

TREASURES OF TRIGG BUSHLAND

The Friends of Trigg Bushland held a guided bushwalk at 'the worst time of the year for insects and plants' on Saturday 31 January. But expert guide David Pike found plenty to intrigue the group which included five fascinated young boys. They discovered:

The Coastal Sword Sedge *Lepidosperma gladiatum* grows where water seeps out of the dune. This sedge has silica in the leaves to stop it being nibbled. The rhizomes spread underground so a large area of sword sedge would be all the one plant. A rhizome is a modified subterranean stem from which roots and shoots grow from nodes.

Quondong, *Santalum acuminatum* is related to sandalwood and fruits around November. This plant is semi-parasitic and is also a suckering plant.

Amongst the dried weeds is native spear-grass.

Melaleuca systena sometimes has jewel beetles on the flowers but it was a bit late in the season to find any. The light yellow flowers sometimes turn to a reddish colour.

Rottnest cypress, *Callitris preissii*, is growing at the top of a dune. This species is susceptible to fire and so much has been lost that it is now a listed Threatened Ecological Community.

The prickly *Hemiandra pungens* was covered in lovely mauve flowers, growing right up into another bush.



Photo by M Owen



David Pike (above) captivated all participants with his knowledge of plants and animals at a walk in Trigg bushland.

Stipa elegantissima is an elegant native grass, Family Poaceae. It is described on the site 'Plant World Seeds' thus: 'The compact sheaf consists of countless thin stems surmounted by clouds of nebulous golden smoke which whispers and hisses gently as it waves in the wind.....'

The soil on the top of the dune is shallow but the Tuart tree *Eucalyptus glophocephala* can

send down deep roots. Conditions here are difficult for Tuarts but they are tough. Most have branched from ground level. Where they have been damaged by fire, new branches are growing from epicormic growth but these branches often break off as they become heavier. It takes several years for regrowth stems to develop flower buds and then there is a further two years before the buds flower. Then there is an additional several months before the mature fruits form. If the tree produces several trunks, tree growth is slower

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Editorial

Minister Jacob chose the 23rd December - just before Christmas Day - to announce his determination of the 165 appeals against the EPA's formal impact assessment of the Roe 8 Highway extension through the Beelihar Wetlands. The summary of appeal grounds filled a remarkable 22 pages of concise dot points - in an Appendix to the Appeals Convenor's report. These were bundled under just 11 grounds of appeal. But there was no direct response to each of the dot points. The Minister's appeal determination comprised a list of amended conditions. Notably the Minister has not yet made his final decision: *'Having determined the appeals, section 45 of the (EP) Act requires that I consult with relevant decision-making authorities to seek agreement as to whether or not the proposal may be implemented, and if so, the conditions to which the implementation of the proposal should be subject.'*

It seems that the thorough process of examining appeals was interrupted by a new driver of *'the lure of substantial funding from Canberra'* announced May 2014, for up to half the cost of the Perth Freight Link which includes Roe 8 and other sections. The Premier, having said Roe 8 would not go ahead in this term of government, changed his tune and called for an immediate start to Roe 8.

Under the EP Act the decision of the Minister for the Environment is final. So perhaps Minister Jacob has overlooked the substantive appeals based on science and realistic community concerns and jumped to conclusions in line with the Premier's. All decision-making related to the outcome of formal environmental impact assessment under the EP Act is supposed to cease until the Minister makes his final decision, so as not to pre-empt any particular outcome. But this is not the case for Roe 8 where very large sums of tax payers money is involved if the

project does go ahead. It would be the most expensive road ever for WA and add to State debt.

The Save Beelihar Wetlands group will be sending out calls for action to stop Roe 8. If you would like to receive campaign notices please email flicab19@gmail.com.

There are too many such community campaigns endeavouring to prevent destruction of our most precious natural assets by inappropriate proposals. As well as Roe 8, there is Pt Peron and Mangles Bay also risking thrombolites in Lake Richmond; Perth Airport; Stratton bushland; Underwood Avenue bushland; Dianella bushland; Shenton Park RPH site; Ocean Reef; Wilkins Rd Kalamunda in Darling Range Regional Park.

Protection of significant environmental values has fallen off the political agenda. This manifests as a massive failure in governance by the environment agencies as well as the utilities.

On the positive side, there are countless citizens working in their local bushland and communities achieving very good results. The UBC wishes to heartily congratulate Kim Sarti for his Citizenship Award bestowed on Australia Day by the City of Armadale (See page 4). Kim is the champion of the Bungendore Park Management Committee responsible for well focussed management of Bungendore Park in conjunction with the City of Armadale over more than 30 years. Promotion of its flora and fauna with local publications organised by Kim are another hallmark of his contribution to the community. There should be much more public recognition of this wonderful voluntary contribution to the public good by people like Kim and their groups, through local media and local government. Read about the work by groups in this edition.

