

Newsletter of the Urban Bushland Council WA Inc PO Box 326, West Perth WA 6872 Email: ubc@bushlandperth.org.au

Visit to Hawkevale Bushland

bulbs are packed with alkeloids which are now being tested for effectiveness against cancer. Noongar people used



Bronwen and Greg Keighery guiding a walk at Hawkevale bushland.

to harvest the bulbs two years after a fire. The bulbs require careful treatment to make them non-toxic. The flowers of the bloodroots never quite open but native bees recognise when the flowers are ready and they force their way into the flower.

Blancoa canesens

Blancoa is a feature of this bushland and is very uncommon in the Perth area. Blancoa is a winter flowering plant so it keeps the birds going in winter. Birds have to stand on the ground to get the nectar from the long red tube flowers. The most southerly locality of Blancoa is in Serpentine. Unlike the Kangaroo Paw, Blancoa is long lived.

Buzz pollination - the Solanum system

Around 180 species of plants have given up producing nectar and only produce pollen. Some produce pollen that never matures and this is just for the native bees. Our bees use pollen as a pudding for their young.

Flowers in the genus which use this system, have their anthers in a tube and pollination is achieved by buzz pollination. Instead of landing on the petal, the insect holds onto the anthers of the flowers and vibrates its wing muscles, causing the pollen to fly out of pores and land on the bee's body.

Calectasia narragara – Star of Bethlehem

Russell Barrett has done a lot of work on this genus and has published some of his findings in the Nuytsia Journal. This species used to be known as Calectasia cyanea but this was incorrect as C. cyanea occurs only around Albany. Narragara is Noongar for star. There are seven or eight species of Calecta-

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lelegrap Bush Urban

Hawkevale Bushland, Bush For- Bloodroots ever site 122, is in High Bloodroots are one of the few Wycombe on the eastern side of native plants with a bulb. The the plain. The bushland has some of the most floristically diverse woodland in the Perth region and is identified as a threatened ecological community. The Perth Branch of the Wildflower Society invited the Urban Bushland Council members and interested people to this bushland for a walk led by Bronwen and Greg Keighery. Greg explained that there is an enormous turnover of plants in different quadrats in the bushland. It is hard to keep such diversity in small remnants so that will be a challenge for the future. Some money has been allocated for the management of weeds in Hawkevale Bushland as an offset for the loss of Jandakot Airport Bushland.

Offsetting is now policy at both state and federal levels. Intact bushland cannot be 'offset' or replaced and loss of bushland is a net loss.

Greg and Bronwen's comments were excellent and some notes taken over the morning follow.

Oldest sand on the plain

The sand on the eastern side of the plain was once an old beach and is the oldest sand on the plain. The soil complex is called the Ridgehill Shelf and is referred to as the foothills in Bush Forever. There is very little of the bushland community left uncleared. The sands are very complex.

Banksia

Banksia grandis was flowering and making the birds happy.

Editorial

Wetlands in Danger

Western Australia is fortunate to have some of the world's most important wetlands and the south west corner of our State is an internationally recognised biodiversity hot spot. We sit at the southern end of the great East Asian- Australasian Shorebird Flyway and our wetlands are the summer home for millions of migratory shorebirds which fly here from Siberia, Alaska, Manchuria, Japan and Korea. The Australian Government has signed international treaties with three countries (China, Japan and Korea) to protect these shorebirds and their habitat, but we are clearly doing very little to honour those commitments.

In its 2007 State of the Environment Report, the EPA noted that wetland loss was continuing on the Swan Coastal Plain at a rate of more than 2 football fields (4 ha) per day. Already more than 80% of the original wetlands have been destroyed and the destruction continues. Urban sprawl is a major cause of wetland loss and the proposed Keralup (Amarillo) development is one of several major threats to waterbird habitat. Other threats arise from road construction at North Lake, Bibra Lake and the Anstey-Keane wetlands. Climate change is also having a devastating effect on our wetlands and many lakes have now become seasonal swamps. DEC has resorted to topping up the Ramsar-listed Thomsons Lake with drainage water in order to protect its habitat values.

The State Government has done nothing to protect our remaining wetlands. They have downsized the wetlands branch of DEC so that it is unable to complete important policy development work. They have failed to complete the update of the 1997 State Wetlands Conservation Policy which was intended to address our national and international commitments to wetland conservation. No Ramsar nominations have been submitted to Canberra since 2000 and the Wetland Buffer Guidelines, which are urgently needed to regulate urban development near wetlands, are still incomplete nearly 15 years after they were promised. The Carpenter Government dropped the Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands EPP in 2006 and promised instead to release some wetland management guidelines but these have also failed to appear.

Although we all realize how valuable our urban wetlands are for conservation, recreation and education it appears that our politicians have not yet understood this message.

By Philip Jennings, the President of the Wetlands Conservation Society, a group that has been campaigning for wetlands since 1985.

Launch of the Banksia Woodlands video

http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/activities/perths-banksia-woodlands/perths-banksia-woodlands

The Hon. Bill Marmion, Minister for the Environment, declined to launch the UBC's new 7 minute video on Banksia Woodlands but Dr.Sally Talbot, MLC, shadow Minister for the Environment, was able to come during the parliamentary dinner break to launch it on October, 16.

Dr Talbot said that our Banksia woodlands are not just some pieces of leftover bush, but as revealed in the video, they are beautiful, magnificent, complex and spiritually uplifting. Banksia woodlands add to the value of our lives. The plants are some of the most resilient plants in nature and are now dependent on us.

The audience were touched and applauded the video, made with dedication by Bryn Watkins of Entity Media with generous funding assistance by Lotterywest.

After the launch, Sandy Lloyd of the Department of Agriculture and Food gave a brief talk on the new *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act* (BAM Act), which will replace the 17 existing Acts. The new Act will go ahead in December 2012, but it does not come with extra money.

The UBC welcomed Professor Richard Mack, School of Biological Sciences, Washington State Sciences. Professor Mack's talk was entitled 'Sustained control of plant invaders requires our sustained public outreach.'

