

Why balgas should not be burnt



Balgas, formerly called 'blackboys' or 'grasstrees' are neither grasses nor trees. Botanically, they were placed in the Lily family, but now they are put in a unique Australian group and are believed to be remnant plants from the time of dinosaurs, along with *Zamias*.

Balgas put out new growth from the centre of their tops and retain their dead leaves as thatch. Similarly, people in the past used various materials to thatch the roofs of their houses to keep them cool and dry in summer and warm and dry in the winter. That is what Balgas do.

This arrangement in Balgas forms a safe microclimate for small animals including flies, beetles and spiders. These invertebrates provide food for lizards and birds. Blue fairy wrens are known to roost in Balga tops at night while other small birds and mammals including bandicoots build nests for themselves and their young in the shelter of dry leaves of the Balga skirts to rest in the dry as well as night. Burn a Balga and you destroy a small ecosystem and all the animals in it.

It takes several years for a Balga to build up the thatch of dry leaves again. Burning the top of Balgas exposes the soil to wind and water erosion and to drying out. This can lead to a drop in the water table and further stress to the surrounding vegetation, including trees. Any animal that tries to shelter under a burnt Balga is exposed to predation, especially ra-

vens. Some Balgas die after being burnt and when you consider that they are slow growing plants, this is a tragic loss to biodiversity.

What is the significance of the rings which are found on the stems of most Balgas? Chemical analysis has proven that the rings are made by tannin, a common chemical which leaches out of plant material and causes water to stain brown or black. It is the chemical which gives colour to tea. Burning of plants produces charcoal, which is also called carbon.

If Balgas were burnt to produce their 'rings' one would expect the rings to contain carbon (charcoal) not water soluble tannin. This demonstrates that the 'rings' are unlikely to be a result of regular or annual burning, but are more likely to be related to rainfall patterns.

Why do Balgas get burnt? It is an easy thing to do, it takes no intelligence and very little effort with a lighted match. Because of the volatile chemicals in the sap and other parts of the plants the flame of a match can result in a pyromaniac's dream.

Should Balgas be burnt? No. They are not a fire hazard in themselves. They do not start fires. They are not recorded as being prone to lightning strikes and they are vital micro habitats which form important links in the nature's biodiversity.

Phylis Robertson

INSIDE

- **Call to new government**
- **The 2008 PUBF Fungi Season, and a tale of two diminutive fungi**
- **Group News**

and more...

Editorial

State governments come, and state governments go, but environmental destruction continues unabated. Most governments manage to do one good environmental deed, usually early in their term in office. For example, Labor under Gallop was elected on a policy of stopping logging in old-growth forests of the south west, which he did (to a degree). When Richard Court retired the local paper published a picture of him walking with his wife in Shenton Bushland (which he saved not long after his election), remarking that the saving of Shenton Bushland was one of his most rewarding achievements in office.

It is hard to think of any environmental achievements of the Government under Alan Carpenter, Brian Burke, or Carmen Lawrence, but maybe that is more about bad memory than their performance. The Labor Government in its eight years has failed to implement Bush Forever properly, and has dropped the ball on Swan Bioplan. The new clearing regulations have failed to reign in clearing and urban sprawl into intact bushland continues unchecked.

Despite his penchant for mining and pipelines from the Kimberley, Colin Barnett promises to be a better hope for Underwood Bushland than we can expect from Alan Carpenter. Colin Barnett has been happy to meet with the Friends of Underwood over many years, and is well informed about the issues.

Given that most governments are most likely to do good for the environment early in their term of government, it seems that the best option for environmental outcomes is to change governments often and regularly.

If we have a 'hung parliament', perhaps there might be more opportunity for community groups to lobby local Members effectively for action on bushland in their electorates. For example, this might include lobbying to end the practice of prescribed burning on the Swan Coastal Plain (as at Yellagonga Regional Park recently) or more resources for effective weed control. Whatever the outcome of the election, perhaps it is timely for UBC members to lobby local MPs and to take them for a walk in your local bushland.

