



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

The United Nations proclaimed 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity to increase the understanding of importance of biodiversity for sustaining life on Earth. We live in one of few internationally recognized biodiversity hotspots. 2010 provides an excellent opportunity to look at the state of biodiversity in this region. It is local action that makes the difference. Think globally, act together locally.

## Friends of Star Swamp Bushland Turns 25

*By Christine Curry*

2010 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of both the gazettal of the Star Swamp Bushland as an A-Class Reserve and the formation of the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland.

Star Swamp was 'saved' from becoming a housing estate when a group of local residents, under the auspice of the Trigg/North Beach/Waterman Ratepayer's Association, began action in July 1977 to have the area preserved as natural bushland. The local community rallied behind the group and a series of public meetings followed, at which respected scientists, local politicians and prominent citizens spoke in favour of reserving the entire 96 hectare site. A petition of over 2,000 signatures was put to State Parliament, helping to sway political opinion.

It took a lot of argument, negotiation, lobbying and hard work, but nine years later the area was gazetted as an A-Class Reserve, in March 1985. Overall, it was a case of 'being in the right place at the right time', as the campaign to save Star Swamp happened at the time of emerging environmental issues such as the Tasmanian dam issues.

The Friends of Star Swamp Bushland was formally established in July 1985 and has worked closely with the City of Stirling, the managing authority, since that time to conserve, regenerate and manage the Reserve.



*Photo by C Curry*

A three-day celebration to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be held on 26-28 March 2010. The Henderson Environment Centre, in the Star Swamp Bushland, Groat St North Beach, will be open between 10.00am and 4.00pm each day, with activities and local group displays and information stands. Everyone is invited to come along to see for themselves why the Star Swamp Bushland was worth saving.

For the full program of the 25th Anniversary Celebrations go to page 4.

## INSIDE

- **City Bush Guides 2010 enrolments open now**
- **People Power: How one person spread the word**
- **The International Year of Biodiversity - Adjournment speech by Hon Alison Xamon MLC**

and more...

# Editorial

In the survey of UBC member groups last year, groups were asked what they would like the UBC to focus on over the next two years. The responses were:

- lobbying politicians 16
- more money for management 12
- community awareness 11
- ending clearing 10
- Bush Forever 10
- getting media coverage 7
- fire management 6

There was a strong focus on local government and the need to lobby for increased resources for management and improved management. *'Lobby on behalf of Friends Groups on local issues particularly with local government who don't like to listen to small groups'; 'lobby local government to smarten up what they do in urban bushland areas'*.

Other calls were:

- establish green corridors by all LGAs;
- establish more and better resourcing of bushcrews by all LGAs;
- preserve local bushland as part of Town Planning Schemes;
- lobby for fox control in metro area;
- lobby for State laws for cats;
- establish new Regional Parks for Gnangara, Serpentine, Helena Valley; and
- extend legal schemes (Similar to MRS) for Peel, Bunbury.

The need for raising community awareness of the value of local bushland was a common theme, as was the call for ending clearing and urban sprawl into bushland and incursions of all types of infrastructure, especially roads and tracks. Getting Bush Forever implemented and sites respected was equally important. Getting media coverage is part of the awareness raising process.

The major MRS Amendment for *Bush Forever and related*

*lands*, released in 2004, has still not been presented to Parliament by the Minister for Planning Hon John Day MLA. Our requests for meetings with the Minister for Planning in the past year have been fruitless, and we had only one meeting with Environment Minister Donna Faragher despite promises for quarterly meetings by both Ministers. We are advised however that the Bush Forever Amendment is planned to go to Parliament in April. Remarkable also is the government's failure so far to allocate adequate funding to manage 'new' sites - in the first instance to prevent degradation and control weed invasion after disturbance, and then for ongoing management. There are too many sites still with no management authority assigned.

If DEC is to manage all or some of these sites then it is essential for the Environment Minister and Treasury to ensure that a substantial *new* budget allocation is made to employ properly resourced field crews and ecologists. The UBC has called on the Minister to establish a *Bush Forever Management Unit* (extending the work of Urban Nature) in DEC with an operational allocation of \$5 million.

At a community meeting this month, the UBC was encouraged by the spirit of willingness by all parties present to be involved in management of the Mirrabooka site 385. The Friends of Dianella Bushland, Malubillai Wildlife Carers, WAPC, DEC, City of Stirling, John Septimus Roe School, local Members of Parliament and the UBC were all represented. A public meeting will be held for all those interested in forming a Friends Group and the Western Australian Planning Commission will be fencing much of the site in May- July.

In this International Year of Biodiversity community groups are doing their best to raise awareness of the natural wonders of their local bush and to get local people involved. People power will make the difference. In this edition, the speech about the International Year of Biodiversity by Hon Alison Xamon MLC is reprinted from Hansard on page 4. No other MPs have as yet made similar speeches. All are welcome at the events on the back page.

## PERTH URBAN BUSHLAND FUNGI PROJECT A FINALIST IN THE SCIENCE OUTREACH PROGRAM OF THE YEAR 2009

Congratulations to Dr Neale Bougher, members of the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi (PUBF) Project team and the dedicated volunteers on becoming the finalist in the Science Outreach Program of the Year category at the Western Australian Science Awards in December last year. This well deserved recognition acknowledges the major contribution of the PUBF project to raising awareness about the role of fungi in our ecosystems. The PUBF project demonstrates the benefits of effective community engagement in surveying natural areas that led to discoveries of 200 new fungi species for WA or the world and to addition of over 1,300 specimens to the WA Herbarium State Collection.