Go to page 4 to read Prof Mack's recommendations on how to effectively engage with relevant people to facilitate change.



"Our Banksia Woodlands" is the story of the unique, diverse and valuable Banksia Woodlands around the city of Perth Western Australia. The Urban Bushland Council WA calls for restraint in the destruction of these priceless ancient ecosystems.

This 7 minutes long video is hosted by internationally renowned Perth scientists Greg and Bronwen Keighery and Ric How. The video explains why "*No other city looks like this*."

Share the story with your friends, family and colleagues.

The last article for the UBC (Winter 2012) finished with a quote:

"Policies such as Bush Forever have, however, led to inadequate attention and protection of basic raw materials resources. Bush Forever site protection has come at the expense of strategic basic raw material reserves." (p63 Basic Raw Materials Access and Availability 1996-2008, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Western Australia).

Now WA Limestone has called for public submissions on its proposal which was deemed a Controlled Action under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. You might remember that one of the reasons this proposal was deemed a Controlled Action by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPAC) was its impact on the habitat of the Carnaby's black cockatoo.

So where does Bush Forever fit in with this you might be wondering? It goes like this. The northern portion of WA Limestone's proposal is designated as Bush Forever Area 383. It is also adjacent to Lake Nowergup and whilst being a site of significant environmental value, is not known to hold limestone reserves of any significance. The latest documentation explains how WA Limestone will offset this loss of habitat under the EPBC Act: WA Limestone has offered to give up the Bush Forever portion of their land. We do not understand how this could be a legitimate offset given that the area is already designated for bushland conservation under Bush Forever, so will not result in a 'net environmental benefit' outcome. No detailed vegetation studies of the northern lot have been undertaken to demonstrate that this portion is actually Black Cockatoo foraging habitat. The retention of the habitat does not offset the clearing. The Commonwealth offset policy requires conservation outcomes that would not otherwise be achieved.



Supporter signing a petition to prevent degradation of biodiversity values of the Lake Novergup Valley, Wanneroo Swap Meet.

After submissions closed, we were alerted to the fact that SEWPAC released an offset policy and guide that aims to ensure the efficient, effective, timely, transparent, proportionate, scientifically robust and reasonable use of offsets under the EPBC Act. For more information please see http://environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/ environmental-offsets-policy.html . And it does make really interesting reading. On page 22, the new policy states:

"Offsets must deliver a conservation gain for the impacted protected matter, and that conservation gain must be new, or additional to what is already required by a duty of care or to any environmental planning laws at any level of government."

Of course that warranted a quick addition to our submission where we argued:

'On that basis it is essential that SEWPAC consider:

• Schedule 5 which shows that Lake Nowergup is protected by the City of Wanneroo's District Planning Scheme No 2. (Attachment 1)

• The City of Wanneroo has a Local Planning Policy in relation to wetlands which is relevant and clearly demonstrated that the site offered as offset already has a good degree of protection. (Attachment 2)

• This Bush Forever site is mentioned in the Neerabup and Yanchep National Park Management Plan 2012 (Attachment 3).'

The duty of care of the State Government in protection of Bush Forever is clear and well established.

This third document is of particular interest. Neerabup National Park and the imminent threat by way of freeway and railway extensions will mean that the remaining area will be even less. All bush areas adjacent to Neerabup National Park and Lake Nowergup Nature Reserve should be protected as a priority. Bush Forever already provides protection and would create no net benefit by being part of any offset.

An offset that is of value to Carnaby's cockatoo ought to be one which faces imminent threat of being cleared. One only needs to look at the satellite photos of the surrounding urban development along the west side of Neerabup National Park to see that the offset policy has done nothing to protect the Carnaby's habitat locally.

It is difficult to argue against the need for infrastructure such as roads and rail. But to have a small limestone quarry of less than 4 hectares destroying such a critical and rare linkage in the Neerabup National Park area beggars belief.

We are losing the population of Carnaby's cockatoo, we are devastating their habitat in the northern metropolitan area, bit by bit.

By Sabine Winton

International visitor shares wisdom with UBC: Professor Richard Mack

'Sustained control of invasive species: countering polemics and public apathy'

The UBC warmly acknowledges the visit to Western Australia and the presentation to our October UBC Council meeting by Professor Mack from the USA. A special thank you to Sandy Lloyd from DAFWA who organised his visit to us.

Professor Richard Mack is based at Washington State University, and he has had a long career working on invasive plants. He was in Australia at the invitation of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) and gave the CAWS Oration at the 18th Australasian Weed Conference in Melbourne in early October.

He has visited Australia several times before and appreciates our unique native flora and the problems invasive plants cause.

Professor Mack's visit was generously sponsored by CAWS and his wisdom, experience and advice to us was much appreciated by those present at his talks. CAWS is to be congratulated for enabling community conservation groups to be able to hear a presentation by such an international expert.

His talk to the UBC was entitled:

'Sustained control of invasive species: countering polemics and public apathy'

There is slippage or collapse of the public interest in and support for control of invasive species. He used the term 'outreach' for how we best inform the public of the importance of controlling invasive species.

First of all it is essential to get the science out there to the public and to inform them - before any extreme activists act in ignorance or give wrong advice. His advice on successful outreach was:

1. Write letters to the Editor - in 250-300 words, well reasoned, succinct and non-strident. Include a brief description of the writer's professional background and experience.

2. Respond to all enquiries from the press, always take their calls and establish a rapport with reporters. Don't use highly technical terms or jargon, no acronyms. Be patient, offer alternative wording for a point cheerfully. Gently deflect a reporter's attempts to reduce a topic to an incorrect analogy. Volunteer your availability for fact checking so they will remember you and call again. It is about the issue, not the person,

3. Submit opinion pieces to the press, and keep trying if rejected. Identify the problem, give a solution, be succinct, cogent, clear.

4. Use blogs - they get the information out there.

5. Engage in 1:1 interactions.

6. Prepare the 'elevator speech' and rehearse it. For opportunities when both are trapped for a short period of 30 - 60 seconds. 'By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail' (Benjamin Franklin).