NEW HOPE FOR DIANELLA BUSHLAND KANGAROOS

Friends of Dianella Bushland and many of their supporters are feeling relieved after eventful past few months following the sale of the Channel 9 bushland that triggered a preparation of an investigation into the kangaroos of Cottonwood Crescent Bushland. A report, recommending culling of kangaroos as an option of first choice was prepared.

Friends of Dianella worked tirelessly to ensure that the report recommendations were not adopted by the City of Stirling, raising awareness about the disturbing trend of infill development and reduction of bushland areas since 2000. On August 5, nine new recommendations were accepted by the Council, including that the City lobby the State Government for the inclusion of the ex-Channel 9 bushland into Bush Forever.

Understanding and Using Bushland Reference Sites

4 October 2008

A field day for community groups

The Perth Region Plant Biodiversity Project (PRPBP) was established as a collaborative project between the Perth Biodiversity Project, the Department of Environment and the Department for Conservation and Land Management few years ago. The PRPBP provides a web-based, self-guided training package for plant biodiversity information. As part of this project, forty reference sites have been selected on the Swan Coastal Plain as well as seven sites in the Northern Jarrah Forest.

Using Reference sites with documented ecological information helps increase our understanding of vegetation condition assessment, threatening processes, revegetation requirements and appropriate management actions.

The PBP is running a free field day on Saturday 4th October for interested community members. This field trip that will run **from 9 am till 3 pm** will cover reference sites across the Swan Coastal Plain.

The attached invitations provide more information about what will be covered on the day/s. More details will follow upon registration, please RSVP to Sonia Lamond on 9213 2065 or email slamond@walga.asn.au by

26 September 2008.



Call to new government



The UBC calls upon the new state government to act immediately to save our urban bushland before it is too late. Our call is for action to:

- pass the MRS (planning) Amendment for Bush Forever and related lands
- protect *all* Bush Forever sites
- establish a well funded *Bush Forever Management Unit* in DEC
- introduce an *Urban Growth Boundary* for Perth and end bushland clearing for urban sprawl
- enforce proper controls on clearing to bring the net rate of clearing to zero according to the national biodiversity targets
- control groundwater abstraction.

The 2008 PUBF Fungi season, and a tale of two diminutive fungi

The PUBF Team

Neale Bougher, Roz Hart, Sarah de Bueger & Brett Glossop

After the official relaunch of the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi project website in May by Professor Lyn Beazley, WA's Chief Scientist, PUBF fungi activities swung into action again this winter. In 2008 PUBF conducted five weekend events and a number of other non-public surveys. After a dry start in May and June, the 2008 fungus season in the Perth region extended well into July due to sustained rainfall during that month. However near the end of July, the fungi in Perth's bushlands stopped fruiting very abruptly due to the sudden onset of dry sunny days and miserably low rainfall during August.

The weather provided a real challenge at times during the fungi season varying from ferociously stormy at Jarrahdale to balmy and sunny at some of the other events. The events provided learning opportunities about topics such as information resources, photography and painting, microscope work, identification of fresh fungi specimens as well as data collection, tracking and use of GPS equipment.

Once again, the PUBF fungi leaders led small groups of people and introduced them to many aspects of fungi, including finding a diverse range of fungi in the bush. Leaders also taught participants that fungi are extremely significant for maintaining the health of our bushlands, including via their interactions of fungi with plants and animals. Many different forms of fungi were found including bracket, coral, cup, earthstar, jelly, mushroom, puffball, shell, slime mould, truffle and tubular fungi. The fungi exhibited a great variety of sizes, interesting and beautiful shapes and a wide range of colours.

The PUBF data for 2008 is now being compiled and analysed. Reports for the various bushlands will be completed and posted on the PUBF website before the end of this year. Many hundreds of records of fungi were made in 2008. About 230 fungi were processed, described and kept for vouchering at the Western Australian Herbarium by PUBF. This year, an amazing abundance and variety of fungi were discovered. Here is a tale about unravelling just two of the smallest of species:

