

Banksia attenuata



Banksia grandis



Banksia menziesii

Is this the future for our Banksia woodlands?



Banksia prionotes



Banksia attenuata



Banksia ilicifolia

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Editorial

Banksia woodlands are the most prominent trees of Perth's coastal plain. Because of their specialised roots they are able to utilise the infertile yellow and pale grey sands that cover much of this region. There are six species common on the coastal plain, but only one, bull banksia, is common in the Darling Range. Bull banksia is the most typical understorey tree in the jarrah forest of the Darling Plateau.

Banksias are quintessentially Australian plants. Only one of 75 species of Banksia extends beyond our shores, to New Guinea and nearby islands. Western Australia is particularly rich in Banksias, with 59 species. We seem to take them for granted. Yet, considering the extent of clearing for urban development on the Swan Coastal Plain, the threat of dieback, effects of groundwater draw-down, increased frequency of fires and climate change, there seems little hope that future generations will see Banksias as common.

With this in mind, the Urban Bushland Council WA is focusing on Banksia woodlands this year.

In 2006, instead of monthly evening meetings, we will hold weekend daytime activities in different local venues. The first on 29 April will be on 'Post-fire management' at Lightning Swamp and Koondoola Regional Bushland. After the events of the fungi forays season (May-July) we will have sessions on preparing management plans, using your local Bush Forever Reference Sites and a special look at Banksia woodlands.

The UBC Executive Committee with help from our Project Officer Renata will lobby for improved Bush Forever implementation, and in the wake of falling ground water levels pay much more serious attention to acid sulphate soils.

POST-FIRE MANAGEMENT IN URBAN BUSHLAND

Summer schools holidays seem to put not only parents under pressure but also our urban bushland. While we might like to encourage children to visit our bushland reserves and learn about its treasures, many do not appreciate the damage their games in bush might cause. Children started a fire at Lightning Swamp reserve last summer. The fire affected an area of bushland in very good condition. As this is not an isolated case it might be useful to remind ourselves how we can help the bushland to recover.

The recovery process includes both short and long-term activities where Friends Groups can be really helpful, even though these activities usually rest with the landowner/manager:

Debriefing and investigation of the cause of the fire - including all stakeholders.

Record the fire - Set up a simple system for recording all fire incidents in the reserve, noting the date, extent, cause and any other relevant information for future reference. Make a photographic record.

Rescue of animals affected by the fire - can be undertaken if safety of people is not compromised.

Preventing weed invasion - develop and implement a post-fire weed control program. Be aware that many weedy grasses can start growing before the first autumn showers arrive.

Controlling access and erosion - temporary fencing might be considered necessary to prevent further damage to the bushland and spread of new weeds or disease

Regeneration initiatives - sometimes fire provides a great opportunity for planting or direct seeding.

Involve the community - raise the awareness about the bushland values and fire prevention by distributing a leaflet to residents living near the bushland. Invite them to the bush regeneration activities.

How to apply all this will be demonstrated on 29 April at two bushland sites. See back cover for details.

Residents group fighting against a loss of old trees in Medina

In July 2005 a new group, the Medina Residents Group, formed in response to the Town of Kwinana's proposed sell off of public open space (POS) in Medina.

The Town of Kwinana invited comments on the new Local Town Planning Strategy (Long Term Land Use) earlier in 2005. Under this proposed LTP Strategy, there are seven POS areas earmarked by Council for redevelopment, with three in Medina.

Medina residents are concerned that their suburb will lose its unique character as a number of mature trees will be lost to higher density housing. They also argue that the redevelopment will result in the loss of heritage architecture by replacing the older style houses with mainstream housing designs.

Medina was planned in the fifties by a forward thinking planner Margaret Feilman, who was committed to creating a community that lived in harmony with the natural environment. Locals believe that the many bush parks and treed landscapes of Tuart, Jarrah and Banksia are a legacy of Margaret's original vision and what makes Medina the unique community it is today.

