walk on Sunday **11 October**, both starting at 8.30am, and a Night walk on Saturday **November 14** at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to all of these events. For more information contact Jan on 9344 2872.

Jan Bant

Reprinted from the Friends of Dianella Bushland Newsletter Winter 2009

Friends of Star Swamp - Spring Activities

Saturday 26 September - Wildflower Walk
Start at 8 am, see wildflowers and nesting birds.
Call Christine on 9447 2983

Sunday 27 September - Annual Lupin Pull
Between 9 am and 12 noon, a follow-up to clear lupins from the Star Swamp Reserve. Bring gloves and water.
For more information call Christine on 9447 2983

Friday 23 October - Star Swamp Nocturnal Walk
Start at 7.30 pm, see nocturnal creatures at the Reserve.
Call David on 9448 9192.

Saturday 24 October - Guided Nature Walk
Start at 8 am. For more information call Christine on 9447 2983

Saturday 28 November - Guided Nature Walk
Start at 8 am, see wildflowers, birds and beasties.
For more information call Christine on 9447 2983 or email to starswamp@hotmail.com

For all activities at Star Swamp Bushland meet at the Henderson Environment Centre, Groat Street, North Beach.

For more guided nature walks go to pages 10-11.

Callipappus or Bird of Paradise Flies

These insects are captivating. The females, flattened, poorly sighted and with a covering of powder (if it has not been washed off by the rain), emerge around June. They attract the males who are fly-like. The males have a silvery waxy tail tuft at the rear end (pictured below). This tail catches the sun-light and catches your eye as the males fly about.



Photo by M Owen

After mating the female walks around seeking to find a split in the bark of a tree into which she can secrete herself. As her eyesight is not good she might walk right by a good place, so she does a lot of climbing up and down tree trunks. Having found a place she is able to draw her last segments into her body to form a marsupium or pouch into which the eggs go. The females then dry out and become leathery and die and the tiny ones fall to the ground and dig underground to feed on tree roots.

They emerge the next year as adult males or females.

Anonychomyrma itinerans perthensis

These ants, I am told, are very common in Perth bushlands, but they do not normally persist in disturbed areas.

At times conditions will be right for dispersal and mating to start new colonies. Dr Heterick of Curtin University surmised that good conditions are when there are suitable air currents, (particularly for ants that will fly well above the ground), warmth (for energetic activity in the ant's muscular system) and humidity (presaging rain and consequent plant growth).

This was the case last Saturday in Underwood Avenue Bushland. Thousands of ants were engaged in a massed nuptial event designed to lead to mating and to interbreeding. The large winged ants are the unmated queens, many of whom were trying to climb fragile grass leaves to gain a height advantage to take flight. As the grass bent over with the weight of the queen ants, it was difficult to gain height.



Photo by M Owen

The very small ants in huge numbers were the workers who frantically groom the queens, encouraging them to fly off. The smaller winged ants were the males who also fly off to try to mate with a queen.

These nuptial flights are often synchronised so that predators cannot eat all the ants. So all over the bushland, ants were on the move.

Turtle Frog Like a Swollen Sultana

Remembering that the last times I had found baby turtle frogs in Underwood Avenue Bushland were on winter-wet days, I returned to the same place near the top of the ridge. I turned over a few banksia cones and then a fallen branch and there, amazingly, was one tiny turtle frog, no bigger than a swollen sultana.

I read that male turtle frogs are only heard and seen during a few nights in summer on nights of warm rain when they call. When they find a mate the pair retire to a burrow up to 1.2 metres deep and breeding takes place several months later. The eggs are quite large, as much as 7.5 mms in diameter as the young develop in the egg and emerge fully formed as frogs, not tadpoles.

Turtle frogs eat only termites and they are found only on the Swan Coastal Plain. As we can all imagine, vegetation clearing and invasive weeds threaten turtle frogs in the urban areas.



