

BEAUTY IN PERTH'S BANKSIAS

On Saturday 16 September, over 70 people gathered at Harold Rossiter Clubrooms in Kensington, at the start of what was to be a day of fascinating insights into our Banksia woodlands. The aim of the event was to provide an opportunity to learn about the variety of Banksia woodland communities on the Swan Coastal Plain, and raise awareness about their values. Bronwen Keighery and John Dell, both from the Department of Environment and Conservation, shared their knowledge about the flora and fauna and conservation values of urban bushland.

The program included a walk into Kensington Bushland, followed by a bus trip to Brickwood Reserve, Byford, on the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain and then around Leda Bushland, Rockingham, on the western side of the plain. The three sites chosen are Bush Forever Reference Sites. The Reference Sites have been selected as areas of recognised scientific or educational interest or as examples of important environmental processes at work. These are sites with easy public access that can be visited by anyone interested in studying or comparing the representative vegetation communities with their local bushland. Information about the forty Bush Forever Reference Sites, including maps can be found on the following website:

www.councils.wa.gov.au/directory/walga/index.html/pbp/PRPBP/

Having cleaned their shoes to prevent the spread of *Phytophthora* die-back, all participants walked into Kensington bushland, where Bronwen talked about flora to one group of people while John explained to another group what fauna can be supported in bushland like Kensington Reserve.

Bush Forever Site 48, Kensington Bushland is representative of Floristic Community Type 23a *Central Banksia attenuata* - *B. menziesii* woodlands on soils of Bassendean Dunes. Around 150 different species of plants were recorded at the 9 ha site. Despite its small size, the Kensington bushland is extremely important for birds: for protection, food and movement. There are around 15-20 species of birds at any one time



John Dell, DEC talks about the values of Kensington Bushland to fauna.

Photo by R. Zelinova



Bronwen Keighery, DEC points out the distinguishing features of Banksia woodland on the Eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain at Brickwood Reserve in Byford.

Photo by R. Zelinova

but about 50-60 species overall. Fourteen reptiles and one amphibian were recorded at the site.

John pointed out that reptiles have the highest diversity near the coast because there the soil contains marine shell fragments, is much drier and it is easier to burrow. There is a drop-off in species across the Swan Coastal Plain. By contrast, flora is richer on the eastern side of the Plain than on the west.

Further, the need not only by local governments to plant local species but also by residents was discussed. Local species such as Woollybush or *Adenanthos* sp. have a high nectar content and usually a big volume of nectar. *Adenanthos* sp. has nectaries separate from the flowers. The real role of the nectaries is not really known. They produce a continuous supply of nectar and bring insects to the plant. Also by planting plants like Banksias, more attractive food is being provided to birds as nectar in local species has a higher glucose level compared with nectar in garden plants.

It was obvious that Kensington bushland is well used by local residents. Not only by the large number of participants at our activity, but also by many people that walked past our groups during the morning. It was also encouraging to welcome two local councillors and the Environmental Officer from the Town of Victoria Park which is responsible for management of the reserve. However, it was disappointing to see that most of the people walking through the bushland with their dogs ignored the sign at the entrance. They did not use a leash and left dog droppings behind.

After the walk through the bushland, the President of the Friends of Kensington Bushland, Gwynth Schipalus talked about the group activities and shared secrets on how to attract new volunteers. It seems quality home made baking could be the trick...

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Editorial

September was biodiversity month! A month when nature lovers will use every opportunity to escape the everyday hustle, and go exploring the wonders of the bush. How much longer will we be able to do so in this region?

According to Stephen M Meyer, professor of political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, huge numbers of species are doomed to extinction, no matter what we do (*New Scientist*, 9 September 2006). He also believes that unless unprecedented changes in human aspirations and societal organisation occur, bringing back 'the wild' will not be possible.

