

Momentum for New Act after 100 years of Legal Killing

The sad plight of our endangered black cockatoos is providing the public interest and momentum necessary for a new Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Our current Act provides for legalised environmental harm and does not effectively protect cockatoos or their habitat. While "*all fauna is wholly protected throughout the whole State at all times*" there are exemptions that make protection totally ineffective.

Successive state governments over the last 20 years have failed to introduce a new Act despite intentions and preparatory work involving community consultation to do so.

The Wildlife Conservation Act of 1950 has not significantly changed in 62 years. Moreover its predecessors were not even focused on the general purpose of biodiversity conservation at all. The Act replaced the Game Act of 1912 and the Game Amendment Act of 1913 and this provided for open seasons and closed seasons for shooting game, *ie* the legal recreational hunting and killing of our native wildlife.

In 1950 the Game Act was renamed the Fauna Act. Then in 1976 it became the Wildlife Conservation Act when provisions for flora were added. However the Act has comprehensive provisions for the 'taking' of both flora and fauna. A licence may be granted to 'take' fauna or flora:

To take "in relation to any fauna, includes to kill or capture any fauna by any means or to disturb or molest any fauna by any means or to use any method whatsoever to hunt or kill any fauna whether

this results in any killing or capturing any fauna or not ..."

Thus there is provision for legally destroying wildlife. Interestingly in the 1980 revision of the Act if a person is granted a licence to take fauna, he may sell the skins but must pay a royalty to the government, otherwise he commits an offence. So the state could be seen as

tion must be about retention and recovery of habitat, of ecological communities and of species. Identification and extent of threatening processes, and their control and management are essential features.

We want to keep our three iconic species of black cockatoos. But the evidence only points to declining popula-



gaining profit albeit modest from the legal killing of wildlife.

This makes us the laggard State with the oldest most outdated legislation, yet with the richest biodiversity in Australia compared with other States and Territories and the Commonwealth. Threatened Ecological Communities are not mentioned in the Act, nor are threatening processes or recovery plans or conservation management plans.

So it is time for a complete change in mindset to a spirit of protection and management of wildlife underpinning new legislation. Environmental harm must not be legal. New legisla-

tions. The loud calls and foraging habits of Carnaby's and Red Tails in Perth's suburbs right now are warning us on behalf of all our local species. It is time to act with a new Act. To conserve and manage all their habitat before it is too late.

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Editorial

Australian and US bushfire experts under Team leader Dr Philip Gibbons of Australian National University analysed the impact of the Victorian fires of 2009 on 499 homes. They found that the clearing of trees and shrubs within 40m of homes was the most effective form of fuel reduction for Black Saturday and was twice as effective as prescribed burning. But they warned that the effects of prescribed burning differ according to vegetation type and topography and that it is a very complex issue. Thus generalisations are to be avoided. Building design is also important.

Here in Western Australia, the issue of extensive prescribed burning has become highly controversial if not totally questionable after the shocking fires in the Margaret River and Nannup areas early this summer resulting from DEC's prescribed burns which had run out of control. Many houses were needlessly burned and thousands of bush animals were burned to death while those that may have escaped underground, later may have starved to death from lack of food.

Bushland on the Swan Coastal Plain does not respond well to frequent burning. Biodiversity is lost and weed invasion accelerates. Indeed Professor Stephen Hopper has described the Coastal Plain bushland as one of the most weed prone ecosystems. Grassy weeds such as Veld grass, Wild Oats and Fountain grass win the race and

quickly invade after fire before the native species can adequately regenerate, cover well and restore the soil seed bank. Increased growth of grassy weeds which die off in summer actually increases the fire risk.

The experience at Kings Park is that prescribed burning does not reduce fire risk and a 'no burn' policy has been in place for some years.

In the aftermath of the Kelmscott fire (2010/11 summer), DEC seems to have galvanised its resolve to prescribe burn their reserves on the Swan Coastal Plain. For example a large area of Paganoni bushland was burned in May 2011 and we question the ecological basis for this. See the article on page 3.

The UBC has always advocated against prescribed burning on the Swan Coastal Plain. Most bushland patches are burned too often (mostly by arson) and recolonisation by fauna is incomplete in an increasingly fragmented landscape. Biodiversity is reduced by aggressive weed invasion, lack of connectivity for recolonisation, loss of pollinators, loss of soil buffering capacity and most importantly increased soil disturbance. The UBC believes that it is much more important to focus on control of grassy weeds, community involvement in bushcare and appreciation of our unique Banksia woodlands. This focus reduces the likelihood of arson and other abuse of nature.

Wetland Guardian honoured

By Ruth Clarke

Regina Drummond, Coordinator of the Friends of Brixton St Wetlands Kenwick and long-standing and active committee member of the Waterbird Conservation Group, was honoured recently when presented with the Western Australian Environment Award – Rivers, Estuaries and Wetlands at the 2011 Western Australian Environment awards night.

In addition to raising a family, being proactive in preserving our precious wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain has been central to Regina's life for the past 24 years. Regina has rescued and cared for sick and injured waterbirds, lobbied local and state governments on wetland protection, educated the public on environmental matters and actively campaigned as part of the "Coalition Against Duck Shooting" for the banning of recreational duck shooting in Western Australia.