Next UBC Event

All are invited to a lively and enlightening **talk by Honorary Research Associate Felicity Bradshaw at 6pm on Wednesday 6 May at City West Lotteries House**. A light supper will be provided prior to the talk.

Honorary Research Associate Felicity Bradshaw will talk about her innovative programme in environmental science, written for year 4 primary school students.

Felicity has used the program at various year levels with stunning results.

The programme is entitled 'Be a Bush Scientist' and is published by the Centre for Learning Technology at the University of Western Australia. The students act as scientists as they investigate a nearby natural bush, or semi-natural bush in their school-yard.

Students investigate the plants, their pit-trapped invertebrates and the litter nearby, revealing the interdependence of plant and animal. A reconstruction of the bush elements in the classroom, an 'ecogram', provides a link with the arts, and a model to understand how the natural environment 'works.'

Food production and consumption is understood along with the need for pollination. Links are made showing the connectedness between elements that provide, and those that need. The final lesson is a demonstration that our natural world depends largely on pollination.

When elements of the ecogram are removed, students discover the consequence of each action.

Efforts of two tireless UBC volunteers acknowledged



Mary Gray – winner of the 2014 Bessie Rischbieth Conservation Award.

Adapted from contribution by Kim Sarti and Margaret Owen

This award was established by the Conservation Council of WA in honour of Bessie Rischbieth, a pioneer of the conservation movement in WA. It is awarded to an individual who has shown outstanding commitment to the Western Australian environment. At the CCWA's awards function on 5th December, the 2014 Bessie Rischbieth Conservation Award was presented to Mary Gray, the current Urban Bushland Council (UBC) President.

As a water and environmental scientist, Mary has demonstrated an outstanding interest and dedication over decades to the protection of the Western Australian environment, with a special emphasis on the Swan Coastal Plain. Issues such as climate change, renewable energy, prevention of fire in our bushlands and water resources protection are of particular interest to her.

The UBC is a well-recognised peak community organisation that provides a voice for Perth's bushland and acts for its member groups and supporters. Mary Gray has been involved in the UBC WA since its inaugural meeting on 4 April 1993 (21 years). Mary has been involved on the UBC executive as a committee member, vice president and president.

Mary is also a long-time active member of the Wildflower Society of WA and in 2013 was awarded an Honorary Life membership in recognition "... for advancing the aims of the Society particularly by promoting the appreciation, knowledge and conservation of our flora, vegetation and bushland, and her support for many other activities of the Society".

Over this time she has been a convener of, or served on, three of the Society's sub-committees – School Bushland Pilot Survey (1999), Garden sub-committee - resource kit "Grow With Us" (2002), initiating the Growing Workshops (2003) and the Waterwise Growing Workshops (2004) and Conservation sub-committee.

The Conservation sub-committee involvement has been in giving assistance in the preparation of the Society's submissions on development proposals affecting flora, vegetation and land clearing generally State-wide. In early 1990 Mary helped formulate the Society's "Principals of Flora Conservation", the ten principals that are used by Society members in submissions and liaison with government in the conservation of our remnant bushland heritage.

In 1997, Mary was a member of the Urban Bushland Advisory Group (reporting to the WA Planning Commission) on issues relating to Urban Bushland Strategy and Perth's

Bushplan. When this group was disbanded in 2000, she then served on its successor, the Bush Forever Advisory Group.

Through Mary's active involvement in both the Wildflower Society of WA and the UBC WA, she has been able to gather support for some major projects:

Nomination of Banksia Woodlands as a Threatened Ecological Community. To protect our seriously threatened Banksia Woodlands on the Perth–Peel region, Mary sought expert information so that through the Urban Bushland Council and in conjunction with the Wildflower Society, she could complete the exacting background information to nominate Banksia Woodlands on the Swan Coastal Plain as a Threatened Ecological Community. The nomination was sent to the federal government in May 2012 resulting in federal and state scientists coming to a workshop and visiting Banksia Woodlands sites. A decision on the nomination is expected by mid-2015.

Bush Forever Report Card conference. Mary has acted over years for the Bush Forever policy to be put in place as was intended. The implementation period of Bush Forever was ten years to 2010. However, by 2012 the implementation was far from complete. After discussion with many government officers and an unremarkable response to the community request for a status report, the UBC (with Mary as the President), determined to present the Bush Forever Report Card Conference; this occurred on 7 December 2012 with around 120 people attending. Conference proceedings were published in a book "Perth's Bush Forever Report Card".

Campaign to protect Anstey-Keane Dampland
The UBC's opposition was not only to a local proposed road, but also to other infrastructure and services proposed on the site. Mary initiated a meeting with the Chairman of the EPA, Dr Vogel, and the EPA members in regards to the Public Environmental Review. At this meeting she was able to emphasise the very significant environmental impacts of the road proposal. The EPA assessed the City of Armadale proposal of the road as environmentally unacceptable. Mary has since initiated meetings with the Water Corporation to insist that a pro-



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posed sewer line and a water main must not be built within the dampland.

