

## Regional Parks – A Time for Action

WA's Regional Park system was created to provide for conservation, recreation and landscape protection in the urban environment. The concept of a Regional Park was first proposed by the EPA in its System Six Green Book (1980) and specific recommendations and general policy were presented in the System Six Red Book (1983).

After many years of planning and land acquisition the first eight Regional Parks were formally established by the Court Government in 1997. They are: Yellagonga, Herdsman, Canning River, Woodman Point, Beeliar, Jandakot, Rockingham Lakes and Darling Range. The management was assigned to a Regional Parks Unit, which reported directly to the Director of National Parks in the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), later the Department of Environment and Conservation, now the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The funding for the establishment and management of these Parks was provided by the WA Planning Commission through a section 16 agreement with CALM.

The Regional Parks system has met a pressing need for the conservation of the natural heritage of the Metropolitan Area, especially the wetlands, the escarpment, the coast, the jarrah forest and the banksia woodlands. CALM and its successors have managed and improved these Parks very effectively and the public has responded positively by visiting the Parks and contributing to management and conservation activities, through the community grants scheme.

Several extensions to the existing Regional Parks system have been proposed, but not implemented. Most of these are included in the individual Management Plans for each of the eight Regional Parks.

These extensions need to be actioned while the opportunities still exist, as many of these properties are under threat from weeds, fires and urban development.

Some additions to the Regional Park system have been planned but not implemented. These include the proposed Peel Regional Park, the south Bunbury Regional Park and the Gnangara Park. Several others, such as the Leschenault-Kemerton Regional Park, the Vasse-Wonnerup Regional Park, the Lower Serpentine Regional Park and the Wanneroo Wetlands Eastern Chain have been proposed on many occasions but the planning has not been done. Community expectations in these areas are high, because they have seen the success of the existing eight Regional Parks, but so far the Government has not taken the necessary steps to establish these new Regional Parks.

There is also a legislative task to be completed. Most of the Regional Parks consist of a patchwork of land acquired by the WAPC for Parks and Recreation. These blocks need to be consolidated and converted into conservation reserves. The Regional Parks system also needs to have formal recognition in the CALM Act and in the various regional planning schemes. We therefore propose the following action be taken.

- Expand the Regional Parks system to include the Peel, the Gnangara and the South of Bunbury Regional Parks.
- Begin planning the Wanneroo Lakes (Eastern Chain), the Lower Serpentine, the Leschenault Kemerton and

the Vasse-Wonnerup Regional Parks.

- Amend the CALM Act to give legal status to Regional Parks – this was first promised by the Court Government in 1997.
- Include Regional Parks as a zoning concept in the MRS and other regional planning schemes.
- Convert the Regional Parks lands into consolidated class A Reserves. This process is underway but progress is very slow.
- Incorporate the proposed extensions to existing Regional Parks, as identified in their Management Plans (eg add Bollard Bulrush Swamp and Long Swamp to Beeliar Regional Park)
- Reinstate the Community Grants Scheme for NGOs doing approved work in Regional parks. From 2002 to 2012 the Government provided \$50,000 - \$75,000 annually to NGOs to assist their conservation work. This scheme had a high multiplier and a lot of good revegetation and management work was done. The Scheme was terminated in 2013 and no replacement has been announced.

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# Editorial

Two new official records are before us. The Bureau of Meteorology has reported that Australia's mean temperature has risen by 0.9 degrees Centigrade since 1910 due to the burning of fossil fuels. This is a very significant increase in such a short period compared with natural changes after for example an ice-age. There is no doubt about anthropocentric causes of global warming of both the atmosphere and the oceans.

Secondly the Department of Water has released its annual Compliance Report to the Office of the EPA: *'Environmental management of groundwater from the Gnangara and Jandakot Mounds for the period July 2012 - June 2013*. On the Gnangara Mound 17 (one more than for 2011-12) of the 30 monitoring sites are non-compliant for 2012-13. On the Jandakot Mound 5 of the 23 monitoring sites are again non-compliant. The water table has been drawn down yet again below acceptable levels set by the EPA and there are no penalties or intervention to control this excessive use.

The Department does not even know how much water is abstracted by the biggest users: private and commercial licensed bores - as most have no meters and do not pay a volumetric charge. Their abstraction volumes may be 10 times that of the Water Corporation's.

Our concern is the threatening impact of the combination of rising temperatures, declining rainfall and falling water tables on our unique wetlands and vegetation complexes of the Swan Coastal Plain and hills. We can see the declining water levels and shorter periods of inundation in wetlands, and deaths of groundwater dependent ecosystems, as well as increases in scattered deaths of icons such as large old Banksias and Jarrah. But unfortunately the drying of the soil profile with drops in the water table and increase in acidity at the water table - another consequence - is not visible and thus not publicly appreciated.