7. Meet elected officials: MPs, Mayors and more. Be succinct in under 18 minutes. Meet their staffers face to face and build a rapport with them. Follow up meetings with a thank you and be polite, don't mistake slogans for solutions.

In summary Prof Mack emphasised that some fraction of our professional lives needs to be devoted to 'outreach'. Keep the science correct, and seek opportunities to speak to the public.

This applies to us as community bushcare experts.

PREMIER'S BIODIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENT MAY ONLY SAVE THE GROUNDHOG By Cameron Poustie

By Cameron Pousn

I hope I am wrong, but I fear the announcement that the Barnett/Grylls Government will look at comprehensive biodiversity law reform if re-elected (Fines soar for wildlife crimes, 1/11) will likely only further protect the habitat of the groundhog, of Groundhog Day fame. What I mean is: we've heard these promises from the old parties before.

In late 2002 I was employed by the Conservation Council to campaign for a new Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Council and I were buoyed by then Labor Premier Geoff Gallop's 2001 'priority' election promise to introduce an Act to replace the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950. We activated a lot of community interest in the change but that first-term of the Gallop Government produced nothing more than a discussion paper about the proposed new Act. Gallop re-promised this reform in 2005, and was re-elected, but in that term of Government neither he nor his successor Alan Carpenter produced even a draft Bill. All that was done was a second round of consultation, this time for a proposed State Biodiversity Strategy.

Fast-forward to 2012 and here we are with another promise to fix WA's antiquated laws. Meanwhile just two weeks ago the Greens' Giz Watson read into Parliament a Bill of her own, targeting a list of the most urgent biodiversity reforms. Perhaps if Barnett and Co want any credibility with their promised total overhaul of WA's laws, they will bring on and pass Ms Watson's Bill before Parliament finishes this year.

Visit to Hawkevale Bushland Continued from page 1

sia and they have their own family, Calectasiaceae. There are no close relatives. They do not produce nectar and native bees are the pollinators. After pollination the anthers turn from yellow to red, then the fruits form. The plant is very, very hard to grow. It cannot be grown from cuttings and although many seeds are produced, most of the seed aborts. It is possible to get growth in culture but then scientists cannot get it out of the culture. If this genus were to be lost from bushland areas it would be virtually impossible to get it back. Greg said that the genus is truly under-rated and that it wows botanists. A different species, *Calectasia grandiflora*, grows in Brixton Street Wetlands.

Conospermum undulatum (Wavy-leaved Smokebush)

This species is just found in a few sites on the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain and it is legally protected. It is pollinated by a specific group of bees. The bees are covered in silver hairs and the male bees sit on the bush and wait for the females. When a bee enters a flower, a hair trigger system causes the stigma to explode onto the bee. Hoverflies frequently get trapped within the flower when the stigma flies onto them.

Lambertia multiflora var darlingensis (pictured below) was in full flower and with the Hibbertia species and Kangaroo Paws in full flower, the bushland looked spectacular.



Conostylis

The flowers of some Conostylis go red after pollination.

Cowkick – Stylidium shoenoides

Rica Ericson, as a teacher, had her class in the bushland. One boy, on causing the hammer to spring said 'It's got a kick like a cow, miss,' so that was where it got its common name.



Walk participants listening to Greg Keighery.

Grasstrees

There are two species of grasstrees: *Xanthorrhoea drummondii*, which rarely comes on to the plain and *Xanthorrhoea preissii*. However the species are so long lived that a set of hybrids could last for thousands of years. Xanthorrhoeas look simplistic but are very complex. It had been claimed that identification of Xanthorrhoeas could be made by counting the number of sides to the leaves, but this is quite unreliable and is discredited.

Old Koori people said there are two types of resin, the red and the yellow resin. They never collected the yellow resin. Noongar people collected *X. preissii* resin.

Isopogon drummondii

This grows mainly north of Perth and is a winter flowerer. It was poorly collected.

Jarrah

Jarrah grows mainly on the Spearwood dunes. The jarrah which grows on the eastern side of the plain and in the hills is stockier and is genetically different from those jarrahs growing with tuarts on the plain.

Kangaroo Paw and Cats Paw hybrids

Hybrids of Kangaroo Paws and Cats Paws have the stamens in a straight line and the stamens of Cats Paws end in a fan shape.

Macarthuria australis

This species has a beautiful perfume.

Puzzle Sedge - Caustis dioica

This is a very, very unusual sedge found in sites like Hawekvale Bushland and in Landsdale and at Yanchep. Russel Barrett is studying this group.



SPRING 2012

CARNABY'S COCKATOO RECOVERY PLAN 2012-2020

The Department of Environment and Conservation has released a recovery plan for Carnaby's Cockatoo. The Recovery Plan provides some background information on Carnaby's cockatoo, threatening processes that affect this species, and identifies the recovery objective, success criteria and the actions required over the next ten years to progress towards the longer term recovery of this species. Go to the DEC website to download the plan: http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/management-and-protection/threatened-species/recoveryplanning-and-implementation/approved-recovery-plans.html

Bush Forever Report Card Conference

The Urban Bushland Council (UBC) is hosting a conference to present a report on the progress of Bush Forever over the past 12 years. This conference follows a series of UBC initiatives aiming to document ; to help raise community awareness and to show what has been achieved and what is yet to be completed.

On September 14, 2012, the UBC held a workshop that aimed to review and document the:

- * Policy Objectives
- * Policy Measures for Implementation
- * Actions

as shown on pages xiii - xvi of Bush Forever Volume 1, Policies, Principles and Processes (Government of Western Australia, 2000).

Representatives from community, Local Government and State Government attended the workshop which examined the level of progress against each policy measure and each of the 15 adopted actions. Findings from this workshop will be presented at the Conference.

The conference will also provide an opportunity to present 'best practice' examples of bushland acquisition, management for conservation by the DEC and Local Government and community participation.

We're inviting you to join us as our speakers explore the implementation of Bush Forever from different levels of government and community organisations. The day will conclude with a series of case studies from our Friends Groups, showing some of the challenges and successes they've experienced. The conference will take place at Murdoch University on Friday, December 7 from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

For further details, please see the flyer included in this edition.