Does our Minister for the Environment share the same concerns? Why else would he renege on many years of work and negotiations and refuse to gazette the *Revised Draft Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands Environmental Protection Policy (2004)*. Adoption of this policy was not only recommended by the Regulatory Impact Assessment Panel, appointed by the previous Minister for the Environment, Dr Judy Edwards, but was also listed as number one suggested response in the State of the Environment Report 2006. Reading the key findings about the loss or degradation of wetlands in the State of the Environment Report is an affirmation of the views that many share: current legislation does not provide adequate protection to our remaining wetlands. It does not even protect the highest conservation value wetlands, as about 6% of these wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain suffered vegetation loss or degradation between 1996 and 2004.

On a positive note, the Southwest Australia Ecoregion Initiative presented the '2006 Conservation Planning Symposium' on 27 and 28 September in Perth. The Symposium generated great interest, attracting a large number of participants from government agencies, NRM agencies, academia and the community. The aim of the symposium was to share information on a range of conservation planning approaches.

The wide range of presenters included local scientists that shared their knowledge of the biodiversity assets of the Southwest Australia, a global hotspot for biodiversity conservation. Then internationally recognised conservation planners and researchers from Queensland and the United States of America presented a number of biodiversity conservation planning approaches and tools to provide information to any stakeholders engaged in conservation planning, threat analysis, target setting and prioritisation.

John Bailey, Murdoch University and Conservation Commission Chair, summarised the two days presentations and here are some of his observations:

- Our response to biodiversity conservation needs to be diverse
- Management should be independent of land tenure
- Rather than 'targets for conservation' a concept of 'continuous benefit function' should be used
- The social aspect in biodiversity conservation is still missing, there is a need for better community involvement
- We need to engage decision makers in biodiversity conservation planning
- Do not forget to use the 'precautionary principle', prevention is better than cure

A threat to biodiversity, mentioned by a number of speakers is an 'unsympathetic culture'. This is the one thing that community representatives experience during public consultation processes.

A classic example is the Commonwealth's community consultation process under the EPBC Act and the Airports Act. Community input is ignored. The latest is a recent decision by Senator Ian Campbell, Federal Minister for the Environment, not to call a proposal by WAC to develop around 100 ha of land for mostly non-aviation purposes, a 'controlled action', and therefore not require formal environmental assessment of the project. While the approval to develop the land is bound by a few conditions, it is hard to accept that 39 ha that should be retained in the 'Conservation/Infrastructure zone' will protect the values of the area. The extensive wetland heritage at Perth Airport, our front doorstep, is being systematically obliterated.

(Beauty in Perth's Banksias Continued from page 1)

Then on behalf of the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi project's team Dr Neale Bougher from the Department of Environment and Conservation and the project Mycologist, talked about the importance of fungi in our ecosystems and about the achievements of the PUBF project. One was the completion of reports from 2005 fungi surveys conducted in selected Bush Forever Reference Sites. Neale handed over the reports to Bronwen Keighery, one of the key people behind the Reference Site project. This is an important milestone as there are now 25 out of 40 Bush Forever Reference Sites that have a list of fungi in addition to flora and fauna lists. To read more about the reports go to page 4.

Before the bus trip, Bronwen launched the new poster prepared by the Urban Bushland Council. The poster titled **PERTH'S BUSHLAND - A heritage worth keeping** aims to lift the appreciation of bushland in Perth. Printing of the poster was funded by a grant from Australia Post through their Community Development Grant scheme. Copies are available from the UBC office during office hours or from the Conservation Council. Anyone is invited to get a copy and spread the message the poster carries.

The second site visited on the day was Bush Forever Site 321, Brickwood Reserve in Byford. There are several vegetation communities with over 300 plant taxa representative of the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain in this 45 ha reserve. We looked at the Floristic Community 20b *Eastern Banksia attenuata and/or Eucalyptus marginata woodlands*, which is also listed as a Threatened Ecological Community. Bronwen pointed out the characteristic features of vegetation communities of the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain, including the presence of *Kingia* sp. She recommended visiting the bushland at various times of the year to see the variety of species flowering and different birds visiting in changing seasons.

