



Banksia woodland in Koondoola Bushland (Bush Forever Area 201), Photo by K Sarti

Banksia Woodlands TEC listed

Both the Wildflower Society and the Urban Bushland Council welcome the recent federal listing of the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP as Minister for the Environment and Energy decided on the listing at the level of 'endangered', effective from 16 September 2016, on the advice of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee and after public submissions and advice from public and expert consultation.

The approved listing and Conservation Advice provides detailed information about the description and assessment of the ecological community, its threats and priority actions for research and recovery. It is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>.

This federal government Advice is very comprehensive, but clear and concise. It is recommended reading as it gives an excellent

template for decision-making and management of our truly 'rich and rare' Banksia Woodlands. If UBC members are liaising with your local state or federal MP's or your local Council about bushland issues on the Swan Coastal Plain, it is worth having a printed copy with you so that you can refer to relevant sections for insisting on appropriate conservation actions.

The Banksia Woodlands ecological community occurs mainly on Bassendean and Spearwood sands, occasionally on Quindalup sands, and on sands of the Ridge Hill Shelf, Whicher Scarp, and Dandargan Plateau. It must include at least one of the four Banksia trees: *Banksia attenuata* (Candlestick banksia, Slender banksia), *B. menziesii* (Firewood banksia), *B. prionotes* (Acorn banksia), or *B. ilicifolia* (Holly-leaved banksia).

Species richness

The flora species richness is in the understorey, and there is an average of 50 species of flora per 100 square metre (ie per

10m x 10m quadrat) which is very high indeed compared with other parts of the world. Ten of the 40 mammal species in the region are now extinct, and others have decreased greatly with many locally extinct. Bird species are dominated by nectivores which are important pollinators, and the much loved 3 species of black cockatoos are the most iconic bird species of the region. The ecological community is exceptionally rich in reptile species and also macro-invertebrates but the latter is not well known. The Conservation Advice gives summary information of what is known about all this fauna. The Swan Coastal Plain is rich also in fungi species. There have been no comprehensive surveys over the re-

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Editorial

The listing of the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain as an endangered Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) is a very welcome yet sad milestone in federal government recognition of their ongoing loss. Clearing and fragmentation, weed and feral animal invasion, Phytophthora dieback, groundwater drawdown, illegal dumping of rubbish, off-road vehicles and excessive fire are all taking their toll.

But perhaps the most disturbing factor, is the abject failure in governance at all levels to protect and manage our fragile Banksia Woodlands and their associated wetlands. Alarming, total areas being cleared each year are not being audited and reported.

The State government has failed to complete the implementation of Bush Forever which was due in 2010. Its planned 'Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative' (CAR) reserve system is not yet fully secured, and is not yet being managed as an interconnected biodiversity conservation system in the Perth Metropolitan Region. There are 80 Bush Forever Areas or parts thereof which are still under temporary ownership and management of the WAPC, and have not been transferred to the conservation estate and a conservation land manager. In addition other sites are not yet secured for conservation and some are degrading by avoidable abuse.

Leadership in urban bushland conservation is remarkably lacking despite our region's rich and rare status as a global biodiversity hotspot. State planning control processes do not seek to protect native vegetation in the development and redevelopment process. EPA advice on



Mary Gray with guest speaker Greg Keighery, Department of Parks and Wildlife, at the UBC celebration of listing of Banksia woodlands as TEC under the provisions of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Photo by K Sarti

planning referrals is usually not legally binding, so it is ignored by planners. The Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) is failing to administer the clearing regulations under the *Environmental Protection Act* in the spirit and intent in which they are written. Consequently bushland that could and legally should be protected is being clearfelled. Planning decisions at local government level are ignoring the value of retaining remnants and connectivity.

At the federal government level, Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) are not being properly protected in assessment of referrals. For example, habitat of Carnaby's cockatoo is being cleared patch by patch and the cockatoo population is heading for extinction contrary to Recovery Plan objectives.

The next step for the recent listing of the Banksia Woodlands as a TEC is to ensure federal, state and local government implementation of the federal Conservation Advice as detailed on page 1. How will this happen? Is there the political will to end clearing of our precious Banksia Woodlands? How much more will be lost or fragmented before the correct procedures are implemented?



Mary Gray, UBC President, with a copy of the new UWA publication *Banksia Woodlands: A Restoration Guide for the Swan Coastal Plain* (see page 10 for further information).

Photo by K Sarti

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: ubc@bushlandperth.org.au

Copy deadline - 10 February 2017

Season's greetings
and successful 2017

Great gift idea

PERTH'S BUSHLAND BIRTHDAY & PERPETUAL

CALENDAR

\$10 plus \$2 postage

Available by mail order from the UBC office.

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gion, although there is some data collected in the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi project initiated by the Urban Bushland Council, and in which many UBC members took part.

Referrals needed

The Conservation Advice gives details of the 'condition thresholds' which will trigger the EPBC Act if development is proposed in the Banksia Woodlands ecological community. Proponents are required to refer such proposals to the federal Department of the Environment and Energy for assessment under the EPBC Act. UBC members may need to prompt such referrals by advising the federal Environment Department of new proposals as they come to light.

