

New Community Conservation Network in the City of Bunbury

Did you know that the City of Bunbury is home to the most southern occurrence of White Mangroves (*Avicennia marina*) in Western Australia, a unique Dolphin human interaction centre, and is home to threatened ecological communities and declared rare flora? Feeling really lucky to live and work here, I have recently been employed by the City of Bunbury and the South West Catchments Council to facilitate community involvement in natural areas management, and to coordinate the City's commitment to water management and Greenhouse Gas reduction.

The City of Bunbury has numerous bush reserves with plant community types typical of a variety of different landforms and soil types that occur on the Swan Coastal Plain. Our landforms include the Quindalup, Spearwood, Bassendean and Southern River sand dune formations, and the low lying alluvially derived estuarine sediments of the Yoongarillup and Vasse formations.

Unfortunately many of these reserves receive little or no formal on ground management. So to initiate a strategic management program for the reserves all were assessed as a part of the South West Biodiversity Project Reserves assessment process. Six were selected as priority for management. The next step in the process was to actively involve the community in the management of these reserves.



And that is where we are now: developing a network of community groups to assist in the management of these reserves. We have called this network the **Community Conservation Network**. As a part of this network, volunteers will be able to care for the reserve of their interest and will also be apart of larger network of people with similar interests undertaking similar activities.

In our first mail out, asking for help with the 6 priority reserves, we were really excited to receive over 40 responses from the community. And we are now preparing for our inaugural Community Conservation Network meeting where we will meet the new volunteers and introduce our Volunteer Management Program.

The Environmental Officer (Ben Deeley) and I (Colin Spencer) are really excited to be part of this process. We aim to offer a really great program that educates and supports a growing network of volunteers committed to looking after natural areas in the City of Bunbury.

Colin Spencer

Editor's note: The UBC congratulates the City of Bunbury in this initiative. We believe this is the first LGA in WA to employ an Officer to facilitate establishment of Friends groups. Or are there others? Please let us know. We also look forward to an active program of on-ground management by the City of Bunbury.

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and more...

Editorial

The Urban Bushland Council WA is pleased to offer a new training course: 'City Bush Guides'. The aim of this *free* course is to increase the capacity of many nature lovers to share their passion with others.

The experience of Friends Groups is that they regularly meet people who have never visited their local bushland. But once they go on a guided walk, they dramatically change their attitudes towards these areas. Whilst some groups conduct regular guided walks, many do not have confident guides. And there are many bushland reserves where no one has ever organised a guided walk for local residents.

The 'City Bush Guides' course will train new volunteer guides to be confident to lead walks in bushland reserves. Those successfully completing the course will be registered by the UBC as 'City Bush Guides'.

The project is being generously funded by the WA Planning Commission, with the overall objective of raising community awareness and appreciation of Bush Forever Sites and local bushland.

The UBC invites all member groups to participate by enrolling at least one person in this new course. The sessions will be held once a week over 7 weeks, with the first session on 5 July. There is a choice of two courses with the same program: one based in the northern suburbs on Saturday mornings and one based in the southern suburbs on Thursday mornings.

The course includes sessions by guest presenters on environmental components (eg landforms and vegetation, animals and insects, birds, wetlands etc) as well as social components (effective presentation, planning a walk, story telling, group management etc). Practice sessions in bushland are included.

Enrolment forms are available from the UBC office and enrolments are encouraged by 30 June. If you would like further information, please leave a message at the UBC Office on phone 9420 7207 and we will get back to you or ring Mary Gray on 9271 5707.

New requirements for Licence for Scientific or Other Purposes

Anyone renewing their Licence for Scientific or Other Purposes, issued by the Department of Environment and Conservation, must have become aware of a new requirement to make a report every three months on the activity conducted under this licence.

Number of volunteers that regularly renew their licence to enable them to work in bushland and wetland areas are finding this added administration work as an unnecessary burden. They believe that their scarce and valuable time that they normally willingly volunteer on behalf of the community and the local environment, is not being used effectively.