Diminutive fungi with fragile, white fruit bodies with caps no greater than 3mm across are frequently encountered in eucalypt dominated ecosystems of Australia, including Perth's bushlands. They are often referred to as "mycenoid" as they resemble the genus *Mycena* which includes diminutive species and larger, more familiar species – such as *Mycena clarkeana* (see page J-38 of the online field book at www.fungiperth.org.au). To date, very few of the tiny mycenoid fungi have been studied or identified. The collections often consist of very few tiny fruit bodies that shrivel up to next to nothing when dried. Most of them usually end up simply being designated as *Mycena* sp., and are shelved away for future study. One such fungus has reappeared in our urban bushlands over many years. In June this year, a collection of this particu-



Photo by N Bougher

A collection from Bold Park of a diminutive new species of *Mycena*

In the field it constituted a meagre collection typical of the tiny mycenoid fungi, but subsequently it produced many fruit bodies on wood incubated in humid chambers. Detailed study of its macroscopic and microscopic characteristics, comparison with other herbarium specimens, and investigation of the scientific literature confirmed this fungus to be an undescribed species new to science of *Mycena* section *Sacchariferae*. Species of *Mycena* belonging to this section have a characteristic cap that is densely covered with white sugary granules. Hence the 'saccharine' name for the section. About 30 species of the section are known for the world, and 6 have been recorded in Australia. To date only one species of the section has been confirmed in Western Australia - *Mycena carmeliana* (Western Australian Herbarium specimen database).

By coincidence, a collection of what was initially considered to be the same new species of fungus was obtained 18 days later during a PUBF/ERGA workshop at West Bay bushland near Augusta on the south coast of WA. Also, on the same day about 20 metres away within the same bushland yet another collection was made putatively of this same fungus species.

Immediately after collecting the fungi, fragments of the wood on which each of the three collections were found (two from Augusta and one from Bold Park) were brought back to the fungi lab at the WA Herbarium and incubated in separate humid chambers for a period of four weeks. In each case, the wood yielded many specimens of fungi. Surprisingly, it soon became clear that only one of the two collections from Augusta matched the Bold Park fungus. The other Augusta collection turned out to be *Mycena adscendens*, a species that occurs in many parts of the world but had not been reported for WA. In the field it had not been possible to distinguish it from the new species, but microscopically they are quite different.

As a final twist in the tale, after about 25 days incubation, the wood fragment on which *Mycena adscendens* was fruiting began to also yield fruit bodies of the new species

(Continued on page 9)

UNDERWOOD, NOT UNDER HOUSES AND COFFEE SHOPS

Text and photos by Margaret Owen



Where are we up to in the fight to save Underwood Avenue Bushland?

Under the federal process and the EPBC Act, the University of Western Australia through Coffey Environments responded to submissions which had been put to them. The response was advertised in the paper and federal Minister for the Environment, Peter Garrett, had forty days to give a decision on whether the housing development proposal from UWA may proceed. This would mean that the decision was due by 25th July, 2008. However we read in the Post Newspaper (July 12th), that 'the clock has stopped ticking' while further information is sought from UWA by Peter Garrett. Notification in late August stated that the decision will be made before 28th November 2008. The federal government is examining the mitigation and offset proposals put by UWA.

After eight years the UWA has offered various offsets:

- 50 hectares of its Allendale Farm at Wooroloo on Great Eastern Highway near Wundowie. This is 50 kilometres away and it is on their own land so we do not believe it could or should qualify as an offset.
- The UWA will plant 10,000 seedlings in which cockatoos like to forage adjacent to Underwood Avenue Bushland. How can the cockatoos survive while these seedlings grow? What species are proposed? Gardening exercises are not offsets for bushland as the ecosystem cannot be replicated
- An additional 10,000 seedlings will be supplied through a schools program to be planted at 'a nearby reserve'. This program will be implemented under the auspices of the UWA and the State Government. This planting exercise has the same short coming as the latter idea. What reserve will be planted? Why should the State Government take responsibility and carry costs of maintaining additional gardening exercise?
- The UWA will contribute \$100,000 over four years for a PhD scholarship for a student to study the ecology of Carnaby's Cockatoos, supervised by UWA. How will this save any Cockatoos? While it might be worthwhile to understand more about the behaviour and 'ecology' of Cockatoos, this is no substitute for retaining natural habitat, which we suggest should be regarded as critical habitat.



