

## Save Beeliar Wetlands Rally

*By Azriel Re'Shel*

The Save Beeliar Wetlands Campaign (SBWC) to Stop Roe 8 highway from desecrating the areas of Bibra Lake and North Lake, moved into full gear with a spectacular rally attended by nearly 1500 people from all over Perth. SBWC together with the Cockburn Aboriginal Reference Group, Conservation Council and North Lake Residents Association pulled out all the stops for a powerful rally with excellent speakers and entertainment. The rally was preceded by a smoking ceremony and ceremonial walk led by local Aboriginal elders through the beautiful bushland alongside Bibra Lake on Progress Drive. The Conservation Council's Water Officer, Steven McKiernan was a sharp and entertaining MC for a volley of powerful speakers including Shadow Environment Minister Dr Sally Talbot

money" would be spent on the project and that they were working to get the project deleted. The event attracted much media coverage and was aired on most television news channels that night. The 'No Roe 8' campaign was also featured on Stateline preceding the rally.

This year the group will also have a spectacular flock of rare Black Cockatoo puppets flying in the Fremantle Festival Parade. So hopefully with all these exciting events we have raised the profile of the important issue of stopping the Coalition government from building this destructive and most expensive road ever in WA's history. We have amped up our campaign to meet the government's determined push to get the road built, with recent submissions



*Photo by M Owen*

MLC, Greens South Metro Representative, Lynn Maclaren MLC, Federal MP for Fremantle Melissa Parke and Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett. Aboriginal elders did a beautiful acknowledgement of country and spoke passionately about the need to preserve the area and stand together so our voices are heard. SBWC and the Conservation Council spoke about the environmental issues and highlighted the value of the lakes both environmentally, socially, culturally and to the local community. The crowd punctuated the speeches with impassioned cries of "No Roe 8." Melissa Parke assured the rallygoers that "not a cent of federal



*Photo by M Owen*

to the federal government and the recent \$20 million community consultation and AAECOM road planning group for Roe 8. (The "community consultation" is consulting the local community only on where the road should be, ie, on stilts or the ground, but there is no consultation or option for the sizeable amount of people against having the road built at all). Save Beeliar Wetlands Coalition is also now on Facebook, so join up for updates, blog and our discussion group.

[www.savebeeliarwetlands.com](http://www.savebeeliarwetlands.com)

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# Editorial

The Disallowance Motion against the rezoning and loss of a Bush Forever site at Jindee, moved in the Legislative Assembly by Hon Giz Watson, failed to gain approval on 19 November.

While the Hansard record of the debate makes interesting reading as it quotes detailed site information from community submissions and the much respected UBC, it highlights the risks of a fragmented approach to planning and environmental assessment.

The MRS Amendment only affects a small area in the large Jindee proposal for housing on one of the last intact coastal bushland sites in the metropolitan region. Now that the rezoning is approved by parliament, the widely held presumption is that the rest of the development will be approved. Yet the impacts on the whole area have not been assessed by the EPA and the EPA did not take the initiative to call the proposal in so that it could consider the whole development in a more strategic sense well before any consideration of rezoning to delete or 'move' Bush Forever sites.

The Estates Development Company has presented concept plans for a different style of a sustainable housing development which has captured the support of both Labor and Liberal MPs as well as government planners and environmental officers. Some two years ago conservation groups were consulted but were not favourably impressed. In a truly sustainable proposal, the UBC asserted nature would not be destroyed and there would be no clearing and loss of biodiversity. We suggested that their attractive plans for suburban living could be shifted to land already cleared or to a mid suburban site requiring redevelopment.

The Jindee proposal will be yet another example of urban sprawl, albeit appearing at first more attractive than the usual flattened scorched earth and black roofed mcman-sions on tiny blocks. Notably both Hon Ken Travers and Hon Michael Mischin during the disallowance debate lamented the problem of continuing urban sprawl. But they failed to reject the rezoning. More disturbingly they made glowing remarks about the Jindee development proposal - for more urban sprawl with larger prettier blocks. The UBC view is that bushland will not survive in back yards after messy builders followed by fenced yards with lawns kids cats and dogs. The wildlife will disappear too. So after all the community efforts, yet again the solid information and the voice for the bush have been cast aside.