*Photo from left : Phylis Robertson, Mrs Griffiths, Kevn Griffiths, Peter Davison, Dr Neale Bougher, Joe Froudust and Elaine Davison at the WA Science Awards presentation.*



*Photo by PUBF*

# People Power: How One Person Spread the Word

By Sabine Winton

I represent a group of concerned residents who live in Nowergup and Carabooda who are currently in the midst of what is becoming a long and complex campaign to stop a limestone quarry and concrete batching plant from starting in our beautiful neighbourhood. For those of you unfamiliar with the area, Nowergup is located roughly half way between Wanneroo and Yanchep. There is a proposal to develop a limestone quarry and concrete batching plant on Lot 1, Nowergup Rd. The proposal seeks to clear over 7 hectares of virgin bushland on a site adjacent to Neerabup National Park, Nowergup Lake, Nowergup Fauna Reserve and Bush Forever Site 383.

The land falls within the City of Wanneroo and is zoned Rural Resource. The Nowergup area has a number of existing and abandoned quarries. The area is deemed to fall within a Priority Resource Area as defined by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and as such any development applications need the approval of both the City of Wanneroo and the WAPC.

One of the major obstacles we continue to face is the perception that we have "chosen" to live in a Rural Resource Zoning and therefore should accept any and all applications on that basis. There are many residents who have lived here for considerably longer and precede this zoning which is held up so often as an excuse for what can only be described as environmental vandalism.

Initially the City of Wanneroo referred the development application to the WAPC after only informing 3 adjacent landowners. After a concerted and sustained campaign, we convinced the City of Wanneroo to advertise the proposal. This allowed us some time to fully investigate the proponent's management plan of over 200 pages which contained Flora, Fauna, Karst, Noise and Dust studies that had been commissioned. In desperation we contacted many different organizations and groups for support. None of us had any previous experience with interpreting such complex and specialised studies. Our sense of despair and feelings of hopelessness were relieved when the Urban Bushland Council informed us that they were going to refer the matter to the Environmental Protection Authority.

UBC's support for our efforts can't be understated and gave us tremendous credibility in those initial stages of the campaign when we were trying to enlist the support of the wider community. The City of Wanneroo received over 250 submissions objecting to the quarry. This was very much a turning point. The City listened to this significant community concern, took up invitations to tour the area and at its October meeting the Council voted unanimously to reject the limestone quarry application. The proponent is currently appealing this decision to the State Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

The City of Wanneroo in rejecting the proposal agreed with many of the environmental concerns raised by submissions and concerns raised by the UBC. These include:

There are significant environmental impacts on matters of

national significance including the Carnaby's black cockatoo. A threatened species protected under Federal and State legislation.

The proposal seeks to clear over 7 hectares of regionally significant bushland, adjacent to Bush Forever site 383, Neerabup National Park and Nowergup Lake Fauna Reserve.

The site has Tuart Woodland and karst features which have not been adequately protected.

The site supports Threatened Ecological Community Type 26a, as well as a relatively intact community of native fauna species including up to 8 species of amphibian, 48 species of reptile, 94 species of bird and 22 species of mammal. Western Wildlife in its Fauna Study concluded that there were up to 7 reptiles of conservation significance and 6 species of mammals of conservation significance that may occur in the site.

Despite these concerns the referral to the EPA was unsuccessful with the EPA deciding not to formally assess this application. Together with the UBC, we have appealed this decision and are hopeful that the matter may be considered more closely by the EPA.

Of particular importance for our campaign has been *The Future of East Wanneroo Strategy*, released by the WAPC in August 2007. It shows a notional line around a strip of land east of Wanneroo Rd that defines an area that is likely to be set aside for landscape preservation/enhancement and rural small lot subdivision. It is only as a result of this campaign that such previous identification of the environmental assets of our local area are being finally recognised. The City of Wanneroo is currently working on initiating Recommendation 6.4 of the Future of East Wanneroo Strategy which would protect the area from quarrying activities.

As previously mentioned the WAPC also needs to make a decision on this proposal. We have made repeated invitations for officers to come and meet with residents with no success. We are still persisting with this. We have contacted many politicians and on site visits have been overwhelmingly powerful in allowing us to show the devastating impact this limestone quarry will have over the whole Gibbs Rd valley. The Ocean View Tavern on Wanneroo Rd is adjacent to the proposal with panoramic views over what would be a 7 hectare pit with views past it to Neerabup National Park and Nowergup Lake. If you're ever passing it's worth the effort to stop and see it for yourself.

It is inconceivable that those in decision making positions in relation to this matter may not actually see the potential impact of this quarry for themselves from such a vantage point.

We are playing a waiting game at the moment. We are waiting for the Appeals Convenor to come out with his

(Continued on page 11)

## THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

### Adjournment speech by Hon Alison Xamon (East Metropolitan)

Extract from *Hansard* Legislative Council - Wednesday, 3 March 2010, 10.15pm p402b-403a

I rise this evening to welcome the Council to the International Year of Biodiversity. For those members who do not know, the International Year of Biodiversity is a United Nations initiative designed to bring international attention to the need to preserve biodiversity internationally.

The United Nations website states — Biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on. Human activity is causing the diversity of life on Earth to be lost at a greatly accelerated rate. These losses are irreversible, impoverish us all and damage the life support systems we rely on every day. But we can prevent them.

**2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity.** Let's reflect on our achievements to safeguard biodiversity and focus on the urgency of our challenge for the future. Now is the time to act.