Call for Public Submissions Bush Forever Definition Clause Insertion and Removal of Clause 16 (1a)(a) for New Similar Clause Insertion 16 (1a)(a) and (ba) in MRS Text

The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) is seeking public comment on a minor MRS amendment relating to Bush Forever areas., proposing to insert a new clause in the MRS text to define the Bush Forever area overlay that already exists on the MRS Map, as a result of MRS Amendment 1082/33.

The WAPC also proposes amending section 16 (1a)(a) to allow permitted development within a Bush Forever area owned or vested in a public authority on reserved land to commence development without the written approval of the WAPC if there is a written agreement between the public authority and the WAPC or a management plan approved by the WAPC.

For more information go to the Department of Planning website: http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/6487.asp Submissions close **Friday 18 January 2013**.

Habitat loss and the Western Swamp Tortoise

By Jan Bant and Tanya Marwood

The Western Swamp Tortoise is Australia's most critically endangered reptile. There are less than 50 adults in the wild in the Perth region. A Captive Breeding Program at the Perth Zoo has resulted in increased numbers of hatchlings, which have been released into the wild as juveniles after 2-5 years to augment the existing population. Because of their slow growth rate, the released juveniles will take from 8 to 15 years to reach sexual maturity.

Many factors have contributed to the decline of the Western Swamp Tortoise. It was even considered extinct for over one hundred years, until a chance finding set the scientific world buzzing in 1953 and gave scientists a location to search for remaining survivors.

Habitat loss has been considered one of the most important factors contributing to low numbers of this reptile. The traditional home range of the tortoise is the ephemeral wetlands of the Swan Valley—the same areas recently drained and developed for housing. New suburbs like Ellenbrook, Vale and Aveley perch on drained wetlands where the tortoise once used to live. Prior to these developments, clearing for agriculture and clay mining caused the tortoises' habitat to shrink drastically. Two of the existing nature reserves set aside for the tortoise now have optimal populations, and will not have any more juveniles released in them for the foreseeable future. Some areas abutting the existing reserves have been examined for potential use and possible inclusion within the existing feral animal-proof fences, to increase suitable habitat.

Climate change has been a more recent concern for the tortoise. With the temperatures in Western Australia rising, the rainfall decreasing and the swamps drying more quickly, the tortoises' available feeding time is reduced. Every year they aestivate (enter a torpid state and go underground into a burrow) to escape the hot summer temperatures. Since aestivation is similar to hibernation, they don't drink or eat for several months, and rely on the weight and condition they have achieved by feeding in the swamp waters while they are present. Any disruption to the size or persistence of the ephemeral wetlands of the Swan Valley will have an impact on their survival.

Fortunately, a research project now entering its final stages will identify other suitable areas throughout the state for translocation of captive-bred tortoises. By 2013, the Western Swamp Tortoise Recovery Team hopes to have details of areas fulfilling the necessary criteria. As all areas will be considered, there may be potential areas which are currently degraded and will need revegetation or site works to optimise their habitat value, and the Friends group is looking forward to working on these sites to enhance the number of areas in which the captive-bred tortoises can be released.

The future of the Western Swamp Tortoise truly is in the hands of the people of this state.

Bush Forever Report Card

Are Perth's unique Banksia woodlands protected for future generations?

After 12 years of Bush Forever

How are they faring? And what is left to do?

A one day conference exploring Bush Forever, the WA Government commitment to its implementation, site management issues, and a final report card

\$40 for Students & Friends Groups \$145 for Professional & Waged

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Includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch, and a copy of proceedings For information on speakers and topics visit www.bushlandperth.org.au Friday 7 December 2012 8:30am to 4:30pm Murdoch University



Registration for Bush Forever Report Card					
Name (Direct Deposit Reference)	Postal Address (For proceedings)				
Phone					
Email Address for Attendee					
Attendance Fee (check box) \$40 Student or Friends Group Group \$145 Professional or Waged Organisation:	Special Dietary Requirements				
Payment Method □ Direct Debit to BSB: 066 118 Acc: 1003 0677 with name □ ubc@bushlandperth.org.au or □ Cheques payable to Urban Bushland Council WA and p Perth WA 6872 or Online registration available from November at www.bust	osted with form to UBC Conference, PO Box 326, West				
Registration will be confirmed once payment is received.					

Friends of the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre

In 2011 Friends of the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, (CWEC), obtained two grants to assist revegetation on Bibra Lake reserve by the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre.

On June 6th, 2012, 180 primary school students attending a World Environment Day event planted four hundred native seedlings. On July 20th, 279 adults of BHP Billiton staff and some of their families planted a further two thousand seedlings . Staff and volunteers from the Wetland Education Centre, Environmental Staff from the City of Cockburn and Operation Volunteers were on hand to supervise.

The twenty varieties planted included marri, hackett's hop bush, spearwood, melaleucas and jointed twig rush. Plans to use seedlings propagated in the Centre's nursery from locally provenanced seed were thwarted when rodents invaded the nursery and ate many plants. Nevertheless Centre staff were able to raise 1100 seedlings from local seed stored from previous collections and obtained more seedlings from local sources.

Seedlings were planted near the north eastern side of Bibra Lake in a transitional zone between existing wetland and dryland seed production areas. They will be cared for by Centre staff and volunteers.

Funding to the Friends of the CWEC by a Department of Environment & Conservation's Environmental Community Grant provided over \$4,000. towards expenses such as purchase of stakes, soil wetter, seedlings, planting tablets.

The City of Cockburn September 2011 Community Grants Program provided funds for the Friends of CWEC to purchase an auger and bits. This auger was used to dig the holes for the plantings and will be used in many such future projects.

Maríon Shaw

The Friends of Queens Park Bushland celebrated their 20th birthday on 9 September 2012. Forty-five members and invited guests gathered to acknowledge and thank those who have helped make a difference to the bushland over those years. Mayor Delle Donne presented the Friends with a certificate of recognition for the work that they have performed on behalf of the City of Canning and for the benefit it provides everyone.