Arson in bushland on Crown Land is now an offence with severe penalties under recent amendments to the Bush Fires Act. A convicted arsonist could now be imprisoned for life. While this is potentially a very heavy hand of the law, we are yet to see how the courts handle these offences and whether or not such penalties act as a deterrent. The UBC believes that prevention of arson by appropriate education of children and youth together with effective social measures are critically important. Effective pro-

grams such as FESA's JAFFA program (Juvenile and family fire awareness) deserve greatly increased resources and the expertise of psychologists, not spending cuts. Every fire prevented is a cost saving to society.

FESA advises there were 13,000 fires in WA in the year 2000, and this was reduced to 6500 last year after intensive prevention programs in areas of high incidence. However, each arson event in bushland is one too many.

As summer is now here, community groups are reminded to be vigilant and to report suspicious behaviour in bushland to crimestoppers. Full descriptions of suspects and vehicles provide vital information to investigators in the arson squad. A reminder also for groups to make themselves known to staff at the local fire station and to show them your special areas which need to be protected from fire.

On the bright side of activities in bushland, it is very pleasing that the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi project is a finalist in the WA Science Awards. Congratulations to Neale Bougher, Roz Hart, all the fungi leaders and all the volunteers who take part in this wonderful project. The project is an initiative of the UBC and the WA Naturalists' Club in partnership with DEC's WA Herbarium. By the time you read this newsletter the winners will have been announced. Good luck PUBF!



*Grevillea wilsoni at Bungendore National Park. Photo by M Owen.*

**2010**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY**

# CITY BUSH GUIDES 2009

By Lesley Shaw

The Urban Bushland Council received a grant for a City Bush Guides course, funded by the **State Government's 2009 Environmental Community Grants program, in the 'Nature Appreciation in Natural Areas' category.** Building on the program undertaken in 2007, the **City Bush Guides (CBG's)** program is training up to 40 volunteer bushland guides in two sets of training programs. 18 people were trained at the Whiteman Park CBG's course in spring 2009 to be confident to lead nature walks in Whiteman Park, or in their 'local patch'. Receiving a reference kit of information and contacts, trainees will be able to use these to help foster community interest in their local bushland through guiding.

While there are experienced guides who may have lead numerous walks in a number of reserves across the region, there are many Friends Groups that do not have confident guides. Also, there are many bushland reserves where no one has ever organised a guided walk for local residents. There is a need for more experienced guides who not only know the ecological values of a nature reserve, but also can communicate this information in a clear, easily understood manner, and are confident when faced with a large group of people coming from different backgrounds.

The 7 week spring program included excellent presentations by Dr Ric How, on "Reptiles of Perth: Bushland Areas Are Essential", Steve Appleyard on "What Lies Be-

neath/Hydrology", Robert Powell on "Vegetation on the Swan Coastal Plain"; "How to Know Your Frogs" by Frog Doctor, Johnny Profumo, and a series of essential social skills presentations, workshops and walks with Kirsten Tullis, Phylis Robertson, Margo O'Byrne, Kim Fletcher, Jan Bant and other valued presenters.

Were they motivated, and how did trainees feel about it? *"I have amazed myself at my heightened awareness and have infected others!"*

*"Yes it went beyond my expectations in the broad subject content and quality of every speaker."*

*"Yes.... I felt motivated (sic)... because speakers were 'on the ground' people, highly motivated and active in conservation".*

*"Yes I am more aware of where to start. I will investigate bushland areas near my home and also will volunteer at Whiteman Park."*

Whiteman Park has now enlisted a number of volunteers to start guiding to showcase the diversity that this vast area on the Swan Coastal Plain has to offer.

A second program will run through the autumn, and is likely to be held in a location south of the Swan River. Those interested should register their interest with the UBC, as spaces will be limited to 30 people.



Photo by M Owen

**Front row left:** Nellie Gay, Sabine Winton, Tanya Porter, Clair Brain Lesley Shaw (Project Coordinator), Irène Tallentire.

**Middle row left:** Paul Brain, Hirono Kami, Esmeralda Hope, Diana Nason, Linda Monkhouse, Elaine Sargent, Edith Blattmann, Ms Alison Xamon, (Greens MLC for Eastern Metro Region), Mary Gray (UBC President), and Tracey Esam (Whiteman Park Business & Marketing Team Leader).