The UBC expects that these dire threatening processes will be major factors considered by the independent national scientific committee when it assesses the nomination of our precious Banksia woodlands of the southern Swan Coastal Plain for listing as Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) under the federal EPBC Act.

**Perhaps TEC listing may make our state government take conservation of Perth's unique bushland biodiversity much more seriously - ?**

## Perth Greenways Plan Review and Re-launch

Have you heard about the Greens vision to create a protected, connected network of urban forests, bushland, wetlands and parks in Perth?

It's called the Perth Greenways project, and similar initiatives have been launched in cities across the country and indeed around the world including places like Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Singapore, New York and Boston.

The Perth Greenways network would ensure precious areas of remnant urban bushland like Underwood Avenue, Anstey-Keane Damplands, Beeliar Wetlands and Point Peron (to name but a few) are permanently protected and linked together through bike paths and walkways.

One aspect of this plan is to establish an urban forest strategy that would bring these areas together, increasing biodiversity at a metropolitan scale.

Another aspect is to introduce a backyards and front verges strategy to bring back biodiversity on a local street level.

The Greens would also ensure legal protection and greater recognition of important habitat and ecological linkages in the planning system. As part of this the Greens would review the Metropolitan Region Scheme and make a new greenways zone, creating permanent statutory protection.

A further plank of this plan is to provide additional funding to the Perth Biodiversity Project, as well as developing a new grants scheme for communities and non-profit organisations who are directly working on greenways initiatives. The ultimate aim is to see every Perth resident live within a 5 minute walk of a Greenway and a 10 minute ride of a protected reserve of regional significance.

The Greens believe \$7 million per year would fund the city-wide project, including building walking/cycle trails, interpretive centres, signage and public facilities. It would also provide a dedicated acquisition fund to buy back the precious areas under threat right now, a new grants scheme for the community and local groups to access, and importantly, a new cross-portfolio unit within government to deliver the Greenways.

Senator Scott Ludlam's office is currently in the process of updating this policy, and we would welcome your feedback and input.

Senator Ludlam is a strong champion for Perth's urban bushland, and he has made several speeches in the federal parliament on the issue.

If you would like to find out more detailed information about the policy please visit the dedicated Perth Greenways website at <http://www.greenswa.net.au/greenways.html>

# The Pitiful Progress of Bush Forever

It is now 15 months since we held our Bush Forever Report Card conference. In his opening speech the Minister for Planning the Hon John Day recognised the importance of Bush Forever in the international and national context:

*'Australia has a major role to play in the conservation of biodiversity, as it is one of the world's most biologically diverse nations, supporting hundreds of thousands of species that are found nowhere else in the world. Government at all levels has a role to play in biodiversity conservation, as does industry and the community generally. Perth's Bush Forever program is an excellent example of how we can work together to implement a major conservation program and achieve some exceptional results.'*

He went on to say that the conference and the UBC's Report Card will be a valuable contribution to 'the review' of Bush Forever to be conducted in 2013. In the Bush Forever Plan (December 2000), an ongoing audit process was supposed to inform progress, but this has never happened over the 12 year program. Well nothing happened last year, but at least the review by the Department of Planning has started this year. An initial dataset is expected to be available by July.

A major concern is that the site implementation process has ground to a halt. The proper use by the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) of the Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund (MRIF) to acquire sites and establish them as conservation areas by installing initial capital works - has stalled. The UBC is informed that the funds are there in the MRIF, indeed some \$350 million. Although expenditure of the fund is administered and controlled by the WAPC, the government has interfered and ordered that funds be 'quarantined'. This is unacceptable and contrary to the Minister's intent expressed above.

The government has not even attended to the species "hotspot of hotspots" at Anstey-Keane Damplands in Forrestdale. This special area of Conservation Category Wetlands, threatened ecological communities, and species rich damplands and Banksia woodlands is still suffering from degradation by serial illegal rubbish dumping, trail bikes and 4WD incursions, horse-riding, wildlife shooting and even timber cutting. This is despite considerable local publicity when the local Member Hon Tony Simpson visited the Skeet Road rubbish dump four months ago with UBC and the Friends of Forrestdale. Despite a commitment from the Minister for Planning to acquire as a priority Lots 67 and 69 Skeet Road, they are yet to be acquired and are unfenced, hence the entry point



for illegal rubbish dumpers and off road vehicles. The Friends of Forrestdale collected a huge pile of rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day on 2nd March shown in the photo above.