Although Australia as a whole is recognised as a mega-diverse country for biodiversity, members may or may not be aware that the south west corner of Western Australia from Shark Bay to Israelite Bay is Australia's only entry in the top 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world. Therefore, we are actually living and working in Australia's only internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot. According to the WWF, botanists call Perth the biodiversity capital of the world because it is considered to be home to one of the richest floras on Earth. In fact, the metropolitan area is the richest zone for plant life within the south west of Australia. Therefore, I think Perth's very special place in this biodiversity hotspot internationally deserves recognition.

**In 1995** and in decades prior, the Western Australian government committed to preparing a strategic plan for the conservation of bushland on the Swan coastal plain portion of the Perth metropolitan region as it was identified then in the *urban bushland strategy*.

**In 1996** the Western Australian government committed to the national strategy for the conservation of Australia's biodiversity, which sought to establish a representative system of protected areas.

**By 2000** the government had produced **Bush Forever**, an implementation plan that had at the time the ambitious, and I think quite laudable, goal of protecting and saving at least 18 per cent of the original vegetation of the Swan coastal plain, which represented 26 vegetation complexes. A further goal was to save at least 10 per cent of each of these vegetation complexes. Basically, Bush Forever is a world leading plan and we need it as Perth's biodiversity is one of the highest recorded in any major city in the world. That means we have so much more to lose than nearly any other city on this planet.

On census night **in 2001** Perth already had more than 1.3 million residents and by the middle of **2009** Perth's population was estimated to be more than 1.6 million. In the space of only 10 years we have welcomed at least another

300 000 people to Perth's wonderful lifestyle—who can blame anyone for wanting to live here, frankly—and we expect that **by 2027** Perth's population will increase by at least another 680 000 people.

That means we are looking at bringing the population of Perth alone to more than 3.3 million people. That will mean a huge increase in the number of people who need homes, recreational facilities, workplaces and all the things needed to make society tick. The need to adequately house and look after all these additional people on top of our existing population will put our remaining urban bushland under ever-increasing pressure. Indeed, it already is under enormous pressure.

**The Bush Forever sites** that we have already identified as worthy of preservation are under threat from development. The Anstey–Keane bushland in Forrestdale, which I have spoken about before in the Legislative Council, is Bush Forever Site 342 and it contains 381 varieties of plant life. That comprises far more varieties than there are in Kings Park and includes two unusual types of vegetation complex. It is under threat from a road to be built down the middle to save a few minutes driving around the perimeter. The internationally significant Beeliar wetlands, Bush Forever Site 244, is likewise threatened. This government is determined to drive Roe Highway through it, regardless of being told repeatedly by its own agencies that it will be extremely difficult to make that proposal environmentally acceptable.

My grave concern is that the management of Bush Forever sites has not been undertaken in any concerted or meaningful way. Although some sites have a management plan, are attended by quite diligent managers and have been adopted by friends of various bushland groups, many sites have no protection or no consistent protection. There are unfenced sites that have been damaged to a greater or lesser extent by off-road vehicle usage and illegal dumping of rubbish. I have recently been working to try to protect Bush Forever site 385 in Mirrabooka as a direct result of being approached by concerned constituents and wildlife workers. Numerous off-road vehicle tracks run through it and extensive illegal dumping of household goods has occurred there, which is heartbreaking to see. There has recently been the death of a black-gloved wallaby population on Northwood Drive. Again a road has been built through the middle of the site.

All over Perth our Bush Forever sites are being cut away at the edges to allow the overflow of next-door development. We have discussed in the Legislative Council the issue of Jindee, Paganoni Swamp and Errina Road. We are looking at losing two per cent here and five per cent there. If we let this go on there will be nothing left of value to protect.

State Planning Policy 2.8, otherwise known as the "Bushland Policy for the Perth Metropolitan Region" is



still only in draft form, yet the opportunity for public comment closed in 2004! I want to know when we can expect to see this policy enshrined in statutory regulation. I have asked about the time frame for Bush Forever in this Parliament and have heard, at best, non-committal answers. I am finding that the management plans to protect these sites simply have not been developed. In many cases not even a manager has been appointed to look after the sites. Land has been acquired to protect Bush Forever sites and ignored while off-road vehicles, whether they be four-wheel drives or motorcycles, are tearing tracks through them, rubbish is being dumped, arsonists are repeatedly lighting fires, wildlife is being lost and weeds are being introduced. The integrity of the overall sites are being reduced.

**This is the International Year of Biodiversity**, the year that Perth should be in the spotlight for providing some superior guardianship of one of the most significant regions of biodiversity on this planet, yet we cannot even fully protect those sites, whose importance has actually been recognised for nearly 10 years.

So, members, this is the year to get it right. This is the year that we should be able to say to our community and to our nation and to the world that we recognise the value of what we have in Perth, and that we are going to protect it as the treasure that it is. We need to make the International Year of Biodiversity mean something.'

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 10.25 pm*

## The Underwood Avenue Bushland Battle Continues

*By Margaret Owen*

Over ten years on and we are still battling to save Underwood Avenue Bushland from destruction.