One of the concerns is the requirement to report all seeds and cuttings collected under the licence, which means that all seeds need to be weighed. Most volunteers would not have an access to scales that are suitable for such tasks. In addition it is not clear how clean the seeds need to be before they are weighed. While most take care to provide clean seed for propagation, it is really difficult to ensure that all the leaves, chaff and other material are completely removed from fine seed.

Many believe that before this data collection can be willingly and accurately compiled, the Department should be required to prepare a policy document providing certainty to the community that the data will be practically useful to us. The Department should also provide weighing scales and staff hours to cover the data collection. One wonders what the Department proposes to do with this data and what purpose is to be fulfilled.

The lack of community consultation is also a concern. The new reporting requirement is seen as a case of overbearing bureaucracy which unfortunately volunteers will have to comply with to avoid court penalties. There was no consultation with community volunteers who are working to restore bushland areas ravaged by previous neglect. It seems ironic that even now developers are allowed to clear hundreds of hectares of fabulous bushland, but woe betide if you do not have a Flora Licence! Volunteers are very much hoping that some sense of balance will be brought to this issue and that volunteer groups will not be required to provide this data - really necessary - without help.

GET READY FOR THE 2007 FUNGI SEASON



Perth Urban Bushland Fungi

In 2007 the PUBF team has organised fungi events to satisfy the various needs of community groups and the requirements of the project.

We invite your assistance to survey and collect fungi from different vegetation and soil types. We are building inventories of fungi for Perth bushlands, in many cases for the first time. This year, due to funding constraints, the only workshop we are conducting will be in Augusta where we will initiate our plan to test and apply PUBF protocols in other regions of Western Australia.

In Perth, we are conducting four fungi walks which will take the form of a two and half hour stroll in an urban bushland to point out the existence of a diverse range of fungi and how to find them, as well as raise awareness about the importance of fungi to the environment. These walks will cater for everyone from beginners to enthusiasts. A report with a list of fungi recorded and collected in each bushland and a dossier of fungi photos will be produced as a permanent record of our visit. Fungi specimens will be lodged for permanent curation at the WA Herbarium as a basis for key scientific studies from these events.

To participate please refer to the list below. There is no need to register for this years' events in Perth. However, registration is required for the Augusta workshop.

PUBF 2007 ACTIVITIES

Saturday, 16 June Fungi workshop in Augusta

Contact David Dale on david@thedales.biz to register and for more information

Sunday, 24 June Walk at Canning River Regional Park

Sunday, 1 July Walk at Bungendore Park in Bedfordale

Sunday, 8 July Walk at Lightning Swamp in Noranda

Sunday, 22 July Walk at Murdoch University bushland

For more information visit the **Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project website** at www.fungiperth.org.au. There is a Fungi Field Book to download and create individual records to fit your requirements, information about this year's events, fungi reports for 2004, 2005 and 2006, news items, information to assist with learning about fungi, 'Fungus of the Month' and more useful information. Details of meeting times and places for the 2007 events will be placed on the PUBF website before June.

You can also contact Roz Hart, the PUBF Community Education Officer on 9334 0547 weekdays or by email at Roz.Hart@dec.wa.gov.au.

Tribulations and small wins of an Environmental Community Consultative Committee

An Environmental Community Consultative Committee (ECCC) for the South West Metro Rail consisting of representatives from six conservation groups and one ratepayer's association was formed in March 2002 to provide input to the Perth Transport Authority (PTA) on the design and implementation of the South West Metro Rail project between Perth and Mandurah.

The project is nearly at an end with trains expected to roll to Mandurah in August 2007. The continued presence of the ECCC and its input has contributed in many different ways to improved environmental outcomes on the project simply by continually raising issues and making the project look harder at what they were doing. This has resulted in many often unquantifiable improvements to the project.

The committee has met about 50 times in Rockingham in the five years of its operation, with many site meetings to discuss specific issues. Apart from the meetings and site visits, input to the project has been through submissions on the Public Environmental Review process, appeals and submissions on the numerous Environmental Management Plans.