Another major concern is that there are four high profile Bush Forever Areas threatened by inappropriate development proposals, all of which should have been totally rejected at the earliest stage in line with Bush Forever policy. They are the Roe 8 highway extension through Beeliar Regional Park; UWA housing development in Underwood Avenue bushland, Floreat; Mangles Bay marina and canal development at Pt Peron/Lake Richmond; Keane Road extension through Anstey-Keane Damplands. Also at risk is the Kiara TAFE site which was recommended by DEC to be added to Bush Forever and is again threatened by a Housing Authority proposal, as is the Stratton Bushland. The saga of the Kiara TAFE site was told in our last edition of the Urban Bush Telegraph.

Another significant blockage in the implementation process of Bush Forever is the failure to install initial capital works and transfer some 70 acquired sites to the conservation estate. These Bush Forever sites have been acquired by the WAPC but are not set up as conservation areas and are not being managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) as planned.

After our report Card conference, the UBC met with numerous officers from DPAW, then the A/Director General of DPAW Jim Sharp, and also the Minister for the Environment but no progress has resulted.

Perth is an expanding city with currently 9,000 ha of bushland "upzoned" for future land clearing and development. Now is a critical moment in time to ensure that the significant bushland areas identified in the Bush Forever Plan are legally protected and managed for conservation. Every moment these Bush Forever areas are left unprotected and allowed to degrade or to be cleared for development is willful negligence on the part of the State of Western Australia.



# Group News Group News Group News

## Friends of Queens Park Bushland

On the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the City of Canning unveiled its new Environmental Volunteer Honour Board at the Blessing of the River event held at Kent St Weir Park, Wilson. The Honour Board is a special recognition of the long and exemplary service provided by community volunteers who have contributed to the conservation and enrichment of the natural environment within the City of Canning over a period of 15 or more years.

The Friends of Queens Park Bushland is proud to announce that their Sian Mawson was one of the 12 successful nominees whose names now appear on this board.

Sian is a founding member of the Friends of Queens Park Bushland. The group, formed over 20 years ago by local resident and committed environmentalist Gill Brennan (deceased), work in Bush Forever sites within the Queens Park Regional Open Space. This increasingly rare example of urban bushland is situated 11 kilometres south east of the City of Perth in the suburbs of Queens Park, East Cannington and Welshpool.

Throughout this time Sian has been a tireless and consistent worker in all aspects of bush preservation and restoration. She is currently the activities co-ordinator, communications officer, photographer and webmaster for the group.

Although now skilled in local plant species identification, Sian wasn't always so knowledgeable. She recounts, "When I moved into my own home in 1990 the garden was overgrown with Kikuyu (*Cenchrus clandestinus*). But hidden amongst the grass were lovely orange wildflowers. I carefully dug up these 'wildflowers' and moved them to an area of the garden where they would be safe. It wasn't until about six months later that I discovered I had been nurturing the declared weed cape tulip (*Moraea flaccida*)! Needless to say, they were dug up

the next day. I have been learning about our local native plants and wildlife ever since."

This was the beginning of a long period of observation and identification of plants, animals and fungi of the Queens Park Regional Open Space. All observations have been meticulously photographed and the resulting images now form the basis of our website.

[www.friendsofqueensparkbushland.org.au/](http://www.friendsofqueensparkbushland.org.au/)

Sian's frequent presence in the reserve – weeding, planting and recording species – attracts other like-minded community members who amplify her efforts. The City of Canning and grant bodies notice when locals put sustained time and effort into their areas of interest. As a consequence the amount of support and funding available to these areas increase. The Friends of Queens Park Bushland has recently been successful in the State NRM grant round, and the bushland consistently receives on-ground work by the City of Canning's Natural Area Team. This is due in no small part to Sian's personal effort and leadership.

No doubt Sian, and the others honoured on 30 November, will continue protecting and enhancing the natural areas of the City of Canning. Having one's name placed on a board is not an indication that the work is done. It is a public recognition that the volunteers are doing a worthwhile task and is the impetus to keep going as long as they can.

The honour board will be permanently located near the banks of the Canning River, near the Canning River Eco Education Centre, Kent Street, Wilson.

## Friends of Lake Claremont

Claire Brittain, Friends of Lake Claremont (FOLC) secretary and grants officer, has continued her tremendous success in obtaining grants to help restore Lake Claremont. In the past 6 months she has added 2 more grants totalling \$83,000! The money will go directly into revegetation projects, restoring the wetland buffer and native woodland. The FOLC will coordinate and lead hundreds of volunteers to do the planting which will start in early April.

**1. Community Environment Grant (2013/14) - \$55,000** as part of the Caring for Our Country initiative by the Australian Government to restore a portion of the wetland buffer, the fringing vegetation around the lake edge. A minimum of 22,000 native seedlings will be planted along the south east edge of Lake Claremont this winter.

Recently renamed Community Environment Grants, this is the fifth year in a row the FOLC have been awarded



Sian with the certificate at Honour Board at the Kent St Riverpark, 30 November 2013.