Regina now works tirelessly, with the active support of her husband Trevor, concentrating her efforts on managing the Brixton St Wetlands in Kenwick in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Conservation. The Brixton St Wetlands are an extraordinary mixture of wetlands containing over 320 plant species and more than 20% of Perth's flora in just 0.005% of Perth's area. The wetlands hosts plant communities and species that are rare and endangered.

At monthly workdays at the Brixton St Wetlands on the third Saturday morning of each month, Regina organises a group of local volunteers and members of the friends group to join in weeding, rubbish removal and planting, among other things. These are relaxed workdays suited to all ages with time to chat about the wetlands at morning tea.

Through Regina's dedication and coordination the Friend's group has produced several calendars, cards and brochures depicting Brixton St wetland features and inhabitants as a way of showing the people of WA the importance of this place. Regina continues to educate the community of Kenwick and the greater Gosnells area of the importance of our environment through displays and giving talks and organising flora walks throughout the year. Regina and Trevor run annual fundraising garage sales for environmental groups needing a few extra dollars. This April 28th and 29th the garage sale will support the Black Cockatoo Preservation Society.

Regina does all this as a volunteer with all her passion for the environment. We thank Regina for her inspiration and foresight to protecting our wonderful wetlands of Perth. **Congratulations on your well deserved award Regina.**

Prescribed burn at Paganoni Swamp Reserve

Paganoni Swamp Reserve had not been burnt for over forty years and time since fire over the entire reserve appeared relatively uniform. Prior to 2005 the Reserve was a large patch of bushland (around 700 hectares) isolated from urban impacts and with limited pedestrian and vehicle access. Apart from crossing Mandurah Road there were no impediments to faunal movement from the coast to the Serpentine River. Since 2005 the construction of the Southern Metro Rail (the Reserve's current western boundary), the Kwinana Freeway (its current eastern boundary) and an increase in traffic along Paganoni Road (its northern boundary) from around 700 to 7,000 vehicles has left Paganoni Swamp Reserve surrounded by infrastructure. Now fauna must negotiate underpasses under the railway line and the freeway to move between coastal heath and the Serpentine River.

One of the responses by the Reserve's manager to the above resulted in a prescribed burn being carried out in May 2011 in two separate episodes about a week apart. Around 100 hectares of Tuart and mixed Banksia-Casuarina bushland situated to the east of the central swamp was burned from the northern to the southern boundary. The fire was considered successful by DEC's fire agency which carried out the burn: it didn't escape, fire intensities varied over the burn site and it rained at the end of the second fire event. It was a fortunate time to burn in terms of recovery, with relatively average

winter rains and a heavy rainfall event in December to assist seedlings to survive the long, hot summer. It was also fortunate timing in terms of tuart recruitment as there were plenty of seeds stored in the canopy, not something that happens every year. The main understorey plant, *Hibbertia hypericoides*, a resprouter, has also responded well. Thus timing is everything when planning a prescribed burn.

Pigface (*Carpobrotus edulis*) has appeared throughout the burnt patch, yet it was rarely seen prior to the fire. Black berry nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*) and Inkweed (*Phytolacca octandra*) have been found under/around most tuarts whereas before the burn they were only found on the boundaries. Exotic grass species and *Trachyandra divaricata* are present in disturbed patches or on the boundaries although grazing by kangaroos seems to have reduced the grass problem to some extent. Weed invasion is one of the biggest threats to maintaining healthy bushland reserves on the Swan Coastal Plain and fire creates opportunities for weeds to invade. Resources for weeds management is therefore a vital component of any prescribed burn plan but is often overlooked or ignored.

Of great concern were the number of very large tuarts that were lost in the fire. These large old trees provided habitat for any number of mammal and bird species. Some raking of trees close to the fire access tracks was carried out and it did protect them but this should have been extended to all the tuarts in the patch.

The purpose in selecting this particular patch was to protect the central swamp and to ensure that if there was a wildfire it would reduce the risk of the whole Reserve going up in flames. The Reserve is home to kangaroos, wallabies, bandicoots, possums, phascogales and bird species such as emus, Carnaby's and Red-tailed black cockatoos, Western Yellow and Scarlet Robins and owls. Many of these species are rare on the Swan Coastal Plain. Suitable habitat outside the Reserve's boundaries is limited and anyway, it may already be occupied. Now that this central patch has been burnt and based on the Precautionary Principle no further prescribed burns should take place at Paganoni Swamp Reserve until there is baseline information on the requirements of these iconic species to ensure their long term survival.

A number of research activities has been carried out as a result of the prescribed burn. This is extremely desirable and the Reserve is fortunate to have attracted such an interest from researchers working at a number of universities and DEC. A longer lead time from when the burn was planned by the fire agency to when it was announced would have provided the researchers with greater opportunities to gain better insights into the effects of the prescribed burn (through comparisons with unburnt sites) so



Photo by L. Stubbs

Tuart in Paganoni Swamp Reserve before the prescribed burning

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The City of Wanneroo is riding roughshod over Alexander Heights' residents

By Kevin Lehane, *Save the Trees in Our Park*

In October 2010, the Vietnamese community made a formal submission to the City of Wanneroo to develop a bushland site near Highview Park in Alexander Heights as its new community facility. This proposal lapsed due to strong opposition by local residents, to its close proximity to housing and because of the likely traffic problems it would create.