**Back row left:** Jakub Pyrchla, Patricia Anderson, Rob Greenwood, Ruth Ledger.

# UNDERWOOD AVENUE BUSHLAND

By Margaret Owen

On Underwood Avenue Bushland the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has stated the following:

The EPA considers that “the whole of Underwood Avenue Bushland area is regionally significant”.

“The EPA recognises the principle of island biogeography as described by Jarrad Diamond” (an example being; “the larger the area of a reserve, the greater biodiversity at equilibrium and the slower the rate of species loss”).

“The EPA...recognises that those who hold the last remains of bushland have an important part to play in Perth’s uniqueness of bush settings and retaining habitats for our plants and animals”.

And in Bush Forever it is stated that “size is of key importance in determining the viability of natural areas for conservation purposes”.

Despite these statements the EPA has only considered the various proposals put to it and has not considered the values of the bushland in its entirety and its position in the landscape. So as stated by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), the EPA has been considering the ‘least worst’ proposal. The EPA’s stated objectives for Underwood Avenue Bushland were the protection of biodiversity and the issue of odour. Under the acting chairmanship of Barry Carbon, the EPA stated that ‘it is unlikely that the EPA’s objectives would be compromised’ provided conditions are met.

This is the sequence of the most recent events;

- EPA Bulletin 1272 published October 2007, recommending approval of the University of Western Australia (UWA) housing proposal with conditions.
- 36 appeals went to the Appeals Convenor, followed by meetings
- The Appeals Convenor reported to the Minister for the Environment in April 2008, and recommended that a reasonable outcome had been achieved. David Templeman was Minister at that time but he did not make a decision.
- The current Minister for the Environment, Donna Faragher, released her report on 16th October, 2009, with decisions made on the twelve appeal grounds as selected by the Appeals Convenor. The Minister did not make a decision on the actual proposal, but only on the appeal grounds.

The Minister dismissed ten of the twelve appeal grounds and allowed the appeal ground relating to fire management, advising the University that “the proposed Rehabilitation and Management plan is required to address fire management”.

That left the issue of cockatoos. As the federal department officers had recommended that the UWA proposal could not proceed due to the cockatoos and their habitat, the Minister could hardly dismiss this appeal ground. However she noted that “there are other areas within Lot 4 that are



*Small Western bearded dragon soaking up the sun on a fallen banksia tree trunk in Underwood Avenue Bushland.*

*Photo by M Owen*

not as environmentally constrained for development and local offsite mitigation measures (offsets) may need to be considered.”

She said that she “will be seeking additional technical advice from the DEC on the measures (if any) that may be implemented to mitigate adverse impacts on Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo” and she will “invite the proponent to make a further submission to me as to why the proposal should be permitted to proceed.....”

So after ten years of proposals, petitions, appeals, submissions and letters, the item which remains as the only impediment to approval by the state is the issue of the cockatoos.

It is our feeling that all the knowledge and advice given to the EPA and to the University has been ignored and it seems that EPA words are manipulated to produce an outcome for development which sound credible. In this they have failed.

If the UWA development is approved, the biodiversity will consist of different species of cat and dog, with avifauna consisting of Rainbow Lorikeets, Wattle Birds and Ravens.

Over a ten year period, so many people and groups with expertise have contributed their time and expert advice to support the retention of Underwood Avenue Bushland in its entirety. It would be a tragedy if two thirds of the bushland is cleared and again we call on the state government to intervene to save the bushland. Would it not be possible to offer some cleared land to the University?

Currently there is no proposal before the Federal Government because the University withdrew the proposal the day after the draft proposal from the Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts was published. This decision recommended that the proposal not be approved.

Next year, 2010, is the Year of Biodiversity. Will Underwood Avenue be bulldozed to mark the year or will the area be retained for perpetuity?

## CONGRATULATIONS TO the STIRLING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COASTCARE For becoming this year winner of the Australian Government Coastcare Award

This Award recognises a community group for major contributions to improvement of local coastal and/or marine environments, including estuaries, coastal and marine wetlands and salt marsh ecosystems.

Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare's (SNEC) long term commitment to excellence in rehabilitating a section of our coastline has been honoured. For the past few years a dedicated group of volunteers worked in the North Beach/Watermans area, establishing effective partnerships and support from various sources. Their approach to rehabilitation is systematic, starting with site surveys, compilations of flora and fauna lists, weed mapping, development of a management strategy and a comprehensive rehabilitation plan.

Their commitment to site maintenance during and post planting has paid off with high survival rates of new plant material.

Successful application through the new Australian Government program, *Caring for Our Country*, will allow SNEC to further rehabilitate section of the coast at North Beach. Community education has been built into the next phase of the project in the form of a new 'Grow Local Plants' brochure.

*(Adapted from the State & Territory 2009 Landcare Awards brochure)*

**Bungendore Park Management Committee** was thrilled with the response to its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Bungendore Bush Breakfast in the park on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Approximately 100 people attended the scrumptious cooked breakfast provided by committee and the Armadale Lions Club.

The event was followed by the official release of the "*Birds of Bungendore Park*" by WA Chief Scientist, Professor Lyn Beazley. The book compiled by local ornithologists Ron Johnstone and Tony Kirkby details the diversity of 98 species of birds reliably recorded in the park. It also summarises the changes in status of many species following environmental changes, both natural and man-made, the impact of the devastating wildfire in 1994 and invasion of some exotic species into the park. The book includes some exquisite artwork by Rob Fleming which was commissioned for the book. A lively auction then followed of the original watercolour artwork used on the book covers to help recoup printing costs. A Kelmscott resident was the highest bidder for the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo pair and the City of Armadale successfully bid for the Western Spinebill illustration for its civic art collection; this acquisition being most fitting as the Western Spinebill is the City's bird emblem.

At \$20.00 per book, "*Birds of Bungendore Park*" can be purchased from Armadale Tourist Centre, Jull Street or from

SERCUL, Horley Street, Beckenham. Alternatively, the book can be purchased from Bungendore Park Management Committee, PO Box 538, Armadale WA 6992 for \$22.00 (including P&H).

*Kim Sarti*



WA Chief Scientist, Professor Lyn Beazley at the release of "*Birds of Bungendore Park*" book.

*Photo by M. Owen*

**Friends of Hollywood Reserve** have completed their 2009 activities with a last working bee day for the year, held on 8 November. Weeding and site preparation for next years rehabilitation efforts was the priority.

However, the group is still seeking volunteers for watering of establishing plants during summer.

2009, was a good year for fungi and Donkey orchids, but also weeds in the Reserve. However, the City of Nedlands provided assistance during the year, especially along the verges. Further assistance came from the Hollywood Primary School that assisted with planting in winter.

### **Friends of Porteous Park**

Porteous Park is a small remnant of bushland in Sorrento of vegetation type "Cottesloe Complex - Central and South" with at least one hundred species of native flora. The bushland surrounds a "dry park" which has Grass Trees and Banksias in it. Described in 2002 by the Manager Parks and Gardens (at the time) as a "clapped out bit of bush", the nearby residents thought otherwise and formed a Friends Group to restore it as a valuable remnant of the bushland type that once existed in the area. The park is frequently visited by Carnaby's Black Cockatoos and the endangered "Graceful Sunmoth" has been found there. See [www.porteouspark.org.au](http://www.porteouspark.org.au) for more details.

This winter another species of orchid was found in the park, photographed and added to the list. It was the "Banded Greenhood" (*Pterostylis vittata*). This year during November, there was a particularly good display of the Trigger Plant (*Stylidium maritimum*).

As done in previous years, weeding of the bushland and some planting of degraded edges (and fenced in turf) has

been performed over six scheduled Friends Group events. Weeding started much earlier this year (in June), to get out as much as possible before seed set, and extended until mid November. The Friends Groups within the City of Joondalup are only allowed to use manual methods, so a number of specially designed tools are being trialed to make the manual weeding as efficient as possible.

The City of Joondalup has also sprayed around the fence boundaries, grass invasion on the SE bank, supplied some local provenance seedlings, and mown the weedy "turf" more frequently to prevent seed set.

But because the Friends Group has decided on "zero tolerance" of the most aggressive weed species (in an attempt to exhaust the weed seed bank) there is a significant gap between what the Friends Group and the City can reasonably do and what actually needs to be done!