Photo by M Owen

Show and Tell at Kindy

As a bush-loving grandma, I put my name down to execute a 'show and tell' at my grand-daughter's Kindy. I didn't expect there to be twenty small children as audience.

I started with the proclamation; 'I love the bush'. I was dressed in bush gear and hung about with binoculars and camera. I think I'm a drama queen.

Lowering my voice, I told of the tiny things in the bush and showed them all a tiny creature which hollows out a stick in which to live. (I have since replaced it in the bush). This created great interest.

I followed with a big picture of a pair of cockatoos and talked about how cockatoos can use their beak and tongue like we use our hands. I had collected jarrah and marri nuts which had beak marks in them from where the cockatoos had extracted seed. I also had tuart nuts, (because they look like ice creams), various species of banksia flowers and



Photo by M Owen

cones with seeds extracted, flowering spikes bitten apart, and pine-cones.

I had made an illustrated label and glued the label onto a brown paper bag for each child. The label had an illustration of jarrah nuts, tuart nuts and marri nuts and each child received some of each nut with the marks of the beaks of cockatoos on them (except for the tuart nuts). My idea was that they could show their parents.

All the children were very interested and also very pleased with their bag of nuts. Several thought the pine nuts I had brought were not fat enough and they had seen much fatter ones. I agreed that the pine cones I had brought were indeed not very fat and that I had searched and searched for fat ones to bring but that I couldn't find any fat ones.

Afterwards, one little girl said "Do you know you've got grey hair."

I had another wonderful conversation with a lovely little boy whose name was Steven. (not his real name). I had to put his name on the back of his work and as there were three Stevens in the kindy the conversation went as follows;

Me: What is your second name?

Steven: (after a pause) I don't know.

(Another child suggested Steven M)

Me: Shall I put Steven M?

Steven: (another pause) You can put Steven M but that's not right. (pause) My mummy hasn't told me my name.

My visit to kindy was really fun and I'm sure I'll go again before too long.



Photo by M Owen

***Pheladenia deformis*;**

Blue fairy orchid in Underwood Avenue Bushland

Apart from the greenhood orchids, this beautiful orchid is one of the first to flower in Underwood Avenue Bushland. I was only able to find this one plant so far. The orchid was in the genus *Caladenia*, then it was placed with the blue orchids and its genus became *Cyanicula*. Due to new research including DNA analysis, the orchid is now placed in a genus of its own; so it is *Pheladenia deformis*.

It has a slight perfume and no doubt the stunning colour attracts the insect which pollinates it. I read that in other countries the blue orchid is a rare or mythical flower. Here, we have a variety of blue orchids including the sun orchids.



All stories and photos on pages 8-9 by M Owen

BUSHLAND AREAS UNDER THREAT

The following list includes some urban bushland areas under threat. Many are Bush Forever sites. Please let us know if areas under your care are at risk of rezoning or development. We hope deletions from the list occur because bushland is saved not obliterated.

Paganoni Swamp bushland
North Lake and Bibra Lake in Beeliar Regional Park
Underwood Avenue bushland
Jandakot Airport bushland
Perth Airport Bushland
Tomah Road Forrestfield
Jindalee
Channel 9 Bushland Dianella
Kiara TAFE site
Alkimos-Eglinton
Bushland next to Ocean Reef Marina
Bushland near Emu Point Albany

Check out the NEW SWAN RIVER TRUST WEBSITE

www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au

The Swan River Trust has recently launched its new website that aims to provide the foundation for new approach to online communication.

The new site provides more information for visitors of the Swan Canning Riverpark including:

- Detailed information on river science
- Interactive maps showing the 'Development Control Areas'
- Information on recreational activities and events
- Details on how to get involved through River Guardians
- Regular updates of changing river conditions.

The new design, navigation and writing style allows easy access for a wider range of audiences.