Here is a summary of the achievements and disappointments of the project from Eddy Wajon's perspective, who represented the Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society WA:

- The route travels through the best bushland in the Leda area, with the Bush Forever land being of much inferior quality to that reserved for the railway or urban development. Efforts to avoid the largest tuarts in the Leda bushland were singularly unsuccessful, with the tuarts seemingly serving as direction markers for the route centreline.
- Realignment of the route near Gilmore Avenue, Leda, to bring it closer to the road, thereby reducing the impact on Pickle Swamp (by a small amount). We sought to have the whole alignment moved onto Gilmore Avenue to completely avoid Pickle Swamp, and move Gilmore Avenue into an adjacent cleared paddock, but the cleared paddock was being re-vegetated by CALM, and the slope restrictions on the railway apparently prevented such a significant re-alignment.
- Where the railway leaves Ennis Ave south of Rockingham crossing Baldivis Road, it goes into land east of the Mandurah Road in good quality uncleared bush rather than go along cleared sections of the Mandurah Road. This route was chosen during the planning and zoning process, and was impossible to change, despite requests and suggestions.
- Locating CALM access tracks within the rail reserve where possible saving 7.7 ha of clearing.
- Clearing of Beckley Bushland adjacent to Murdoch Station for a car park. Despite attempts to have meetings discuss to alternatives (which we were convinced were viable), protests and sit ins, most of the area apart from a 0.8 ha Orchid Preservation Area which contained 22 *Caladenia huegelii* (Grand Spider Orchids) and two old Marris, was cleared. The bushland cleared was in pristine condition and had high biodiversity with at least 25 other orchid species. Mark Heath, President of the Murdoch Branch, spent a lot of time translocating many other orchids into the Preservation Area, but very few of these flowered in 2006. The viability of the area in the long term is questionable.
- Re-design of Warnbro Station, especially the car park layout, to preserve 0.9 ha more of the low-lying Dune Swale Threatened Ecological Community 19b. We sought to have the whole car park moved to the other side of Safety Bay Road in a small area of already cleared bushland, but the public safety aspects of getting the station through tunnels or over roads were seen as significant deterrents to people parking there. We were able to slightly reduce the amount of grass trees that needed to be removed.
- Roadworks and railworks at Mt Henry have the potential to impact on the adjacent Bush Forever Site through spread of weeds, car fumes, litter and increased fire risk both during construction and in the long term, partly as a consequence of loss of the Main Roads buffer vegetation barrier currently there. The ECCC has been pushing for a permanent barrier such as a solid wall or shade cloth type material over a chain mesh fence to prevent impacts. Concerns about access for fire crews and Kwinana Freeway drainage have also been discussed