During the visit John Dell observed Splendid Fairy-wrens, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Western Gerygone, a pair of Red-capped Parrots and Brown Honeyeaters. Brickwood Reserve is very important for fauna because of the diversity of habitats, including wetland and upland vegetation communities. There are about 12 species of reptile but they are different from species from Kensington Bushland. A large population of bandicoots lives here. They breed continuously throughout the year. The dense understorey helps to protect them from foxes.

Brickwood Reserve provides an important habitat for frog species. This year is a bad frog breeding year because frogs need a certain volume of water and the right water temperature for successful breeding. Rubbish in the bushland can provide habitat. There was a Dugite hiding under a sheet of tin. So when removing unsightly rubbish, replace it with logs. John also talked about the need to maintain aged components of the bushland for the survival of some species, such as Stag Beetles that are dependent on rotting logs.

There was no time to visit Leda bushland but the bus drove slowly past it. Bush Forever Site 349, Leda and adjacent bushland is a large reserve, 959 ha including wetlands and a variety of vegetation communities. There are two Floristic Communities including Banksia woodlands: FCT 21a *Central Banksia attenuata - Eucalyptus marginata woodlands* and FCT 28 *Spearwood Banksia attenuata or B. attenuata - Eucalyptus woodlands*.

En route Bronwen pointed out the changes in dune type and elements of vegetation from the west to the eastern side of the plain. The bus passed a number of regionally significant bushland reserves, including Mt Henry Peninsula Bushland, Modong Nature Reserve, Sandy Lake and adjacent Bushland, Anketell, which is going to be one of the biggest Bush Forever Sites. She also talked about many interesting flora and their position in the bigger scene of the Swan Coastal Plain. One example was *Grevillea curviloba*, which is Critically Endangered and could be seen from the Freeway. It has plume-like collections of white flowers and naturally occurs on wetland sites. However, the presence of weeds like the Geraldton Carnation Weeds was also very visible. When infestations of this weed species are small, they can be tackled by pulling with gloves and then wash the gloves to avoid the sap getting into eyes.

Both Bronwen and John were so generous with their information and all participants gained a greater understanding of our wonderful, unique bushland and the work being done to understand more.



Photo by M Owen

State and Commonwealth failing our natural heritage – yet again

At the time of writing this article, the construction giant BGC has just cleared a very large number of remnant trees - some of them quite ancient and amazing specimens - for the purposes of constructing a brickworks between Kalamunda Road and Abernethy Road on land leased from the Commonwealth by Westralia Airports Corporation. Literally hundreds of large jarrah, marri, and Banksia trees now lie dying on the fairways of the old West Aviat golf course. Tiny pardalotes nesting in the hollows of a now-felled giant can still be heard calling among the tangled branches and Western Warbler's melancholy notes are very poignant. In a regional context, this is habitat destruction on a massive scale but according to the Commonwealth, the developer, and the airport leaseholder this is not a "significant environmental impact." Well it is a significant environmental impact and it is only the appalling inadequacy of our environmental protection system that makes such destruction possible. If the public interest regarding this publicly-owned land was really going to be served it would have been conserved as a public conservation park. It had a remarkable avian fauna and a great many superb jarrah, marri and Banksia trees.

A few kilometres to the south west of this site there is a magnificent wetland – also adjacent to Abernethy Road – which must be one of the most pristine wetlands in the metropolitan area. But despite the EPA's recommendation that a Main Roads on-ramp to Tonkin Highway not be constructed through this superb natural place, the State Government upheld Main Roads' appeal in June last year and it is only a matter of time before the bulldozers move in. By all accounts, we can thank the Planning Minister for this debacle. So thanks, Minister.