The Town of Kwinana is justifying the proposed changes by arguing that the maintenance of public open spaces is too costly, Medina is over serviced in regards to parks, which they believe are little used and the Town is strapped for cash. They see Medina as run down and argue that they are applying a State Government initiative in increasing housing density.

The Medina Residents Group requested:

- All new development in Medina to include retention of significant trees and remnant vegetation
- Development of Ridley Way and Heald Place POS be in keeping with the architectural and environmental heritage
- Harry McGuigan Park to be rehabilitated as natural bush
- No blanket changes of R20 to R30 zoning, and rezoning with development covenants—retention of original housing stock unless in need of demolition
- Consultation with the local community throughout the planning and development process
- Heritage assessment of Medina
- Planning decisions to be made with up to date information

BUSHLAND AREAS UNDER THREAT

- WEBSTER ROAD BUSHLAND, FORRESTDALE
- BUSHLAND AT KEWDALE FREIGHT TERMINAL
- PERTH AIRPORT (BFS 386)
- CONSERVATION CATEGORY WETLAND AT BERINGARRA AVE, MALAGA
- ASHTON RD BUSHLAND, BULLSBROOK (BFS 88)
- BFS 344 (BANJUP)
- BANJUP BUSHLAND (BFS 263)
- BUSHLAND ADJACENT TO THOMSONS LAKE (BFS 391 & BUSHLAND ALONG HENDERSON RD, MUNSTER)
- COASTAL STRIP FROM WILBINGA TO MINDARIE (BFS 397)
- ALL BUSH FOREVER SITES IN THE **NEGOTIATED PLANNING SOLUTION** IMPLEMENTATION CATEGORY
- KIARA TAFE SITE
- KEN HURST PARK (BFS 245)
- NORTH LAKE (BFS 244)
- UNDERWOOD AVE (BFS 119)
- POINT PERON (BFS 355)
- FARRINGTON ROAD BUSHLAND
- JANDAKOT AIRPORT (BFS 388)
- OCEAN REEF COASTAL RESERVE (BFS 325)
- PART OF LEDA & ADJACENT BUSHLAND (BFS 349)

The Greens have negotiated to protect AK Reserve bush

By Giz Watson, Greens MLC, North Metropolitan

The last thing that the Greens wanted was to be the meat in the sandwich in the interminable and nasty dispute between Mayor Anderton and her supporters on the Town of Cambridge (ToC) and the Planning Minister Alannah MacTiernan over who should redevelop the Perry Lakes stadium site and build new sports facilities. However, as had been predicted for some time, the Government responded to the impasse with the Town by introducing a Bill, late last year, to resume certain land from the ToC and take over the building of the three new sports facilities and the redevelopment.

From all the plans and documentation as well as extensive discussions and briefings it was clear to me that the sports facilities are urgently needed and both the ToC and the Government intended to put the three new sports facilities on AK reserve and whoever had control of the development would destroy the Bush Forever bush. Also the final rezoning decision was always going to be firmly in the hands of the Minister.

The two Greens MLCs hold the balance of power in the Legislative Council (LC) and therefore depending on the position taken by the Liberal party in the LC our vote on this Bill was likely to be critical.

Fairly early in the process of discussions on the *Perry Lakes Redevelopment Bill* I was approached by the leader of the Liberal's in the LC, Norman Moore, who asked for our support for amendments that the Liberals wanted to ensure a better financial deal for the ToC. If these amendments were accepted either by Greens or the Government then the Liberals would give their support for such an amended Bill and the Government would take over the redevelopment. Make no mistake whatever they say publicly the Liberals were going to support the Government taking over the development.

The Greens had the choice of either: 1. Agreeing with the Liberals amendments; 2. Standing aside from the process altogether; or 3. Negotiating with the Government for some specific outcomes and assurances. If we had done either 1. or 2. the Government would have taken over the redevelopment and the Bush Forever bush would have been lost. Instead I chose to negotiate with the Government for the protection of the maximum amount of the bushland; preservation of the mature remnant native trees on the Perry Lakes site; and a commitment to best practice sustainability design and building in any new building.