In July 2011, on the initiative of the then mayor, Jon Kelly and Cr Brett Treby, council minutes record that "an alternate freehold site" was at Lot 5483, at 41 Park Lane, Alexander Heights. This bushland site comprises 54 trees (including 37 Banksias that are frequented by the endangered Black Cockatoos) and 22 grass trees. Lot 5483 is situated within the Ian Robbins / Alexander Heights conjoined parks. This land is an integral part of the overall parks' bushland scenery.

On 23 January 2012, the City of Wanneroo invited expressions of interest from resourced community groups to develop Lot 5483. This would necessarily entail a large clearing of trees from this land. Therefore, the city effectively acted against its own 'Local Environmental Plan 2009 -2014,' which includes minimising the environmental impact of development on its bushland.

In letters sent to residents of Alexander Heights who complained about developing Lot 5483, the City of Wanneroo claimed the trees on this land were in 'poor condi-

tion'. In refuting this, Dr Paul Barber, Director of Arbor Carbon, Environmental & Arboricultural Consultants, inspected Lot 5483 on 22 February 2012. He considered that 'overall, these trees are in very good condition'.

Lot 5483 is zoned "Civic and Cultural." The "Save the Trees in Our Park" Action Group in Alexander Heights contends that should the Vietnamese community be permitted to develop Lot 5483, it would thereby ignore the "Civic" zoning requirement. Instead, it would merely satisfy the more narrowly focused "Cultural" zoning classification. This must not be permitted to happen.

The Alexander Heights community has given strong opposition to the proposal to develop Lot 5483. The vast majority of the 1,510 people who signed our petition were locals. (The remainder of the signatures were people in other suburbs of the City of Wanneroo who were visiting our suburb).

Our petition wording: "We, the undersigned, all being residents of the City of Wanneroo do formally request Council's consideration to retain in perpetuity the land described as Lot 5483 within the Ian Robbins / Alexander Heights Parks in its natural bushland state (comprising at present approx 54 trees and 22 grass trees) to thereby benefit not only people who appreciate and patronise the parks, but also birdlife in general."

The petition wording confirms that we are against ANY development of Lot 5483. This bushland is a community asset and should be protected accordingly. Before the closing date of submissions on 24 February 2012, we did not know for certain if the Vietnamese community would be an applicant. This is not a race issue – we hold nothing against the Vietnamese people. We oppose their application to develop Lot 5483 because this will involve the unnecessary destruction of many trees in our existing parkland - including 37 Banksias that are frequented by the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoos. We contend that the Vietnamese community should more appropriately build its community facility in a commercial or light industrial area – not in the middle of our local parkland.



Banksia trees on Lot 5483, Alexander Heights

(Continued from page 3)

this is one area where communication could definitely be improved.

We know that a wildfire is devastating and will take out the fauna and the large tuarts, and the bush will take much longer to recover. However, no alternatives are offered apart from "prescribed burn" or "wildfire". If this is the only course of action then in the long term biodiversity within Paganoni Swamp Reserve will suffer. Alternative approaches should be investigated utilising knowledge within DEC and FESA gained over many years as well as innovative programs that involve the community in protecting their own patch of bush.

BUSHLAND SITES UNDER THREAT

Perth Airport bushland and wetlands- Commonwealth land

-Gateway road project through Bush Forever site duplicating entrance to airport commercial sites

Beeliar Regional Park: Bibra lake-North Lake area

-Roe 8 Highway Extension through Bush Forever site

Point Peron & risk to Lake Richmond thrombolites

-Mangles Bay Marina and housing + canal development on Bush Forever site

Preston Industrial Park

Underwood Avenue bushland, Shenton Park

-housing development proposed by UWA in Bush Forever site

Anstey-Keane Damplands- City of Armadale

-road proposal through Bush Forever site

Coastal area south of Moore River

-large area proposed for housing development

Nowergup Valley pristine Tuart etc woodland: part Bush Forever, adjacent Nature reserve & National Park

-Limestone quarry & batching plant

East Wanneroo area on Gngangara Mound P1 area

-proposed industrial zone

Wetlands on upper Gngangara Mound

-groundwater drawdown from excess abstraction by horticulture and Water Corporation

WATERBIRDS AT THE BEELIAR WETLANDS

By Marion Shaw

Every November the Friends of Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre at Bibra Lake count waterbirds at Bibra, South, North & Little Rush Lakes. Results for November 2010 show some healthier totals than those for November 2011 as follows:

	2011		2010	
	Numbers	Broods	Numbers	Broods
Bibra Lake	512	7	3530	At least 2
North Lake	457	4	376	At least 2
South Lake	165	1	124	
Little Rush Lake	59	2	135	

However, these were influenced by water levels recovering from a 2009-2010 dry summer and a drier one in 2010-2011. We anticipated lower November numbers because our July 2011 count had been well down after the long dry summer and nothing special had been seen by occasional checking. Bibra and North Lakes hosted a pleasing diversity of species. Even at Little Rush Lake, after a fairly uneventful walk, we were surprised by a Blue-billed Duck diving close to the north east shore and by a female darter which flew onto the island where it was hard to discern amongst the vegetation.

On November 12th, Bibra Lake appeared full. At the northern end a family of Coots was initially at its ringed nest of green reeds in front of the typha. Also from this end four Crested Grebes emerged onto open water to swim leisurely southward. Thirteen Blue-billed Ducks were counted.