- In the Meadow Springs area, the railway passes within 50 m of the west of Paganoni Swamp and Black Swan Swamp in some places. The route was constrained by the Peet and Co Centennial Park residential development in partly cleared grazing land to the west. This area, while cleared, contained some beautiful Tuarts. The closeness of the route to the swamps would not meet Water and Rivers Commission guidelines and would also discourage birds from breeding in the swamps. It was recommended that the route be moved west if possible, and that the area between the railway and the swamps be densely revegetated. However, planning approval for the residential development had already been given by the City of Mandurah with little consultation or consideration for environmental matters, and the route could no longer be changed. The developers were also not interested in any compromise and land swaps.
- Reductions in clearing due to site inspections by Jeff Anderton (the Conservation Council's representative on the ECCC) throughout the project. As a consequence, significant numbers of grass trees and tuart particularly were retained. Unfortunately, lots of Tuarts (including some very large ones) were cleared, especially in the Leda Bush Forever area, despite our best efforts.
- Preparation (though possibly only minimal implementation) of a sustainability strategy.
- The ECCC expected mitigation/offsets for these Tuarts and TECs affected by clearing. NMR tried very hard to find suitable offset sites (like for like uncleared sites) to purchase and place into the conservation estate and created a big list of options. However, none of these came off for several reasons including some of them being Bush Forever sites which supposedly already had protection, buyers unwilling to sell, areas not like for like or too expensive.
- In the end, the land offered as mitigation followed the lead given by MRWA for Roe 7 in that unused Perth Transit Authority land at Lot 0 Wellard was offered. The ECCC were very disappointed with this choice as, although part of the site was a Conservation Category wetland in moderate condition, the remainder of the land was used for a Go-cart track, was potentially contaminated, had lots of weeds and a building on it. The ECCC did have a major influence on the Revegetation Management Plan, with major inputs on species to be planted, but with only \$300,000 available for site cleanup and revegetation, revegetation, weed control and fencing will be limited.
- However, in the last 12 months, with lobbying from ECCC members, the City of Mandurah purchased the Mirvac Fini land adjacent to Marlee Reserve for conservation. NMR subsequently provided another \$300,000 to the City of Mandurah to purchase the adjacent bushland. These areas have significant amounts of large old Tuarts over a slightly disturbed understorey, and are a significant addition to the Conservation Estate.
- 5,000 grass trees and zamias were salvaged along the alignment. To date 3,000 have been replanted along the alignment, at stations, in adjacent local council landscaping programs and elsewhere.
- Revegetation has been undertaken on the rail alignment throughout the project. Provenance seed collection was promoted at ECCC meetings. Revegetation carried out in 2005 was very successful because of the good rains. Revegetation undertaken in 2006 may struggle.
- The project is almost complete with trains expected to run in August 2007. The concern is that this will result in a reduced focus on the project while there is still lots of revegetation to be undertaken and management of the revegetation and weeds is needed for the next 2 years. With many of the existing team members no longer on the job and with new people with less knowledge, the worry is that things won't be done properly.

In summary, the ECCC has been effective in keeping PTA on its toes with respect to impact minimisation and mitigation. However, there have been instances where the best environmental outcome has not been achieved during the planning stage. More recently, there have been instances where best environmental management practices have not been implemented or adhered to during construction due to hastily made changes to design, insufficient care by the contractor or inadequate supervision by the proponent.

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JOONDALUP COMMUNITY COAST CARE FORUM (JCCCF)

SHAME SIGN RESULTS IN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In May 2006 JCCCF successfully engaged the new Mayor of the City of Joondalup, Troy Pickard, to get a "shame" sign installed in Kallaroo adjacent to a 400m long area of coastal reserve that had been extensively disturbed and burnt in 2005. This area was cleared by an unknown party, obviously to enhance ocean views. Many of the nearby houses are very large with windows positioned to maximise ocean views. As part of the disturbance, a big clump of Rottneest Island pines were cut down and burnt. They were reported to be the nesting site of 12 species of birds. The shame sign was installed in June 2006. A number of nearby residents were predictably very angry about it, immediately ringing the CEO, Mayor and then the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman subsequently supported the City's right to install the



"shame" sign.

One of the residents rallied nearby home owners to look at ways of getting the sign removed, and the Mayor informed them that it would be removed only when the site has been suitably revegetated in accordance with the Coastal Management Plan. A meeting was organised with about 20 residents in a home overlooking the area on the 12th of March 2007 attended by the Chairman of JCCCF and the Mayor. The meeting was reasonably cordial (given the original reaction of some of the residents present) and a number of residents put forward arguments on how the dunes could be reshaped to retain or enhance ocean views. The Mayor stood his ground and said there would be no reshaping of the dunes - their natural shape would be retained. I stated that as a compromise, possibly some of the lower growing coastal species could be planted each side of the ridge line (that is line of sight with the ocean views) and the taller species planted where they would not impact on ocean views (an approach yet to be fully approved by the City of Joondalup). The residents stated that if this compromise could be reached, they would assist in replanting the site with under the City's and JCCCF's guidance and be involved with its ongoing maintenance. One resident has obtained the Coastal Foreshore Management Plan and has purchased a book describing Perth's coastal plants.