### THE STATE

In October 2009, the State Minister for the Environment, the Hon Donna Faragher, dismissed all but two of the appeal grounds against the EPA recommendation that the University of WA's housing proposal be implemented. One appeal ground was the question of Carnaby's black cockatoo. The Minister stated

*"I am of the view that the site is an important foraging habitat for Carnaby's black cockatoo within the Perth metropolitan area."* Despite this view, the Minister said she will invite the proponent to modify the proposal to address the risks to the Carnaby's black cockatoo. With alacrity the University of Western Australia (UWA) offered to set aside another 3.5ha of land to add to the conservation area, but the proposed area of housing was not changed. The *Banksia prionotes* area, so important to the cockatoo would still be destroyed. We do argue that the whole bushland is important for the cockatoos and the Minister has been sent photographs of the cockatoos eating seeds from jarrah nuts, marri nuts and using other species of banksia for food. The Minister has also been sent a bunch of jarrah nuts with cockatoo bill marks on the nuts.

The proposed offsets are not exactly clear. To allay the loss of 17.5ha planned to be cleared now or in the future,

*"The equivalent amount of bushland to that being cleared @ \$20,000/ha shall be subject to measures to mitigate adverse impacts on Carnaby's Cockatoo within the WESROC area."* It has also been suggested that UWA would offset loss of bushland by paying for revegetation of the Gnar-gara mound after removal of the pine trees. But for what area?

By dismissing all but two of the appeals grounds, and by asking the UWA to modify their proposal, we fear that the Minister has foreshadowed approval of a modified plan.

### THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The City of Nedlands is deemed to be a decision-making authority under the Environmental Protection Act. Through the Appeals Convenor, the City of Nedlands had been requested to provide comments to that Office in relation to a *"Statement that a Proposal may be Implemented pursuant*

*to the Provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 – Development and Conservation Proposal Lot 4 Underwood Avenue."*

This invitation was received by the City of Nedlands on 8th December and response was due by 28th December 2009 with no allowance for Christmas and the holiday period. The City of Nedlands staff dropped all its other business to seek legal advice and to respond in time. The staff wrote *"Council advises the Office of the Appeals Convenor of its general support for the Environmental appeal at No 1 (Lots 4 and 105) subject to conditions...."* However the City of Nedlands Councillors and the City of Nedlands staff had differing views. Deputy Mayor, Max Hipkins put forward an Urgent item. *"Council considered it appropriate not to agree with the proposal due to the reasons outlined in the resolution relating to outstanding environmental and indigenous approval and environmental and health concerns."* Deputy Mayor Hipkins reminded the meeting that *"Council's view on the preferred future use and development of Lot 4 is that it should be undeveloped bushland."* Councillor Tyson spoke movingly of the value of the bushland and its importance to Carnaby's Cockatoo and the Mayor spoke words to the effect of the priceless gem the City has in Underwood Avenue Bushland. Councillors voted unanimously to endorse the urgent item. **ie to not approve the proposed development.**

Nyungah spokesperson for Underwood and Nyungah Land and Culture Protector, Swan Valley Nyungah community, Iva Hayward Jackson, spoke at the 14th December Annual General Meeting of Electors. Councillors were touched by Iva's stories about the fight of his mother, Judy Jackson for the preservation and protection of the bushland. Iva's uncles had told him about the very hard life Nyungah people had in the forties and fifties. Margaret Owen for the Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland also spoke at this meeting and again at the Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### STATE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

Ongoing meetings are being held in the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) with the parties being the proponent, the University of WA v The Western Australian Planning

*(Continued on page 7)*

## ENROL NOW FOR CITY BUSH GUIDES 2010

*Lesley Shaw, Coordinator of City Bush Guides Training, UBC*

If you missed out on the opportunity to train to become a 'City Bush Guide' last spring, there's another chance to have a go!

The Urban Bushland Council WA is offering a free training course for volunteers who wish to become "City Bush Guides". Funded by the State Government's Environmental Community Grants Program, this course is designed to help community volunteers develop the skills necessary to become confident in leading groups of people on an enjoyable guided walk through urban bushland.

The autumn program will run on Wednesday mornings for seven weeks, and when trainees successfully complete the course, they will be eligible to register with the Urban Bushland Council as City Bush Guides, and will be encouraged to demonstrate their newly acquired skills and lead or initiate guided bush walks through their local bushland over the coming months.

This seven week course starts on Wednesday 14th April, from 9am - 1pm and is scheduled to take place near Kensington Bushland at Harold Rossiter Reserve, Victoria Park. Morning tea will be provided at all sessions and participants will be provided with a resource kit.



*2009 City Bush Guides participants Sabine Winton, Edna Darge, Linda Monkhouse and Rob Greenwood listen to a presentation by a fellow participant Tony Parrelli in Whiteman Park.*

For details and enrolment forms contact the Urban Bushland Council on 9420 7207 and leave a message or email [ubc@inet.net.au](mailto:ubc@inet.net.au) Alternatively, contact Coordinator, Lesley Shaw on 9384 7983.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the wonders of our bushland and learn guiding skills from those with a passion for the plants and animals of the bush. Spaces are limited. Enrolment essential.

## REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR THE PERTH AND PEEL SCHEME REGIONS

*Renata Zelinova, Perth Biodiversity Project*

The Western Australian Local Government Association has received State NRM 2009-2010 Program funding through the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) to deliver a project titled *Local Community Bushland Protection Plans for Perth*. The project is being delivered by the Perth Biodiversity Project (PBP) with contributions from local governments.

One of the expected outputs includes development of a regional framework for local biodiversity conservation priorities for Perth and Peel Scheme regions, including a spatial plan and a report.