South Lake's November numbers were mainly up due to Australian Ibis which regularly roost in the Melaleuca on the eastern edge. We noted a high water level in comparison with a lower level at Little Rush Lake which lies on the other side of the railway line at about the same longitude. It was suggested this rise in the water table was due to the clearing of an extensive area of bush on the northern and western sides of South Lake by Landcorp. A new, sturdy fence had been erected closer to the lake to mark the new reserve border.

We visited North Lake on December 10th at 8am., a few days after Perth's first heavy December rainfall. It was exciting to see two Yellow-billed Spoonbills feeding close to the western shore when we began our walk. Coots, Black Swan & Pacific Black Duck were swimming amongst low, open typha.

At the lake's south-eastern corner we saw four White-faced Heron, five Shelducks and two little Egrets, later joined in the shallows amongst the typha by a Great Egret. At this point in time a Rufous Night Heron laboriously rose near the opposite side of the lake to disappear

amongst the foliage of tall Eucalypts. A bonanza unfolded as we continued anticlockwise to the approximate mid eastern point of the lake's edge. Nine Pink-eared Ducks, up to twenty Shovelers, three male Blue-billed Ducks, about two hundred Grey Teal and a few Coots were all highly mobile on the water. Approximately a hundred Pacific Black Duck rose when a Swamp Harrier circled. Twelve Black-winged Stilts patrolled at the lake edge and several Little Pied Cormorants were flying, fishing or perched. There were, of course, a few Australian Ibis grazing here and there in the lake's edge low vegetation.

We had visited North Lake expecting to see it receding. Maybe the water was shallow in places but that morning it supported many interesting birds and the lake looked really good. At 4pm that same day, our regular North Lake counter visited the lake. Some birds seen in the morning had left. Two Pacific Heron had arrived.

At an overcast, hot midday, January 27th 2012, I visited North Lake from the northern side to check on the overall state. Between the fresh, green rushes were areas covered by shallow water. Many Brown Ducks were crowded further along that northern side, Black-winged stilts were here and there along the lake's edge and Australian Ibis were scattered a little further inland. It was too hot and late in the morning to embark on a count but it was good to see the lake still attracting lots of birds.

Earlier that morning I revisited the picnic western side of Bibra Lake which I estimated to be 90% water covered. Near the southern midge repellent stand were the family of Crested Grebes I had been watching over the past two and half weeks. The two chicks were riding on the parents' backs twelve days previously. On January 27th they were swimming with white chests puffed out just like their parents and were two thirds of their size. It is unusual to see broods of Crested Grebes on Bibra Lake. Further north on the lake and about the same distance offshore were two juvenile Crested Grebes. No adults were near them. We had seen one juvenile with parents on several occasions over a week about two and half weeks previously. Many Australasian Grebes in breeding plumage were on the lake. Two were standing at the lake's edge in the shallowest of water. No Blue-billed Ducks were visible this day although three were in the area a week earlier. It is interesting to see these diving Ducks at Bibra Lake at this stage of the summer.

February 7th, 2012 for the Shorebirds 2020 program, five members of the Friends Group counted 980 waterbirds at Bibra Lake (85% water cover). In contrast, the Shorebird 2020 count in February 2011 yielded 178 birds with only 5% water cover. This year a brood of six cygnets and three broods of Crested Grebe of two and one young were present. Eight Glossy Ibis were seasonably present. Bibra Lake continues to attract a variety of waterbirds. What a difference more water makes!

Group News Group News Group News

Friends of Inglewood Triangle have formalised the Groups status by electing office bearers and opening a bank account in February. This will enable the Group to apply for funding through various grant programs to support its initiatives.

On 2012 Clean Up Australia Day, we had a varied group come along including our new friends from Mount Lawley Rotary Club; Bryn Watkins from Entity Media filming for an Urban Bushland Council video on Banksia Woodlands and a horde of kids to help us with the filming (and a bit of weeding). It was a warm morning to be cleaning up rubbish and removing veldt grass.



Autumn 2012 is proving to be a good flowering season for banksia in the Inglewood Triangle Reserve. All the *Banksia menziesii* are flowering, and it seems to be the best season for years. The marri are also flowering. The Triangle was alive with birds as demonstrated in these photos. The white *Scholtzia* and bright pink *Calytrix* were both still flowering in March, although well past their prime. Come down and have a look; don't leave it to the examples on this page!

Adapted from the Friends of Inglewood Triangle Newsletter prepared by Christine Richardson



Bulbous Weeds Blitzed at Porteous Park

Porteous Park is a small remnant of banksia woodland in Sorrento of vegetation type Cottesloe Complex - Central and South with over 100 species of flowering plants. A Friends Group was formed in 2002 to restore this degraded bushland remnant back into very good condition, doing most of the hand weeding work (using various special tools), while the City of Joondalup staff do any herbicide spraying required, particularly selective herbicide to knock out perennial and annual veldt grass. The Friends Group have been manually weeding out 22 weed species across the entire park, and in 2011, we received funding through the DEC "Environmental Community Grant" to employ a skilled bushland regenerator (under Friends Group supervision) to assist in particular with the removal of One-leaf Cape Tulip (*Moraea flaccida*) and Pink Gladiolus (*Gladiolus caryophyllaceus*).