It will be interesting to see how all this progresses. To what extent will these residents be involved with the revegetation, and will they learn about the natural coastal environment and keep this coastal area free from any further vandalism? The direction set looks positive at this stage. Weed control by the City's bush regeneration contractors started last year and will continue this spring in readiness for planting during the winter of 2008. But the "shame" sign will remain until at least the first round of planting has occurred, at the discretion of the City of

SUMP SPRAYING A DISASTER FOR REMNANT TREES !!

In January this year, JCCCF brought an environmental disaster to the attention of the Mayor and some of the Councillors of the City of Joondalup. A member had informed us of dying trees inside and up to 30m outside of "drainage sumps" right across the City of Stirling, so some other JCCCF members immediately did a spot check on a number of sumps in the City of Joondalup. Much to our horror, we found the same widespread problem. We raised seventeen questions with the Mayor and he immediately asked the Administration to provide a report prepared by an independent consultant.

In the meantime, we started to network with the UBC, WREN and many other conservationists from other local government areas. We discovered that the common component of the herbicide mixture used in both cities was "Hexazinone" and it had been sprayed last winter at up to a total of 500 sumps across the City of Joondalup and the City of Stirling. We found it was sold under the brand names of "Hexmac" or "Velpar". A quick check on the product showed that hexazinone, in the opinion of JCCCF and others, should not have been used in drainage sumps, and within the root zone of trees and shrubs. The herbicides were applied to the sumps by the company "Turfmaster Facility Management" who have the contract to spray herbicides in both cities, and many other Councils around Perth.

The effect of the sump spraying has led to the loss of many large remnant trees, particularly tuarts, jarrahs and banksias, some of them probably hundreds of years old. Some of those trees are in Bush Forever Sites. We are concerned that with winter rainfall, the herbicides will move horizontally in the water table and impact on even more trees and shrubs further away from the sumps, and there are already signs at some sites this is happening. From the technical data we read that the trees will try to recover (which many of the affected Eucalypts are doing) but will eventually succumb. Most of the landscaping around the sump fences in parks has been lost, and where there is adjacent housing, trees in people's gardens have died. There are concerns about the potential health effects, particularly with children, with some large sumps being immediately adjacent to schools.



All this is very distressing to the many volunteers who have worked hard to improve the condition of their reserve, and who generally wish to see as many old remnant trees as possible retained in our parks and road verges.

At the time of writing, the report from the Councils has not surfaced. The decision was taken to bring the issue into the public domain by approaching the media. We await the Council reports, the reaction to media coverage and the involvement

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of DEC in an attempt to ensure the use of triazine herbicides is banned in suburban areas (especially on the sandy Swan Coastal Plain) and this destruction of native vegetation does not occur again.

COMMUNITY COASTAL PLANTING

JCCCF is continuing community planting and hand weeding work at sites in Sorrento, Mullaloo and Iluka from May through to November. A rescue of Sword Sedge was recently organised at Burns Beach that would otherwise be lost due to the re-routing of the coastal dual use path. Anyone interested in attending these plantings or associated work can call me on 94481978 (A/H) and I will refer you on to the particular coordinator.

Mike Norman

Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland welcomed the decision by the Federal Department of the Environment and Water to determine the University of Western Australia's development proposal in Underwood Avenue bushland to be a 'controlled action'. This means that "The project will require assessment and approval under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 before it can proceed."

Just before Christmas, on 20th December, 2006, the University of Western Australia issued a press release announcing their revised version of a housing development on the corner of Underwood Avenue and Selby Street, in Underwood Avenue Bushland.

Just before Easter, 2007, the University of WA referred this current proposal to the Federal Department of the Environment and Water Resources. In this case, the University was obliged to refer the proposal if, as the Act states, 'the project is likely to have a significant impact on listed threatened species and communities'.

The public had 21 days to respond to the referral, but two of the relevant maps and two attached documents were not available to the public. Upon enquiry, it was found that one of the documents was a study of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo and the other was a comparison between the current proposal and the previous one, which supposedly describes the better outcome.