The primary objective of this project is to provide guidance to State and Local Government to address local biodiversity conservation through strategic and statutory planning, building on Bush Forever, Swan Bioplan and a local biodiversity planning process followed by a number of Local Governments. The regional framework will provide a tool designed to inform land use planning in the Perth and Peel region scheme areas, considering the regional biodiversity conservation needs and support local biodiversity conservation initiatives.

The need for a regional framework for local biodiversity conservation was identified in 2006, through a Swan Catchment Council (now Perth Region NRM) investment planning workshop. Feedback from various stakeholders indicated that it is difficult to determine whether conservation targets are being achieved across the region. Local Governments prepare Local Biodiversity Strategies independent of each other, taking into account opportunities and constraints that exist within their own administrative

boundaries. Although local biodiversity conservation targets are based on conservation significance criteria established by the EPA, and strive towards adequate representation of vegetation types and protection of threatened species/communities, it is difficult to determine what impact this is having in the wider region.

It has also become increasingly important to improve integration of local biodiversity considerations into land use planning. Although EPA and WAPC policies recognise the need for Local Biodiversity Strategies, there are long time frames associated with integrating actions into local planning frameworks.

The development of the regional framework for local biodiversity conservation priorities coincides with the release of a new strategic planning document for this region by the WAPC, the Directions 2031: Spatial Framework for Perth and Peel. The regional biodiversity framework provides an opportunity to address some of the objectives set out in Directions 2031.

A series of stakeholder meetings were held in February and March to document stakeholder perspectives on local biodiversity values, opportunities and barriers to conservation. These sessions provided an opportunity to reiterate the values local communities place on biodiversity and clarify the format of the project's outputs to maximize its usefulness to key stakeholders. Further briefings are planned through the project's life.

For more information about the project contact Renata Zelinova, PBP Manager on [rzelinova@walga.asn.au](mailto:rzelinova@walga.asn.au) or phone 9213 2047.

### Wrens return to Underwood Avenue Bushland

Underwood Avenue Bushland was fairly quiet. But then I heard the continuing sounds of small bush birds. The sounds were coming from within a copse of *Calytrix fraseri*. This wonderful plant flowers with striking pink star like flowers all through summer so there would be insects attracted to it. I was only a few metres from the sound but I could not see the birds. Then to my wondering eyes fairy wrens appeared.

There were at least four, none that I saw in breeding colour, but obviously a family group. The last time I saw wrens around the bushland was in July 2005 and I presume that the foxes killed them. This new family must have come in from another area. This is an example of the importance of connections between natural areas. After a little time the wrens moved off.

Nearby I found around fifteen strongly brown-barred large feathers on the ground but there was no bird body or any flesh about. The feathers may have come from a Coloured Sparrow-hawk. It was suggested to me that another bird of prey might have taken the bird.

This year has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations. The WA Museum is holding talks throughout the year by its scientists and associates who will talk of their work and their hopes for the future of biodiversity in this state and in the nation.

Human beings are capable of wonderful achievements and to see Underwood Avenue Bushland and its connecting links protected this year would be a great result for biodiversity.



Photo by M Owen

### Western Bearded Dragon at Underwood Avenue Bushland

I probably would have walked right past this young Western Bearded Dragon as it was off the track and in grass and at foot level. However, as I walked something flew up from the ground and hit my stomach. I stopped to see if I could see what it was, (I couldn't) and then I saw the dragon.

Because dragons rely on their camouflage you can usually get quite close if you approach slowly.

Features which aid camouflage are the skin colour, pattern and spines which resembles tree bark, and behaviour, where the dragon aligns itself along a tree limb, dropping its head and tail onto or behind the limb. It can also change colour.

Loss of biodiversity by clearing our bushland is irreversible. Let's protect what we have already nominated for protection; that is the Bush Forever sites.



Photo by M Owen

(Continued from page 5)

Commission. Both the Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland and Iva Hayward-Jackson, Land and Culture Protector have requested to be heard at the SAT. We await SAT's reply.

### THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The proposal is a controlled action under Sections 18 and 18A of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 because of listed threatened species and communities, that is the Carnaby's black cockatoos and possibly the Graceful sun moth. But there is no proposal before the Federal Government. The proposal was withdrawn when the draft final decision was to refuse approval (ie against the University). We have been advised that the proposal will probably not be put to the Federal Government until State and Local Government processes are completed.

On 11<sup>th</sup> February, the WA Museum launched their series of lectures by WA Museum scientists and associates for the 2010 The International Year of Biodiversity. At the launch, Harry Butler said that we can destroy the environment or we can protect it. The ten year battle for protection of Underwood Avenue Bushland continues



1985-2010

## STAR SWAMP BUSHLAND RESERVE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Friday 26 March – Sunday 28 March  
at the Henderson Environment Centre,  
Groat St North Beach

### Weekend Program

#### Friday 26 March:

10am – 4pm Henderson Environment Centre Open  
Local environment group displays and information  
Local native plant sales  
Schools activities and laboratory sessions

#### Saturday 27 March:

8.00am Guided Nature Walk – see autumn flowering trees, birds and insects  
10am – 4pm  
Live Animals with Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network  
Henderson Environment Centre Open  
Local environment group displays and information  
Local native plant sales  
2.00pm Guest Speaker Presentation  
“It’s the Little Things That Count in the Bushland”  
with David Pike

#### Sunday 28 March:

10am – 4pm Henderson Environment Centre Open  
Local environment group displays and information  
Local native plant sales  
Native animals, Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network  
11.00am Ceremony to officially mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
12.00noon Free Sausage Sizzle Lunch – all welcome  
1.30pm Guided Bush Walk

**Everyone welcome - bring your friends, kids and neighbours**

Hosted by the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland,  
celebrating 25 years of bushland conservation in the  
2010 The International Year of Biodiversity

**Friends of Hollywood Reserve** We have not officially registered to do the Clean Up this year, but we do feel that we should go through and around the bushland, collecting rubbish. There is always a fair bit, especially the plastic bags and flowers from the Cemetery. We have been finding more and more smoking dens with bong, cigarette packets, cool drink bottles, silver foil, so we need to make a thorough search through the bush. That is why we were happy to spare an hour on Sunday the 7th March.