Buffer zones: Notably, activities likely to have a significant impact in buffer zones around patches are referable under the Act. The recommended minimum buffer zone is 20–50 metres from the outer edge of a patch. Awareness of this is much needed.

Corridors and linkages: Isolated patches need protection and need to be linked to others as priority actions for example along road reserves. Actions which remove or reduce linkages in a fragmented landscape should be avoided. UBC members may need to prompt their local government and others about such issues as they arise.

Already listed TEC's at state and federal levels remain recognised and their legal status remains in place. Existing federally listed ecological communities are to be assessed under their respective EPBC Act listings.

The extent of the Banksia Woodlands ecological community estimated to be protected in reserves is only 24.32%. So it is vitally important that the federal government steps in to act to prevent further loss and destruction of Banksia Woodlands. This will obviously need co-operation from state government agencies, developers, and local governments to ensure all proposals are referred under the EPBC Act.



Banksia woodland in Cottonwood Crescent, Dianella

Photo by K Sarti



Banksia woodland in Kensington Bushland (Bush Forever Area 49)

Photo by K Sarti

Priority Research and Conservation Actions (Ref pages 33- 43 Conservation Advice)

Quote:

“The three key approaches to achieve the conservation objective are:

- PROTECT the ecological community to prevent further loss of extent and condition;*
- RESTORE the ecological community within its original range by active abatement of threats, re-vegetation and other conservation initiatives;*
- COMMUNICATE WITH AND SUPPORT researchers, land use planners, landholders, land managers, community members, including the Indigenous community, and others to increase understanding of the value and function of the ecological community and encourage their efforts in its protection and recovery.*

These approaches are overlapping in practice and form part of an iterative approach to management that should include research, planning, management, monitoring and review.

Priority actions are recommended for the abatement of threats and to support recovery of the ecological community. Actions inconsistent with these recommendations that are likely to significantly affect the ecological community should not be undertaken.”

Further details for protection are given in the Advice including details for preventing vegetation clearance, weed and feral animal prevention, groundwater management, fire management, prevention of grazing damage. Specific actions for numbers 2 and 3 above are also given. The above means that there should be no more clearing of Banksia Woodlands!

This listing is a significant milestone in recognising that the biggest threats to our precious Banksia Woodlands are clearing and mining. It is time for continuing clearing, little by little, patch by patch, with loss of connectivity to be stopped.

Viveash subdivision squabble: The outcome of “the fight over the scraps”

By Mel Brackley

I thought initially that I would tell you of the outcome of Pindan’s appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT). Pindan’s appeal came after the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) found in favour of the City of Swan, (COS) and the Viveash Community Network, in upholding the community’s aspirations to have the mandatory 10% public open space (POS), in the form of ‘The Jumps,’ instead of forcing the COS to accept a cash-in-lieu payment. Forcing the COS to accept a cash-in-lieu payment would enable Pindan to bulldoze a pocket of the largest remaining *Eucalyptus rudis* trees beneath which, for many decades, the parents and children of Viveash have built and ridden bike jumps. Whilst I will update you on this, I think it is more useful to tell you how I believe, from my own experience, we can secure a better outcome for our natural environment.

Firstly, I must tell you that I am a nurse and a mother of 4 children. I have no background in planning, law or environmental sciences. What I have learnt I have done so through reading and discussion, frustration and bewilderment, as I have been bulldozed, metaphorically, alongside the trees, by empty policy at many levels, lip service, and greed.

Solastalgia is what I have experienced. It is an internationally recognised term which describes the pain experienced when one realises that the place that one loves is under immediate assault. Distress at this transformation manifests in a loss of belonging and loss of one’s sense of place. Research shows that ecosystem distress syndromes correlate to human distress syndromes (G. Albrecht, 2005). I think we might have all experienced this. This is how I started my last deputation to WAPC. Sadly, I presented this having flown in from Mackay just hours earlier from my Nanna’s funeral. I believe she is the reason for my connection to the land, with her own Murri Aboriginal descendancy. I felt as though I was doing this for her as well as her great grandchildren.

And so, unhappy with the outcome of the initial WAPC meeting, Pindan appealed the decision to SAT. To avoid a hearing SAT referred WAPC’s initial decision back to the WAPC for reconsideration. This opened the door for further deputations. At the point that SAT were involved, I think, the Viveash predicament became a confidential matter. As such, not only were all deputations from stakeholders given separately, as previous, but there was no information available to determine any particular argument for appeal. Therefore, I can only tell you of my own feelings about the process and how I feel I helped to impact the outcome.

The Liveable Neighbourhood Policy, which guides the WAPC decision making process, provides a framework for developers and local government to best uphold the community’s well-being in the process of undertaking development. This is its said intention. The policy identi-



Local children enjoying ‘The Jumps’ at Viveash.

fies social interaction, cohesiveness, productivity, cultural and recreational activities and a balance between urban development and environmental outcomes as central in the establishment of a sustainable, safe, healthy and liveable community. It talks of supporting community aspirations, developing a sense of place and minimising disruption to habitats for flora and fauna as a means of establishing a solid community.