Photo courtesy the Friends of Queens Park Bushland

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Photo by H Hardisty

Volunteers planting at one of the restoration sites at Lake Claremont, July 2011.



Photo by H Hardisty

The same site in December 2013.

the grant obtaining the new maximum amount of \$55,000. The past four years, the FOLC received \$20,000 annually.

**2. State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Grant Programme (2014/15) of \$28,000** for the extension of revegetation of the northern section of Lake Claremont to restore indigenous woodland. The seedlings will be planted by volunteers, a requirement of the grant funded by the Government of Western Australia, in 2015.

This is the fourth State NRM grant the FOLC have received. This winter volunteers will plant 34,600 seedlings paid for by the State NRM \$50,000 grant the FOLC obtained for 2013/14. The Town of Claremont will pay for weed removal, mulching and fencing. Over the past 5 years, the FOLC have won a total of 13 grants for \$371,000. Considering the number of volunteer hours for administration, management and ground work done by the FOLC members plus all the hours done by other volunteers coordinated and led by the FOLC, the contribution to the area by FOLC through these grants is worth well over \$1 million! Add the contribution by the Town of Claremont for planning, infrastructure and management, and the value is easily doubled.

Lake Claremont is an import wildlife corridor between Kings Park and the coast. It serves as a Carnaby's Cockatoo flight path and foraging ground. One of the few remaining wetland areas left in Perth, the FOLC are working hard to preserve Lake Claremont for future generations. Claire and all FOLC members are unpaid volunteers.

The Friends of Lake Claremont will continue one of the largest ongoing restoration projects in Perth. They will be hosting a number of public planting sessions in June/ July 2014 including:

1. Local Residents Planting Day, Sunday 8th June 9am – 12 pm.
2. Church and Community Planting Day Sunday 22nd June 1:00 - 4:00 pm
3. Planting for the Birds, Sunday 13th July 9am – 12 pm
4. National Tree Day, Sunday 27th July 9am – 12 pm

Check for meeting locations and additional planting sessions on our website: [friendsoflakeclaremont.org](http://friendsoflakeclaremont.org)

Please consider joining in!

*Heidi Hardisty*

## Quinns Rocks Environmental Group

How can we best monitor local bushland? That was the focus of a workshop held by the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group as it prepares a framework for monitoring four bushland sites (ranging from 1-11ha) in Mindarie and Quinns Rocks.

The workshop involved members of the group and representatives of other local conservation groups, the Urban Bushland Council, the City of Wanneroo and Perth Region NRM – which provided a small grant to support the project. Ecologists Mike Bamford and Judy Fisher presented on monitoring bushland for fauna and flora, re-



Photo by D Wake

Monitoring workshop participants discuss objectives and techniques.



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spectively, drawing on their experience.

A key point was the need for monitoring to address questions that matter to local people and that can be used to inform management. For example: Has the condition of the vegetation changed? What are the key weed species and where do they occur? Is the occurrence and abundance of indicator species changing over time?

Engaging the community was seen as critical to keeping urban bushland, with monitoring a good way to do this – it is practical and builds awareness. Monitoring methods need to be feasible given the volunteer time, skills and other resources available.

Methods identified for the local sites included photographing from permanent points, mapping vegetation condition and weed species (as has been done effectively by Stirling Coastcare), using permanent flora quadrats and a regular census of birds. Monitoring community attitudes and behaviour was suggested too, which could involve a survey of residents.

The Quinns Rocks Environmental Group will use the workshop findings to develop and implement a monitoring framework for local bushland. By doing so, the group aims to engage local people and improve management to conserve biodiversity in this urbanising region.

*David Wake*

## Take a Walk on the Wild Side

The Friends of Star Swamp Bushland has developed a digital 'self guided' walk app, suitable for use by school groups, tour companies, local interest groups and individuals, and downloadable to mobile phones, tablets etc. We've also developed a number of You Tube videos, to help us get our message out into cyberspace. At our annual Guest Speaker meeting, held jointly with Friends of Trigg Bushland on 23 February, the two specialists who have developed these tools, at very reasonable cost, gave a presentation on their work and talked about using digital tools to expand a group's reach. They have also developed websites and videos for a number of other local environmental groups in the northern suburbs and beyond.

Well known Perth naturalists, David Pike and Phylis Robertson, lead nature walks every Saturday morning, through some of the northern suburbs best pieces of urban bushland.

The walks all commence at 8.00am and last about an hour, visiting the following pieces of bushland each month:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday is at Landsdale Conservation Park, meeting in Landsdale Rd, approximately 100 metres east of Evandale Rd, Darch;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday is at Koondoola Regional Bushland, meeting in Koondoola Ave, opposite Burbridge Ave;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday is at Lake Gwelup Reserve, meeting in the Scout Hall carpark in Huntriss Rd, Gwelup;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday is at Star Swamp Bushland Reserve, meeting at the Henderson Environment Centre, Groat St, North Beach; and
- 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday (when there is one) is at Trigg Bushland Reserve, meeting in the carpark on the south side of St Mary's Girls School, Elliott Rd, Trigg.