AGM will be held on Tuesday, 30th March at 7.30 pm Drabble House. Speaker is Roger Underwood who is a forester, writer and much else. I will remind everyone mid-March and let you know when the official first working bee will be held.

Our thanks to the waterers who continue to water frequently in an effort to keep the young plants alive. Rabbits have enjoyed the young plants, but hopefully they will be dealt with shortly. Many terriers will miss the fun of the chase - but that is life.

**Bungendore Park Management Committee** has been continuing its dieback treatment programme with 15,750 litres of foliar spraying and 6,700 stem injections along the mapped dieback fronts earlier this year by our contractor, Dieback Treatment Services. Funding by the City of Armadale and State Government’s Environmental Community grant has assisted in this activity.



Bert Scherpenzeel (Dieback Treatment Services) foliar spraying treatment in Bungendore Park

In conjunction with the Hills Heartbeat Festival at Armadale Christian College, committee will be hosting its “Pancakes in the Park” between 9am and 11 am on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. This event is popular with the locals who enjoy freshly-cooked pancakes in the bushland setting. This year a guided walk in the park will leave at 10 am on both days.



Bert Scherpenzeel (Dieback Treatment Services) stem injection treatment in Bungendore Park

Kim Sartu

**Friends of Inglewood Triangle** After a couple of years of informal activity, we have taken the plunge and formed the “Friends of Inglewood Triangle”. Our little piece of bush is only 1.7 hectares in size but is very precious in being one of the last pieces of remnant vegetation in a long-established inner city suburb. The “Triangle” is bordered by Walter Road, Eighth Avenue and Hamer Parade in Inglewood, and sits as an area of natural bushland amongst the sporting fields of the Mt Lawley Golf Club, Inglewood Oval, Hamer Park and Walter Reserve.



# Group News Group News Group News

This is a special piece of bushland on the Bassendean landform merging into Bassendean Swamp – providing a window into the ecosystems that once covered the long established suburb of Inglewood. Apart from the degraded remnant strips around the Mt Lawley Golf course opposite the Triangle, there is no other remnant of this type (Bassendean Central & South) remaining near the local high school. Moreover the Triangle is mostly in remarkably good condition with the understory of shrubs and groundcover plants still intact. The 9 species of tree present in this small area are common to the Perth region and thus provide a wonderful outdoor laboratory for educational programs with schools in the local area.

We will start our activities in 2010 by working with the Mount Lawley Senior High School Bushranger Cadets to survey the site, locate the areas of significance, document key features and develop a calendar of plants in flower. This will assist us in establishing a series of learning activities for secondary and primary students in an 'outdoor laboratory' that is within walking distance of local schools. We also plan to run a local event for "International Year of Biodiversity" through an arts competition to celebrate local biodiversity. We will also continue regular weeding sessions during winter and spring.  
Contact details: email [Inglewood.triangle@gmail.com](mailto:Inglewood.triangle@gmail.com)  
phone (08) 92711933

*Christine Richardson*

**Friends of Paganoni Swamp and Geraldton Carnation Weed.** Friends of Paganoni Swamp was formed in 2004 to address the increasing threat of Geraldton Carnation Weed (*Euphorbia terracina*) invading the bushland from the western boundary of the Reserve. Kate Brown and Grazyna Paczkowska of Urban Nature set up a total of fifteen plots at three sites in 2005 and twice a year Urban Nature, along with members of the Friends Group, identify and count all species within those plots. Data produced by Urban Nature indicate a significant reduction in mature and juvenile *Euphorbia* plants from 2005 to 2008. There has been a drop in average cover from 34.7% to 1.5% respectively. This has been achieved through persistent hand weeding of the mature plants and spraying of the juveniles. In 2010 we are planning to hand weed only along the western track. Impact on native species has been mixed. *Hibbertia*, *Rhagodia*, *Macrozamia* and *Drosera* species have reduced in average cover whilst *Dichopogon*, *Microlaena* and *Lasiopetalum* have increased. Urban Nature and the Friends Group were willing to sacrifice the western edge in order to ensure that the *Euphorbia* did not invade the rest of the Reserve.

Reliance on annual grants makes weeds management that more difficult. However we have been fortunate in receiving Environmental Community grants through the Department of Environment and Conservation as well as private funding from Readymix (now Holcim (Aust) Pty Ltd). Without these sources of funding we could not have achieved such a successful outcome.

We are now concentrating on other areas of the Reserve to ensure that the weed is contained throughout Paganoni Swamp.

**The Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise** are pleased to invite you to a Food Lover's Tour of the Swan Valley on Saturday 27th February. For those who joined the Group last year - this year it's bigger and better than ever. New venues, new faces and better produce (we are a little earlier and in the peak time for summer produce).