The result of exhaustive negotiations, several site visits (with people including Kingsley Dixon from the Botanic Gardens and Park Authority, Mary Gray from Urban Bushland Council and any number people from the Departments of Planning and Sport and Recreation) and enormous pressure from the Government to pass the Bill before Christmas the Government agreed to the following conditions in the legislation:

1 That the Minister must not approve a draft redevelopment plan for the AK reserve redevelopment area unless satisfied it contains provisions that ensure: that as much of the existing flora on the AK reserve land as possible is conserved in a corridor running in a broadly east-west direction; and that the corridor is enhanced with flora that

is indigenous to the land so as to create a continuous belt of such flora.

- 2 Extensive and specific commitments to sustainable development including energy and water efficient design and building, increased use of recycled materials and decreased waste from demolition.
- 3 That at least 15% of the land at the Perry Lakes stadium site be reserved as public open space (POS) (normally only 10% would be required) and that POS contain and conserve as many of the trees that are indigenous to the land as possible in the land adjacent to Brookdale and Alderbury streets. Thus the majority of the mature tuarts and flooded gums on the site will be retained and also act as a visual buffer to the redevelopment.
- 4 That redevelopment provides for accommodation design for seniors.
- 5 That there be a height limit of 5 storeys on any building in the redevelopment.
- 6 That the resumption of land did not include any land to the north of Bold Park. (It had been suggested that the resumption of land was a sneaky way to bring the Stephenson Highway down through Wembley Golf Course and Bold Park)

I also sought and got commitments on the record that:

- 1 The Riding for the Disabled would be suitably relocated to their satisfaction.
- 2 That there will be improved walking and cycling access to both developments and that public transport be increased.
- 3 That the new sports facilities and the redevelopment be subject to full environmental impact assessment and community consultation.
- 4 That the new rugby stadium not be sited on AK reserve but on degraded already cleared land to the south.
- 5 That the new basketball stadium be built on the already cleared land at AK reserve.

My first preference was for the new athletics stadium to be rebuilt on the existing site. I argued for this but the Minister made it very clear this was not an option they would consider.

I believe I have been able ensure the best outcome for the Bush Forever bushland that I was able to negotiate. If I hadn't negotiated much more if not the entire bush corridor would have been lost. Further for the first time ever (at least in WA) the protection and enhancement of this bush is stated in law as well as commitments to sustainable development.

If you want to see the details either of the new legislation or the debate you can read them on the Parliament web site: www.parliament.wa.gov.au . Also I am more than happy to answer any questions people may have.

Oh and by the way I'm a member of the Friends of Bold Park, the Friends of Shenton Park Bushland, the Friends of Trigg, Cambridge Coastcare and South Cottesloe Coastcare. I really hope people understand my passionate commitment to bushland conservation and will see that I have put blood, sweat and tears into trying to achieve the best outcome in an imperfect political arena!

Help Count the Cockies - Get involved in the 'Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project'

The next surveys are planned for **Sunday 26 March and Sunday 14 May**. You can also get involved in a Cocky Day on **Sunday 19 March at Yanchep National Park**.

For more information on how to get involved contact Banshi Shah, Swan Coastal Coordinator, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project, Birds Australia WA : Email: b.shah@birdsaustralia.com.au, Tel: 0427 707 047, web: www.birdsaustralia.com.au



Perth Urban Bushland Fungi

PERTH URBAN BUSHLAND FUNGI—PHASE 2

The photo on the right is a reminder of the productive times in the field, looking for fungi with a group of enthusiasts during the 2005 fungi season.