To bridge this gap, firstly in August a "Corporate Day" was organised with BP Australia and CVA, facilitated by Perth Region NRM. About 29 employees attended and 159 man hours of valuable weeding work was done. Then in September the Sukyo Mahikari Community group had a Service Activity day and there members attended and worked under my supervision. They finished off by blessing the park which was a more unusual end to a work event at the park!

But the biggest step in bridging the gap was successfully applying for a grant to employ bush regenerators (to work



BP Corporate Day at Porteous Park - a well earned lunch break.  
Photo by M. Norman

directly under Friends Group supervision). The grant received to fund weeding work was the "2009 Environment Community Grants" (administered by DEC). Using this grant, an "Ecojobs" team was employed for 4 full days, 16 species of weed were manually pulled (including "Cape Tulip" levered out with trial tools) and 9 species of weed were totally removed from the whole reserve prior to seed shed. This is a highly effective arrangement, because the Friends Group knows exactly what needs to be done in what parts of the bushland and can work directly with the contractors.

So it will be interesting to see how quickly weed densities can be reduced across the whole reserve by this "zero tolerance" approach. The aim of the Friends Group is to get the weed densities down to the point the reserve can be manually weeded out with no more than 4 weeding events per year, so other visits can be used for more enjoyable and easier activities! Also, we would like to see herbicide spraying only applied to the bushland/ turf boundary, as we believe the City staff should not have to apply chemicals permanently into the bushland itself.

Mike Norman

## Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group

This winter and spring season, volunteers from our group, community and Aquinas College have continued our "war on weeds", with Rose geranium (*Pelargonium capitatum*), Climbing Fumitory (*Fumaria capreolata*), Geraldton Carnation weed, Pink Gladioli and Asteraceae species, and woody Geraldton wax (*Chamelaucium uncinatum*) on the agenda. Control of perennial Veldgrass and other grass weeds is an ongoing annual project, thanks to funding through Swan Alcoa Landcare Program for the contractor.

Our work to eradicate Yellow Soldiers (*Lachenalia reflexa*) continued with further herbicide treatment by both the contractor and a member of the conservation group, together with hand weeding by 30 volunteers at a Bush Care Day in September. Prior to control, Yellow Soldiers covered approximately one hectare of the bushland under the dryandra grove and beyond. In 2007 and 2008, funding through DEC's Biodiversity Conservation Initiative enabled employment of our contractor to spray this weed. Monitoring the efficacy of weed control against perennial veldgrass and yellow soldiers in seven transects showed a 95% reduction in the weeds and return of native plants, including native grasses.

In June, 29 volunteers planted 50 dieback resistant jarrah seedlings, supplied by Alcoa Research Nursery, around the border of a cleared area and the bushland.



Volunteers at the Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Groups Bushcare Day in September 2009, prior to tucking into afternoon tea.

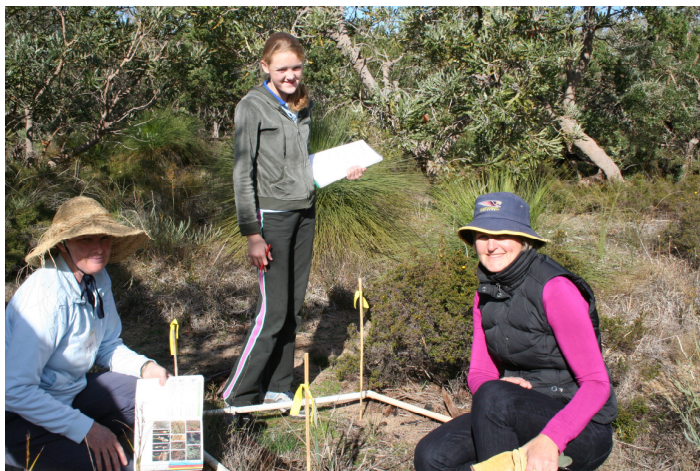
Photo by J. King

# Group News Group News Group News

In November Joe Tonga, Natsync Environmental, was our guest to demonstrate how to use GPS location devices and how to apply that to the location of ten Micro-bat roosting boxes constructed by the Year 10 Woodwork Extension class at Aquinas College. Joe is a nest box constructor and local bat, bird and feral bee expert. He has already removed the hives from the Peninsula in preparation for installation of the boxes. This project is funded by the 2009 Environmental Community Grant for Nature Appreciation in Natural Areas.