My deputation allowed me to relate the retention of ‘The Jumps’ in securing these favourable factors, not just for the older established Viveash, but for those of the new subdivision also. Our street terminates at The Jumps and it is here where parents and children frequently amass, engaging in bike riding, building, story-telling, laughter and discussion. Summer days pass for my son, building berms and jumps with his mates, faces shaded by the mature trees, which professor Kingsley Dixon tells us, “...as an urban remnant tree supports up to 83 species, 65 genera and 38 families of native animals.” Ken Wyatt, and an elderly Viveash resident who recalled her grandmother telling her stories of interactions with Aboriginal people in the early 1900’s, talked about the Viveash area, with its riparian habitat, as being imperative to Aboriginal life. The cultural, natural, recreational and social benefits of this pocket of land, and to which The Liveable Neighbourhood Policy refers to in the establishment of a healthy community, is clearly evident here.

Furthermore, I poignantly pointed out that none of the criteria in The Liveable Neighbourhood Policy, in which variations to the minimal 10% POS provision were applicable, were present. The policy clearly states that POS may not include foreshore reserves, in spite of Pindan’s insistence that the provision of POS should be viewed as unnecessary in light of the surrounding Swan River Foreshore. I was able to argue that POS in Viveash was inadequate and, whereas the Swan River Foreshore was not safely accessible to all, due to its proximity to water, grassy and gravel inclines and declines, long grass with frequent snake sightings, that ‘The Jumps,’ with its central location, provided safe access and activity for the 7



Photo by M Brackley

'The Jumps' in the shade of mature *Eucalyptus rudis* at Viveash. . . to 16 years old cohort, under-serviced, in the only other Viveash play space.

Apart from relating the WAPC's Liveable Neighbourhood Policy aspirations to those of the community, I found it useful to define my community. I door-knocked my street and discovered that the average length of residence in Viveash was 28years. Wow! There are 13 children on our street, all of whom learnt to ride their bikes on our road. I described our street as host to Christmas street parties and annual Easter egg hunts. Our front yards are equipped with netball hoops, trampolines, driveway foursquare and tennis courts. This is how it has always been. Our children do not know anything different to afternoons like this.

I believe this allowed me to establish our community spirit, our community aspirations, our right to be self-determining and the necessity for us to retain that which has brought us joy and which is in our interests.

I believe a photo speaks a thousand words and I showed my maximum 5 images, of which two I am including here.

I concluded my deputation by stating, "This is our life and our right, and it is your responsibility, in accordance with The Liveable Neighbourhood Policy, to fight on our behalf to keep it as such."

The truth is that we shouldn't have to grovel to an agency that has no knowledge of our community and its aspirations. But, that is what we must do. It is a process, that although frustrating and senseless, we must engage in to secure our children's future. I tried to explain to my partner the importance of a community member giving a deputation: Apart from bringing an emotive edge to the argument it makes local government, WAPC and SAT accountable for their decisions. How can they make a finding against a community when a representative is standing there and pointing out that any decision to the contrary, goes against the very framework which is there to guide their very decision making?

And so that is how it came to be that we helped secure 'The Jumps'. The argument moved from a focus on the trees to what they provided for the community. To prevent returning to SAT, and risk losing 'The Jumps', the WAPC, COS and Pindan entered into discussions about how best to retain the majority of 'The Jumps' without having to alter plans, already submitted and approved, for subdivision infrastructure, including a slimmed down road.

I am actually yet to see the final plan as I have been quite dogged with my questions and concerns to the COS and it is likely that I have made a nuisance of myself. Temporary fencing, according to Mayor: Mick Wainwright, is the point at which, 'The Jumps' end and subdivision begins. Fingers crossed, because this is the best part of 'The Jumps.'

It is a bittersweet and small victory in the face of that which has been lost. But it is something for my children and something for yours. Do not underestimate the power of the good fight. My kids have watched me bare my soul. I am not sorry or embarrassed, although they may well have been whilst witnessing my interactions. But, it has been difficult to explain to them that sometime legislation is wrong and we must do all we can, legally, to make it right.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/savingViveash/> to read the full story.

Heartbroken... watching bulldozers push over vegetation for Roe 8



Source: Rethink The Link

"So many people heard the call and came ...

...but everyone was traumatised by what they saw. Tears flowed and hugs were a plenty. A huge police presence kept people at bay.

To those that felt powerless, take heart in the fact that you did make a difference. It has empowered so many others to join the campaign and emboldened our resolve to keep fighting this stronger than ever.

Please keep coming to the site. We need you."

For more information and learn how to show support go to <https://www.facebook.com/rethinkthelink/?fref=fb>

No Buffers Provided to Protect the Most Biodiverse reserve in the World's Most Biodiverse City

Alison Baird Reserve, part of the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands, is arguably the most precious reserve on the Swan coastal plain. In this 35-ha reserve, you will find well over 300 plant species, i.e. about a quarter of what you can find in England. There are at least 26 carnivorous plant species there, which is more than you can find in the whole of Europe.