At the same function, Neville, from Web Wizards, formally launched the Friends of Queens Park Bushland website – www.friendsofqueensparkbushland.org.au. "The website is a valuable resource for teachers and students in the area," says Suzanne Marsh, President of the Friends group, "and a site for residents to use to learn more about their bush and keep in touch with the Friends group." The website represents a year of work photographing, identifying and researching each species found in their patch of bush and then uploading that information onto the internet. However, that doesn't mean that the website won't be changing from now on. As new discoveries are made, and new information becomes available, the website will continue to be updated.

Joy, also from Web Wizards, presented the group with a herbarium that was collected in 1986 by a student studying the flora of the area. The herbarium is a valuable col-



Exploring the new website launched by the Friends of Queens Park Bushland.

lection as it documents some of the flora species that were present prior to the Friends group being formed.

Also launched was the Friends' first set of five cards (pictured below). These cards feature images of plants and animals found in their patch of bushland. The cards are blank inside so they can be used for any occasion. With the generous donation of printing by Marsh Media, the whole of the proceeds raised from the sale of these cards will go back into benefiting the bushland. The cards cost \$10 for a pack of five, plus postage and packaging if required.

Contact the Friends at fqpbushland@gmail.com if you would like to purchase a set and support the bushland.



After the speeches, guests had time to explore the website and look at the displays. There was then a guided walk through the bushland to see the wildflowers and admire nature at its best. It was also a chance to see the work of the last 20 years and to discuss plans for the future. The weather was beautiful and the bush was doing its best to impress. Several Bobtails were seen and the Donkey Orchids were putting on a wonderful display.

Just three weeks later, on 30 September, the Friends hosted a walk through the Queens Park Regional Open Space for the WA branch of BirdLife Australia. The day was sunny, warm and calm - perfect for birdwatching. Good views through the spotting-scope were seen of Australasian Shoveler and nesting Eurasian Coot on the water, while an Australian Hobby, a Sacred Kingfisher and Red -tailed Black Cockatoos were very obliging in the trees.

The Brown Honeyeater was the most vocal bird in the bush, with their persistent calls making it difficult to hear anything else. However, 47 species in total were seen or heard. Three species of cuckoo, Horsfield's Bronze-, Shining Bronze- and Pallid, were heard, as were Splendid Fairy-wrens – unfortunately these were not seen. There were six species of parrot seen, including a pair of yellow Crimson Rosella - no doubt aviary escapees.

While not watching birds attendees were delighted with the number and range of wildflowers in the area, with as much time spent with their eyes on the ground as they had their binoculars pointing skyward. Suzanne Marsh said that several of the bird watchers had expressed surprise at finding this patch of bushland, with so many birds and wildflowers, so close to the city.

With us on the walk was a journalist who writes for the Japanese magazine The Perth Express. Yoshifumi will be writing an article on bird watching for the magazine to promote the activity to his readers.

The Friends of Queens Park Bushland would like to thank everyone who has helped them over the past 20 years. They could not have achieved what they have without your help. They now look forward to the next 20 years and beyond.

Sían Mawson

Friends of Landsdale



Phylis Robertson showing a plant to a participant in the Landsdale walk

Phylis Robertson leads a walk in Landsdale Reserve on the first Saturday of every month from 8am to 9am. Phylis is a national treasure and has a life-time of knowledge about the bush. Landsdale Reserve is adjacent to Landsdale Farm in Landsdale Road just east of Erindale Road.

The Reserve is managed by the City of Wanneroo in conjunction with the Friends of Landsdale. It is a threatened ecological community with a large number of species under the Banksia/Jarrah woodlands.

Entry to the reserve used to be restricted but entry is now available through the gate on Landsdale Road.

Marg Owen

Friend of Forestdale

Anstey-Keane Dampland - Bush Forever site 342 – in the Jandakot Regional Park is a rare and valuable nature reserve in Perth's southeastern suburb of Forrestdale. Much of the reserve's 300 or so hectares, made up of over 380 flora species, is in pristine condition, and this combined with its rich animal life (mammals, birds, reptiles, spiders, insects, amphibians, crustaceans) earns it the distinction of being a major biodiversity hotspot of the Swan Coastal Plain.

However, Anstey-Keane Dampland is under threat. To begin with there is the proposed extension of Keane Road, which would destroy a substantial portion of prime vegetation, and would bisect the reserve, significantly decreasing its value.

Added to this is the relentless abuse from drivers of 4WDs and trail bikes, who continually ram and cut fences and gates to gain access to the reserve. These people cause considerable harm: they destroy native vegetation, spread Phytophthora dieback, run over and kill wildlife, and make the reserve an unappealing and intimidating place for walkers and nature-lovers wishing to visit and enjoy the natural environment. They are also an ongoing annoyance to residents who live near the reserve.

Another serious problem in the reserve is rubbish dumping. The rubbish is not only unsightly, it smothers native flora and, in the case of dumped oil and other chemicals, can cause serious pollution.

In light of all this, the Friends of Forrestdale are calling for better management of Anstey-Keane Dampland by the relevant Government bodies so that further irreversible damage does not occur in this fragile and irreplaceable natural asset.

Bryony Fremlín

The following letter by John Baas and Christine Allbeury of MtLawley addressed to the Minister for Environment; Water, Hon Bill Marmion, demonstrates the intimidation experienced by visitors:

"Approximately six months ago my wife and I visited the

Damplands following a recommendation from a member of the Friends of Forrestdale. While there were few wildflowers about at that time due to it being early Autumn, we were struck by the obvious biodiversity of the place and its generally good condition. In fact your magazine (Landscope - Winter Edition 2009) describes it as being a botanical jewel and as being the second most floristically diverse site on the Perth coastal plain!

We were however concerned at that time that the whole area appeared open to vehicle access from the western end even though exclusion fencing and signage was in place at the eastern end. Recent damage from vehicles was readily apparent with rubbish being recently dumped and new wheel pads having been created in some spots. During the hour or so we were there we encountered at least five trail bikes. On making enquiries with DEC over the phone, we were informed that housing developments at the western end had necessitated the removal of the fencing there, but that this was to be remediated by the developer.