And only a few hundred metres away within the Kewdale Freight Terminal there is wetland remnant of outstanding quality - again adjacent to Abernethy Road. This remnant consists of several hectares of dense heath vegetation with emergent paperbarks, swishbushes and some flooded gums. Our botanical advice is that wetland vegetation of this type on the eastern side of the Coastal Plain nearly always consists of threatened plant communities. It is clearly a wetland of the eastern side of the Coastal Plain with a silty, orange-brown, alluvial soil that is waterlogged during the winter months. It has few weeds apart from some fringing Victorian tea-trees and is in quite remarkable condition considering its complete lack of environmental management.

The Public Transport Authority sought a permit to clear the land for development some time ago and despite the UBC's insistence that this proposal should either be rejected or subject to formal assessment, the State Government, through its sham clearing permit processes, has granted approval for the area to be cleared.

At the time of writing, the area is alive with bird song – the song of such species as Rufous Whistlers, White-cheeked honeyeaters, and Cuckoos. There are bandicoot diggings – and far too many rabbit diggings – in the area also. The now dry flowers of the Swamp Fox Banksia, *Banksia telmatiaea* are still an attractive feature, as are the flowers of *Kunzea recurva*, *Euchilopsis linearis*, *Melaleuca viminea*, *Hypocalymma angustifolium* and a twining *Thysanotis* species – among many others. It is a beautiful place and it quite appalling to think that this area has not even been subject to a full and comprehensive flora survey. It contains large numbers of the Priority species *Verticordia lindleyi* subspecies *lindleyi* but no doubt some bogus "mitigation strategy" will be wheeled out to put the public's mind at rest.

And, to complete this unhappy picture, despite the hundred or so hec-

tares of remnant bushland that the Commonwealth has permitted Westralia Airports Corporation to clear at Perth Airport over the past few years, the airport leaseholder now wants to clear even more. WAC recently sent a Referral under the *EPBC Act* to Canberra regarding a proposal to clear around 90 hectares of bushland extending in a northerly direction from Tonkin Highway roughly between Leach Highway and Horrie Miller Drive. This is very high conservation value bushland and it will be a tragedy if the Commonwealth Government allows the clearing to proceed. The State Government has done virtually nothing to oppose the massive clearing works at Perth Airport and hides behind the excuse that it is "not under their jurisdiction." It may not be but given that the ecological cost to the region will be huge and irreparable the silence from the State Government is deafening.

These are just a few examples of environmental protection systems at both State and Commonwealth level failing our native biodiversity in the Perth region precisely when it is facing some of its greatest threats. As if dieback, climate change, weeds, feral animals, and arson were not enough we now see a neo-conservative, develop-at-any-cost mentality pervading at every level. As for the State Government's abandonment of the *Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands) Policy*, was there ever a more cowardly, stupid, and perfidious act committed against the West Australian environment?

Kevin McLean

Proposed BGC Brickworks site in November 2005



The same site in October 2006



Photos by Kevin McLean



Perth Urban Bushland Fungi

The extraordinary unseasonable dry winter of 2006 continued until the end of the public fungi events, with the rain finally arriving in late July, just in time for the last fungi workshop on Friday 28 July. At last, we could look for fungi in a wet environment! The Gondwanan fungus – the Volvate Cortinar, was found here for the second time this year, so it is proving to be locally common in Whiteman Park though very rare in general. Whiteman Park representatives organised a press release which appeared on front page of the local Kalamunda community news, the “Echo” as well as in other local newspapers.

Despite the dry weather, community walks and workshops went ahead as planned. Fortunately people came along with great interest and enthusiasm and so the Project was able to continue successfully raise awareness about the important role that fungi play in bushland management while conducting fungi surveys for additional bushland areas.

Additional funding from the Swan Catchment Council allowed the Project to pursue a very important new initiative, two fungi workshops purely for local government officers. These people are the Environment and Bushcare Officers employed by local councils to manage the on ground, day to day activities at our urban bushlands. They were interested and enthusiastic in the concept of incorporating management of fungi, as well as flora and fauna, into their activities.