The UWA will form an association, The Shenton Park Conservation Association Inc., 'to promote the interests of the community of Shenton Park.' Members of the Association will be the Vice-chancellor of the UWA, staff appointed by the UWA and persons nominated by the UWA. This sounds more like an association which could promote the interests of the UWA rather than the wider community and would give no substitute to the community. The name chosen might well cause some confusion with the Friends of Shenton Bushland.

The Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland have been hanging protest signs on the fence at the bushland, but the signs are speedily taken, even over the weekends.

A recent sign read 'Save our cockatoos.' The letters were formed by knotting pieces of brightly coloured rope into each cell of the wire fence. Cloth strips were interwoven and knotted as well. This was completed at 4.30pm on a Saturday and by mid day the following Sunday all the letters had been cut from the fence and the hundreds and thousands of rope bits and cloth removed.

We would rather that the UWA staff spent the time attacking the proliferating weeds in the bushland.

Further, five signs have gone up on the Underwood Avenue bushland fences stating 'Private property, no trespassing.' Two weeks after these signs were attached, two large gates at the main entrance and at the back entrance have been removed and replaced by a six foot fence. Another entrance point at Selby Street has been made inaccessible to the public.

Although Underwood Avenue Bushland is owned by the University of WA, it is endowment land, given to the University in 1904. Those interested in the bushland surely should be allowed access.



Group News Group News Group News

The **Friends of Dianella Bushland** would like to invite you to an **Orchid Walk** on **Sunday 14 September** at **8.30am** in the Cottonwood Crescent Bushland, (entry opposite the Channel 7 Studio), Gay Street, Dianella. We usually have a wonderful display of several varieties of Spider Orchids, not to mention the Pink Fairies and the Red Beak Orchids. Our walk leader, Phylis, will show us some of the best examples, and the kangaroos may also be out to greet us.

A bright and colourful welcome to Spring in the Bush. Please join us.

All enquiries to Jan, ph 93442872 (Mob. 0408024800) webrite@crystal.com.au

Jan Bant

The **Friends of Lightning Swamp Bushland** was successful in its grant application to Lotterywest for \$60,000.00 and would also like to acknowledge the assistance given by the Council environmental coordinator in obtaining the grant. The grant is in addition to funds already held by Council to construct a 100 metres environmental boardwalk proposed some four years ago. Importantly, design of the boardwalk will importantly allow disabled access to the Eastern wetlands. As well, the boardwalk will prevent continual damage of the wetland by trail users and will link the network of limestone trails at Lightning Swamp to the dual use paths proposed in the Lightning Park Recreation Centre master plan.

BUSH TO BEACH WALK 2008

The annual Bush to Beach walk within the western suburbs is on again and scheduled for **Sunday the 19th October**. This 11.5km walk (three and a quarter hours) moves away from the coast, and will be passing through Cottesloe, along the Swan River with spectacular views at Peppermint Grove and Mosman Park, to finish at Buckland Hill car park (with a limited number of parking bays).

The one-way guided walk will start from Grant Marine Park, Grant Street, Cottesloe, and walkers are required to register from 9am for a 9.30am start. Morning tea will be at Chidley Point, approximately 11.45am. The walk will continue along in a westerly direction through Minim Cove



Participants at the 2007 Bush to Beach walk passing through Allen Park in Swanbourne on the way to Point Resolution on the Swan River.

Photo by L Shaw

to finish at Buckland Hill car park at approximately 1.15-1.30pm.

Those using public transport may walk from Cottesloe train station (Fremantle line) to Grant Street, the starting point, or join in the walk at the Forrest Street end of the Cottesloe Station at about 10am. On completion of the walk there is a short walk from Buckland Hill up to Victoria Street Station to catch the Fremantle line.

Alternatively those in a car pool may like to leave a car at Leighton Beach car park, opposite the footbridge (an additional 15 minute walk) and the other car at Grant Marine Park, the starting point.

The event is free, the sights are wonderful, and we'd love to see you there! Contact Lesley at 93847983 or Peter at 0416631421 for more information. Registration will be on the day.