In 2006, the PUBF fungi walks will continue. With funding support from Lotterywest, Roz Hart will continue her role as a Community Education Officer. Sarah De Bueger has started working as the Project Officer. The project is waiting to hear from CALM about Mycological support. Roz and Sarah are both based at the WA Herbarium, with Roz working Mondays to Wednesdays and Sarah Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Currently they are developing the calendar of events for the 2006 fungi season. In a few weeks time visit the project website www.fungiperth.org.au to find out where and about the next fungi forays and other activities.



Participants at the PUBF Rockingham Lakes Regional Parks fungi survey in June 2005.

Photo by Roz Hart

FUNGI FORAY LEADERS WORKSHOP

20 & 21 June 2006 at Lowlands

If you wish to become a foray leader, contact the UBC office to register your interest on (08) 9420 7207 or email ubc@iinet.net.au

KEEPING A FRIENDS GROUP GOING - Avoid burnout

In any area of our lives, there are 'ups' and 'downs'. They are hard to avoid. So it is natural that Friends Groups might experience them. While there might be some plausible reasons for a group to cease existing, usually there are opportunities for changes to keep the Group going. Some community groups have been active for the past 10, 20 and even 30 years!

When members feel dissatisfied with a group's progress they should first of all try to identify the reasons. It might be useful to meet in an informal setting, like **having a picnic in a nice bushland reserve**, and discuss why the members are dissatisfied. Do they feel that no progress is being achieved towards the group's goal? Then there might be an opportunity to re-evaluate whether the goal is achievable. If not, is there an alternative? Was the time frame for the planned projects realistic? Could that be changed to a slower pace and still achieve the desirable outcome? This could lead to reassessment of the group's objectives and make them more realistic.

The next step is to check how effective **the group's organisational structure** is. Whether it is formal, with a president, secretary, treasurer and committee members, or informal, with a group leader and few helpers, the responsibilities of members should be clearly defined and the workload shared. There are many simple jobs that can be shared. Note down who does what. Then the chairperson can ask those people to report back at subsequent meetings.

Some people tend to take on the lion's share of the load themselves. It is important to learn how to **delegate**, recognising the diversity of skills within a group and giving others an opportunity to use them. Some keys to success:

- Plan ahead and be specific
- Welcome and acknowledge each person who comes, be friendly to all
- Explain tasks to be done, let people choose or ask (nicely!) people to do specific tasks. Make sure each person is included and feels needed
- Be available to help, give full information
- Give helpers refreshments and socialize
- Thank them for their efforts and acknowledge what has been achieved at the end of each session

- Before people leave, let people know when the next event is on

Another common issue is not having enough volunteers to do all the work. However, most of the time groups get focused on the on-ground work and no-one is actively recruiting **new volunteers**. When developing a strategy to attract more people, depending on the vision of your group, you might consider:

- What might motivate people to offer free services, like a sense of achievement, responsibility, recognition, advancement, opportunities to learn new skills, a sense of belonging to a group, meeting others with similar views and interests
- Most people relate to the environment through understanding how changes would affect their lifestyle rather than feeling a responsibility to protect the environment for future generations

You could promote your activities through local newspapers, displaying flyers in public places like your library, or a letterbox drop prior to an activity, promoting not only the activity but also the group. Consider organizing a public talk with a guest speaker.

As important as attracting new volunteers is the ability to sustain them. When organising work try to involve everyone, have a variety of activities and try to have regular sessions at fixed times. Most importantly, do not forget to have fun and celebrate achievements. Keep a scrapbook of newspaper articles, photos, diary of activities and other items that will form a historical record. Try to hold a few informal meetings involving a meal, some background music or videos of interest during breaks in meetings. Encourage family involvement in group activities. Finally, make sure that you are aware of reasons why people do not continue their involvement with the group.

When signs of **burnout** appear after people were trying to cope with too many things for too long, it is time to slow down, do less and do it better, and nurture yourself. Prioritize, deal only with issues that are critical to your goals and check that your goals are still relevant. Have a social windup at the end of the year and take a break over the hot summer.

For references on this topic, contact the UBC office.