These carnivorous plants include 20 *Drosera* species, 5 *Utricularia* species and the iconic *Byblis gigantea*. There are three Threatened Ecological Communities and 20 species that are either Declared Rare Flora or on the Priority List.

Next to Alison Baird Reserve are areas with similarly high conservation value. It is a place in our metropolitan area like nowhere else on our planet. Areas like this make Perth the most biodiverse city in the world. It is something to be proud of and look after.

The City of Gosnells has proposed to develop the area around Alison Baird Reserve as part of the Maddington-Kenwick Strategic Employment Area (MKSEA), without any buffer zones around that area, whose species richness is driven by a mosaic of nutrient-impooverished soils and a very complex hydrology.

To facilitate the MKSEA, three minor MRS Amendments (1300/57, 1301/57 and 1302/57) were released for public consultation earlier this year. The amendments proposed rezoning of Rural lands to Industrial zoned land.

BUSH FOREVER ACQUISITIONS 2014-2016

The WAPC has acquired 10 Bush Forever sites in the past 2 financial years, totalling \$37,143,964.00 cost and 263.18 hectares of land area. This brings our total outlays since 1999/2000 to just under \$150,000,000 for 1,494 hectares of land.

Properties acquired:

- Sept 2014 - Lot 789 Stakehill Rd Baldivis (4.8 ha), Stakehill Swamp.
- Sept 2014 – Lot 125 Fraser Rd Banjup (63.17 ha), BFA 389
- April 2015 – Lot 8989 Pyford Court Two Rocks (4.67 ha), BFA 289
- July 2015 – Lot 284 Commercial Rd Forrestdale (4.77 ha), BFA 345
- Nov 2015 – 2 Furley Rd Southern River (10.11 ha), BFA 465
- Dec 2015 – 40 Lissiman St Gosnells (0.45 ha), BFA 246
- May 2016 – 1101 Lissiman St Gosnells (0.3 ha) BFA 246
- May 2016 – 8002 Marmion Ave Jindalee (2.94 ha), BFA 397
- Jun 2016 – 701 Flynn Drive Neerabup (123.71 ha), BFA 293
- Jun 2016 – 201 Wright Rd Harrisdale (48.56 ha), BFA 253



Utricularia menziesii. Photo by H Lambert

The environmental assessment of the proposed re-zoning was fundamentally flawed, as it did not even include the areas MKSEA will impact on most. We have submitted a document suggesting changes to the original plan, so as to conserve what is truly very special. In addition to our submission, there were 23 others.

In October 2016, the WAPC recommended to the Minister for Planning that the amendments proceed without modification.” If industrial development goes ahead, Alison Baird Reserve and surrounding wetland areas will deteriorate beyond repair. It will be tremendous loss for humanity and science.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF MRS AMENDMENT SEEKING TO ALLOW RESIDENTIAL AND MARINA REDEVELOPMENT IN THE EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVE INCLUDING A PORTION OF BUSH FOREVER AREA 325

In November, the Western Australian Planning Commission released for public consultation a major MRS Amendment 1270/4 which seeks to amend various zones and reserves, including part of Bush Forever Area 3(BF) 325 to enable redevelopment of the Ocean Reef Marina. The EPA made a decision to formally assess potential impacts of this proposal only on the marine environment (PER). The impacts on the terrestrial components of the proposal are not being formally assessed by the EPA. In its public advice, the EPA stated that the impacts on BF 325, flora, vegetation and terrestrial fauna are expected to be compensated by rehabilitation and additions to the conservation estate proposed under a City of Joondalup developed Negotiated Planning Outcome.

For more information on documents released for public consultation go to

<http://www.joondalup.wa.gov.au/Develop/MajorProjects/OceanReefMarina/MRSAmendmentPublicSubmissions.aspx>

Public submissions for both the PER and MRS Amendment close on **Friday 24 February 2017**.

WETLANDS AT RISK

Philip Jennings

Wetlands Conservation Society Inc.

When the EPA released its State of the Environment Report for WA in 2007 it noted that more than 80% of the original wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain had been lost to development since 1829. Further it reported that wetland loss was continuing at an average rate of about 4 hectares (2 football fields) per day.

Why is this happening? There are many reasons, but the principal one is the lack of will by the State Government to implement its own policies on wetland conservation. The Bush Forever Plan is still incomplete nearly 20 years after it was drawn up and the Government's draft Green Growth Plan proposes to massively downsize the urban conservation estate.

In 1997 the Court Coalition Government released a Wetlands Conservation Policy for WA. It proposed many worthwhile measures to conserve wetlands in WA, including an ecologically based buffers policy to protect wetlands from encroachment by urban and industrial development. Some work was done on this buffers policy and a draft was released for public comment in 2005, but the policy has never been completed or implemented. In the meantime the Minister for Environment has revoked the Swan Coastal Plain Lakes Environmental Protection Policy, which provided some protection to important wetlands. Now many significant wetlands are under threat from inappropriate development.