In addition, the City of Joondalup has made available a new grant to Friends Groups (called a "Friends Group Special Purpose Grant") to enable Friends Groups to accelerate their work dealing with specific issues in the reserve they work in. Friends of Porteous Park received this grant to remove Cape Tulip from the northern and southern sectors of the park where contractor hours (using the DEC grant), combined with volunteer effort, was insufficient to tackle the extent of the problem. Using contractor assistance (using both grants) and volunteer effort the bulbous weeds were "blitzed" over a month in spring 2011 with a total of 97 bags of Cape Tulip and Gladiolus removed. The seed heads of that which matured before we could lever them out were bagged, so



Bagged Cape Tulip and Gladiolus lined up along the fence at Porteous Park, awaiting collection

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more bulbs (maybe all remaining bulbs) can be removed during the winter of 2012 with a reduced seed bank in the soil.

The amount of effort required by the Friends Group is consistent with the fact that the park was burnt numerous times in the 90's without any management of the considerable weed germination that followed those fires (as was evident in photographs of the park at that time). The use of narrow weeding tools seems to be quite beneficial to the park, in that it seems to stimulate natural regeneration. Even more Bronze Leek Ochid (*Prasophyllum giganteum*) came up in even greater numbers in 2011, appearing for the first time (since the group was formed) in 2010. Maybe the disturbance caused by our tools is similar to that performed by small mammals in the past.

This year, for the first time since the group was formed, a Rainbow Bee-Eater dug a burrow in the turfed part of Porteous Park and raised some chicks. See <http://www.porteouspark.org.au/FaunaHtml/beeEater.html> for the photos that were taken in the park. When I was weeding, some local kids had their birthday party in the park and the burrow became a good "show and tell" story which caused much interest.

Mike Norman

Group has been in existence for over 10 years, but the Coordinator has bowed out of that role and I have stepped in to crank up the effort required to restore all three bushland islands.

The City of Joondalup has made available a new grant to Friends Groups (called a "Friends Group Special Purpose Grant") to enable Friends Groups to accelerate their work on dealing with specific issues in the reserve they work in. During the spring of 2011, Friends of Harman Park received this grant to employ an Eco-jobs staff under my supervision to manually remove about five species of weed in all three islands, particularly Carnation Weed. The City has also assisted by spraying the grassy weed species (mainly Perennial Veldt Grass) and supplying local provenance seedlings. The impact of the weeding and spraying on the northern island is particularly noticeable, with considerable natural regeneration taking place. Planting of seedlings was undertaken in the most degraded parts, and so far (without watering) the survival rate is currently in excess of 80%.

At the Seacrest Retirement Village AGM in mid March 2012, I spoke about the Harman Park bushland to get all village residents to appreciate its value, and for more residents to become involved in its restoration and care.

Mike Norman



Photo by M Norman

Children at a birthday party assemble to hear about the Rainbow Bee Eater

Work cranks up at Harman Park

Harman Park is a small remnant of banksia woodland in Sorrento consisting of three separated bushland islands. It is located immediately adjacent to the Seacrest Retirement Village, which consists of 160 strata titled properties. The bushland is broken up into three bushland islands, which have a surprising amount of biodiversity. It has a somewhat different mix of species compared to Porteous Park, which is less than 1 km away.

The southern bushland island is in relatively good condition, but the northern one is very degraded. A Friends

Quinns Rocks Environmental Group is hosting two workshops to raise local community awareness of climate change and provide practical advice on more sustainable living.

The first workshop titled *Climate change - global, local and you* will examine the effects of climate change globally and what we can do here, locally.

Climate change is impacting communities around the globe and here. The workshop will include a perspective on climate change from Oxfam and their work with developing countries as well as discussion about local action to adapt to change and minimise emissions. Information on practical actions that local residents could take for climate solutions will be available.

The workshop will be held at the Clarkson Library on Saturday April 21, 2 to 4pm. Participation is free however people are asked to register - phone David Wake on 9305 9575.

The second workshop will be held on Sunday 10 June and will focus on sustainable gardening in coastal environments.

The workshop will be presented by the *Beyond Gardens* team and cover topics of growing local plants to create habitat as well as food plants (bush foods).

The gardening workshop will be held at the Gumblossom Community Centre in Quinns Rocks between 1pm and 4.30pm. To register please call Renata on 9305 9382.

Group News Group News Group News

Friends of Hollywood

Sunday 4th March is official Clean Up Australia Day. Having once done it once officially and having had to deal with the enormous amount of paperwork, let alone count things like cigarette butts and list what make of chip wrapper and how many, we have decided that we will have our own small clean up in the Reserve. So if you have an hour to spare on Sunday 4th March, meet at the main entrance, off Boronia Avenue and Karella street, and we can spread out, collecting rubbish. If the cemetery have not cleaned up their side of the fences, we may have to do that as well, as it always moves into the Reserve. It usually only takes an hour.

You will all have had the flyer regarding this Saturday's protest meeting in Claremont regarding the Black Cockatoos. Of interest, but perhaps no surprise, the Red Tailed Cockatoos have now moved into Hollywood Reserve.

The burnt area that we planted last year is looking really good and we will have to thin the Acacias that have self seeded and are crowding out main other plants. Hopefully we can lift them carefully and plant them elsewhere.