Some other initiatives include:

- :: Encouraged the Perth Biodiversity Project (a local government initiative to protect local significant areas).
- :: Lobbied on the effect of falling groundwater levels on Perth's Banksia woodlands.
- :: Called for a new Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- :: Instigated a meeting in May 2003 to discuss a science-based project from which developed the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project.
- :: Some of the UBC workshops and conferences initiated by or with major involvement from Mary have been "Burning Our Bushland" (1995); "Managing our Bushland" (1998); "Burning Issues" (2002); "Wetlands to Wastelands" (2004); "Post-fire Workshop" (2006); "Endangered Black Cockatoo" (2010); "Perth's Banksia Woodlands" (2011) and "Bush Forever Report Card Conference" 2012.
- :: The City Bush Guides program was developed where people were trained to lead bush walks in their local bushland. Two programs were conducted, one in 2009 and one in 2010.

Mary is further involved with the Friends of Australian Rock Art and in protecting the Helena and Aurora Ranges, located about 100 km north-east of Southern Cross and 50 km north-east of Koolyanobbing. After a recent visit to the area, Mary organised a letter signed by scientists on the trip to protect the ranges and their diversity from proposed mining.

Mary has certainly shown an outstanding commitment to the Western Australian environment and is a well-deserved recipient of the award.



Congratulations to **Kim Sarti** who was the recipient of the **2015 Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award for persons over 25 from the City of Armadale**. Mayor Henry Zelones made the presentation (pictured above).

The Award recognises Kim's environmental work in the City of Armadale where he has been an active member of the Wildflower Society (Armadale Branch) for about 38 years and he also been working tirelessly as a member of the Bungendore Management Committee for about 34 years.

Kim, who is also an invaluable member of the UBC's Executive Committee is a well deserved recipient of the Premier's Award.

HANDS OFF POINT PERON - CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Mangles Bay Marina, called by many the Mangled Bay Canal Estate Housing Development, continues its painful and contorted way through the caverns of official approvals.

Having been given a conditional tick by the WA EPA, Federal Minister Greg Hunt gave it a tick and a further set of conditions. No surprise there. The next stage is the preparation of a new Structure Plan along with, we are assured, the Mangles Bay Economic Study. The structure plan will need to be advertised, approved by the Council and by the WA Planning Commission. The WAPC could reject the structure plan on the grounds it does not comply with key planning policies, for example: Bush Forever, Coastal Planning Policy or Climate Change Adaptation.

Meantime resolve amongst the supporters of a Coastal Park remains strong, stronger than for the past two years. These supporters cover the political spectrum.

What you can do to help :

1. Ask any politicians you know - Why is the government committing itself to a \$2 company over a risky development like Mangles Bay? How much money would the State Government be likely to make from selling off the crown land? How can the Liberal Party tear up the 1968 agreement between Robert Menzies and David Brand that the Cape is not to be used for residential or commercial development? (see more information on <http://www.handsoffpointperon.com/>)
2. Watch out for release of the Structure Plan. The Structure Plan will show how it's really a housing development hiding behind the label marina. Please make a submission.
3. Sign the on-line petition: <http://ccwa.org.au/pointperon>.
4. Write letters to the Editors of the major newspapers. More info available on the campaign website: <http://www.handsoffpointperon.com>

Or from James Mumme: jgmumme@live.com.au

NEW GROUP FORMED TO PROTECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF TRIGG BEACH



Photo by I Johnson

A group of concerned local residents and environmentalists have joined together to form the Friends of Trigg Beach. The group is dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural beauty and unique environment of the Trigg Beach.

If you have swum or walked along Trigg Beach recently you will have noticed the contrast between it and the built environment of Scarborough Beach. The natural dune environment of Trigg Beach is a window into how the metropolitan area coastline used to look before the suburban spread extended to the beach front.

The uniqueness of this remnant Quindalup dune system has been recognised as regionally significant by its status as a Bush Forever area and Class A Reserve. A significant portion of the Trigg Beach dune system is within Bush Forever Area 308 and forms a succession of landform and vegetation extending from the shoreline through the adjacent Trigg Bushland to tuart and marri woodland in Karrinyup.

Well known WA Ecologist, Dr Judy Fisher PhD provided local conservation groups and the City of Stirling with native and weed mapping data for this section of the Trigg Beach. Dr Fisher said in her report that:

“This lengthy dunal system is the only location along the City of Stirling coastline where there remains a complete complex of fore dune, swale and secondary dunal systems connected to inland and significant native remnant vegetation, extending from the coastal fore dunes to the woodland for approximately two kilometres inland.”

Dr Fisher said that this almost unbroken stretch of bushland is also rare along the Metropolitan coastline and recommended that no further fragmentation should occur within the Trigg Beach coastal strip.