For more information contact Jan King 9255 3025 or email Jan.King@aquinas.wa.edu.au

*Jan King*



Angela Carr, Alexandra and Kendra Morgan monitoring a quadrat on a transect set up in 2007 for *Lachenalia* reduction assessment at Mt Henry Peninsula bushland. *Photo by J. King*

## Friends of Lightning Swamp

I would like to share with the readers an unusual experience that I had witnessed on Sunday 1st November at Lightning Swamp. It followed when a dugite lying in the morning sunshine at the edge of one of the many pathways of the bushland reserve was attacked by a dog and killed. Unfortunately, the dog was bitten during the encounter and luckily the shocked owners managed to rush their collapsed dog to the local vet for treatment. By chance, I had spoken to the owners the next day and they had completely been unaware of the still snake, as they had mistaken it as a stick.

The badly injured dugite had managed to retreat off the path and was shortly joined by a much larger brown snake. The larger snake had positioned itself over the now de-



*Photo by J Williams*

ceased snake and remained constantly guarding over it. Even when it was disturbed during its constant vigil, it would move away and return to position itself again over the dead snake.

This went on for a number of hours and one can only guess if they were a mating pair? While watching this unfold, it did make you ponder that they too form an important natural bond and even though, there is understandably a public fear of poisonous snakes, to please respect their space and be vigilant of snakes when you are walking animals in and around the natural reserves.

*John Williams*

## Friends of Landsdale Bushland

Welcomed new interpretive signs in the Reserve, installed by City of Wanneroo. The new colourful signs provide information about the values of the Landsdale Bushland Reserve and threats to these values.



*Photo by M Owen*

Similar signs were installed in other bushland reserves managed by the City. Over the past few months they were being installed in high priority conservation areas such as Koondoola Regional Bushland in Koondoola or Kinsale Park and Foreshore Reserve in Mindarie. The new signs are a great asset as they acknowledge the important role of urban bushland in a way that is not obtrusive.

## BELLS RAPIDS PRESERVATION GROUP

Is seeking help in preventing another housing development that will ill have significant impacts on the forest above Bells Rapids, important habitat for Carnaby's black cockatoo. After the recent approval by the Commonwealth Environment Minister Peter Garret, the WAPC are the only government department that still need to make a decision regarding the proposed development.

The Group is asking for your help to get as many people as possible to sign a petition. Please use the following link to find out more and sign the petition:

<http://www.bellsrapids.com>

### Newly emerged grasshopper

One of my books on grasshoppers by David Rentz states that 'Grasshopper collecting can be as vigorous an activity as tennis or other similar sport. A successful grasshopper collector will probably be a very fit person'.

Rather than collecting, I make every effort not to disturb the creatures I see in the bush, in this case Underwood Avenue Bushland. Survival is hard enough without man or woman chasing you with a net, or a million times worse, with a public institution seeking to destroy the bush for so called development.

This grasshopper was very vulnerable because of her colour. I think she had just emerged from her old skin as a full adult and was yet to gain her gum leaf colour. She pulsed her abdomen to expand the skin before it hardened.



Photo by M Owen

### Communal roosting in wasps



Photo by M Owen

I had heard about communal roosting by insects but had never seen it until I came across this congregation in Underwood Avenue Bushland.

It was getting close to evening and there were about 30 Thynnid wasps settling down on the haemodorum stem, with a few jostling for position and still some flying in.

I read that communal roosting has been documented in butterflies, moths, dragonflies, bees and wasps for over a century (Amy A. Yackel Adams). In a species of South American butterfly, the assembled throng looks like dried moss or lichen.

These wasps are quite well camouflaged on the haemodorum. The gathering may also serve a social purpose. It would be interesting to speculate that if all these wasps were male, where were all the females.

### Jewel beetles

Is 2009 a good year for jewel beetles? I have not noticed so many in previous years in Underwood Avenue Bushland.