PERTH GROUNDWATER ATLAS

The Second Edition of the Perth Groundwater Atlas was released by the Department of Environment and is now available online at www.environment.wa.gov.au. The Atlas is a useful tool with information to estimate the depth of groundwater, and base of the superficial aquifer beneath a property, give an indication of the salinity of the groundwater at the bore site, and indicate those areas where groundwater conditions, may present problems for development of a groundwater bore within the superficial aquifer. The new Atlas also provides details on iron staining risk and potential acid sulphate soil risk.

For hard copies contact the Department of Environment on (08) 9278 0300

Group News Group News Group News

1976-2006

30th Anniversary of the Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society of Western Australia

On Saturday 25th February past and present long-time members of the Eastern Hills Branch of the WSWA were honoured at a special morning tea. Members past and present, new and old enjoyed catching up with friends and were treated to a delicious morning tea (see photo below).

In the 30 years since the Eastern Hills Branch was established in April 1976, there have been a great many achievements including the establishment in 1979 of the Joanna Seabrook Seed Orchard. The Seed Orchard is still maintained by a group of hard-working members. Branch members also maintain an extensive seed bank of local and other native plant species. A dedicated group of members collect, clean, and package seed for sale. We have also established a propagating group. Many years ago, Branch members established a reference and borrowing library. This has now grown into a comprehensive collection. In more recent years Branch members established and continue to maintain and add to a Herbarium of local flora. The Branch also holds well-attended monthly meetings for all

members and others interested in Australian flora and we continue to attract excellent guest speakers. In addition we hold regular workshops, excursions and bushwalks for members and non-members. The biggest single event on our calendar is our annual plant sale with all plants grown by members. Each year the sale is held on the Saturday, immediately before Mother's Day. The sale has increased in size and popularity every year since its inception.

In 1987 the Eastern Hills Branch acquired the lease of the Octagonal Hall in Glen Forrest from the Shire of Mundaring. The Octagonal Hall has been our headquarters since that time and having a permanent home has been of great benefit to our members and the many activities we have undertaken.

A number of activities are planned to make the 30th Anniversary year one to remember. Planned events include special activities to coincide with our Annual Plant Sale on 13th May; the establishment of a commemorative garden at the Octagonal Hall with a special morning tea for all members and invited guests; a bus trip in the wildflower season; and a celebration dinner.

Anne Pilgrim
President, Eastern Hills Branch



The Urban Bushland Council WA Inc congratulates the Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society WA on this significant achievement. The work and perseverance of the volunteers is of great inspiration to others.

Guided walk with the Friends of Star Swamp bushland.

Join the Friends on Saturday **25 March** at 8.00 am for a walk, observing birds, insects and autumn wildflowers in Star Swamp Bushland Reserve. After the walk you can look at displays by a variety of local environmental groups at the Henderson Environment Centre at Groat Street, North Beach. For more information phone 9447 2983 or email randccurry@westnet.com.au

Friends of Trigg bushland invite all interested to a night walk on Friday **31 March** at 7.30 pm. Meet them in the car park south of St. Mary's Anglican School in Elliott Road, Karrinyup. Do not forget to bring your torch!

For more information contact Barbara Alcock on 9447 5406 or email to petara@inet.net.au.

The Men of the Trees are holding their annual FESTIVAL OF TREES on Saturday **25 March**. This year's theme is 'Sustainability' and they are planning a fun day to encourage everyone to think about

the many ways to work towards more sustainable living. The Festival is held at St Barbe Grove in Hazelmere and it starts at For more information contact Jackie Schoen on 9250 1888 or email to jackie@ca.com.au.

Wildflower Society of WA is seeking expressions of interest for 2006 Eastern Tour, starting on Monday 18 September and finishing on Friday 22 September. This tour is based on Merredin. It involves a one-day trip to Merredin, two days in the region north and south east of Merredin, a one day trip to Narrogin via Harrismith, and a one day return to Perth. Costs will depend on the number of participants. We hope they will be about \$700 - way below the costs of commercial tours. However, the tour will only if there is sufficient participants. To register your interest go to the Wildflower Society WA website <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers/Eastern.htm> Or contact the office on 9383 7979 on Tuesdays or Thursdays.