Despite the public’s overwhelming rejection of the boardwalk/pathway proposal in 2013, we regret to advise that fragmentation of the South Trigg Beach Reserve is once again on the planning agenda. The Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority in its draft Master Plan for Scarborough Beach is proposing the Esplanade be extended north and south, threatening coastal dunes and vegetation in both directions.

This presents the first challenge for the Friends of Trigg Beach which is working with the Friends of Trigg Bushland and other local conservation groups and residents to oppose this road extension, which if it goes ahead, will have a significant adverse impact on the dune reserve.

If you love Trigg Beach just the way it is please join our “Supporters List” by emailing us on friendsoftriggbeach@gmail.com and we will add you to our email list and keep you up to date with news. Please like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/savetriggbeach and take a look at our fledgling website <http://friendsoftriggbeach.org/>

We encourage you to make a submission to the MRA Scarborough Beach Draft Master Plan <http://www.mra.wa.gov.au/projects-and-places/scarborough/master-plan> have a look at Section 7.6 Ecology and Environment; page 26 and pp 50-52.

For further information contact the Friends of Trigg Beach spokespersons Robyn Murphy 0409886985 or Nina McLaren 0427936566.

Photo below is taken from the pedestrian path near Scarborough, looking north towards Trigg Point, with the houses along the West Coast Highway also visible. This is the area where it is proposed to put a road - which clearly will impact on the very steep, deep dunes adjacent to the path. These dunes are very well vegetated, as the depressions protect foliage from the harsh winds, and are in excellent condition.



Photo by N McLaren

UBC's 21st Birthday Celebration 3 December 2014

The significant birthday celebration for the UBC was very enjoyable.

In particular, some old friends who had a part to play in the UBC's formation and development along the way, were present and volunteered stories and experiences.

Our president Mary Gray, explained how and why the UBC was formed and told of some of the campaigns run and activities which the UBC has held.

Norma Calcutt, Angela Carr, Colma Keating, Kirsten Tullis, Lesley Shaw, Stephanie Clegg, Kerrie Smith and James Duggie were some who offered thoughts.

Mary, Kirsten, David and James cut the celebratory cake. The UBC has been a voice for the bush for over twenty one years so congratulations were in order.



Mary Gray and Stephanie Clegg.



Guests at the UBC celebration on 3rd December. Photos by M Owen



From left: James Duggie, David Wake and Mary Gray cutting the birthday cake (pictured below).



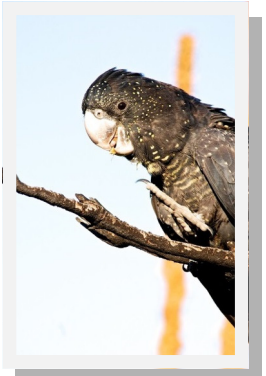
2015 GREAT COCKY COUNT Sunday 12 April 2015

Is the day when the seventh Great Cocky Count, WA's biggest annual community survey will be held. During this survey, volunteers will count Carnaby's and Red tailed black cockatoos at night-time roost sites across the southwest of the state.

To find out more and to register go to Birdlife Australia website:

<http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/carnabys-black-cockatoo-recovery/great-cocky-count>

Registrations close 29 March 2015.



Group News Group News Group News

Bassendean Preservation Group Inc (BPG) is an all-volunteer community environmental group that grows and plants out indigenous native species. BPG works closely with Land Management and Environmental Officers from the Town of Bassendean, Western Australia Planning Commission and Swan River Trust to restore and enhance native bush in the parks and reserves in and around Bassendean.

Three years ago BPG established a native nursery with a 4,200 seedling capacity, and this year we'll be testing that number with several exciting and varied projects. The focus for the last couple of years will continue on locally appropriate species that are also high priority habitat for the endangered Black Cockatoos that are routinely spotted in the area. These species include Marri, Hakeas, Banksias, Grey Stinkwood, and Golden Wreath Wattle.

The upcoming projects include:

Working with Town of Bassendean, BPG will be planting at the Broadway Arboretum. Following Council approval of the concept plan, this long under-appreciated reserve is finally receiving the attention it deserves. We will start by revegetating a 2,000m² parcel with native species designated in the plan and grown at our native nursery.

Swan River Trust and Western Australia Planning Commission have engaged a consultant to develop a foreshore erosion mitigation plan on Ashfield Flats, a regionally significant flood plain bordering the Swan between Bassendean and Bayswater. Town of Bassendean will be project managing. BPG will be providing the on-the-ground rushes revegetation on the major washout that will be tackled first.

BPG has also become adept at gauging the tides and slipping in when advantageous to plant rushes along the low tide line at the foot of the bluff bank on the Swan River foreshore. This zone is inundated daily and directly subject to disturbance from boat wake. Natural rush revegetation hasn't occur due to the inundation and wash. But by planting robust plants like *Juncus kraussii* matured in



Photo by R.Ireland

Taking a break from revegetation work at Ashfield Flats last winter.

our nursery's Rushes and Sedges pond that extend their tips out of the water even at high tide, BPG is having some success in re-establishing the rush beds that are the least cost and lowest impact solution to mitigating erosion.