Because they are so spectacularly brilliant, you might think they would be easy to see, but this jewel beetle species is quite small; about one centimetre long. I also photographed numbers of an even smaller different species on some of the Swan River myrtle bushes.

Lots of children would know David Knowles, as he has a travelling insect show called 'Spineless Wonders' which visits schools. David wrote an article about jewel beetles in which he explained that after the French and English early visitors to Australia collected jewel beetles, private collectors and museums in England and Europe financed expeditions to Australia to collect the exotic Australian beetles. When the jewel beetles arrived they were classified and named by each sponsor. One common jewel beetle had been allotted up to

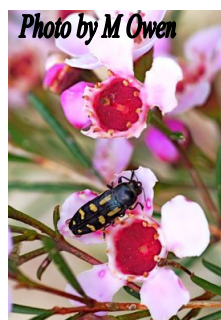


Photo by M Owen

eleven differing specific names.

Of course habitat clearing is one of the greatest threats to the survival of jewel beetles. Underwood Avenue Bushland is still threatened by the development proposal before the state Minister for the Environment, and by a probable revised proposal to be put to the Federal Department of the Environment.

### Weebill

First I saw the gorgeous little nest. It was about as big as an elongated tennis ball. It had a side entrance and was bound with spider webs. A thousand trips must have been needed to bring materials to build it. I could not get a good photograph of the nest as it was well concealed within the other leaves and branches of a jarrah tree in Underwood Avenue Bushland and I did not want to disturb the bird.

I saw that the bird coming close to the nest was a weebill. Weebills are the smallest birds in Australia, measuring around 90 mm from bill tip to tail tip. They are habitat specialists with a reduced distribution on the Swam Coastal Plain.

When I checked on the bird's identification and for information, I read in Graham Pizzey's Field Guide to Birds his marvellous description of the nest as "like a baby's woollen bootee with side-entrance; of plant down, leaves, grass and spiders' web....."



Photo by M Owen



## Bush Forever Acquisitions 2008- 2009

Adapted from the WAPC's Annual Report 2008/09

**Eight properties** purchased this financial year at a cost of \$10.13 million included:

- One 0.44 ha property at Wattle Grove to complete BFS 65.
- One 6.17 ha property at Southern River in BFS 125 was acquired at a cost of \$1,250,000.
- Three properties at Baldivis in Bush Forever site 275 were acquired at a cost of \$1,480,000. The former owners of one of the properties continue to enjoy the property as tenants through a non-transferable peppercorn lease for life provided by the WAPC for the portion of swamp adjacent to their remaining property recognising a specific personal attachment to the land.
- One 4.29 ha property at Forrestdale was acquired at a cost of \$280,000 for BFS 344. This purchase also met a City of Armadale environmental mitigation condition required as part of the widening to Ranford Road east of Warton Road.
- One 20.05 ha property was purchased at Banjup in BFS 390 for \$2,650,000. This purchase protected the largest population of the declared rare flora, *Caledonia heugelli*, discovered in the metropolitan area.
- Finally, one property (61.76 ha) comprising two lots was purchased at Forrestdale at a cost of \$5,700,000 in BFS 342.

### Stakehill Swamp

Three properties comprising 21.86 ha were purchased at a cost of \$1,482,000 at Stakehill Swamp. More than 70 per cent of this swamp has now been purchased by the WAPC and two more properties are now in the process of being acquired. They all will be added to the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park when consolidated and an integrated fire management plan established.

### Gngangara Mound P1 area

A 65.3 ha operating poultry farm was purchased at a cost of \$3,400,000 at Lake Pinjar. Closure of the poultry farm at the end of 2009 will further protect the Gngangara mound Priority 1 groundwater source protection area by removing an incompatible land use.

**Regional open space:** purchases for regional open space for the Peel region included the acquisition of one 17.1652 ha property at Parklands for a cost of \$8,200,000 inclusive of a future road interchange at Meadow Springs Drive. This year the WAPC finalised longstanding litigation in respect of the 320.9 ha conservation reserve at the cost of \$4,000,000 at Ellenbrook. The litigation tested and clarified longstanding compensation principles. Other purchases included minor acquisitions of public land to consolidate parts of the Darling Range Regional Park and the constructed wetland project at Tom Bateman Reserve developed as part of the Roe Highway (stage six) in the City of Gosnells.