A few examples are:

North and Bibra Lakes – which are facing severance by the Roe Highway stage 8

Lake Richmond – which is in danger from the Mangles Bay Marina

Eric Singleton Reserve in Bayswater- which is under threat from a proposed housing development

Bollard Bulrush Swamp in Wellard – which is under threat from urban development

Anstey-Keane Wetland – threatened with severance by a sewer

Helena Valley Wetlands – threatened by housing development

Lake Preston – threatened by a proposed housing development and sand quarry

Lake Nowergup – threatened by a proposed limestone quarry.

If you know of other wetlands under threat by developers please let me know as we are compiling a list.

A rally was held on the steps of Parliament House on 11 October to bring this issue to the attention of politicians and the media. More than 300 people from many different community groups attended the rally. They heard several speakers call for action by the Government to halt the wetland loss. They demanded:

- Immediate implementation of an effective, ecologically based wetland buffers policy
- The complete implementation of Bush Forever
- Reinstatement of the Swan Coastal Plain Lakes EPP
- Updating of the State of the Environment Report
- Reinstatement of adequate funding for wetland management and research by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

The Ministers for Planning and Environment also addressed the rally but failed to make any commitments to wetland conservation. In contrast, the Opposition and the Greens promised to address these issues in their policies for the forthcoming State Election.

New Group Seeking to Establish a Wildlife Corridor in the South Metro Area.

Leah Knapp, Convener, Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor Inc

The Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor (CCWC) was established to identify and build the case for an alternative use for the reserves currently designated as Roe stage 8 and 9, that is, the land between Bibra and North Lakes and west to the coast at South Fremantle. On 13 November, the Group held a visioning workshop with neighbouring Friends groups and other interested parties, in order to understand the work that has been done along the length of the corridor already, and to begin dialogue around strategic planning and community engagement around this very special and unique land.

The CCWC's vision is that this land is rededicated and protected as a linear greenspace stretching from Bibra and North Lakes, along Forrest Road, across Stock Road, and continuing west through Hamilton Hill to Clontarf Hill before terminating at the coast. We see this land as being a valuable asset, as biodiverse as Kings Park, which can protect biodiversity in the southern metropolitan area as well as provide space for recreation and nature play.

The CCWC has been fortunate to enjoy the patronage of Professor Hans Lambers, a world-renown plant physiologist and founder of the Kwongan Foundation. Professor Lambers presented a fascinating talk to the CCWC in August, *On the Ecology and Economy of the Southwest Australian Biodiversity Hotspot*, where he outlined the untapped environmental and financial benefits of our unique biosystem for medicine and tourism.

Professor Lambers highlighted Perth's unique situation as the only city placed in a recognised biodiversity hotspot offers great opportunities to reap sustainable, low impact economic benefits from nature based tourism, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries, agriculture and horticulture. As the Perth metropolitan region continues to sprawl, places such as the proposed Cockburn Wildlife Corridor can offer much more to the new economy than a pointless and destructive 'road to nowhere', whilst protecting ecological systems and offering residents and visitors alike a place to get outdoors and connect with nature.

Group News Group News Group News

Members Wanted to Preserve Peel

One of the Peel region's most influential environmental advocates, Peel Preservation Group Inc. is looking for local community members passionate about nurturing Peel's unique landscape for future generations.



Instrumental since the 1970s, Peel Preservation Group led the fight to save Creery Wetlands from canal development, and paved the way for the international listing of the Peel Yalgorup Wetland System; now acknowledged as a wetland of importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Founding member Griselda Hitchcock said Peel Preservation Group (PPG) has fought to maintain some of the Peel Region's most vital environmental assets.

"When plans were being made to identify the route for the Kwinana Freeway and Forrest Highway, PPG had a seat at the table and ensured the freeway was moved one kilometre east to save Goegrup and Black lakes, saving over 40 hectares of vegetation surrounding the lakes," Mrs Hitchcock said.

Peel Preservation Group is now seeking new members to continue this significant contribution to the region.

In partnership with key environmental stakeholders and organisations including Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, PPG has considerable work to do over the coming years, with a vision to establish a dynamic and diverse group to lead its future.

"There is no doubt that the Peel Region has one of the State's most enviable environments, and PPG has been at the heart of its creation," Mrs Hitchcock said. "If you care about its preservation, now is the time to stand up and make your mark."