We're also planting out Salt Sheoaks on the bank, valued for their salt tolerance and intertwining roots that stabilise and provide further resistance to erosion. The long awaited start of a fence installation to discourage foot traffic from trampling our planting area means our success rate should skyrocket this year.

BPG will be returning to our Whitfield Street site for the third year to plant out more Black Cockatoo habitat. The site has expanded to almost a hectare, the previous years' seedlings are well over head high and the Marris are blooming for the first time.

In addition to the revegetation works, one of our members recently organized a guided tour of Bannister Creek to provide inspiration for one of BPG's long term dream projects, streamlining Chapman Street drain through Ashfield Flats.

At the nursery this year we installed a recording thermometer on our solar pot sterilizer to ensure the requisite 600C temperature had been reached to destroy any soil pathogens. Our sterilization and pot washing regimen has been taxed by the gift of at least 5,000 sorely needed used pots. Fortunately the timely donation of a shade sail from one of our members made our pot washing station far more tolerable. And plans are underway with the support of Town of Bassendean and WAPC to build a more permanent structure over our propagation area to keep the summer sun off.

We'll be potting for one or two more weekends over the next month, then planting out as soon as the rains allow in June/July. To learn more, visit our website at www.bpginc.info. Contact details can be found on the membership page.

Ruth Ireland

Friends of Lightning Swamp

Lightning Swamp bushland is a 71 hectare Class-A reserve situated on the Northern perimeter of the suburb of Noranda located 12 Kms from Perth. The friends group was formed in 2000 and has been a major influence of the advancements and successes seen at the reserve for the past 15 years.

When reminiscing over the 15 years I am sure a number of readers representing other diverse natural areas scattered throughout the metropolitan region can recall the enjoyment, successes and relentless passion as some of the many rewards. However, with these rewards there comes sacrifices, challenges and external threats your natural patch may have been subjected too along the way.

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Over the next couple of years the friends of Lightning Swamp will face 2 challenging threats that may alter our local patch of nature. These are the construction of Malinga Dr and Reid Hwy Overpass this year, and the enormous North-Link highways project scheduled to commence in 2016 stretching from Collier Road to extend past Bullsbrook.

Commencement of the first project will impact on the north-east perimeter of Lightning Swamp and likely be an impending threat to a magnificent secluded wooded dampland situated about 50 metres away from the planned clearing.

The other is the North-Link project which may be outside the buffer zone of Lightning Swamp but includes a planned expansion of Tonkin Hwy to 8 lanes and construction of the largest overpass roundabout in WA linking Reid, Tonkin and Roe Highways on the doorstep of the reserve. Over the next few years it will be a very apprehensive time for the friends group to what detrimental effects is installed for the long term survival of Lightning Swamp.

It has made me wonder in this fast changing time while we widely hear and speak of the importance of sustainable future with the global recognition of being smarter for our cities. Why building bigger and bigger inefficient road networks supporting more vehicles accompanied by the clearing of mass areas of bushland surrounding our cities could be considered growing sustainable?

John Williams

Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association (CRREPA) are pleased to welcome the beginning of the installation of foreshore interpretive signs developed by the City of Canning and their consultant. The first couple of the signs were installed at the Shelley Foreshore toilet block; including a pelican on a post (see photo below). The signs are informative, artistic and sensitive.



Photo by G Sandwell

Waterbird Conservation Group

Snakes in our wetlands and caring for our volunteer's safety

Snakes are a significant part of our bushland and wetland ecosystems. Tiger snakes and dugites are common around wetlands.

The Waterbird Conservation Group last year celebrated managing Folly and Maramanup wetlands in Baldivis for 21 years. It was an important milestone for our Group. Over these years the Group has improved the habitat through major revegetation projects. Sedges and rushes have been an important aspect of this work and are a vital habitat for our local snakes. The Group regularly see snakes and other reptiles, which is one indication of a functional and healthy wetland system.

Volunteers must be careful when working in snake areas. Our volunteers always wear long pants and closed in shoes and take care when walking around. Some members wear gaiters on their lower legs to give extra protection.

Last year the Group applied and successfully received a Perth Region NRM small grant for six Group members to attend a first aid course. The one-day course run by St John Ambulance is a great way to learn how to take care of yourself and others when there is a medical emergency in the bush. It also teaches you what is an emergency and when to call 000 or 112 (in remote areas).

The course covered snakebites. When in the bush you need to carry with you pressure bandages. In the case of a bite call 000 and apply a pressure bandage (heavy crepe or elasticised roller bandage) starting just above the fingers or toes of the bitten limb, and move upwards on the limb as far as can be reached (include the snake bite). Apply firmly without stopping blood supply to the limb. Immobilise the limb and with an arm bite we were taught to keep the arm pointing down along the body. Mark on the bandage where the bite is and note the time of bandage and bite. Keep the patient still and do not wash the venom. Go to the St John Ambulance website for more details. There are also apps for smart phones that are very handy. <http://stjohn.org.au/apps/apps/Home.html>

This year the Group will be planting more sedges and rushes along the banks in September/October. The Department of Parks and Wildlife's Healthy Wetland Habitat program funds this planting. If you want to help with these plantings please email the Group at waterbirdgroup@gmail.com to register your interest and get on the emailing list. Hope to see you there.