There is much to be seen in urban bushlands throughout the year, with different flowers, birds, insects and other fauna to be seen as the seasons change. There are also many opportunities for photography and plant and insect identification.

David has won many awards for his knowledge and commitment to Perth's natural environment and he is an expert at finding those elusive insects that you'd love to meet or photograph, including native bees and jewel beetles. Phylis retired from teaching with a lifetime's hands-on experience and knowledge of our natural environment.

All of these walks are free. So, if you'd like to take a walk on the wild side, turn up at 8.00am at any of the bushlands mentioned above, or contact Christine Curry on ph: 9447 2983 or mob: 0430 013 364, or David Pike on ph: 9448 9192, for more details.

*Christine Curry*

## Fire in Underwood Avenue Bushland

At 5.30am on Saturday 11 January 2014 in Underwood Avenue Bushland, two immature goshawks, already out of the nest, were perched in a tree, almost side by side. Unlike the beautifully softly barred adults, juveniles have heavy brown splashes on their upper breasts and bold vertical bars lower down. The female goshawk, who is much larger than the male, had been very aggressive and swooped on anyone venturing into the bushland. She flew in to support her two young, and human observers quickly retreated!

Later, on the same blazing hot day just before midday, a Paraquid Association resident was in the Paraquid Association grounds looking at Underwood Avenue Bushland through the fence. There was a loud bang and a big blue flash at the top of a power pole in the bushland and ten seconds later the dried weeds and bush below the pole were on fire with flames five feet high. The resident im-

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mediately reported the fire. The fire trucks were at the bushland in a few minutes and not long after helicopters were dumping water gathered from Herdsman Lake onto the bushland edges.



Photo by M Owen

*Underwood Avenue bushland following a fire in January 2014.*

The howling hot easterly drove the fire up the hill towards the west. A great part of the bushland was severely burnt. The patch which the Fire and Emergency Services crew saved from burning is at the north west corner and along Underwood Avenue and along Selby Street. The area along Underwood Avenue has an important stand of *Banksia prionotes*. This stand of Banksias provides an important source of nectar and later seeds for Carnaby's Cockatoos and provides habitat for many species of small resident birds.

On the following day, Sunday 12 January, before dawn, a large Cancer Council shed immediately to the south of the bushland had flames roaring out of the door and the bushland there was alight as well.

From their roost site only a few hundred metres away, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos flew into burnt Underwood Avenue Bushland.



Photo by M Owen

Every morning, the Red-tail families have been flying into the bushland. They are very interested in investigating tree hollows and have chewed the wood of hollow entrances. They also eat Jarrah seeds. Whereas tuart nuts have fallen onto the ground, Jarrah nuts have been retained on the trees.

Ravens put some pressure on the Red-tails by positioning themselves to best advantage to fly at the Red-tails. Red-tails are not as timid as Carnaby's and do put up a bit of defence.



Photo by M Owen

*Red tailed black cockatoo feeding in Underwood Avenue bushland after the fire.*



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Carnaby's Cockatoos do not miss a trick and some were in the bushland the day after the fire. Carnaby's do not eat Jarrah seeds so the two species of black cockatoos seem to be able to get along so far. However there could be competition for hollows.

Food resources are more limited now. Some Banksia trees will have been killed by the fire, some will re-sprout from a lignotuber or from epicormic buds but it will take some time before they can produce flowers. The grass-trees will flower profusely and these seeds will be available later for Carnaby's, small birds and many insects.



The day after the fire which burnt about 90% of Underwood Avenue Bushland, it was noticed that fire beetles had already arrived in the burnt bush. Fire beetles have special infrared sensors called pit organs that can detect infrared radiation. The antennae of fire beetles are able to detect chemicals in smoke. So using these tools the beetles can sense fire from over 40 kilometres away. They fly to the burnt area, mate and the females lay eggs under the bark of the burnt trees. The burnt trees cannot defend themselves and there are few insects around which could predate on the fire beetles.



*Fire beetle larvae can only develop in freshly burnt trees. These pyrophilic beetles are at their evolutionary peak.*

Veldt grass and other weeds must be carefully controlled post fire. Over years the University of Western Australia has refused to undertake their duty of care towards nature to control weeds, feral bees and foxes. The local newspaper, the Western Suburbs Weekly (21 January 2014) quoted a UWA spokesman: "The University has met its obligations in relation to maintaining the site, including the firebreaks and fox control." "The impact of the fire on future plans for the site is yet to be determined." The fact is that foxes were not controlled yet again this season and the foxes dug up and destroyed the migratory Rainbow Bee-eaters' nests.