Friends of Queens Park Bushland

Gill Brennan (pictured left) has stepped down as President of the Friends of Queens Park Bushland after 13 years. Gill, with steady support from husband Terry, founded the Friends Group in 1992 and was the catalyst for many of the actions which enabled the Queens Park/Maniana and Welshpool bushlands to be protected, initially as local bush-

land, and finally as Bush Forever sites, totalling 22.5 hectares.

When Gill emigrated from the United Kingdom she had already developed an interest in nature. She understood the importance of the bushland which was at her back door. In July 1992 when she saw in the local paper there was a plan to develop the adjacent bushland as a regional recreation area she immediately made her views known to the City of Canning.

Gill sought advice from the Conservation Council. The Council helped with a preliminary plant list of 38 native species. Further surveys extended this to over 100 native flora species for an area of around 14 hectares.

Gill urged local people to support the protection of the bushland, through letter boxing and articles in the local paper. A small group of locals joined with Gill to form the Friends of Queens Park Bushland. The aim of the Group was to protect the bushland and participate in its management. The Friends Group was not opposed to recreational facilities, provided they did not impinge upon the bushland.

The Friends Group made a submission on the regional recreation plan and also referred the plan to the EPA for formal assessment. The area in question included a wetland protected under the Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy of 1992. However the EPA ruled that the plan did not constitute a formal proposal under the Act and was therefore unable to assess it. Also it did not qualify for assessment as the EPA's assessment criteria was based primarily on the System 6 Study and this area was not a System 6 site.

The regional recreation plan covered both the Queens Park and McDowell Street bushland. In 1991 the vesting of the area covered by the plan had been transferred to the City of Canning. However the Western Australian Planning Commission retained an interest in the areas. Meetings were held with the Ministry for Planning (now Department of Planning and Infrastructure), the Friends Group and the Conservation Council to discuss the options. The Ministry for Planning supported the retention of all of the bushland within any recreational plan for the area.

Little progress was made on the plan over 1992, but a plan for the study area was finally released in late 1993. It included a Landscape Analysis Plan, but it lacked a Vegetation Mapping Plan. A bushland area of 9.5 hectares was identified for conservation. Also compensating basins to handle drainage were proposed. These compensating basins were ultimately developed by Main Roads, with considerable input from local naturalist Karl Karu, and with the support of the Friends Group. The final result was a productive wetland for waterbirds while meeting its function as a drainage basin.

The City of Canning resolved in May 1994 to protect part of the bushland and to establish a working relationship with the Friends of Queens Park Bushland to resolve the outstanding issues on protection and management of the bushland. This significant achievement was due to the ongoing work of the Friends Group, led by Gill with polite persistence and determination to have the bushland's values

recognised.

The City of Canning and the Friends Group consequently developed a fruitful working relationship which enabled the fencing of what became known as the 'ecological area' (the core part of the bushland); the provision of formalised pedestrian access and access to essential services such as the fire brigade. Also weed control programmes, flora and fauna surveys and the development of interpretive material are issues which have, and are being pursued.

At its March 1999 meeting the City of Canning resolved to support the inclusion of the Queens Park bushland in Bushplan (later Bush Forever).

At the State level the Queens Park, Maniana and Welshpool Road (McDowell Street) bushland was included in Perth's Bushplan and in the final Bush Forever plan.

In 1999 the Western Australian Planning Commission initiated a Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1005/33 for the South East Districts (Omnibus No. 4) which included a proposal to transfer several reserves from Urban to Parks and Recreation zoning. This was a significant initiative as it expanded the area under protection, and increased the long term viability of the bushland for both flora and fauna.