Regional Parks are areas of region open space which are identified by the strategic planning functions of the WAPC. Properties were purchased for the Darling Range Regional Park (1.48 ha at a cost of \$375,000) and the Jandakot Botanic Park (13.96 ha at a cost of \$5,759,000).

Call for registrations

**WA WETLAND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2010**  
**World Wetlands Day 2 February**  
**“Caring for wetlands - an answer to climate change”**

Further information: Denise Crosbie ph 9417 8460  
Email: [denise@cockburnwetlands.org.au](mailto:denise@cockburnwetlands.org.au)

◇ What's new? ◇ What's new? ◇



### A Birthday Calendar that can make a difference

The Urban Bushland Council has produced a birthday calendar 'Perth's Bushland'. The purpose is to promote the wildlife treasures found within suburbs of Perth via beautiful photography by Margaret Owen.

We do not have to travel long distances to see wildflowers, they are right here at our doorsteps. Yet so many people have never ventured out to look and enjoy our priceless natural heritage, like no other city in the world.

The birthday calendars make ideal Christmas gifts and are available from the UBC at \$15. You can place an order using the attached flier or contact the UBC office. Alternatively, you can purchase the calendar through the Wildflower Society of Western Australia, Perry House, cnr of Perry Lakes Drive and Oceanic Drive, Floreat (10:00am – 2:30pm Tuesday and Thursday)

### New FESA contact for UBC members

Anle Tieu has recently joined FESA's Bush Fire and Environment Protection Branch as one of two new Senior Environmental Officers and will be the branch's point of contact for the Urban Bushland Council.

Anle Tieu provided the following information to introduce herself: "My role is to undertake scientific and operational research in natural environment protection and bush fire risk management. Examples of this work include developing fuel load guides and burning guidelines for selected bioregions in Western Australia and determining suitable building protection zones for various bioregions. Most research projects will primarily centre on aspects of bush fire relevant to flora, fauna and the atmosphere (greenhouse gases).

I have a scientific research background in ecology gained through my time at Kings Park Botanic Gardens researching native seed dormancy and biology utilising smoke, heat and burial. In addition to research I have also worked for an international plant biodiversity non-government-organisation, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and in the private sector as an environmental consultant for environmental and engineering firms. I look forward to meeting and working with members of the Urban Bushland Council."

Contact details: Anle Tieu, Senior Environmental Officer  
Bush Fire & Environmental Protection Branch  
Fire & Emergency Services Authority of WA  
Ph: 08 9323 9856 Fax: 08 9323 9495  
Email: [anle.tieu@fesa.wa.gov.au](mailto:anle.tieu@fesa.wa.gov.au)

### State NRM Program Community Grants

Guidelines and application forms on: <http://www.nrm.wa.gov.au/stateNRMprogram.htm>  
For more information call 9368 3177  
**Applications close 29 January 2010**

# 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 \$35 a year (GST included). A growing membership strengthens the cause and groups benefit from the network.

### Individuals:

Supporter membership is only \$25 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

\*Membership fees have increased in accordance to determination at the Annual General Meeting held on 3 March 2009.

## URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL WA EVENTS SUMMER 2009 — 2010

Saturday 5 December 2009 at 6.00 pm

### Launch of *PERTH'S BUSHLAND* Birthday Calendar

At Wildflower Society WA Christmas party  
at Henderson Environment Centre, Star Swamp Reserve, Groat St, North Perth  
Bring your own bbq and drinks  
.....

Tuesday 2 March 2010 at 7.30 pm

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Guest speaker to be announced

At Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth

Doors will open at 7.00 pm for payment of 2010 subscriptions. Please note, no credit card facilities available.  
Light supper will be available following a presentation by guest speaker.

#### 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:

The Editor, Urban Bushland Council

PO Box 326 West Perth WA 6872

or fax (08) 9420 7208, email [ubc@iinet.net.au](mailto:ubc@iinet.net.au)

**Copy deadline - 15 February 2010**

#### Office:

URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL WA Inc

Lotteries House

2 Delhi Street West Perth WA 6872

Ph 9420 7207 Fax 9420 7208

E-mail: [ubc@iinet.net.au](mailto:ubc@iinet.net.au)

Web site:

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