One condition of state government approval of the University's proposed development, (July 2010), was that the proponent prepare a 'Rehabilitation and Management Plan' for the area identified as 'Conservation Area'. As a Bush Forever site the whole bushland should be managed, not just a designated 'conservation area'. In relation to the 'conservation area', reporting against the various points in the Plan is mainly notated: 'Not required at this stage'. Importantly the proposal is still subject to consideration under the EPBC Act. The proposal has not been approved and is indeed unlikely to be approved under this Act.

A Fire Management Plan was also a condition of State government approval and was completed in May 2013. The fire of January 2014 shows that putting housing in bushland such as this is a very, very bad idea.

Western Power infrastructure is to blame for this shocking fire. It is time that the State government invested much more in the electricity network to maintain it and put power lines underground in firebreak tracks.



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The Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland is seeking urgent assistance from our local MP and Deputy Prime Minister the Hon Julie Bishop who supports the protection of all of the bushland. The Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland is asking that you write to Ms Bishop at her office at 141 Rokeby Road Subiaco or even better, deliver in person your objection to this environmentally unacceptable proposal. The bushland is critical habitat for the Endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo as their major roost site is only 200 metres from the proposed development. It is also essential habitat for species of resident small birds and is part of the ecological linkage between Bold Park and Kings Park.

Four weeks after the fire, and without any rain, there is now new growth in Jarrah, Tuart, *Banksia attenuata* and *Banksia menziesii*, Macrozamia, Grass trees, *Hakea prostrata*, Petrophile, Stirlingia, Hardenbergia, Daviesia and other plants. The bushland is remarkable.

For photographs of two species of black cockatoos and other interesting things in the bushland, see the Facebook page 'Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland.'

*Marg Owen*



Photo by M Owen

Four weeks after the fire in January 2014 new shoots appeared.

## Wilson Wetlands Action Group (WWAG)

scheduled 20 work mornings throughout the year and an Arbor Day event in May (Monday 19 & Wednesday 21 May). Next working days will be held on Sunday 9 & 30 March, 1 April, 4 & 18 May, 8 & 22 June, 6 & 20 July and 3, 17 & 30 August. The location of each work morning is decided closer to the day - regular volunteers receive an email advising the site in the week beforehand. You are welcome to phone or email to find out the location if you don't wish to be on this email list.

We have varied the start times to suit the likely weather; 8am in the hottest months, 9am when it is cooler, and 8.30am for the in-between periods. We generally work for two hours and then stop for a cuppa or (twice a year) a barbecue.

WWAG's trailer will be present at every work morning, full of tools, gumboots, gloves and other necessities.

We hope to see you along to any or all of our work mornings. Our sites are looking better every year. We have been fortunate to secure funding for another two years which will enable us to buy seedlings and pay for herbicide treatments and other activities.

For confirmation of meeting place, contact Russell Gorton on 9258 7301

*Rose Mildenhall*

## FRIENDS OF MOORE RIVER 2013/14 UPDATE

In general, the fight to prevent a development occurring on the south side of the Moore river might be lost but successful concessions continue!

While the development plan has been accepted, FOMRE and the public submission process continues to win important allowances from the Moore River Company (MRC) in the form of amendments to the Foreshore Management Plan (FMP). Namely:

1. "Revise FMP to remove northwest coastal car park; close and rehabilitate access track and expand node 6 to include option for low key facilities as per other coastal nodes". That means that the Crown Reserve is partially saved as it will not have a road or car park cut into it!
2. "Revise FMP to include requirement for suitable vehicle control barriers to be installed along the northern boundary of the northern development road at the commencement of construction works".

At present MRC is having a terrible time keeping 4WDs out of their land. The FMP proposes vehicular beach access be curtailed much further south than it is at present.

Public sentiment indicated accessing the river foreshore should only be via a fenced road to node 8 for canoe launching. Following a community reference group meeting to discuss the schedule of amendments to the FMP, Linda Johnson (FOMRE) reported:

- MRC promised to "Expand FMP text as necessary to clarify design response to each vehicle exclusion area".
- The river foreshore width is now subject to 'biophysical criteria' and the latest climate change predictions which mean it is mostly about 150m wide.
- Both the FMP and Outline Development Plan (ODP) contained lots of statements considered 'woolly'. i.e feel good, lip service comments to important concepts. Many of these are to be clarified in the final draft.
- Referral to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act was made. While the community's concerns were noted no actions have been proposed.
- At present no Aboriginal Heritage Plan is included in the FMP.
- While MRC stated it was their intention to progress the subdivision of the whole area of the development immediately, the government agencies have yet to comment on the plan. FOMRE were given a copy of the endorsed ODP. A large map of the approved ODP has been promised and will be displayed in the Visitor Centre shortly.