Ruth Clark

Friends of Inglewood Triangle

What an amazing year 2014 has been. The Friends have been busy all year and together with assistance from the community and other volunteers the bushland is looking better than it has been for many years. We now have

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some interpretive signage and the intensive weeding has really made a difference. The Veldt Grass and Wild Oats have been attacked with vigour and reduced the fuel load in the Triangle. Some of the highlights include:

Clean Up Australia Day 2014

Despite a very hot day, another good crowd joined us early on Sunday 2 March for our 4th Clean Up Australia Day event. We cleaned away the litter and followed with a bushwalk for newcomers.

Interpretative Signs

Installed in late June, the new signs were funded from an environmental grant through the Department of Environment and Conservation (now DPaW) and with design and installation support through the City of Stirling. These signs highlight some key features of the vegetation of Inglewood Triangle

Volunteer support from Conservation Volunteers Australia

The support from Conservation Volunteers Australia has been key to the progress we have made in taming the grassy weeds of Inglewood Triangle. They provided volunteers for three full days and one half day and helped us removed many bags of Veldt grass and Fumaria.

Perth College Kindy

We continued to work with the kindy class from Perth College, led by their enthusiastic teacher. They have adopted Inglewood Triangle and we really enjoyed their company.

Success in controlling Veldt grass

We made major inroads into the Veldt Grass during 2014, through selective spraying by City of Stirling staff plus additional hand weeding through volunteers provided by Conservation Volunteers Australia. The sea of swaying heads of Veldt in one major section has gone!

2015 Planned Activities

The Friends held their first meeting in late January and a new committee with lots of enthusiasm and ideas is keen to continue the management of the Triangle. The Friends have drafted a Management Plan and we will work with the City of Stirling to implement the plan.

Our first planned activity for 2015 was Clean Up Australia Day on 1 March 2015.

Later in the year we are planning to hold a Community Weeding Day in conjunction with the City of Stirling.

Weekly weeding will commence after Easter and is usually held on Sunday and Wednesday mornings – everyone welcome to come along. For more details check our website at <http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/members-groups/3-north-of-the-river/6-friends-of-inglewood-triangle>

Christine Allbeury

Quinns Rocks Environmental Group Inc is concerned about the freeway approval which will add to Carnaby's cockatoo plight. The Mitchell Freeway extension from Burns Beach Road to Hester Avenue, recently given Commonwealth Government environmental approval, will add to threats facing the endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo. Regular counts show that the number of Carnaby's black cockatoos on the coastal plain around Perth is declining at an alarming 15% each year. This means that these iconic birds are heading for extinction unless urgent action is taken by the Barnett government to end loss of habitat.

The extension of the Mitchell Freeway and Neerabup Road through bushland in and adjacent Neerabup National Park (Bush Forever Area 383) adds to the loss of habitat for the cockatoo and other species. The proposed freeway extension including construction of Neerabup Road between Connolly Drive and Wanneroo Road will involve clearing of over 134 hectares of bushland including potential roost trees and feeding grounds for Carnaby's cockatoo. This freeway extension is one of many projects that are clearing Carnaby's habitat. Added together the loss of habitat is disturbing and environmental laws have not been used to stop habitat loss.

The purchase of bushland at Gingin to offset clearing for the Mitchell Freeway extension is proposed, but it does not add to habitat locally and overall we are seeing Carnaby's habitat diminish, hence there is a net loss. Additions to Neerabup National Park have long been proposed but much of this is yet to be secured.

It is critical that bushland be added to the national park and the corridor of bushland through to the coast (Bush Forever Areas 323 and 322) be protected to retain some habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo and other wildlife into the future. This proposal for connectivity was recommended by government scientists at least 15 years ago. The proposed freeway extension and the existing railway create a barrier to any terrestrial fauna movement from the coast to the Neerabup National Park and other bushland areas further east. A real opportunity for an effective east west ecological linkage will be lost.

The Quinns Rocks Environmental Group has always been opposed to roads fragmenting Neerabup National Park and sought the inclusion of infrastructure to facilitate east west movement of terrestrial fauna since the inception of the freeway extension proposal. The potential cost of such provisions are being used as a reason for not considering them in the final design of the freeway extension. Fauna underpasses are being planned for under the proposed Neerabup Road.