Gill Brennan's contribution to the campaign to protect the bushland in perpetuity has been enormous. She put in many hundreds of hours over a 13 year period. Gill worked at establishing an effective partnership with the City of Canning so that any management disputes could be resolved through negotiation. She also ensured that the Friends Group would continue as a strong and effective advocate for bushland management, by seeking out a person who would be willing to lead the Friends Group into the future in Anna-Marie Penna. Congratulations Gill and best wishes to Anna-Marie and the Friends Group for the future.

Joan Payne

Friends of Ellis Brook Valley (Inc)

The Ellis Brook Valley, for those unfamiliar with it, is located on Rushton Road, Martin. The Friends of Ellis Brook Valley (Inc) will be celebrating our 14th birthday this year. To list all our achievements during this time would take a very long time. Suffice to say there have been many.

In 2005 we concentrated on completing a user-friendly trail for people with mobility disabilities. The trail starts in what was once known as the picnic area, but now has been christened *Honeyeater Hollow*. The trail then winds its way through a Wandoo woodland, which in Autumn and Spring, is quite beautiful. There are seats every 50 metres, and two picnic tables, which are wheelchair friendly. If you are into birdwatching, this is the place to be.

In Honeyeater Hollow, we have several table and seat sets, and a gas fired BBQ, all located in shade. Blue Wrens frequent Honeyeater Hollow, as well as Scarlet Robins and Red-capped Robins.

We are currently undertaking the planting of several locally indigenous species within Honeyeater Hollow, for those who cannot walk the trails, and wish to enjoy the flora. This is a long term project, and will be completed within approximately 5 years, (we hope!).

We also have a new walk trail, *Eagle View*, which takes you to the top of the Heathland. From here you will get some amazing views, and if you are lucky, see the trail's namesake soaring above the Valley.

If you are seeking somewhere different to come and enjoy being "in the bush", come to Ellis Brook Valley. If it has been some time since you have visited our patch, you will be pleasantly surprised at the changes which have taken place. For information about the Groups activities contact Margaret Robertson on 9459 8852.

Margaret Robertson

FERAL BEE CONTROL STRATEGY

The Department of Conservation and Land Management, with financial support from the Water Corporation, is researching feral bee control, and is planning to develop a *Feral Bee Control Strategy*.

European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) were introduced in the 1820s for honey production and to help pollinate crops. But over the years some bees have swarmed from the parent hives to form feral bee colonies. They are more aggressive than managed bees of the same species, have tendency to swarm, and have little commercial value for honey production. In addition, they take over tree hollows and evict native birds and mammals. Of particular concern is the effect on nesting hollows of three threatened species of Black Cockatoo.

The aim of the project is to reduce feral bee numbers in areas where they negatively impact on native flora and fauna without affecting the beekeeping industry. In the meantime, if you have feral bees on your property, CALM would like to know.

Contact Jacqueline Hay on (08) 9334 0103
or jacquelineh@calm.wa.gov.au

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Australia Post Community Development Grant

Community groups, including local landcare groups across Australia, can now apply for yearly grants of up to \$3,300 (including GST) to help improve their local community and environment, through the Australia Post Landcare Community Development Grants Program.

The grants can fulfil a community groups' "wish list" and directly fund a community project, help buy much needed tools and equipment, or help raise awareness and encourage more community members to get involved. The flexibility in the allocation of funds aims to help groups in their ability to grow within the community.

Who's eligible? Any community group undertaking strategic projects to care for the environment, including landcare groups, youth groups and indigenous groups, can apply for the Australia Post Landcare Australia Community Development Grants. Groups that are not incorporated will need to form a partnership with an organisation that will (and can) accept responsibility for administering the financial aspects of the grant, including insurance, e.g. an incorporated Landcare or catchment organisation.