Well, six months later, we again visited last Sunday to take advantage of the Spring bloom. We were immediately 'greeted' by convoy of four wheel drivers using wet areas on the track as a mud-playground, thereby creating a major dieback spread risk. When they saw us approach on foot they rapidly departed (before we could take numberplate details). Five minutes later another four wheel drive arrived (numberplates removed) and stopped by us. On being informed by us that he and his vehicle shouldn't be there, he first feigned ignorance and then became abusive. We felt quite intimidated (we are in our sixties) and decided to return to our vehicle. On the return walk we were 'buzzed' by a trail bike. And on reaching our vehicle, we found that the abusive four wheel driver had tried to spray our car with dirt by 'doing wheelies' from the inside side of the fence. And all of these 'events' having taken place over a period of no more than thirty minutes...

To add to our concerns it was very clear also, that the whole of this precious area is being progressively turned into an informal rubbish dumping site and that the tracks are being very much widened around track bogholes. So...given DEC seems unable to do anything about this appalling antisocial behaviour and resultant environmental vandalism over such a precious site, could we please ask that you intervene and ensure suitable protections are implemented urgently."

Friends of Hollywood Bushland

The final working bee will be held on Sunday, 11th November. Due this day being also Remembrance Day, people attending the war graves will probably have a service as usual which will mean that cars will be parked on the lawn area. However, this should not cause us any inconvenience. As is the custom on the last working bee of the year, it is usually a tidy up occasion ahead of the hot weather. Morning Tea will be at Jacqui's at 10.30 am and then it is finished.

This year we put in about 1000 plants, most of the planting done by the Hollywood Primary School children. They seem to be going well, so let us hope that the above average rain forecast for this season does eventuate. No harm in being optimistic! We understand that the Beyond Garden team have awarded the Primary school some garden tools - well done to the school and the children.

Still a few flowers showing, also the Mignonette Orchids have popped up all over the place.

We would like to wish Max Hipkins well in the forthcoming election on 9th March. Max has been a regular worker with the group and a keen supporter. If he does get in, we will miss his support as Mayor.

On behalf of the committee, we thank everyone for their hard work, hope they enjoy the break from weeding until next year. Obviously the walkers can weed as they walk and please contact me if there are any unusual occurrences during the next few months. Special thanks to Vicki Shannon our Bush Care Officer who has guided us all the way. Also to Jacqui who has hosted our morning teas which are very much appreciated. Our morning teas also serve as informal meetings and discussion groups with our members.

Trish and David Hewson

Mullaloo Beach Community Group

While play in nature should be encouraged, it does need to be directed and managed to prevent environmental vandalism that has been discovered recently in dunes at Mullaloo. A war game hideout in the dunes, created by some people left the large area of dunes stripped of native vegetation, open to erosion and restoration efforts will require several years of sand stabilization and revegetation.



The Mullaloo Beach Community Group would like to hear from other Friends Groups that have dealt with issues such as cubby building in bushland reserves. In particular they are keen to hear about any examples of effective publicity aimed at informing the community about the unacceptable impacts of such activities.

Hands Off Point Peron campaign update

Report back from rally held outside the Gillard Government's Community Cabinet meeting in Kwinana on 5th September.

A big thank you to those who braved the wet and windy conditions outside Gilmore college where the Prime Minister and Government Ministers were holding their Community cabinet meeting with 500 people present and a huge media contingent. The rally was a huge success!

While most questions put to the Prime Minister were pretty innocuous the last question of the night was met with applause and cheers from the crowd. Hands Off Point Peron (HOPP) founder and spokesperson Dawn Jecks, stood up and asked the following questions:

"Is the Prime Minister or any other Ministers present aware of the Barnett Liberal Government's proposal to bulldoze 77 hectares of public land at Point Peron to use it for private canal housing and an inland marina development in the middle of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park? The proposed project area is Crown land that was transferred from the Commonwealth to the State of WA in 1964 subject to the condition that the land use be restricted to a reserve for recreation and/or parklands. In 1968, the Commonwealth confirmed that the land must not be used for private, industrial, commercial or residential development? Given that the project is currently being assessed by the WA EPA, at what point will the Commonwealth's ongoing legal interest in the site be raised with the WA State Government?"

The Governments response was typical in that the question posed was not actually answered however the media coverage that we received made the exercise well worthwhile. The entire meeting was live telecast on ABC2 which included the Point Peron question and this was also covered on the front page of the Rockingham local paper, The Weekend Courier, 7th September edition which can be read online. It included a great photo of HOPP supporters present. Great coverage also in the Sound Telegraph and a mention in the West Australian newspaper. We hope to have some photos of the rally available on the HOPP website soon.

This event was the start of our 'Spring Offensive'. We have recommenced our regular monthly meetings where we plan and organise events/actions. We urgently need more hands on deck and we are looking to get more people actively involved with the campaign. Why not come to our next meeting, have a listen and see if there is some way you can contribute? Meetings are usually held on weekends or of an evening in the Rockingham area. If you would like to come along to our next meeting please email dawnjecks@southwest.com.au

Dawn Jecks

Friends of Shenton Bushland

2012 Riverside Bush to Beach Walk

Wet weather has been a feature of Bush to Beach walks for most of its 10 year history, and this year's walk was no exception. Almost forty participants braved the weather to begin their exploration of the river at Claremont Jetty, and followed a 14 kilometre course along the river to end at Kings Park.



At Pt Resolution, City of Nedlands Bushcare Officer Vicki Shannon talked to us about the massive amount of work being done at the site to restore the bushland and foreshore area.

Local historian Anthea Harris showed us photos of the history of the foreshore and gave participants an insight into the way the area has changed over the past 100 years.

Murray Thomas, senior science teacher at Shenton College showed us around Pelican Point and told us about the local and migratory birds that use the reserve.

After lunch at Matilda Bay Stephanie Clegg and Robyn Benken informed our walk up through the escarpment of Kings Park that was burnt in the fire of 2009.

Anyone interested in planning next year's walk is welcome to contact Dani Boase-Jelinek, Friends of Shenton Bushland Inc (0420334601).