Work in the Fungilab is now in the final stage for the year, processing the fungi data collected during this season. Production of the 2006 fungi reports is expected to be complete when the PUBF phase two funding finishes, at the end of October. Results for this years twelve bushlands, which include seven of the 40 Bush Forever Reference Sites, will be placed onto the PUBF website at www.fungiperth.org.au. Hard copies will be presented to the bushland Friends Groups involved as well as to the land managers and supporting organisations.

Discussions are now underway to endeavor to procure funding to build on the excellent results and the community and volunteer support given to the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project’s ground breaking work on fungi.

Roz Hart

16 September 2006 marked another important milestone for the fungi project. The PUBF team with volunteers conducted fungi surveys in a number of Bush Forever Reference Sites. Reports for the sites visited during the 2005 fungi season were finalized and officially handed over to the Department of Environment and Conservation for inclusion to the databases describing the values of these sites. Bronwen Keighery, one of the key members of a team working on the Bush Forever Reference Sites received the reports. Karen Clarke, also from the DEC explained how this information on fungi generated by the PUBF project fits in with other information on flora and fauna, collated for each Bush Forever Site. There are 40 Bush Forever Reference Sites and for 25 of those, information on fungi is now also available.



Dr Neale Bougher, DEC talking to the participants at the *Beauty in Perth's Banksias* event about the role of fungi in our ecosystems and about the PUBF project. *Photo by Joe Frouditt*



Bronwen Keighery, DEC, receiving fungi data for Bush Forever Reference Sites surveyed in 2005. *Photo by Sarah de Bueger*

Skills for Nature Conservation

RSVP's are essential, phone 9374 3333

Saturday 4 November, 9 am - 4 pm
KNOWING & MANAGING NATIVE & INTRODUCED GRASSES

At Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring

Saturday 18 November, 10 am - 2.30 pm
END OF YEAR EVALUATION & CELEBRATION
At Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, Bibra Lake

Find past info notes at www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon

NEW BROCHURES AVAILABLE FROM Urban Nature

Managing Weeds in Bushland:
CAPE TULIPS (*Moraea flaccida* & *M. miniata*)
&
SHARP RUSH (*Juncus acutus*)

Also available seminar proceedings:
Ecology, biology and management of invasive bulbs

Ph 9474 7040 or email to urban.nature@dec.wa.gov.au

Group News Group News Group News

Bungendore Park Management Committee has been continuing its rehabilitation programme within the park – this year another 1,000 seedlings were planted during July in degraded areas and disused gravel pits by community members and students of Armadale Christian College. The dieback treatment programme has been continuing along the mapped dieback fronts with foliar spraying and stem injection by our contractor, Dieback Treatment Services. Grant funding by Swan Alcoa Landcare Program has assisted in both rehabilitation activities.



Glenn Tuffnell, Dieback Treatment Services, foliage spraying in Bungendore Park.
Photo: K. Sarti

In early August a bushwalk followed by refreshments was held in the park to celebrate the formation of the committee 25 years ago. Present and past committee members along with other people involved in the park's activities were able to mix socially and view the display covering the many events of the past 25 years. Special guests were local MLAs Mr Tony Simpson and the Hon Alannah MacTiernan.

The regular Djilba Spring Walk was held on 10th September on a wonderful day. Participants were able to follow two self-guided walks to enjoy the birds and wildflower blooms and then follow with a cup of tea/coffee provided by the Armadale Lions Club.

The next event in the park is our popular Bungendore Bush Breakfast. Why not be "an early bird" and listen to the Black Cockatoos and songs of other birds whilst enjoying fruit, cereals and juice with a mouth-watering fully-cooked breakfast in wonderful Bungendore Park bushland? For those interested, the details are:

Sunday 12th November 2006

between 7:30 and 8:30am (yes, we know it's early).

Enter the park from the Armadale Christian College car park, Admiral Road, Bedforddale (UBD map 413).

Cost: \$7.00 per person.

Why not follow breakfast with a guided bush walk at 8:45am?

Phone bookings are essential for catering purposes by 8th November to Jim/Elaine on 9497 3353 or to Bill on 9399 8829.