Lesley Shaw

Bungendore Park Management Committee has been continuing its rehabilitation programme within the park that commenced in 1982. This year another 1,000 seedlings were planted during July in disused gravel pits and a dieback-affected area by community members and students of nearby 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. Funding by the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program and Community Conservation Grants have assisted in both rehabilitation activities.

The City of Armadale in conjunction with the Committee will be conducting a **Spring Bush Walk in the park on 21st September** so visitors can enjoy the birds and wildflower blooms. Registration is from 8:30 to 11:00am entering the park from Armadale Christian College, Admiral Road. Refreshments will be available by the Armadale Lions Club.

The ever-popular **Bungendore Bush Breakfast** will be held again this year in conjunction with the Armadale Wildflower Society. Why not be "an early bird" and listen to the early bird song whilst enjoying a mouth-watering fully-cooked breakfast, fruit, cereals, juice etc. in a wonderful bushland setting of Bungendore Park? For those interested, the details are:

Sunday 9th November 2008 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: \$9.00 per person.

A guided bushwalk by Armadale Wildflower Society members will follow at 8:45am for those interested.

Phone bookings are essential for catering purposes by 5th November to Miriam on 9498 1570 or to Don on 9399 1893.

Kim Sarti

GARVEY PARK

Garvey Park is a Regional Recreation Reserve on the Swan River end of Fautleroy Avenue in Ascot, City of Belmont, and less than 2km west from the Perth Domestic Airport terminal.

Garvey Park Friends Group (GPFG) came about as an initiative of the Urban Bushland Council in 2001 with an enthusiastic group of local residents with a love of the park and its unique location on a bend of the Swan River opposite Ashfield Flats, and only 10kms from the CBD.

Central between the Airport Northern Main Drain (Ivy St), and Southern Main Drain (Kanowna Ave), Swan River water quality at Garvey Park is very much affected by what happens at Perth Airport. For example; exposure of acid sulphate soils by the lowering of water tables in seasonal wetlands through drainage and development, and, oil and pollutant runoff from the giant car park and distribution centre construction, and, destruction of Melaleuca woodlands and seasonal wetlands.

Apart from riverine foreshore replantings at Garvey Park of local sedges, rushes, *Eucalyptus rudis* and Casuarinas to stabilize riverbanks to prevent or slow the rate of erosion (from boat wave wash), a major project has been the turning of a 500m long straight open ditch, the Coolgardie Avenue drain into a vibrant, nutrient stripping ecosystem of trees, sedges, rushes, scalloped pools and faunal habitat, or living stream; a delight to walk through a brief seven years since commencement.



Crossing the living stream at Garvey Park walk in July 2008.

Photo by M Owen

A partnership between GPFG, Two Rivers Catchment Group, the City of Belmont, and Conservation Volunteers (among others) has seen many hundreds of thousands of plants and trees now beginning to resemble what once must have been, scant seven generations ago before white settlement.

The lesson we all need to learn from Garvey Park is that it is better to protect original vegetation and intact ecosystems than to put thousands of volunteer and paid hours into trying to recreate a part of what once existed, before human intervention.

Rob Greenwood



Photo by M Owen

Wind Whispers

The wind whispers through trees to me.. as i listen, rain showers scurry across the roof

each drop.. a part of ancient cycles since life began.. as i listen.... in awe and humility...

The wind made visible by the trees, the rain made audible by the roof my life a part of these

majestic continuum of all life on earth; past.. present.. future.. in an ego-driven world

the wind whispers through trees to me; the love of each spirit for every other; life's energy

Rob Greenwood



Photo by M Owen

Hovea is one of the first plants to start flowering in the bushland and the purple alongside the yellow hibbertia looks spectacular. Hovea trisperma also flowers as a white form and the *Guide to Perth Plants* by Russell Barrett and Eng Pin Tay records this species as 'rarely white.'

Banksia menziesii also has various colour forms. Apart from the usual red form, there is a lemon form, and a stunning bronze form. All these variations are in Underwood Avenue Bushland.

We look to the Ministers for the Environment, when they make their decision, to have done the right thing for Underwood Avenue Bushland.