D Wake and R Zelinova

Mullaloo Beach Community Group Inc is seeking volunteers keen to be actively involved in protecting the dunes of Mullaloo Beach. For upcoming events visit their website www.joondalupcoastcare.com

THE SAVE BEELIAR WETLANDS CAMPAIGN REACHED A CRITICAL POINT

The Save Beelihar Wetlands campaign to protect North Lake and Bibra Lake Reserve from Roe Highway Stage 8 has come to a critical point in the campaign with the announcement of the imminent release of requests for Tenders and construction to begin in early 2016. This is despite State and Federal environmental processes being incomplete.

It is quite staggering to be in this position when most of the world would be protecting these magnificent areas as a matter of course. Instead we have spent 30 years working at every angle to prevent this atrocity. While we have now worked through most of the statutory processes available to us the government's intentions are still greatly flawed and must be stopped.

In the next few weeks you will begin to see calls for action to stop this reckless road. If you would like to receive campaign notices please email flicab19@gmail.com.

LANCELIN TOURIST PARK PROPOSAL DEBACLE

*By Tommy Cameron
Lancelin Save Our Back Beach*

Back in 2010 the Tourist Commission and Shire of Gingin began the process of the Lancelin Tourist Park Proposal along the coastline of Lancelin. A short letter and a couple of signs were erected to notify the public and ratepayers. Thought was that this would just slide on by without too much notice but they were wrong. There was such a strong outcry from the town that a community meeting was held. Strong points of view were put forward from both sides and unfortunately deep divisions had been created. Then all went quiet until Christmas 2014.

Once again a letter and a few signs went up over the Christmas 2014 period explaining this proposal was available for viewing, you need a NASA degree to find it, and again this topic flared amongst the community. We established the Lancelin Save Our Back Beach Facebook page and really pushed trying to get our message out there to all the community of WA.

The proposal is a 10ha tourist/caravan park just situated behind the dunal system that runs along the "Back Beach" at the southern part of town. It is an unstable area exposed to the elements of nature and in the ensuing land behind the dunes is wetlands. Now I'm no expert, so to seek information I have had the privilege of talking to experts in this field, reading research from local councils and federal government and talking to members of the local community.

All views point to the fact there are some major environmental concerns with rising sea levels, coastal erosion and encroaching stronger weather

patterns. The proposed tourist park would be in the direct firing line of all of these. Should this development go ahead the Shire will risk the infrastructure of the tourist park and surrounding residential buildings from the elements of climate change. The burden financially and socially would have to be picked up by future generations.

The Urban Bushland Council has assisted us by commissioning an expert report by Dr Vic Semeniuk, who has identified several significant aspects to the Back Beach area. The cusped foreland itself has Regional signifi-

cance. Dr Semeniuk also indicates that 'the terrain has wetlands in various stages of development and various stages of biodiversity expression.'

Dr Semeniuk has identified that part of the Back Beach used to be 'dune slacks,' which are the wet hollows between coastal dunes where the water table is seasonally near the surface. There are only 6 active dune slack sites in Western Australia. Although the Lancelin dune slacks are no longer active, they are geologically significant as they represent important stages in the developmental history of these unique formations, and as such are of State-wide significance.

The Back Beach may not look as spectacular as other places, but we love it. The ecosystems of impoverished soils such as sandplains have been studied at UWA and the Kwongan Foundation, who are currently trying to have large areas of WA – from Shark Bay to Esperance - heritage listed with UNESCO.

The big push for the Shire is to help the town of Lancelin economically and we understand they need to look at all options, but any short term gains cannot come at the expense of future, larger problems.

There is only a small area of native dune habitat remaining within the town itself, this 10ha area being a major part of this proposal. It's an area that provides true representation of the Lancelin coastal structures for tourists to admire. To bulldoze it for the sake of a few

small peak tourist periods a year is a very short sighted approach and one the Shire of Gingin can stop now for the sake of future generations.

We are a very new organisation and are finding our feet. Our Facebook page "Lancelin Save Our Back Beach" is a great place to leave comments or I can be contacted on 0412412244. There is also an on-line petition, please help us by signing and circulating to your networks: www.change.org/p/shire-of-gingin-stop-the-proposal-for-lancelin-tourist-park

All help is greatly appreciated.

Ocean Reef Canal Estate Development in Bush Forever 325

The Ocean Reef “Boat Launch facility” redevelopment that will clear 19.6 ha of bushland continues along its administrative trajectory, largely in secret and beyond public scrutiny. The development is categorized as a canal estate development according to the WAPC definitions of water-based contiguous residential developments, even though the City of Joondalup continues to insist that it does not fall under this definition. Like other canal and enclosed harbour developments around the state such as Mangles Bay, the project design suffers from inherent flushing problems, clearing of large tracks of Bush Forever bushland, and the problems inherent in placing in excess of 700 residential units on the coastline, in defiance of State Planning Policy 2.6 guidelines.

The development process has been split into two: 1. A marine component, to be subject to a public environmental review; and 2. a land component, now the subject of a highly secretive MRS Amendment process, to rezone 76.5 ha to “Urban, Additional Waterways Zones, and new Parks and Recreation Reserve”.