Daní Boase-Jelínek



Murray Thomas talks about local and migratory birds using the river foreshore near Pelican Point.

Mother Nature Stories - Learn & Share

Young male just growing his tail feathers.

This male forest red-tailed cockatoo is probably between three and four years old as his tail feather colour is turning to solid red as he reaches maturity.



When males display, they may bob a number of times and then hang upside down with their magnificent tail feathers spread.

However one young male who hangs out with all the others in Brockway Road and McGillivray Road in Floreat, is rather disadvantaged. Somehow he has lost every single tail feather. He wobbles a bit on landing and also has endured some persecution of a minor kind from the other birds. But when he flies he is poetry in motion. He looks like a flying scimitar. He can fly like the wind, and how the red tails love flying in the wind above and through the tree-tops.

This no-tail bird has engaged in some head bobbing and upside down hanging but he has no tail to show off. However I believe that his new tail feathers are starting to grow.







Perhaps he will be able to attract a mate in the near future and he may be able to breed in Underwood Avenue Bushland.

A Common Brushtail Possum dead in Underwood Avenue Bushland

I had never imagined that there would be possums in Underwood Avenue Bushland so to see one dead on the ground last Saturday was a great surprise. As possums are nocturnal and spend the daylight hours possibly in tree hollows or fallen hollow logs, perhaps it is not surprising that I had not seen any.

This possum, which I found out to be a common brushtail possum, was on its back and the flesh on its front had been either pecked or chewed. I was told that a fox would be likely to bury its prey, so this possum might have been caught by a little eagle or have been pecked by ravens. It had not been dead for long.

I read that the home range of common brushtail possums varies from one to fifteen hectares. So it is critically important that the linkages between larger bushland areas are maintained.

State government policy states that: 'Proposals or decisionmaking should proactively seek to safeguard, enhance and establish ecological linkages between Bush Forever areas.' (State Planning Policy 2.8). The linkages between Underwood Avenue Bushland and Shenton Bushland along Bedbrook place are not safeguarded or enhanced and there is no intention or will from the state government to comply with this policy.

The owner of two of the lots in the threatened linkage between Underwood Avenue Bushland and Shenton Bushland along Bedbrook Place, is seeking expressions of interest from potential buyers, and the UBC and the Friends of Underwood Avenue and of Shenton Bushland have requested that the state government buy these lots. The bushland on these lots is used regularly by two species of black cockatoo, as well as small birds including variegated wrens, birds of prey, quail, various reptiles and the graceful sun moth (sighted in 2012), as well as possums.

Despite the name 'common brushtail possum', the destruction of the bushland habitat will threaten the possums' survival. The housing proposal for Underwood Avenue bushland still has to be referred to the federal government because of the endangered species.

MINISTER'S ROADSIDE WEED LIST

In the winter edition of this newsletter, the Minister's Roadside Weed list was discussed. It has now been released and appears below.

Unfortunately there is no regulation in place that ensures that these invasive species are banned from being propagated and sold in our Perth region. Local Government Authorities can, however, under existing law declare any of these plant species as 'pest plants' which means they must control and eradicate them on their lands.

Friends groups are encouraged to advocate declaration of pest plant status by their local Council for those weeds on the list that are invasive in their bushland and along roadsides.

One example is Gazania, a garden escapee, which particularly likes spreading along coastal areas as well as in Karrakatta soils. It is time for this plant to be banned from sale and landscaping use.

Environmental Roadside Weeds List

Updated August 2012 and endorsed by the Minister for the Environment; Water

Trees and Large Shrubs

Acacia baileyana Acacia iteaphylla Acacia longifolia Acacia podalyriifolia Acacia pycnantha Chamaecytisus palmensis Genista linifolia Genista monspessulana *Gomphocarpus fruticosus* Lavandula stoechas *Leptospermum laevigatum* Lycium ferocissimum Olea europaea Parkinsonia aculeata *Pinus radiata/pinaster Psoralea* pinnata Retama raetam Rhamnus alaternus Ricinus communis

Golden Wattle Tagasaste Flaxleaf Broom Montpellier Broom Narrowleaf Cottonbush Lavender Victorian Tea-tree African Boxthorn Olive Parkinsonia Pines Taylorina White Weeping Broom Buckthorn Castor Oil Plant

Cootamundra Wattle

Flinders Range Wattle

Sydney Golden Wattle

Mount Morgan Wattle

Small Shrubs and Herbs

Acetosa vesicaria Aerva javanica Arctotheca calendula Brassica napus Brassica tournefortii *Carpobrotus edulis* Dittrichia graveolens Echium plantagineum *Euphorbia terracina* Fumaria capreolata Gazania linearis Lupinus cosentinii Oenothera stricta Common Evening Primrose Raphanus raphanistrum Tribulus terrestris

Ruby Dock Kapok Bush Cape Weed Canola Wild Turnip Pigface Stinkwort Paterson's Curse Geraldton Carnation Weed Whiteflower Fumitory Gazania Blue Lupin Wild Radish Caltrop

Grasses Arundo donax Avena spp. Cenchrus ciliaris Ehrharta calycina Ehrharta longiflora Eragrostis curvula *Hyparrhenia hirta* Melinis repens *Themeda quadrivalvis* Pennisetum clandestinum Pennisetum setaceum Pennisetum villosum

Creepers

Asparagus aethiopicus A. asparagoides A. declinatus A. plumosus

A. scandens

Bulbus Type Weeds

Babiana angustifolia Ferraria crispa *Freesia alba* x *leichtlinii Gladiolus caryophyllaceus* Lachenalia spp. Moraea flaccida *Watsonia* spp. Zantedeschia aethiopica

Giant Reed Wild Oats Buffel Grass Perennial Veldt Grass Annual Veldt Grass African Lovegrass Tambookie Grass Natal Redtop Grader Grass Kikuvu Fountain Grass Feathertop Grass

Asparagus Fern Bridal Creeper

Climbing Asparagus Fern

Baboon Flower Black Flag Freesia Wild Gladiolus Soldiers One-leaf Cape Tulip Watsonia Arum Lily

The Urban Bushland Council calls upon the State Government to declare and regulate all the above invasive plants as 'Environmental Weeds' under the new Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act which comes into effect on December 2012. It should be illegal to propagate, sell and distribute these plants, and controls should be mandatory.