Margaret Owen



With the end of the 2007-2008 financial year, the Local Nature Spot project's funding by the Natural Heritage Trust through the Swan Catchment Council has come to an end. The project also known as *Behaviour Change for Natural Diversity* was coordinated by Western Australian Local Government Association's Perth Biodiversity Project as a two year pilot program and was run in partnership with five Local Governments, City of Armadale, Town of Cambridge, City of Canning, City of Swan and City of Wanneroo.

The Local Nature Spot project aimed to influence human behaviour that is impacting on the conservation values of urban bushland reserves. Using community based social marketing principles to communicate messages that enable this change, the project has raised the profile of bushland reserves that were selected as pilot sites and highlighted various threats to their conservation values that require management. Management issues addressed through various communication methods included unauthorized access, illegal garden waste and household rubbish dumping, dieback, trampling, frequent fires and vandalism.

Fifteen regionally and locally significant bushland reserves, Local Nature Spots, were selected as pilot sites and communities surrounding these reserves were targeted.

During the eight months of implementation, various events were rolled out at the Local Nature Spots including rubbish clean ups, bird-watching, gardening workshops and guided nature walks. Promotional material and regular updates on the activities were distributed within targeted communities. Other tools of communication included a *Local Nature Spot Watch* program encouraging passive surveillance and reporting of illegal activities, liaison with local schools, public displays and talks at community events such as the Greater Gardens workshops, community fairs and at Garden Week 2008.

The effectiveness of the selected management strategies were assessed using a comparison of responses in a benchmark and a follow up community survey, conducted in April 2007 and April 2008; responses from two focus group sessions and field assessments of the fifteen Local Nature Spots sites.

It appears that community based social marketing principles such as:

- removal of identified barriers to targeted behaviours
 - provision of strategically placed prompts and positive action seeking messages
 - seeking commitment
 - promoting behavioural norms reinforced through personal contact
 - providing non-monetary incentives,
- that were utilized by the Local Nature Spot project have been successful in raising awareness and changing perceptions within the local communities with regard to threats to bushland conservation values. Additionally the project has seen improvements in the condition of many of the selected

sites. However, it also highlighted that different approaches are needed to address the same bushland management issue at different localities, reflecting the character of local communities that surround them.

Whilst the Local Nature Spot project has been successful in changing community perceptions about their local nature reserve, long term implementation and monitoring is required in order to ensure long term behaviour change.

One of the positive outcomes of the project was the documentation of the level of importance of local bushland to local communities. In both community surveys, over 90% of respondents stated that it was important to have their local reserve in their area. Considering the well above average response rate for both surveys, 30% in 2007 and 29% in 2008 compared with the average 10% for the usual type survey, this result is a great endorsement to urban bushland managers to maintain these areas for future generations.

Both community surveys documented that the level of awareness about various threats to conservation values varies among communities and that targeted effective communication techniques can even within a short timeframe increase people's awareness of these threats. For example, use of the network of informal tracks was an issue in one of the targeted areas. To address this as well as other management issues, three varying activities were held at the reserve. While it is difficult to conclude that trampling is not an issue anymore even though during the final site examination it appeared only the main path was being used, comparison of the results of both community surveys demonstrates a shift in peoples perception of trampling being a threat to the conservation values of their reserve. While in 2007 only 36% agreed walking off paths was a problem, in 2008 57% of respondents stated it was a problem.

A range of recommendations came out of the project. A list below might benefit active community groups:

- Help people to identify themselves as being responsible and caring in relation to their local area that includes bushland
- Plan annual well promoted events that offer opportunities for whole families to participate to promote the group and the reserve
- Most people tend to attend activities where they can gain personally, such as gardening workshops
- To assess local community attitudes and perception use a data collection methodology best suited to the demographics of the targeted area; in some areas self-completion questionnaires will provide you with the information you are seeking, in others a more personal approach through focus will be needed
- Behaviour change takes several years to demonstrate
- Work with local schools where the threatening activities are the result of kids activities
- Use positive messages in any promotional material
- Promote events well in advance and then again closer to the date of the activity
- Celebrate and promote your achievements

For more information on the outcomes of the project contact the Perth Biodiversity Project on 9213 2047 or 9213 2065.

What does your garden grow?'