For information and expressions of interest please email peelpreservation@westnet.com.au or visit www.peelpreservation.org.au

Linda Thorpe

Benefits of Collaboration

The inception of our Friends group (Friends of Paganoni Swamp) coincided with Urban Nature's (a program of the Department of Parks and Wildlife) involvement with Paganoni Swamp Reserve in relation to control of Geraldton carnation weed which was moving into the Reserve's western boundary. A couple of weeding days had been arranged between Urban Nature staff, local individuals who were keen to see this weed controlled and Regional Parks staff which manage the Reserve. The idea of a Friends group was suggested in order to access funds for Geraldton carnation weed control using a mix

of herbicide treatment and hand weeding. Kate Brown and Grazyna Packzowska of Urban Nature set up 15 permanent quadrats along the western boundary which were monitored twice yearly for five years by Kate and Grazyna with the assistance of Friends group members. The group learnt a lot from this interaction. In particular we realised that for experiments and/or research projects to be effective they must be set up and monitored meticulously if you expect to learn something worthwhile from your efforts.

We also learnt from a number of research projects undertaken by University staff and students over the past ten years. These people and their projects were extremely interesting as they often involved fauna research. Our members were in most instances provided with an opportunity to participate in one way or another. However, these projects only last for a short period of time (usually depending on funding) and often we never saw or heard from the researchers again.

The Friends group meet with Kate, Grazyna and Regional Park staff during February or March each year to map out the Friends group's weekly program. If possible we would also hold another meeting at the Reserve later in the year to check on the progress being made in relation to the various weed controls being undertaken as well as for our Friends group to discuss other issues of concern with Kate, Grazyna and Regional Parks staff. These were always very positive and valuable meetings because they emphasised the fact that the group wasn't working in isolation – there was always a lot of support, suggestions and solutions.

We did expand one of the meetings to include other stakeholders such as representatives from Main Roads and the City of Rockingham for a short period of time. However as it was usually only a specific issue that might arise in relation to these organisations we found it was more useful to make contact with the relevant representative as we (finally!!) realised that the Reserve's problems were not the priority for these organisations.

This again highlights how valuable our ongoing relationship with Urban Nature has been over the past twelve years. Whether Paganoni Swamp Reserve is a priority or not for them at a particular time, they are always happy to try and find solutions to our problems, to assist us with grant funding applications, to physically map our major weeds and to make our projects more successful. What we have achieved as a group is in large part due to our relationship with them.

Leonie Stubbs

Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group

2016 has been a big year for our group - we've had a couple of wins. The community campaigned to ensure that some of the slope of the dune known affectionately as "Melon Hill" didn't fall victim to developer's aspira-

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tions to carve up land for private sale as well as redevelopment of Defence housing at Seaward Village in Swanbourne. Good sense prevailed, and following a review of the proposal, an announcement that refurbishment of the village was to be undertaken instead came as a welcome relief for many of the Defence Force families and the community at large.

During this campaign, our community lobbied the Local Government (Nedlands) to close off an access route to all traffic except emergency vehicles. The road traverses A Class reserve. Proposed changes would bring about closure to a process that was instigated 20 years ago during the development of Seaward Village, when the community was advised that Sayer Street would be open right through for 18 months and then closed. This did not eventuate and the road remained open for 20 years. On the 26th July this year, the road was closed. John Allen after whom Allen Park was named, has a number of descendants who became involved in the campaigning to reinstate land that was taken away so long ago. They have continued their predecessor's legacy and enthusiasm is demonstrated by some of them having come along to plant in Allen Park over the past 12 months.



Photo by L Shaw

The route is now a safe passage for park users as well as a wildlife crossing. Variegated fairy wrens flit busily across this road into the north-east corner of the bushland known as the Boobook Sector. At least one family group of wrens nests in the introduced Geraldton wax adjacent to the road. Our efforts are now to reintroduce local Wembley wax in close proximity of the road to replace the non-endemic variety.

Lesley Shaw

Call for Urgent Action to Protect our Neighbourhood Bushland

Minister Faragher (Planning) approved the Landcorp redevelopment plan for the Royal Perth Hospital, Shenton Park site on Friday 16 December.

For around two years community members and representatives of Friends groups in the area have spent countless hours preparing submissions and meeting Landcorp and state government officers.

The community consultation outcomes were overwhelmingly for saving this bushland in its entirety – not for cutting it up into cells and clearing it to the point of ecologi-



Photo by M Owen

cal non-viability, nor for placing intensive high-rise units within the bushland.

The site area is around 16 ha of which 3.4ha is Banksia woodland. The bushland strip is brilliant and valuable in its own right. Further it links Underwood Avenue Bushland with Shenton Bushland, both Bush Forever sites.

It is government policy to protect and enhance such critical linkages, but the policy is ignored.

This bushland is regularly used by both Carnaby's and Red-tailed Black-cockatoos for feeding and as a transit to and from the two roost sites around one kilometre away. Photographs of cockatoos in the bushland in the early evenings were sent to the Minister a month ago.

One of Landcorp's consultants stated that there was no evidence of Carnaby's Cockatoos using the bushland. Many Banksia attenuata cones lie on the ground from year on year, so this is an indication of the quality of advice. Three species of reptile were noted by a consultant, but a scientist told us that any area of bushland of that size 'should contain between 6 and 8 species of lizard alone.'

The group that has been involved with this redevelopment from its inception, plan to meet Minister Faragher to call for her to suspend her decision and modify the plan so that all the bushland is retained and enhanced. Buildings and roads must be removed from the plan. The change.org petition to Minister Faragher calls for the Minister to suspend her recent decision to approve the bushland's destruction.