The tour runs from 10 am until approximately 3 pm and includes transport, coffee on arrival at the Edgcombe Brothers winery and café starting point, a gourmet produce platter for lunch, a Swan Valley 'enviro-friendly' shopping bag and commentary by an expert regional food host. The cost is just \$75 per person and places are limited, so hurry to secure your booking through Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise chairperson Jan Bant on 0408 024 800 or [bant@aapt.net.au](mailto:bant@aapt.net.au) or vice chairperson Tanya Marwood on 0412 196 216 or [tanya.m@globaldial.com](mailto:tanya.m@globaldial.com)

Part proceeds aid the Recovery effort for Australia's most critically endangered reptile.

*Jan Bant*

**Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare (SNEC) is the 2009 winner of the State & Territory Landcare Awards in the Australian Government Coastcare Award category.**

The 2009 Landcare Award recognizes SNEC's efforts to rehabilitate coastal area in the North Beach/Watermans vicinity over the past several years in a constantly evolving and extending manner. With no initial funding, a small group of residents sought partnership and support from a variety of sources to conduct flora surveys, weed mapping and development of a management strategy.

Commitment to planting care and site maintenance has been acknowledged as one of the SNEC's greatest strengths.

SNEC were successful in obtaining funding through the latest round of Australian Government 'Caring for Our Country' grant application to continue with rehabilitation at North Beach and creation of a 'Grow Local Plants' brochure.

In early March, SNEC coordinated a total of 65 volunteers over three Clean Up Day events. About 4km of coastal zone was covered, including sweeps south and north of Trigg and North Beach Headland. Food/drink packaging and cigarette butt litter is widespread in this area.

Its bush regeneration activities continued with removal of encroaching *Tetragonia* and *Gazania* west side of the fenceline at Watermans Bay Picnic area. Volunteers filled 15 bags with these weeds. Couch thatch (ready for spraying) was targeted at the current project site in the linkage south of Watermans Bay Marine Centre.

# Group News Group News Group News

2010 planting season will start in June within the North Beach Linkage. We welcome all volunteers. To join us please contact RAE 04191 91710 or SHEL 04881 90651.

*Sheldon Pritchard*

Urban Bushland Council

Welcomes new Friends Groups

**FRIENDS OF INGLEWOOD TRIANGLE**

&

**FRIENDS OF THE SPECTACLES**

On 2 March 2010, at its Annual General meeting the Urban Bushland Council acknowledged several Friends Groups with **Certificates of Achievements:**

**Nature Reserves Preservation Group** in recognition of 20 years valuable contribution to urban bushland conservation; **Friends of Star Swamp and the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group** in recognition of 25 years valuable contribution to urban bushland conservation; and **Friends of Hepburn Heights and Pinnaroo Bushland** in

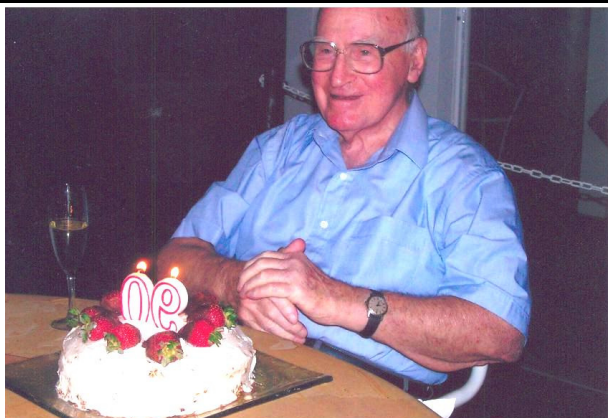
recognition of their valuable contribution to conservation of urban bushland and publication of "*Saving Hepburn Heights*".

Photo: Alan Lloyd (right) and Bill Marwick (left), authors of *Saving Hepburn Heights* and Hon Alison Xamon MLC at the UBC's presentation in March.



*Photo by R Henderson*

## OBITUARY Dr Brian Smith



Dr Brian Smith passed away on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at his home in Kardinya at the age of 91.

Born in Sydney, Brian was educated at Shore Anglican Boys College. Whilst he loved all sciences, particularly botany and zoology, Brian majored in chemistry at Sydney University. These interests remained prominent throughout his life and stimulated wildlife projects and his community contributions in conservation. He had an extensive collection of wildflower seeds and slides of plants.

From Sydney University Brian was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford where he studied Organic Chemistry. Brian was an all round sportsman but majored in rowing and enjoyed the social life it afforded. In London, he met his wife, Joy. In July 2009 they celebrated sixty years of marriage.

On return to Australia Brian worked in Sydney with ICI Chemicals. He & Joy then came to Perth for what was to be a short visit but this extended to living here permanently. Brian worked in Western Australia as Head of Department for Industrial Chemistry at the Government Chemical Laboratories. This included extensive field and consultancy work which led, on his retirement, to his own private consultancy.

Throughout his chemical career, Brian was chairman & president of the major organisations and associations related to his work. He was foremost in establishing the Plastics Institute in Western Australia. On the other side was his natural passion for and commitment to the environment. This led to enjoyable and worthwhile involvement with many organisations.

Brian was an important contributor to the success of the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre and the Beeliar Regional Park. He was especially interested in Bibra and North Lakes. In 1993 he helped Jim Connolly found the Friends Group for the then established Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre. In the early years of the Centre Brian was active in helping to recruit members for the Friends Group. This group assists the Centre with tree planting, wetland education, fundraising and scientific research. Brian held the position of Vice President of the Friends for many years and stepped down in 2009 because of his advanced age.

Brian also served on the Beeliar Regional Park Community Advisory Committee for several years and provided valuable advice to the Department of Environment and Conservation during the early stages of the establishment of the Park. He represented the Friends Group for many years on the Urban Bushland Council.