It was difficult to make learned comment by imagining what might be in the two documents, and the maps were needed as the smaller maps, which were available in the main body of the referral, had black printing on a dark background so that they were impossible to read.

To get copies of the missing maps and documents, a phone call was made to the UWA's environmental consultants, ATA Environmental, who had written the referral for the University. This was a simple request. How breathtaking it was when the University's solicitors, MinterEllison rang, to say that they would forward the maps.



Photo by M Owen

Two maps duly arrived by post, but the two documents were not in the package. The cockatoo document arrived by courier later, on a Saturday morning, and submissions were due the following Wednesday.

The other document never arrived and upon enquiry to Minter Ellison, was told that 'our client has instructed that this document will not be released because it is not relevant to the EPBC Act.'

Has the University hierarchy so much money that it can have its solicitors involved in the smallest of tasks? Has the University so little confidence in its actions that it has to employ its solicitors to protect it?

In their referral the University gave various commitments, one being that "The University will implement a fauna-friendly clearing protocol." This involves "inspecting all tree hollows, nests and vegetated debris for fauna prior to clearing." But then what happens? Inspections will do nothing to save fauna.

One would have thought that the University would be fauna-friendly by building on the cleared land in its super block and by keeping the bush for the fauna to live in.

Marg Owen

Welcome to our new member

LOWER MOORE RIVER WORKING GROUP Inc

The Lower Moore River Working Group Inc started as a subcommittee of the Guilderton Community Association in 1999, that later resolved to pursue incorporation in its own right. The inaugural meeting of the LMRWG Inc was held in February 2003.

The Group's objective is rehabilitation, conservation and maintenance on the Lower Moore River and its riparian zone. Since 1999 with grants from the National Heritage Trust and the Envirofund, a small group of volunteers have completed several projects. The Group has also worked closely with Conservation Volunteers Australia, Green Corps and the International Student Volunteers.

The Group has prepared a Status Report and River Action Plan for the Lower Moore River, conducted water sampling on the river over 4 years, worked on the construction of the riverside walk trails and boardwalk, was involved in the erection of 5.5 km of fence-line to control stock, prepared a management plan, organised weed control and tree planting in the Silver Creek reserve, and worked on the eradication of Brazilian/Japanese Pepper Trees adjacent to Stephens Crescent in Guilderton.

One of the long term projects is working with CSIRO on the biological control of Bridal Creeper using the Rust fungus. So far the application of the Rust fungus looks promising, as the fungus is spreading to infestations quite a way from the initial treatment site.

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Friends of Star Swamp

The massive bushfire that burned through about 50% of the Star Swamp Bushland Reserve on the March long weekend was the work of an arsonist. It appears that this person, or people, entered the reserve on the main east-west track and turned north along the central track, lighting the bush as they went.

The fire caused enormous damage to the reserve, with about 20 trees either destroyed or removed because they were deemed unsafe. The paperbark stands in the swamp area were extensively burnt and untold small creatures were barbecued or, at the very least, lost their habitat and regular food source.

Of great concern was the apparently deliberate calculation by the arsonist to cause maximum damage. A strong easterly wind was blowing and the fires were lit quite late in the night, at around 10 pm, so it was some time before local residents on the western side of the bushland noticed the wall of fire racing towards their houses.

Many nearby residents spent a sleepless and anxious night hosing down their gutters and gardens, as fire fighters battled to bring the blaze under control.

Although the reserve has already started to regenerate, too regular fires are changing the composition of the bushland. The tall canopy has thinned noticeably over the years, leading to a loss of nesting sites and habitat for a range of fauna.

Most fires in the Star Swamp Bushland are deliberately lit, as are most fires in all urban bushlands. Local councils and fire fighters now take the environmental damage caused by fire much more seriously than they once did but arson will never be totally stopped. Education on fire-readiness and vigilance by members of the public can help to keep damage to a minimum when fires do occur.