[https://www.change.org/p/the-hon-donna-faragher-mlc-call-for-urgent-action-to-protect-our-neighbourhood-bushland?](https://www.change.org/p/the-hon-donna-faragher-mlc-call-for-urgent-action-to-protect-our-neighbourhood-bushland?re-cruier=10956982&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive)

[re-cruier=10956982&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive](https://www.change.org/p/the-hon-donna-faragher-mlc-call-for-urgent-action-to-protect-our-neighbourhood-bushland?re-cruier=10956982&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive)

Marg Owen



Photo by O Blay

Visit to the Percy Marshall wild life reserve, Pingelly

The Eastern Hills branch of the Wild Flower Society chose a visit to the Percy Marshall reserve and study centre near Pingelly for the spring excursion. The reserve is named after the father of the Marshall family who farm the surrounding land. It was reserved by Percy "so that people could see what the land was like before clearance for farming." Les Marshall explained.

A party of mixed ages from 80 plus to 12 months stayed at the Exchange Hotel in Pingelly and visited the reserve on Sunday 25th September. The areas has been extensively studied with over 600 varieties of wildflowers having been identified.

The reserve includes four different soil types with resulting different plants. We were fortunate to have the company of Judith Harvey and Anne Rick who were able to identify well over 100 plants with flowers, and the dugite which was too sleepy to move.

After lunch at the study centre Gary Bennell, a local Aboriginal elder and his family addressed the group giving cultural background to the area. Later he led the group to find a gnamma and an abandoned mallee fowl nest.

Tutanning is a valuable piece of rare and retained bushland. There are few examples of undisturbed planting and this is one not to be missed. The study centre provides comfortable bush style accommodation. In the warmer weather it would be a wonderful, silent place to stay overnight.

Information can be obtained from PAWS in Brookton which can include an exhaustive list of flowers found on the block. We are very grateful for the assistance of the Shire of Brookton and related authorities and especially to Les Marshall, Judith Harvey and Anne Rick for their identification skills. They made the trip really worthwhile. Especially we must thank Fran Kinnimonth for identifying this place as a great excursion destination.

Christina Lyall

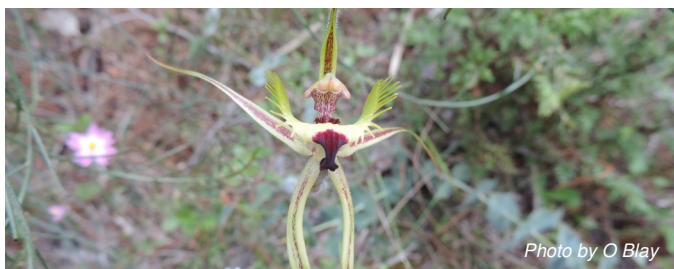


Photo by O Blay

CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS

World Wetlands Day

2017 WA Wetland Management Conference

9am-4pm, Thursday 02 February 2017

The Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre is calling for registrations for the 13th WA Wetland Management Conference. **Registrations close on Monday 23rd January 2017.** The primary objective of the Conference is to provide an annual opportunity for the exchange of information and ideas between wetland practitioners with a focus on the latest developments about how to effectively manage and restore wetlands.

The 2017 registrations fees are:

corporate \$80 general \$65 concessional \$20

(includes conference registration, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, post conference nibbles and conference proceedings).

We would like to thank our silver sponsor, the City of Cockburn, our bronze sponsor, the Department of Parks and Wildlife and our supporters, Perth NRM Jobs for making this possible.

To register, please go to <http://cockburnwetlands.org.au/world-wetlands-day/> and click the 'register today' button for registrations and/or to view the program. Follow instructions.

To pay by credit card: choose your registration type, select the quantity and click 'register' and follow the prompts. You have been successfully registered if you are redirected to our website. A confirmation email with tax invoice will be forwarded after payment is made.

To pay offline (*purchase order/tax invoice, cheque/cash payments, electronic bank transfer): choose your registration type, select the quantity, click 'payment method' and select either 'pay by cheque' or 'pay by invoice'. A tax invoice will be forwarded prior to payment. For *purchase orders please include delegate's names and inform your accounts staff that all registration fees are 'GST-free' code (not GST code).

Displays

We encourage groups to setup displays in the garden. If your organisation is interested in having a display in the gardens please contact Denise Crosbie.

Further information:

Denise Crosbie, Wetlands Officer

Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre Inc., 184 Hope Road

BIBRA LAKE WA 6163

Ph/fax: (08) 9417 8460

Email: denise@cockburnwetlands.org.au

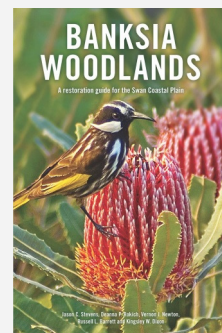
Website: www.cockburnwetlands.org.au

NEW BOOK

Stevens, J.C., Rokich, D.P., Newton, V.J., Barrett, R.L. and Dion, K.W.