The Friends of the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre acknowledge Brian Smith was a great example of a professional man who believed it was important to make a life-long commitment to improving the community in which he lived. He will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow, Joy, who was also a member of the Friends Group, and to his family.

*Text and photo provided by the Friends of Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre.*

**INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE CONSULTATION  
DRAFT OF AUSTRALIA'S NATIVE  
VEGETATION FRAMEWORK**

The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council invites all members of the public and industry sectors with an interest in native vegetation management to make a submission on the consultation draft Framework. The consultation draft has been prepared by a intergovernmental review team involving all states and territories and the Commonwealth Government. The review team was established to update the 1999 *National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation* to take account of emerging issues and new approaches to vegetation management.

Submissions should be received by  
**5pm AEDT Wednesday 31 March 2010**

Information is available at  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/native-vegetation-review>

Enquiries and requests for hardcopies of the consultation draft may be directed to the Community Information Unit of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts on freecall 1800 803 772 or by emailing [ciu@environment.gov.au](mailto:ciu@environment.gov.au).

**THE GREAT COCKY COUNT 2010  
Wednesday 7 April**

Birds Australia WA and the Department of Environment and Conservation are currently seeking assistance with surveying approximately 100 evening roosts that are used by Carnaby's black cockatoo across Perth and the wider metropolitan area.

As well as the Great Cocky Count, volunteers are also needed for an on-going monitoring program. Participants will receive a pack that will include detailed instructions and a data sheet.

Anyone interested in being involved or in getting further information should contact Quinton Burnham via email [q.burnham@ecu.edu.au](mailto:q.burnham@ecu.edu.au) or phone 0428 762 292.

*(Continued from page 3)*

recommendations to the Minister for the Environment. We are waiting to see how the appeal at SAT goes. We are waiting to see what the WAPC will decide. We are also waiting the release of the Draft Management Plan for Neerabup National Park and Yanchep National Park. We believe that within it will be the recommendation to take Nowergup Lake Fauna Reserve and Bush Forever Site 383 into the Neerabup National Park.

We work while we wait though. Giz Watson MLC will be asking questions in Parliament and we are preparing a petition to be presented to the Upper House.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY  
CONSERVATION GRANTS**

Second round of the State Government's four-year \$6 million program has been announced by the Environment Minister Donna Faragher in February. Funding is available to community groups, local governments and individuals for projects that rehabilitate, conserve, enhance or restore natural areas or values, and for activities that raise public awareness of nature conservation.

Applications forms are available from the Department of Environment and Conservation's website at [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au) or by phoning 9442 0324.

**Applications close Thursday 8 April**

**Western Australian Museum  
International year of biodiversity**

In response to the proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, the Western Australian Museum has created a series of programs to celebrate the unique biodiversity of Western Australia.

**The Harry Butler Lecture Series  
IN THE WILD WEST**

A program of lectures by WA Museum scientists and associates. Lectures are held at various venues in Perth, Geraldton and Albany.

For dates and locations go to:

<http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/whatson/year-of-biodiversity.asp>

**Bush Skills For the Hills  
2010 Programme of Free Environmental  
Workshops**

Bush Skills for the Hills is a series of free, hills-focused workshops for the community:

***Living with frogs, birds and snakes***

27 March 9.30 am Lake Leschenaultia, Rosedale Rd, Chidlow

Movie nights at Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre, Kalamunda:

30 March 7 pm ***The Burning Season***

28 April 7 pm ***Thin Green Line***

25 May 7 pm ***Taking Root***

***Rock Group on Tour***

1 May 8.45 am - 1 pm Various sites around eastern hills. Meet bus at Jack Mann Oval carpark, Bishop Rd, Middle Swan

***Noongar Booja Cultural Walk***

15 May 9.30 am John Forrest National Park.

To register or for more information contact Joanne Woodbridge at the EMRC on 9424 2216 or email to [joanne.woodbridge@emrc.org.au](mailto:joanne.woodbridge@emrc.org.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 \$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"

Groups and supporters are reminded that annual membership fees include one printed copy of the *Urban Bush Telegraph* (currently published quarterly). Additional printed copies can be ordered at a cost of \$5.00 per copy per annum.

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 Activities

UBC Bushland Weed display of garden escapees at **Garden Week 8<sup>th</sup> April – 13<sup>th</sup> April at Perry Lakes.**  
Near main entrance at site marked "*Biodiversity for your garden*"  
with Wildflower Society, SERCUL, Australian Native Nurseries

**City Bush Guides 2010** training course Wednesdays for 7 weeks **14<sup>th</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> May** inclusive.  
At Kensington Bushland, Harold Rossiter Reserve, Victoria Park.  
Enrolments now open, contact Leslie [ubc@iinet.net.au](mailto:ubc@iinet.net.au)

### UBC VISIT TO PAGANONI WETLANDS WITH THE FRIENDS OF PAGANONI WETLANDS MONDAY 14TH JUNE. MEET AT 9.30AM.

Exit the freeway at Paganoni Road and travel west for approximately 3km to the parking area on the southern side of Paganoni Road and east of the railway line (i.e. turn left just before passing under the Railway Bridge)

## All welcome

### 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)***

Available from the UBC for \$11, postage included.

***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).*** Available from the UBC for \$11, postage included.

***Burning our Bushland - proceedings of a conference about fire and urban bushland (1995).*** Out of print; available in libraries.

### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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