On Christmas Eve 2013 the Board walk was re-opened to the public after three years! And further to that good news GCA, in conjunction with the Shire of Gingin, have grant funding to rectify much of the environmental damage that has occurred due to the restricted access to the beach!

*Kerry Smith*

## 2014 Great Cocky Count Sunday 6 April at sunset

Join up for WA's biggest survey for the endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo! The sixth Great Cocky Count (GCC) will take place for one hour at sunset on Sunday 6 April 2014. This annual community-based survey aims to count as many Carnaby's as possible at their night-time roost sites on a single night each April.

Roosts are places where black-cockatoos rest at night. The GCC roost counts help to estimate species numbers and identify critical roosting habitat, information that contributes directly to cockatoo conservation. Survey sites are located all over south-west WA, so there's a good chance there's a spot nearby that needs you! Get more information and register as a volunteer at [www.birdlife.org.au/carnabys/great-cocky-count](http://www.birdlife.org.au/carnabys/great-cocky-count)

We need to find more roost sites for both white-tailed and red-tailed cockies.

For more information about the GCC or to tell us about a roost site, contact Hugh Finn on 9287 2251 or 0400 177 615 or at [greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au](mailto:greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au)

The Great Cocky Count is funded by Perth Region NRM through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program.

◇ What's new? ◇ What's new? ◇ What's new? ◇ What's new?

## Perth Banksia Woodlands Community Restoration Grants

The Department of Parks and Wildlife is providing grants to assist community groups to manage and restore Perth's banksia woodlands. Priority will be given to:

- high conservation value banksia woodlands or buffers of other vegetation types surrounding these areas
- sites within 45 kilometres of Jandakot Airport
- revegetation of Carnaby's cockatoo feeding habitat in degraded areas
- revegetation using local provenance seed
- sites containing rare species
- groups with a demonstrated capacity and commitment to bushland conservation
- projects with a monitoring component to document biodiversity outcomes
- projects involving additional in-kind or financial contributions.

A total of \$300,000 is available for on-ground projects undertaken June 2014 – September 2016. This 28-month period gives community groups three winter seasons to undertake their work. There is a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$20,000 per project. Applicants may apply for more than one project. Funding will be supplied in two instalments. The second instalment is provided after receipt of an interim progress report.

Applications open 4 March 2014 and **close 14 April 2014**. Visit <http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/182-banksia-woodland-community-restoration-grants>.

## THREAT ABATEMENT PLAN FOR DIEBACK

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, has made the *Threat abatement plan for disease in natural ecosystems caused by Phytophthora cinnamomi* (the plan) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The threat abatement plan is to address the key threatening process 'Dieback caused by the root rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*' that is listed under section 183 of the EPBC Act.

The plan provides a framework for prioritising investment and effort by jurisdictions, researchers, land managers and other stakeholders. It identifies management and other actions required to ensure the long-term survival of native species and ecological communities affected by *P. cinnamomi*.

The Department of the Environment has prepared the plan with input from Australian Government, state and territory agencies and experts in the field of *Phytophthora* biology and ecology. A public consultation process also contributed to the plan. As required under the EPBC Act, the Australian Government will implement the plan to the extent to which it applies in areas under its control and responsibility. In other affected areas, the cooperation of all relevant jurisdictions will be sought with a view to jointly implementing the plan.

The plan and its background document are available on the internet at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/tap-approved.html>. The Department can also email you a copy of the plan or provide you with a hard copy. Should you require further information, please contact Karen Butler in the Department of the Environment on 02 6274 2030.



## Great Cocky Count Workshops - 2014

The BirdLife Australia is offering eleven Great Cocky Count workshops in March at sites throughout the Perth-Peel region. The workshops will provide training on roost count methods (including a practice roost count) as well as information on black cockatoo ecology and conservation. All events are free with light refreshments provided.

Please contact Hugh Finn, Great Cocky Count Coordinator, if you have any questions or require maps showing the location of the venues: email [greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au](mailto:greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au), ph. 9287 2251 or mob. 0400 177 615. Further information about the Great Cocky Count (including volunteer registration forms) are available at: <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/carnabys-black-cockatoo-recovery/great-cocky-count>

These workshops are supported by (in alphabetical order): the Australian Government, Canning River Eco Education Centre, Chittering Landcare Centre, City of Canning, City of Cockburn, City of Kwinana, City of Melville, City of Stirling, City of Subiaco, Coastwest, Friends of Star Swamp Bushland, Friends of Trigg Bushland, Harvey River Restoration Taskforce, Landcare Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Murdoch University, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, Perth Region NRM, Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Shire of Kalamunda, Shire of Murray, Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC), and the many other individuals and organisations supporting the Great Cocky Count this year. The 2014 Great Cocky Count is funded by Perth Region NRM through the Australian Government's Caring For Our Country program with additional support from the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council and the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