(2016) *Banksia woodlands: A restoration guide for the Swan Coastal Plain*. The University of Western Australia Publishing.

Cost: \$45



Available through:

<http://uwap.uwa.edu.au/products/restoring-perth-banksia-woodlands>

New report by BirdLife Australia reveals black future for endangered cockatoos

Media release by BirdLife Australia November 2016

The numbers are in and the news for Perth's much-loved black-cockatoos is far from encouraging. Results from BirdLife Australia's 2016 Great Cocky Count, released today, indicate that populations of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos across the Perth-Peel Coastal Plain are still in rapid decline.

In one of the largest citizen science surveys of its kind in Australia, this year more than 700 volunteers took part in the Great Cocky Count across the Perth-Peel Coastal Plain. Their task: to count black-cockatoos as they flew in to roost sites in the evening.

"What they saw really set alarm bells ringing," said Adam Peck, who coordinated the Great Cocky Count. "This year's results backed up the shocking rate of decline we've detected in previous years' counts. The numbers continue to fall."

When you crunch the numbers, with 10,919 Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos counted, the population in the Perth-Peel Coastal Plain has halved in the last six years, falling by an average of 10% per year.

"At that rate, the people of Perth are likely to lose their Carnaby's population in just a few years."

"The results also confirm that Perth's pine plantations provide the most important roost sites, and this is where we are seeing really alarming results," Adam continued. "The number of birds roosting in pines fell by 22%."

"Nearly two-thirds of the Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos recorded in the Perth-Peel Coastal Plain roosted in a single plantation—the Gnangara-Pinjar pine plantation," he said. "It's a crucial site where the birds can rest as well as find a ready supply of food."

"The trouble is that the plantation's days are numbered. Under the State Government's 'Green Growth Plan', by 2020, all the mature pine trees—they're the most important ones—will be gone, and any seedlings planted

now won't be suitable for cockies to use for about a decade."

"It's what happens between now and then that has us really worried. There's a critical two-year time gap between when all the mature pines are cleared in 2020, and when the first 500 hectares replanted in 2012 will start producing the food Carnaby's so desperately need. With only 8000 hectares of the Gnangara-Pinjar pine plantation left, any more loss of habitat will likely see these birds starve.

BirdLife Australia is campaigning to stop any further clearing of Carnaby's habitat, including Gnangara-Pinjar pine plantation, until alternate food resources become available to ensure the survival of Perth's Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos.

We are calling on all Australians--and the people of Perth in particular--to stand up for this majestic bird. Extinction is a choice. Please sign our petition to ensure Premier Barnett makes the right one. **Go to <https://www.change.org/p/premier-don-t-make-them-go-extinct>**

BirdLife Western Australia prepared a document about BirdLife's vision for the future of WA natural areas and they encourage supporters to share this vision with others, thus forming a strong voice for our environment this coming State Election.

You can find the 'Vote No to Extinction - Vote Yes to Protecting Places We Love' on the following link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56cc25e522482ef758d89e7a/t/585228d6579fb3817cf841c6/1481779442613/WA+Election+Brief.pdf>

Or by contacting BirdLife WA on (08) 9383 7749 and email to wa@birdlife.org.au.

INTRODUCING A VALUED CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Margaret Owen continues to monitor the major roost site for Carnaby's Cockatoo on the corner of Underwood Avenue and Brockway Rd, Floreat. This roost is adjacent to the Underwood Avenue Bush Forever site 119 and its bushland provides critical feeding habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo. The Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos have also started roosting opposite the bushland at a site about half a kilometre along Brockway Road. They too forage in the same bushland.

Margaret regularly observes the behaviour of both these species as they leave their roost sites at daybreak to feed and play in the Bush Forever site. She has a wonderful photographic collection of this activity.



Photo by M Kwok

Margaret Owen, renowned citizen scientist and Cocky counter, enjoys a painting of Carnaby's cockatoos shown at the Birdlife Australia (WA) meeting where results of the Great Cocky Count 2016 were presented.



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THE URBAN BUSH TELEGRAPH



Urban Bushland Council's Events

Wednesday 8 February 2017

Book launch

Chris Tallentire MP, Shadow Environment Minister and Greg Keighery, Senior Botanist with a longtime interest in the flora of Greater Brixton Street Wetlands will launch a book with photography and text by Dr Subis Dhakal, a member of Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands.

6.00pm light refreshments for 6.30pm start
at Conference Room 7, City West Lotteries House, West Perth

Tuesday 7 March 2017

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker to be announced

6.00pm light refreshments for 6.30pm start
at Conference Room 7, City West Lotteries House, West Perth

At all talks \$5 raffle door entry for great prizes. All welcome.

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 \$45 a year (GST included). A growing membership strengthens the cause and groups benefit from the network.

Individuals:

Supporter membership is only \$35 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

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Urban Bushland Council WA Inc



<http://twitter.com/#!/UrbanBushlandWA>