Christine Curry



Devastation by fire in Star Swamp Bushland

Photo by C Curry

Friends of Ken Hurst Park are concerned about the extent of tree deaths as well as understorey within Ken Hurst Park observed over the past few weeks. The areas most affected are both on the north side of the railway (between Roe Highway) and on the south side of the railway. This includes areas near the *Caladenia huegelii* translocation sites, Todtiana Hill, the hill south of the railway line and the central section of Ken Hurst Park north of the railway line (see attached map).

However, on both sides, the deaths appear to be concentrated in the higher elevations. Areas at lower elevation near the damplands like those to the west between Fern Leaf Court and



the landfill, along the railway near the Resource Recovery Centre, and the western end of the southern section where the Group replanted, are not (as) affected. Soil sampling has ruled out die-back, so this seems to point to drought stress. The cause is undoubtedly low rainfall and several hot days over the last 3 months, but we are not sure whether the Roe 7 earthworks have been a contributing factor.

Water levels data have been supplied by Department of Water, but they're not exactly in the area of the deaths. The data the Group does have show that the winter water level in 2006 at some locations was the lowest for the last 30 years. While the summer data for 2007 are only up to February 2007, it is already close to the lowest summer water level in 30 years at most locations, and it probably would get even lower in March/April 2007 as we have not had any rain. So it appears that water level and drought stress may have something to do with the deaths, but the water level monitoring sites are in areas where there do not appear to be wholesale deaths. Therefore there are concerns that this obviously isn't the whole story.



Photo by E Wajon

All the data point to drought stress, but the role of Roe Highway is unclear, since there are deaths a long way from the road, and no deaths in other big cuts, and the deaths happened 12 months after completion of construction. We also don't know whether there was any abnormally greater change in depth to water table at the high points as a consequence of Roe 7 using water. However, it is possible that when the road was being built in 2005, it was a wet year and the fall in the water table was not as crucial as there was plenty of soil moisture. With 2006/2007 being a very dry year, the abstraction of water from Roe 7 may suddenly have caught up with the vegetation, and where the ground is elevated, this has been very significant, even a kilometer away.

The Friends Group will continue its investigations to identify the cause of vegetation deaths in Ken Hurst Park, liaising with the Department of Water and Roe Highway - Stage 7 personnel.

Eddy Wajon

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Friends of Allen Park were joined by a number of residents within the City of Nedlands to fight a proposal for competition level beach volleyball courts that would have required clearing of a dune. While the proposal that put forward in March 2007 was abandoned, there is an uncertainty about the resurgence of another one. A new proposal for a marina that will have a significant impact on the foreshore in Swanbourne appears to have the support of Bob Kucera MLA. In an interview on Channel 9 (19 May), Bob Kucera seemed to disregard the local resident's concerns over the feasibility study for a marina with 500 boat pens at Swanbourne as protests of a little enclave in western suburbs. Many local residents found that view offensive.

According to recent reports, there is a shortage of boat pens in Perth and new opportunities to accommodate the demand are being sought.

Concerned residents have demonstrated the potential impact of a marina at Swanbourne by superimposing an aerial view of half of Hillary's Marina over Swanbourne beach. This showed the

extent of land that would be cleared, including the significant section of Bush Forever Site 315. Adding to the concerns were suggestions of a housing development to fund the marina.

As the marina site abuts the Department of Defence boundary line, it might prove to be unfeasible to locate the new marina at Swanbourne. However, the shortage of boat pens in Perth is real and it is reasonable to assume that eventually a proposal for a new marina will come up somewhere along our coast.

WA Naturalists' Club will present an interesting talk by Joe Courtney: *Severe Weather Hazards in the South West*. On Friday 8 June at 7.30 pm in Hew Roberts Lecture Theatre, Clifton Street in Nedlands.

On Saturday 9 June they will walk through Jandakot Regional Park, through a varied area of Banksia woodlands and swamplands. Meet at 9 am on the corner of Acourt Road and Fraser Road (UBD 369).