Kim Sarti

WA Naturalists' Club is preparing an interesting weekend on 21-22 October at the Henderson Environment Centre at the Star Swamp Reserve. The Club's photographic competition entries will be exhibited over the weekend. The exhibition of nature photography is open to anyone interested for a gold coin donation.

The photo competition and the exhibition coincides with two

workshops. A watercolour painting workshop will be held on Saturday and on Sunday, John Weaver will be conducting a workshop on the georeferencing methods he developed for the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project. He will demonstrate this very useful method of relating GPS tracks, digital photos and maps.

Friends of Star Swamp Bushland are planning a range of events for the coming months:

Sunday 22 October 9.00am-12.00noon Lupin pull in Star Swamp Bushland. Volunteers needed. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. Information: Christine ph. 9447 2983

Friday 27 October 7.30pm Nocturnal walk in Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. Bring a torch. Information: David ph. 9448 9192

Saturday 28 October 8.00am Guided walk in Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. Information: David ph. 9448 9192

Saturday 25 November 8.00 am Guided walk in Star Swamp Bushland. Meet at Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St North Beach. Information: David ph. 90448 9192

Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise have recently launched their website and published the first issue of the newsletter. The Friends Group formed in July 2004 to assist the work by the Western Swamp Tortoise Recovery Team, primarily by raising local, national and international awareness of the critically endangered status of the Western Swamp Tortoise. With less than 50 mature individuals surviving in two locations in the Swan Valley, the Group's invitation to make the difference "between life and death" is quite fitting.

The Friends Group accomplished a lot during the past two years. They worked on improving the tortoise habitat, they released 18 hatchlings bred at the Perth Zoo and dug aestivating tunnels, they held many displays and public meetings and are working with the local winery to promote the Western Swamp Tortoise on an international stage. In September, Edgecombe Brothers Winery in the Swan Valley launched their new flagship wine, Old Vine Shiraz. Two dollars from the sale of every bottle was donated to the Friends Group to help with habitat restoration.

To find out more about the Group's activities visit their website
www.westernswamptortoise.com

Or call Jan on 9344 2872.



Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise releasing captive bred tortoises in July 2005.
Photo by B. Shoo

Group News Group News Group News

Friends of Trigg Bushland set about to undertake a major survey of the Tuarts in Trigg bushland to record their numbers, size, health and understorey.

Tuart *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*, a dominant tree in the coastal bushland in Perth is declining. The project run by the Group will not only help to better understand the state of Tuarts in Trigg but also ground truth the information presented in the Tuart Atlas compiled by the Tuart Response Group. A map with data stored as digital and photographic records will be created, with possibilities for future additions. This project was made possible with generous assistance from the Department of Environment and Conservation, the City of Stirling and many individuals with expertise in the field.

Senior students from St Marys Anglican School will be assisting in the data collection. The Friends Group welcomed the enthusiastic support of the school's teachers for the project as this might lead to lasting relationship between the Friends Group and the school in bush matters.

Friends of Dianella Bushland will be conducting a guided walk on Sunday 12 November. Meet at 8.30 am at the Reserve carpark, off Dianella Drive, Gay Street and then into the Channel 7 Private Road. Walks take usually one hour and the tracks are suitable for prams and pushers. For more information contact Jan on 9344 2872.

Friends of Shenton Bushland held another very successful and well organised *Bush to Beach Walk*. On Sunday 17 September about 80 people took part in this annual walk. Apart from appreciating the bushland and natural areas the Friends Groups who organise the walks wish to maintain connections between bushland areas and to avoid further fragmentation and destruction. The walk started at the bottom of Raebold Hill in Bold Park. The group walked to the top and Robert Powell talked about butterflies (Jezebel and Blues) congregating at the top of hills as a focus meeting point so they could mate. As Robert said these words, a keen observer called out *And there is a Jezebel, Robert*.