The marine component involving the construction of a 1 km-long harbour in the Marmion Marine Park, involves the destruction of a number of very large near shore reefs (about 10% of the total near shore reefs present within the Marine Park). The suggested way around this destruction, which is prohibited by the marine park guidelines, is to excise the proposed harbour from the Marine Park boundaries, according to the project proponent, the City of Joondalup.

The land component involves clearing large tracts of Bush Forever 325 bushland in “very good” to “good” condition. The area to be cleared encompasses large tracts of feeding grounds of the Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo, with dense, almost impenetrable stands of *Acacia*, *Banksia sessilis*, *Melaleuca cardiophylla*, *Santalum acuminatum* and many other shrub species. Large flocks of Carnaby’s Cockatoo have been repeatedly observed feeding there. The consultants’ reports claim that the area to be cleared will not be large, but even the most elementary measurement of feeding area to be cleared puts the figure at 3.5 to 4 ha. The data provided in the MRS Amendment documents is highly incomplete and misleading. It refers to the fauna “likely” to be present, based on a 2008 desktop study of government databases, with no refer-

ence to any actual fauna survey of the site. It refers to “several” stands of *Banksia sessilis* in the subject site, whereas the actual census of *B. sessilis* to be cleared would be in the scores, if not hundreds of trees. Other significant stands of vegetation to be cleared include ancient thickets of *Melaleuca cardiophylla*; *Alyogyne huegelii* var. *glabrescens*; *Leucopogon insularis*; and the only occurrences of *Diplolaena angustifolia* in the entire Joondalup coastal reserve. It is stated that the Priority 3 species, *Hibbertia spicata* subsp. *leptothea*, will be removed in places, and that a Priority Ecological Community will be removed. Large areas of *Lomandra maritima*, the habitat for the vulnerable Graceful Sun Moth colonies at the site, will be cleared. The proponents justify this by saying that because the Sun Moth has been removed from the list of endangered species, the destruction of actual colonies and clearing of its habitat at the site will no longer be assessed under either Commonwealth or State processes.

The City of Joondalup some six years ago signed, with much fanfare, the international “Durban Commitment”, promising to “ensure that biodiversity is conserved, protected, restored and sustainably used for the benefit of current and future generations.” So much for that...

More information available at: <http://www.savejoondalupbeaches.com.au>



Photo by M. Apthorpe

Part of the Carnaby’s Cockatoo feeding area to be cleared at Ocean Reef, showing in the swale, dense stands of *Melaleuca cardiophylla*, *Banksia sessilis*, *Santalum acuminatum*, *Acacia rostellifera*, *Allocasuarina lehmanniana* and *Spyridium globulosum* amongst other species. The dunes and cliffs in the background will be removed.

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than if the tree has one trunk. Nevertheless Tuarts are the biggest trees of Perth’s Swan Coastal Plain.

Of the insects and spiders observed, there were many Golden Orb-weaving Spiders with their tiny males in attendance. One web had a silver Dew-drop Spider sharing the Orb-weaver’s web.

Various species of spiders can produce different coloured silk. Spiders in dry grass may produce dry grass coloured silk and spiders on living bushes may produce green silk.

Spiny tailed weevils and a regular weevil were observed.

Birds and reptiles - A flock of about 50 Rainbow Bee-eaters were on the wing perhaps preparing for their journey north before too long. This summer the Bee-eaters arrived two weeks earlier than usual. The juvenile Bee-eaters commence their journey north earlier than the adults, so how do they know where to go?

A Bobtail was on the side of the path, and as expected it had quite a few ticks around its head and in its ears.

Everyone was most appreciative of David’s expertise and it was a great walk.

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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

Urban Bushland Council's Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 3rd March 2015 6pm refreshments 6:30 pm AGM starts

Guest speaker

Professor Richard Hobbs: Prospects for Urban Bushland: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

AS Distinguished Fellow, School of Plant Biology, UWA

Bring your membership renewal form!

Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth

Wednesday 6 May 6.00pm

Guest speaker: Honorary Research Associate Felicity Bradshaw: Environmental Education

Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth

Free car parking in Delhi St from 6pm, adjacent to Citywest train station

For information visit <http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/events>

UBC PUBLICATIONS

Perth's Bush Forever Report Card

Proceedings of a conference (December 2012)

Available through the UBC website:

<http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/resources/publications>

Perth's Banksia Woodlands - Precious and Under Threat

Proceedings of a symposium (2011)

Available from the UBC for \$20 plus \$3 postage.

Endangered Black Cockatoos in Western Australia

Proceedings of a symposium .

Available through the UBC website:

<http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/resources/publications>

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

Available from the UBC free.

Building Partnerships between Community Groups and Local Government for Our Bushland —proceedings of a seminar (2000)

Available from the UBC free.

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 - 10h April 2015

PERTH'S BUSHLAND BIRTHDAY & PERPETUAL

CALENDAR

\$10 plus \$2 postage

Available by mail order from the UBC office.

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