Closing dates for 2006

Round 1: 31 March 2006

Round 2: 29 September 2006

For more information and the application form go to:

www.landcareonline.com

Envirofund Round 8

The Australian Government will provide up to \$50,000 (GST inclusive) per project for activities such as:

- Native vegetation planting or other works to stop erosion or manage groundwater recharge
- Native vegetation planting to conserve biodiversity or restore indigenous cultural landscapes, assist community health or use for bush food or medicine
- Fencing or other management techniques to protect and preserve habitat or manage access to coastal areas
- Controlling stock access to watercourses
- Awareness-raising activities that directly lead to significant on-ground benefits for biodiversity conservation or sustainable resource use.

For more information visit www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/ or call 1800 303 863

Applications for close at 5pm on Friday 28 April 2006

Swan Alcoa Landcare Program

\$500,000 is available to community groups or local government working with community groups for a wide range of landcare projects. Priority is given to projects that address:

- Retention, restoration and management of bushland, coastal, wetland and riverine vegetation
- Protection and enhancement of the quality of surface water and groundwater

For further information contact the Swan Catchment Council on (08) 9374 333 or visit www.swancatchmentcouncil.org

Applications close 1 May 2006.

TSN Community Grants Program

Round 9 will open on 1 April 2006. Program Guidelines and application forms will be available from wwf.org.au/tsn. Contact Kathy Howard at tsngrants@wwf.org.au or on (02) 8202 1233 to be included on email notification. **Applications close 2 June 2006.**

Community and Environment Help Grants

Visit www.sgio.com.au/pub/sgio/community/help-programme/index.html. **Applications for projects up to \$5000 close 31 March 2006**

2006 Conservation Photographers Competition

Conservation Volunteers Australia is inviting entries into the 8th Annual Conservation Photographer's competition. Entries can be sent in to three categories: Wild places, Flora and Fauna and Conservation Volunteers.

Enter **before 31 March 2006** by posting photos to:

2006 Conservation Photographer's Competition

Conservation Volunteers Australia

PO Box 423 Ballarat Vic 3353

Freecall 1800 032 501 or email

info@conservationvolunteers.com.au for an Entry Form!

2006 Catchments, Corridors and Coasts program

Five-day educational program provides a professional development opportunity for teachers, students, community members, local government and State Government:

Wed 19 April - Communities, sustainable living, environmental technology

Th 20 April - Biodiversity, interconnections with nature

Fr 21 April - Catchment tour

Wed 26 April - Rivercare day

Th 27 April - Coastcare day

To register please email mdurcan@inet.net.au.

Skills for Nature Conservation Calendar 2006

To download a full calendar with all the details go to

www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon

Or phone (08) 9374 3333

2006 ADVENTURES IN LANDCARE

Tammin Alcoa Landcare Education Centre is offering practical courses providing insight into landcare practices being used in the wheatbelt. Courses are residential with accommodation, catering, field transport, resources and expert advice. Cost \$77 per person.

6-8 April * 18-29 May * 15-17 June * 6-7 July

17-19 August

Contact Patricia Dames on 9690 2250

or email pdames@agric.wa.gov.au Places are limited to 50.

Support the Urban Bushland Council WA Inc

Join or renew your membership

Groups:

Membership with voting rights is available to groups committed to the protection of urban bushland for \$30 a year (GST included). A growing membership strengthens the cause and groups benefit from the network.

Individuals:

Supporter membership is only \$20 per year (GST included). Supporters can attend all UBC activities 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

POST-FIRE MANAGEMENT IN URBAN BUSHLAND

Saturday 29 April 2006
9.00 am - 1.00 pm

A practical session in two recently burnt bushland reserves, Lightning Swamp Reserve and Koondoola Regional Bushland. We will discuss all the aspects of post-fire recovery of bushland, including weed control, control of access, prevention of spread of dieback, community involvement and cooperation with FESA.

For more information and book your place contact the UBC office on Mondays or Thursdays on 9420 7207 or email to ubc@iinet.net.au

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

Editor: 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

If possible, send contribution on floppy disk in IBM format. Disks will be returned.

Copy deadline - 29 June 2006

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