Please lobby your local MP for introduction of a new regulation for 'Environmental Weeds' under the 'BAM' Act, and do take them for a walk to show them some of these invasive weeds in your bushland. Community members could also give a copy of the weed list to local plant nurseries, and explain the problem.

\diamond	What's	new?									
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V What's new? V What's new?	\diamond what's new? \diamond what's new?
	SHOREBIRDS 2020
REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR	Saturday 8 December
LOCAL BIODIVERSITY	9.00am - 4.30pm
CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR PERTH AND PEEL	Coogee Community Hall,
Have you ever wondered how much vegetation is in your local reserve, what is its significance? How much vege-	19 Arlington Loop, Coogee
tation remains in Perth and Peel? How can you compare the relative conservation significance of what local natural areas remain?	Perth Region NRM and BirdLife Australia are hosting a free community event that will include :
	• Identification techniques
A new freely available mapping viewer is available to help with answers	Nesting sites
· · · ·	Habitat information
This public on-line mapping viewer has been designed to provide access to the results of local natural area prior -	• Guided field trip to identify shorebirds at Woodman Point.
itisation mapping for the Perth and Peel.	Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.
Access and use of the information is free. User Guide and Explanatory Notes, available for downloading are designed to self-guide users.	Registration is essential, contact Sharon , the Coastal Educa- tion officer on ph 0466 744 948 or email to Sha- ron.munro@perthregionnrm.com
To access the Regional Framework Mapping Viewer go to	Catchments, Corridors & Coasts 2013
http://pbp.asn.au/index_public.html	January 16th-18th
Read the information on the home page, including the Terms and Conditions, tick the box and press 'Enter the	Learn about environmental issues, what is being done by community groups and various levels of government, and what resources are available including toolkits for
map viewer'. All underlined text is linked to an explanato- ry text.	teaching and learning. Presented by the Australian Association for Environmental Education (WA) www.aaeewa.org.au
You will find information about biodiversity values for any selected area, your local reserve or land proposed for	For more information contact Amy Krupa on 0407427054 or email to info@aaeewa.org.au
rezoning including for example:	VOLUNTEERING GARDEN PARTY
Vegetation types, their retention and protection sta- tue in the region or your Level Covernment area	Government House Gardens
 tus in the region or your Local Government area Level of priority based on over 30 criteria and oppor- 	Wednesday 5 December 2012
tunities for retention considering the existing land	4.30-6.30pm
uses	Volunteering WA invites members and volunteers to join
How large is your local reserve and how much vege-	the celebrations of International Volunteer Day 2012.
tation or wetland areas it contains	Entry \$25 per person and wear something red
What environmental policies apply to your local area	Booking forms available through
Which patches of remnant vegetation contribute to	www.volunteeringwa.org.au/gardenparty.aspx
landscape connectivity	Bookings close 23 November 2012
Which areas are protected.	(Continued from page 3)
You can find out more by visiting the Perth Biodiversity	Communea from bage 21
Project website:	When we join the dots of all these individual develop-
http://pbp.walga.asn.au/ProjectPrograms/	ments that supposedly are not going to have an impact,
RegionalFrameworkforLocalBiodiversity.aspx	what we will get is extinction of the iconic Carnaby's cockatoo.
For more information or assistance with the use of the Map- ping Viewer please contact Manager , Perth Biodiversity Pro- ject Renata Zelinova via email rzelinova@walga.asn.au or	See the video of Carnaby's at Nowergup: they are on this site in question, and we cannot keep pushing them to the

ject Renata Zelinova via email rzelinova@walga.asn.au or phone 9213 2047

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fringes. www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPEqMWm4bhI

SUPPORT THE URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL

Join or renew your membership

Groups:

Membership with voting rights is available to groups committed to the protection of urban bushland for \$35 a year (GST included). A growing membership strengthens the cause and groups benefit from the network.

Individuals:

Supporter membership is only \$25 per year (GST included). Supporters can attend meetings and receive copies of the "Urban Bush Telegraph"

Groups and supporters are reminded that annual membership fees include one printed copy of the Urban Bush Telegraph (currently published quarterly). Additional printed copies can be ordered at a cost

of \$5.00 per copy per annum.

Send your name, address and cheque or postal order to: Treasurer, Urban Bushland Council WA Inc, PO Box 326, West Perth WA 6872

Urban Bushland Council Activities

Bush Forever Report Card

A one day conference exploring Bush Forever, the WA Government commitment to its implementation, site management issues, and a final report card.

Friday 7 December 2012 8.30am to 4.30pm

Venue: Murdoch University Cost: \$40 for Students & Friends Groups \$145 for Professional & Waged Includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch and a copy of the proceedings For information on speakers and topics visit www.bushlandperth.org.au

UBC PUBLICATIONS

Perth's Banksia Woodlands - Precious and Under Threat Proceedings of a symposium (2011) Available from the UBC for \$25 plus \$3 postage.

Endangered Black Cockatoos in Western Australia proceedings of a symposium about their biology, status, threats and efforts to restore their habitat and populations. Available from the UBC for \$25 plus \$3 postage.

Wetlands to Wastelands? - proceedings of a seminar about the future of bushland at Perth Airport (2004) Available at UBC's website <u>http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/html/infosheets.htm</u>

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

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

Managing our Bushland - proceedings of a conference about the protection and management of urban bushland (1998) Out of print; available in libraries.

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

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: ubc@bushlandperth.org.au

Copy deadline - 1 December 2012

PERTH'S BUSHLAND BIRTHDAY & PERPETUAL

CALENDAR

\$15 plus \$2 postage

Available by mail order from the UBC office.

Office:

URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL WA Inc

Lotteries House 2 Delhi Street West Perth WA 6872

Ph 9420 7207 E-mail: vbc@bushlandperth.org.av

Web site: www.bushlandperth.org.au



Urban Bushland Council WA Inc



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