A group of friends from Hollywood Reserve play Boules on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month in the Reserve on the lawn area, at the moment starting at 3 pm. If anyone would like to join us, you can contact me on e.mail or my phone number. It is a very pleasant afternoon of fun games, then we often sit on until dusk enjoying the peace, quiet and the birdlife, enjoying the company and good conversation. People have found it so enjoyable that they come from Bunbury, Armadale, Midland and Bayswater.

Adapted from the Friends of Hollywood Reserve e-newsletter

Underwood Avenue Bushland supports Carnaby's - including rehabilitated birds

Over 200 Carnaby's Cockatoos left their roost site near Perry Lakes on Easter Friday morning at 6.15am. They flew into Underwood Avenue Bushland via the Banksias and other trees in Underwood Avenue median strip.

This transit is fraught with danger as cockatoos and cars share the same space.

In Underwood Avenue Bushland the cockatoos investigate tree hollows, search for grubs in the *Acacia salignas* and attack the *Banksia prionotes* flowers. The cockatoos can relax in the trees in the early morning sunlight, sitting in their family and friends groups.

Only two nights before a group of nine Carnaby's Cockatoos had been released at Perry Lakes with the hope that they would join the flock of over 200 birds, who return there each night to roost.

These nine birds had been rescued from certain death, as many of them could not fly through injury or through lack of food. They had recuperated, some over years, at the Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre. The group had been housed in a 60 metre long cage at the centre, so that they could fly over the extended length to increase the strength of their wing muscles. There they were able to form bonds as a group.

The panel of white tail feathers of the birds to be released had been painted green and an identifying letter stencilled onto each tail. The hope was that a bird or birds with the identifying colour and letter would be seen with the flock.

Underwood Avenue Bushland is so important for the survival of this flock of cockatoos. Housing is planned for the area right down Underwood Avenue where the significant stand of *Banksia prionotes* grow. The cockatoos fly over the whole bushland, sometimes flying through to Shenton Bushland to the south, or flying through to Kings Park to the east or leaving the bushland and heading north.

On this Good Friday, the cockatoos flew through the bushland from the north side, almost to the south side, but then they turned and flew back towards the north, still feeding. Near the bushland fence one cockatoo with a green tail was spotted and followed. He was a young male and his tail feathers were marked with a 'D'.

This bird had been in rehabilitation at Kaarakin, the longest time of all the group. He came into care on 26 October, 2008, 'unable to fly' because he had some broken tail feathers and a fracture of the left wing. He is a mature bird but does not have the red eye ring yet as he has to find a female.



Photo by M Owen

By a stroke of good luck the photographer was able to get a shot of the cockatoo's tail, as well as other shots of him, which clearly showed his identity.

The new Vice-chancellor of the University of Western Australia, Professor Paul Johnston, is pursuing the development proposal of housing in the bushland. He declined an invitation to walk around the bushland with the Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland and he also stated that he did not wish to meet members of the Urban Bushland Council. The University still has to refer the proposal to the Federal Government because of endangered species and their habitat.

Demonstration outside the University of Western Australia

On 30th March, People aged from 7 years to 70 gathered outside the University of Western Australia to protest about the UWA proposal for housing in Underwood Avenue Bushland.

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This demonstration is part of a continuing series to reach out to the community about the loss of our bushlands, wetlands, forests and trees. The people who are trying to protect the trees, bushland, wetlands and forests are being prosecuted rather than those who are destroying them.

Premier Barnett and his government will not listen to the people and to the independent scientists.

Previous demonstrations have been in the Claremont shopping centre and outside Minister Marmion's office in Nedlands.

Contact Margaret Owen, goффmarg@bigpond.net.au if you want to help for an hour at the next protest.

Marg Owen



Photo by M Owen

Friends of Trigg Bushland

The Friends group have had a long history of fighting for retention and protection of coastal dunes in the South Trigg area. When the South Trigg Beach Reserve was reclassified from a C class to an A Class reserve (No 46248) in 2001, this was a recognition by both houses of Parliament that this area of dune foreshore was environmentally important and that it had significant conservation values that were in need of protection. At the time, assurances were given to the Friends of Trigg Bushland Inc that the reclassification would be followed by the closure of the road reserve in due course so that it too would fall inside the A class reserve, and that this was a formality only.

It is disturbing therefore that the City is now considering retaining a 20 metre wide section of the former road reserve for a future road. South Trigg Beach provides a vital biolink on the coastal zone with its significant flora and fauna and preserves the natural relationship between the beach and the adjacent Trigg Bushland. The coastal dune Class A reserve at South Trigg Beach is a Bush Forever site (BFS 308) and as such is subject to State Planning Policy 2.8 which recognises regionally significant bushland protection and its management as a primary purpose and a fundamental planning consideration in its own right as part of an area's essential environmental infrastructure. Consideration should also be given to the importance of sustainable management of the coastal reserve, for example the physical processes of shoreline change, particularly as the area adjacent to the reserve is subject to a high intensity of human activity. Any road constructed into the reserve would increase the detrimental

impact on the dune stability, vegetation, bird habitat and would encourage the spread of weeds and human activity including littering and unauthorised entry into the dune reserve.

We are strongly opposed to the retention of portion of this former road reserve for a private road as described in Council resolution dated 13 December 2011. The matter has been referred to the Planning and Development Committee who are holding a public meeting at 5.30pm on Tuesday April 17th prior to making detailed recommendations to Council for determination. Detailed plans and the meeting agenda will be available on the Council website and concerned residents are encouraged to attend.