Train the Trainer workshop

1 October 2008

9 am - 3 pm

At the Canning River Eco Education Centre,
Kent Street Weir, Kent St, Wilson

This workshop aims to provide knowledge and tools to deliver good and informed advice to customers, community groups, and the general public about local, national, environmental, noxious and declared weeds. It will assist you to educate the general public in how to protect their environment as they garden. While the workshop is designed for nursery production staff, community garden group leaders, Landcare and Bushcare group representatives are encouraged to attend.

Cost: \$200 per person, includes resource kit, tuition, lunch and morning tea

For more information or to register please contact Melinda Snowball at SERCUL on 9458 5664 or email to melindasnowball@sercul.org.au or Caitlin on 9358 4822 or reception@ngiwa.com.au.

New weed identification and information product Environmental Weeds of Australia.

The CRC for Australian Weed Management and the Centre for Biological Information Technology (CBIT) at The University of Queensland, developed a comprehensive product that includes:

- * Lucid3 key to over 1,000 environmental weeds of Australia
- * Detailed descriptions of major weed species
- * Links to website information
- * A search engine with a detailed cross linked glossary
- * Thousands of images

Environmental Weeds of Australia is an invaluable resource for all those involved with research, training and management of environmental weeds in Australia, especially State and local weed control officers, Bushcare and Landcare volunteers.

Price: AUD\$59.00 (excluding GST and postage)

For more information about Environmental Weeds of Australia and how to purchase it, please visit: <http://www.cbit.uq.edu.au/software/envioweeds>

Alternatively, contact CBIT at Enquiries@cbit.uq.edu.au

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan Template

A Guide for Local Governments

The Swan Catchment Council has recently launched the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan Template to assist with provision of high quality Cultural Heritage and Natural Resource Management outcomes delivery.

The aim of the Template is to provide a direction for the protection and enhancement of Aboriginal culture and heritage in the Swan Region. It offers step by step guidelines for stakeholders when developing projects and management plans that aim to engage Aboriginal people and incorporate their traditional knowledge as part of the planning, implementation and operations processes, including:

- Identifying the Aboriginal Heritage significance in your management area
- Legislative processes
- Strategic and statutory planning
- Adopting better practice principles to manage Aboriginal culture and heritage
- Action planning
- Implementation and monitoring
- Case studies with examples of work conducted in the fields of Aboriginal engagement

For more information please contact Cheryl-Anne McCann, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Planning Coordinator, ph 9374 3310 or email cheryl_-anne.mccann@water.wa.gov.au

To book a managed volunteer team for your project for October-November projects, contact Andrew Soltys, WA Regional Manager, Conservation Volunteers Australia on (08) 9227 5711 or email to asoltys@conservationvolunteers.com.au

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Conservation Volunteers Australia will be delivering a series of free workshops aimed at assisting community groups in managing, as well as developing their organizations.

The workshops are supported by Toyota.

Workshop themes presented in Western Australia include:

1 Change Management in Community Groups

17 November at City Toyota, 165 Aberdeen St, Northbridge

The workshop will cover issues of effective implementation of new organizational structures within community organizations and teach participants the 8 fundamental steps required to implement change.

2 Motivated Volunteers

20 November Busselton Toyota, 78 West St.

The workshop will include an organization self review and discussion of successful volunteer recruitment and retention strategies.

3 Project Management in Community Groups

18 November Midland Toyota, 163 Great Eastern Hwy

The workshop will explore the stages of project management as well as looking at five key aspects: good communication, understanding the stakeholders, leadership skills, scheduling the project, identify and control the risks.

For further information please email training@conservationvolunteers.com.au

Obituary

Doreen Howard

– the wife of the intrepid wetland guardian Len Howard recently passed away. During Len's 20 plus years of speaking out for the Peel wetlands Doreen was a constant supporter. This support enabled Len to achieve a significant level of awareness of the importance of protecting our precious wetlands, both locally and regionally. Len never shied away from a battle when the Peel wetland system was threatened, and his intense and persistent activism was made possible through Doreen's constant support and encouragement.

Len passed away in 2002 but his legacy lives on in the Peel Preservation Group and the Peel Regional Park. Doreen was a quiet and modest person but she had an important role in the success of Len's campaigns to protect the Peel Inlet.