BUSH FOREVER SITE ACQUISITIONS

2007-2008

Lot 1613 Barrett Road, Southern River (6.1 ha)
Lot 114 Mandurah Road, Baldivis (0.6 ha)

2008-2009

Lot 755 Jarvis Road, Baldivis (6.8 ha)
Scholfield Road, Wattle Grove - closed road (0.4 ha)
Lot 597 Jarvis Road, Baldivis (5.7 ha)
Lot 1607 Lakey Street, Southern River (6.2 ha)
Lot 820 Fraser Road, Banjup (20.1 ha)
Lot 431 Oxley Road, Banjup (4.3 ha)

Annual Boneseed Blitz



Boneseed is a Weed of National Significance, a serious threat to Western Australia's biodiversity. Community groups and land managers are invited to join together to seek out and eradicate boneseed during the **annual WA Boneseed Blitz September 21-30**.

The goal of 'Boneseed Blitz' is to find and eradicate any new infestations in Western Australia. You can help by reporting any suspected boneseed plants in your local area (including your backyard!). Everyone is advised to lookout for the bright yellow 'daisy' flowers of boneseed that appear on plants between August and October.

Please report to DAFWA Pest Info line 1800-084-881.

Photos and descriptions of boneseed are available at

www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bitoubush

For more information contact Hillary Cherry, National Boneseed & Bitou Bush Coordinator at

hillary.cherry@environment.nsw.gov.au

Ph 042 710 4448 or 02 9585 6587

2009 City of Armadale SPRING BUSHWALKS

Free walks through some of the City's natural areas. Participants need to register between 8.30 am and 11 am for each of the walks, bring their own water and hat.

Sunday 6 September

Bungendore Park Walk

You can choose to walk either 2.5 km or 3 km. Register at Armadale Christian College car park, Admiral Rd, Bedforddale

Sunday 20 September

Churchman Bushland Walk

To walk this 5 km trail, register at Beeloo Close, off Churchman Brook Road, Roleystone

Sunday 11 October

Settlers Common Walk

Choice of two walks, 3 km and 6 km (both one way). Register at the Field Study Centre, Bedforddale; parking at Armadale Primary School, corner of Carradine Rd and Albany Hwy

Sunday 18 October

Walk the Wungong

For this 5 km, one way walk register at Wungong's Dam lower car park, Admiral Rd, Bedforddale

For more information contact the City of Armadale on 9399 0111

Book Review *by Marg Owen*

Saving Hepburn Heights Bushland “The Saga of the Hepburn Heights Bushland Reserve Campaign”

By Alan R Lloyd and Bill Marwick

Few books have me reading from cover to cover in one sitting. And very few make my hair stand on end. Some make me cry and this book was one of them.

The book has just been published by the Friends of Hepburn Heights and Pinnaroo Bushland with support from the City of Joondalup, and it is dedicated to the memory of two young women, both of whom died recently, while still young. These two women, Teresa Castillo and Vivienne Elanta, risked their lives in confronting the bulldozers. Others too fought the bulldozers and the book is also dedicated to them and to everyone who helped in the campaign.

The personal stories written by those involved at the time create such a vivid impression that the reader can hear the noises and can feel the emotions and passion. We are told that the bulldozers and drivers were brought in from the goldfields, or at any rate from outside of Perth, by an Eastern States company.

Vivienne Elanta's story is brilliantly written and absolutely gripping. No-one could read it without being moved.

As well as on the ground, the fight was fought in the courts and went all the way to the Supreme Court.

At the time of the fight to save Hepburn Heights Bushland, events were recorded in the West Australian, the Daily News and in the Wanneroo Times and were covered Australia wide. Some of these stories are reproduced in the book and they have provided a valuable record. Stories were also constructed from Hansard Records.

There is a very handy and interesting timeline at the back of the book which begins in 1972. The second entry in the timeline is for 1987 when the Labor State Planning Minis-

ter Bob Pearce announced plans to develop Hepburn Heights Bushland for housing. A few more items from the timeline;

July 22, 1988 EPA says there is no environmental reason to prevent development. [In another part of the book, Mr Barry Carbon, Chairman of the EPA, is quoted as having said that his organisation had absolutely no objection to the development. Interestingly, it was under Barry Carbon as Acting Chairman of the EPA in 2008, that the EPA recommended that the housing development in Underwood Avenue bushland, be approved.]