Another voice said *Oh there's Blues around this bush too.*

Robert did various talks along the way. He tested our powers of observation and our imagination by pointing out a Tuart tree in Bold Park and asking us to suggest what it might have looked like 26 years ago. Various things were suggested before we saw the huge amount of regrowth from the stunted central part of the tree. Robert then showed us a photograph of the tree taken 26 years ago in 1980 and it was severely stressed then due to the invasion of Longicorn Beetle larvae and further invasion from other insects. The tree had made a wonderful recovery.

At Lake Claremont at lunchtime, Rotary Western Enterprise supplied a reviving sausage sizzle, with vege burgers also and home made muffins. While some walkers rested under the trees, others walked along the edge of the lake to see the birds. Then we went on to Allen Park and Cottesloe, admiring the brilliant work done by both Friends' Groups. Cottesloe Coast Care Group have rehabilitated dunes and obtained a grant for the construction of steps down to the beach front. At the conclusion of the long and interesting walk, the orange juice and fruit supplied by some of the Cottesloe Coast Care Group was greatly appreciated.

Marg Owen

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

Invites anyone interested to a forum

REVEGETATION or LANDSCAPING

Guest speaker: **Dr Richard Hobbs**, Associate Professor in Biological Sciences, Murdoch University

Wednesday 8 November

All welcome

For more information or to RVSP email to
aabrwa@westnet.com.au

Legal void continues for Bush Forever?

The WA Planning Commission has decided against introducing Special Control Areas for Bush Forever Sites. This is a major change to the MRS Amendment for Bush Forever Lands and has not been publicly announced as yet. The UBC was shocked to learn of this. We have been advocating statutory recognition for Bush Forever Sites, including a prohibition of clearing and obligatory management provisions. But it seems we are still no further forward.

The UBC expressed its concerns over removal of the MRS Text relating to the Special Control Areas for Bush Forever Sites (as adopted at *Environment and Natural Resources Management Committee* meeting on 28 March 2006) to the Chairman of WAPC Jeremy Dawkins. We were advised the decision was based on advice from Legal Services and statutory planning with the following considerations:

- Inclusion of the new MRS Text provisions in the 'notice of delegation' means that Local Governments cannot approve any proposal within Bush Forever sites without it being referred to the WAPC. This will 'ensure' that the proposal will be 'assessed' by the Bush Forever Office. So far 300 applications have been assessed by the Bush Forever Office with the draft SPP 2.8 in mind. The WAPC and DPI attitude is that there is scope for development within cleared parts of Bush Forever Sites. (So much for any buffer zones.)
- Bush Forever Areas will remain on the MRS map as a geographical notation to alert land owner to bushland protection 'considerations' and SPP 2.8
- A recent decision by the Supreme Court concerning a heritage listed building resulted in a compensation payment. WAPC's legal advice is that the proposed Special Control Areas for Bush Forever Sites would make the process open to compensation claims.
- Local Planning Strategies (LPS) need to be consistent with the MRS. If the Amendment was to go through as initially proposed it would take several years to amend all the LPSs.

Jerome Dawkins made several suggestions on how to deal with the management of Bush Forever Sites:

- The UBC could get involved in the development of "Bushland Charter" or a Natural Heritage Charter and get all the local government councils to sign up
- Develop a "Charter of bushland management" – best practice management
- The UBC has been asked whether we would support establishment of a new *Metropolitan Agency for Urban Bushland Management*. There is a need for management co-ordination across local governments and DEC. Development of management techniques and capacity is a huge void requiring many millions of dollars of public and community investment.
- Festival celebrating Bush Forever in Spring 2007 – would the UBC like to be involved?

Woodland Decline Symposium

Thursday 9th November 2006

8:30am-3:45pm

Performing Arts Centre, Mandurah.

Tuart and Wandoo, endemic species of the south-west Western Australia, are under threat from a severe decline.

The Woodland Decline Symposium, organised by The Department of Environment and Conservation, Murdoch University, Edith Cowan University and the Wandoo Recovery Group, aims to discuss key research findings and conservation and management issues, and discuss ideas and/or agreements on the way forward.