The Waterbird Conservation Group and Wetlands Conservation Society express their sincere condolences to Doreen's family at this time of great loss.

Joan Payne and Philip Jennings
25th August, 2008



Fred McKenzie

Fred McKenzie, the State Labor Member for East Metropolitan Province in the Legislative Council from 1977 until 1993 passed away in March 2008 at the age of 74 years.

Fred was a Labor Member of the Legislative Council for many years. An 'old school' Labor man, where loyalty to the Party and fellow members was paramount. This together with a sense of fair play and justice for all, was the way Fred lived his life.

Fred, along with other Labor and Liberal parliamentarians, was asked to support the campaign against duck shooting. He honestly and bluntly admitted he hadn't thought much about it and that many of his constituents may have other ideas, but upon reflection he couldn't see any sense in shooting ducks for sport. He then pledged his support for the campaign, which coming from Fred meant he would support you 100%.

Throughout the campaign Fred presented petitions to Parliament on behalf of the Coalition Against Duck Shooting

(CADS), and spoke in Parliament, and within the Labor Party, in favour of a ban against this so-called 'sport'. The Minister for the Environment at the time Bob Pearce, had agreed to introduce amendments to the Act which effectively banned duck shooting.

Fred's role in keeping the issue before the Labor Party was a crucial element in the campaign. The campaign was long and fierce due to the opposition of the duck shooters and gun lobby and the Liberal and National Parties. There were several setbacks along the way, including the failure of the Bill to pass the Legislative Council in 1991. However Fred did not lose faith in the cause, and he assisted us in persuading the Minister to reintroduce the Bill in the autumn of 1992, when it passed with the help of a disenchanted Liberal member, Reg Davies.

In June, 1992, Western Australia became the first State in Australia to ban recreational duck shooting.

Fred made another significant contribution to the environment. He was appointed Chairman of the Darling Range Community Consultative Committee established to oversee the study of the Darling Ranges from Mundaring in the north to Serpentine in the south with a view to forming a Regional Park. The Inaugural meeting was held in April 1990 in Parliament House. Subsequent meetings were held monthly for the next two years in Shire offices.

The issues to be resolved included the identification of areas of biodiversity and community significance, the setting of effective manageable boundaries, land tenure and ownership and broadscale management issues, while considering the views of local government, industry and the community.

Fred proved to be an excellent Chairman. He was always fair, respectful, and willing to allow free ranging debate, while never losing control of the meeting. The Committee members came to appreciate his remarkable personal skills. Undoubtedly it was Fred's abilities which went far beyond that of just chairing a meeting, which enabled a large Committee with diverse views and allegiances to be able to successfully 'thrash out' areas of difference. Over a two and a half year period he chaired 32 meetings, and also initiated a number of site visits to areas under dispute, before he was replaced with the Liberal member John Day as a result of a change of Government.

The Darling Range Regional Park has now been established. Much of the metropolitan's precious biodiversity is retained within the Darling Ranges, and Fred's role as Chairman to the Committee was critical to the establishment of this Park.

Joan Payne
1st July 2008

(Continued from page 3)

as well, indicating how closely the two species can co-occur in south west Australia. Details of the new species of *Mycena* and the first record for WA of *M. adscendens* are in draft and will be published in a scientific journal in 2009.

The PUBF team is busily compiling data and reports from the 2008 season, and then will begin preparations for the 2009 season. Also the Perth Fungi Field Book is currently being re-worked to improve its functionality, and a significant number of new species will be added in time for the 2009 season.

Keep checking www.fungiperth.org.au for field book updates.

Support the Urban Bushland Council

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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.

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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 EVENTS 2008

Sunday 21 September 9 am - 10 am

EXCURSION TO GUMBLOSSOM RESERVE QUINNS ROCKS

Guided walk with the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group Inc

Meet on a car park next to Quinns Rocks Bowling Club, Tapping Way, Quinns Rocks

All welcome

Please RSVP to Renata on 9305 9382

UBC PUBLICATIONS

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

Available at UBC's website

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

Burning Issues—proceedings of a workshop about fire management in urban bushland. (2002)

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

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

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

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

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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