August 29, 1989, City Planner Oscar Drescher informs Wanneroo Council that the State Government has no obligation to reveal EPA report on Hepburn Heights Bushland.

April 16, 1991 Bulldozers begin clearing Hepburn Heights Bushland. Protesters confront bulldozers, risking serious injury and their lives.

April 20, 1991 protesters have kept a vigil at the Hepburn Heights site for the past two weeks to stop bulldozers clearing bushland

September 7 1992, without warning bulldozers move in to clear Hepburn Heights Bushland. When alerted to the clearing protestors confront bulldozers at great personal risk.

The Urban Bushland Council was established in the aftermath of the Hepburn Heights Bushland fight to represent and support all bushland groups so that a collective voice could be heard preventing this sort of struggle from happening again.

This is just a wonderful book. It has many photographs which add to the interest. You can get a copy from The Treasurer, Friends of Hepburn Heights, 31 Drummer Way, Heathridge, 6027, for \$36.

◇ What's new? ◇ What's new? ◇ What's new? ◇ What's new? ◇

Friends of Lake Gwelup NATURE WALKS



**Saturday 19 September 8 am
Guided Nature Walk**

Friday 16 October 7.30 pm 
Guided Night Walk



**Saturday 17 October 8 am
Guided Nature Walk**



**Saturday 21 November
Guided Nature Walk**

For all walks meet at the tennis courts car park Huntriss Road Gwelup. For more information call Wayne 0407 383 425 or Christine 0430 013 364. Email folgmail@iinet.net.au

Full calendar of events is available on

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~folg/>

RIAWA 2009 Seminar

‘Challenges and Solutions in Revegetation’ . November 9th and 10th at Technology Park, Bentley

This is a leading industry seminar for anyone involved in the revegetation in Western Australia

More detailed program to follow. Contact Monica Durcan, Landcare Promotions for more information:

Ph/Fx: 08 9291 8249 Mobile: 0418 934 870

Email: mdurcan@iinet.net.au

A Strategic Assessment of the vulnerability of Australia's Biodiversity to Climate Change

A summary report released by Environment Minister Peter Garrett and Minister for Climate Change and Water Penny Wong this month provides more compelling evidence of the need to protect Australia's natural environment.

To read the report go to www.climatechange.gov.au

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 \$30 a year (GST included). A growing membership strengthens the cause and groups benefit from the network.

Individuals:

Supporter membership is only \$20 per year (GST included). Supporters can attend meetings and receive copies of the "Urban Bush Telegraph"

Send your name, address and cheque or postal order to:

Treasurer, Urban Bushland Council WA Inc, PO Box 326, West Perth WA 6872

URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL WA EVENTS 2009

BUNGENDORE BUSH BREAKFAST

Sunday 8 November 7.30 - 8.30 am

Bungendore Park, Admiral Road, Bedforddale - entry through Armadale Christian College car park (UBD Map 413)

Be an early bird and listen to the bird chorus in a wonderful bushland setting whilst enjoying a mouth-watering fully cooked breakfast.

Following the breakfast will be the release of the '*Birds of Bungendore Park*' report.

UBC PUBLICATIONS

Wetlands to Wastelands? - proceedings of a seminar about the future of bushland at Perth Airport (2004)

Available at UBC's website

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~ubc/html/infosheets.htm>

Burning Issues—proceedings of a workshop about fire management in urban bushland. (2002)

Out of print.

Building Partnerships between Community Groups and Local Government for Our Bushland—proceedings of a seminar (2000). Available from the UBC for \$5.50, postage included

Managing our Bushland - proceedings of a conference about the protection and management of urban bushland (1998).

Out of print; available in libraries.

Burning our Bushland - proceedings of a conference about fire and urban bushland (1995). Out of print.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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