Peter Alcock

Waterbird Conservation Group

The activity level at Folly and Maramanup Pools has been high over recent years. In summer and autumn of 2011, intensive weed control was undertaken in preparation for the winter planting of 15,000 seedlings, both wet and dry species. Two sites were chosen for rehabilitation, one at Folly Pool and the other at Maramanup Pool to the south. Planting can be a challenge, as prior to the winter rain the soil is 'rock' hard even using pottiputkis, and after the rain it becomes waterlogged and muddy. Despite the difficulties a regular group of volunteers, some who live locally, turned up every week to help.

Ensuring that the seedlings are given every chance of survival has meant regular summer watering. In previous summers volunteers hand watered using an array of garden hoses joined together. Often it took a whole day standing in the sun to complete the watering. This summer generous donations from individuals and businesses enabled the Group to acquire pipes, reticulation and a pump to maintain the seedlings through their first summer.

Summer activities have also included weed eradication, removal and disposal of old fencing, replacement of fencing on the correct alignment, adjusting and monitoring the reticulation and of course planning for the 2012 year.

We have been fortunate in getting funds to continue management work through the Commonwealth's Caring for Our Country Grant and the State's Department of Environment and Conservation's Environmental Community Grant.

Support has come from many quarters including the Water Corporation, who continue to be a collaborative and cooperative 'neighbour'. Water Corporation has responsibility for drainage and vesting of part of Folly and Maramanup Pools. Also the Western Australian Planning Commission and the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) have provided support. The City of Rockingham has been particularly helpful by providing equipment, advice and management actions.

In 1993 the Group undertook vesting of part of Folly and Maramanup Pools in Baldvis, an area of 19.42ha. Future additions to the conservation area are likely bringing addi-

Group News Group News Group News

tional management challenges. It is unusual for a voluntary conservation group to be given vesting of Crown Land. The Group takes this responsibility seriously and has since 1993 undertaken a wide range of actions, including liaison with neighbours, resolution of boundary disputes, surveying to determine accurate boundaries, replacing old fencing, weed control, planting, and negotiations with government departments on issues relating to the protection and management of our site.

Folly and Maramanup Pools are Environmental Protection Policy wetlands, and legally protected from a range of harmful activities. The Pools and associated bushland are also Bush Forever Sites, 418 and 419.

Receiving the Len Howard Community Group Conservation Award in 2011 from the Conservation Council of Western Australia was an honour and very much appreciated. Also a long time active member of the Group, Regina Drummond was the proud recipient of the Department of Environment and Conservation's annual Western Australian Environment Award in the category of Rivers, Estuaries and Wetlands. Well done Regina.

Our 2012 winter planting dates are proposed to start from 16th June to 30th June, 9am Saturday and Sunday and continue through July until completed. For more information you can call Ruth on 9339 5501, or email waterbirds@mac.com to confirm the dates, check locations and times. Volunteers are valued and very welcome.

Joan Payne



Volunteers planting at Maramanup Pool, Baldvis.

Friends of Warwick Bushland

The 2012 AGM welcomed a few new members to the Group. At the meeting Dave Pike briefed the members on the latest findings of research focusing on the Graceful Sunmoths and their habitat. The Sunmoths have now been found further north than initial data indicated, including coastal areas from Kalbarri and further south to Yalgorup. A new species has been recorded, *Synemon jcunda*.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 20 May, 1.30pm at the Bowling and Tennis Club, Lloyd Drive, Warwick.

Adapted from the Friends of Warwick Bushland e-newsletter prepared by Janina Pezzarini.

Bushland recovery after drought

In the Spring 2011 issue of the *Urban Bush Telegraph*, Irene Tallentire described the effects of drought on bushland on their Gidgeganup property, with numerous trees and understorey vegetation showing visible signs of stress.

Several months on, Irene is happy to share that their trees and shrubs are recovering. The bushland was in survival mode. 'These days they (trees) are sending shoots all along their branches. It is not the first time it happened, so we should not be too worried when they look like "dead" in spring ...'

PRESERVE POINT PERON

Point Peron, Lake Richmond and the Mangles Bay Marina-Based Tourist Precinct

The Public Environmental Review (PER) for the creation of a marina-based tourist development comprising 500 pens and moorings at Point Peron **closes on 23 April 2012.**

This development would destroy more than 30 hectares of Point Peron (BF355) habitat, obliterate the significant geomorphological sequence of subtle coastal landforms, restrict public access and damage valuable cultural and natural heritage elements.

The marina would shift the ocean shoreline close to Lake Richmond (BF358) and also impact on water levels in the lake. These changes could put at risk the Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) of thrombolites of Lake Richmond.

Hands Off Point Peron (HOPP) and the Preserve Point Peron (PPP) groups recently conducted a writing workshop to assist people to write their submissions to the Environmental Protection Authority.

Both the Conservation Council of WA and the UBC have expressed their opposition to this development.



Black swans at Lake Richmond with critically endangered ecological community in the foreground. Osprey can be seen at Lake Richmond and Point Peron every day. Carnaby's cockatoos also utilise these important natural areas. All photos by B Goodale.