### 1. Serpentine River Catchment – Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

**When:** Wednesday 5 March 2014 from 5.45 – 7.45 pm  
*Registration close prior the newsletter publication*

### 2. City of Cockburn

**When:** Friday 7 March 2014 from 5 – 8 pm  
**Where:** meet at Dalmatinac Club Car Park Azelia Road, Spearwood (near Manning Lake Bushland)  
**Contact:** please register with Environmental Services, City of Cockburn at 9411 3444 or [customer@cockburn.wa.gov.au](mailto:customer@cockburn.wa.gov.au)

### 3. Murray River Catchment – Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

**When:** Sunday 9 March 2014 from 9.30 am – 1.30 pm  
*Registration close prior the newsletter publication*

### 4. Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre – City of Melville

**When:** Monday 10 March 2014 from 5.30 – 7 pm  
**Where:** Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Leach Highway, Winthrop  
**Contact:** RSVP essential – please register through the on-line booking form at [www.melvillecity.com.au/pineylakes](http://www.melvillecity.com.au/pineylakes) (under Adult Programs and Events)

### 5. Canning River Eco Education Centre

**When:** Tuesday 11 March 2014 from 6.30 – 8 pm  
**Where:** Canning River Eco Education Centre, corner Kent St

and Queens Park Rd, Wilson

**Contact:** RSVP essential – Canning River Eco Education Centre at [creec@canning.wa.gov.au](mailto:creec@canning.wa.gov.au) or 9461 7160

### 6. City of Stirling

**When:** Wednesday 12 March 2014 from 6.30 – 8 pm  
**Where:** Henderson Environmental Centre, Groat Street, North Beach (near Star Swamp Bushland Reserve)  
**Contact:** please register with Hugh Finn, Great Cocky Count Coordinator, BirdLife Australia at [greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au](mailto:greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au) or 9287 2251

### 7. Harvey River Catchment – Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

**When:** Thursday 13 March 2014 from 5.30 – 7.30 pm  
**Where:** Lake Clifton Herron Community Hall, 114 Tuart Grove Avenue, Lake Clifton  
**Contact:** [jo.garvey@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:jo.garvey@peel-harvey.org.au) or 6369 8800 to register – RSVP essential (by 7 March)

### 8. Shire of Kalamunda

**When:** Friday 14 March 2014 from 5.45 – 7.00 pm  
**Where:** Jorgenson Park Pavilion, 20 Crescent Road, Kalamunda  
**Contact:** please RSVP to [Mahsa.Farrokh@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:Mahsa.Farrokh@kalamunda.wa.gov.au) or 9257 9860 as places are limited

### 9. WESROC Climate Smart information event – the “Urban Forest”

**When:** Saturday 15 March 2014 from 9.00 am – 12.30 pm  
**Where:** Grove Library and Community Centre, Peppermint Grove  
**Contact:** Hugh Finn (Great Cocky Count Coordinator), BirdLife Australia at [greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au](mailto:greatcockycount@birdlife.org.au) or 9287 2251  
\*\* The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) includes the cities of Subiaco, Nedlands, Cottesloe, Claremont, Mosman Park, Peppermint Grove, and Cambridge. There will be an information booth and training session for the Great Cocky Count at the event, along with black cockatoos from the Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre (Kaarakin).

### 10. City of Kwinana

**When:** Saturday 22 March 2014 from 2.30 - 4.30 pm (includes bushwalk)  
**Where:** John Wellard Community Centre, corner of Runnymede Gate and The Strand, Wellard  
**Contact:** please RSVP to Angela Jakob (Bushcare Officer), City of Kwinana at [angela.jakob@kwinana.wa.gov.au](mailto:angela.jakob@kwinana.wa.gov.au) or 9439 0418

### 11. Murdoch University

**When:** Monday 24 March 2014 from 5.30 – 7.00 pm  
**Where:** Murdoch University Law School (southwest corner of the Economics, Commerce, and Law building), Room - LAW 1.102 (ground floor); free Parking in Car Park 7 off Discovery Way or take the 98/99 bus from Murdoch Station or Fremantle  
**Contact:** please RSVP to Leah Knapp (Sustainability Officer), Murdoch University at [L.Knapp@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:L.Knapp@murdoch.edu.au) or 9360 6361

# 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

## Urban Bushland Council Activities

### Spring bush walks

7 September 10am - 12 noon  
Ellis Brook Valley, Martin

29 September 10am - 12 noon  
Hartfield Park, Forrestfield

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](mailto:ubc@bushlandperth.org.au)

Copy deadline - 10 June 2014

### PERTH'S BUSHLAND BIRTHDAY & PERPETUAL CALENDAR

\$10 plus \$2 postage

Available by mail order from the UBC office.

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