Scientists, government agencies, local authorities, Natural Resources Management groups, community groups, environment groups, land managers and landowners with tuart and wandoo are all invited to attend.

Go to the Tuart Health webpage (www.tuarthealth.murdoch.edu.au) for more information. To register contact **Janet Box** on j.box@murdoch.edu.au Or by phone on **0408 676 866**. Those attendees granted a subsidy will be reimbursed following the symposium.

Please RSVP before:-1 November 2006

ANZANG 2006

22 SEPTEMBER - 29 OCTOBER
WA MUSEUM -- PERTH

ANZANG Nature is a photographic competition that exhibits photographs showcasing the unique wilderness areas of Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica and New Guinea. Surplus funds from the competition and exhibition are donated to conservation organisations in Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea.

Admission by donation.

For more information visit www.anzangnature.com

Help to support the free legal services provided by the Environmental Defender's Office WA

QUIZ NIGHT

6.30pm Tuesday 31 October 2006

MC Bernadette Young from 720 ABC

Tables of 8-10, varied questions, great prizes.

Royal Park Hall
180 Charles St (cnr Vincent St) West Perth

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Ph 9443 7454/katrina73@iinet.net.au

The Conservation Council WA invites you to

A FUTURE FOR THE TUARTS

Community Forum and Field Trip

Examine an area of significant Tuart decline and restoration in the field at Lake Clifton.

When: **Sunday 12 November**

10 am - 3 pm

Where: Bus departing from the Lake Clifton Community Hall

Registration: \$10 includes lunch

The forum aims to establish partnerships and co-operation in conserving Tuart Woodlands along the Swan Coastal Plain

When: **Saturday 18 November**

9 am - 4 pm

Where: Technology Park, Bentley

Registration: \$15 includes lunch and morning tea

To register contact Jessie Cochrane on 9420 7266 or email to clo@conservationwa.asn.au by **1 November**

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

Operation Backyard—Westpac

An ongoing funding opportunity to help provide both labor and financial resources to support the successful completion of environmental projects in local communities. For more information go to

www.westpac.com.au/internet/publish.nsf/content/wiwcsi%20operation%20backyard

www.shorebirds.org.au

New website on shorebirds including resource and toolkit, wide-ranging and current information with many useful links to other websites.

New Poster

PERTH'S BUSHLAND
A heritage worth keeping
Get yours and spread the message.

Copies are available from the UBC office or the Conservation Council WA

Printing of the poster was supported by the Australia Post
Community Development Grant

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

Urban Bushland Council WA

Invites all its members and supporters to its

End of the Year Celebrations

Saturday 2 December 9 am - 11.30 am

At Mt Henry Peninsula Bushland

Come along for a guided walk through Bush Forever Site 227 that is otherwise not easily accessible to public, find out what other groups are doing, let us know what issues are pressing in your area, how the UBC can help, pick up your copy of the *Perth's Bushland* poster and enjoy the free morning tea in the beautiful surroundings of the Aquinas College.

Enter the College by the main entrance gates towards the end of Mt Henry Road, Salter Point. Drive through the College, past the main building with the tower, and park in the carpark down a little hill on your right.

UBC PUBLICATIONS

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

Available at UBC's website

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

Burning Issues—proceedings of a workshop about fire management in urban bushland. (2002)
Available from the UBC for \$11, postage included.

Building Partnerships between Community Groups and Local Government for Our Bushland—proceedings of a seminar (2000). Available from the UBC for \$5.50, postage included

Managing our Bushland - proceedings of a conference about the protection and management of urban bushland (1998). Available from the UBC for \$11, postage included.

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

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Editor: Renata Zelinova

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

The Editor, Urban Bushland Council

PO Box 326 West Perth WA 6872

or fax (08) 9420 7208, email ubc@iinet.net.au

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

Copy deadline - 30 November 2006

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Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Urban Bushland Council

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