BLACK COCKATOO
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY AUST



WILDLIFE AUSTRALIA

GARAGE SALE

SAUSAGE SIZZLE & COOL DRINKS

87 KENWICK ROAD, KENWICK

SATURDAY 28TH & SUNDAY 29TH APRIL

8 AM ---- 1 PM

Donations accepted up until Friday 27th April

Please no analogue TV's or Computers etc.

CONTACT: 9459 2964

Open for public comments

Draft

National Wildlife Corridors Plan

The National Wildlife Corridors Advisory Group, appointed by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in April 2011, is currently undertaking stakeholder consultation on a *Draft National Wildlife Corridors Plan*.

The National Wildlife Corridors Plan Advisory Group has prepared the *Draft National Wildlife Corridors Plan*. The draft plan lays the foundation for a new, collaborative, whole-of-landscape approach to biodiversity conservation that is based on voluntary cooperation and the existing efforts of communities, landholders, governments and industry.

To download the draft document, go to <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-corridors/>

Comments close 20 April 2012

THROMBOLITES AND STROMATOLITES

29-30 October 2012

Two day seminar with international and local speakers, including a field trip

Fire and biodiversity: recent work on the Coastal Plain and in the Perth Hills

Monday 11 June 2012, 9am-4pm

Research scientists and DEC officers will present recent studies on fire and the implications for biodiversity on the Swan Coastal Plain, Darling Scarp and Plateau. WA Conservation Science Centre, Kensington.

RSVP 9423 2900 or email daniella.miernik@dec.wa.gov.au

The Department of Environment and Conservation's Banksia Woodland Rehabilitation Project aims to restore banksia woodlands on the Swan Coastal Plain and is funded as an offset for clearing of bushland at Jandakot Airport. The primary objectives are to provide feeding habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoos (CBCs) and manage areas where the rare orchid *Caladenia huegelii* occurs.

Banksia Woodland habitat restoration: Jandakot Airport offset information session

Tuesday 15 May 2012 between 5.00 – 6.15pm

Banjup Community Hall, 41 Oxley Road, Banjup

RSVP for catering purposes

phone: 9423 2925 email: julia.cullity@dec.wa.gov.au

United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards 2012

Each year, in support of United Nations World Environment Day (June 5), the United Nations Association of Australia recognises innovative and outstanding environmental initiatives and projects from across Australia through the World Environment Day Awards.

The Awards invite nominations from individuals, organisations and businesses that have taken positive steps towards sustainability and demonstrated environmental excellence in their homes, schools, communities and workplaces.

In 2012, the Awards are held in support of the International Year of Sustainable Energy for all and United Nations World Environment Day 2012 'Green Economy: Does it include you?'

ENTRY DEADLINE: 5pm, Friday 4 May

If you have any enquiries, don't hesitate to contact the UNAA Victoria office on (03) 9670 7878 or via email: awards@unaavictoria.org.au, or go to <http://www.unaavictoria.org.au/>

Activist Campaign Tools training seminars

Designed for community organisations and interested individuals and are **heavily subsidised**.

• Law for Activists 22 April, 2012

An accessible and jargon-free community legal seminar for anyone working for change. (Half day)

• Consensus Decision Making 16 June 2012

An experiential look at this alternative decision making model, with workshops to suit all levels of experience. (four optional workshops)

If you, or someone you know, is interested in these seminars but facing financial difficulties we also offer **FREE scholarships**, so feel free to e-mail me for details.

For more details and bookings, please see:

www.activistcampaigntools.org or call me on 042 532 7454.

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

Tuesday 24 April 2012; 6pm for 6.30pm

Professor Pierre Horwitz, School of Natural Sciences ECU

'Wetland worries but some good news as well.'

Our research on wetlands of the Gnangara groundwater system seems to suggest some rather bleak forecasts for their future: water quality problems, serious fauna issues for some groups, shifting wetland vegetation patterns and the perennial problems of fire entering organic sediments. But there are just as important glimpses into recovery that suggest that all is not lost, and that we can turn around these trends."

Tuesday 5 June 2012; 6pm for 6.30pm

Dr Matthew Williams, Senior Research Scientist, Department of Environment and Conservation

'The Graceful Sun-moth, *Synemon gratiosa*'

This talk summarizes the results of several years' study of the graceful sun-moth (GSM). A listed endangered species, the GSM occurs in coastal heathland between Binningup and Kalbarri, and also in Banksia woodlands in the Perth metropolitan area. Much of its remaining habitat is under threat from urban, industrial and other developments. The projected losses of the total population are expected to be about 40% over the next ten years.

Venue: Citywest Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth

For more information contact the UBC office on 9420 7207

UBC PUBLICATIONS

Perth's Banksia Woodlands - Precious and Under Threat Proceedings of a symposium (2011)

Available from the UBC for \$25 plus \$3 postage.

Endangered Black Cockatoos in Western Australia

proceedings of a symposium about their biology, status, threats and efforts to restore their habitat and populations.

Available from the UBC for \$25 plus \$3 postage.

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

Available at UBC's website

<http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/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)

Out of print; available in libraries.

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

Out of print; available in libraries.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: email ubc@iinet.net.au

Copy deadline - 15 June 2012

PERTH'S BUSHLAND BIRTHDAY & PERPETUAL CALENDAR

\$15 plus \$2 postage

Available by mail order from the UBC office.

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Ph 9420 7207 E-mail: ubc@iinet.net.au

Web site:

www.bushlandperth.org.au



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