For more information go to www.wanats.iinet.net.au

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

CITY BUSH GUIDES - free training course

Enrolment now invited for community volunteers who wish to become competent guides in local bushland. Seven sessions, choice of venue:

Saturday mornings (9 am - 1 pm) July 7, 14, 21, 28
at Henderson Environment Centre August 4, 11, 18

Thursday mornings (9 am - 1 pm) July 5, 12, 19, 26
At Cockburn Wetlands August 2, 9, 16
Education centre and Piney Lakes Environmental Centre

Enrolment forms from ubc@iinet.net.au or call 9420 7207 and leave message.

Skills for Nature Conservation

Free training courses. RVSP - Phone (08) 9423 2924 or (08) 9423 2900

Saturday 9 June, 9 am - 3 pm

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMNET - A Must for Land Managers

Presenter: Mark Garkaklis (DEC)

Venue: Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Winthrop

Saturday 23 June, 9 am - 1 pm

BASIC RESUSCITATION FIRST AID

Presenter: St John Ambulance Australia

Venue: Department of Environment and Conservation, Swan Region Headquarters, 7 Turner Avenue, Bentley

RESOURCES FOR UBC MEMBERS

To assist Friends Groups with their activities, the Urban Bushland Council WA is offering a range of tools for free loan:

Flora survey kit (2 available)

Includes: backpack, rope measured out to set up 10x10 m quadrat, 4 steel stakes, hammer, clipboard.

Three shovels, two pitch-forks, two trowels, one spade, one saw, one mattock

Display material

A range of quality photographs with descriptions addressing the following issues:

- Values of urban bushland
- Threats to urban bushland

They can be used to raise awareness and promote activities in your local area by displaying them at your local library, local school or community fair.

GPS/Digital camera kit (will be available soon)

A geo-referencing kit that can be used for mapping weeds, fire history of a bushland reserve or recording the position of your monitoring quadrats.

To book the items please contact the UBC office at **least two weeks prior the day you intend to use the above listed tools** to allow sufficient time for pick up. Booking well in advance will enable better coordination of loans. Please contact the UBC office on 9420 7207 and leave a message with your contact details or email your request to ubc@iinet.net.au

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Lotterywest

Gordon Reid Conservation of Natural Heritage Grants

Applications for funding can be lodged anytime. To find out more visit the website on www.lotterywest.wa.gov.au or phone 9340 5270 or 1800 655 270



SGIO communityhelp grants

Through the **communityhelp** Grants program, SGIO offers grants between \$500 and \$5000 to groups undertaking projects in different areas, including the environment.



TSN Community Grants Program

Round 10 is open and applications must be received in Sydney office by 5pm, Friday **1 June**. Program guidelines and application forms will be available from wwf.org.au/tsn. If you would like to receive an email notification when the grants open, contact Katherine Howard at tsngrants@wwf.org.au or on (02) 8202 1233.



Round 10 EnviroFund

A special coastal and marine round was announced recently. Community groups and individuals can apply for up to \$50,000 to undertake local environmental projects to protect foreshores, beaches, estuaries and marine environments. For copies of application forms visit www.nht.gov.au/envirofund or telephone 1800 065 823. **Applications close 20 July 2007.**

Support the Urban Bushland Council

Join or renew your membership

Groups:

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

Individuals:

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

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

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

The Urban Bushland Council WA invites its supporters to a fundraiser

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 16 June at 7.00 pm

Mt Lawley Bowling Club
corner Rookwood & Storthes St Mt Lawley

Bring your team of friends and colleagues, join in the fun and help provide a voice for the bush

Tables of 10, entry \$10 per person
Licensed bar BYO nibbles

Great prizes for teams, games and raffle winners

Bookings essential

Tel 9420 7207 and leave a message or email ubc@iinet.net.au
or post a cheque now to UBC PO Box 326 West Perth 6872
Enquiries ring Marg on 9381 1287

To find the Mt Lawley Bowling Club in the dark, turn off Walcott St into Clifton Cres, then first right into Rookwood and the Bowling Club is on your LHS. Enter from Rookwood or Storthes St

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

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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